



The Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club, Inc.

The Junonia

October 2019

First Meeting of the Season – October 13

The first Shell Club meeting of the season is Sunday, October 13th and will be held at the Sanibel Community House. The doors to the meeting room will open at 1:45 and the meeting will begin at 2:00 PM.

Dr. José Leal, Science Director and Curator at The Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum, will be our first speaker this season. His presentation is titled "Highlights from the Digital Imaging Project."

To improve on the ease of access to data from its large collection of shells and preserved mollusks, the National Shell Museum is undertaking a large-scale photography project. The Digital Imaging Project, funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), captures photographs of relevant specimens from the Museum's large collection of shells and preserved mollusks for online posting. Dr. Leal will discuss the project and present highlights and images of noteworthy specimens resulting from the work done so far, including material from Sanibel and Captiva, the Redfern Collection (Bahamas), and the Museum's type collection.



Refreshments will be served and door prizes will be given. It is open to the public free of charge.

The President's Corner

by Tom Annesley



A special "welcome back" to all club members as we begin our 2019-2020 programs and special events. The program schedule has been set and speakers lined up for our six Sunday afternoon meetings, which begin with our October 13 speaker, Dr. José Leal. Because of the major renovation project being undertaken at the museum, we will be meeting at the Sanibel Community House. We will transition

back to the museum after the renovations are complete in early 2020.

The format for our monthly meetings will be similar to last year except we will not be having a silent auction at this first meeting. These popular silent auctions will start up again at our November meeting. The formal presentations will all begin at 2:00 pm, followed by a short break and then a short business meeting.

In addition to our October program mentioned above, I want to highlight a special experience that you will want to block out on your calendar for our November 17th meeting. Many of you have heard that Florida Gulf Coast University recently launched a new initiative, The Water School, which will be a steppingstone toward FGCU becoming a leader in water issues. Part of The Water School's mission is to bring together professors and researchers from different disciplines to conduct water-based research, which will focus on everything from water quality to how water crises affect the economy. We are grateful that Dr. Greg Tolley, the Executive Director of the Water School, and several students have agreed to come and describe the research going on at the FGCU. How wonderful to have such expertise right at our doorstep.

So that you can set your calendar for all of our 2019-2020 meetings, the full list of dates and speakers has been provided separately in this month's *Junonia*.

See you on October 13 at the Sanibel Community House.

Welcome, New Members!

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



- Laurie Andrews; Gloucester, MA
- Lisa Cortese; Naples, FL
- Olivia Crickman & Family; Channahon, IL
- Peter and April Edwards & Family; Fort Myers
- Deenie Fischer; Boxford, MA
- Kris & Linda Friedrich; Sanibel/Westfield, MA
- Cheryle Micinski and Michael Knepper; Fort Myers
- Maribeth Moss; Fort Myers
- Jennifer & Kaela Moye; Pembroke Pines, FL
- Wilma & Elena Peterson; Pembroke Pines, FL
- Pamela & Stephen Sobolesky; Flagler Beach FL/Bath, PA
- June Shephard, Corvallis, OR

We hope you will be able to join us at our October through April 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 or our club activities. We look forward to sharing our enthusiasm about shells with you.

Mark These Dates on Your Calendar

- October 13 – Monthly meeting; Speaker – Dr. José Leal
- November 17 – Monthly meeting; Speakers - Greg Tolley/FGCU Students from The Water School
- December 8 – Annual Holiday Party for all Sanibel shell enthusiasts
- January 12 – Monthly meeting; Speaker - Clair Beckmann
- February 9 – Monthly meeting; Speaker - Meredith Blain
- February 14 – All Shell Show entry forms must have been received by the Scientific and/or Artistic Chairpersons by this date.
- February 15 – Florida United Malacologists (FUM) meets at the Shell Museum. Open to all Shell Club members.
- March 3 – All Shell Show exhibits must be brought to the Sanibel Community House
- March 4 – Shell Show judging and the Shell Show Preview at the Community House
- March 5, 6, 7 – 83rd Annual Sanibel Shell Show
- March 15 – Monthly meeting; Speaker - Bruce Neill, Sanibel Sea School
- April 5 – Monthly meeting; Speaker - Gary Schmelz



Join Us for the Eleventh Meeting of Florida United Malacologists!

Time: Saturday, February 15, 2020
from 9am to 5pm
Price: Free (registration required)

This one-day gathering brings together researchers, collectors, citizen scientists, Shell Ambassadors, and students to hear short presentations on a broad swath of mollusk-related topics. Seating is limited, so [register now!](#) Registration deadline is January 31st.

We will provide complimentary box lunches and beverages to all participants, and we invite you to join the group dinner at 7pm at a local restaurant (at your own expense).

Please note that the collection area will be closed during the event.

Information for presenters: To present at FUM 2020, you must email a simple abstract of 150 words or fewer to jleal@shellmuseum.org before January 31st.

Presentations are limited to 15 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions.

<https://www.shellmuseum.org/florida-united-malacologists>

Conchologists of America Convention Recap

by Anne Joffe
COA Convention Chair



What a wonderful week we all had at the Conchologists of America Convention this past June! People are still raving about what a great time they had and how this was one of the best in recent memory. Nice to hear! It also was the largest attendance we have had in well over 15 years or so, and it couldn't have been pulled off without all the volunteers from our Shell Club.

We started the week with fantastic field trips, so capably led by Joyce Matthys and her crew of drivers and helpers. All the trips were very much enjoyed.

On Tuesday evening, The Bailey Matthews National Shell Museum hosted a welcome party at the Sanibel Community House. It was held there because the museum was still closed due to the renovation. It was a well-attended event, and everyone enjoyed the museum's hospitality.

Opening day, we were fortunate to have the past mayor of Sanibel greet everyone. He read a proclamation from the City Council announcing Conchologists of America week, June 17 – 22. Quite an honor!

Programs on various subjects started the activities and continued throughout the convention. A Welcome Reception was held that evening so that everyone could meet and greet old friends and new. For some, the highlight was the fresh whole grouper that was served along with other delicious foods. Cupcakes topped off with Tucker's iconic black glasses set the theme that would run throughout the meeting. It was a celebration honoring what would have been his 100th birthday. The musical portion of the evening featured my long-time friend, Silvard Kool. Silvard has composed many piano pieces and he played them, along with other favorites, all in perfect time to a magical film of underwater ocean scenes. An outstanding evening!

Throughout the day, shell clubs sold their club pins and various other items. COA t-shirts and pins were also offered for sale. Working the Sanibel Club tables as well as the

COA tee shirt tables during the week were Karen Turner and Irene Longley. They did a great job and added to the convention fun.

Ramona Novitski and Kim Shunk (left) were two of our club members who sold raffle tickets for COA.

Bob and Alice Pace sold Southwest Florida shells that Bob collected himself or were donated from Florida shell clubs, including our



Sanibel-Captiva Club. Bob packaged them, making sure all

the right data was on the labels. This work was done by the Pace's as their donation to the COA. The entire proceeds were given to the organization. The income from the sales this year topped the amount taken in at the 2017 COA in Key West. A big thank-you goes out to the Pace's for their hard work, to the club members who donated shells, and to everyone's generosity when buying the shells.

Also, we had door prizes twice a day that were cheerfully handled by Kelle Covington. Her energetic spirit made it fun for all.

The silent auctions Co-chairs were John and Cheryl Jacobs from Seffner, FL. They have done this a number of times and were very appreciative of our club members who all pitched in to help, especially when it came to consolidating all the winning bids. Clair Beckmann and Phyllis Sharp took on the task of collecting the silent auction money every day. Financially speaking, it was also a great success.

Thursday had more programs: Our Snail Parade, and the evening Annual Oral Auction. Old friends Hank Chaney from Santa Barbara and Paul Callomon from Cherry Hill, NJ were the Auctioneers. Once again, Sanibel Shell Club member Donald Dan helped with choosing the shells to be auctioned. He and John Timmerman, Wilmington, NC laid out a gorgeous booklet featuring the shells for sale. The auction was a very well-attended evening, and the money brought in is earmarked for the COA Scholarship Fund. We gave away over \$25,000 this past year, all raised at these auctions.

Friday morning we finished the last of these memorable programs. They were followed by an announcement of the Snail Parade winners, and then the Annual Business Meeting. That evening was our Farewell Banquet, with Tucker Abbott's two children present. They wheeled in the decorated birthday cake that we all had for dessert. Hank Chaney was the guest speaker at the banquet. He and various audience members recalled their stories of being with Tucker.

The Neptunea Award was presented to John Timmerman from North Carolina, and our own Gary Schmelz. Raffle prize winners were announced and some fun other presents were give out.

The Bourse took place Saturday and Sunday with dealers from all over the world selling shells. It was a very large sales event, and it ended a perfectly wonderful week.



There were many of our club members who helped make this meeting a huge success. They worked whenever and where ever needed. The volunteerism began on the Saturday before the meeting, when members went to the South Seas Resort to help stuff the convention bags, and it didn't stop until the next Saturday morning when the last of the silent auction items were picked up. I really want to thank all of you! These meetings take about three years to plan. Without the help of the Club members and their enthusiasm, it would have never been a success. So, to all of you who helped in any way, I thank you very much, as does the entire COA Board of Directors.

It is not too early to look ahead to the next COA Convention. It will be right across the state in Melbourne, Florida in June. In 2021, also in June, COA will be held in Galveston, Texas, with the 2022 convention being held in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Sanibel Shell Club COA Attendees

Fifty-three Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club members attended the convention. We tried to get a photo of everyone who attended, but it turned out to be an impossible task, even when we announced when and where we were going to do the photo.



The following club members attended COA. This list does not include anyone who may have registered during the convention: Mary Ellen Akers, Tom Annesley, Mark & Gretchen Banks, Charles Barr, Clair Beckmann, Meredith Blain, Ron & Mary Bopp, Rodger Bunnell, Jean Burks, Kelle Covington, Donald Dan, Dennis & Gretchen Delman, Don Dillinger, Bev Dolezal, Tammy Everts, Lori Fanning, Ann Fossum, Dave & Linda Green, Dorrie Hipschman, Anne Joffe, Duane Kauffmann, Tom & Shelly Langa, Jose Leal, Irene Longley, Joyce Matthys, Barry & Debbie McBroom, Kathy McMillan, Ramona Novitski, Sheila Nugent, Alice & Bob Pace, Ken & Alice Piech, Mindy Pierce, Georgia Plumb, Gary & Bernice Schmelz, Karen Schneider, Bruce Schulz, Phyllis Sharp, Kimberly Shunk, Linda Sutherland, Diane Thomas, Doug Thompson, Julie Tobias, Amy Tripp, Karen Turner, and Richard Wiands. My apologies if I missed anyone.

Meet Your Officers

President Tom Annesley - Tom Annesley is Active Professor Emeritus at the University of Michigan, where he teaches scientific writing during the summer months. Tom is also the Deputy Editor for the journal *Clinical Chemistry*, one of the top medical journals in the world.



Tom splits his time between Ann Arbor and Fort Myers. He is a volunteer at the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum, where he does public lectures and other educational activities. Tom has had an interest in marine biology since he was very young, having been fortunate to spend summers close to the tide pools in California. He is fascinated by the variety of species of mollusks and their seashell homes. To him, every shell has a story to tell.

Vice-President Karen Silverstein – Karen lives on Sanibel October through May, and she spends the rest of the year in Ithaca, New York. When asked about her background, she replied, “In my previous life I was a lawyer and also taught at Cornell University Law School. After that I obtained an MSW and worked as the director of social work at a hospital.



I became a shell collector when my dad and I found a huge beautiful shark eye in the water in Atlantic City. I was 7 or 8 and I still have the shell. I came down to Sanibel for the first time over 30 years ago, and was hooked that first trip by finding a junonia! I came down for a couple of weeks every few years after that and always said I would retire in Sanibel, which I did 5 years ago.”

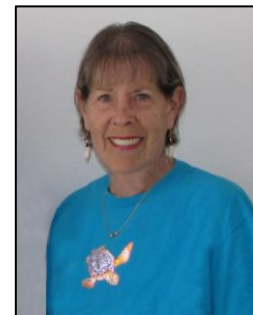
Secretary Kim Short – Five years ago, Kim got tired of Canadian winters and exchanged snow for sand by purchasing a house on Sanibel. By nature a hunter-gatherer, a love for shells is an extension of her interest in the natural world, and they join her caches of fossils, stones, pinecones, driftwood, etc. Her education (Hons. B. A. in French; M.L.S.), previous career (Librarian/Archivist) and hobbies (genealogy, photography, quilting, crafts) further her hunter-gatherer instinct by amassing information and creating beautiful objects. She is also a Shell Ambassador at the



Shell Museum and the Historian for Tradewinds HOA

Treasurer Linda Edinburg – How did I become interested in shells? Clearly not growing up in Boston as the daughter of a cab driver. Not in college, where I

maored in English and minored in American History. But in 1968 I flew to Hawaii to meet my husband while he was on R&R from Vietnam There is a picture on the wall in our Sanibel home of me poking along exploring tide pools on a beach there, so I was looking toward my feet by then.



In 1997 we took our daughters for Christmas vacation to a week on Sanibel, and we were hooked. We rented each winter for increasingly longer time periods -- two weeks growing into six weeks. We ultimately bought a house on Sanibel in November 2004 and moved south permanently in June of '05. We spend seven months on Sanibel and run away in the summer to Gilford, NH.

I taught seventh grade Texas History and ninth grade Current Events in Killeen, Texas while Joel was stationed at Fort Hood there. I ran a one-girl office (jackass of all trades) for a firm of Management Psychologists, and then was lucky enough to stay home and raise our two daughters.

I've been a (volunteer) Treasurer of four different organizations through the years, probably because I love jobs that have a clearly-defined bottom line: either the columns match going across and coming down, or it's time to find out why not.

Thank-You!

The Shell Club sincerely thanks the following members who have recently made monetary donations to help us in our fund-raising efforts: Daryn Bedinotti & Thomas Brockley, Connie Jump, and Irene Longley. During the recent C.O.A. convention, we received donations from Edwina Lockwood, Irene Longley, and Joyce Matthys.

We also thank the following kind people who have donated shells to help our shell show proceeds: Eva Karkoski and Carol Silvestri.

Our Club Takes in \$1,069 at COA

Shell Clubs are allowed to sell items at COA before the programs start, during the breaks and after the programs finish. Irene Longley and Karen Turner manned our Shell Club's booth all three days of the convention. They sold our club pins, club decals, polo shirts and left-over Shell Show t-shirts. They also sold shell fabric tote bags created by Edwina Lockwood, Joyce Matthys's DVD's, and various other items. By the end of the convention, the club made a profit of \$1,069.00. Our hats are off to you both, Irene and Karen!

We have some small and medium totes left. Irene will bring them to the October Shell Club meeting. They sell at \$25 and \$35 each. Karen will bring our club pins and club decals to the meeting. The pins sell for \$5.00 and the decals sell for \$3.00.

Once again we want to thank everyone who helped make the convention a big success.

Orders for Club Polo Shirts Will Taken at the October Meeting

Karen Turner will be taking orders for Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club polo shirts beginning at the October meeting. The Club shirts are 50/50 poly/cotton, Dry Blend, with a stitched logo.



The shirts will be ordered the day after our January 12th meeting. If you would like a shirt please print the order form from the Shell Club website link below. Bring it with you to the meeting or mail it to Karen.

<https://sanibelshellclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Shell-Club-Polo-Shirt-Order-Form.pdf>

These shirts tend to run a bit small so **don't order the size you usually wear**. Use the directions below to determine your correct size. The **WIDTH** is the most important measurement. **Measure** the width of a shirt that fits you well. Measure **1 inch below the armhole**.

MENS / UNISEX

Size	Width	Length
Small	18.50"	27.50"
Med	20.50"	28.50"
Large	22.75"	29.50"
XL	24.50"	31.00"
2X	26.5"	31.50"

WOMENS

Size	Width	Length
Small	17.25"	25"
Med	19.25"	26"
Large	21.25"	27"
XL	23.25"	28"

The women's shirt has a cuffed sleeve. If you prefer a straight sleeve you can order a unisex shirt. Women's sizes are limited, however the unisex shirts can be worn by anyone.

Shell Club Dues Increase

Because the Club's expenses have increased, and since there has not been an increase in the membership dues for over ten years, the Board of Directors has approved a \$5 increase in the Shell Club's annual dues. The individual membership will now be \$20.00 and the family membership will be \$25.00.

Membership renewals are due January 1st. A membership renewal form will accompany the November issue of *The Junonia* or you can download and print a form by going to the membership page on the website:

<https://sanibelshellclub.com/become-a-member/>

Possible Field Trips This Season *by Susi Butler*

I am in the process of lining up some interesting field trips for the coming season. These are some of the possibilities:

- Trip to the Broward Shell Show January 11th or 12th with a side trip to a point of interest for shell collectors. I am looking into bus transportation vs. carpooling.

- Thousand Islands shelling trip with club member Tammy Everts, Treasure Seekers Shelling Tours
- Day trip to Gasparilla Island.
- Behind the scenes tour of C.R.O.W. and the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation Marine Laboratory.
- Shelling and lunch trip to somewhere within an hour of Sanibel.
- Home tour to view the extensive shell and fossil collections of Richard Batt and Robin Harris.
- If possible, another fossil collecting trip.

If you're interested in fossil shells, I'm thinking about having a separate short meeting about fossils and fossil collecting an hour before our regular monthly meeting.

If you have any suggestions for a field trip, or if you are interested in meeting to talk about fossils, please contact me at jbutler895@aol.com or (309) 696-5558.

April Meeting Report

2019 was the first year that the Shell Club has had an April meeting. One of the reasons that the Board decided to have an April meeting was so that we could get up to speed on what we needed to do in preparation for hosting the Conchologists of America Convention. The Board decided that there would not be a business session that day; however, there would be a speaker, refreshments and a silent auction.

Rebecca Muench, Aquarium Curator at the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum, was the guest speaker. She did a wonderful presentation titled, "The Search for a Live Junonia." It included video footage of the live junonias at the museum that showed behavior never captured on film before.

The attendance at the meeting was excellent, and the Club may continue having an April meeting.

Treasurer's Report Reveals Largest Shell Show Profit in the History of the Club

by Linda Edinburg

We have a lot to be proud of. As of 8/31/19, the balance in the Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club checkbook is \$47,200.87. This includes the profit from the Sanibel Shell Show. Traditionally, each year the Shell Club gives away all the profits from the Shell Show in the form of scholarships and grants. This year the Shell Show profit was \$31,800.00, the largest profit in the history of the Shell Club. Grants Chair Clair Beckmann will be presenting the grant applications to the Board of Directors at their fall meeting.

The success of the Shell Show is totally dependent on the Shell Show committee chairs and all the volunteers that work at the show. You are the ones who make it possible for the club to award these scholarships and grants. To get an idea of how the Shell Show has grown in the last 10 years, the profit from the 2009 Shell Show was \$10,500.00. The income this year almost tripled that amount. Besides the finances described above, the Club earmarked the income from the silent auctions held January through April for the Shell Museum's "Mollusks on the Move" outreach program. Those silent auctions raised \$2,384.00.

Florida's Fabulous Land Shells

by Alan Gettleman
Astronaut Trial Shell Club

Florida is well known for many colorful seashells. With over 8400 miles of coastline with numerous bays, lagoons, and estuaries, the state is famous for the abundance of great shells.

Less known are the state's fabulous land shells. Land shells curiously originated from the shells of the seas. The Pulmonates and have a primitive lung, two pairs of tentacles, and no operculum. The others are the Prosobranchs which came separately from the Nerites and another from the Periwinkles. These have one pair of tentacles and an operculum and breathe through a gill.

Land shells are found in almost every land habitat. Some climb trees to hide from predators; others climb grasses near the shoreline. Most however are found at ground level, often just below ground or underneath rocks or vegetation. The majority of land shells are less than an inch long, but that does not mean they are difficult to find. One of the most common genera of land shells, the *Polygyra* (Greek for multiple coiled) can be found in urban to forested regions, from the sand dunes of the shores, from moist areas near woodlands and disturbed urban cites. The *Polygyra* well adapted to many habitats can often be seen by the hundreds, but don't worry. They are not harmful and do not eat your garden plants. They are clever enough to seek refuge climbing trees or even walls when local flooding occurs, and then quickly return to land when the water recedes.



Polygyra septemvolva
from JaxShells

Just as shell-less marine gastropods, nudibranchs, the land mollusks have their own shell-less representatives - the not-so-colorful slugs. Florida has native slugs, but most often you will encounter the larger introduced European slugs that can be an agricultural pest. Traditionally an environmentally friendly way to trap harmful slugs was to leave a shallow saucer of beer near locations of slug damage. It is not known if the slugs are attracted to the beer or if the ingested libation is toxic, but presumably the slugs died happy.



Philomycus carolinianus
from JaxShells

Another group that migrated to Florida are the *Cerion* "Peanut Shells." The *Cerion* are found in very far southern Florida. Their habitat is very specific, from the high tide line

behind sand dunes. They tolerate some salt spray, and are not found far away from the sea. The Peanut Shells are more numerous in the Bahamas and Cuba, and some Caribbean islands.



Cerion incanum
from JaxShells

Florida is home to at least two notorious land shells, one native and one introduced. The native so called "Rosy Wolf Snail" is an elongate pink shell that is a carnivore on other land shells. In its own habitat it is not a problem.

The other notorious land shell is the "Giant African Land Shell" which usually goes by its old Latin name of *Achatina fulica*. This monster of a shell which can grow over five inches in length is a serious agricultural pest and strictly prohibited from importation into the United States. Occurrences of introduction to Florida in 1966 and a new outbreak in the Miami area in recent years have cost millions to keep under control.

In an incredibly stupid decision, our Rosy Wolf Snail was introduced to many areas of the tropics to theoretically hunt down the agricultural pest (oh, by the way, the *Achatina* also carries disease). The Rosy Wolf Snail largely ignored the *Achatina* and instead killed the valuable native tropical land shells. Now the Rosy Wolf Snail is an unwanted and hard to eliminate pest on those islands.



Euglandina rosea
St. Johns County,
Florida - 83.5 mm.
from JaxShells

Florida's semi-tropical climate allows for mollusks from the Caribbean to happily settle here. In southern Florida and the Florida Keys, the largest of the state's native land shells can be seen. The Florida *Liguus* shells are arboreal and live on certain species of trees. There is only one species, *Liguus fasciatus*, (right) but around sixty recognized forms which is a conchological and not a biological distinction. Nonetheless, the wide variety of patterns and bright colors for many forms make them the most popular of our land shells.

The photos of these *Liguus* are my shells. The shells were all dead collected and legally collected. *Liguus faciatus 'pictus'* (right) is the rarer form, but it is one of the most popular.



Liguus fasciatus 'ornatus' (below) is a hybrid. Hybrid of forms can produce many wonderful forms and occur when the old time 'liggers' introduced forms to other hammocks with *Liguus*.



Hybrid pic pseudo (left) is a *Liguus fasciatus 'pictus'* x *Liguus fasciatus 'pseudopictus'*. This combination produced this fantastic unique specimen.

Henry Close's book "The Lure of the Liguus" listed about 30 known sinistral specimens. We know of about five more subsequent to when the book was published. I was in a hammock, walking along a path and actually thinking about a left handed

"lig." About twelve feet ahead of me, on the ground in the path, I saw a shell. I looked at it and thought to myself, "this is one." You would think that if you had found a left handed *Junonia* you might be screaming and hollering to the top of your lungs. My first thought was not overwhelming excitement or happiness, but "Well I better make sure it IS sinistral." It was, and it was dead without any vestige of the animal. The venerable Homer Rhode of Englewood, FL has found two sinistral *Liguus* in his 65 plus years of collecting.



Museum Renovation Update

As many of our Shell Club friends know, the National Shell Museum closed in early May 2019 to begin construction on its newest project: a mollusk aquarium!

Since then, we have been meeting with contractors, plumbers, electricians, architects, aquarium designers, and countless construction workers. Rain or

shine, storms or wind, workers and Museum staff alike have been diligent, efficient, and dedicated to the future of the Museum. This process has been long and arduous, but progress is being made daily!

Some major milestones have been:

- The freshly-paved parking lot and native landscaping.
- The flood-proof and reinforced ground floor – for the protection of the living collection from storms.
- The old stairs are gone! They were torn down to make way for the new universal-access, two-story glass entryway. We hope the glass will be delivered in October.

- The concrete bases for all of the aquarium's tanks have been installed – strong enough to hold hundreds of gallons of salt water.

While the Museum is closed to visitors, new curriculum is being developed for educational programs in the exhibit hall and aquarium. The existing Great Hall of Shells and program areas should be open around Thanksgiving, and the aquarium is scheduled to open in early 2020.

We thank all of you for your patience, and we know you're as excited as we are to see the finished product!

Kudos to Tom Annesley

Congratulations to Tom Annesley for being one of the very best speakers at the COA Convention. His presentation on venomous cone snails and how they are being used in medical research was outstanding.

Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club Officers & Board of Directors

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