



ENGLEWOOD SHELL CLUB

THE SHELL SCOOP – SHELL SEEKERS

MARCH 2022

www.Englewoodshell.club

Co-Presidents: Meredith Blain & Martha Dehne

Hello Shell Seekers,

Can you believe the 2021-2022 season will soon come to a close? Wow, what a success it has been! We have welcomed more new members this year than we have in a very long time. It's great to see the Englewood Shell Club grow!

I hope that we have made the new members feel welcome and we encourage them to share their talents by volunteering some time to the club. Not only will this keep all of the fun and educational activities in motion, it's a great way to get to know the other club members.

In February, we accomplished so much: a Carefree Learner excursion, a trip to Palm Island, an outstanding shell display was created for the Elsie Quirk Library, and two members won blue and red ribbon at the Sarasota Shell Show. We also had our own successful Shell and Shell Craft Sale, a highly attended Shellcrafters, an interesting Shell Study, and a beach walk! All of these activities were made possible by members willing to devote a bit of time to ESC. Thank you! We could not have done them without you!

At this month's General meeting, we will be voting for Board members and three Directors at large.

Don't forget that on April 12 our year-end get together starts at 11AM. The luau themed party will take place at the Maxine Barritt Park pavilion. I am looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Aloha!

Martha Dehne, co-president





Walk Blind Pass

Wednesday, March 9

Start time: 9 AM

Look for the club's shell flag

Team Leaders are Kathy Cycak & Chris Hofer



Study Group

Bring your darling freak shell/s and share what you know about them and learn what you don't.

Thursday, March 10

10 AM Cedar Park Environmental Center

Session will be led by Martha Dehne

General Meeting: March 15, 1 PM @ Englewood Elks Club

Here's what will be happening:

Guest Speaker, Rick Batt, will discuss cephalopods through the ages.

Vote for Board of Director Officers

Presentation of Founder's Shell Award

Shell of the Month: None. Wanna take a turn? If so, see Pat Weaver or Sue Castle.

True or False:

All cephalopods are strictly carnivores.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS:

The slate of officers for the coming year include: Co-Presidents: Martha Dehne and Meredith Blain; Vice President: Leslie Furmage; Treasurer: Judy Kauk; Secretary: Diane Gallagher; Board Members at Large (three positions): Marilyn Boyd, Linda Powers, and Karen Blackford. The vote for officers will take place at the March General meeting. Thank you to this year's Nominating Committee: Pam Desruisseaux, Jackie Hall, and Suzanne Skalski.



Shellcrafters

Create a Charming Resin

Friday, March 25

10 AM Englewood Elks Club

Team Leaders are Leslie Furmage, Cindy Boyd, and Colleen Fosnough

February 3: During the month of February, Lemon Bay Fest celebrated the history of Englewood. Thank you to the following members who created a gorgeous curio display at the Elsie Quirk Library: Diane Herger, Martha Dehne, Aria Catterson, Linda King, Jane Guy, & Carolyn Robinette. Contact Meredith Blain if you would like to join the Outreach Team.



February 5: Shell Study: Scrub-a-Dub-Dub—Shell Cleaning Your Goodies led by Candy Niziol. Thank you, Candy!



Moon jellies (*Aurelia aurita*) have a saucer like bell that is clear except for four lobe-shape gonads arranged in a cloverleaf pattern. Color of the gonads ranges violet-pink to yellow. Moon jellies have hundreds of short, marginal tentacles and four frilly oral “arms.” Source: *Florida’s Living Beaches* by Blair and Dawn Witherington

February 10: Palm Island Thank you, Excursion Team Leader, Marty Atkins!



Cindy Boyd Wins Two Blue Ribbons and a Plaque at Sarasota Shell Show!



Left: Santa and his Peeps won First Place in the Holiday theme category
 Middle: The Shell Vase won First Place in the Best of Art with Shell Motif
 Right: Special plaque won for the Best of Art with Shell Motif

Tuesday, April 12: **NEW VENUE**

LUAU VENUE

Maxine Barritt Park
 800 Harbor Dr S, Venice, FL



Maxine Barritt was a community activist who lobbied to have this be a passive park when it was being built around 2010. The park is in Venice city limits but is maintained by Sarasota County.

Its large picnic pavilion affords one of the most beautiful Gulf views in the area. The park has walking trails around a manmade lake, restrooms and plenty of parking. It is adjacent to the Brohad Paw Park on one side and Sharky's restaurant and the Venice Fishing Pier on the other.



Here's the Scoop:

The luau starts at 11 AM. Cost per member is \$15. Sign-up and payment may be made by check at the March General meeting or by snail mailing it to Pam Desruisseaux no later than April 1.

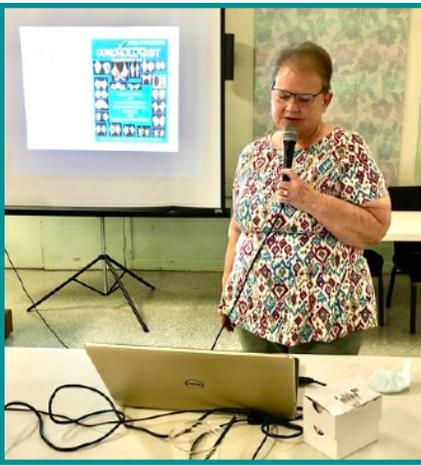


Social Team Leader, Pam Desruisseaux, says a prize will be given to the member wearing the best luau themed outfit. In addition to food and fun, there will also be a photo booth if you wish to have your picture taken alone or with friends!

February 15: The General meeting featured a Shell and Shell Craft Sale. Thank you organizers Linda Hamilton and Judy Kauk and their assistant, Karen Blackford. Members were also treated to two Guest speakers.



Guest speaker, Executive Director of the Barrier Island Parks Society, Sharon McKenzie, spoke about the rich history of Cayo Costa and the documentary *Mullets and Mangroves*. The international award winning 30 minute film features historical research and interviews with the few remaining pioneers who grew up on Cayo Costa as well as tracing the island's inhabitants from its native Casula origins, to Spanish colonization, through modern day fishing families.



Karlynn Morgan, President of Conchologists of America (COA), brought greetings from COA and answered the question: What does COA do for you?

She covered some of the many activities of COA from publishing the journal *American Conchologist* which includes shell show listings as well as scientific papers, grants and awards, annual convention, and high quality photographs of live shells. Contact Linda Powers to obtain a Membership application.



Shell of the Month was presented by Kathy Cycak. She spoke about cowries as a group and also described a few of the most rare. Thank you, Kathy for the informative talk and beautiful display of your favorite shell family.

Shell Talk by Jackie Hall, librarian

Urosalpinx cinerea: UR' oh sal pin ix sin EAR' ee uh (Atlantic oyster drill)

Vokesinotus perrugatus: voke SIN' oh tus per ru GAH' tus (Gulf oyster drill)

Calotrophon ostrearum: kal oh TROH' fon oh STRAY' um (mauve-mouth drill)

Eupleura sulcidentata: yu PLUR' uh sul sid' en TAH' tuh (sharp-ribbed drill)

Eupleura caudata: yu PLUR' uh kaw DAH' tuh (thick-lipped drill)



Did You Know? Drills pierce oysters by secreting shell-softening acids and rasping with their toothy radula. The resulting hole is round and tapering to a small pinpoint, just wide enough for the drill to insert digestive enzymes and withdraw the oyster soup.

Source: Florida's Living Beaches by Blair and Dawn Witherington (Second Edition 2017)



- 25th ANNIVERSARY -
DECALS
\$ 3.00 ea 2 for \$5.00

SHELL FABRIC
CARD HOLDER
\$ 10.00

look at pins &
links amount
available



Meetings are 3rd Tues of month
(Oct-March) at 1pm
Elks Lodge 401 N Indiana Ave
in Englewood, FL
Guest speakers, shell study,
craft sessions, shell excursions,
& more.
Come & join the fun!
Bringing Shell Seekers together since 1996

englewoodshell.club
info@englewoodshell.club
Englewood Shell Club
Englewood Shell Club

IF you would like to purchase any or all of these items, visit the Merchandise table at March General meeting.

These beautiful "business cards" are a brand new way to share information about Englewood Shell Club. See Martha Dehne if you would like a few. Thank you to our talented designers, Candy Niziol and Karen Blackford.

Extreme Low Tides

N — S

← Add 1 hour — Don Pedro Island — Deduct 30 mins →

A minus low tide is any tide that drops below sea level. They are identified on a tide chart with negative numbers. A minus low tide occurs when the sun & moon are aligned, typically around the full moon. The pull of both then causes extremes in the low/high tides.

Tuesday	3/1	6:41am	-0.6
Thursday	3/3	7:44 am	-0.3
Wednesday	3/16	7:22 am	-0.3
Sunday	3/27	5:05 am	-0.4

New Moon 3/1
Full moon 3/16
WORM MOON

There are no upcoming Super Moons until June 2022.

Thinking Ahead

Believe it or Not: ESC will kick off its 27th year in September of 2022. Per usual, a newsletter will be published every month, September through April. In addition to club news, each edition features a bit of this and that. The Newsletter Editor invites all members to help replenish her Tidbits folder by emailing Lisa Ketner your shell: photographs, recipes, poems, stories, cartoons, book reviews, craft inspirations, & other shell related "stuff."



For Sale:

Each lightning whelk pendant is \$10. The total sales amount will be donated to the ESC kitty. You may purchase one or more of these beautiful clay pieces created by Linda Schmoyer at the March General meeting. Thank you for your generous gift, Linda!



March 19 & 20, 2022
Sat: 9AM–5PM
Sun: 10AM–4PM

Florida State Fairgrounds

Intersection of I-4 & Hwy 301, just east of Tampa.

FOSSILS & ARTIFACTS

GEMS - MINERALS - SHELLS - FOSSIL EXHIBITS
WORKSHOPS - KIDS GAMES - FOSSIL MINE
RAFFLES - DOOR PRIZES - SILENT AUCTIONS

**FLORIDA'S LARGEST
PREHISTORIC SHOW!**

TICKETS

AVAILABLE AT DOOR
\$8 ADULTS
12 AND UNDER FREE

PALEO WORKSHOPS

Learn about Florida's prehistoric past in a FossilFest workshop! Experienced collectors will teach you how to find, identify, and preserve fossil treasures of your very own! All workshops are FREE to FossilFest attendees!

Saturday & Sunday

DISCOVERING FLORIDA'S FOSSIL TREASURES WITH TBFC'S DR. BOB SINIBALDI PHD. LEARN WHERE AND HOW TO FIND FOSSILS OF YOUR OWN RIGHT HERE IN FLORIDA

FLORIDA'S FOSSIL VERTEBRATES & THE FOSSIL HUNTING PERMIT WITH DR. RICHARD HULBERT PHD OF THE FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY. IT'S CHEAP AND EASY! LEARN HOW TO GET YOUR FOSSIL PERMIT AND PARTICIPATE IN THE SCIENCE OF PALEONTOLOGY.

FOSSIL IDENTIFICATION: WITH DR. BOB SINIBALDI AND DR. RICHARD HULBERT.

FLORIDA FOSSIL HUNTING PERMIT: APPLICATIONS & RENEWALS, JUST \$5.

Be part of the adventure!
JOIN TBFC TODAY!

tampabayfossilclub.com

facebook



Excursion in the Wings

Shell Key Preserve
Thursday, March 24
8:30 – 11:30

\$25 per person

Includes tax and tip

Contact is Marty Atkins

The ride to Shell Key Preserve is the Shell Key Shuttle 801, Pass-a-Grille Way, St Petersburg Beach. The shuttle is located at the Merry Pier on Pass-a-Grille (most southern end of St Pete Beach). Only street parking is available. A \$5 voucher can be purchased at the shuttle office.

A Story about a Shell Collector

Elizabeth was the wife of Rear Admiral William Bligh, famous for the mutiny of his crew on HMS Bounty in 1789. Contrary to his portrayal in the Hollywood films, the events of the mutiny have been debated ever since; he was officially exonerated and although stern, history tells us he wasn't the tyrant he was made out to be. In the event, he managed to navigate the remaining crew to Timor – an incredible 3,618 nautical miles (6,700k m or 4,160 miles) in an open longboat, skills learned from his time sailing with Captain James Cook. In 1794 he was awarded The Society Arts medal for his remarkable navigational feat which lasted 42 days. His wife, Elizabeth, who he called Betsy, was by all accounts a refined, charming and well-educated woman who added to our knowledge of the natural world through her celebrated shell collection.

She was born Elizabeth Betham in Glasgow in 1751. Her early life was spent in the Isle of Man and her father, Richard Betham, was the Collector of Customs at Douglas. During her life on the island, she started her fledgling career as a conchologist, i.e. a shell collector.

As her father worked with sea captains, Elizabeth would have had many opportunities to acquire shells from seafarers and hear the stories of their origin. She met William Bligh in 1780 soon after his return from Captain Cook's third and fatal voyage aboard Resolution on which Bligh had served as Master. It was an instant love match which became a successful marriage

on Valentine's Day in 1781 at Onchan on the Isle of Man. Her shell collection became a symbol of love between them as William would collect shells and present them to her on his return from voyages.

Socially well connected and a great asset to William's career, Elizabeth became his greatest ally and stood by him and campaigned for him throughout their lives together. William was known to be a difficult, blustery and vainglorious man and it is thought she may have been his only true friend. He did, however, have two patrons: Sir Joseph Banks the famous botanist and Elizabeth's uncle Duncan Campbell. Campbell was an influential shipowner, merchant and overseer of the convict hulks on the Thames

We know that William was devoted to Elizabeth and sourced most of her shells during his voyages, including detailed notes which allowed her to share in his exploration and voyages. The resulting eclectic collection is tangible proof of the places he visited which included Australia, East Indies, Jamaica, Fiji and many of the Pacific islands.

Through her husband, she would have heard stories and been well informed about his voyages and would have certainly heard about that last voyage on Resolution and the death of Captain James Cook. Elizabeth was also a friend of Sir Joseph Banks and through him would have known the leading lights in London and The Royal Society of which he became President.

After a stellar career in the Navy rising to Admiral, William Bligh was appointed Governor of New South Wales on 14 August 1806 but Elizabeth declined to join him and stayed in London. She was used to a marriage that meant spending long years apart but she probably missed a great chance to collect shells for herself.



Elizabeth had a beautiful cabinet made for her collection which was six feet wide, over four feet high and 2 feet in depth. It contained 40 drawers made of mahogany and the interior was lined with wood from Botany Bay. Her most valuable shell was the Imperial Volute (pictured left which was sold separately after her death for nearly £9, which was a fortune for a shell at the time.

In 1811, pictures of a few of Elizabeth's shells were published in "Conchology, or the Natural History of Shells" by George Perry. Elizabeth died aged 59 in 1812 and her entire collection was bought by John Mauwe, a dealer in The Strand, London. After studying the shells, in 1821 he published "The Voyager's Companion or Shell Collectors Pilot".

This was considered the world's first shell collecting guide and was followed in 1822 by "Catalogue of the Rare and Valuable Shells which formed The Celebrated Collection of the late Mrs Bligh" written by William Swainson in London. The appendix contained scientific descriptions of many new species and where they were found.

What is left of Mrs Bligh's shells?

Pictures of a few of Elizabeth's shells were published in "Conchology, or the Natural History of Shells" by George Perry in 1811, and pictures of a further six shells appeared in William Swainson's "Exotic Conchology" a decade later.

William Broderip, the buyer of the *Voluta papillosa* offered his entire collection to the British Museum in 1836. There it was examined and declared to be 'one of the most valuable collections as a consequence of the great attention paid by Mr Broderip to purchase none but the finest that could be procured.

Later, after the establishment of the Natural History Museum in London, Broderip's collection was transferred there, and today, an online search of the collection database indicates that a

single specimen of *Voluta papillosa* from his collection survives. Listed as Lot 1018 in the 1822 auction catalogue, Elizabeth's shell is now the holotype specimen. A holotype, or type specimen, is a valuable original specimen that is either the first known or the only of its kind and is used to describe a new species.

This article was published in July of 2021. It was written by [Lynn Walker](#), a volunteer of Crush Museum, England, and was condensed and re-named by Lisa Ketner.

February 17: Carefree Learner Excursion Thank you Anita Wilson for substituting for Team Leader, Carol Ayres



Sea urchins are echinoderms, and are part of the class Echinoidea. They are very versatile, and can be found in all of the world's oceans. Sea urchins typically live on the seafloor and can be found in shallow coral reefs, tide pools, seagrass beds and kelp forests. They can live in zero-depth tide pools, and have been found living in water as deep as 5,000 meters. Sea urchins usually move slowly. They feed on algae through a rasping mouth part called a "mouth arm," which consists of a series of calcareous, finger-like parts called "Aristotle's lantern." Source: Florida-Guidebook.com

ROVING EXPERIENCE - SHELLS OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

When: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 10:00 am-1:30 am

Where: Koreshan State Park

3800 Corkscrew Road, Estero, FL

Directions: Meets in front of the art hall.

Fees: Program is free with paid park entry.

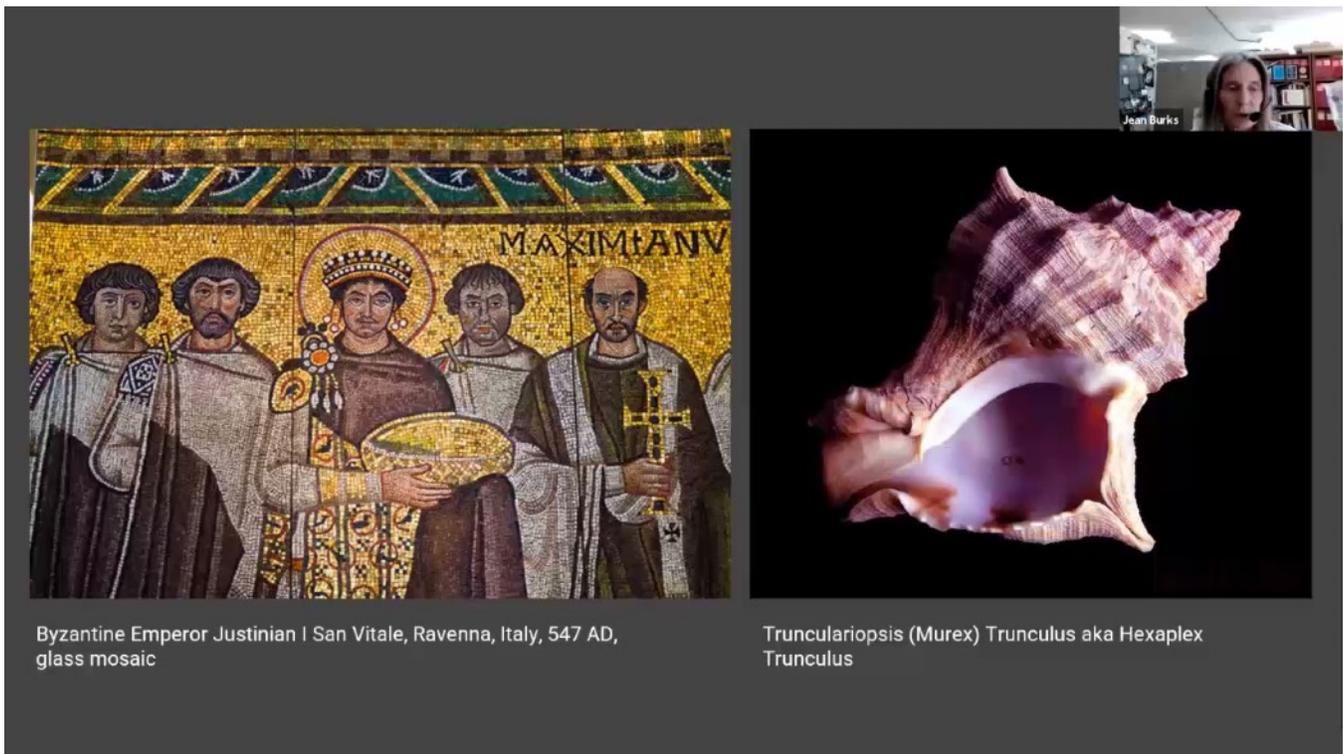
Program Description: Find out how shells are created, and learn about behaviors, anatomy plus some fun facts. There will be opportunities to hold and see the shells of species that live in the Gulf of Mexico and Estero Bay. The session is informal, and attendees may come and go as needed.

Contact: Michael.Duey@FloridaDEP.gov

Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum:

Artistic Adaptations: 2,000 Years of Seashells in Art

To activate 34 minute video: Click left photo and then the arrow inside circle



Byzantine Emperor Justinian I San Vitale, Ravenna, Italy, 547 AD, glass mosaic

Trunculariopsis (Murex) Trunculus aka Hexaplex Trunculus

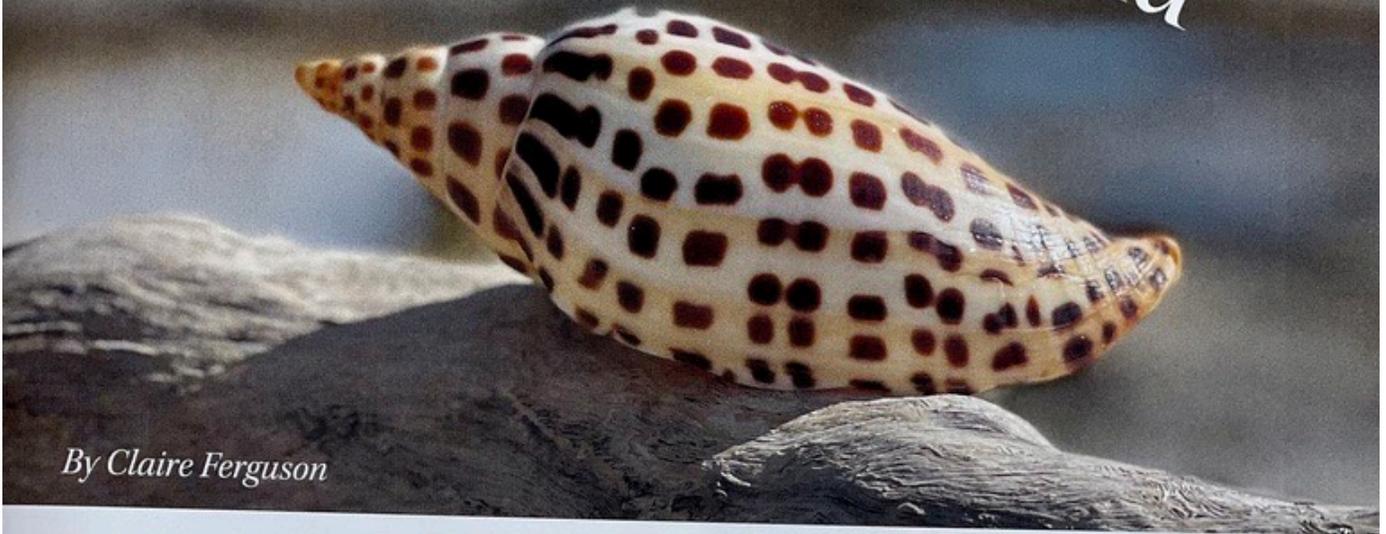


Karen Paulsen Wins Red Ribbon at Sarasota Shell Show!

“Lasting Beauty,” shown left, won second place in the Topiary Category

Patti Redmond asks: Please come to the Merchandise table this month and pick up your order.

Scaphella Junonia



By Claire Ferguson

The junonia shell is considered by many shell enthusiasts to be the Holy Grail of shelling. Some shellers spend a lifetime searching for the rare, coveted gem, flocking to the beaches of Sanibel and Ten Thousand Islands in Florida hoping to discover this infamous beauty. But what about the creature that once lived inside of it? Residing in the deep waters of the Gulf Coast, information about the animal inside the shell can be just as elusive as the shell itself, although there have been some recent discoveries.

The species is called *Scaphella junonia*, a large sea snail named after the Roman goddess, Juno, a powerful and fierce warrior, majestic in size and beauty. The striking spindle-shaped shells are cream-colored with rows of contrasting dark-brown dots that decorate the exterior. The shell swirls itself into a point with an aperture about three-quarters of the length. Adult shells typically grow to about three or four inches, although the largest ever recorded junonia shell measured over six inches and was found in 1972 in Mexico. So far, two



other Junonia subspecies have been found. The *Scaphella junonia butleri* found off the Yucatán Peninsula (Mexico, Belize, and Guatemala) is slightly lighter in color with faded spots. And the *Scaphella junonia johnstoneae* found in Alabama's waters appears almost striped due to the spots being darker and closer together. Additional subspecies could be waiting to be discovered.

The mollusks are gastropods, which means they move with a singular, muscled "foot," able to flap, swim, climb, and burrow into the sand, which

This page: Photos by Amanda Collett.

Right: Live *Scaphella junonia* snail, Rebecca Mensch, Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum. Below: *Junonia* shells and fragments as found on the beach, Meredith Blain.

is how they spend most of their time. Junonias live miles offshore and deep underwater, from 90 to 425 feet below the surface, which makes the shells difficult to find. It takes powerful wave action to wash the empty shells up to shore, and if they do withstand the rough, tumbling waters they are often damaged or found in pieces. "I know many avid shellers who have shelled 50 years or more and have never even seen a piece of a junonia shell," says collector Amanda Collett. "Shellers who do find whole perfect junonias are most definitely the lucky ones." Shellers recommend searching the beach after a big storm or hurricane for a better chance of finding a junonia shell, as heavy winds tend to stir up deeper ocean material.



Because so little is known about the *Scaphella junonia*, marine biologist Rebecca Mensch from The Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum decided to pursue further research on the species. In 2018, she joined Dr. Gregory Herbert from University of South Florida, Tampa, and his research crew on an expedition to the Gulf of Mexico. Using a dredge box, they were able to find





three live male junonia snails, which Dr. Herbert agreed to loan to the museum for further study. The snails are currently on display in the Living Gallery at the museum, offering a glimpse of the stunning, yellow-and-black-spotted body of the snail. At the front of the soft “foot,” you can make out a distinct face with tentacles sticking out like a mustache. Although cute, don’t let these charming little critters fool you—they are powerful, deadly, self-sufficient predators.

Researchers at the museum observed that the junonias prefer to dine on the lettered olive, a slightly smaller gastropod mollusk. What’s interesting about the junonia is its uncommon feeding style. Captured on video, the junonia strikes the lettered olive from the side with a retracting proboscis that has a mouth on the end, causing the olive to recoil abruptly. Initially, it appears the lettered olive is dead, but it is likely immobilized by a sort of muscle relaxer. Mensch observed one lettered olive being stunned and then moving around again 15 minutes

later, before eventually being eaten by the junonia overnight. A cloudy milky white substance was released upon attack indicating a possible salivary venom, but further research is needed to be certain. Photographs also captured a green film around the junonia engulfing the lettered olive with its foot, perhaps excreted from one of the animals.

While much has been discovered about this remarkable species, many mysteries remain. The scientists at Bailey-Matthews are hoping to answer more questions about the reproduction, growth, and lifespan of the junonia. “When and if you find a special shell like the junonia, you will never forget the experience of that magical moment,” adds Amanda.

View the live junonia snails at the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum or watch them on YouTube at youtu.be/19A5UAL5G8A. Read about and see photos of the junonia feeding on the lettered olive: Leal, José H, and Rebecca A Mensch. “Swift Strike by the Gastropod Scaphella Junonia on Its Gastropod Prey Americoliva Sayana.” Bulletin of Marine Science 95.1 27–28.

Top: Live Scaphella junonia snail, Rebecca Mensch, Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum.