



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello to all our fabulous, industrious shell art creators.

As my final year of Presidency winds down, I just want to thank all of our members. The club is a tremendous organization because of the many talented and dedicated ladies and gentlemen who are committed to it.

Our hard work has enabled the Club to support students and organizations. Currently, the recipients of our monies have been students at Florida Gulf Coast University and the University of South Florida. Rookery Bay has received funds for their National Estuaries Day. I am quite proud of the club's ability to create, sell and donate.

As always, feel free to ask questions and/or offer ideas or suggestions. Plan ahead and relax because we are entering the "homestretch" to our 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Shell Show. It will be exciting and a little hectic and we are looking forward to every minute.

*Marsha Prunetti* - President



**2015 SHELL SHOW CHAIR REPORT**



**!!!COMING SOON COMING SOON COMING SOON!!!**

**36th Annual Marco Island Shell Show**

**March 10 - 12, 2016 - 10 am to 4 pm**

**Disseler Hall - United Church of Marco**

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**Is your exhibit ready?? Don't forget -**

**Friday - February 19 - Show Entry Deadline!**

Rules and Regs, Scientific/Artistic Entry Forms all on our website - click on Shell Show, go to bottom of page and click on which form you would like! We will also have *samples* at workshop and seminars if you need help!

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**Welcome Back to all of our Seasonal Members!**

**Welcome all of our New Members !**

**NOVICE**

Are you a new member in our club? By now, you have enjoyed two workshop experiences - learning the art of working with shells! Have our seminars inspired you to get out on the beach and see firsthand how the mollusks on our island live? We were all novices at one time and we look forward to all of the exciting new faces each week that are coming to our club! Hopefully, you too, are thinking about what you could put together for our 2016 Show! Please use the experience of our workshop table leaders and of our scientific members for shell identification - find that beautiful local shell on the beach - find out how you can exhibit it - first year exhibitors are all in one class! Go to our Shell Show website and read the Rules and Regulations - see all of the categories - Scientific/Artistic - pick something that fits you! There is nothing like the pride that our first year members/exhibitors have when they realize how much they have learned their first year!

**NewNewNewNewNewNewNewNewNewNewNewNewNewNew**

Saturday of shell show - we have a new schedule for the afternoon! PLEASE BRING US YOUR KIDS/GRANDKIDS FOR SOME GREAT EXPERIENCES IN THE SHELL WORLD! On Saturday, March 12th, the show will open at 10 am as usual - then the schedule will be as follows:

**12 NOON - "Live Shell Tank" Presentation - Amazing - all ages**

**1:00 pm - Make your own shell necklace - all ages**

**2:00 pm - CONTEST - Prizes for the Largest and Smallest "Lettered Olive" Shell - all ages - adults, too!**

**3:00 pm - People's Choice Awards presented**

**3:00- Drawing for all of our Raffle items (no need to be present to win)**

**Lettered Olive**



*Jae Kellogg* - 2016 Shell Show Chair

**WORKSHOP, WORKSHOP, WORKSHOP**



I am excited that the Workshop is filled with busy shell artists each Tuesday morning. Last Tuesday, I noticed so many completed projects --- soccer players, crosses, wine charms, bird houses, necklaces, bracelets, penguins, ducks, mirrors, picture frames, flowers, and flower arrangements. It is just amazing what can be accomplished when we all work together.

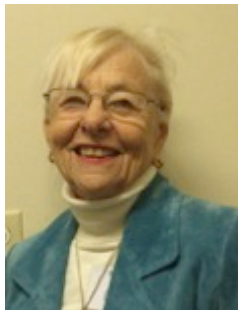
I am sad to report that I am not finding many shells on my daily beach walk so I am thankful that we have a workroom packed and overflowing with beautiful shells and sea life. Thanks to everyone who makes shell donations! We are skilled at making creative beautiful shell art with shells, glue, and our collective skills and talents.

As we prepare for THE BIG EVENT ----- THE 2016 SHELL SHOW ----- be thinking about and planning your entry -- artistic and/or scientific. Ideas and skills learned in the workshop should provide you with plenty of ideas and the skills to complete them.

See you on Tuesdays as we work to put together THE BEST SHELL SHOW GIFT SHOP EVER !!!!!

*Becky Miller / Debbie Towey* – Workshop Chairs

**MEMBERSHIP**



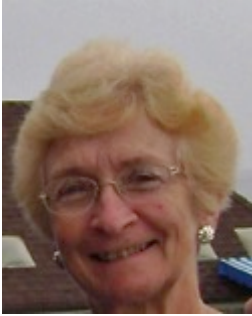
Our club is now 144 member strong. WELCOME to our 29 NEW members, our ninety-nine members who have renewed their membership, and sixteen who are honorary members because of their longtime service to our club.

The big benefit of serving as membership chair is getting to know each of you. When workshop is humming along I remain up at table by the entrance. Please come by with your questions and concerns about our vibrant club.

In the near future the Club’s Paypal account will be serving a much bigger role in the collection of dues because it offers us improved record keeping.

*Shirley Prushko* – Membership Chair

## WEBSITE - SEMINARS



### Website

#### ONLINE PAYMENTS

There are two options for making online payments for dues and excursions—Check or PayPal. The treasurer receives notification from the website of your choice. In order to maintain accurate financial records, your payment must be received by the Club in the format that you selected on the website.

#### **Cash payments will not be accepted.**

**Check:** If you select this option, bring a check to workshop or mail your check to:

Marco Island Shell Club  
PO Box 633  
Marco Island, FL 34146

**PayPal:** Choosing this option allows you to pay using your credit card through the Shell Club's PayPal account. Your credit card information is entered and stored on PayPal's secure website, NOT the Club's. If you have a personal PayPal account, you can enter your account information to make your payment.

If you have any questions or concerns, email [webwoman@marcoshellclub.com](mailto:webwoman@marcoshellclub.com).

### Upcoming Seminars

Mark your calendars now, so you won't miss the last two seminars of the season, which will take place at **6:00 p.m.** at Disseler Hall at the United Church of Marco Island, 320 N. Barfield Drive. Refreshments will be served after the program, and there will be a raffle.

**Thursday, February 4, 2016:** Jim Cordy's program will be Shells of Eleuthera Island. Jim, who started scuba diving and collecting shells in California in 1965, now resides in Merritt Island, Florida. After retiring from Kennedy Space Center, he, along with his late wife, conducted snorkeling and beachcombing trips to Eleuthera Island, accumulating many shells. Jim will have several cases of self-collected shells from Eleuthera for us to view after his program. Jim has exhibited and won many awards at Shell Shows around Florida, and has been a judge at several shows, including our club's. He is currently president of the Astronaut Trail Shell Club and curator of Mollusks at the Brevard Museum of Natural History in Cocoa, Florida.

**Thursday, March 3, 2016:** Tonya Clayton, PhD, will present How to Read a Southwest Florida Beach. Dr. Clayton is a science writer, editor, and educator based on Florida's Gulf Coast, and author of How to Read a Florida Gulf Coast Beach. She is a Certified Interpretive Guide (National Association for Interpretation) and a graduate of the Florida Master Naturalist Program and the Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute. Her work as a geologist and oceanographer has taken her from the sandy barrier islands of Portugal to the clear blue waters of the deep Pacific Ocean.

*Joan Robbins*—Vice President/Seminar Chair/Website Chair



## EXCURSIONS

We still have two planned excursions on the calendar.

### **Saturday, January 30, 2016--Fossil Dig with Dr. Gary Schmelz –**

There are still a few openings for this trip. Please contact Pat Wood as soon as possible if you would like to go and have not registered.

**(Note this is a change in date from previously published information. If you have already paid and cannot attend on this new date, please see or call Pat Wood for a refund).**

Dr. Gary Schmelz will lead the dig, and he has set a limit of **twenty** participants. We will meet Gary at 8:30 a.m. at the Shell gas station on Rt. 31, where we will fill out the forms and receive the fossil identification booklet. From there, we will follow Gary to the quarry. After the dig, we will go to a restaurant of Gary's choosing for lunch and will receive prizes of fossils from Gary's private collection. Gary will have his new book Florida's Fabulous Fossils for sale for \$20, which he will autograph.

**The cost of the trip is \$25**, payable upon registration. You may pay by credit card online, using the club's PayPal account, or give your check to Patricia Wood, excursion chair. **Your registration is not complete until payment is made.**

**Directions to the rendezvous with Gary:** Take I-75 North to exit 141 (Rt. 80). Take 80 East, make a left onto Route 31. Drive approximately 3 miles, and the Shell station will be on the left.

### **Thursday, February 4, 2016 - Seven Ecosystem Tour with Jack Berninger--**

Jack Berninger will be the guide for the tour--total time is approximately three (3) hours, part driving and part walking. Club members **must** register in advance.

We will meet at 9 am in the parking lot of the Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk on Rt. 41. We will explore the characteristics and flora/fauna that make each ecosystem unique. The ecosystems to be experienced: SWAMP, PRAIRIE, MANGROVE ISLANDS, PINE FLATWOODS, SCRUB, ESTUARY, MARSH, plus several unique mini ecosystems.

Bring lunch as we will stop to eat at the roadside picnic area near the boardwalk.

After lunch we will go to Ten Thousand Islands Marsh Trail along hwy. 41, then to Briggs Boardwalk off 951 on Shell Island Rd. We will finish with a visit to Shell Island Nature Trail.

We should finish between 12:30 - 1 pm but anyone can depart any time.

To keep up with any changes in information, please review the Excursion page of our website or ask me at the Workshops on Tuesday mornings.

*Pat Wood* - Education/Excursion Chair

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

If you are interesting in leading the Scholarship and Grants committee, please contact Marsha Prunetti.

PUBLICITY



Our season is well underway. It is hard to believe that it is only a little more than six weeks until the Shell Show. I know we all have a lot to do to get ready. I will do my best to get the publicity that we need to make this another successful show.

At the workshop in February and at the seminar we will have promotional postcards to distribute around the Island businesses and to everyone you meet. Please be generous in passing these cards out.

Also, within a couple of weeks we will have store front posters to be placed at local businesses. Again your help will be very important.

On Wednesday, March 9th we will have a stand at the Marco Island Farmer's market. If you can help for a couple of hours we would appreciate it..

John Tunnell- Publicity Chair

2015-2016 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

Officers

- President..... Marsha Prunetti
President Elect..... Kathy Benedik
Vice President..... Joan Robbins
Recording Secretary..... Carolyn Ginther
Corresponding Sec..... Carole Stavenas
Treasurer..... Christine Hewitt

Chairs

- Shell Show..... Jae Kellogg
Membership..... Shirley Prushko
Contact..... Carole Stavenas
Scholarship.....
Education/Excursions..... Pat Wood
Publicity..... John Tunnell
Website ..... Joan Robbins
Seminar..... Joan Robbins
Workshop..... Becky Miller/Debbie Towey

Address all correspondence to:

Marco Island Shell Club, Inc.
P. O. Box 633
Marco island, FL 34146
www.marcoshellclub.com

## MARCO ISLAND SHELL CLUB 2016 CALENDAR

**NOTE: Calendar is subject to change. Log on to the monthly calendar at [www.marcoshellclub.com/calendar](http://www.marcoshellclub.com/calendar) for updates.**

DATE	DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
Jan. 5	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Shell art workshop	U-Church
Jan. 7	Thursday	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	Seminar—Linda Shockley	U-Church
Jan. 8	Friday	8:30 a.m.	South Beach Shelling	Marco Island
Jan. 12	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Shell art workshop	U-Church
Jan. 12	Tuesday	12:00 p.m.	BOD meeting	U-Church
Jan. 19	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Shell art workshop	U-Church
Jan. 21	Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Excursion—FGCU campus	FGCU
Jan. 30****	Saturday	8:30 a.m.	Fossil dig with Dr. Gary Schmelz	Charlotte Co.
Jan. 26	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Shell art workshop	U-Church
Feb. 2	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Shell art workshop	U-Church
Feb. 4	Thursday	9:00 a.m.-12:30 a.m.	7 ecosystem tour—Jack Berninger	Rt. 41 East
Feb. 4	Thursday	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	Seminar—Jim Cordy	U-Church
Feb. 9	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Shell art workshop	U-Church
Feb. 9	Tuesday	12:00 p.m.	BOD meeting	U-Church
Feb. 16	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Shell art workshop	U-Church
Feb. 16	Tuesday	12:00 p.m.	Shell Show Committee meeting	U-Church
Feb. 19	Friday	<b>!!!!DEADLINE FOR SHELL SHOW ENTRIES!!!!</b>		
Feb. 23	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Shell art workshop	U-Church
Mar. 1	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Shell art workshop	U-Church
Mar. 1	Tuesday	12:00 p.m.	BOD meeting	U-Church
Mar. 3	Thursday	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	Seminar—Dr. Tonya Clayton	U-Church
Mar. 8	Tuesday	Per schedule	Shell Show set-up	U-Church
Mar. 9	Wednesday	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Exhibitors' setup	U-Church
Mar. 9	Wednesday	1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	Judging	U-Church
Mar. 9	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	Reception	U-Church
Mar. 10-12	Thurs.– Sat.	10:00 a.m-4:00 p.m.	SHELL SHOW	U-Church
Mar. 15	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Team leaders meeting/wrap-up	U-Church
Mar. 15	Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	BOD Budget meeting	U-Church
Mar. 23	Wednesday	5:30 p.m.	Thank You Dinner/Annual Meeting	U-Church
Mar. 25	Friday	10:00 a.m.	BOD meeting	U-Church