

The Sea Shell

Marco Island Shell Club Newsletter

December 20, 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is hard to believe there are only a couple of weeks of this year left. It has been a year like no other with many challenges. As I write this, I am praying that all our members have made it through this most trying time safe and healthy. As you know, our club activities had to be drastically changed this year with the cancellation of the Shell Show last March and the suspension of our weekly workshops this fall.

Since many of our members, especially table leaders, continued to work at home over the summer creating beautiful works of shell art, we had lots of inventory for our two days of holiday sales. The sales were held outside at St. Mark's Episcopal Church the day after Thanksgiving and the following Friday. We were blessed with good weather. Since we were outside, we were able to space out the tables to accommodate social distancing. We requested all volunteers and attendees wear masks, which they did, making it a much safer environment for everyone. The sales were very successful raising almost \$12,000 between the two days. I would like to thank all the table leaders and volunteers (including many husbands of members) that made this possible and a special thank you to our Workshop Chair, Becky Miller, for her leadership in organizing and coordinating the sales. I would also like to thank our Publicity Chair, John Tunnell, for not only all the great publicity but for arranging for us to borrow the tables from his RV park, saving the club hundreds of dollars.

The Board of Directors met on December 9th, and I am pleased to announce that Karen Caster was elected to fill the Corresponding Secretary position. Please join me in welcoming Karen into her new position.

Although we planned to begin our weekly workshops at St. Mark's in January, we have been notified that because of the virus, the church will not be permitting any outside groups to use their facilities through the end of January, at which time they will reevaluate. The board met to discuss the possibility of looking for another venue to hold our weekly workshops but since many of our members had expressed a concern about meeting as a large group, we have decided to break the workshops up into smaller groups.

Beginning in January, table leaders will be holding weekly workshops at our shell shed, located at 20 Marco Lake Drive on Marco. There will be a schedule for table leaders to sign up for a specific day either morning or afternoon for their table members to meet and work at the shed. Members are asked to work at the same table they worked at last season and to contact their table leader to find out when they are scheduled to meet. By breaking the workshops up into multiple sessions, we can limit the number of members to allow for proper social distancing. Members will be required to wear masks while at the workshops and hand sanitizer and other disinfectant materials will be provided.

Only members that have renewed their membership by December 31, 2020, will be able to participate in the workshops at the shed. Because of the limited amount of spaces available, we have decided not to allow any new members to join until we are able to reopen and meet as one group. We are all hopeful that with the upcoming vaccines that will happen soon. If you have any questions or do not know how to contact your table leader please send an inquiry via the "CONTACT US" tab on the website.

At this time we are still planning to have our annual show in March but will have to hold off making a final decision until after we see how things progress during January to see if it is feasible to have such a large indoor event at that time.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and a new year filled with hope and joy. I look forward to seeing everyone in 2021!

Stay safe and healthy,

Cindy Wesolowski - President



WORKSHOP 2020-2021

WORKSHOP

It has been a very busy month! November 14, we started our whirlwind selling adventures at the Treasures in the Trunk Sale at the Catholic Church on Marco Island. We had a fun morning. It was great to be out among people. The Sale was outside and the weather was beautiful.

****See the photo of Cindy and Jackie.



The Holiday Sales followed on November 27 and December 4. We were outside at St. Mark's Church under the eaves. Perfect weather, Perfect crowd, and Perfect results. Everyone was wearing a mask and practicing safe social distancing. It amazes me to see our customers so pleased with our Shell Art. It's a good feeling to know that people appreciate our efforts. ****Enjoy the photos.



Next on the calendar was the Festival of Trees at the Center of the Arts. I'm sure you recall that I reported on the plan of our tree in the last Newsletter. Angels in a Pink Cloud. In Honor of the 2020 Fallen Angels and the 2020 Heroic Angels. It was beautiful AND we received the People's Choice Award AGAIN. ****Enjoy the photo.

We were lucky enough to purchase a small white fiber optic tree at the Treasures in the Trunk Sale for next year's tree. Anyone have any ideas for a theme????????????



We have been featured in the local papers for the past three weeks—every time I opened a paper there we were at some event or another. The great coverage really helped bring attention to our activities and our causes.

Next is figuring out how to function in the present COVID-19 environment. As we move into 2021, we should have some answers. So, until then, stay safe and healthy and be happy.

Becky Miller — Workshop Chair



Memorial for Sally Johnson

Several Members of the Marco Island Shell Club attended the memorial service for our great friend, Sally Johnson. The service was held at the Capri Christian Church on Saturday.

Senior Pastor Curt Ayres spoke

wonderfully about our friend and Music Pastor Steven Dawes provided some great music. We got to interact with Bruce and their children and grandchildren. Linda Kropp took a few photos that I have posted below. Although we will miss our good friend, this was a wonderful tribute.

John



Display of Sally's art work

MEMBERSHIP

ATTENTION!

As a reminder, we are still looking for a new Membership Chair. If you would like to volunteer, please let me (Cindy) know. Knowledge of Excel is helpful.

Just a reminder, membership renewals are due by December 31, 2020, and you must renew online to keep your membership active. Once workshops resume, only active members will be able to attend and participate in Club activities. To renew your membership, please visit the website www.marcoshellclub.com and follow the prompts from the link on the website home page where you will see the following:

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. 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 you may pay by check, just select Pay By Check when you renew your membership on the website. If you choose to pay by check, make checks payable to Marco Island Shell Club and mail your check to Marco Island Shell Club, PO Box 633, Marco Island, FL 34146. Payments cannot be accepted until your membership has been renewed on the website.

We will be making a change this year on how we handle nametags. In an effort to reduce the amount of contact with others, you will be given a nametag at the beginning of January. This nametag will be valid for the entire 2021 calendar year. You will be required to wear the nametag during workshops and take the nametag home with you and bring it back for each workshop.

Your membership chair,

Cindy Wesolowski

PUBLICITY



In spite of a very unusual year, all of you who participated in the Holiday Shell Art Sale deserve a great hand! It was very successful.

As you read above our early 2021 schedule is a bit up in the air but we will succeed. We will keep you posted as changes occur.

John Tunnell- Publicity Chair

2020-2021 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

Officers

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

Address all correspondence to:

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

Chairs

- Shell Show..... Jae Kellogg
Membership.....
Scholarship..... Paulette Carabelli
Education/Excursions..... Sandy Fansler
Publicity..... John Tunnell
Website Joan Robbins
Seminar..... Jacqueline Lynch
Workshop..... Becky Miller

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