



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Shell Club Members,

I can tell that Shell Club Season will begin soon. Car carriers have been spotted and so have numerous out-of-state license plates. I am looking forward to seeing each and every one of our returning members and greeting new members. I hope you are rested and ready to create some amazing shell art.

During the summer, we again received numerous donations. We are “busting” out of our space at United Church.

At this point, I want to welcome and thank Becky Miller, our workshop chair. She graciously accepted the position and jumped right in. During the summer, Becky, Jae and I met to organize, sort and brainstorm in order to ensure that the club has another amazing season and show.

I want to welcome Lisa Fitz -erald as club treasurer. She has “jumped” into the position and I know will do a great job.

I also want to emphasize that there is an abundance of information on our web site. John Tunnell and Joan Robbins have done a super job of making sure the club is in the 21st Century of technology. Please log onto the site for the calendar, events and shell show information.

Again this year, the club donated money to Rookery Bay for National Estuaries Day. Our donation helps offset their transportation costs. For our donation, we receive acknowledgment of our donation and Joan Robbins and I man-or should I say woman-a table at the event. We bring examples of shell art, books, and this year, Joan put together an amazing shell sample and identification display. We had numerous people visit our table. We meet some interesting people, but mostly, we get to interact with children and teens. It is great to see parents teaching their children about nature, environment and conservation. We thoroughly enjoy our day.

We are very pleased to announce that planning is in the process for a three day Sailors' Valentine workshop. It will have Connie Marshall-Miller as the leader and will be held after Shell Show in March 2015. More details will be forthcoming.

Welcome back and let the shell art workshops begin for 2014-2015.

*Marsha Prunetti* - President

## 2014 SHELL SHOW CHAIR REPORT



Welcome back shell club members to our beautiful island! Even though it is the beginning of our season, it's never too early to gear up for our **35th Annual Marco Island Shell Club Shell Show!**

Mark the dates on your calendar, now - for March 12-14, 2015 at the United Church of Marco!

The Rules and Regulations will be available for you on our website November 1, 2014. Check them out - you might find a new category you would like to try - OR maybe you have grandkids coming in sometime during the season! What better activity to do with them - than to help them with a shell project they could enter in our Student or Junior Classes! Last year, we had 4 Student/Junior entries in both Scientific and Artistic!

I look forward to seeing all of you and hearing about your summer adventures!

*Jae Kellogg* - Shell Show Chair

## WORKSHOP



SHELL CLUB WORKSHOP STARTING NOVEMBER 11, 2014

Shell Club Workshop Tuesdays are just on the horizon. We will meet Tuesday mornings until the Shell Show. Bring your talents and new ideas so we can create beautiful items. Glue guns hot and ready at 9 AM!!! Workshop creations, which we sell at the Holiday Sale and our spring Shell Show, support the club and our scholarships and grants. We are a very talented group and our creations are awesome. Table leaders are organizing new ideas and materials for a great season. Looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones this season.

Organize your workshop kit which should include scissors, pliers, tweezers, wirecutters, glue gun, scraping tools, (I asked my dentist for some old dental tools), Exacto knife, and assorted specialty tools for the table you choose to work at. Tables include flowers, holiday, home decor, jewelry, and critters.

This season, Debbie and Becky are workshop co-chairs. They are both at the holiday table. Becky has been enjoying the Shell Club for five years since she retired. She spends summers in Iowa. Debbie has been with the Shell Club for many years. Her summers are spent in Pennsylvania. We are planning on a very positive, productive crafting season. See you in a few weeks.

*Becky Miller/Debbie Towey* — Workshop Chair

# SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS



Again this year the Marco Island Shell Club supported the Rookery Bay's National Estuaries Day. We provided them with \$1,000, to support transportation to Shell Island for education on the bay itself. Marsha and Joan Robbins also staffed a very well-received shell club table.

Many of the Rookery Bay staff made a point to visit the table and express their appreciation for the club's support, including the Director of Rookery Bay!

Below is a copy of the letter our President, Marsha Prunetti, received from Sarah Falkowski, Education Coordinator at the Rookery:

Thank you Marco Island Shell Club:

We had an outstanding day on Saturday, Sept 27!

Over 600 people joined us for the day - one of our best celebrations of National Estuaries Day in 27 years of hosting the event.

Thanks for helping out and making sure that the day was a successful one. Mark your calendar for next year: Saturday, September 26, 2015!

joan

**Sarah Falkowski**

Education Coordinator

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve  
300 Tower Road  
Naples, FL 34113



Joan Robbins and Marsha Prunetti

*Carolyn Ginther* – Scholarship Chair

Bruce and Paulette Carabelli

Martha Bennett

Joan Robbins

# THE DISCOVERY REEF



This summer the South Regional Library, 8065 Lely Cultural Parkway, Naples hosted The Discovery Reef Traveling Exhibit from Mote Marine in Sarasota. School groups, Boys and Girls club groups, scout groups and families and friends of the South Regional Library enjoyed the 2 month exhibit. They could study amazing forms, survival strategies and relationships on the coral reef and its crucial role in the ocean food web in this exhibit on display from June 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>.

A locally provided addition to this traveling exhibit was the work of several Shell Club members. **Linda Kropp** spent a several days working with the library and the children. A large display cabinet of unique and rare collections from Shell Club Vice President **Marge Tunnell** and member **Linda Kropp** complemented the Mote Marine the exhibit. Marge generously shared her giant red hermit crab in a horse conch shell. Also, there were samples of many different kinds of corals, sponges and rare and unique shells. She also donated hundreds of shells to be used for crafting and special gifts for the visitors.

With the exhibit on loan from Mote Marine in Sarasota, Florida, visitors could interact with the display and perform activities to get them to learn more about our reefs. Activities on the display included:

- Coral anatomy panel explains coral polyp structure and function.
- Reef Relationships panel enables visitors to match animals according to various types of symbiotic relationships.
- Day/Night panel shows how animals change their behavior according to light and darkness.
- Central Gallery displays a colorful model of the coral reef with life-like replicas of reef animals.
- Decorative fish shapes attach to the top of the exhibit.

Twelve additional interactive stations were set up by Shell Club member Linda Kropp and Collier County Librarian Denise McMahon and her dedicated staff and volunteers. The Interactive stations included seashell identification, ocean food chain activity, the story in a grain of sand, fish memory game, fish defenses, how long does it take garbage to decompose, ocean floor sediments, make a fish, and plant, animal or mineral identification game.

A highlight of the exhibit was the touch table with over 50 unique specimen from the sea: shells, sea stars, sea urchins, sponges, shark jaws. Curiosity was peaked by visitors as they examined these items from Shell Club members Marge Tunnell and Linda Kropp.

Mark McGarity, long-time science educator at Lely High School, not only brought his knowledge and enthusiasm about Marine biology to the children, but showed them models made by his students of creatures that might be found in or around a coral reef.

This Reef Discovery display was enjoyed by thousands of South Regional Library guests, helping to educate them on the importance of coral reefs.

*Linda Kropp* | Marge Tunnell



## In memory of John Maerker – 1921 - 2014



We lost a long-time Shell Club member and good friend this summer. My greatest memory of John was his slide show presentation on the History of Marco Island, beginning with his initial visit and purchase of a lot in 1965.

For a wonderful story of “Mr. Tigertail – John Maerker” go to the web site [www.coastalbreezenews.com](http://www.coastalbreezenews.com) and search for Mr. Tigertail. It is an interview done by John Patterson just a few years ago.

John Tunnell

**Carolyn Ginther** was kind enough to pass on these memories of John:

Long after his service as club president, John continued to serve the club in many ways. For the shell show, he always funded an artistic trophy in memory of his wife, Mary.

For many years, he chaired the competitive division of the shell show long before the age of computers, when records were done in longhand. He was meticulous in preparation and execution in all aspects of this responsibilities.

John also chaired the club’s scholarship committee for many years. He was instrumental in establishing contact with FGCU, encouraging support of their marine biology program when it was in its infancy. Nurturing this and seeing the program grow was always a source of pride and joy for John.

On a more personal level --- John enjoyed telling those of us who traveled the I-95 corridor through the Carolinas, that his father, an engineer, designed and constructed the Walters Dam, just above Santee, South Carolina.

John was as passionate about his vegetable gardens, both in Pennsylvania and Florida, as he was about shells. He shared generously from his abundance in all things.

He will be missed!

## EXCURSIONS



Hello Marco Island Shell Club! Looking to have an interactive adventure into the fascinating world of mollusks? Below I have put together a quick overview of upcoming excursions for the 2014-2015 season. Full details will be mailed Nov 1st when I begin accepting reservations. There will be an emphasis on education, observation, and conservation with a blend of Florida's history. Any questions, comments, suggestions, or complaints regarding excursions can be directed to me at [speciesnaturae@gmail.com](mailto:speciesnaturae@gmail.com)

Wed, Jan, 14th: Fakahatchee Swamp Walk.

Enjoy the scenic route on your way into the heart of the Fakahatchee Strand where you will have a chance to get your feet wet while slough slogging in paradise! Highlights of this trip will include rare plant sightings and a survey of mollusks "shells" in the immediate area.

Sat, Jan, 24th: Annual Fossil Dig with Dr.Schmelz.

Once again Dr. Gary Schmelz will be leading a small group on a fossil dig! Ancient shells are the main attraction of the dig however; coral, bone, silicified wood, and calcite crystal formations are among the many things waiting to be found.

Thur, Jan, 29th: Collier/Seminole Paddle.

A relaxing trip down the Blackwater Creek. Enjoy the sun and water while completely surrounded by nature! Mangroves and water birds abound here lending rare photo opportunities to brave photographers.

Wed, Feb, 11th: Collier/Seminole Hammock Walk.

This excursion is all about the snails.....colorful tree snails unique to South Florida! Learn about the natural history of these fascinating animals while taking part in a scientific survey of their tropical jungle "hammock"!

Fri, Feb, 27th: Isles of Capri Paddle.

A short canoe paddle to an undeveloped barrier island with loads of shells for the collecting! Come to relax after a good exercise or keep the pace and comb the sand!

*Jake Mitchell* – Education/Excursion Chair



**MEMBERSHIP**



**WELCOME BACK SHELL CLUB MEMBERS!** Our new member count of **33** brought the **2013-14** season to an all-time high finishing with **170 total members** who made the **Marco Shell Club the best in the state!** The criteria is simple...an interest in some part that captures and inspires your natural tug back to the sea! Are you curious and want to learn more about marine life? Love walking the beaches in search of some elusive shell and then displaying it at Shell Show? Like partaking in outdoor excursions? Enjoy learning or sharing skills in artistic shell design? **DIVERSITY IS OUR NAME!** Your ideas, talents and personality **MAKE** the Marco Island Shell Club.

Let's get you on-board by **BECOMING ACTIVE TODAY.** Membership dues are still \$20 for individual and \$26 for 2-person household! What a deal for the fellowship and education opportunities the Club provides! Visit our website at [www.marcoshellclub.com](http://www.marcoshellclub.com) and select the "Membership" tab to make your online commitment effortlessly. You can still complete a "hard copy" application and submit payment at any onsite Seminar or Workshop. Check the website "Calendar" for those dates.

**MOST FREQUENT ASKED QUESTIONS:**

1. **Do I have to complete an application EVERY SEASON even though I've been a member for years?**  
**YES! ABSOLUTELY! YES!** We need to have ALL your data filled out for it's just like seeing your doctor for your yearly check-up. We are your "fun" friends who verify your changed email addresses and phone numbers so the communications continue your way. Send me a quick email to [maryann@thecokes.net](mailto:maryann@thecokes.net) to keep you current.
2. **Is there a deadline?** YES, it is **December 31, 2014**, if you want to maintain an **Active Member** status. Check the website "By-Laws" under Article II: Sec. 5 for Active Member criteria.

***You are an important ingredient to the success of this organization in the contributions you make as a crafter, designer, researcher, shell collector—YOU are appreciatively valued.***

**NEW WORKSHOP PHOTO DIRECTORY**

**Planning on joining Tuesday's Workshop Sessions this season?**

An escalating 100 enthusiastic artists have attended just this past year at Workshop. It's virtually impossible to connect everyone's name with a face. So...**a tri-fold board will display all the photos of our Shell Artists**, along with Club officers and chairpersons, who have contributed to the end-of-the-season Gift Shop. The Photo Directory will also be set up during the Shell Show to show the magnitude of the artists involved and it's a way of saying "thank you" for all your important work!

**However, I need your help to pull this off! Thank you for following through....**

1. Take a "head-and-shoulder" photo of yourself that measures 2" x 3". No hats or sunglasses, please. This is actually a wallet-size that I will fit into a transparent name-tag badge. Send it via email to me at: [maryann@thecokes.net](mailto:maryann@thecokes.net)

2. Or...if you have a ready-made photo of that size, mail it to my home address at: 8264 McCandlish Rd, Grand Blanc, MI 48439

3. If you don't have access to Step 1 or 2, I will take one of you at Workshop when I arrive in January. For those that craft out of their home, I'd like to encourage you to drop into Workshop to get your photo added to the directory. It would be amiss if you or anyone else, weren't included. Just bring a smile! –Thanks again for your help!

*Mary Ann Coke* – Membership Chair

[maryann@thecokes.net](mailto:maryann@thecokes.net)

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**



If you have any special correspondence needs regarding the well-being of our members, please phone or e-mail me. This means, get well cards, sympathy cards, thank you notes for special efforts and donations to our club, and any other special occasion that should occur that regards our members. My phone # is (239) 331-3181 or to e-mail me, Carole Stavenas at [ccstave849@gmail.com](mailto:ccstave849@gmail.com).

*Carole Stavenas* – Corresponding Secretary/Contact Chair

**SEMINARS**



**November** – Elizabeth Salewski, the doctoral student whose research we support at the University of South Florida in St. Petersburg, will present an update on her **oyster reef research**.

**January** – Jim Cordy, winner of this years Conchologists of America award at our Shell Show will present his memories of trips to the **Eluthera Island in the Bahamas**. Knowing that he is an avid Conchologist, I am sure this will be very interesting.

**February** - Constance Miller, renowned Sailor's Valentine Artist will thrill us with a presentation about her skills.

**March** - Ann Dupont, a Scientific Diver and Underwater Photographer and co-author of the book Caribbean Sea Slugs, will give her presentation of **Sea Shells and Slugs found in Lake Worth Lagoon**.

*Marge Tunnell*—VP and Seminar Chair



PUBLICITY

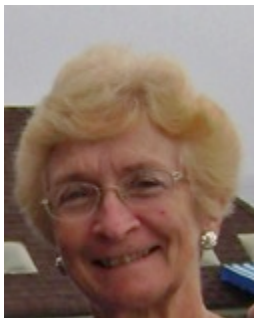


A new season is upon us and, as usual, your officers and chair persons have stepped up to the plate with their usual great articles for the *SeaShell*.

Each year we set out Shell Club Brochures at a long list of businesses on Marco Island. Then at the end of the season we retrieve the unused brochures and plastic holders. I am looking for volunteers that would be willing to undertake this distribution for our club. If you are interested, please let me know.

John Tunnell- Publicity Chair

WEBSITE



Our club website will soon have a "face-lift", with a software upgrade and a new design, which will make it more responsive to a variety of devices and operating system formats. My goal is to keep the website as current as possible, and I encourage you to access [www.marcoshellclub.com](http://www.marcoshellclub.com) for the latest information. Also, please try the convenient online payment option in the MEMBERSHIP section—you can use Paypal or a credit/debit card. (NOTE: you must select Paypal at the bottom of the payment form to pay online. On the next page, fill in your credit/debit card information, or log in to your Paypal account.)

Joan Robbins- Website Chair

2014-2015 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

Officers

- President.....Marsha Prunetti
- Vice President.....Marge Tunnell
- Recording Secretary...Kathy Benedik
- Corresponding Sec....Carole Stavenas
- Treasurer.....Lisa Fitz-Gerald

Address all correspondence to:

**Marco Island Shell Club, Inc.**  
**P. O. Box 633**  
**Marco Island, FL 34146**  
**[www.marcoshellclub.com](http://www.marcoshellclub.com)**  
**(239) 963-4694**

Chairs

- Shell Show.....Jae Kellogg
- Membership.....Mary Ann Coke
- Contact..... Carole Stavenas
- Library .....Joan Robbins
- Historian.....Linda Monroe
- Scholarship.....Carolyn Ginther
- Education/Excursions.....Jake Mitchell
- Publicity.....John Tunnell
- Website .....Joan Robbins
- Program.....Marge Tunnell
- Workshop..... Becky Miller/Debbie Towey

<b>MARCO ISLAND SHELL CLUB 2014-2015 CALENDAR</b>
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DATE	DAY	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
Nov. 4	Tuesday	BOD meeting	1:00 pm	Iberia
Nov. 6	Thursday	Seminar—Elizabeth Salewski: Oyster Reef Research	7:00 pm	U-Church
Nov. 11	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Nov. 18	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Nov. 25	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Dec. 2	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Dec. 4	Thursday	Holiday Party	5:30 pm	Vintage Bay
Dec. 6	Saturday	Shell Art Sale	9:00 am	Winn-Dixie
Dec. 9	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Dec. 9	Tuesday	BOD meeting	12:00 pm	U-Church
Dec. 16	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Jan. 6	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Jan. 8	Thursday	Seminar-Jim Cordy: Shelling the Bahamas	7:00 pm	U-Church
Jan. 13	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Jan. 13	Tuesday	BOD meeting	12:00 pm	U-Church
Jan. 14	Wednesday	Excursion-Swamp Walk	TBA	Fakahatchee Strand
Jan. 20	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Jan. 24	Saturday	Excursion—Fossil Dig	TBA	TBA
Jan. 27	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Jan. 29	Thursday	Excursion—Blackwater Paddle	TBA	Collier Seminole State Park
Feb. 3	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Feb. 5	Thursday	Seminar-Constance Miller: Sailor's Valentines	7:00 pm	U-Church
Feb. 10	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Feb. 10	Tuesday	BOD meeting	12:00 pm	U-Church
Feb. 11	Wednesday	Excursion—Hammock Walk	TBA	Collier Seminole State Park
Feb. 17	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Feb. 17	Tuesday	Shell Show Committee meeting	12:00 pm	U-Church
Feb. 19	Thursday	Shell Hunt/Picnic	7:30 am	Sarazen Park
Feb. 20	Friday	<b>DEADLINE FOR SHELL SHOW ENTRIES!!!!</b>		
Feb. 24	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Feb. 27	Friday	Excursion—Marine Paddle	TBA	Isles of Capri
Mar. 3	Tuesday	Workshop	9:00 am	U-Church
Mar. 3	Tuesday	BOD meeting	12:00 pm	U-Church
Mar. 5	Thursday	Seminar-Ann Dupont: Sea Shells and Slugs in Lake Worth Lagoon	7:00 pm	U-Church
Mar. 10	Tuesday	Shell Show Setup		U-Church
Mar. 11	Wednesday	Exhibitors' Setup	9:00 am-noon	U-Church
Mar. 11	Wednesday	Judging	1:00-4:00 pm	U-Church
Mar. 11	Wednesday	Reception	6:00-7:30 pm	U-Church
Mar. 12-14	Thurs-Sat.	Shell Show	10:00am-4:00	U-Church
Mar. 17	Tuesday	Team Leaders meeting	9:00 am	U-Church
Mar. 25	Wednesday	Thank You dinner/ Annual membership meeting	5:30 pm	U-Church
Mar. 26	Thursday	Excursion	TBD	TBD
Mar. 27	Friday	BOD meeting	1:00 pm	U-Church

