

The Beau



A newsletter published by the
Sarasota Shell Club

Look for us at
www.Sarasotashellclub.com

We meet on the 2nd Thursday
(September to April)
at Fire Station #2,
2070 Waldemere St.,
Sarasota, FL

September, 2017 Edition

From the Prez

Sally Peppitoni



Welcome Back Everyone!

I hope everyone is ready for a great new season of shells and shelling! Our show will be back in Sarasota where it belongs this year. I hope you are as excited about that as we

are. We have some great fieldtrips in the planning and, of course we will continue with our local Beach and Breakfast trips. Be thinking about places around the Sarasota/Tampa Bay/Venice area you might like to visit and let Carol Mae know. If you know some good breakfast restaurants in the area let her know that too. Don't forget that our fall program is "Show and Tell." Bring some interesting finds you may have made over the summer or during some of fieldtrips last season. I will have my projector and Elmo so you will be able to show them first hand up on the screen. A number of our members were able to attend the COA convention in Key West in August and I hope they have some great things to show and tell us about. Looking forward to seeing you all!

Here's to sandy toes and full shell buckets! See you soon!

Sally Peppitoni, President

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Field trips

A list of upcoming field trips will be presented at the September meeting. Please remember, the Carefree Learner trips MUST be paid for in cash. DO NOT send money for field trips to the membership director with your dues. DO NOT send money for field trips to the treasurer. Money for field trips should be given to the field trip director (me). This process prevents the monies from being misplaced, lost or added into the wrong club account. If you send money to the membership director or the treasurer, it will be promptly returned to you. Sorry for the inconvenience but we must do it the way to keep better track in accounting. Thank you.

Membership Chair

Donna Krusenoski is the new Membership Chairperson. Make her life easier by completing the membership renewal form at the end of this issue of *The Beau* and either bringing it in to your next membership meeting (with a check made out to the Sarasota Shell Club) or mail it to her at the address noted on the form, again along with a check. Doing this promptly will make our membership roll accurate.

September's Featured Shell *Vexillum regina* (Sowerby, 1828)



The September, 2017 featured shell is the *Vexillum regina* (Sowerby I, 1828). The common name is the **Queen** or **Regal Mitre**. The shell isn't actually a mitre but actually is a vexillum and falls within the family of Costellariidae. This colorful shell is recognized by "its heavy, coarse sculpture, its slender turreted form with attenuated spire, its gradate sutural ramp, angular outlines and constricted lip." (Cate, "A Discussion of *Vexillum Regina* . . .", *The Veliger*, 1961).

This attractive shell can range between 44 and 70 mm. It is a carnivore and feeds on other gastropods from the sandy bottoms to coral reefs. It is found in the Indo-West Pacific. It gets its food by secreting toxins that will immobilize and eventually kill its prey.

The shell can be found from shell dealers as well as Ebay for \$10 to \$15.

Florida United Malacologists (FUM)—2018

The ninth meeting of Florida United Malacologists (FUM) will take place on Saturday, January 27, 2018, at the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum on Sanibel Island, Florida. The one day gathering aims at enhancing communication among researchers, collectors, citizen scientists, and students interested in a broad swath of mollusk-related topics.

FUM follows the pattern of similar gatherings such as BAM (Bay Area Malacologists), SCUM (Southern California United Malacologists), MAM (Mid-Atlantic Malacologists), and OVUM (Ohio Valley United Malacologists). There is no formal membership and there are no dues, officers, nor publications. Presentations are limited to 15 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions.

Presenters are required to submit a simple abstract limited to 150 words or less. Seating is limited and registration is free, but mandatory. Deadline for registrations and abstract submissions will be December 31, 2017. Registration information will follow soon.

Visits to the Shell Museum collection and library will be limited to two days prior to the gathering, Thursday, January 25, and Friday, January 26. The collection area will be closed during the event. Courtesy box lunches and beverages will be provided to all participants.

And make sure you join the group dinner at a local seafood restaurant (your own expense). I hope to see you at FUM 2018!

José H. Leal, Ph.D.
Science Director & Curator
Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum

Renewing a Membership

**Renewing members need to remember:
You have to fill out the renewal form
and SIGN IT! Club Rules!**

Snail Slime

Recently (August 2, 2017) on CONCH-L your editor followed a link posted by John Varner regarding snail slime farming. Being curious he checked it out and recommends it for you:

<https://www.facebook.com/greatbigstory/videos/1721602678142158/>

Meet Your Member—Donna Bartels

I was born and raised in Chicago; but there were not too many shells on the North Avenue Lake Michigan Beach. When I was very young we vacationed in Michigan on a small lake where I found mostly snails but loved all that the water had to offer. When I was eight years old I bought a big white scallop in a gift shop; my Dad cut out the shape of the shell out of plywood and we fashioned it into a napkin holder. I attached the big shell to the front of the wooden shell: my first shell art work. After moving to Florida 30 years ago the “shell bug” caught me. John and I spent many weekends on beaches here and all over Florida; I always went home with some treasure.



Fran Schlusemann. They both mentored me and I really feel I have found my niche after doing many other crafts over the years. The story of each type of shell intrigues and fascinates me but not as much as the beauty and what they can be in a piece of art, simple or complex. I enjoy learning new techniques to develop new shell pieces. Sharing my knowledge and mentoring others brings me joy. I hope my enthusiasm can be passed onto others so we can carry on the mission of the Sarasota Shell Club.

Members—want your shell story published? Send your information and photo to the editor at rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com and it will appear in a future issue of *The Beauï*

Ten years ago I met June Bailey (a lifetime shell club member) and shell artisan, she introduced me to

Library Notes

Our Sarasota Shell Club library is located at the Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church in Sarasota.

A list of our books is on the website www.sarasotashellclub.com. For more info on some of our books, go to www.mdmshellbooks.com.

You may want a book to help with your scientific or artistic exhibit at our SSC Shell Show or just educate yourself about shells and marine life, as well as helping you identify shells you find.

Call me at 941-993-5161 or email me at luvseashells@gmail.com to arrange an appointment for browsing our library or requesting books you would like me to bring to our SSC meetings or just talk about our exciting library books.

There is a whole world of seashells and marine life out there !

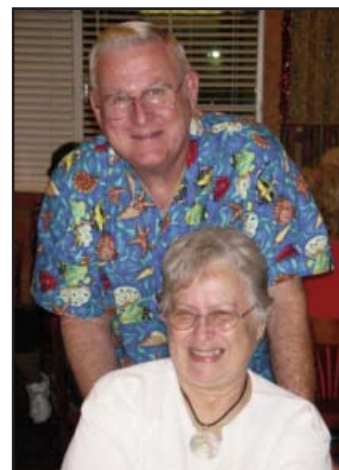
Linda Greiner

In memory of . . . Bob Lipe

Bob and Betty were members of the St. Pete club since 1959. Past President (1972-74), Shell Show Chairman and layout, active with the COA. He generously donated shells to the club’s annual Shell Show raffle, and to many of the club auctions. He was the author of “Clean Your Shells and Other Sea Life” (with Betty), “Living Shells of the Caribbean and Florida Keys” (with R. Tucker Abbott), and “Marginellas”. His pictures of shells grace several picture postcards. He was a shell dealer with his own store for several decades.

Information courtesy of John Jacobs

[Bob and Betty were faithful dealers at the Sarasota Shell Club’s annual shell Show—Ed]



The COA Convention August 15-19, 2017

Ron Bopp

The 2017 COA convention was held in Key West, Florida on August 15-19, 2017. Two days of field trips preceded the actual convention which was held at the Grand Key Resort Doubletree Hotel in Key West. This report details the convention, not the field trips. **Figure 1**



Figure 1. The official program.

Over 240 members attended from all over the world. The Sarasota Shell Club was well represented by the following members: June Bailey, Ron & Mary Jo Bopp, Donna Cassin, Lynn Gaulin, Sue Hobbs, Karen Huether, Duane Kauffmann, Debbie Lewton, Nancy Marini, Dennis Sargent and Donna & David Timmerman.



Figure 2. Debbi Lewton & Karen Huether.



Figure 3. Sue Hobbs.

Figures 2, 3 & 4 Other SSC members coming for just the bourse were Nancy Cadiux, Paul Lamb and Pete Steelman.



Figure 5. A workshop enjoyed by conventioners on the Nautilus by Wolfgang Grulke.

Convention activities consisted of workshops (#19); silent auctions (#6); a welcome party; an oral auction, the annual business meeting, the annual banquet and the bourse. The workshops were varied from the detailed account of the Giant Shipworm (Gary Rosenberg), the Nautilus (Wolfgang Grulke), Unusual Nerites (Tom Eichorst) as well as many others to the entertaining workshop of your Editor on Trade Cards.



Figure 6. *The Beau's* editor, Ron Bopp, giving a workshop on trade cards.

Figures 5 & 6



Figure 7. Attendees pour over the great selection of shells at the silent auctions.

The silent auctions provided hours of hurried activities as the attendees packed the somewhat small auction room to view and leave bids on the many shells and other

Figure 4. A group photo of SSC members: back row—Duane Kauffmann, Nancy Cadiux, Mary Jo Bopp, Ron Bopp, David Timmerman, Dennis Sargent; front row—Lynn Gaulin, Donna Timmerman, June Bailey, Donna Cassin (behind hat) and Nancy Marini.

items available. **Figure 7** Some auctions ran for several hours and a couple for just an hour or so. Items sold for as little as a dollar to a very expensive--a large cone was bid up to \$600. Wow!

The welcome party was held outside on the hotel's verandah where attendees were treated to many Caribbean foods including conch fritters and the hotel's famous chocolate cookies. The 90 degree ambience eventually forced many inside to complete the evening. There was even a silent auction inside and many came away with a prized shell.

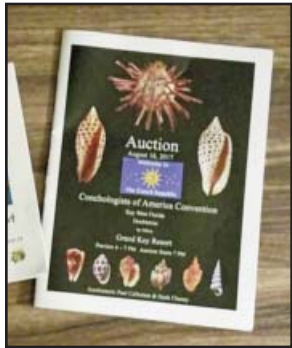


Figure 8. The oral auction catalog.

small shell, a *Morum veleroae* Emerson, 1968 (34.5 mm) which eventually fetched \$10,000. **Figure 9** Wow! Needless to say this auction was not meant for the casual collector but, it was certainly interesting to watch.

The oral auction was most entertaining. **Figure 8** Approximately 120 lots of specimen shells were offered and there seemed no end to the amount of spending involved. The mollusks were all from the Frederic Weiss Collection (Frederic Weiss 1929-2015) and were outstanding. The most exciting bid action was for a

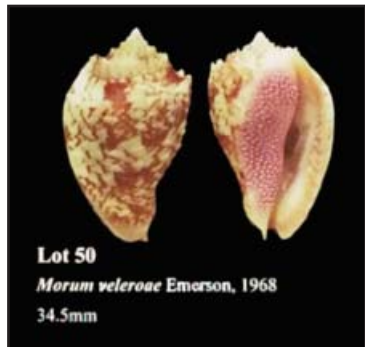


Figure 9. The *Morum veleroae*.

After the workshops were completed and the auctions closed the annual COA Business Meeting was held as well as a preview of the 2018 COA Convention to be held in San Diego, California.

Figure 10 That evening attendees were treated to the



Figure 10. President Harry Lee presiding over the business meeting.

annual banquet, again where the meal was Caribbean in nature with conch fritters and conch chowder. Photo The evening's entertainment was

“Reflections of the 1980 Key West Convention” by Rich Goldberg.

Figure 11

Friday and Saturday, August 18 and 19 were devoted to the bourse where the



Figure 11. The Saturday evening banquet and presentation.

240+ members converged on the 30 dealers to find their elusive shell. **Figure 12** The start of the bourse was signaled to all that anxiously awaited by a call on the conch horn by convention chairman, Greg Curry. **Figure 13**



Figure 12. The bourse dealers awaiting the rush of conventioners to look and buy their shells.

In summary it was a very interesting and educational five days. One of the highlights of the convention was the donation by the Weiss family of the Frederic Weiss collection—it was apparent in all of the silent auctions as well as the oral auction.



Figure 13. Convention chair, Greg Curry, sounding the conch horn to begin the bourse.

Of course the workshops were important as well as giving the attendee a greater appreciation of mollusks. For Sarasota Shell Club members the next auction is in San Diego which is a piece down the road but in 2019 the convention will be held closer as it will be in the Sanibel/Captiva area.

More convention photos will appear in the next issue.

Historian's Report

Duane Kauffmann

50 Years Ago

Twenty-seven members and several guests attended the September 14, 1967 meeting of the Sarasota Shell Club held at the Palmer National Bank Building. A balance of \$1,133.00 was in the Club treasury. A budget of \$840 was approved (including \$250 for hall rental and \$100 for judges for the shell show).

A motion was approved to begin a study of club by-laws with a view to revision,

Before the meeting concluded there was a general discussion of shells and shelling, with special attention as to where to find angel wings.

25 Years Ago

The regular meeting of SSC was held at Mote Marine on September 10, 1992 and called to order by President Peggy Williams.

Along with the routine reports, June Bailey gave a summary of the summer's COA convention held in Jacksonville. President Williams followed by asking for ("pleading") for a shell show chair. Tucker Abbott and Bill Lyons were announced as scientific judges, Sharon Snieder as one of the artistic judges.

It was announced that dues will be raised to \$15 for the coming year.

The educational report was by John Lewis who spoke on early conchologist Thomas Say.

The program was entitled "Tall Tales About Shells."

Local Shells Needed

As many of you know, we give a bag of local seashells to people who come to our annual shell show. We are low on shells and need more nice small shells. So, if you have a couple of buckets of shells that you've picked up on your many walks on the beach, please bring them to either the September or October shell club meetings. We will need to fill at least 2,000 small 2 ½-inch by 3-inch plastic bags. People who come to our show remember this and love getting a memento. Thanks!

Crab Video

David Irvin has send in a link to watching hermit crabs exchange shells. It is very interesting and somewhat amusing. The link is provided below:

<https://youtu.be/fldnocPQXDQ>

September Cartoon



Officers & Board Members

President	Sally Peppitoni
Vice-President	Nancy Marini
Treasurer	Bruce Paulsen
Recording Secretary	Jeanne Corbin

Board Members: Donna Krusenoski (1), Roseanne Roble (1), Joanne Mancuso (2), Donna Cassin (2), Harry Berryman (3), Karen Paulsen (3).

Committee Chairmen

Artisans	Nancy Marini
<i>The Beau</i>	Ron Bopp
Historian	Duane Kauffmann
Field Trips	Sally Peppitoni
Librarian	Linda Greiner
Membership	Donna Krusenoski
Shell Show	Board
Sunshine	Karen Ciffin
Webmaster	Bruce Paulsen

Calendar

Sept 15-16	NC Shell Show, Wilmington
Oct 12	SSC member meeting, 7:00 pm
Oct 28-29	Philadelphia Shell Show
Nov 9	SSC member meeting, 7:00 pm
Jan 20-21	ATSC Shell Show
Jan 27	FUM (Bailey-Matthews)
Feb 9-11	SSC Shell Show

Important Information

The **artisans** have had a very busy summer including making unique one of a kind Christmas ornaments as well as reasonably priced items that will make gifts for the holidays. Everything is an original and signed by the artisan. So please save your money and help support your club.

Our **October's speaker** is John Colagrande who's always a joy to listen to. More information in next month's *The Beau*.

Our next **shell show**, February 9,10,&11, will be back in Sarasota two doors down from Robarts arena in the Potter Building. We're hoping we can count on all our members to volunteer for this show, as we're all getting older & need all the help we can get.

Plan on attending the September meeting as we will have a **silent auction** of shells from Peggy William's last trip to Baha, California. Bivalves, gastropods, and large sand dollars will be available on which to place a bid.

If you haven't done so yet . . .
**Pick up your
Pink 2017-2018
Directory of Members
at the next Membership meeting!**

Membership Health

SSC member, Beverly Snyder is home after having surgery on her heart to remove a tumor. She is doing well and would appreciate a text, email or snail mail (no phone calls please) to encourage her recovery. Consult your membership directory for contact information

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of September through April at 7:00 pm at Waldemere Fire Station, 2070 Waldemere St. in Sarasota. Park in the small lot on the right or in the nursing home lot across the street.

Dues are \$21.00 for new single members and \$33.00 for family members (at the same address. **Renewals** are \$15.00 for single and \$20.00 for family.

If you want *The Beau* printed and mailed it is an extra \$15.00 to your dues.

Contact the Editor - email Ron Bopp at rbopp1@tam-pabay.rr.com or call at 918-527-0589 if you have something to include in *The Beau*.

Sarasota Shell Club 2017—2018 Renewal/New Application Membership

Note: Dues include newsletters via email, September through April. If no email address is available, add \$15 to your yearly dues if you want to receive the newsletters by mail.

Initial Dues: include cost of membership name tag:

\$21.50 single and \$33 family (living at the same address)

If no email address, add \$15 to your yearly dues

Renewal Dues: \$15 single and \$20 family (living at the same address).

If no email address add \$15 to your yearly dues.

To join, send checks only (no cash) made out to SSC to

Donna Krusenoski, Membership Chairman

3250 Ringwood Mdw

Sarasota, FL 34235

Please print legibly to help us correctly spell your name:

Date: _____

Name(s): _____

Local Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Cell: _____

Email address(s): _____

Other address & phone: _____

Emergency contact & phone: _____

Birthday day & month: _____

We offer field trips to our membership and would like you to attend. Times and places will be announced at meetings or in our newsletter.

Are you interested in field trips? _____

Do you know of any good field trip location(s)? _____

If so, they are: _____

We require you to sign this Liability Release if you are interested in participating in our field trips. Every member must sign below:

Liability Release

I agree that I am individually responsible for my safety and my personal property. I will not hold the Sarasota Shell Club, its officers, field trip leader(s), or property owner liable for any damage or injury to me or my property that should occur.

Signature required for each member joining:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

The SSC publishes a roster with names, address and emails for our member use only. Please check one:

_____ it is **OK** to publish my information in the roster

_____ it is **Not OK** to publish my information in the roster

You will be sent monthly newsletters starting in September through April informing you of the date and time of the next meeting held the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Waldemere Fire Station off US 41 (behind Wendy's near Sarasota Memorial Hospital). Name badges can be picked up approximately 4 weeks after they are ordered.

To be filled in by the Membership Committee

Renewal _____ New Member _____

Amount paid & date _____ / _____