

The SeaShell

Marco Island Shell Club Newsletter

April 9, 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I want to thank all our members who made this a wonderful season! We have learned so much in our seminars, excursions, workshops, and from each other. Our goal this year was to increase our membership and continue to work towards a successful Holiday Sale and Shell Show. It's fun to share work we made at home and entered in the Shell Show, and also fun to create shell art while learning new techniques or methods in workshop. When you help work at the Shell Show, you can watch as people look at your art and talk about how beautiful it is, or want to ask you about it. Of course, the best part of all is hearing about how much we will be able to donate toward the scholarship and education areas, and how it will be spent next season. I am so excited about how many younger students will benefit next year, in addition to our support of graduate students. I'm also happy that we are helping improve the outdoor learning center of Rookery Bay. Everyone's efforts helped make this possible!

Next year we would like to form committees so that everyone can be involved in other aspects of the shell club. For example, "Greeting New Members, Assisting with Luncheons or Helping to drop off club fliers at stores". We encourage everyone to be an active participant in our club. Our board members are already working on many fun ideas for next season. Have a healthy and happy summer wherever you may spend your time.

Karen Caster - President

Karen Caster announcing our
New Honorary Members
Kathy Benedick and Becky Miller



SHELL SHOW



THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

It took many hands to build a successful 2019 MISC Shell Show! We had the most of everything this year - exhibits galore, gift shop items for sale and many new ideas in marketing. I want to thank everyone who exhibited, volunteered and made a difference!

A SPECIAL THANKS to all of the **Shell Show Committee Chairs** - they make my life very easy during show week - Thank you so much for a WONDERFUL JOB!!!

Also, to all of **Our Veteran Members** (and NEW) who volunteered their time - helping during show week - THANK YOU!

The MISC Board, works very hard all year to ensure that we keep focusing on our club mission, our scholarships/grants, new ideas to move our club forward and our membership - Thank you - Looking for a great 2020!

In the next few weeks, you will be able to relive 2019 Shell Show with many pictures and **Award Winners** on our website - Again, this season will go down as one of the most well attended, profitable, and memorable seasons of all!



We made so many new friends this year - That is one of my favorite parts!

This is a great way to start off next year.....**Our 40th (Ruby) Anniversary Show Season! Let's make it another winner!**

Jae Kellogg — 2019 Shell Show Chair



WORKSHOP



The 2018-2019 Marco Island Shell Club Season in Review.

1. A great time was had by all! The time went by so quickly with some missed former members returning and some new members joining us.
2. The Holiday Sale arrived almost too quickly, but we were ready and the crowds appeared. We were just short a couple dollars from \$6000. (Everyone wanted to throw in the few cents to make the number). We were all so proud of our efforts.
3. Workshops were productive. The table leaders arranged awesome shell art activities. My sincere thank you to the 2018-2019 table leaders—and so far, I think they are all staying on. HURRAH!!!!!!
Minis -- Judy Arnold and her table mates really ramped up the making of small shell things.
Stemmed Flowers/ Flower Arranger -- Ruth Grzyb and Carole Stavenas and their gang made beautiful flowers and arrangements. Ruth won a trophy for her work at the Shell Show. Carole makes cakes, sand dollar pictures, swans, etc.etc.etc.
Critters -- Cindy Wesolowski, brought the critter table back and made dogs, yogis, beach beauties and other critters.
Decorator A -- Joan Saboda and Dot Stever are first time table leaders at the decorator table. They developed rope wreaths which were great. They also produced drip lines, night lights, baskets, and more.
Decorator D -- Jackie Lynch also a first time table leader, overwhelmed customers with beautiful items like mermaids, sea horses, Kleenex boxes, soap dishes, etc.
Mirrors/Frames -- Jae Kellogg at the mirror and frame table made mirrors and frames big and small. So many new ideas.
Holiday/Gifts -- Becky Miller and company at the Holiday/Gift table made ornaments of all kinds and a variety of gifts.
Flowers -- Karen Caster, at the flower table, created flowers big and bigger.
New Member -- Jenny Caughey was the leader at the new member table. She helped new members feel welcome and started them on their shell club journey.
Painting Table -- Debbie Towey and Kim Peet and their crew painted and painted and painted --- sometimes white and sometimes coastal.
Jewelry -- Lynn Owens and her table – tables – really made lots of beautiful jewelry. They offered a great variety of finery.

The above offers a review of what each table creates during the workshop.

Each table leader has a list of tools which will be helpful at their table. A couple of the tables, minis and stemmed flowers, have some tasks they will ask you to complete before welcoming you to their table. Start thinking now about the table you want to work at next season.

4. The Shell Show Gift Shop –AMAZING!!!!!!!
We had a new layout this year and all comments were positive. It seemed like there was more room for workers and customers.
5. So that's the end ---- another season over ---- Now we start preparing for the next season. Before you read this newsletter, I will already have met with several of the table leaders to start planning next years projects.

Have a great summer and see you in paradise when you arrive.

Becky Miller | Debbie Towey — Workshop Chair

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY



Greetings from MISC Corresponding Secretary...Sally Johnson (aka Silly Sassy Sally)

I wanted to introduce myself as the new Marco Island Shell Club Corresponding Secretary. I have been married for 54 yrs, 4 children and 6 fabulous grandkids, lifelong resident of Illinois until we became Florida residents. I have been a member of this wonderful club for 10 years and have held positions in the past of secretary, historian and workshop chair. I can usually be found during workshop at the miniature table (my love)! I have so many hobbies from sewing, quilting, cross stitch, card-making, Shell collecting, jewelry making and on and on, that I NEVER have time to be "bored".

My responsibility as Corresponding Secretary is as the name implies. ..corresponding. Therefore, if you know or are aware of: (yourself included), spouse, fellow club member, etc., who are going through sickness, surgery, death of a loved one, or just trying times, etc., please contact me to let me know so that, as a representative of MISC, I can reach out to them. God bless you all, have a safe, fun summer and hopefully see you again in the fall.

And, more great memories -

W-O-W...AWESOME opportunities for Shell Club Members!

SAILOR'S VALENTINE Special Workshop

Audrey's Valentine



On April 2 & 3, members of the club were offered the once-in-a lifetime opportunity to participate in a special Sailor's Valentines workshop offered by the world-renowned Sailor's Valentines artist Audrey O' Donnell.

A sailor's valentine is a form of shell craft made using large number of small seashells. These were originally made between 1830-1890 and designed to be brought home from a sailor's voyage at sea and given to the sailor's loved one. Typically octagonal, glass fronted, wood boxes ranging from 8-20" displaying intricate designs

Audrey O'Donnell

Audrey brought her talents, knowledge, supplies, shells etc. right here to Marco Island to teach a limited number of members interested in learning the century old crafting of Sailor's Valentines. Watch for new entries in the Sailor's Valentines categories of the 2020 shell show. So much talent brought out by Audrey's willingness to share her vast knowledge. HUGE thank you to Audrey and also to Judy Arnold for hosting the class in her home.



RECYCLED PLASTIC BOTTLE FLOWERS Special Workshop

Much interest grew from the centerpieces made by club member Sally Johnson for our end-of-year Celebration Thank-you Luncheon. She utilized plastic drink bottles to make flowers for the centerpieces.

Based on many requests, she will present on April 10th, a 3 hr. hands-on workshop putting your recycles to use! Just another one of the many wonderful opportunities offered to members of Marco Island Shell Club!



Sally Johnson – Corresponding Secretary

FGCU Women's Basketball Game

Photos courtesy of Mary Ann Coke

Nella Neary arranged for some of our members to attend the Women's FGCU Basketball Game on Sat. Feb 23rd. First photo is the husband/wife who donated the tickets for the club participation. We had reserved seating at the end zone right where the sponsors are standing and were recognized on the scoreboard. It was a fast and energetic game and the girls won over Kennesaw State by 25+ points.



SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS



The Scholarships and Grants Committee worked diligently this year to find new educational adventures for diverse groups and individuals over a wide age range. The Board of Directors has approved the following activities.

We are funding classes of the "Mollusk on the Move Program" provided to local schools. The National Shell Museum brings their car loaded with live mollusks and tanks to individual schools for an up close and personal educational experience with sea shells.

Additionally Rookery Bay National Estuarine Reserve is the recipient of funds for the buses on Estuary Day that take participants to Shell Island Road to board Rookery boats to experience, some for the first time, a ride in Rookery Bay to see all the flora and fauna that is there with experienced tour guides. We are also helping to update and complete the outdoor classroom which hundreds of students in Collier County will use.

We continued to support elementary teacher, Leah Ray, as well as Kristine Zikmanis who is working on her PhD using Rookery Bay as one of her sources of data.

Your hard work and commitment to the Club and the excellence you show in performing all these tasks you do make these contributions to education in our local area possible. The Community thanks you.

Paulette Carabelli - Scholarship Committee

2019 Discover Tigertail

One of our members, Joan Robbins, who is also a member of Friends of Tigertail, at her Shelling 101 table at Discover Tigertail on Saturday, February 23, 2019. Notice the prominently displayed flyer for the Shell Show at the right of the photo.



SEMINARS



Hello, Shell Club Friends! I'd like to introduce myself. I am originally from the New York area, where I raised my two daughters. My past careers were in the Compliance Dept. of Morgan Stanley, as well as owning a Gift Basket business.

Shells and shelling have become my passion in these past few years. Before joining the Marco Island Shell Club, I was so incredibly impressed with the amazing shell art that I saw and have bought at the past Shell Shows. I never thought I could create anything close to the beautiful shell art that was displayed, until one day I just joined. I'm so happy that I did! I've been welcomed by all and have learned so much from others at the Club, while discovering my "shell art talent" - didn't know it was in me! The talent at this club is unprecedented, in my opinion!

As Seminar Chairperson, I am currently researching to find some great speakers for the 2020 Season. Our first scheduled Seminar will be on Thursday, January 9th, 2020 from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M."

Some interesting speakers have already been suggested to me by our members. I am looking forward to learning and hearing these teachers, scientists, life-long Florida residents and other interesting people inform us about the beauty of nature that surrounds us.

As a Table Leader of the Decorator Table, I'd like to thank the very creative people at my table as well as the Painting Table, headed by Debbie Towey. They have been so helpful to my Table by taking time to paint our wooden forms so carefully and paying attention to the little details and colors. In addition, Nanci Kaiser and her husband have been so very generous to the Club and my table by cutting our wooden forms and donating them to the Club.

Jackie Lynch - Vice President and Seminar Chair

If you attended the March 7th Seminar “Parade of Marine Life Memories”, you were impressed by Joyce Markel and her poem. Since several of you have asked for a copy, here it is.



A Fond Shelling Memory

I began shelling in 2010
I knew nothing about shells way back then.

So off I would go to see what I could find
And soon I had many that I could call mine.

The bigger the better, the happier I'd be
Filling bag after bag with these gifts from the sea.

I had shark eyes, and tulips, olives and cones,
How could I possibly get them all home!

And when I got home, my family would say
“It's a sin, how many shells you have in so many bins”!

So this year I thought, I won't collect the bigs at all
I'll just concentrate on collecting the smalls!

Now that I'm looking just for the smalls,
I find I can't see them when standing up tall!

Bending over for minutes to see what I can
When I try to get up, I yell: “please somebody give me a hand”.

Walking along and bending to see
I spot a real treasure just waiting for me.

I reach for it fast before the waves take it away
Oh how tiny and beautiful is all I can say!

A beautiful baby, a favorite of mine
A perfect little nutmeg and boy does it shine.

Now, I've collected many smalls by NOT standing
up tall
But this tiny nutmeg is my favorite of all.

Collecting the smalls is a challenge for sure
But each day I go out looking for more!

Some crafts I'll attempt with the smalls that I find
If my hands just stop shaking, I'll make them just fine.

This nutmeg is a treasure, I'm sure you'll agree
And this story I've told is my fond memory!



People's Choice Award winner.

Photos by Vicki Stone

39th Annual Shell Show

By Coastal Breeze News Staff

The Marco Island Shell Club put on another successful show for shell artists, collectors and shell enthusiasts. The show featured literally MILLIONS and MILLIONS of shells.

The three-day show featured hundreds of exhibits: juried scientific exhibits, artistic exhibits, shells for sale, a live "specimen" tank, even a raffle. On display were beautiful pieces of art, useful objects encrusted with shells and more. There were rare shells, common local shells, oddities, and even shell "hair."

Two-year-old Stone Allgaier enjoyed "kids day" at the 39th Annual Shell Show. Stone touched a live starfish, his father commented, "My hope is he grows up with



Shell art by Rosanne Murphy.



Exhibitor Mike Cole.

the same love for the ocean that I have, that's why I brought him."

The proceeds of the Shell Show support the Marco Island Shell Club Scholarship and Education Fund.



Stone Allgater enjoys "hiddis day."

PUBLICITY



This has been another very successful season. What a wonderful Shell Show! I have included on page 9 & 10 a copy of an article that was in the March 29 issue of the Coastal Breeze.

I hope you all have a great summer and, like me, are looking forward to the 2019 – 2020 season.

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

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Seminar..... Jacqueline Lynch
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