

The Sea Shell

Marco Island Shell Club Newsletter

February 23, 2020



Hi All!

SHELL SHOW 2020

Last year's attendance was beyond belief! We had over 2600 visitors to our Shell Show - this was an all-time record for us! March 19-21, 2020 - are the dates for the **40th Anniversary Marco Island Shell Show** – 10 a.m. -4 p.m. at the United Church of Marco.

If you are attending - don't stand in line - make plans to purchase your **PRE-PAID \$3.00 Tickets** - available at Workshops/Seminars - any shell club member, and anywhere you can find our Treasurer - Christine Bergquist. If you are a first-time visitor or exhibitor to our show, know that this **juried** show is one of the most attended public events on the island!

With all of our new members, we look forward to seeing some of their shell art or shell collecting in the Novice (1st time exhibitors) categories at the Shell Show! Maybe you have found that perfect shell on our beautiful beach that you would like to share with everyone! In the Scientific Division - there is a category for you and we would love to see it! Or, maybe your Novice exhibit is that of a shell flower that you have learned to make in the weeks spent at our beginners table at workshop! Sea Life, frames, wreathes, photographic displays or just about any other Shell/Sea Life thing you can imagine will be on exhibit in the Artistic Division at this years show! Shell collections from all over the world will be shining in the Scientific Division - some rare and some found right out here on our Marco Island beaches.

Honoring Emily Savage will be amazing fun this year - we are presenting awards for the 40th - "The Emmys". Join us for a reception on Wednesday evening at 5:30 to learn the winners of all our awards!

With over a 100 exhibits in the Scientific and Artistic Divisions, this is only half of the show as the other half is our wonderful Shell Art Sales that our crafters have been working on the last 5 months at our Tuesday workshops! Of course, some of our members work on their shell art year-round for the show and when you see our work you will realize it is "one of a kind" work of art! Anyone can enter our show whether you are a MISC member or not!

A huge percentage of our show proceeds help fund our scholarship and grants - being at the center of the Marco Island Shell Club mission.

If you are not exhibiting, make your plans now to attend our 40th Anniversary Show and see why this spectacular event is something that you, too, will want to make one of *your* annual treks! See you there!

Jae Kellogg — 2020 Shell Show Chair



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are quickly approaching our 'end of season' activities with our Shell Show and Celebration Luncheon. We are hoping to see many novice entries this year. Our membership seems to have grown this year as seen at workshops. If you have never entered a shell show before, you are a novice and will be judged against other novices. Please look at the entry forms that are on the website and follow the instructions to submit your entry form. Let's make this the best show yet!

Our **Celebration Luncheon** will be on Tuesday, March 31 from 11:00-1:00 at our workshop location. Everyone seems to love DaVincis Restaurant food so we will try catering our food from there again. We will have our scholarship recipient speak about her research, hold our general membership annual meeting, and just enjoy some time eating and talking. There is no charge for this luncheon for our members, and only members may attend. It is a celebration for all our hard work and successes. We will have you sign up for this luncheon in the next few weeks. Mark it on your calendars!

Several of our members have been working hard setting up a beautiful display case at Marco Island Library with shells and shell information. Amy Tripp, Marge Tunnell, Pat Wood, and MaryAnn Coke have put in some beautiful shells and set up some displays with interesting shell information that will help library patrons understand shell animals and hopefully spark an interest in learning more about shells. This permanent display case is in the front of the library by the New Releases books.

Our shelling presentation for about 150 Newcomers at the Marco Hilton on February 12 was a great success. We had planned to interest the audience in shells by sharing some interesting and fun facts about shell animals. We were happy to see so many people talking about the shells and asking lots of questions. Many took cards with the shell show information, and others were interested in joining the club. Many thanks to the following 15 members who helped show the shell samples to each table of 10. Please take time to thank the following people who volunteered their time to help us: Jae Kellogg, Cindy Wesolowski, Kathy Benedik, Marge Tunnell, Susan Taylor, Jackie Lynch, Pat Woods, Cathy Schuler, Judy Arnold, Tori DiMella, Mona Kelso, Tami Mitchell, Joan Lynch, Donna Pfeil, and Joanne Kiersarsky. This presentation helped us fulfill part of our mission- educating others about mollusks. I heard comments from the Newcomers after the presentation such as "Who knew I would be so interested in seashells?", "I thought I knew all about shells but I learned a lot of new facts!", and several said they had never been to the shell show but are looking forward to attending this year.



A Shell Hunt and Potluck Picnic is being planned for February 26 at Sarazan Park and Pavilion- 933 S. Collier, Marco Island. The Shell Hunt begins at 7:30-10:00am. There will be a list of shells to find. At 10:15 the shells will be judged, and at 11:30 we will recognize new members and some members will be recounting some of their memorable shell stories. At 12:00 we will have a potluck picnic. Pam Hicks has offered to cook hot dogs and hamburgers, so others can sign up to bring salads, desserts and other items. Questions about the picnic can be directed to MaryAnn Coke. It sounds like a great way to end our season with many fun activities going on. I hope to see you at these events.

Karen Caster - President



SEMINAR

On Thursday, March 5th, Jeannine Windsor and Savannah Lawson from the Rookery Bay Learning Center will present “*Discover Rookery Bay*”. This presentation is an introduction to the mission and efforts of Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. Just over 30 staff members work hard to protect, manage, and monitor the 110,000 acres of estuarine landscape, which makes up roughly 40% of the Collier County coastline. RBNERR sustains its efforts through federal, state, and non-profit funding as well as countless hours donated by over 300 local volunteers. Some of our “Education funds” help support the education efforts of the Rookery.

Jeannine Windsor

A native to SWFL, raised in Bonita Springs. Jeannine earned her undergrad at Florida Gulf Coast University in Environmental Studies and is currently part of FGCU’s Water School pursuing her Masters in Science Communication. Jeannine has been with Rookery Bay Reserve’s Education department for just over 5 years, running field experiences for middle school students. She has also taken on the role of Outreach Coordinator, spreading awareness of RBNERR’s mission and promoting stewardship of our local estuaries.

Savannah Lawson

Originally from Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts, Savannah studied Earth Science and Invertebrate Paleontology at Smith College before working for numerous conservation groups, most recently the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Just over a year ago her passion for marine science education brought her to Naples to take her current position at Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve teaching marine science programs to high school and college students.

Hope to see you at the Seminar on Thursday, March 5th at 6:00 pm.

Jackie Lynch — VP and Seminar Chair

MEMBERSHIP



It has been great to see so many members back at the workshops including 23 new members! I wanted to take a minute to remind you of some membership housekeeping details. It is very important that you sign in each week on the Member sign in sheet when you arrive at the Tuesday workshops. It is also very important that your signature be legible. I can't give you credit for attending the workshop if I can't read your name. Same goes for the monthly seminars. This is important because some of the awards given at the annual shell show are only available to active members. Meaning members that attend workshops and seminars.

Please also remember to wear your name tag during workshop but to also place it back in the name tag cases after workshop so you will have it again for the following week.

We have been updating our files and I am still in the process of making sure all members have signed the necessary Workshop Release form. If there is not a form on file for you I may be asking you in the upcoming weeks to sign one. Please feel free to ask me if you have any questions.

If you have not renewed your membership, it is not too late but please be sure to renew prior to coming to workshop, as you need to have renewed online and paid before you can participate in workshops. Just 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. You will notice there are a few changes to the membership dues. We no longer 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.

Cindy Wesolowski – Membership Chair

WORKSHOP 2019-2020



Workshop Tuesdays are very busy! All tables are on track heading full steam towards the Shell Show. Every table has new ideas which suggest a successful Gift Shop is in our future.

I look forward to each Tuesday morning. It is exciting to see all Club Members and find out what they have been working on.

I'm at the beach most mornings looking for my scientific entries. I am hoping every member is also looking for their artistic and scientific entries.

ONWARD TO THE SHELL SHOW!!!!

PS: Next year's Tree for the Festival of Trees, at the Center for the Arts, has an Angel theme---thank you Kathy Benedick. If you have a favorite shell angel tell us about it.

Let's fill the tree with beautiful Angels.***WHEN FEATHERS APPEAR---AN ANGEL IS NEAR

Becky Miller — Workshop Chair

EXCURSIONS



FGCU deserves Marco Island Shell Club help. It's students seem to be proud to be there and are learning to be upstanding people. Our tour guide Sam, who is an honor student and an Ambassador for the student body, gave us a tour of the campus. He told us the

classes are small which allows the professors to spend one on one time with the students. The housing is close to the cafeteria and the classrooms. The campus is designed so there is no more than a ten minute

walk to access any building. Most of the buildings seem fairly new. In fact the gym is brand new. We went to the state of the art cafeteria for lunch then to the Vester Station out on Bonita Beach Road where we had a tour of the lab with a video of the research being done. We went on a boat ride where we were able to ask questions of the driver about the water quality and other concerns.

I want to thank Karen Caster, Cindy Wesolowski, Roxanne Murphy, Anita Baker, and Marie Lemoine for making the effort to attend.

I enjoyed learning about this gem of higher education.



Pat Wood – Excursion Chair

PUBLICITY



This season is going very fast. It is less than 4 weeks until our 40th Annual Shell Show and Shell Art Sale. We have printed over 6000 “Post Cards” promoting the upcoming Shell Show. If you have picked up some at the Workshop, continue to pass them out to all of your friends and asked the restaurants and stores that you visit if you can leave some of the cards on their counters. The more we get out in public, the more people will be aware of our Annual Show.

On Wednesday, March 18th we will set up a tent and signs at the Marco Island Farmer’s Market. This has always been a great promotional opportunity for the Shell Show. We will begin setting up at 7:00 am and will “man” it until it closes about 1:00 pm. If you can help for a couple of hours would you please let me or Marge Tunnell know what time you would be available.

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

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..... 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

MARCO ISLAND SHELL CLUB 2019-2020 CALENDAR Revised 3/28/19

This calendar is subject to revision – go to www.marcoshellclub.com for updates.

*All activities take place at the **United Church of Marco**.*

***Suggested arrival time for workshops is 8:45am to sign in and set up glue gun/materials.**

DATE	DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY
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Jan. 7	Tuesday	8:45-11:30 am	Shell Art Workshop
Jan. 9	Thursday	6:00-8:00 pm	Seminar
Jan. 14	Tuesday	8:45-11:30 am	Shell Art Workshop
Jan. 14	Tuesday	10:00 am	General Membership Meeting
Jan. 14	Tuesday	11:45 am	BOD Meeting
Jan. 21	Tuesday	8:45-11:30 am	Shell Art Workshop
Jan. 28	Tuesday	8:45-11:30 am	Shell Art Workshop

Feb. 4	Tuesday	8:45-11:30 am	Shell Art Workshop
Feb. 6	Thursday	6:00-8:00 pm	Seminar
Feb. 7	Friday		Bus excursion to Sarasota Shell Show
Feb. 11	Tuesday	8:45-11:30 am	Shell Art Workshop
Feb. 11	Tuesday	10:00 am	General Membership Meeting
Feb. 11	Tuesday	11:45 am	BOD Meeting
Feb. 18	Tuesday	8:45-11:30 am	Shell Art Workshop
Feb. 25	Tuesday	8:45-11:30 am	Shell Art Workshop
Feb.28	Friday		DEADLINE FOR SHELL SHOW ENTRIES

Mar. 3	Tuesday	8:45-11:30 am	Shell Art Workshop
Mar. 3	Tuesday	12:00 –1:30 pm	BOD Meeting
Mar. 5	Thursday	6:00-8:00 pm	Seminar
Mar. 6	Friday		Bus Excursion to Sanibel Shell Show
Mar.10	Tuesday	8:45-11:30 am	Shell Art Workshop
Mar. 16	Monday	TBD	Shell Show Set-up
Mar. 17	Tuesday	Voting Day – No Shell	Club activity at the Church
Mar. 18	Wednesday	TBD	Exhibitor’s Set-up
Mar. 18	Wednesday	TBD	Judging of Exhibits
Mar. 18	Wednesday	5:30 pm	Members/Judges’ Reception
Mar. 19, 20, 21	Thurs.-Sat.	10:00-4:00 pm	40th ANNUAL SHELL SHOW & SALE
Mar.26	Thursday	10:00-12:00	BOD Meeting
Mar. 31	Tuesday	11:00-1:00	ANNUAL MEETING/CELEBRATION
APRIL 1	Wednesday	10:00-12:00	BOD Meeting