



The Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club, Inc.

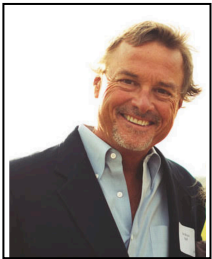
The Junonia

March 2020

March Shell Club Meeting Will Be on the 3rd Sunday of the Month

The Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club's March meeting will be held on the third Sunday of the month instead of the 2nd because of the Shell Show. The March 15th meeting will be held in the main auditorium at the Sanibel Community House. Activities will begin with the silent auction and refreshments at 1:30 PM. The silent auction will close at 2:00 and the meeting will begin at that time.

This month our guest speaker is J. Bruce Neill, Ph.D., Director of Education, SCCF. The title of his presentation is "Improving the Ocean's Future, How Are We Doing?"



J. Bruce Neill earned his Ph.D. in conservation biology from Montana State University. He has conducted research on coral reef biology and sea urchins, and has held positions at colleges, field schools, and the American Museum of Natural History. Neill's true passion is teaching. He and his wife, Evelyn, founded Sanibel Sea School, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, in 2005 to help more people connect with the ocean through meaningful, field-based experiences.

Dr. Neill has been an advocate for finding effective water quality solutions for many years, both as an individual and through his work with the Sanibel-Captiva Chapter of START (Solutions to Avoid Red Tide), now called Coastal Watch. He speaks regularly to community members about the biology of plankton blooms and the ecological, social, and economic implications of our local water quality challenges.

The three items below will be included in the silent auction.



Changing of the Guard

by President Tom Annesley

They say the two most enjoyable days for a leader are first, the day they are appointed to a leadership role, and second, the day they free themselves from that leadership role. As President of the Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club for the past several years, I agree with that. Not because my time as President is ending, as it has been a personally rewarding experience, but because the future of the club looks so bright and the new leadership is so strong. Karen Silverstein, our incoming President, has proven herself a true leader in many ways. Just look at the quality of the articles she writes for the local newspapers about our monthly speakers as well as her interesting articles about our Shell Show. Joe Timko, our Vice-president, has a level of enthusiasm that will serve the club well. He and his wife Barbara have helped make our monthly auctions a huge success, and Joe will carry this enthusiasm into his future with the club.

With the helpful suggestions of topics and speaker names for our 2020-2021, we are already working towards creating an outstanding series of programs for next year. I have no doubt that the attendance at our programs will continue to exceed the 100+ people that have filled the chairs at the Sanibel Community House each month.

The club's grants program continues to improve as we review and improve upon different aspects of the application, review, disbursement and recipient progress report processes. Through the efforts of dozens and dozens of club members towards the success of our annual Shell Show, we will be able to continue to spread the wealth through our grants.

So, am I happy to hand over the reins to a new group of leaders? Absolutely! Because the best is yet to come.

Welcome, New Members!

We welcome the following new members to the Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club:



- James & Judy Adams; Pittsburgh, PA & Fort Myers
- Betsy Hixton & Ed Dillabough; Gulfport, FL
- Hal & Laurie Keller; Worthington, OH
- Sabine Pratsch & David Vaughan; Sanibel
- Patricia Rainey; Gaithersburg, MD & Fort Myers
- Sandra Sullivan; Littleton, CO
- Wendi Talton & Family; Boca Raton, FL

We hope you will be able to join us at our monthly meetings.

One of the benefits of belonging to the Shell Club is that you may visit the Shell Museum without charge. This is because of the financial support the Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club gives the Museum. You will also receive a 20% discount on any purchases you make at the Museum Store.

Please feel free to contact any of our Board members or committee chairs if you have any questions about our club and our club activities. We look forward to sharing our enthusiasm about shells with you.

Election of Officers at March Meeting

The Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club Nominating Committee, Clair Beckmann and Joyce Matthys, have announced the following slate of officers and board of directors. The election of officers will be held at the March meeting. Their terms of office begin at the close of the March meeting and run through the 2022 March meeting. The slate is as follows:

President – Karen Silverstein
Vice-President – Joe Timko
Secretary – Kim Short
Treasurer – Linda Edinburg
Board of Directors Member-at-Large – Carol Periard

How Our Grant Money Is Used . . .

Each month, *The Junonia* will feature our 2019 grants recipients. Grants are funded by the proceeds of the annual Shell Show. This month we are featuring Florida Gulf Coast University and the University of South Florida.



Florida Gulf Coast University (\$4,000)

Research on the potential link between coastal nutrients and red tide blooms will be funded with this grant. More specifically, the project will include taking water samples from the Caloosahatchee River, groundwater wells, and several locations along the southwest Florida coast in the Gulf of Mexico. The unique "isotopic" signatures of the water and associated nutrients will be analyzed so that the magnitude and relative importance of different groundwater sources to nutrient inputs along the southwest Florida coast can be quantified.

University of South Florida - Dr. Tobias Grun (\$2,000)

This grant award will go towards the study of the dietary needs of helmet snails in the Gulf of Mexico, which feed almost exclusively on sea urchins (sand dollars in particular). The hypothesis is that helmet snails feed not only on the soft tissue but also the calcareous skeletons of the sand dollars, which is necessary to produce and maintain the massive shells of helmet snails.



Ten Thousand Islands Shelling Field Trip Was a Real Success

by Connie Jump



Here are my "special" shells from Kice, including an albino Nutmeg, Rose Murex, True Tulip, and Alphabet Cone.

On Feb 10, 2020, a dozen Shell Club members participated in a shelling field trip to the Ten Thousand Islands south of Marco Island. A big thank you goes out to our Field Trip Chair, Susi Butler, for herding all of us shell collectors.

Our hosts were the boat captains and guides of Treasure Seekers Shell Tours. Our large group was divided among three boats and we headed out for a perfect day of shelling. There was a low tide of -1.05 following a Super Snow Moon, the first of four Super Moons in 2020. A super moon is the phenomenon whereby the moon appears particularly large in the sky owing to the coincidence of its closest approach to the earth with a full (or new) moon.

The weather was perfect and the tide was indeed low, exposing a muddy shoreline that extended into the trees. Our Shell Club group collectively was lucky enough to explore three of the Ten Thousand Islands that day.

Immediately upon landing on Kice Island, we were thrilled to see an abundance of diverse shells. Many were the "usual suspects," but I certainly found larger and more excellent examples of shells that I have already collected on Sanibel.

Slippery muddy shorelines with exposed tree stumps made for tricky walking. Good closed-toe water shoes were a must!

We set off with our buckets, our hearts hopeful of finding the "elusive J" as our guide affectionately called the *Junonia*.

Besides the shells, other creatures made our trip to the Ten Thousand Islands worthwhile. There were osprey nests, many kinds of crabs, a Glossy Ibis, but luckily not too many no-see-ums or mosquitoes!

After four hours of successful shelling, it was time to head back to the boat ramp in Goodland.

We saw dolphins, and if you've ever tried to photograph dolphins behind a boat, you'll know that catching them at

just the right time is a real feat of luck, something I didn't seem to have that day.

All in all, we had a fantastic trip. Some lucky shell seekers even found a Junonia or a Scotch Bonnet. I collected examples of 43 different species and passed over several others that are so common, but alas, no "J" for me.

A Shell Bagging Thank you

by Linda Edinburg



This year's bagging process was the most amazing ever. We had 34 people on that first day! On the second day we were done by noon. In a mere one and one-half days, these fantastic people filled **3,200** baggies with which to reward our gate donations. Truly an all-time record!

For starters, my undying gratitude to Joel Edinburg, Barbara Ann and Joe Timko for hauling uncountable heavy boxes from storage to church and in or out of our cars.

The camaraderie was terrific as always. The club's sincere thanks to the following wonderful, generous, talented, and dextrous shell sorters, baggers, and bag closers: Kitty Bankston, Judi Bashore, Jane Cole, Margaret Currie, Abby DeLoache, Dotty Dion, Linda Dorn, Holly Dunn, Robin & Bob Feathers, Gail Geible, Linda Harrell, Connie Jump, Liz Lisaius, Charles Lister, Angie Marsland, Jackie McGonigle, Barbara & Dwight McKenna, Holly Nordyke, Judith Rapacz, Bill Schecker, Steve Seybert, Karen Silverstein, Diane Thomas, Joe & Barbara Ann Timko, Julie Tobias, Karen Turner, John Wahlfeld, and Patty Wettstein. Extra thanks to those of you who came both days: Meg Born, Mary Hackett, Irene Longley, Francie Seybert, Linda Sutherland and Jill Wahlfeld.

I also send a special thank you to Meg Born, Charles Lister, Bill Schecker and Linda Sutherland, who brought wonderful snacks for all of us.

My sincerest thanks to Linda Annesley. She is always there from open to close doing the work of three people. I truly could not do this job without you, Linda!

My apologies if I have forgotten anyone. We had fun!

Shell Club Helps Fund Shell Museum Touch Tank

Dorrie Hipschman, Executive Director of The Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum announced that the Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club's gift to the "Alive" campaign will be used to help fund the 15-foot warm water touch tank in the museum's new live exhibits area. The announcement was made at the Club's February meeting. "It seems appropriate because this touch tank will house our local Sanibel mollusks," she said when thanking the Club for their donation. The Shell Club will be recognized as a donor on a plaque that will be placed by the tank.

Thank You!!!



The Shell Club thanks Maureen Keefe for her generous donation to our upcoming Shell Show proceeds.

We thank the following members who donated shells to facilitate our gate shell bagging: Jan Achenbach, Marilou Angevine, Priscilla Dworak,

Gail Geible, Mary Hackett, Irene Longley, Francie & Steve Seybert, and Diane Thomas.

Our Shell Show Kitchen has received donations from: Amanda Collett, Donald Dan, Eileen & Dennis Dirlam, Stacy & Linda Edinburg, Gail Geible, Linda Harris, Carol Periard, Sue & Tyler Schoenherr, Victoria Sharps, and Linda Sutherland.

It's Show Time!!!

It is our event of the year – the 83rd Annual Sanibel Shell Show.

Club Polo Shirts: Remember to wear your blue club polo shirt if you come to the Wednesday evening preview and when you come to the Shell Show (even when you are not working).

Shell Show Timeline:

Tuesday – All exhibitors must bring their exhibits to the Sanibel Community House between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

Wednesday – Judging begins at 8:00 AM. with the Shell Show Preview at the Community House at 5:00 PM

Thursday – Shell Show is open to the public 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Friday - Shell Show is open to the public 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Saturday – Shell Show is open to the public 9:00 to 4:00 PM.

Exhibitors must pick up their exhibits at 4:00 PM. Breakdown in the exhibit halls as soon as the exhibits are removed.

Sunday - Complete breakdown and start planning for 2020.

Two Beautiful Exhibit Cases Can Be Yours

Shell Club member and Sanibel resident Jim Scatterday has two exhibit cases that he is no longer using and he is willing to give them to another Club member.

These are cases that were built by Jim himself. Both cases are the same size. They are 44" long (L-R), 28 1/2" (front to back) and 7 1/2" deep. The exhibit case in the photo sits on a low table and was used as a coffee table. However, it is not connected to the table. With the legs it is 19 1/2" tall. The tops of both cases are very heavy glass. If you are interested in these cases, contact Jim at 239-395-4370.



Fox News Will Broadcast Live Wednesday Morning from the Shell Show

If you are up before 7:15 AM on Wednesday the 4th, turn your TV to Fox News. They will be airing four live segments from the Shell Show. The segments will be at 7:15, 7:45, 8:15 and 8:45.

February Meeting Report and Minutes

by Secretary Kim Short

The February 9th meeting of the Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club began informally at 1:30 PM with the Silent Auction. The Refreshments Committee provided cold drinks & snacks. During this time people could join the Shell Club or renew their memberships; sign up for field trips; sign up to volunteer at the Shell Show; and, buy craft shells. The silent auction ran for one-half hour, and consisted of a variety of items, including shells, display cases and shell-themed items.

After the silent auction, an oral auction was held for a set of Claire Murray, Sakura "Shells" dinner and salad plates which had been donated by Kelle Covington by way of Diane Thomas, and a cockscomb oyster cluster (*Lopha cristagalli*). Total received from both the silent and oral auctions was \$458.50.

The Shell Club has received many shells from various individuals who are dissolving their collections. Some of

these shells were given as gifts to those who came to the meeting. Guests and new members were invited to introduce themselves.

Club member Meredith Blain presented the program, "Tales of Turks & Caicos: a photographic journey." She talked about where to go shelling, places to visit, and things to do on the islands. Meredith generously provided a number of framed copies of her photos for the door prizes.

Business Meeting Minutes

President Tom Annesley opened the business meeting at the conclusion of the program.

Dorrie Hipschman, Executive Director of the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum, announced the opening of the aquarium, planned for March 1st. The six million dollar funding goal for the aquarium was realized at "Under the Sea." This included a donation from the Shell Club that was used to partially sponsor the warm water touch tank.

A number of announcements were made about the upcoming Shell Show. Members were encouraged to help publicize the event by disseminating the flyers found on their chairs.

Karen Turner and Abby DeLoache, kitchen coordinators, asked members to sign up to bring lunch dishes, snacks and baking. The food is provided for exhibitors and day-long volunteers who will be asked to contribute a daily fee of \$5 to cover morning refreshments, snacks and lunch.

Linda Edinburg announced that shell bagging for the Shell Show will take place at Sanibel Congregational UCC on Friday February 14th and Saturday February 15th, beginning at 10 a.m. Shell baggers will meet in the downstairs hall; bring your own lunch.

Heather O'Keefe is still accepting jewelry and small accessories for the jewelry table. She noted that both women's and men's items would be welcome.

Used books in good condition, on topics relating to shells and nature, are requested for the book table.

Susi Butler reminded members of the upcoming field trip to Cayo Costa & Gasparilla Island on Thursday, February 27th.

Joe Timko explained the new, simplified procedure re: paying for and collecting silent auction purchases.

Linda Edinburg stated that the Club's bank balance as of February 9th is \$23,578.53.

Attendance at the meeting was 93.

Hats Off to MacIntosh Books & Paper, Chase Bank and Coastal Watch!

by Meg Born

We would like to give a heartfelt "thank you" to all the folks at MacIntosh Books & Paper, Chase Bank, and Coastal Watch.

MacIntosh Books is our sole vendor (plus our authors) for the Book Sales Table this year. They really stepped up to the plate to help us with many things in addition to the books. We couldn't have done it without them. Please, let's show MacIntosh our appreciation by telling them "thank you" the next time you are in the store.

Chase Bank and Coastal Watch provided BYOB. No, no, that's Bring Your Own Bags! The Author's Table will not be using plastic bags this year.

Chase Bank donated over 300 large, reusable canvas bags so our attendees could carry very large and heavy books and shells safely home. Thank You Chase!

Coastal Watch provided us with smaller, reusable cloth bags from Haiti. All raw materials for the Coastal Watch bags were sourced in Haiti, crafted by local artisans, and manufactured in a factory that is 100 percent solar powered. Coastal Watch distributes these cloth bags to help reduce the use of disposable bags on our islands and to educate locals and visitors about the harm plastic bags cause to the environment. Thank You Coastal Watch for your BYOB program and all your island conservation initiatives.

Six Shell Club Members Become Shell Show Major Sponsors

The Shell Club sincerely thanks six members who became major sponsors of the Shell Show this year. The "Angel Wing" level sponsors with their donations of \$500.00 are Meg Born, Clair Beckmann, and James and Stacey Pezzino. Dr. Rick Batt and Dr. Robin Harris became "Heart Cockle" level sponsors with their \$250.00 donation.

Field Trips Update

by Susi Butler
Field Trip Chair

We had a fantastic shelling trip with Treasure Seekers as Connie Jump wrote on page 2. However, we had some weather problems with scheduling our Boca Grande shelling day trip. We finally got to go on Friday, February 28th.

I'm working on a trip for next January. The details will be announced in the October issue of *The Junonia*.

After February's program about shelling in the Caribbean by Meredith Blain, I am following up on the suggestion that we possibly take a trip to the Bahamas in February, 2021.

I am looking forward to the Shell Show and seeing you all there! If you have any comments or ideas, call or email me at (309) 696-5558 or jbutler895@aol.com.

Fighting Conch Sushi?

Sanibel Shell Club and Marco Island Shell Club member Amy Tripp lives on Marco Island and often takes her small boat out to Kice Island to shell. It was on Kice that she stumbled upon this raccoon. She watched as it carefully reached into the opening of this live *Strombus alatus*, Florida Fighting Conch and pulled the body out of the shell for its lunch." The raccoon is holding the conch's body in his hands (paws). The black upright structure coming out of the pink flesh is the conch's proboscis. The empty shell can be seen to the right of the raccoon's paws.



Northern Raccoon, *Procyon lotor*, Photo by Amy Tripp

Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club Officers & Board of Directors

President: Tom Annesley annesley@umich.edu	734-660-3648
Vice-President: Karen Silverstein newtard1234@gmail.com	607-280-0974
Secretary: Kim Short shortgage@comcast.net	239-312-8151
Treasurer: Linda Edinburg wedodit@comcast.net	239-395-9426
Immediate Past Pres: Karen Turner pestmum@yahoo.com	252-294-8046
Members-at-Large: Ramona Novitski ramn21101@gmail.com	239-250-9535
Carol Periard crhp194@gmail.com	217-415-4047
Linda Sutherland lksuther@mchsi.com	319-560-5291
Newsletter Editor: Joyce Matthys joycematthys1@gmail.com	503-871-1082
Grants Chair: Clair Beckmann clairann2000@yahoo.com	239-472-4524
Membership Chair: Ramona Novitski ramn21101@gmail.com	239-250-9535
Shell Show Co-Chairs: Mary Burton marybsanibel@hotmail.com	239-395-3626
Joyce Matthys Joycematthys1@gmail.com	503-871-1082
Archives: Linda Edinburg wedodit@comcast.net	239-395-9426
Hospitality: Karen Turner pestmum@yahoo.com	252-294-8046
Field Trips: Susan Butler jbutler895@aol.com	309-696-5558
Publicity: Karen Silverstein newtard1234@gmail.com	607-280-0974
Website: Connie Jump cjump@earthlink.net	239-314-6524

Shell Club Website: <http://sanibelshellclub.com>