

The Beauii



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

December, 2017 Edition

From the Prez



Happy Holidays to my fellow Shellinators!

Well, the holiday season is in full swing and I don't know about you but life is very hectic right now. We'll all have a chance to relax and celebrate this coming Saturday, Dec. 9th, at our annual Holiday Party at the

Bird Key Yacht Club clubhouse. Beautiful location, great food, good friends and lots of surprises! Bring your checkbook too since you'll have a chance to bid on items in our live holiday auction. Call Nancy Marini ASAP to make a reservation!

The following Thursday we will have our last meeting for the year 2017. Bring your shoebox shell display for our impromptu shell show. Just remember that each shell should have Latin name, location collected, and author (the person who first described it scientifically and the year). If your not sure about the names or authors, don't worry, some one will probably know them. I can't wait to see everyone!

Respectfully,
Sally Peppitoni, President

Holiday Party Attendees

Please note:

Due to the boat parade, please allow an extra 45 minutes to get to the Yacht Club.

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Field trips

December 21st: (Thursday): Lover's Key State Park, low tide is 9:02 am at -0.5 ft.

February: Because of all the work we need to do to put on our show this month, I'm not going to plan a big trip but I will probably do a nice Beach and Breakfast trip one weekend after the show. Any place local you'd like to try? Skyway? Point of Rocks? Venice? AMI? Lido? Sarasota Bay at the end of Whitfield Drive?

Carefree Learner Trips on Sarasota Bay:

January 16th: Low 7:10, -.44 ft, At the boat by 6:30 am, leave at sunrise.

January 30th: Low 6:40 am, -.76 ft, At the boat by 6:30 am, leave at sunrise.

By the way, the Carefree Learner will be turning 40. Stay tuned for special celebration in the spring.

Harpa major (Röding, 1798)

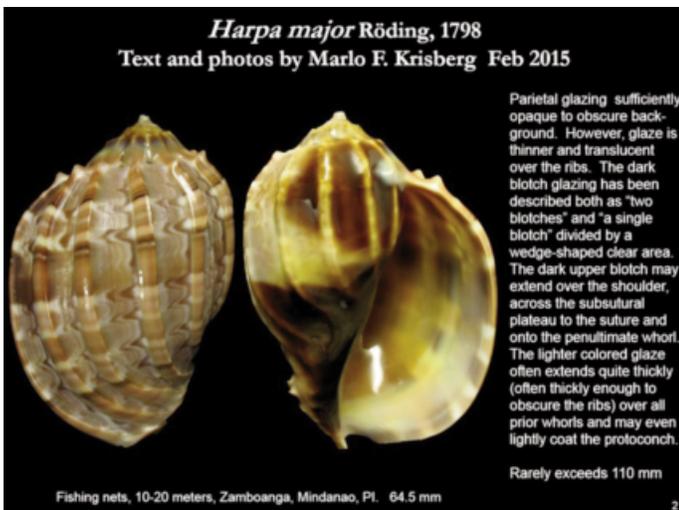
December's Featured Shell

Harpa major is a large predatory snail also known as a “Large” or “Major” harp. It is within the Harpidae family. The shells have an ovate body with a heavily calloused spire.

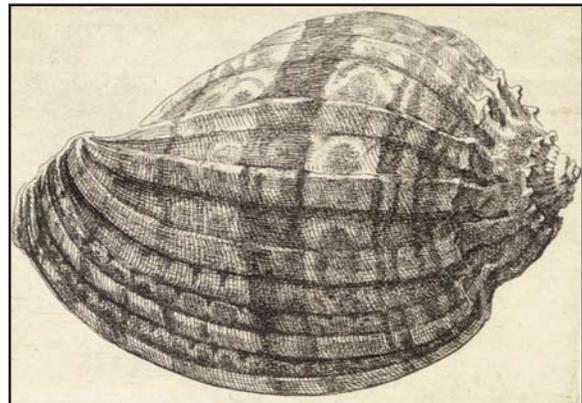
It is found in South and East Africa to Hawaii. See map below.



Other sources of information include an extensive work by Marlo Krisberg (“Let’s Talk Seashells” at <https://www.tapatalk.com/groups/conchologistforum/harpa-major-roeding-1798-t2952.html>). A sample pane of his website is shown below.



An interesting pencil drawing done by Wencelas Hollar, 1607-1677 (a Czech painter & engraver) is featured here:



The live animal is as interesting to view as is the external shell. This photograph (courtesy of Keoki Stender of MarineLifePhotography.com) is a good representation of the entire *Harpa major*.



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 December or January 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!

Meet Your Member—Rich and Lou Cirrintano

We were from Forest Park, Il (just outside Chicago). We were high school sweethearts and have been married 57 years. We came to Sarasota in 1989 to open a gelato shop, “Caffe Classico,” that served coffee, sandwiches and gelato.

We met a Mr. Frank Cox on Lido Beach in 1995—he sent information on the SSC. We joined and have been active ever since. Rich headed the Shell Club Table at the shell show each year for 10 to 12 years. Lou has done the hospitality at the show. We have enjoyed the local field trips. With Lou we have been doing the welcome table at the meeting for about five years.



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 Beauii*.

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

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 Beauii* 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.

The
December
Cartoon



The Silent Auction at the November Meeting

Club members found a silent auction table at the meeting featuring all types of shells and corals including a grinning tun, a fluted clam, a nautilus and other exciting mollusks. Donated by Roberta “Robbi” Garrison, a teacher from the St. Petersburg area, these auction items netted a total of \$339.00 for the shell club which will be used to help our end-of-the season contributions.



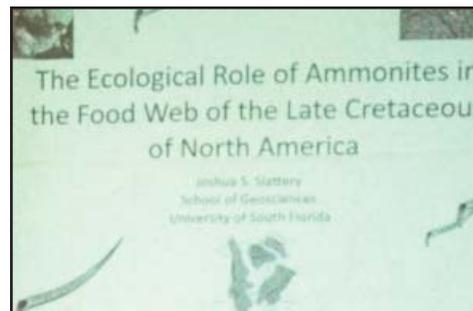
Auction Flurry: Nancy Cadieux (left) placing a final bid on a shell while in the background, Nancy Marini is closely watching Paul Lamb bid on a mushroom coral

Ammonites prevail at the November Membership Meeting

Joshua Slattery gave an interesting talk on the ecological role of Ammonites at our recent meeting. Using a variety of slides Joshua



explained just how large these early mollusks were and how short a time they were in existence. Joshua is working on his Ph.D. and it was evident he was well educated in his work.



Historian's Report

Duane Kauffmann

There is no historian's report this month. December has historically had a holiday party and no regular meeting. So—no minutes to report on.

Somewhat of a history note—I can provide some additional information to Lynn Gaulin's comments on Blake Banks (see page 7):

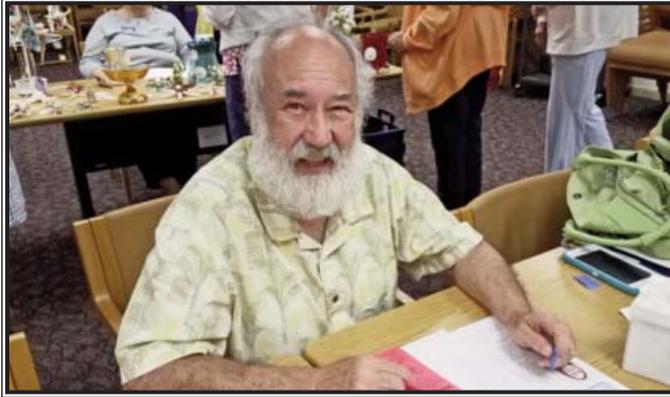
After that bucket of Blake Banks sediment had endured Peggy's search for turrids and Lynn's search for anything interesting, Lynn mentioned this five gallon bucket of material to me. She wished to get

rid of it and asked if I'd like to go through it. I said I would really like that opportunity.

I subjected the material to a screening process so I would have the best opportunity to find the micro shells which excite my neurons. Ultimately my list of molluscs from that five gallon bucket ended at 77 species of gastropods, 50 species of bivalves, one tusk species and three species of pteropods.

Thanks, Mr. Banks. I'm glad fishing was slow now and then so you had time to collect this bottom sediment.

November, 2017 Membership Meeting Photos



Roland Besaw



Chuck and Terry Jones



Frankie Grover



Susan Gaillard



Nancy Cadieux



Linda Greiner and new member, Ken Knowlton



Judy Wedge and Donna Bartels



Karen Sasey

Lightning Whelks (and its Relatives) Through Archaeological Time

José Leal, Ph.D.

The Lightning Whelk, *Sinistrofulgur sinistrum* (Hollister, 1958), is one of the most iconic species found in our immediate area. A large marine snail, reaching 16 inches in size, it is naturally left-handed (or sinistral, with the shell opening on the left-hand side). In addition, male Lightning Whelks are smaller than females, and the large females lay their eggs in roundish capsules, deploying them in long strings that may reach in excess of four feet in length.

Florida Native peoples have found many uses for Lightning Whelk shells, using them, whole or modified, as kitchen utensils, tools, ornaments, fish hooks, and others. Archaeologists William H. Marquardt (Florida Museum of Natural History) and Laura Kozuch (Illinois State Archaeological Survey), have shown, in a very comprehensive report published in 2016, how Lightning Whelks and its variations were also included in religious rituals and as symbolic artifacts, not only by coastal Native peoples, but also by inland groups living as far north as Illinois and Indiana.



The Lightning Whelk (*Sinistrofulgur sinistrum*), from Captiva Island, Florida.

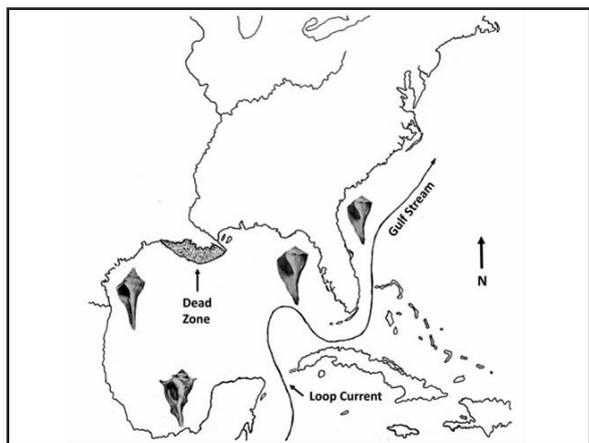
Lightning Whelks represent one of four sinistral whelk varieties, which are treated as four separate species by some, or as variations of a single species, or subspecies, by others. The World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) records these variations as four separate species: *Sinistrofulgur laeostomum* (Kent, 1982), occurring from New Jersey to Georgia; *S. sinistrum* (Hollister, 1958), Florida to the Gulf States; *S. pulleyi* (Hollister, 1958) Texas and surroundings, and *S. per-*

versum (Linnaeus, 1758), Yucatan Peninsula and surroundings. There are slight, but detectable, differences among the shells of these four whelks.

As a result of widespread trade relations in the past, shells and/or artifacts made from shells of these four varieties can potentially be found in many archaeological sites. Determining the identity of one such artifact using shell-shape features helps define the general area of origin, or source, for that shell. For example, identifying a shell from an Illinois site as *Sinistrofulgur laeostomum* points to a source anywhere on the coast from New Jersey to Georgia, but not along the Gulf of Mexico, Florida, or Yucatan. This piece of information indicates the potential extent of the trade routes involved.

Authors Kozuch and Marquardt, this time working with archaeologist Karen J. Walker (Florida Museum of Natural History), demonstrate, in a more recent article, the methodology used by archaeologists to distinguish among the four sinistral whelks. They conclude by showing the most probable sources for shells from several archaeological sites to the east of the Mississippi basin.

(I want to thank authors Marquardt, Kozuch, and Walker, and in particular Bill Marquardt for his ongoing communications and cooperation with the Shell Museum in the past couple of decades.)



Geographical Distribution of the four species (considered by some to be four variations of a single species, or four subspecies) of left-handed whelks. Figure 1 from the article by Kozuch, Walker, and Marquardt (2017) (see text).

The Blake Banks Shell Collection



The Blake Banks shell collection as seen at the Florida Maritime Museum.

Your editor recently visited the Florida Maritime Museum (FMM) in Cortez, Florida and noted the interesting shell collection on display. It is the result of Captain Blake Banks and his years of fishing in the Gulf Coast. Signage on the collection noted:

FMM is host to a number of engaging exhibits, including the beautiful and expansive “Blake Banks” shell collection. Captain Blake Banks was a successful Cortez fisherman with a passion for sea life. His collection is well documented, making it especially important academically.

All of his specimens were collected in the Gulf of Mexico, some of which were eventually donated to the museum by his widow, Betty.

Researchers and volunteers have been working studiously to create a chart that serves as a snapshot of where these specimens were collected. Many collection sites have affiliated “stories” pulled directly from the notebooks and journals of Captain Banks himself.



Captain Blake Banks at the helm of his fishing vessel.

Photo courtesy of the Florida Maritime Museum

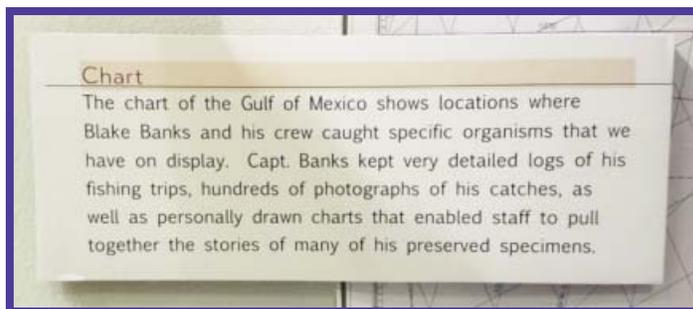
FMM website contains extensive information on Blake Banks, primarily authored by Halee Turner of the museum. Pertinent portions of her article are reprinted below:

Blake Banks was born in Palmetto, FL but lived and worked in Cortez as an independent commercial fisherman. With the help of his wife, Betty Banks, he owned and operated his own company, Deep Reef Fisheries Inc. He was the captain of their boat, the *Medusa*, which he stored on his property and maintained himself. In turn, Betty did all the accounting, balancing the cost of boat repairs and trip expenses with the income generated by each catch.

While working as a commercial fisherman, he became fascinated by all types of sea life. He started to collect interesting specimens as he came across them during his trips, keeping detailed records about each acquisition. With time, he developed his interest in marine biology by attending classes at MCC (now SCF) and teaching himself how to properly preserve his finds.

His collection grew to contain many unique items all from the area off of Florida’s Gulf Coast. He entered some of his more remarkable treasures into the annual Sarasota Shell Show, and soon found himself the recipient of many ribbons for his interesting displays and rare shells.

A few years after his passing in 2004, Betty Banks chose to make a donation to the Florida Maritime Museum that included approximately a third of his shell collection, many of his daily logs, permits, other paperwork and some antique items.



Information posted about the shell display.

Recently, Sarasota Shell Club member, Lynn Gaulin, noted that:

Blake Banks was the brother of Amelia Sower a member from Englewood or Venice. Blake sold Peggy Williams five or six five-gallon tubs of grunge he collected off Venice using his boat for their collection. He was a fisherman and did this collecting when things were slow. I did an exhibit many years ago sorting through the grunge from a half bucket I bought from Peggy.

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.

For more information on FUM-2018 see previous issues of *The Beauii*.



Notes from Nancy (Marini)

Hi, a reminder to everyone attending the holiday party. It starts at 5:30 p.m. on December 9th at the Bird Key Yacht Club. A cash bar and dinner will be served at approximately 6:15 p.m. This will be followed by a fun auction (all monies go to the SSC) and mystery gifts under the tree.

Directions to Club: go over the Ringling causeway bridge; turn left at the 1st light onto Bird Key drive; continue on Bird Key drive to the yacht club on the left.

Please note: at the December & January meetings I will be selling tickets to our awards barbecue. It takes place on Saturday Feb. 10th, at 5:30 p.m. Dress is very casual since we're coming from the show. It is at the Home Wood Suites, 1 block east of our show. It will include free beer & wine followed by a buffet that includes barbecued chicken, pulled pork, potato salad, cole slaw, baked beans, tossed salad, buns (for the pulled pork), corn bread and great desserts. Ice tea and water are included. The cost is \$25.

The artisans are setting up a beautiful display including many, Christmas items for the entire month of December at the Recipe Box—the owners are kind enough to not only give us the whole restaurant, but they don't charge us any money at all. So if you can get over there for a meal, please mention, that your from the SSC

Bruce and I will start asking for volunteers for the show, so please check your calendar for Feb. 8, 9, 10 & 11. We need all the help we can get. Anyone volunteering for four hours or more will receive a free lunch compliments of the SSC. Bruce and I would appreciate any suggestions anyone has that might make the show better.

Don't forget the Shoebox Exhibits

This coming meeting (December) will be the time for members to present their shoebox exhibits. Gather your favorite shells (or marine life) and attractively place them in any 'ole box along with accurate labels. Examples from previous years are seen here.



Officers & Board Members

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

Board Members: Donna Krusenoski (1), Donna Timmermann (3), JoAnne Mancuso (2), Donna Cassin (2), Karen Paulsen (3).

Committee Chairmen

Artisans	Nancy Marini
<i>The Beauii</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

Calender

Dec 9	SSC Holiday Party, 5:00 pm
Dec 14	SSC member meeting, 7:00 pm
Jan 13/14	Broward County Shell Show
Jan 20-21	ATSC Shell Show
Jan 27	FUM (Bailey-Matthews)
Feb 9-11	SSC Shell Show
Feb 23-24	St. Pete Shell Show
Mar 1-3	Sanibel Shell Show

To All Members of the Sarasota Shell Club:

The Sarasota Shell Club is becoming more involved in community activities and, as such, the board would like to remind all of our members that when you participate in any activity under the auspices of the SSC, you should conduct yourself in a positive, friendly and well-behaved manner that reflects a positive image of the SSC. Also, it would help if you wear your name badge at all our functions.

From the Sarasota Shell Club Board of Directors

Happy Holidays



2017 SSC Holiday Party

Did you forget to make plans for the 2017 club party? Call Nancy Marini at 941-758-9790 or 941-773-7131 to see if you can still attend! For information about the party, see last month's issue of *The Beauii*.

Renewing a Membership

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

For your convenience, an renewal form is the last page of this newsletter.

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 Beauii* 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 Beauii*.

Sarasota Shell Club 2017—2018 Renewal/New Application Membership

Note: Dues include newsletters (*The Beauti*) 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 Krusenowski, 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 _____ / _____