

# Shell Museum News

Number 51

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Spring 2003

## From the Director

Now that the hustle and bustle of the winter season is behind us, the moment seems ripe to sum up the events of the first half of 2003.

I am delighted to report that, as one of the final steps of the American Association of Museum's "Museum Assessment Program" (MAP), the Museum received the surveyor report from Dr. Bruce R. McMillan, director of the Illinois State Museum in Springfield. Dr. McMillan was very positive in his evaluation of the operational aspects of the institution, and recommended that the Museum should fill some gaps in its set of policies and engage in the preparation of a strategic plan that will follow the 1998 Long-Range Plan. The board and staff are convinced that the Museum's participation in MAP has been and will be very advantageous to the organization, acting as a compelling force to induce positive changes that will help bring the Museum even closer to the highest standards adopted by institutions of its kind.

As you will read in more detail in this newsletter, the Museum dedicated its new exhibit "Calusa - The Original Shell People" on April 14, 2003. The ceremony was well attended, and highlighted by the presence of exhibit sponsor Anina Hills Glaize and members of her family. The exhibit, which explains the extensive use of shells in the daily lives of this group native to Southwest Florida, has been very well accepted by visitors, staff, and volunteers. The Museum is greatly indebted to Mrs. Glaize for the donation that made possible the design and fabrication of the exhibit. In addition, the exhibit would not be as comprehensive and informative without extensive help from Dr. William Marquardt, archaeologist at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville. Dr. Marquardt, an authority on Florida native peoples, facilitated the loan of authentic Calusa artifacts from FLMNH and wrote the text that accompanies the exhibit.

On another front, the Museum is indebted to Joyce Matthys, who prepared the excellent video on living local mollusks that  
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## Museum Dedicates new Calusa Exhibit



The Museum's newest exhibit, "Calusa - The Original Shell People," officially opened April 14.

Photo: José H. Leal

Monday, April 14, 2003, was an evening of celebration for The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum when its new exhibit, "Calusa - The Original Shell People," was officially dedicated. Sanibel Mayor Steve Brown cut the ribbon while exhibit sponsor Anina Hills Glaize and her family, Museum trustees and staff, and about 150 members looked on.

Treasurer of the board of trustees, Beverly Thompson, spoke about how pleased the board was to see the project come to

fruition. She thanked Mrs. Glaize, who divides her time between Sanibel and Virginia, on behalf of the board members.

Mrs. Glaize thanked the enthusiastic audience and said the exhibit is "dedicated in memory of Philip A. Tock, personal friend and past Museum board president." A plaque on the wall to the left of the exhibit honors Mrs. Glaize and Mr. Tock, who died on June 6, 2002, at age 65.

Museum director Dr. José H. Leal noted, "This much-anticipated exhibit

makes the connection between an important part of the history of Southwest Florida, the Calusa culture,  
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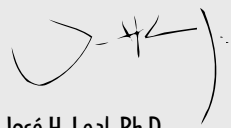
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## Director...from page 1

now is shown five times a day to our general audience. Mrs. Matthys based her work on the slide program prepared by education and group tour coordinator Anna Marie Nyquist. The new 30-minute video represents work accumulated over a period of eight years of videotaping taken during winter seasons on the southern half of Sanibel Island.

Last but not least, a tip of the hat to the Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club, which sponsored the computer programming that now allows for fast on-line searches of the Museum's collection catalogue. Students, scientists, and shell collectors around the world can now perform quick searches for their favorite group of mollusks deposited in the Museum collection. The search page resides in the Museum's Web site.

Thanks again for participating in and supporting the Museum and its exciting programs!



José H. Leal, Ph.D.  
Director



*Terebra glossema*, left, and *Mactrotoma fragilis* are two new additions to the Museum's online "Southwest Florida Shells" guide. Be sure to check the guide often for new updates. ([www.shellmuseum.org/sanibel\\_shells.html](http://www.shellmuseum.org/sanibel_shells.html))

Photo: José H. Leal

## New Search Engine Uploaded

In May, the Museum uploaded a new search engine that provides fast online, read-only access to a current version of its collection database. Check it out by going to [www.shellmuseum.org/collection.html](http://www.shellmuseum.org/collection.html) and then following the instructions.

Only about 16,000 lots have been catalogued so far, which is an estimated 10 percent of the collection. However, Dr. Leal,

Webmaster Tina Ajuria, and collection department volunteers are working quickly to make more records available.

The database consists of 42 fields of information for each lot (record) of mollusks in the Museum's collection. Searches may be made by using 13 of these fields: Five are taxonomic, six geographic, (continued on page 4)

## Museum Dedicates New Calusa Exhibit...from page 1

with the main theme of our Museum, mollusks, and their shells. The Calusa were masters at taking advantage of the area's natural resources, and among those resources were shells. Shells played an important role in the relatively sophisticated Calusa culture, which has been compared to the Aztec and Mayan cultures."

Dr. Leal said he wanted to "first and foremost" acknowledge Mrs. Glaize for fully sponsoring the exhibit and consistently supporting the Museum in many of its endeavors. He added that she "has extensive knowledge about the Calusa, having volunteered in field research led by the Florida Museum of Natural History, including work in the Wightman Midden on Sanibel in the 1970s."

Also thanked by Dr. Leal were Mrs. Glaize's son and daughter, Peyton and Nina, and their families, who traveled from upstate New York and South Carolina to participate in the ceremony.

He then praised the



Present at the Calusa exhibit dedication ceremony were, from left, Museum director Dr. José H. Leal, exhibit sponsor Anina Hills Glaize, archeologist and artist Merald Clark, and the director of the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, Douglas S. Jones.

Photo: Karen Nelson of The Islander

contributions of Dr. William H. Marquardt and Dr. Karen J. Walker, foremost specialists in Calusa history and staff archaeologists with the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville. They provided "the accurate information displayed in the exhibit and kindly sent authentic artifacts from the FLMNH on permanent loan to The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum." A second plaque next to the exhibit reads: "Special Thanks to Dr. William H. Marquardt and the Florida Museum of Natural History."

Dr. Leal expressed appreciation to Mary Frances Wethington and John Lo Castro of the Tallahassee, Florida-based design team of Synergy, and to the Vancouver, Canada-based Third Dimension Co., manufacturer of the mannequins. He thanked Mark Appleby Exhibit Design and Production of Fort Myers

for fabrication of the cabinetry, and artist David Meo of Fort Myers, who made the artifact replicas in use by the man and boy mannequins.

Lastly, the director noted, "A special thank-you goes to Merald Clark, archaeologist and artist formerly with the Florida Museum of Natural History and now with Synergy. He painted the beautiful Pine Island mural that serves as the background of the exhibit. Merald also provided expertise during the entire installation."

Guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and beverages in the Museum meeting room, courtesy of Mrs. Glaize. At the end of the evening, when all guests had left and a few staff members were closing the Museum, they did a double take. For a moment, it looked like two people were still sitting by the far wall in the Great Hall of Shells!

## Mollusks in Action Debuts

Since April, Museum visitors have been viewing an exclusive new 30-minute video, *Mollusks in Action*, which is offered five times daily on the big-screen television in the meeting room. The video features live mollusks on Sanibel beaches. It was filmed by volunteer education docent Joyce Matthys, who divides her time between Sanibel and Salem, Oregon.

The slide program prepared by education and group tour coordinator Anna Marie Nyquist that was offered for many years will continue to be used for school programs and such scheduled groups as Elderhostel.

"It started out just so my husband, Ken, and I could show our grandchildren what live mollusks looked like.

"Initially, I had put together a rough draft using my camera and the VCR. Then two years ago I bought a new computer with editing capabilities."

Mrs. Matthys says she and Mrs. Nyquist were trying to figure out something they could use with high school students. "It wasn't until I showed the video to Dr. Leal for help with scientific accuracy that I realized I had something that other people really hadn't seen."

Sanibel School principal and Museum board of trustees education committee member Barbara Von Harten says, "*Mollusks in Action* is awesome. I was very impressed with



Volunteer education docent Joyce Matthys, left, is often helped by her husband, Ken, when she works on Museum projects.

Photo: José H. Leal

both the quality of the production and with content that it covered. Watching the lifestyle of the mollusks on the video brings the gastropods and bivalves to life for the audience."

Mrs. Matthys will screen *Mollusks in Action* at the Conchologists of America 2003 convention in Tacoma, Washington, from July 17-21.

It will be available in video format from the Museum store in late July and the store will have the DVD version in the fall.

## Museum Mourns Loss of Two Good Friends

The Museum is mourning the deaths of two longtime volunteers and supporters, Albert M. Bridell and Eileen Moore Nash.

Mr. Bridell, 92, died on June 3, 2003. "Mr. Bridell was instrumental in helping set up and foster interest in many of the local hobbyist organizations in the fields of malacology and paleontology," notes Museum director Dr. José H. Leal. "It was only natural that

when the idea of a Shell Museum was proposed, he and his wife, Mary, became actively involved.

"Mr. Bridell also sponsored the publication of two books on shell paleontology under the auspices of the Museum in the early 1990s. He was a gentleman and a great friend of the Museum."

The Bridells volunteered together at the Museum for many years. Mr. Bridell,



Albert M. Bridell

whose specialty was fossil shells, was also a member of the Southwest Florida Fossil Club and the Paleontological Society of Lee County.

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## Museum News

The Museum board of trustees has two new members, both of whom are year-round Sanibel residents. Anne Joffe is the owner of the She Sells Sea Shells shops and is chairwoman of the Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club's 2004 Show and Fair. She is a former treasurer of the American Malacological Society. Keith Cruikshank, founder and former president of Sitematic in San Diego, was a trustee of the San Diego Maritime Museum and now serves as president of Sanibel Youth Soccer, Inc.

The Museum is pleased to announce that it is now the depository of Conchologists of America photography archives representing more than 30 years of annual conventions. The agreement came about through the efforts of COA historian Mary Ruth Foglino. The photo albums, which date to the first COA meeting in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1972, constitute a comprehensive illustrated "who is who" in the world of American shell collecting.

Museum director Dr. José H. Leal visited University of Alabama in early June, where he was a member of graduate student Jennifer Walker's doctoral committee. She defended her dissertation on the systematics of the king crown, *Melongena corona*.

In late June, Dr. Leal attended the annual meeting of the American Malacological Society (AMS) at the University of Michigan. In his role as president-elect, he gave a presentation on the plans for the AMS meeting on Sanibel from July 30 to Aug. 5, 2004, with the Museum as the hosting institution.

Dr. Leal wrote the chapter on bivalves and the chapter on gastropods in the recently published Food and Agriculture Organization's Species Identification Guide for Fishery Purposes, *The Living Marine Resources of the Western Central Atlantic – Volume 1*. He also contributed a three-page entry on "Shells" for the upcoming edition of Grolier's *The New Book of Knowledge 2004*. The well-known children's encyclopedia is published by Scholastic.

Cable television viewers who watched "Florida's Best Beaches" on the Travel Channel on May 3 were treated to a short interview with Dr. Leal. His segment, of course, was about Sanibel and its shells.

Public relations manager Libby Grimm attended the annual meeting of the American Association of Museums in Portland, Oregon, from May 18-22. More  
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## Search...from page 2

catalogue number (BMSM No.), or source (donor name).

Two kinds of reports (summary or full) are available for each search. The first (summary) report shows data in 13 basic fields and 20 records per page will be returned. The catalogue number (BMSM No.) in this table is a link to a more complete report (39 fields) on the selected lot.

Searches may be made on single words inserted in one or several logical fields. Boolean logic allows for searches combining more than one field.

The Museum wants to especially thank Ms. Ajuria and collection department volunteers Dick Willis and Jon Greenlaw for their dedication to the project. The Museum is also grateful to the Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club for sponsoring the Web search engine created by Calusa Graphics of Sanibel.

## Museum Mourns...from page 3

Mrs. Nash, 88, died on May 29, 2003. Her favorite hobbies included collecting shells and making Sailors' Valentines. "Mrs. Nash volunteered in the Great Hall of Shells on Sunday afternoons when I work at the front desk," says Kim Poppalardo. "She was always so enthusiastic and her love for the Museum was evident. She was a frequent patron of the Museum store, too."

The family members of Mr. Bridell and Mrs. Nash have requested that donations in memory of their loved ones be made to The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum.

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than 4,000 people attended from around the world. Ms. Grimm says she learned a lot by attending seminars such as "Flash and Crash: Will Museums Lose Half Their Audiences Over the Next Ten Years?" and "Accreditation for the Small and Medium Sized Museum."

Store manager Patricia Jones reports that she has already received two different 2004 shell calendars and both feature outstanding photographs. One is by J.H. Carmichael and the other by Deborah Jo McPherson. Mrs. Jones is looking forward to having videotapes of Museum education volunteer Joyce Matthys' *Mollusks in Action* in late July, and the DVD version in the fall.

Marion Wright, a longtime store assistant, was honored with an "Elaine McLaughlin Outstanding Hospitality Service Award for 2003." The Lee Island Coast Visitor and Convention Bureau bestowed the award on Mrs. Wright, a native of Maine, no doubt because of her Down East helpfulness and quick wit.

After the opening of the new Calusa exhibit, Harry Weiler, the Museum's doubly devoted Great Hall of Shells docent (two shifts per week!), thought up a "Name the Calusa Boy and Man Contest." The just-for-fun contest ended May 30 and was judged by Terry Shireman of Sanibel, author of the new novel *The Shell King*. Ten-year-old Rebecca

O'Donnell, of Seven Hills, Ohio, received a one-year Museum membership for naming the boy "Juno" and the man "Calico."

Museum staff members are already missing former *Shell Museum News* layout editor James Ford. The good-natured 18-year-old recently graduated from the Canterbury School of Fort Myers, after having volunteered to lay out the newsletter the past few years for community service credit. He plans to attend the University of Miami, where he will major in electrical engineering.

The Museum would like to thank the following donors who recently contributed more than \$1,000 in designated and undesignated funds: Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Boyd, Mrs. Anina Hills Glaize, the Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club, and the Naples Shell Club.

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Layout: James M. Ford and Tina Ajuria