

Shell Museum News

Issue 61

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2007's *UNDER THE SEA* FUNDRAISER VERY SUCCESSFUL

The Third Annual *Under The Sea* Fundraiser, held at the Sundial Beach Resort on March 4, 2007, was a great evening for The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum. One hundred and nineteen attendees came out for the event. The Fundraiser proceeds will benefit the Museum's educational programs, including the very popular Adopt-A-Class program, which provides field trips to the Museum for Lee County's fourth-grade classes.

The festivities began with a sign-up for the silent auction. Among the items up for bidding were a handcrafted inlaid wood table by Fritz Neal, a stained glass seashell lamp donated by Carole Marshall, tickets to the Broadway Palm Dinner Theater, and a week-long stay for four people at the Clamshell Resort of Sanibel (donated by Wil Schlosser). The auction was accompanied by a raffle that included a Luc Century etched-glass piece, a beautiful framed mermaid print contributed by Anne and David Joffe, and a set of intricate glass nautilus candlesticks, courtesy of The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum Store.

Shortly after signing up for the raffle, guests were treated to lavish meals and good conversation with friends. The band Charisma played crowd favorites into the night, drawing even the most reluctant dancers out onto the floor. The celebration's biggest star was The Seahorse (pictured below), who stole a lot of dance partners and charmed his way into nearly every picture! Who says museum supporters and shell collectors aren't a wild crowd?

Dr. José H. Leal and the rest of The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum staff want to thank *Under The Sea* chairwoman Anne Joffe for organizing the amazing fundraising event and making it a huge hit again. Thank you Anne!

The Museum staff would like to thank the generous contributors. Also greatly appreciated was the media coverage by local newspapers. Thanks to all who made this phenomenal night possible!

For a complete list of *Under The Sea* silent auction contributors, see page 2.



(FROM LEFT) ANNE JOFFE GETS DOWN WITH THE NOW-FAMOUS SEAHORSE, RODGER BUNNELL, JEAN PISOR, AND DAVID JOFFE AT THE "UNDER THE SEA" FUNDRAISER ON MARCH 4, 2007. PHOTO COURTESY OF ELLEN LAI.

FROM THE DIRECTOR: MOLLUSKS ARE MANY!

Literature counts indicate that the number of mollusks formally named may reach 120,000 species. The phylum Mollusca is, as a result, second in number of species to Arthropoda (thanks to the class Insecta in this latter phylum, which alone boasts more than 800,000 named species). Distinguished Harvard zoologist Edward O. Wilson estimates that the total number of named species, including animals, bacteria, fungi, and plants, hovers between 1.5 and 1.8 million. But are numbers of named species accurate approximations of the true magnitude of the biodiversity lying out there? Not quite so, apparently. Biodiversity specialists, including Wilson himself, reckon that the actual total number of species on the planet resides somewhere between 10 and 100 million. Yes, I agree, some of these estimates may sound outlandish at first.

Why such big discrepancies between the numbers of named species and the estimates for the actual totals present on Earth? (The estimates are between 5 and 50 times the number of named species.) One of the reasons is that vast numbers of bacteria, fungi, insects, mites, and other small critters are largely ignored or overlooked in most natural surveys and taxonomic work. In addition, the lack of proper inventory data for most areas of the planet, including tropical rainforests and almost the entire abyssal part of the oceans, may contribute to the lack of adequate biodiversity records.

One example that revisits biodiversity in marine mollusks comes to mind: In an influential article published in 2002, Philippe Bouchet and his colleagues from the National Museum of Natural History in Paris demonstrated that "a massive collecting effort" in a coral reef lagoon in New Caledonia yielded 2738 species of marine mollusks for that relatively small area. The richness of mollusks they found was about 10 times higher than what was reported in the literature for similar sites in the past. Is that New Caledonia richness of mollusks truly very different from the richness described for the other sites? Probably not, Bouchet and colleagues offered in their report. The difference resides instead in the methodologies employed for sampling, sorting, and species identification. The Bouchet group includes a large group of professionals working in all kinds of marine habitats for days in a row. Surveys include tiny micromollusks as small as 0.5 mm (about 1/64 inch). Preliminary sorting and identification is done in the field. The results are very effective, yielding a better approximation of the actual biodiversity in the study area. If "Bouchet groups" could be cloned and let loose to sample the entire biodiversity of planet Earth, it is not unlikely that we could see confirmed some of those seemingly outlandish estimates of global biodiversity.

— José H. Leal, Ph.D.

THE 2007 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PARTY



FROM LEFT: MARY ANN GILHOOLEY, MYRA LEGG, EVELYN AND GENE SPENCER

The Museum held its Annual Volunteer Recognition Party on March 12, 2007, to honor the hard-working docents that contributed volunteer hours between the dates of January 1, 2006 and February 7, 2007.

The party was catered by Sanibel Island restaurants The Lazy Flamingo, the Sunset Grill, 'Tween Waters, and Jacaranda's. The restaurants donated enormous trays of chicken wings, a hot pan of beef pastry puffs, and platters of colorful fruits and

vegetables. Anne Joffe, Mary Jo Bunnell, and Dick Weiss were the bartenders for the exciting evening, filling drink orders and having a great time. The volunteers mingled and got reacquainted with other volunteers and board members. There was laughter and happy conversation throughout the Meeting Hall. A sense of community and accomplishment was felt by everyone who attended the party.

March 12th also marked the birthday of the Volunteer Recognition Party pianist, Dan Tudor! The Museum staff and volunteers presented Dan with a birthday cake and then treated him to a "Happy Birthday" serenade.

The Volunteer Recognition Party was a great success – 89 volunteers were honored and thanked. Some faces were new to the Museum this year and some were long-time friends – all of them were appreciated. Thank you for your contributions in 2006!

UNDER THE SEA CONTRIBUTORS

The following organizations and individuals generously made financial contributions and/or item donations to the Fundraiser's silent auction and raffle:

Amy's Over Easy, Amy's Something Special, Bailey Family Fund, Bank of the Islands, Big Arts, Billy's Bike Rentals, Broadway Palm Dinner Theater, Cedar Chest, Comfort By Design, Dan Family Fun, Gasparilla's Grill, Glass Blowers of Sanibel, Her Sports Closet, Inc., Interiors By Decorating Den, Island Inn, Island Paws, Island Pursuit, Jacaranda Restaurant, Jerry's Foods, John Allan Designs, Key Lime Bistro, Lazy Flamingo, Lily and Co., Peach Republic, Rinaldi's Shoes, Sanibel Fitness Center, Sanibel Harbour Resort, Sanibel Spirits, Schoolhouse Theater, She Sells Sea Shells, Shiny Objects, Suncatcher's Dream, Sunshine Café, The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum's Margaret Thorsen Library, The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum Store, The Grog Shop, The Shell Net, The Timbers, Three Crafty Ladies, Traders, 'Tween Waters Inn, Video Scene, West Wind Inn, and Wilford and Lee.

Frank and Ruth Abramson, Bailey Family Fund, Francis Bailey, Sam Bailey, James and Jandy Bird, Linda and Wayne Boyd, Mary Jo and Rodger Bunnell, Jan Burdick, Betty Cater, Luc Century, Dr. Henry Chaney, Jennifer and Peter Chorman, Laura D'Amelio, Donald Dan, Peter Dance, Gretchen and Dennis Delman, Dotty and Lowell DeVasure, Al and Bev Deynzer, Phyllis Diegel and Richard Duerr, Suzanne Dietsch, M.E. Eager, Karen Ellington, Betty and John English, Sally Ennis, Wendy Hanko, Barbara and Richard Hansen, Elizabeth Hatcher, Sue Hobbs, Peggy and Donald Hoel, Sheila Hoen, Friedrich Jaeger –Times of the Islands, Anne and David Joffe, Bill Jordan, Christa Josupeit, Toni Lapi, Dr. José Leal, Dr. Harry G. Lee, Sidney Lerner, Irene and Edward Longley, Bill and Carol Lyons, Mary Magnuson, Carole Marshall, David Matthews, Mary Melzer, Ann and John Moore, Col. and Mrs. James Morris, Fritz Neal, Sue Ann Pirsch, Don Pisor, Marian Pool, Colin Redfern, Sheila Rodriguez, Susan Ross, Jane Santini, Wil Schlosser and Patty Wassel, Dr. Gary and Bernice Schmelz, Linda Seifert, Evelyn and Gene Spencer, Chris Takahashi, Jon and Beverly Thompson, Jim and Carolyn VunKannon, Char Walonick, Mrs. Williams R. Waters, Gary West, and Diane and Fred Zimmer.

Also, many thanks to Mary Jo Bunnell, Susan Schmidt, and Diane Zimmer for helping out with the Fundraiser.

MARILYN NORTHPROP MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD AT MUSEUM

Sixty-five friends and family members of Marilyn Northrop were in attendance for the memorial service held at the Museum on March 24, 2007. Many generously brought food and drink and several attendees stood before the audience of friends and shared fond memories of Marilyn and her work with shells on Sanibel.

Marilyn is sorely missed at The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum and among her colleagues and family.

The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum created a fund in memory of Marilyn Northrop after her passing last fall. Marilyn was a devoted and cherished curatorial assistant



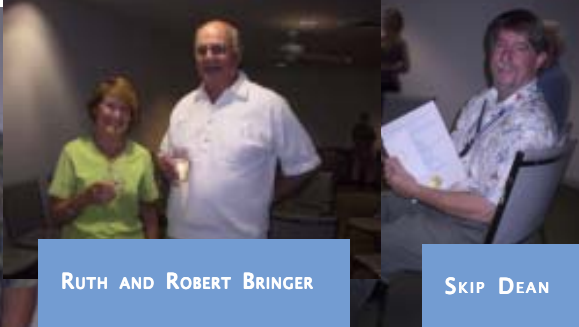
JEAN ROMPALA AND DR. JOSÉ H. LEAL



BOB AND ROSEMARY SCHOEBERLE



TED McLEAN



RUTH AND ROBERT BRINGER

SKIP DEAN

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELLEN LAI. FOR MORE PICTURES OF THIS EVENT, SEE PAGE 4!

at the Museum and also served as the organizer of The Sanibel Shell Fair and Show for many years. The proceeds of this memorial fund will benefit her favorite part of the Museum – the Collections Area. Donate today by contacting Mary Jo Bunnell (Museum business manager) at (239) 395-2233 or by e-mail at maryjo@shellmuseum.org.

THE 70TH ANNUAL SANIBEL SHELL SHOW AND FAIR

The Sanibel Community House was the site of the The 70th Annual Sanibel Shell Fair and Show (March 1-3, 2007) where veteran and novice shell fanciers gathered to purchase, discuss, and observe rare and exquisite specimens, exotic shell crafts, and outstanding exhibits. The Sanibel Shell Show and Fair (a jointly sponsored event by The Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club and the Sanibel Community Association) was a sensation this year with great turn-out and fantastic exhibitors.

Every year, The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum sponsors The Live Shells Exhibit, presented by the sixth grade students of The Sanibel School. This year Susan and Rick Sprout (both volunteers at the Museum) took the reigns of the project and spent several weeks teaching the youths about local mollusks so that they could interpret them to the public. Members of the Marco Island Shell Club Amy Tripp and Linda Shockley also helped by donating live mollusks for the tanks. Many thanks to Joyce Matthys, Char Walonick, Emma Leigh Goodwin, Jean Jacob, and sixth grade teacher Peggy Drennan, for helping to make the Live Shell Exhibit a success.



THE LIVE SHELLS EXHIBIT AT THE 70TH ANNUAL SANIBEL SHELL FAIR AND SHOW, MARCH 1-3, 2007.

THE FACE IN THE SHELL

In the week that preceded the 2007 Sanibel Shell Show, Sanibel resident Shirley Levine brought to the Museum a very special find. The tulip shell (*Fasciolaria tulipa*), found by Mrs. Levine on the island, is not only a perfect specimen, but carries an added bonus in the form a “face” inscribed on the internal surface of the aperture (arrow). It looks as if the face is coming out of the shell.

That discovery coincided with the visit of renowned conchologist and author S. Peter Dance, who had just arrived from the United Kingdom to judge the scientific division of this year’s shell show. In his 2006 book *Out of My Shell*, Mr. Dance showed several examples of color patterns on shells that resemble figures, numbers, and letters. A reasonable degree of similitude, the timing of the find, and Mr. Dance’s well-known interest in the whimsical side of shelling prompted Museum staff to conclude that the “face on the shell” is in fact a very appropriate tribute to the noted conchologist. — José H. Leal

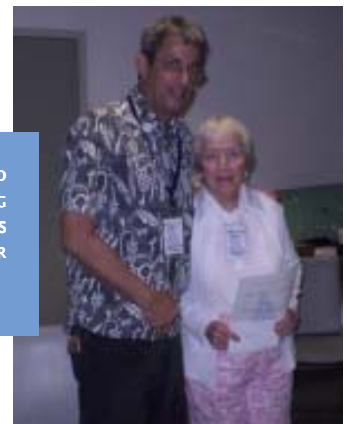


THE MUSEUM REMEMBERS BETTY FARNUM

The Museum staff and volunteers are mourning the loss of treasured docent, Betty Farnum, who passed away in early April. Betty became a volunteer before the official opening of the Museum. As a full-time resident of Sanibel, Betty ran the admissions desk every Thursday afternoon, all year long. She kept the staff on their toes with her quick wit and wonderful sense of humor. Betty could often be found cleaning the shells that are given to visiting children. Her infectious laughter and devotion to the Museum will be missed.

The Museum extends its deepest condolences to Betty’s family, as she was part of our family too.

DR. JOSÉ H. LEAL AND BETTY FARNUM ACCEPTING HER CERTIFICATE OF HOURS AT THE VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PARTY.



THE ANNUAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PARTY

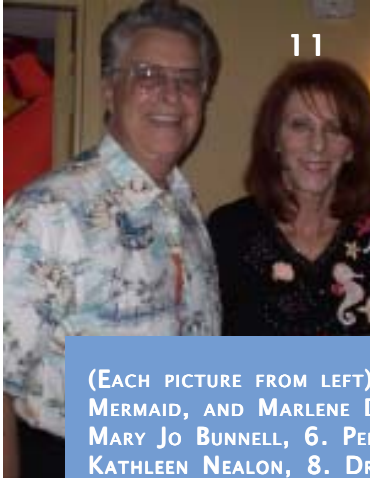
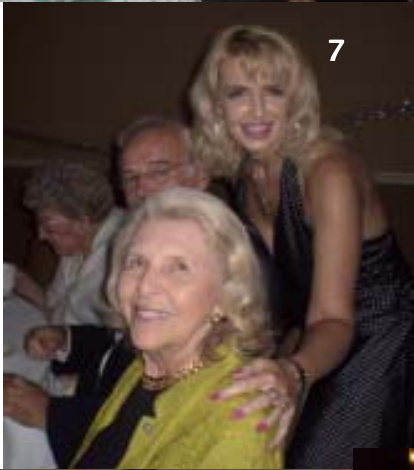
MARCH 12TH, 2007



(EACH PICTURE FROM LEFT) 1. ANNE JOFFE, 2. BARB HANSEN, 3. STEPHANIE AND "SMOKY" HAROLD PAYSON III, 4. CAM CALVERT AND BARB KNAPP, 5. EVELYN SPENCER, 6. EVELYN DEAN AND ESTELLE STUDOR, 7. PATTY WASSEL AND DAN TUDOR, 8. DR. JOSÉ H. LEAL, PEG BISIGNANI, AND JOYCE MATTHYS, 9. HAL PILCHER AND DR. JOSÉ H. LEAL, 10. ETHEL SINOW AND NORM RITCHIE, 11. RICK AND SUSAN SPROUT, 12. LOWELL AND DOTTY DEVASURE, 13. KIT AND DAVID YUDOWITZ, 14. GEORGE AND ANNA MARIE NYQUIST. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELLEN LAI.

UNDER THE SEA MUSEUM FUNDRAISER

MARCH 4, 2007



(EACH PICTURE FROM LEFT) 1. CHARISMA, THE BAND, 2. KIM NEALON AND DR. JOSÉ H. LEAL, 3. ADA SCHISSLER, THE MERMAID, AND MARLENE DONALDSON, 4. ELLEN LAI, AVA HINOJOSA, AND ANNE JOFFE, 5. NATHIE AND DICK PYLE AND MARY JO BUNNELL, 6. PERLA AND JACK LUFT AND LISA AND KIRK WILLIAMS, 7. THETA CLAFLIN AND EMMETT, KIM, AND KATHLEEN NEALON, 8. DR. HARRY G. LEE AND THE SEAHORSE, 9. MARLENE DONALDSON AND ADA SHISSLER, 10. THE SEAHORSE AND RODGER BUNNELL, 11. DAVID AND ANNE JOFFE, 12. JON AND BEVERLY THOMPSON, 13. WIL SCHLOSSER AND LINDA KUTZLER, 14. S. PETER DANCE AND FAY MUCHA. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELLEN LAI AND FAY MUCHA.



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