



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow, what a perfect start to our 2014-2015 season. It was great to have so many people attend our first workshop. Welcome back members, and a hearty welcome to new members. As season progresses, it will be wonderful to have everyone back in town and creating shell art.

A reminder that we will have our annual Holiday Party on December 4. It will be at Vintage Bay and begins at 5:30 pm. More information will be given at workshop, but just wanted you to save the date.

I am happy to announce that we have a new white board at workshop on which I will post announcements, events and pertinent information. This will make it easier for you to remember the information that was presented during the 10:00 meeting.

Thank you for all you do and always feel free to offer me suggestions/critiques or ask questions.

I sincerely wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Marsha Prunetti - President



First workshop was a great success

2015 SHELL SHOW CHAIR REPORT



TROPHY SPONSORSHIPS! As you may have read on our website under Rules and Regulations - we have 19 trophies that we present each year at our annual shell show! We are very pleased to announce Florida Gulf Coast University has, again, agreed to sponsor 2 of these! As many of you may know, we fund 7 scholarships and grants for their marine biology department each year from the proceeds of our shell show and December Holiday sale! If any of you are interested in sponsoring a trophy this year for our 35th Annual Shell Show - please push the "contact us" button on our website!

We are very pleased to announce the JUDGES for the 35th Annual MISC Shell Show!

Scientific Judges will be:

- Dr. Jose' H. Leal - Science Director and Curator - Sanibel, FL
Dr. Gary Schmelz - Marine Biologist and Paleontologist - Naples, FL

Artistic Judges will be:

- Bill Jordan - will be a first time judge this year in the Artistic Division - Sanibel, FL
Phyllis Gray - Experienced Shell Show Exhibitor and Judge - Orlando, FL

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I wish all of you a Happy Holiday Season and look forward to seeing you in January!

Jae Kellogg - Shell Show Chair

EDITOR'S NOTE

DON'T forget to attend these two local Marco Island Christmas decoration events. Jae graciously made these two entries to represent the Shell Club in the upcoming "Deck the Doors" wreath contest and the "Festival of Trees" gallery showing. By voting for the wreath for the People's Choice Award, a monetary award of \$100 will be given for first place from the MI Chamber of Commerce. In the "Festival of Trees" gallery - the Starfish Tree will be for sale. The MI Center for the Arts will give 50% of the sale back to the shell club for its scholarship fund. Don't miss out on these two events - and be sure to vote!

**"DECK THE DOORS" WREATH
CONTEST**

SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 30, 2014
Voting 4 PM TO 6 PM –

MARCO ISLAND HISTORICAL
MUSEUM





"FESTIVAL OF TREES"

MONDAY - DECEMBER 8, 2014

GRAND OPENING - 5-9 pm

MARCO ISLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Other dates for viewing –

December 9, 12, 15, 18 - 5 - 9 pm

December 13 - 11 am - 2 pm

December 16 - 3 - 5 pm

Marco Island Shell Club

presents

Constance Marshall Miller Sailor Valentine Workshop



For a long while, many of you have asked why we don't extend our workshop season after the Shell Show! Just when you thought you had your whole season planned - shell club events on your calendar - Hold On! We are so excited to be able to stretch our workshop season just a little bit longer after our 35th Annual Shell Show is over!

United Church of Marco

March 17th, 19th, and 24th, 2015

(Tuesday, Thursday, Tuesday) - 3 days of Sailor Valentine Workshop
9 am to 3 pm - Bring your lunch

You may provide your own SV box or purchase one from Connie.

Shells are included in workshop cost or you may bring your own.

Space is limited - minimum of 5 people - maximum of 10

****Total Cost for the 3 days - \$180.00****

Due January 27, 2015 a \$60.00 non-refundable deposit

is needed to reserve a space for you.

Make Check Payable to Marco Island Shell Club

Visit Connie's Website to read her bio and see her beautiful work!

www.cmmshellart.com

WORKSHOP, WORKSHOP, WORKSHOP



The first workshop of the 2014-2015 crafting season is history! It was fun to see old friends and meet new friends who joined us in crafting activities. We had a great crowd. Many new projects were underway at each table.

The Holiday Shell Craft Sale is Saturday December 6, 2014 at Winn-Dixie from 9 to 2. All club members at workshop were busy creating shell crafts for this sale. Be sure to stop by if you are in town.

Carolyn Brown and Kim Porter have graciously accepted the Table Leader position for the Home Decor table. They have great ideas and everyone is very encouraged by their energy and creativity.



!!!!!!!DON'T MISS THE JANUARY 20TH WORKSHOP!!!!!!!



Something new and exciting is coming to workshop on January 20, 2015. Bill Jordan will give us a presentation/slide show on the History of Sailor Valentines. He will bring some of his projects and talk about different aspects of his designs. We will start

crafting at 9:00 as usual and Bill's presentation will start at 10:00. Bill is from Sanibel. He has been a judge at our Shell Show in the past. This is a great opportunity to see Sailor Valentines and learn about the history and use of shells in this beautiful art form.

Travel safely if you are on your way to sunny Florida. Be safe if you are already enjoying the great beaches and sun. Enjoy the holidays where ever you are.

Start your holiday shopping at the Holiday Shell Art Sale Saturday, December 6, Winn-Dixie 9 to 2.



Becky Miller/Debbie Towey — Workshop Chair

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS



Greetings from the Scholarship And Grants Committee --- All of our hard work is paying excellent dividends!

If you were unable to attend the November evening seminar, you missed a very informative presentation by Elizabeth Salewski, the doctoral student whose research we are supporting at the University of South Florida. Elizabeth took us on a quick tour of the life cycle of an oyster, complete with pictures of the baby oysters she is monitoring in Tampa Bay. We were also treated to photos of the artificial reef structure being used to induce oyster colonies to form in near-shore waters to help stabilize this beautiful peninsula we call Florida. Many of the structures were inhabited but not all of them. Scientists are hoping to unravel the reasons why this is happening.

Elizabeth showed pictures of multi-million dollar equipment she and her students are using in her quest to demonstrate the usefulness and desirability of using 3-D imaging and laser scanning in marine biology studies. Each scan costs several thousand dollars and is critical to her work. The scans and 3-dimensional images enable comprehensive study of an oyster cluster and/or an individual oyster without disturbing the colony or any individual animal which is a real scientific break through!

As of this writing, Elizabeth is preparing to defend her thesis later this week. We wish her well and are confident of her success. Look forward to updates on her work!

On another note, in addition to the \$1,000 gift to Rookery Bay mentioned in the last newsletter, one student is receiving a \$1,200 endowed tuition scholarship at Florida Gulf Coast University. Two FGCU graduate students are also receiving research scholarships from the club, which will further advance our understanding of the marine world. Each of these scholarships is valued at \$2,000. More about those later.

Alexandra Rodriguez is receiving the FGCU endowed undergraduate research scholarship. Alexandra is a senior biology major studying the feeding habits of apple snails on low salinity seagrasses. You may recall we heard a report on apple snail feeding issues last year. As you know much scientific research is not completed within the neat confines of one academic year, so Alexandra is continuing to do follow up research which we support with a \$500 research scholarship.

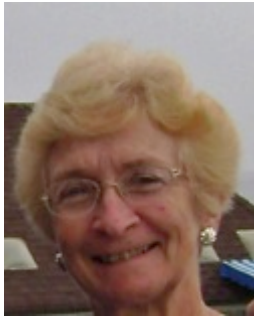
In the next column, you will learn about the exciting research being done by the two second year FGCU graduate students whose work we are helping to support.

In the meantime, comments and suggestions may be directed to

Carolyn Gunther – Scholarship Chair

(committee members) Bruce and Paulette Carabelli , Martha Bennett , Joan Robbins

LIBRARY - WEBSITE



ON THE LIBRARY CART....

The June 2014 issue of AMERICAN CONCHOLOGIST, published by Conchologists of America, highlights the winner of the COA award at our March Shell Show, Jim Cordy. Also mentioned in the article were club members who won other scientific awards: Sue Goril, Pat and Bob Linn, and Bruce and Paulette Carabelli.

If anyone has suggestions for shell craft books, please let me know.

ON THE WEBSITE.....www.marcoshellclub.com

- At the Home page, scroll down to Video, then click on the seashell to view a video produced by Bob and Dorothy Wickline during the Judges' and Members' Reception the day before the March 2014 Shell Show. You may recognize yourself or other people you know, or perhaps your entry!!
- Go to the SHELL SHOW page for links to the 2015 Shell Show Rules, artistic and scientific entry forms, and information about shell shows and other events taking place in 2015.
- *Joan Robbins* - Librarian/Website Chair



TREASURER



To make the accounting of expenses easier for all, Mary Ann has helped me prepare a new reimbursement. I will have these available at the workshops for those who have spent personal money for Shell Club expenses and wish to get reimbursed.

I also would like to share with you this great poem regarding Shell Collecting by Betty Jean Piech.

Joan Robbins found the following information about Betty Jean:

Betty Jean Piech (d. 2010) was a school librarian in Wilmington, DE as well as an avid marine shell collector, active in the Wilmington Shell Club, the Delaware Museum of Natural History, and the Conchologists of America. She traveled the world to increase her seashell collection and her knowledge of different places and cultures.

(Information taken from her online obituary)

THOUGHTS FROM A SHELL COLLECTOR

I love a beach where seabirds cry,
Where the shining water meets the sky.
Where one can look for shells and things,
And gather the gifts that each tide brings.

I like to walk upon the sand,
Between the ocean and the land.
To breathe the wonderful salty air,
And feel the breeze blow through my hair.

I enjoy the pleasure these things bring,
They calm my mind and make my heart sing.
And even when I can't be there,
I always remember what the beach had to share.

And if you happen to see a shell,
I hope this thought you'll remember well.
As I have prized each beautiful treasure,
So I value my family and friends in even greater measure.

And when the times comes I'm no longer here,
Do not think I have left you, never fear.
Just picture me happy on some distant shore
Picking up lovely things just as before.

For I will not have died, nor will I sleep;
I will see you again, so please do not weep,
I'll just continue happy in His peace and care
Until the time comes when you join me there.

EXCURSIONS



The schedule of excursions is coming together. There will be a emphasis on education, observation, and conservation with a blend of Florida's history. Any questions, comments, suggestions, or complaints regarding excursions can be directed to me at excursions@marcoshellclub.com

Wednesday Jan. 14th: Fakahatchee Swamp Walk. - cost: \$3.00 at the Ranger Station
Enjoy the scenic route on your way into the heart of the Fakahatchee Strand where you will have a chance to get your feet wet while slough-slogging in paradise! Highlights of this trip will include rare plant sightings and a survey of mollusk "shells" in the immediate area.

From Marco Island head east on US-41 to State Highway 29. Take a left (north) on to HW29. Take HW29 to Janes Memorial Scenic Dr. Make a left turn on to Janes KEEP RIGHT! We will meet at the rangers station just inside the park at 9am.

Remember to bring drinking water! Long pants are a good idea. Sneakers, bug spray, sun screen, walking stick? (if you have one). If you plan on bringing a camera.....be careful!! It is wet out there!

On Saturday, January 24th we will have a **Fossil Dig** with Dr. Gary Schmeltz. Ancient shells are the main attraction of the dig, however, coral, bone, silicified wood, and calcite crystal formations are among the many things waiting to be found. The pit is in Charlotte County and has Caloosahatchee material (1.2 million years old). We will meet at the Shell gas station on Route 31 just north of the Caloosahatchee bridge at 8:30 am. To get there take I-75 exit 141 on to Route 80 and go east to route 31. Then turn north (left) and go over the Caloosahatchee River.

>The group will leave the pit at noon and meet at a restaurant on Route 80 for lunch and fossil drawings.
> Place your reservation with Jake (excursions@marcoshellclub.com) soon. There will be fee of \$25 per person (which does not include lunch). There is a minimum group size of 10 and maximum of 18. Please wear old clothes, sneakers, a hat; and bring a trowel and water.

Thursday, January 29th: Collier/Seminole Paddle.

A relaxing trip down the Blackwater Creek. Enjoy the sun and water while completely surrounded by nature! Mangroves and water birds abound here lending rare photo opportunities to brave photographers.

Staff at the park has asked us to limit the size of the group to 5 canoes so we can only accommodate 10 members at a time. Entrance to the park is on US-41 just east of San Marco Rd. We will meet in the parking lot. Upon entering the park make a left turn at the first stop sign. Parking is at the end to the right or to the left. The paddle should last 1-2 hrs and will begin shortly after meeting at 9a.m.

Bring old sneakers or wet-dry shoes, sunscreen, and insect repellent, and water. Cameras and binoculars are great, just be careful not to drop them in the water!

Wed, February 11th, 9am: Collier/Seminole Walk. cost: \$6.00 at trailhead

This excursion is all about the snails.....colorful tree snails unique to South Florida! Learn about the natural history of these fascinating animals while taking part in a scientific survey of their tropical jungle "hammock"!

The trail is located in Collier-Seminole State Park. Entrance is on US-41 just east of San Marco Rd. Attendance limited to 40 and is first come first serve so RSVP ASAP. The excursion should last 3-4 hours and will begin at 9:00am. We will meet at the trail head (by the boat launch). Upon entering the park make a left turn at the first stop sign. Parking is at the end to the left or to the right. Bring sneakers, long pants, water (16oz) and snacks/lunch, insect repellent and sun screen. Cameras and binoculars are a great idea!

.Friday February 27th 8am: Isles of Capri Paddle.

Cost:\$30.00 single, \$50.00 double. Pay at the marina. This early morning paddle is for the experienced kayak enthusiast. We begin at Isles of Capri Marina and paddle our way to the uninhabited barrier islands at Tigertail Beach. Wildlife sightings and shelling opportunities are the highlights of this excursion. Group size will be limited to 12 vessels. Reservations must be made by Feb. 1st. The Isles of Capri Marina is located at 292 Capri Blvd(SR-952) approx 1.5 miles west of Collier Blvd(SR-951). The paddle should last 3-4 hrs and will begin shortly after meeting at 8am. Sunscreen, water, snacks, and insect repellent are all recommended.

Thursday March 26th 9am: A Day at the Museum. - Cost:\$5.00 donation to museum

The Marco Island Historical Museum and all its exhibits await! Come enjoy all the museum has to offer while in the company of like-minded individuals.

The museum is located at 180 S. Heathwood Dr. in the heart of Marco Island. Don't forget about the gift shoppe where many unique examples of Marco Island inspired artwork and literature can be found. We will meet at 9am in the courtyard by "the Cat".

I will be announcing a new series of field research excursions coming soon! Field assistants will be needed to help conduct several tests including soil acidity, humidity, and temperature! Real Science! Work with beautiful tree snails in their natural jungle habitat! What could be better than that? Stay tuned.

Jake Mitchell – Education/Excursion Chair

SEMINARS



January 8, 2015– Jim Cordy, winner of this year’s Conchologists of America award at our Shell Show will present his memories of trips to the **Eluthera Island in the Bahamas**. Knowing that he is an avid conchologist, this presentation should not be missed.

February 5, 2016- Constance Miller, renowned Sailor’s Valentine Artist will thrill us with her knowledge of this form of shell art.

March 5, 2015- Ann Dupont, a Scientific Diver and Underwater Photographer and co-author of the book Caribbean Sea Slugs, will give her presentation of **Sea Shells and Slugs found in Lake Worth Lagoon, Florida.**



Marge Tunnell— VP and Seminar Chair

MEMBERSHIP



IT'S THAT TIME...TO REGISTER! *Your commitment is important to the Club!* "Get on-board" by **BECOMING ACTIVE TODAY**. Membership dues are still \$20 for individual and \$26 for 2-person household! Visit our website at www.marcoshellclub.com and select the "Membership" tab to make your online commitment effortlessly. You can still complete a "hard copy" application and submit payment at any onsite Seminar or Workshop.

NOTICE -- PERSONS MAKING "OFF-LINE" PAYMENTS...

Remember, you can bring your payment in person with a check or cash to any Workshop session on Tuesdays or at the monthly Seminar. **OR...**mail a check payable to *Marco Shell Club* at this address: *PO Box 633, Marco Island, FL 34146*. Mary Archbold will be greeting and assisting you during the November and December Workshops.

CHANGED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?...or phone number? Send me a quick email to membership@marcoshellclub.com to keep you current with Club News.

NEW...WORKSHOP PHOTO DIRECTORY
Planning on joining Tuesday's Workshop Sessions this season?

An escalating 100 enthusiastic artists have attended workshops this past year. It's virtually impossible to connect everyone's name with a face. So...a tri-fold board will display all the photos of our Shell Artists, along with Club officers and chairpersons, who have contributed to the end-of-the-season Gift Shop. The Photo Directory will also be set up during the Shell Show to show the magnitude of the artists involved and to "thank you" for all your important work!

However, I need your help to pull this off!

1. Take a "head-and-shoulder" photo of yourself that measures 2" x 3". No hats or sunglasses, please. This is actually a wallet-size that I will fit into a transparent name-tag badge. Send it via email to me at: membership@marcoshellclub.com
2. Or...if you have a ready-made photo of that size, mail it to my home address at: *8264 McCandlish Rd, Grand Blanc, MI 48439*, no later than December 10, 2014.
3. If you don't have access to Step 1 or 2, I will take one of you at Workshop when I arrive in January. For those that craft out of their home, I'd like to encourage you to drop into Workshop to get your photo added to the directory. It would be amiss if you or anyone else, weren't included. Just bring a smile!

Thank you for following through...

YOU are an important ingredient to the success of this organization in the contributions you make as a crafter, designer, researcher, shell collector—YOU are appreciatively valued!

Mary Ann Coke – Membership Chair

PUBLICITY



I have take the liberty of including a full description of the excursions here rather than sending out separate excursion document.

Publicity for our club is very important. Each year we set out Shell Club Brochures at a long list of businesses on Marco Island. Then at the end of the season we retrieve the unused brochures and plastic holders. Some of you have already volunteered to distribute brochures and plastic holders to area business. We still have more to distribute. They will be available at the workshop. Please check the list of business and pick up a few to distribute to those businesses who have not yet received them.

A big thank you to members who have taken the time to help with this important task.

John Tunnell- Publicity Chair

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
Historian.....Linda Monroe
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
Nov. 25	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Dec. 2	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Dec. 4	Thursday	Holiday Party	5:30 pm	Vintage Bay
Dec. 6	Saturday	Shell Art Sale	9:00 am	Winn-Dixie
Dec. 9	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Dec. 9	Tuesday	BOD meeting	12:00 pm	U-Church
Dec. 16	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Jan. 6	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Jan. 8	Thursday	Seminar-Jim Cordy: Shelling the Bahamas	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	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

