



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our 2023 Season. We have had a great start to our workshops. I was amazed as I walked around to see such creative works of arts being made this year including lamps with shell covered shades, beautiful flowers, shell covered balls, dragonfly holiday ornaments and much more. It is great to be back at Mackle Park as one group and good to see so many of our returning members as well as welcoming 19 new members.

For those of you that have not been to a workshop, I have some exciting news to share. On January 5th the Board of Directors met and made the decision to have a modified Shell Show. As you may recall, after last year's show our long-time Shell Show Chair, Jae Kellogg, retired from her position. At that time we were unable to get someone to step up to take on the role and the decision was made to cancel the 2023 show.

Since that time, many people had reached out to me expressing their disappointment in the fact that we were not having a show, especially since the Sanibel Show was cancelled due to Hurricane Ian. While we are not in a position to have a full blown Shell Show as we have in the past, the Board decided to have an Expo in conjunction with our upcoming Spring Sale on March 10th and 11th. The times for both days will be 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The Expo will feature exhibits from our current members in both the artistic and scientific categories. Any current or honorary member is eligible to enter an exhibit.

We have a signup sheet for members at workshops that wish to exhibit, but if you don't attend workshops and want to enter an exhibit you just need to drop me an email at information@marcoshellclub.com. In the email, please indicate if your exhibit is for the scientific or artistic division and the approximate width of the exhibit. You may of course enter

more than one exhibit. Setup day for the exhibits will be Thursday, March 9th, time to be determined.

In order to make this successful and hopefully continue in the future, we will need your help. Closer to the date we will have a signup sheet for members to volunteer to help with the Expo & Sale. We will need people to help setup on Thursday, March 9th and tear down and move items back to the shed after the show ends on March 11th. We will need people to help with manning the entrance door, wrapping and cashiering as well as general monitors of the exhibits and sale tables. If everyone just gives a little time it doesn't become such a burden for any one individual. Together we can do this!

I also want to let you know that we have more tee shirts on order in a variety of sizes. The color and design of the shirt is the same as the previous shirts but we will now have more sizes available. The cost of the shirts is \$20 and sizes will range from small to 3XL. I will try to bring a few to each workshop and also have a signup sheet for people that want to order one and I will bring to the next workshop.

At the end of this season, we will have three Officer/Board positions that will need to be filled. The positions are Vice President, Recording Secretary and President Elect. Detailed descriptions of the responsibilities of each position may be found in the By Laws on the website. I have asked Becky Miller to chair our nominating committee this year so she will be asking members to throw their names in the hat. Please consider running for one of these positions.

As your membership chair, I want to just remind you of a few housekeeping items regarding workshops. You received your 2023 name tag at your first workshop and you are responsible for bringing your name tag to each workshop. If you don't bring your name tag you will need to purchase a paper tag for that week at a cost of \$1. You should also stop by the check in table at the door as you enter so that I can mark you present.

Save the date! On Friday, March 24th we will hold our Annual Meeting and Celebration Luncheon at Mackle Park. More details to follow.

Please remember to check our website www.marcoshellclub.com for all the latest news and updated information on workshops, excursions, seminars and the Spring Sale & Expo.

Cindy Wesolowski - President

WORKSHOP



The race to the Expo and Spring Sale has started. The Workshop tables are filled with energized members and Table Leaders trying out new and fun projects. Looking around the room at the end of Workshop I am always amazed and surprised at the beautiful Shell Art. Our table arrangement this year offers more room for Shell Art development and longer reaches to get the parts you need to finish your project. The Bald Eagle Room at Mackle Park is a perfect place for our group. It's roomy, well lit and comfortable.

I am already thinking about my Expo entries. I'll have both artistic and scientific. I hope all members have an entry. If you need advice and suggestions talk to your Table Leader or some of the long time members.

The Expo and Sale Days are always an exciting time. It is very rewarding to see our customers appreciating our work. We will need help to make this a success. Be sure to volunteer in several areas. This will be a good opportunity to meet members who were at other tables.

Looking forward to a great rest of the season. If you have ideas of new Shell Art show us your ideas----new ideas are always welcome.

Becky Miller – Workshop Chair

Excursions



We have planned a trip to Sarasota Shell Show and the Mote Marine Lab and Aquarium on Saturday, February 11, 2023. Our plan is to carpool with others or drive yourself. If carpooling, you can decide on the gas cost and split it among those in the car. It's about a 2 1/2-hour ride from here. Check your GPS.

We are scheduled to arrive at the Mote Marine Lab and Aquarium by 9:30 am. We must meet at the ticket window when we arrive. If we have at least 10 members attending, the cost will be

\$20 per person. This entrance fee must be paid ahead of time by January 28. I need to have it in so I can get a final count to the aquarium. The aquarium will take 1.5 to 2 hours to tour. We will then find a nearby restaurant for lunch. We will then go to the Sarasota Shell Show at Roberts Arena in the Potter Building at the Sarasota Fairgrounds. They are open until 5:00 pm. The entrance fee is \$5 which we will each pay on our own as we go in. Your car group can stay as long as you'd like. They have shell art, scientific and artistic exhibits, rare shells, shell crafts, and shells for sale. We can each get home from there when done.

To register online go to marcoshellclub.com. Press the 3 horizontal bars in the upper right corner and go to Education. You will see 3 items there: Education, seminars, and excursions. Press Excursions. You will see the information about registering for the trip with a charge of \$20 for the Mote Aquarium to be paid by January 28 to attend. It sounds like a fun day and I hope to see many of you attend. If you have any questions about the trip, please let me know.

Karen Caster – Excursion Chair

Seminar

Hello Shell Club Friends:



We had a wonderful start to The 2023 Shell Club Season of Seminars at the Library! Tony Mauriello attracted a large crowd as he spoke about Junonias & Beachcombing. Many of the public attended as well as our wonderful Shell Club Members.

On February 3, 2023, we shall have a Seminar in the Library starting at 3 P.M.. The topic of the seminar will be an Introduction to Sharks.

Jacqueline Lynch – VP, Seminar Chair

Jacqueline Lynch

Publicity



2023 Spring Expo and Shell Art Sale will take place on Friday, March 10 and Saturday March 11, 10:00am to 4:00pm at the New Life Community Church, 489 West Elkcam Circle, Marco Island, (behind the cemetery, across from Veterans Park).

Scientific and Artistic Exhibits by Members will be on display. Holiday ornaments, floral arrangements, jewelry, shell flowers, home décor and more, all made with shells, will be on sale as well as crafting and specimen shells.

Admission is \$3.00, children 12 years and under are free

Karen Baldacci -Publicity Chair

2022-2023 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

Officers

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

Committees

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

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

**Address all correspondence to:
The Marco Island Shell Club
P.O. Box 633
Marco Island, Florida, 34146**