



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I sit down to write this article, it is hard to believe our season has come to an end. But what a season it was, one for the record books! We started this season with many challenges, we lost our workshop home, we hadn't been able to have a show for the past two seasons due to the pandemic, we lost some of our workshop table leaders for various reasons and some of our long-time members were not coming to Florida this season, just to mention a few of the challenges we faced.

In spite of these challenges, our involved members and Board of Directors rose to the challenge and found us a new home for our workshops at Mackle Park and through the hard work and dedication of our members we were not only able to finally have our 40th Shell Show, but to do so with record breaking attendance and sales. On March 25th we officially ended the season with our Annual Meeting & Celebration Luncheon. At the meeting, members elected me as President, Christine Bergquist as Treasurer and Karen Caster as Correspondence Secretary each for another two year term. The members also approved our operating budget for the next fiscal year (April 1, 2022-March 31, 2023) which included Scholarship & Grant payments of \$25,000. This was made possible by the successful year we had in raising funds through our sales of our shell art. I want to thank everyone for all their hard work in making this happen. I would especially like to thank Becky Miller our Workshop Chair and all the table leaders that made this possible by hauling all the supplies and overseeing tables at the weekly workshops.

At the annual meeting, we also recognized two long-time members of our Board of Directors that were stepping down and retiring from the Board. John Tunnell who had served many years as the Chair of the Publicity Committee and Jae Kellogg who has over the years served in many officer and chair roles on the Board, but most recently as the Shell Show Committee Chair for the past twelve years. It was Jae's hard work, dedication and leadership that helped make our 40th Shell Show the best show ever. Thank you to both John and Jae!

For those of you that attended, I think you will agree that the luncheon was terrific. The food provided by Da Vinci's Restaurant was delicious. Thank you to Jackie Lynch and her committee helpers for a wonderful lunch.

I am happy to announce that Karen Baldacci has agreed to serve as the Chair of the Publicity Committee and will work with John on the transition. Please join me in welcoming Karen to her new position.

Although the season is over, many of us will continue to work through the summer to build stock and prepare for next season. We will once again be supplying product to the gift shop at Brambles Tea Room on 5th Ave. in Naples and already have an order for 500 holiday ornaments to be delivered this fall. If you are in downtown Naples, be sure to stop in and check out the display of our items.

As we plan for next season, we are once again planning to hold our workshops at Mackle Park. With that will come once again a limit on the number of members that can participate in weekly workshops, be sure to check

the website, www.marcoshellclub.com, in the fall for registration information on the 2023 season. I would ask that you only register to attend workshops if you can commit to being there on a weekly basis during January, February and early March. This past year we had many members that signed up for workshop but only attended a few sessions. Unfortunately that meant we were less than full most weeks and as a result limited the amount of product that could be produced.

In closing, I would like to say that it has been an honor to serve as your President these past two years and I am looking forward to serving the next two. I strongly believe in the mission of the club to promote the study, conservation, history, and science of seashells and mollusks, and to encourage shell-related interests, such as shell collecting, crafting and shell art. The monies we have raised over the years has allowed us to give scholarships and grants to further our mission, none of which would be possible without our dedicated and talented members. Thank you!

Cindy Wesolowski - President



SHELL SHOW

**WE DID IT!! WE DID IT!! WE DID IT!! WE DID IT!!
MOVIN' ON!!**

The 40th Anniversary Shell Show Celebration has come and gone, the last 2 years of pandemic and all of its issues, is for the most part fading - the positive power that lingers on from year 2022 leaves an imprint on our memories that will be remembered as a wonderful example of how the MISC Board, 60+ members/volunteers - can and will - push our successes and best year yet - well into 2023 - and on to the continuation of another "40+ years of the Marco Island Shell Club!"

THANK YOU ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Judy Arnold presents a gift necklace to Emily Savage at the 40th Annual Shell Show



Another big thank you to the New Life Community Church for letting us use the entire church for the 2022 Shell Show this year.....It was a lifesaver and a treat to have such a nice church venue at our fingertips for the show! 150 exhibits filled up the exhibit area around our workshop sales in the center of the sanctuary - It was such a beautiful sight of shell creations everywhere you looked!! Thank you, again, to all of our sponsors - we were very appreciative for your help. Our website will soon have pictures up from the show - DON'T FORGET - any info needed for next year's calendar and membership - will be on the website! Please - check it out, so you don't miss anything!

Thanks so much, all of you for the many years of support and FUN!

Jae Kellogg – 2022 MISC Shell Show Chair

WORKSHOP



A sincere thank you to everyone who participated in Workshop this season. We made beautiful shell art and were finally able to meet together after a long COVID break. Our new setting, at Mackle Park, is bright, clean, and roomy with plenty of parking.

The Shell Show was a great showcase for artistic entry's by club members. There were so many beautiful things – trees, mirrors, Santa, flowers, paintings, photos, valentines. And the Shell Art displayed on the Workshop Tables was amazing. My favorites were the pink flamingo, armor star mermaid wands, porcupines, lady bugs, mini sailors valentines, crystal earrings, sea glass seahorses, shell filled shadow boxes, and sun flowers.

It is rewarding to watch our customers show a true appreciation for what we do and who we are.

Table Leaders will be thinking of new ideas for next year. It's great to bring back favorite projects but also good to have something new for our customers.

Thanks for a great season! Thank you for your patience and understanding as we moved into a new way of operating and working in a new place.

Have a safe and restful summer and I hope to see you back next season.



Becky Miller – Workshop Chair

SCHOLARSHIP



Your hard work making shell creations for sale has made the following educational opportunities possible. The students thank you.

The Marco Island Shell Club has both an undergraduate and graduate student endowment at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers. This year's undergraduate recipient is Jolie Alberty, a marine science major. She is studying oysters and their response to a predator called boring sponge. The boring sponge parasitizes oysters using chemical and mechanical means to penetrate the shells. She hopes to determine if food availability changes the oyster's response to this sponge.

Hannah Hartzler is a second year graduate student working under Dr. Mitsch whose office is located at Naples Botanical Garden, FGCU's, Kapnick Center. Her research is located at Freedom Park in Naples where storm water is pumped into wetlands which are capturing nutrients. She will recycle some of these nutrients for growing corn.

At the end of the growing season she will harvest the corn, analyze the biomass of the crop and its nutrient content. The results of this study will be compared to that of another. She hopes to illustrate the efficacy of this method to improve water quality while growing crops.

Our PhD student at Florida International University, Kristine Zikmanis, continues her work with young bull sharks. She has inserted 30 acoustic tags into the underside of the sharks and

is monitoring their activity as they swim around the area by checking data captured on receivers. Additionally, she has taken swabs of material in the excretory opening of 42 sharks. By analyzing this material she can tell what the sharks are eating.

Some of her acoustic tagging research was featured on a National Geographic Shark Fest documentary "The Croc that Ate Jaws." Her work will continue for several years.

The students are appreciate your efforts.

Mollusks on the Move

The Marco Island Shell Club supported the mobile program "Mollusks on the Move" delivered by the staff from the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum to elementary school students at the Mason Classical Academy in Naples. An additional lecture program also supported by the Marco Island Shell Club was prepared and given by the Museum to the Mason Classical Academy High School students in marine science and biology.

The "Mollusk on the Move" program delivered a highly interactive experience with live mollusks brought to the school for students to see. Many do not know that live animals live inside shells before the shells are found empty on the beach. The presentation by the museum focused on the importance of observing the natural world, mollusk feeding

habits and reproduction as well as marine conservation and protection. The vehicle used to transport the live show is a piece of art itself as it is painted with shells and other information!

This program is a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) presentation. Kelsey Hausmann from the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum set up the live tanks and the Mason Classical Academy. 488 elementary students were treated to this wonderful program which acquainted them about seashells.



An additional lecture and program was presented by Becca Mensch to the high school students in marine science and biology.

The Marco Island Shell Club supported these programs as a non profit organization with a mission to promote information and learning of the life and environment in which seashells live.

Florida United Malacologist meeting at the Bailey-Matthews Museum

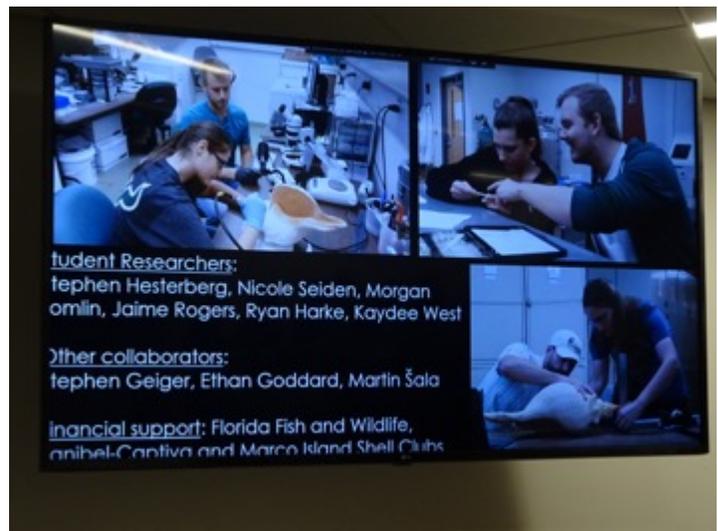
At the Florida United Malacologist annual meeting, April 2, 2022, Dr. Gregory Herbert presented a paper on the Florida state shell the horse conch entitled “The Florida Horse Conch’s Intrinsic Vulnerability to Extinction.” At the end of the talk Marco Island Shell Club was recognized as one of its supporters. We have supported several of Dr. Herbert’s students in the past and the research is ongoing. (see photo).

We continue to be recognized in the scientific community for our philanthropy.

Additionally, author Cynthia Barnett, is preparing an article for National Geographic using some of Dr. Herbert’s work on the horse conch. The article will be out soon.

Note that the Marco Island Shell Club is credited at the bottom of this slide.

. Dr Herbert sent me this message: “We published our horse conch paper today, and the National Geographic article came out today as well. Please let your fellow club members know that I appreciate the support for our students. The link below can be accessed for free. It may ask for an e-mail”.



<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/one-of-the-worlds-biggest-sea-snails-at-risk-of-extinction>

Paulette Carabelli — Scholarship Chair

VP AND SEMINAR



Hello Shell Club Friends:

We have had a great and successful season for Shell Club. I'm happy to be part of this wonderful Club. The talent and commitment that is given to this Shell club by so many is just amazing. There are so many good and giving people out there.

Seminars were great and well attended this season. The Library is a great venue for these Seminars. I appreciate and noticed the many Shell Club members that attended. It was the most I've ever seen! I also noticed and appreciated the Shell Club members that were kind enough to bring snacks & refreshments to share with all of the attendees! The amount of public attendees were more than I've seen before as well. We again, are doing a good thing and free of charge. I already have a few good speakers picked out for the 2023 Seminars. I am looking forward to working with Karen Baldacci, who is our new Publicity Chair. She will also be a big help to me for the Seminar set up and more. John Tunnell, you'll be missed though. You were always such a BIG help to me. Hopefully if we have questions you'll be around to help! Thanks again, John!

I would love to have help with Raffles for Holiday Sale later this year and Raffles for Spring Sale in 2023. Anne Marchetti was great in obtaining some of our raffle prizes, but she does so much and we need more people for this. This reminds me to thank Jackie Gertz for the raffle donations of not one but four beautiful handmade quilts! Wow! And were they just gorgeous! If you'd like to help with raffles e-mail me at jacquelm60@aol.com

Have a wonderful summer! See ya'll in the fall! 🍪

Jackie Lynch — Vice President and Seminar Chair



If you were at the last Luncheon/Meeting you heard Joyce Markle read her poem. It was so great we decided to put it in the newsletter.

Shellers

The Sheller is on the beach before the sun comes up
Some people would say Sheller's are just nuts!

No matter the temperature, 48 or 94
The Sheller is out there walking the shore!

Since the sun is not up, how will they see?
With their flashlight, they won't miss one gift from the sea.

A beginning Sheller may not know very much, they just stroll and look
But after a few years of collecting, they've memorized a whole Shell book!

What equipment do you need to be a good Sheller?
A hat, scuba booties, a shell bag and a dipper!

When the Sheller is alone on the beach, they say "the beach is all mine"
Surely, today I'll have some great finds!

The cry of the Sheller is "Lord help me find a Junonia this time
So finally I can say "this Junonia is all mine!"

Shellers often say "I'm only picking up certain shells"
That lasts 5 minutes, their bag is soon full, "Oh well"

People will say "don't you have enough shells"?
Heavens no! You can never have enough shells!!

Real Shellers join the Shell Club, you might even know one
They make beautiful shell crafts and it is lots of fun!

Some people say "you shell every day, isn't it always the same?
Shellers say "it's never the same and the sea is always calling my name!"

Shellers love to meet other Shellers out on the beach, it's like "show and tell"
They admire each other's finds and share information as well.

The Sheller's search for shells is never done,
They will search and search for just the right ones.

So if this poem describes you as a Sheller, as it does me
Then consider yourself a crazy, obsessed, dedicated Sheller of the sea!

PUBLICITY



I'm honored to join The Marco Island Shell Club. I look forward to the Challenges our future will bring.

Karen Baldacci- Publicity Chair

2021-2022 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

Officers

- President..... Cindy Wesolowski
Vice President..... Jacqueline Lynch
Recording Secretary..... Judy Arnold
Corresponding Sec..... Karen Caster
Treasurer..... Christine Bergquist

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Chairs

- Shell Show.....
Membership.....
Scholarship..... Paulette Carabelli
Education/Excursions.....
Publicity..... Karen Baldacci
Website Joan Robbins
Seminar..... Jacqueline Lynch
Workshop..... Becky Miller

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