

**THE GULF COAST SHELL CLUB, INC.**  
proudly presents its  
**24th SHELL SHOW!**



The **Gulf Coast Shell Club** invites you to join us for our 24th Shell Show celebration  
October 21, 2023 through October 22, 2023  
at the Lyndell Conference Center, 423 Lyndell Lane, Panama City Beach, FL 32407.

The show will be open to the public:

Saturday, October 21 from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM CDT  
and  
Sunday, October 22 from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM CDT

Exhibits will be received on Friday, October 20, 2023 from noon until 5:00 PM. Judging will begin at 5:15 PM on Friday. Club members will be on hand to assist exhibitors during set-up hours.

Scientific judges : Kevan and Linda Sunderland  
Artistic judges: To be announced

An awards banquet\* will be held on Saturday at 5:30 PM. Details will be announced at a later date. Judges, exhibitors, club members, dealers, families and guests are invited to attend.

We look forward to having you join us!

**Members of the Gulf Coast Shell Club**

Co-chairs- Don and Charity Kotval Ph. (931) 215-4689  
Email - dkotval59@gmail.com

Artistic Chairman - Carol Mitchell Ph.(850) 640-9688  
Email - carol.mitchell677@gmail.com

# 2023 GULF COAST SHELL SHOW

## SCIENTIFIC CATEGORIES

- A. **NOVICE:** Any source. Open to exhibitors who have never exhibited in an open show.
- B. **NORTHWEST FLORIDA:** Any source. Northwest Florida is defined as that area west of a line due south of St Teresa, Florida to a line extending due south of the western Florida state line
- C. **ONE LARGE FAMILY:** Any source. An exhibit should consist of specimens from one of the following families: Conidae, Muricidae, Volutidae, or Cypraeidae.
- D. **SUBFAMILY:** An examination of a subfamily of one of the large families listed in Category C.
- E. **ONE SMALL FAMILY:** Any source. An exhibit consisting of specimens found in any single family not listed in Category C.
- F. **FLORIDA-CARIBBEAN:** Any source. Specimens must be from the Caribbean Province and those portions of the Carolinian Province adjacent to Florida.
- G. **WORLDWIDE MULTI-FAMILY:** Any source. Exhibit of worldwide marine specimens from several families.
- H. **ONE GENUS:** Any source. An exhibit which includes shells from only one genus and may include its subgenera.
- I. **SELF-COLLECTED:** An exhibit of self-collected marine mollusks.
- J. **SPECIALIZED:** Any source. Exhibit may contain unusual specimens, freaks, albinos, dwarfs, or giants of particular species. The exhibit may contain any number of species.
- K. **SINGLE SPECIMEN:** Any source. Exhibit of one outstanding specimen.
- L. **SINGLE SPECIMEN:** Self-collected. Exhibit of one outstanding self-collected specimen.
- M. **MEMBER COLLECTED SHELL OF THE SHOW:** A single specimen self-collected by a member of the Gulf Coast Shell Club. Exhibit may be marine, land or freshwater.
- N. **EDUCATIONAL:** Any source. The prime objective of this exhibit must be to teach about shells, shell collecting, or the history thereof.
- O. **MINIATURE:** Any source. Limited to shells measuring one inch or less when **adult**.
- P. **STUDENT:** Any source. Open to collectors under eighteen years of age.
- Q. **NON-MARINE MOLLUSKS:** Any source. May be freshwater, land, or tree specimens. See Rules for Exhibitors for self-collected provisions.

- R. **SEA LIFE:** Marine plants and/or animals. (Examples: corals, echinoderms, sea beans, etc.)
- S. **FOSSIL:** Any source. An exhibit of fossil marine mollusks. See Rules for Exhibitors for self-collected provisions.
- T. **CREATIVE:** An exhibit of 1 case (24" or greater) that tells a complete story within the case. You may also use a backboard.
- U. **PROFESSIONAL:** Open to professional dealers only and eligible for 1st, 2nd, 3rd ribbons only. See Rules for Exhibitors for professional definition.
- V. **BEACH SHELLS:** Self collected shells obtained by the exhibitor on the beach, from wading or from beach restoration projects.

### **ARTISTIC CATEGORIES**

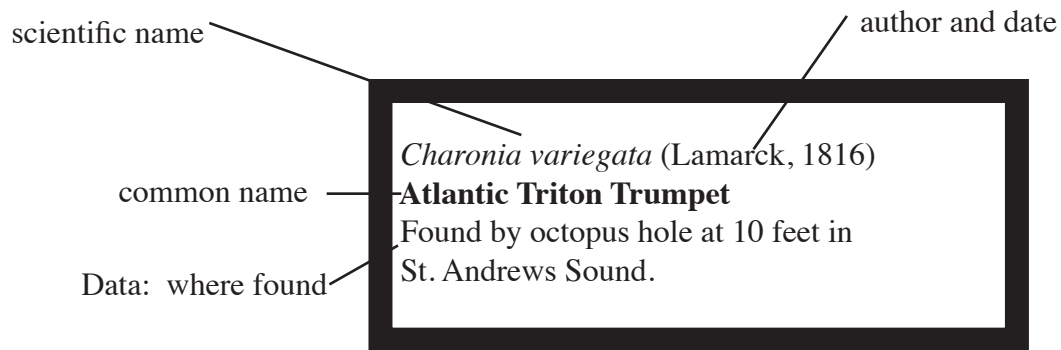
All entries must be the work of the exhibitor. With the exception of Category 13, art and craft items may have materials used in construction that are shells, shell particles, and/or other seashore materials such as sea urchins, sea beans, starfish, etc. The theme of each entry must be shells/sealife. An exhibitor is limited to 3 entries per category.

1. **SHELLCRAFT:** Novelties such as animals, people etc. that are made from shells/sealife.
2. **SHELL NEEDLEWORK:** Original design. This may be cross-stitch, applique, or quilts.
3. **SHELL NEEDLEWORK:** from kit.
4. **SHELL PHOTOGRAPHY -** Any that pertains to shells and/or sea life. Subjects may be natural or still life. Photo must be matted and may be framed.
5. **WREATHS and WALL HANGINGS: ( not Christmas )**
6. **SHELL MIRRORS:** All sizes. All entries must have appropriate hangers. If entry is over 4 lbs, the method of display is at the discretion of the committee.
7. **SHELL DECORATED OBJECTS:** May be decorated boxes, baskets, etc. Item does not have to be completely covered by shells.
8. **CHRISTMAS RELATED ITEMS:** Wreaths, centerpieces, ornaments, etc. whose primary structure is shells and/or sealife.
9. **FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS:** Arrangements made primarily of shells.
10. **JEWELRY AND PERSONAL ACCESSORIES:** Earrings, bracelets, necklaces, belts, etc. made from shells, sealife or facsimiles thereof. For security these items must be in a covered case. See rules for case requirements.
11. **SAILOR'S VALENTINE:** Must be made and designed by the exhibitor. Frame may be purchased.
12. **SHELL PAINTINGS:** Original painting/drawing of shells in oil, acrylic or water color.
13. **CREATED SHELLS:** Shells and/or sealife made from materials that are NOT shells. ( Example: shells made from paper or wood)

14. **STUDENT SHELLCRAFT** See **Category 1** above. This must be made by a student using shells and/or sealife or decorated with shells and/or sealife. There are two divisions of this category each eligible for place ribbons. **A.** Student age 5 to 10 years. **B.** Student age 11 to 17. Please note on entry whether **A** or **B**.
15. **DRAWING:** All entries must be made with the use of graphite, charcoal, black India Ink, color lead pencils, crayons or markers. All entries must be the original design of shells and/or sea-life created by the exhibitor. Entries must be matted and/or framed.
16. **PROFESSIONAL:** Open to professional shell artists and eligible for 1st, 2nd, 3rd ribbons only. See **Rules for Exhibitors** for professional definition.

## RULES FOR EXHIBITORS

1. Entries are open to interested persons except current professional dealers (see Categories U & 16). Entry forms must be received NLT **September 22, 2023**. Entries received after this date will be accepted on a space available basis only. All entries must comply with the **Rules for Exhibitors**, no exceptions. All times are CDT.
2. No exhibits will be accepted during the show. Exhibits will be accepted on Friday, October 20, 2023 from 12:00 PM until 5 PM CDT and must remain in place until the close of the show on Sunday, October 22 at 5:00 PM. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor(s) or his/her proxy to set up and disassemble each exhibit. Layout information will be available at the entrance during set up times. Layout diagrams may be electronically sent to exhibitors prior to the show if possible. Judging will begin at 5:15 PM CDT.
3. Contents of the exhibits must be the sole property of the exhibitor(s).
4. **SELF-COLLECTED:** Each shell so designated must have been personally collected by the exhibitor(s). If exhibit is totally self-collected, the exhibitor may incorporate "self-collected" in the title of the exhibit. If the exhibitor(s) wishes a single specimen or specimens that are part of a larger display to have a self-collected designation, he/she must denote the specimen as such by the placement of a colored dot or star on the label.
5. The **Gulf Coast Shell Club** reserves the right to refuse any exhibit which does not meet the standards of the show.
6. The name of the exhibitor(s) may not be shown on any entry until after judging. At that time the show clerks will place the exhibitors' names by their displays. If artistic entries are signed or initialed, please cover the name or initials with tape or other suitable materials.
7. Exhibitors may enter as many categories as they desire or are eligible to enter but in the Artistic Division each may have no more than 3 entries per category. No single entry may be entered in more than one category.
8. Entries must be placed in some sort of sturdy container, cabinet, or drawer and covered by either glass or clear plexiglass. Artistic exhibits are excluded from this rule except for Category 10.
9. If vertical backboards are used in an exhibit they shall not exceed 32" in height from the top of the supporting table and the reverse side shall be painted or covered in such a way that it does not detract from the display on the other side of the table.
10. There is no maximum length of exhibits however, because of the configuration at the site, exhibits may turn a corner. It is advisable that exhibits be constructed so that they may be set up for viewing from either direction.
11. Each specimen exhibited in a scientific category must be clearly and neatly labeled with the proper scientific name (genus and species), author, date and location in so far as possible. Common names are encouraged. Labeling via chart is allowed for aesthetic purposes. A label for scientific exhibits should include:



The scientific name may be in italics or regular type that is underlined.

12. Exhibitors may not be present during judging. Assigned clerks will accompany judges. All judges' decisions will be final.
13. If a display has previously won the duPont or Conchologist of America Award, or an entrant has previously won the Helen Norton Award, this must be noted on the entry form.
14. All packing materials must be removed from the show site during public viewing hours. No storage of materials under the display tables will be allowed.
15. A definition or description of a "region" must be defined and incorporated somewhere in the display if credit for such a display is desired.
16. Artistic Division pegboard space is limited. Please specify if you want hanging space. If you want your entry on an easel you must provide the easel. Easels and electrical outlets will not be provided.
17. All possible precautions will be taken to safeguard exhibits. However, neither the **Gulf Coast Shell Club, Inc.** nor the Lyndell Conference Center will be responsible for any loss or damage. All cases should be glass or plexiglas covered for safety. It is also recommended they be locked in some manner.
18. Professional in both divisions is defined as someone who has sold shells or shell creations to the public in an ongoing process for the purpose of personal profit.
19. If you feel that any rule needs to be exempted because of special circumstances involving the character of your exhibit, please consult a show chairman when entering. All possible efforts will be made to accommodate your exhibit. We will work with you should the need arise. We want your exhibit and our show to be a success!

Thank you for being part of the **Gulf Coast Shell Show!**

**AWARDS - 2023** The purpose of awards is to stimulate the entry of exhibits, to interest the public in our hobby, to stimulate a desire to learn about mollusks, and to reward the exhibitors for their work. The exhibits should not only inform but also interest observers in the scientific study of mollusks and in the creation of crafts and the artistic handling of seashells.

The judges consider neatness, attractiveness and originality of the exhibit, choice and quality of specimens and materials, accuracy of data and apparent amount of effort put into an exhibit as well as its educational and scientific and esthetic value. It is not mandatory that all awards be given if, in the judges' opinion, no exhibit merits any of the following awards, they will not be presented.

### SCIENTIFIC DIVISION\*

**The duPont Trophy:** This trophy is presented by the Delaware Museum of Nature and Science to the most outstanding exhibit of mollusks which, in the opinion of the judges, is the most inspiring and instructive for its educational value, scientific accuracy and attractiveness and which contributes most to the success of the show. This trophy may not be awarded to any exhibit which has won it previously.

**The Conchologists of America Grand Trophy:** This trophy will be presented to the exhibit of mollusks which the judges feel shows overall excellence and best furthers interest in conchology. It is awarded by the Conchologists of America. This trophy will not be awarded to an exhibit which has won this award previously.

**The Vokes Trophy:** Awarded to the best display, in the opinion of the judges, presenting a fairly balanced presentation of various families of gastropods and bivalves. Other classes may be included but should play a minor role. The display may be worldwide, regional, or from a local area and may include recent shells, fossil shells, or a combination of both. This trophy honors the work of Drs. Emily and Harold Vokes. To qualify an exhibit must contain at least 10% bivalves (Example: If your exhibit has 100 shells at least 10 must be bivalves. If your entry qualifies please check the “yes” box on the Scientific Entry form. Eligible categories are: A, B, F, G, I, J, N, O, P, S, T, and V.

**Helen Norton Award:** Presented to the best display, in the opinion of the judges, of self-collected marine mollusks. This award may not be presented to exhibitors who have won it previously.

**Most Educational:** Awarded to the best educational exhibit in the show. An exhibit does not have to be entered in the Educational Category to be eligible but the prime objective must be to teach about shells or the history of shelling.

**Exhibitors’ Award:** Presented to the most outstanding exhibit in the show in the opinion of the exhibitors.

**Frozen Dip-Net Award:** Presented to the best exhibit of Northwest Florida Shells.

**Shell of the Show:** Awarded to the single most outstanding specimen in the show in categories A through P and S, T and V.

**Self-Collected Shell of the Show:** Awarded to the most outstanding self-collected shell categories A through P and S, T and V.

**Member Collected Shell of the Show:** Awarded to the best self-collected shell collected by a member of the Gulf Coast Shell Club. Specimens in categories A - Q and S, T, and V are eligible. Specimens must be labeled as self-collected.

**Student Award:** Awarded to the most outstanding exhibit by an exhibitor under the age of eighteen.

**Founder’s Award:** Awarded to the most beautiful exhibit of mollusks.

## **ARTISTIC DIVISION\***

**Artistic Excellence Award.:** Presented to the best overall entry, in the opinion of the judges, in this division.

**Originality Award:** Presented to the most original exhibit. Originality will be judged on subject, materials, and composition.

**Student Award:** Best exhibit by a student age 17 or younger.

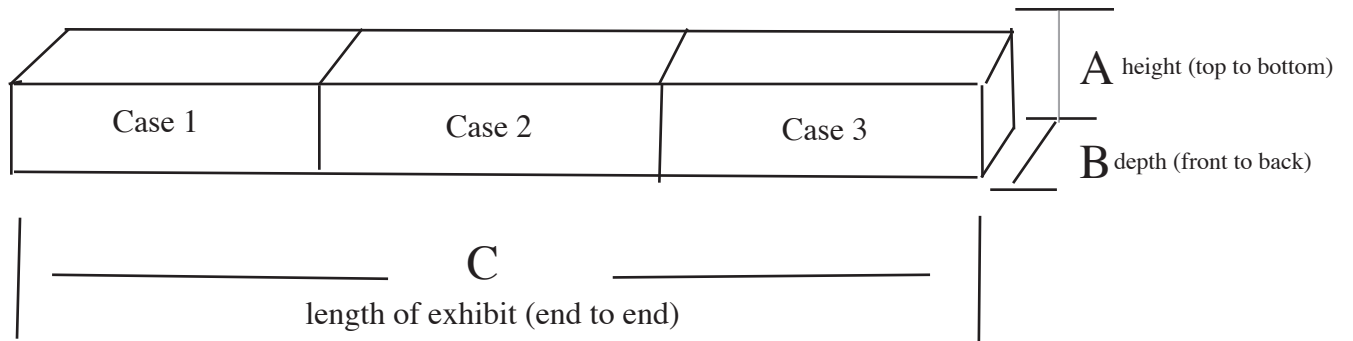
\*With the exceptions of the Vokes Trophy and Founder’s Award, all listed awards are plaques unless otherwise stated.

## **Rosettes**

Judges’ Special Awards: These green rosettes will be awarded to the judges’ choice of exhibits deserving special recognition beyond place ribbons. Two will be available per division.

Place: First, second and third place ribbons in each category will be available for the judges’ use. Honorable Mention ribbons are available if the judges choose.

### Diagram for displays in cases.

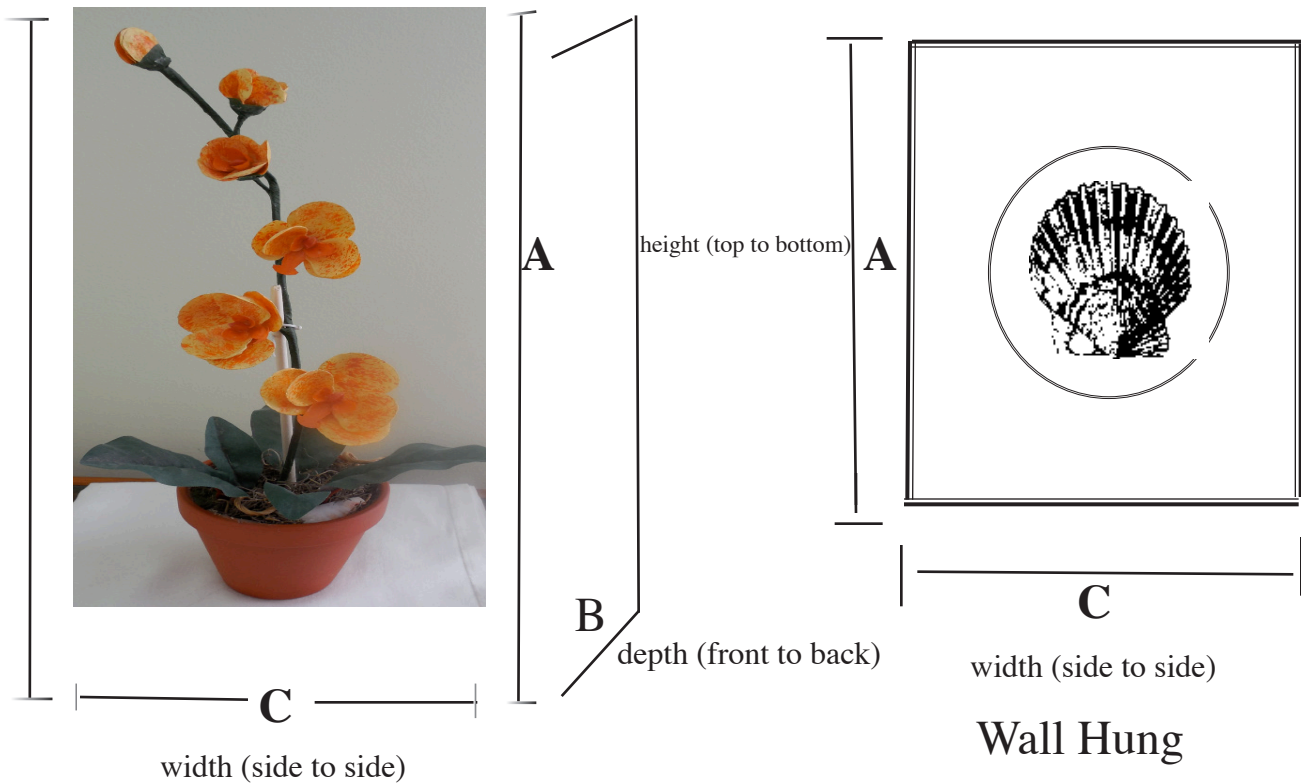


**A = height (top to bottom)**

**B = depth (front to back)**

**C = length (end to end)**

### Diagrams for artistic displays not in cases.



**Table Top**

**Wall Hung**

**A = height** height (top to bottom)

**B = depth** depth (front to back)

**C = width** width (side to side)

# GULF COAST SHELL SHOW

## Scientific Entry Form

NAME(as it will appear after judging):\_\_\_\_\_ Please print clearly.

ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE(     )\_\_\_\_\_ CELL (     )\_\_\_\_\_

SHELL CLUB AFFILIATION:\_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL\_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORY LETTER	NO. OF CASES	OVERALL EXHIBIT SIZE			CIRCLE OTHER MAJOR AWARDS WON BY THIS EXHIBIT (IF ANY) AND TITLE
		HEIGHT (A)	DEPTH (B)	LENGTH (C)	
					Title:  Awards: previously won by this exhibit: COA duPont Eligible for Vokes': yes_____ no_____ (see rules)
					Title:  Awards: previously won by this exhibit: COA duPont Eligible for Vokes': yes_____ no_____ (see rules)

Have you ever won the Helen Norton yes\_\_\_\_\_ no\_\_\_\_\_

If exhibit is that of a professional shell dealer please see category U and check here\_\_\_\_\_.

GULF COAST SHELL CLUB, INC., EXHIBITOR'S WAIVER

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereinafter known as the "Exhibitor", in consideration of being permitted to take part in this exhibition beginning Friday, October 20, 2024 through October 22, 2023 at the Lyndell Conference Center, Panama City Beach, FL, do hereby agree to indemnify the **Gulf Coast Shell Club, Inc.**, and Lyndell Conference Center and further hold them harmless from and against claims, actions, damages and liability in connection with loss of life, personal injury and or damage or loss of property arising out of the use of such premises or any part thereof by the Exhibitor, whether caused by negligence or otherwise of the **Gulf Coast Shell Club, Inc.**, its agents, contractors or employees, or by the employees, agents or contractors of the Lyndell Conference Center.

I have read the **Gulf Coast Shell Club, Inc.** Exhibitor's waiver and also the Shell Show Rules and agree to abide by both of them.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_

Signature (by parent if Exhibitor is a student)

ENTRY DEADLINE - September 22, 2023

Send entry to: Linda Brunner  
2511 Parkwood Drive  
Panama City, FL 32405

If entry not confirmed within 7 days contact Linda Brunner to ensure your entry was received.

email: jili1043@comcast.net







## The Gulf Coast Shell Show

### Awards Banquet Reservation Form\*

**Saturday Evening October 21, 2023, 5:30 pm CDT**

The awards banquet will be held at the Lyndell Conference Center in a separate room. Major awards will be presented at this time. Space is limited so it is important that we receive your reservation as soon as possible, The menu consists of chicken parmesan with pasta, mixed vegetables, Caesar salad, roll, tea and tiramisu for dessert.\*

Cost if \$30.00 per person.

Vegan menu can be accommodated, please indicate if needed.

Come join us and enjoy the festivities.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending (including yourself) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Gulf Coast Shell Club and send the form to  
Jim Brunner, 2511 Parkwood Dr., Panama City, FL 32405

Reservations with payment **must be received** by Friday, **September 22, 2023**. If your reservation is not confirmed within 5 days contact Jim Brunner (jili1043@comcast.net) to ensure your reservation was received.

\*If you have already sent a reservation and payment for the April date, we still have it and no action is required unless you requested a refund.