



The Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club, Inc.

The Junonia

December 2020

Special Holiday Zoom Meeting – December 13

Since we can't have our usual holiday get together, we have decided to have a special December Shell Club Party via Zoom on Sunday, the 13th at 2:00 PM. And yes, you may wear your holiday attire!

The focus of the meeting will be a special sharing (and filming) of stories of finding shells referred to as **"The Big Five"**: the Junonia, Scotch Bonnet, Lion's Paw, Alphabet Cone and Wentletrap.

We want to hear your **SHORT, FUN, or INTERESTING STORY** about how you found one or two of these shells.

We will record you while you share your stories and the rousing tales of shelling will be part of a feature during our Virtual Shell Show that will include scientific facts about "The Big Five."

We will also have some **FAST and FUN** holiday zoom games like The Naughty List...you won't want to miss it.

So round up your **Sanibel Big 5**: Junonia, Scotch Bonnet, Alphabet Cone, Lion's Paw, Wentletrap and tell us the story of how you found one or two of them.

By letting us record you with your shell at our meeting, you give the Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club permission to edit and publish it for our use on our website, YouTube channel, social media, and other advertising.

Please don't be disappointed if your video isn't included in the show or if it's edited to fit the time available. (See article about December Special Zoom Meeting for new instructions.)



President's Message

by Karen Silverstein



Dear Shell Club Members:

One of the things that I like best about our club is that we are happiest when we are sharing our shells and shell knowledge with others. We had the perfect opportunity to do what we love best when Connie received a special email.

A New York City firefighter and substitute science teacher emailed Connie Jump on our website about acquiring two sets of common Sanibel shells and some fossil shells for his 7- and 13-year-old sons. This was to be their main Christmas present since

both parents worked two jobs but still money was tight. He said that his family had not been able to travel or see loved ones for a long time due to finances and the pandemic. He wanted to teach his children to think outside the box and to learn from nature with a novel gift.

Well could there be a more perfect project for our club? Within one week, with the help of our board members Linda Edinburg, Clair Beckmann, and Carol Periard and Lorin Buckner from the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum we gathered a large box of dozens of Sanibel shells, sand dollars, sea urchins, starfish, fossils, painted shells, and make-an-animal kits from the Shell Museum. It is an incredible box with a vast variety of common and not-so-common shells. Connie Jump very generously offered to buy the family a membership to the Shell Club so they would have the opportunity to enjoy and learn from our Zoom meetings. Thank you to all who made this father's wish a reality.

It is the spirit of giving that makes us who we are. Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season. See you at the December 13 get together.

Welcome, New Members!

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



- Erica Lee - Des Plaines, IL
- Angie Michaels - Papillion, NE
- The Kevin Nigey Family - Brewster, NY
- Barbara Perry - Rockville, MD
- Glenda and Emma Robertson - Greenfield, MO
- Daniella, Philip & Evan Schmidt - Pickering, OH

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.

Dr. Leal's November Presentation Now on YouTube

Dr. José Leal's November Shell Club presentation "Why We Like Shells" is now available on the club's new YouTube channel. You may watch it by going to

<https://sanibelshellclub.com/sanibel-shell-club/>

In Memory Of Sandy Moran

Sandy L. Moran of Yarmouth, MA passed away on November 12th. Sandy was the Artistic Chair of the Sanibel Shell from 2004 through 2013. She was a nationally known gifted shell artist who specialized in Sailor's Valentines. She had been planning to move to her new home in Gulf Harbor this month. Her obituary can be read by going to:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/hyannis-ma/sandra-moran-9907763>

Treasurer's Report

by Linda Edinburg, Treasurer



Treasurer's Report: \$32,090.73 in checking and \$38,050.57 in savings.

Correction: In our notice to you regarding the Amazon Smile program we are enrolled in, I mistakenly typed in 5% as the amount we will receive back from Amazon. Sadly, that amount should have been typed in as .05%. Sorry for any confusion!

Recent Donations

The following members recently made monetary contributions or donated shells to the club: Meg Born, Scott & Penny Chrysler, Judy Cook, Irene Longley, Rick & Karen Marks, Stephanie Schrader, Karen Silverstein, Donna Smith, and Sally Wilmeth.

The Shell Club thanks you for your generosity.

November Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Kim Short, Secretary

President Karen Silverstein opened the meeting by introducing herself, welcoming all attendees and reading the names of the 52 new members who have joined since March.

She announced that the Board has authorized the payment \$17,750 in grants.

Several "thank-you" cards were read from students who participated in the Mollusks on the Move program supported by the Shell Club.

Karen announced that the Shell Museum is in need of volunteers in both "no contact" and "safe & masked" areas: docents for the Aquarium and Great Hall displays, and support in the museum store and at the front desk. In addition there are plans for voluntary refresher training for "Shell Ambassadors."

Clair Beckmann, Chair of the Virtual Shell Show Committee, reminded people that it will be held on March

5th & 6th from 12:00-3:00 p.m. She introduced the Committee members and read the names of this year's sponsors who are supporting our educational mission.

She reminded the membership that one way in which they can participate is by submitting a video on how they found their first "Big Three" shell (Junonia, Scotch Bonnet or Lion's Paw). (This was later changed to the "Big Five" by the committee.) In addition the committee would like videos on how members display their shells at home (not craft ideas).

Connie Jump, Webmaster of the Club and the Virtual Shell Show, reminded people about the Photo Contest and announced that *Beachcomber Magazine* will publish the photo winners from the seven categories and overall best photo in an upcoming issue.

Karen reminded us of the ability to renew our membership online using PayPal.

Karen introduced our speaker: Dr. José Leal, Interim Director of The Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum.

José gave a beautifully illustrated power-point presentation entitled "What's So Cool About Shells?" It was a mélange of what particularly interests him: growth patterns, facts such as diversity in color and size, and cultural uses.

A question period followed José's presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m. and was followed by a virtual social time.

Attendance at the meeting was 57.

Shell Club Awards \$17,750 in Grants

Each year the profits from the Sanibel Shell Show are given out in the form of grants. The Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club Board of Directors approved the following grants from the 2020 Shell Show income.

Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum "Digital Imaging Project" (\$1,500)

This is a continuation of last year's Digital Imaging Project grant for database hosting.

Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum "Capital Work" (\$6,250)

This is a continuation of the Shell Museum's construction/aquarium project.

Conchologists of America (\$1,000)

This grant is for the eighth installment of a \$10,000 perpetual education grant award that will be called the Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club Award when we reach the 10th year.

Florida Gulf Coast University (\$2,000)

This is a continuation of the research grant that was funded in 2019 to study the potential link between coastal nutrients and red tide blooms.

Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (\$2,000)

This grant will provide support for the collection of monthly spat data and the annual live oyster "density and size" sampling in San Carlos Bay and Tarpon Bay.

University of Florida – Carmi Thompson (\$2,500)

This grant will help offset costs associated with field trips to study the role that fossil mactrids (the bivalve family Mactridae) played in past ecosystems.

University of South Florida – Dr. Greg Herbert (\$2,500)

This grant provides funding to research the reason for recently-lost Florida Fighting Conch habitat on the outer shelf of the Gulf.

Shell Club’s Pinterest Page

by Connie Jump

As a new way to connect with our membership and the public, the Sanibel Shell Club has started a Pinterest page ([Shell Club Pinterest page](#)) to share ideas and images with like-minded shell lovers. Pinterest is considered social media, but it’s more than that. It’s a fun image-sharing site for visual searching, browsing, and “discovery.” From Sanibel sea shells to DIY home decor to recipes to how to



build a deck, you will find ideas on almost every topic on Pinterest. Read more about Pinterest [here](#).

You don’t need a Pinterest account to browse, but if you do have an account, please click our **FOLLOW** button and tell your shelling friends about our new page.

Created and Saved Pins

You’ll see that we have created several Pins already from Sanibel Shell Show sponsors, our various Virtual Shell Show photo events, and some miscellaneous Pins to spread the word about beach etiquette and how to join our club.

Saved Pins are images that other people have posted that relate to topics we are interested in. Pins are grouped into Boards that you create to keep your Pins organized. We have Pinterest Boards for Bivalves, Gastropods, Live Mollusks, Historic Florida, Sanibel Art, and many other general topics.

Because of Pinterest’s overall audience, it turns out that our two most popular boards are [SHELL DISPLAYS](#) and [SHELL CRAFTS DIY](#).

Our Pinterest Page Statistics

Here are some interesting statistics from our first month on Pinterest:

- Our Pins have been shown to viewers 15,430 times.
- We have 10,580 monthly viewers who have seen or clicked on our Pins.
- 83% of our Pinterest audience is interested in Home Decor.
- 76% of our audience is interested in DIY and Crafts, mainly DIY Projects.
- Our audience is 77% female.

- The highest percentage of our audience is in the age range of 25-34 year olds, but overall our Pinterest page is fairly evenly enjoyed by all ages.



Sanibel Shell Club

It’s Time to Pay Your Membership Dues and You Can Use PayPal

by Ramona Novitski,
Membership Chair

The time is approaching for you to renew your membership with the Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club. The membership year expires December 31, 2020. Pay your membership dues now and you will be good until December 31, 2021.

The membership dues are \$20.00 for an individual and \$25.00 for multiple family members who live in the same residence.

Remember, your membership includes:

- Year-round free access to the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum
- 20% discount in the Museum gift shop

Pay using PayPal. All major credit cards are accepted.

Go to the Shell Club’s website using this link:

[Become a Member or Renew.](#)

If you wish to pay by check, there is a membership renewal form on the last page of this newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support!



Field Trips Report

by Susi Butler, Chair



Our fossil quarry dig trip is underway as this goes to press. I will have a full report of the field trip in the next issue of the newsletter.

Last month I asked for members to send me an example of how they show or use the shells they collect. We did receive a shell decorating

idea from new member Hays Hill, a resident from

Richmond, VA and Captiva . Hays wrote, "I used my cone shells to make knobs for all of my kitchen cabinets last year at our house on Captiva. I adhered the shells to plain, flat knobs using "Marine Goop." What a great idea Hays!

With no field trips currently scheduled at this time, we hope that you can find some fun shelling experiences on you own and tell us about them.

Have a happy and safe holiday season!



- Position the camera lens at eye level or above. Avoid looking down into the camera.
- If you don't have equipment with video, we will record your audio during the Zoom and you may email us a few pictures of you with the shell to shellshow@sanibelshellclub.com.
- Tell us the story of finding the shell as though you were just talking with friends – actually, that's what you're doing! We look forward to hearing your story.
- Don't worry about flubbing up a bit. It's for fun and we can edit the video.

Virtual 2021 Sanibel Shell Show Photo Contest and Slideshows

Remember our Shell Photo Contest, Sanibel Stoop, and Your Favorite Shell photo events for the Virtual 2021 Sanibel Shell Show? The call for photos for all three events was answered with phenomenal results thanks to our membership, website, and social media outreach. In total, we received **424 photos from 15 countries**.

Photo Submissions

Shell Photo Contest: 172 people submitted photos for a total of 304 photos in these categories: 67 Gastropods, 53 Bivalves, 44 Sanibel Beach with Shells, 42 People with Shells, 37 Live Mollusks, 37 Funny Shell photos, and 24 Fossil Shells.

The Sanibel Stoop photo slideshow: 54 people submitted their Stoop photos with many non-Sanibel Stoopers from Hawaii, Cape May, California, and all around the Florida coastline.

Your Favorite Shell photo slideshow: 66 people submitted their favorite shell photo. What's the most common favorite shell? You'll have to wait to find out!

Photo Contest Sponsors

We appreciate all our many photo sponsors (see Sponsors graphics on next page), including [Beachcombing](#) for being the Overall Photo Contest Sponsor and [Sanibel Seashell Industries](#) for sponsoring the prizes.

Virtual Shell Show Update

by Clair Beckmann



The 2021 Virtual Sanibel Shell show continues to move forward. Informative Shell Fact vignettes, great shell photos, live mollusk videos, "Sanibel Beach by Beach" with Nick Adams' drone shots, and 101 Ways to Display Shells are a few of the videos in process. Many more are underway and are in the editing and finishing process...we even have

children finding painted shells from the Sanibel Shells Facebook group on the playground.

A separate article about the response to our Photo Contest was prepared by Connie Jump, our amazing technical expert...thank you all for submitting your photos and a separate article about filming YOU with your Big 5 story is also in this issue.

Sponsors have been very generous in supporting our amazing grants program. Currently sponsorship dollars total \$16,500. There is still time to become a sponsor. Go to our website [2021 Virtual Sanibel Shell Show Sponsorships](#). Each sponsor has been featured on our Club Facebook page. The Sponsors who came aboard since the last issue of the Junonia can be seen on page 5.

Suggestions to Improve Your "Big 5" Zoom Video:

- Have fun telling us your story about how you found your "Big 5" shell(s).
- You can attend the Zoom meeting on your computer, smart phone or a tablet. All can take a good quality video.
- While we suggest holiday wear for this fun meeting, the video will be shown in March, so please remove your Santa hat or other obvious signs of the season when it is your turn to share your story.
- Do **NOT** have a bright window behind you.
- You might want to stand in front of a shell display or any nice wall.
- Have adequate light on your face and the shell so they can be seen.

**Happy Holidays
and
Best Wishes
for a
Healthy New Year**

Thank You to These Virtual Shell Show Sponsors



**Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club Officers
&
Board of Directors**

President: Karen Silverstein newtard1234@gmail.com	607-280-0974	Newsletter Editor: Joyce Matthys joycematthys1@gmail.com	503-871-1082
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Secretary: Kim Short shortgage@comcast.net (Linda Sutherland in her absence)	239-312-8151	Membership Chair: Ramona Novitski ramn21101@gmail.com	239-250-9535
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Members-at-Large: Dotty Dion dotty23@charter.net	775-750-2812	Archives: Linda Edinburg wedodit@comcast.net	239-395-9426
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		Website: Connie Jump cjump@earthlink.net	239-314-6524
		Social Media: Diane Thomas funlab2@aol.com	775-742-4555

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



Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club

Membership Application/Renewal

The Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club welcomes your membership. We usually meet monthly on the 2nd Sunday, October through April, the exception being December when a social function is planned.

Usually all the meetings with the exception, of the December meeting are held at 1:45 at the Sanibel Community House 2173 Periwinkle Way. **During the pandemic, all meetings are now being held virtually until further notice.**

We publish a newsletter, *The Junonia*. Back issues of the newsletter may be read on our website <https://sanibelshellclub.com>. A copy of *The Junonia* will be sent to your email address.

Membership in SCSC includes free admission to the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum and a 20% discount in their gift shop. Please allow two to four weeks for membership processing before these benefits are available to you at the museum.

Date _____ New Member Renewal

Annual Dues: Single membership - \$20 Family membership - \$25

Please complete all the information below, including phone numbers.

Name(s): _____

Summer Address: _____ **Phone** _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Winter Address: _____ **Phone** _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____

If you do not want your street address, phone or email to be made public, **please check the box(s) below.**

I DO NOT want the information checked below included in the membership directory:

- Street address Phone number(s) Email address

Make check payable to **Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club**. Mail it to us at:

Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club
P.O. Box 355
Sanibel, FL 33957

The Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club is a 501(C)3 charitable foundation.