

# The Sea Shell

Marco Island Shell Club Newsletter

February 10, 2022

## SHELL SHOW



Well, Marco members, we are well on our way to shell show and the excitement is building! Since we have so many new members in our club, not to mention the Marco Community, I asked Cindy if I could write the article for the community MicaWave - I thought with all of the new people, we would take a little trip back in time and let our new members and community visit the very first shell show!

**40th Anniversary of Marco Island Shell Show**  
**March 10,11,12 - 10 am to 4 pm**  
**(New Venue) - New Life Community Church**  
**489 W. Elkcam Circle, Marco Island**

*"Our mission is 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."*

### **40 Years of Shell Show**

That is a pretty daunting number - considering the club started out in the garage of Carol Johns in 1978 - making various flowers, "critters", and gluing shells on about any objects that needed shell decoration! In circa 1980, the Marco Island Chamber of Commerce called Carol and asked if she would officially start the Marco Island Shell Club! The first "2 day shell show" was held at St. John's Episcopal Church - a few card tables were set-up with displays! The rest is history!

This will be our first show in 2 years following the pandemic, through it, has been remarkable leadership by our board, all of the hard work/talent of our members/volunteers, and the support of the Marco Island Community!

For our 40th Anniversary, we are celebrating Emily Savage, longtime resident on Marco! She and husband Herb - instrumental in the development of Marco Island as Emily had her shell shop for 30 years - and was very instrumental in development of Marco shell club! One of the very best Shell Artists in the State of Florida - she also has been a mentor, teacher, and good friend to many members of the shell club for years! So it is with great pleasure that we honor her this year for all of her past contributions! She will be at the Specimen Shell table, make sure you say hi - she would love to see you!

**We took 24 new members in our workshop this year - which makes a total of 80! When you see our beautiful Shell Art Sale at the show, please thank them for sharing their creativity - purchase your "one of a kind" piece of Marco Island! Not only have they made beautiful Shell Art to sell, but many have entered first time exhibits in the show.**

### **The juried Artistic and Scientific exhibits never disappoint!**

It's a quick education of the sea life that exists in our waters around Marco Island! See Junior to Professional exhibitors in our show! Beautiful trophies and colorful ribbons will be popping color in our show!

Our judges this year are:

Marvin and Mary Hennemann, - Artistic

Anne Joffe and Ed Petuch - Scientific

We are very happy to have them back for our 40th!

This is a great event for you and your family that they will not forget. All proceeds benefit our scholarship and grants program ( Bring your CREDIT CARD) - come see why we are so excited!

*Jae Kellogg* — 2022 MISC Shell Show Chair

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We are well into our 2022 season of workshops at our new location at Mackle Park. For those of you participating in the workshops, I think you will agree that it has been great to once again meet as a group and get to see people we may not have seen for a couple of years. I would also like to welcome the many new members that have joined us this year.

While we may be having fun at workshops socializing with other members and creating our beautiful works of art, we can't lose sight of our mission as a non-profit and club. The mission of our club is: 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.

A large part of our achieving this mission comes from the scholarships and grants that we give to local schools and colleges. To date, we have given well over \$100,000 to help students at all levels learn about marine and environmental sciences. Of course none of this would be possible without the continued support of you, our members. As you know, all the beautiful works of art you create in the weekly workshops is sold at our sales events adding dollars to our Scholarship and Education Fund. Thank you!

Of course our next big sales event will take place next month during our 40<sup>th</sup> Shell Show on March 10, 11 and 12. This is going to be our best show ever! It will be held in a new venue, the New Life Community Church on Marco. In order to make it a success, we will need all members to help by volunteering their time and talents. There will be signup sheets at workshop and I encourage everyone to sign up to help. For those of you not attending workshops, please contact Jae or Becky to let them know when you are able to help.

We will have several vacant committee positions at the end of this season and I encourage you to consider signing up to serve on a committee as soon as possible. By signing up now you can work with the existing committee members to get an understanding of what they do. Although everyone enjoys coming to workshop and creating art, it take much more work behind the scenes to assure the club runs smoothly and ensure its continuation. So please become involved, we can use your help!

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be more than half way through our season and planning is already underway for our end of year Annual Meeting and Celebration Luncheon. Mark your calendars to join us on Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see everyone there. Details will be posted on the website closer to the date.

Speaking of the website, you can find all the information about the current happenings of the club on the website, including the rules and submission forms for entering an exhibit in the Shell Show. Please consider entering an exhibit in the show, you may even win a trophy! Be sure to monitor the calendar on the website as we continue to add new events including excursions, seminars and more.

The season is flying by, so let's enjoy it while we can.

*Cindy Wesolowski* - President



WORKSHOP

Workshop Fridays have been fun, productive, and a great learning experience. It has been rewarding to be able to meet as a group, to welcome new members and reconnect with current members. Our new meeting space, the Bald Eagle Room at Mackle Park, is roomy, bright, and comfortable.

Table Leaders have been very creative in organizing projects for their tables this season. We are on track for a great offering of Shell Art at the Shell Show 2022. It is exciting to see all the new things that have been created during workshops.

Table Leaders will be asking table members to sign up to help with the Workshop Sales area at the Shell Show. We will need help setting up, supervising the sales tables, and taking down the Sales area after the Show. Please plan to help out each day of the Sale in some way.

Looking forward to the Workshops ahead and to the Shell Show.....

*Becky Miller* – Workshop Chair



VP AND SEMINAR

Hello Shell Club Friends:

Later this month we will be having a Seminar at Rose Hall in the Marco Island Public Library. Lucy and Bert Williams will be speaking about their experiences "Living and Working Under the Sea". Called "saturation diving", this is a unique method used by scientists to study the undersea environment for extended periods of time and depth. This Seminar will be held at Rose Hall in The Marco Island Public Library on Thursday, February 24, 2022. It will begin at 3:30 P.M. We hope to see many Shell Club members there. It is open to the public, so be sure to bring a friend or friend(s) as well. We will be serving refreshments. Hope to see you there!

In March we will be having Rebecca Mensch from the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum speaking about Cephalopods. This Seminar will be held at The Marco Island Public Library as well and should be very interesting! The date of this is Wednesday, March 16th, 2022 at 3:30. This is also open to the public and refreshments will be served.

A special thanks to Sandy & Dave Fansler for cutting our wood forms for my Mosaic table and kindly donating them to the Shell Club. In addition, I'd like to thank Anne Marchetti for helping with the raffles for the upcoming Shell Show!

*Jackie Lynch* – Vice President and Seminar 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 appreciate your efforts.

*Paulette Carabelli* — Scholarship Chair

PUBLICITY



Our season is off to a great start. I am sure we are all looking forward to the upcoming SHELL SHOW AND SHELL ART SALE. We should have some 4" x 6" Shell Show Promotion cards available soon. Please help pass them out.

John Tunnell- 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

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