



The SeaShell

Marco Island Shell Club Newsletter

October 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



First I would like to send my thoughts to anyone that has suffered a loss from hurricane Ian and I sincerely hope that you were spared the worst of Ian's fury. I can hardly believe the devastation that happened just to our north. Places like Sanibel and Fort Myers Beach will never be the same. Personally I feel very blessed in that I watched as the water rapidly rose around our house but crested about a foot short of entering the garage.

Some of my neighbors and others on the island were not so lucky and many homes and cars were flooded. Please keep those impacted by the storm in your thoughts and prayers. If any members are need of assistance please do not hesitate to reach out.

Things are slowly getting back to normal on the island and the fall season for our club is rapidly approaching. I would like to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on what is happening with the club. This summer we once again delivered a variety of hostess gifts and holiday ornaments to Brambles Tearoom and Gift Shop on 5th Avenue in Naples. I am happy to report that they had no damage from Ian and have reopened for business. If you are in the Naples area you might want to stop in and check out our display.

Fall workshops will begin at the Shell Shed on October 31st and our Workshop Chair, Becky Miller, will cover the details below. Once again we were able to secure the Bald Eagle Room at Mackle Park for our workshops beginning January 6, 2023. We will meet on Friday mornings beginning a little earlier than last year, 10:00 am to 12:30 pm.

There will once again be a limit to the number of workshop participants due to limitations at Mackle Park.

Weather permitting we will have a table at the San Marco Catholic Church Treasures in the Trunk sale to be held on Saturday, November 12th. If you are around stop by and see us. We are also looking forward to our Holiday Sale, to be held the day after Thanksgiving, Friday, November 25. Becky will cover more details below and will be in touch regarding helping out at the sale.

Beginning early November, you will be able to register for the 2023 Season on the website under the membership tab. Registration will be open until December 23, 2022. At time of registration, if you are planning to participate in workshops you will be asked to indicate a table preference. While the club will do everything possible to grant your table preference, table preferences are not guaranteed. Since seating for workshops is limited, we ask that you not register to participate in workshops if you are unable to commit to being there on a weekly basis on Fridays from January 6, 2023, through March 3, 2023. You are still welcome to join and support the club and participate in all other activities even if you are not participating in workshops.

I would also like to encourage all members to consider serving on one of our committees. The club cannot function or survive without the active support of our committees. If you are interested on serving on a committee, please let me know. I hope everyone had a good summer and I am looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

Happy shelling!

Cindy Wesolowski - President



WORKSHOP

Here we go again!!!! Shell Club activities are quickly approaching. IAN delivered wind and water. This was my first in person hurricane. Lots of preparation, anticipation, watching, waiting, experiencing and when you think it's over, you begin to realize what has happened not to you personally but to the world around you. So many different outcomes to HURRICANE IAN.

Floridians suffered, some more than others. This event will be part of our memory.

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Fall Workshops will start October 31, 9-11:30, at the Shell Shed, 20 Marco Lake Drive, No. 7, Marco Island. Not all tables will be meeting during Fall Workshops. The leader of the table you were at during January-March 2022 will contact you with details IF your table is meeting during the fall.

We are looking forward to the Holiday Sale --- Friday, November 25, 9-2 at the New Life Community Church, 489 W Elkcam Circle. This is a fun day showcasing our beautiful Shell Art and interacting with our community. This is a great start to the Holiday Season. Encourage your family and friends to attend the Holiday Sale.

January 2023 Workshops will start Friday January 6, at Mackle Park, 10-12:30. We are looking forward to fun, creative activities, friendship, and Shell Art to sell at our Spring Sale, March 10-11. Our workshops are very important in that they allow us to support our scholarship and grant activities.

Looking forward to getting back to creating new and fun Shell Art. Mermaids are showing up on various projects. Small turtles are moving toward the water and the Grinch is HERE.

Becky Miller – Workshop Chair

SCHOLARSHIP



The Scholarship Committee has been busy since April allocating funds generated from the sale of your wonderful craft items. The recipients were all surprised and thankful for our generosity. Marco Island Charter Middle School used their grant to purchase various scientific equipment for the school such as a pH meter, moon phase model, dissection pan, etc.

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve purchased wind meters, binoculars, a trail cam, soil samplers, etc.

We partnered with the Marco Island Center for the Arts this year providing them with shells and instructions for several art projects for children of different ages. The Center added supplies and distributed the bags of crafts to children in underserved communities.

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Lyndey Grossman, a graduate student at USF (University of South Florida) received a grant. She is studying Microplastics and mollusks in Tampa Bay. We funded the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum again this year whose staff will provide the Mollusk on the Move program to the following Naples schools: Mason Classical Academy, Poinciana Elementary, Sabal Palm Elementary, Lely Elementary, and Parkside Elementary. We also supported 2 field trips to the Museum for selected students at Golden Terrace Elementary and Herbert Cambridge Elementary.

Sara Casareto, a Phd student at Florida International University is studying various facets of shark research. She will be working out of Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve here in the ten thousands island estuaries.



We have two endowments at Florida Gulf Coast University. The process of selection of students for these will begin soon.

Paulette Carabelli — Scholarship Chair

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NATIONAL ESTUARIES DAY, September 24, 2022

I represented the Shell Club at the celebration at Rookery Bay. Admission fees were waived, and there were a variety of outdoor activities and exhibits as well as indoor activities and exhibits. All attendees received BINGO game sheet. As they interacted with each exhibit or activity table, that section was stamped by the facilitator/exhibitor. Completion of a line on the card earned a prize. Some people’s goal was to go to every activity and get every space on the card stamped. The Shell Club table consisted of a display of examples of the two types of mollusks, gastropods and bivalves, and a box of shells. Attendees were encouraged to “go shelling” in the box to select a shell they wanted to take home. To earn a stamp, they identified the type of mollusk and learned the common name of the selected shell by matching it to the display. I answered many questions about shells and shelling as well.

I had a notice for our upcoming holiday and spring sales on the table, along with a few examples of the club’s shell art.

As I was leaving, the coordinator of the event, Jeannine Windsor Young, told me that the unofficial attendance for the day was over 400.



Joan Robbins – Website Chair

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PUBLICITY



Thanks to all the Marco Island Shell Club Board Members and Committee Chairs for their help and guidance in putting together this Fall Newsletter. Thanks especially to John Tunnell, past Publicity Chair.

I'm looking forward to a productive, wonderful 2022-2023 season.

Karen Baldacci -Publicity Chair

2022-2023 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

Membership.....Cindy Wesolowski
Scholarship..... Paulette Carabelli
Education/Excursions.....
Publicity..... Karen Baldacci
Website Joan Robbins
Seminar..... Jacqueline Lynch
Workshop..... Becky Miller To
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