



MINI BLAST – IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

We hope everyone has had a great Christmas. The New Year will soon be here and we have a lot of activities planned for the 2015 season. Please note these on your calendar and plan on participating with your Shell Club friends.

**January Seminar
Thursday, January 8, 2015
7:00 pm at the United Church of Marco
320 N Barfield Drive**

Join speaker Gary Schmelz on his explorations of the Northwest coast of Washington State. Lots of exciting places to learn about, especially the colorful creatures that live in the Clallam tide pools. In addition as a special treat, you will get a brief look at some of the beautiful fossils shells that are found throughout Florida - some of which you could discover on your January outing with the Marco Shell Club.



Editor’s note: Dr. Gary Schmelz was born in Jersey City, NJ. He received his B.S. in zoology from Farleigh Dickinson University followed by and M.S. in zoology and a Ph.D. in marine biology from the University of Delaware. He served in the U.S. Navy aboard an oceanographic research vessel. Following graduation in 1970, he and his wife, Bernice Davies Schmelz, moved to Naples, Florida. Dr. Schmelz has served as a Director of the Big Cypress Nature Center and also as Director of Education for the Conservancy of Southwest Florida. He is also past president of the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum on Sanibel Island.

Sailor Valentine 3 Day Class – March 17th, 19th and 24th

While this class is not until March, it is filling up fast. The maximum number of people for the class is 10 so please sign up soon to guarantee a spot for yourself. A sign up sheet is available at the Workshop on Tuesdays.

35th Annual Shell Show – Prepaid Tickets

As we have done in the past, “Prepaid Tickets” to the shell show will soon be available. Use of these tickets will make it a lot easier for you and your guests to enter the show by not having to wait in line. And for the “Greeters” who will be working the entry door at the Show, things will flow more smoothly. These “Prepaid Tickets” will be available at the upcoming Seminar on January 8th and subsequent workshops.

Excursions –

There are three very interesting excursions planned for January:

- January 14, Swamp Walk at the Fakahatchee Strand
- January 24, Fossil Dig with Dr. Gary Schmelz
- January 29, Blackwater Paddle

Be sure to contact Jake Mitchell at excursions@marcoshellclub.com to sign up.

2014-2015 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

Officers

- President.....Marsha Prunetti
- Vice President.....Marge Tunnell
- Recording Secretary...Kathy Benedik
- Corresponding Sec....Carole Stavenas
- Treasurer.....Lisa Fitz-Gerald

Address all correspondence to:

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Chairs

- Shell Show.....Jae Kellogg
- Membership.....Mary Ann Coke
- Contact..... Carole Stavenas
- LibraryJoan Robbins
- Scholarship.....Carolyn Ginther
- Education/Excursions.....Jake Mitchell
- Publicity.....John Tunnell
- WebsiteJoan Robbins
- Program.....Marge Tunnell
- Workshop..... Becky Miller/Debbie Towey

MARCO ISLAND SHELL CLUB 2014-2015 CALENDAR

DATE	DAY	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
Jan. 6	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Jan. 8	Thursday	Seminar-Dr. Gary Schmelz: Sea Life in the Tidal Pools of Washington State	7:00 pm	U-Church
Jan. 13	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Jan. 13	Tuesday	BOD meeting	12:00 pm	U-Church
Jan. 14	Wednesday	Excursion-Swamp Walk	9:00 am	Fakahatchee Strand
Jan. 20	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Jan. 24	Saturday	Excursion—Fossil Dig with Dr. Schmelz	8:30 am	Charlotte County
Jan. 27	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Jan. 29	Thursday	Excursion—Blackwater Paddle	9:00 am	Collier Seminole State Park
Feb. 3	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Feb. 5	Thursday	Seminar-Constance Miller: Sailor's Valentines	7:00 pm	U-Church
Feb. 10	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Feb. 10	Tuesday	BOD meeting	12:00 pm	U-Church
Feb. 11	Wednesday	Excursion—Hammock Walk	9:00 am	Collier Seminole State Park
Feb. 17	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Feb. 17	Tuesday	Shell Show Committee meeting	12:00 pm	U-Church
Feb. 19	Thursday	Shell Hunt/Picnic	7:30 am Hunt 11:30 Lunch	Sarazen Park
Feb. 20	Friday	DEADLINE FOR SHELL SHOW ENTRIES!!!!		
Feb. 24	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Feb. 27	Friday	Excursion—Isles of Capri Paddle	8:00 am	Isles of Capri
Mar. 3	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Mar. 3	Tuesday	BOD meeting	12:00 pm	U-Church
Mar. 5	Thursday	Seminar-Ann Dupont: Sea Shells and Slugs in Lake Worth Lagoon	7:00 pm	U-Church
Mar. 10	Tuesday	Shell Show Setup		U-Church
Mar. 11	Wednesday	Exhibitors' Setup	9:00 am-noon	U-Church
Mar. 11	Wednesday	Judging	1:00-4:00 pm	U-Church
Mar. 11	Wednesday	Reception	6:00-7:30 pm	U-Church
Mar. 12-14	Thurs-Sat.	Shell Show	10:00am-4:00	U-Church
Mar. 17	Tuesday	Team Leaders meeting	9:00 am	U-Church
Mar. 25	Wednesday	Thank You dinner/ Annual membership meeting	5:30 pm	U-Church
Mar. 26	Thursday	Excursion-A Day at the Museum	9:00 am	MI Hist. Museum
Mar. 27	Friday	BOD meeting	1:00 pm	U-Church