The SeaShell

Marco Island Shell Club Newsletter October 16, 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am looking forward to seeing everyone again as we start workshops on Tuesday, October 29 at United Church of Marco from 8:45-11:30. We will be transporting workshop materials each week after moving all supplies from United Church to our new storage area at 20 Marco Lake Road. Many people helped this past summer to move and set up our new area. We are so grateful to all of you who helped.

Our new storage area has room for table leaders to come and work or set up their ideas and projects for this year's workshops. Many of the table leaders have taken advantage of this workspace and had members come to pick out shells or ideas for their projects to be transported to the workshops easier. We know we have higher expenses this year for this storage area and are working on ways to help offset the costs with some of our art ideas, and are looking at many other ideas and suggestions that were sent in by members or discussed at board meetings.

I know there are many changes this year, and many more to come next year when Diessler Hall at United Church of Marco will be closed for renovation. The board has been working hard to arrange workshops and shell show at other locations next year, but I don't want to confuse us with all of that at this time. For THIS year, 2019-2020, we will remain at the United Church of Marco with all activities and events in the same place it's been for 10 years. The United Church of Marco has been very generous and helpful to accommodate everything on our calendar this year. The only difference will be transporting materials every Tuesday. We have had many members offer to help with this change, and I'm sure we will work out a system that will work for us. Thank you in advance for this help.

I will be asking for volunteers to help with club activities this year, such as helping with our 2 luncheons, greeting new members to help them feel comfortable and helping give new members an orientation to familiarize them with club activities, help John Tunnell with advertising and distribution of fliers to businesses on Marco, helping with many different categories of the shell show, helping present shelling workshops in the community such as at the library, and helping in so many other ways that will insure a very successful and fun year. None of these volunteer situations take much time. It just helps to have more people to get the job done easier.

I look forward to one of our best years yet! The dedication and hard work displayed this summer as we faced many challenges to our club was amazing! I am grateful to be a part of this group. Thank you!

Karen Caster - President

SHELL SHOW

40th Annual Marco Island Shell Show
March 19,20,21 - 2020
Disseler Hall, United Church of Marco
320 N. Barfield, Marco Island
(Note, this is the Third week
in March this year)

Welcome back everybody! Sure hope you have had a great summer! We certainly have! Can't wait to start our workshops, seminars - and just plain see everyone!

We are celebrating our **40th year of the Marco Island Shell Club and Show!** Think **RED** for this great anniversary milestone in the club's history! We will have a special Category/Class this year in the Artistic Division using the **"RED Anniversary theme"** and in the Scientific Division - a Category/Class using the **number "40" theme** - so put your creative hats on and come up with a **WINNER!**

See you soon!

Jae Kellogg – 2019 Shell Show Chair

WORKSHOP 2019-2020

Greetings Shell Club Members:
October 29 is our first meeting! Be there at 8:45 to socialize and ready your glue guns for a 9:00 start. We've had some changes since our last shell club meeting in the spring, but we are ready and excited to start the 2019/2020 season.
It's time to think about the table you would like to work at this season.
As a review, the tables include: new members, jewelry, minis, stemmed flowers, table flowers, critters, painting, decorating, mirrors/frames, holiday. Each table has a list of tools you will need, but a good starting collection is high-temp glue gun and holder, tweezers, scissors, ruler, exacto knife.
Looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday mornings. Bring your artistic skills, creative ideas, and be ready for a great shell club season. I'm certain you will have a great experience at which ever table you choose to work at this season.

Becky Miller – Workshop Chair

SHELLS: WHERE TO FIND THEM
It won't be long before Jae is asking you to start thinking about your Shell Show entries and we all need shells and sea life to complete our projects.
This is a list of some shell shopping possibilities that I frequently use that do not require a tax certificate.

1 Shore Goods ---formerly Marco Craft and Shell.
599 S. Collier Blvd, #315, Marco Walk Plaza, Marco Island .... Near Chicos
A wide variety of shells are available in small packages.

2. Kellys Shell Shack
1302 5 th Avenue S., Naples (US 41 E. on the Gordon River)
A wide variety of individual shells and sea life for sale.
3. Sea Shell Company
4461 Bonita Beach Road SW, Bonita Springs
***10% off Cash purchases ***5% off Credit card purchases
4. Shell Horizions
shellhorizons.com Clearwater, Florida 727-536-3333
Florida customers only are required to show a Florida Business License
you can order from any state but not Florida* $50.00 minimum order
5. Richards Seashells
www.richardsseashells.com 863-875-5914
***great site ---fast shipping --- purchase in small quantities --- no minimum purchase
6. Shells-of-aquarius.com
jal@mindspring.com 727-515-0051. no minimum purchase
7. The Shell Stor3 www.theshellstore.com
8211 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33771 727-360-0586
Shells, mirrors, frames
8. Amazon
9. Etsy
10. Krylon Triple Thick Clear Crystal Glaze
This spray we use is available at Walmart for about $4.00. Other places much higher In cost.

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THE HOLIDAY SALE WILL BE SATURDAY DECEMBER 7, 9-2, AT THE UNITED CHURCH OF MARCO. WE WILL ALL BE VERY BUSY CREATING SHELL ART FOR THIS EVENT. GIFT ITEMS ARE ALWAYS POPULAR SO BRING YOUR IDEAS FOR NEW SHELL ART CREATIONS. BE SURE TO TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

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2019-2020 MISC WORKSHOP CLEAN-UP SCHEDULE

Oct. 29	**Everyone help with cleanup today**	
Nov. 5	**Flowers**	**Decorating D**
Nov. 12	**Holiday**	**Decorating A**
Nov. 19	**Jewelry**	**Stemmed Flowers/Minis**
Nov. 26	**Mirrors, Frames**	**Critters/Painting/New Members**
Dec. 3	**Flowers**	**Decorating D**
Dec. 10	**Holiday**	**Decorating A**
Dec. 17	**Jewelry**	**Stemmed Flowers/Minis**
Jan. 7	**Mirrors, Frames**	**Critters/Painting/New Members**
Jan. 14	**Flowers**	**Decorating D**
Jan. 21	**Holiday**	**Decorating A**
Jan. 28	**Jewelry**	**Stemmed Flowers/Minis**
Feb. 4	**Mirrors, Frames**	**Critters/Painting/New Members**
Feb. 11	**Flowers**	**Decorating D**
Feb. 18	**Holiday**	**Decorating A**
Feb. 25	**Jewelry**	**Stemmed Flowers/Minis**
Mar. 3	**Mirrors, Frames**	**Critters/Painting/New Members**
Mar. 10	**Flowers**	**Decorating D**

Mar. 17 Shell Show Set Up ..... Times to be Announced

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

One of the things we supported with our Grants this year was funds for Rookery Bay Reserve to complete the outdoor classroom on Shell Island Road. This included funding for fans, no-seeum screens, supplies for the Marco Island Academy to paint a mural on the wall, and benches for the students which our own John Tunnell made himself as a volunteer for Rookery when he wears one of his other hats! (photos of John and his work). The Coastal Breeze featured the beautiful mural in an article. You can also see it here on the next page or on the Rookery Bay Reserve Facebook page. Quite a success!!

The public is very appreciative of our philanthropy. You are all wonderful in your inexhaustible creative ways to make this happen. Working together, in itself, is an art form.

On Friday, December 13, 2019, Patrick O'Donnell and Kristine Zirkmanis will be presenting a lecture on Sharks, etc. Kristine is one of the recipients of our Scholarships and is a PhD candidate working to gather some of her data at the Rookery Bay Reserve.

Rookery Bay Reserve offers a series of Lunch and Learn lectures at its facility, 300 Tower Road, Naples, Fl. 239-530-5940.

A buffet lunch is served from noon to 1 pm while the lecture is taking place. The cost of this Lunch and Learn Program is $15. If your wish to attend, register on line at:

https://fareharbor.com/embeds/book/rookerybay/items/102536/availability/289202257/book/?full-items=yes&flow=86985

Or go on line: Rookery Bay Reserve, click on activities, click on lunch and learn, click on book for the lecture you wish to attend.

This will be a good opportunity to hear how Kristine's research is coming along and you will have the opportunity to meet Patrick O'Donnell, who with the Rookery, provides the boats and some equipment for this research.

Paulette Carabelli– Scholarship Committee

John Tunnell built the benches

Friday, September 27, 2019

Coastal BREEZE news

MIA Students Create Rookery Bay Mural

| September 26, 2019

By Maria Lamb

Kloie Whitman, Savana Baez, Angel Owen-Turner, Alexis Pratt and Marley Wilson. | Photos by Rob Eder

Some talented and dedicated students from Marco Island Academy recently took part in creating a mural at Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

The colorful mural is located at the Rookery Bay Shell Island Field Station, which had contained a plain, concrete wall that was perfect for the specific images and message that the Reserve wanted to convey. The previously white wall was transformed into a 30-foot long artistic mural portraying the plants, wildlife and research science occurring at Rookery Bay. The mural will be used as visual teaching tool for Collier County Public School's environmental education programs.

Marley Wilson, Kloie Whitman (background).

Alexis Pratt, Chastity Miller and Emma Coppola.

According to Jeannine Windsor of Rookery Bay's Educational Outreach, "The idea behind this project was to provide more opportunities for interpretation of Rookery's estuaries. Themes were chosen based on connections to the mission of the Reserve and the various audiences we bring to the Rookery Bay Shell Island Field Station."

For example, the microscope on the mural represents *diversity*. A great deal of life in the estuaries exists on a microscopic scale.

The sharks represent *relationships* and are a fantastic indicator species as to the health and stability of the estuaries. These apex predators rely on dynamic food webs with a host of relationships that help maintain balance in the ecosystem. Rookery Bay staff have been monitoring juvenile shark populations in the reserve for 20 years.

The aquarium represents *learning*, with visitors looking into an aquarium as if they were in the estuary themselves. The estuary acts as a nursery for several species depicted in the mural, including small-tooth sawfish, invertebrates, and variety of important game fish.

Emma Coppola and Angel Owen-Turner. | Photos by Rob Eder

The sea turtles represent *protection*. Critical to the mission of the Reserve is the stewardship of the estuaries and the life that exists there. This includes monitoring and protecting the several threatened species such as loggerhead sea turtles.

The mural was part of a summer project for the high school students from Marco Island Academy (MIA). It was also a great opportunity for the students to showcase their artistic talents and to make a difference in their community.

Creating murals for public viewing is nothing new to Rob Eder's art students. Earlier in the year, Rob Eder, the MIA Arts Program director, along with MIA students, completed an art project for the Marco Island Historical Museum.

The mural project was made possible by the generosity of the Marco Island Shell Club, which provided funds for all the materials used to create the mural, such as brushes, paint and fans.

According to Rob Eder, the students worked around 90 hours; two to three hours a day in June, July and the beginning of August. The hours spent creating the mural will count towards the students' 100-hour community service requirement for graduation.

For the students, it was community service through art.

Credits go to:

- Original design by Caitlin Libby;
- Original Calligraphy by Marisa Roath;
- Master Painter – Kloie Whitman;
- Painters: Alexis Pratt, Marley Wilson, Sarahi Lopez, Savana Baez, Emma Coppola, Chastity Miller and Angel Owen-Turner;
- Reserve project liaison, Jeannine Windsor;
- MIA art teacher Rob Eder; and
- MIA Principal Melissa Scott.

View the mural during National Estuaries Day, Saturday, September 28th from 9 AM to 3 PM.

Alexis Pratt.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Just a quick shout-out from your Corresponding Secretary. One might ask what the difference is from the Recording and the Corresponding Secretary. Well, one takes the minutes of all meetings and the other sends out any correspondence needed!

I have held several positions as a member of the MISC some of which included Historian/Photographer, Recording Secretary, Workshop Chairman and since last April, Corresponding Secretary and served on multiple committees.

In just 6 short months, correspondence has been sent for 6 get-well wishes, 3 sympathy notes, 4 appreciations and 5 donation thank-you. The only way I usually become aware of the need to reach out to someone is when someone notifies me at information@marcoshellclub.com or can usually find me sitting at the "mini-table" at the weekly workshops! Stop by and say "hi" and find out why I am known as "Silly, Sassy, Sally"!

Sally Johnson– Corresponding Secretary

EXCURSIONS

Hello fellow members. I am looking forward to this new season. I hope you all had a wonderful summer and you are prepared to make some beautiful creations to sell and will be submitting some creative and scientific items for our show in March. We will have a number of excursions including the Marco Island History Museum, which is free and very interesting. Trips to the beach, meeting at a restaurant, going on a sunset cruise are just a few other things planned.

I have already contacted the bus company to take us to the Sarasota Shell Show in February and the Sanibel Shell Show in early March. We will have exciting trips together.

Thank you,

We have two upcoming excursions. They are:

Thursday, November 14 8am, South Beach on Marco Island. (meet at the beach)
Thursday, November 21, Marco Island Historical Museum. (Time to be announced)

Pat Wood – Excursion Chair

MEMBERSHIP

Well it is hard to believe that another summer has come to an end and we are ready to start our new Shell Club season. It was a very busy "off season" and I can't thank our President, Karen Caster, enough for all the time, effort and leadership she put into finding, securing and moving not only our new storage facility but also finding a new home for our workshops for future seasons.

As you membership chair, I would like to remind all members that your current membership expires on December 31, 2019, and that it is important that you renew your membership prior to that date by going on the club's website, marcoshellclub.com. Joan has worked hard to make the renewal process on the website even easier. Once you go to the website you will see the following sentence in the center of the homepage:

Members Please Login To Renew Membership Here

Simply click on the word Here at the end of the sentence and follow the on-screen prompts to login and renew your membership. You will notice there are a few changes to the membership dues. We no long offer a household membership, only individual memberships. The annual membership dues for individuals is $35 per year. You may pay your dues with a credit card at the time you renew your membership online by selecting pay by PayPal. Or as in the past, you may pay by check by bringing your check made payable to Marco Island Shell Club to workshop but remember you must first renew your membership on the website and select Pay by Check. Payments cannot be accepted until your membership has been renewed on the website. Please renew your membership prior to coming to the first workshop in January as to not delay your being able to participate in the workshop.

It should be an exciting year and I look forward to seeing everyone at the first workshop on Tuesday, October 29th, at the United Church of Marco!

Cindy Wesolowski – Membership Chair

WEBSITE

ONLINE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INFORMATION

During the summer, changes were made to the website to make the renewal process easier for all our members. When you go to www.marcoshellclub.com, the following message appears-- **Members Please Login to Renew Membership Here.** Tap on the word **Here** to get to the Member login screen. Follow the screen prompts to renew for 2020 by check or credit card.

HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIPS are valid through December 31, 2019. The **main household member** can renew membership for 2020 by logging in with their existing username and password and renew as an **individual** member.

The second member of the household will need to fill out a **NEW individual** online application in order to set up his/her new username and password, provide an email address and other information and select a payment method. Tap on the Membership tab, select Individual, then the Subscribe button at the bottom of that page to access the form.

NOTE: If you have any technical difficulties, there are Renewal Instructions online under the Membership tab, which walk you through the steps in the renewal process. You can also email me at webwoman651@gmail.com.

NATIONAL ESTUARIES DAY 2019

On Saturday, September 28, the Club participated in the National Estuaries Day celebration at Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve by staffing an educational table with examples of the two types of mollusks, gastropods and bivalves, along with samples of the Club's shell art, and a sign announcing our December Holiday Sale and the Shell Show in March. Visitors to our table were invited to go "shelling" in the treasure box and identify the shells they selected by matching them with ones in the exhibit.

This annual event includes staff-narrated boat tours, with bus transportation provided to the boat, which is 15 minutes away. The Shell Club has underwritten the cost of this bus for several years.

Note: The club also donated additional funds to provide assistance in updating and completing the outdoor classroom at Shell Island Road which hundreds of students in Collier County will use. Rookery Bay educates an average of 3000 students through field trips annually. There are three field trip programs specifically offered for Collier County Public Schools, as well as opportunities for other student groups.

Looking forward to seeing all of you when you return,

Joan Robbins – Website Chair

Boat Tour

Microscope use

National Esturaries Day

Photos by Amy Tripp

Our Honorary member, Amy Tripp had three pictures in the September edition of the National Shell Museum CURATOR'S CORNER newsletter.

If you know Amy, you know she is a wonderful photographer and the Shell Museum has recognized her skill here and in the next three pages.

Thanks to Jae Kellog and Paulette Carabelli for drawing this to our attention.

Photos by Amy Trip - continued

Speckled Crab and the Seven Olives

If a picture is worth a thousand words, how many words is an amazing picture worth? A million? Consider, for instance, this terrific photo of seven Lettered Olives, *Americoliva sayana* (Ravenel, 1834), feeding on the remains of a Speckled Swimming Crab, *Arenaeus cribrarius* (Lamarck, 1818). The capture leaves no room for doubt as to what was happening: It reminds me of a "clean-up crew" of vultures around roadkill, or hyenas feasting on an antelope carcass. Lettered Olives are known to prey on worms and other mollusks, but on occasion they may also be scavengers, as shown in Amy Tripp's great photo, taken on Kice Island, Florida.

This issue of the "Curator's Corner" is dedicated to Amy Tripp, a Citizen Scientist from Westport, Massachusetts, and Marco Island, Florida, who, together with husband Bill, scour the shores of Marco and Kice islands (Collier County, Florida) during the winter, studying and photographing the natural history of local mollusks and other organisms. Amy is one of the Museum's Shell Ambassadors, and has contributed hundreds of images of living mollusks to the Museum's programs and other web resources. This and the next two features in this issue of the "Corner" are commentaries of mine on three of Amy's many outstanding natural history images!

Lettered Olives feeding on a Speckled Swimming Crab. Photo by Amy Tripp.

Photos by Amy Trip - continued

Communal Spawning in Cone Snails

Florida Cones, *Conus anabathrum* Crosse, 1865, and other species of cone snails are known to perform group spawning. Also known as communal spawning, the phenomenon, which is not restricted to mollusks, occurs when a large number of female individuals lay their eggs or egg capsules at the same time, in the same spot. One of the possible advantages of group spawning is that the concentration of a large number of eggs, larvae, or juveniles in a small area may overwhelm local predators. This may translate into better survival rates than in species that do not rely on group spawning. Again, this cool photo was taken by Amy Tripp near Marco Island, Florida. Read more about the Florida Cone here.

Two female Florida Cones laying egg capsules. The arrow points to spot under the snail's foot where the capsule gland is located, with a new capsule emerging from the gland. Photo by Amy Tripp.

Photos by Amy Trip - continued

Mighty, the Horse Conch

At a maximum size of about 60 cm (24 inches), the Horse Conch, *Triplofusus giganteus* (Kiener, 1840), is the largest marine snail living in the Atlantic Ocean. Horse Conchs are known to feed on a number of other mollusks, including Lightning Whelks, Tulips, Fighting Conchs, large clams, and others. In this great photo by Amy Tripp, taken at low tide near Kice Island, Florida, a Horse Conch (let's call it "Mighty"!) is about to pounce on a stranded Lightning Whelk. The Horse Conch's siphon can be seen lining the shell anterior canal. The head is visible atop the large foot, which is starting to grab the whelk. Horse Conchs use their foot to completely envelop the prey prior to feeding. This smothering behavior triggered the local conventional wisdom that Horse Conchs kill their prey by asphyxia. While it is true that the conch's tight embrace isolates the prey from its immediate environment, it is also possible that this is used by the conch to create an isolated "death chamber" that focuses and expedites the action of relaxing or paralyzing substances secreted by the predator prior to feeding. Read more about mollusks and their shells in the Museum's Southwest Florida Shell Guide and Shell Blog.

Mighty, the Horse Conch. Photo by Amy Tripp.

PUBLICITY

I realize that this is a rather long newsletter but there is such good information to pass on to you, our members, as we start the Marco Island Shell Club 2019 – 2020 season. Whether you are a year round resident, returning in the fall, or at the beginning of 2010, we welcome you back and are excited to get our activities going.

John Tunnell– Publicity Chair

2019-2020 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

Officers

President..... Karen Caster
Vice President..... Jacqueline Lynch
Recording Secretary .....Judy Arnold
Corresponding Sec. .....Sally Johnson
Treasurer. .....Christine Bergquist

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Chairs

Shell Show .....Jae Kellogg
Membership .....Cindy Wesolowski
Scholarship .....Paulette Carabelli
Education/Excursions..... Pat Wood
Publicity..... John Tunnell
Website .....Joan Robbins
Seminar..... Jacqueline Lynch
Workshop.....Becky Miller

To contact officers and chairs by email, use information@marcoshellclub.com