

2023 Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show  
Friday and Saturday  
October 13 & 14, 2023  
Lake Jackson, Texas

Dear Sheller,

The Sea Shell Searchers announce our 2023 Shell Show. Our show this year will be held at the Doris Williams Civic Center, 333 Hwy 332 East, Lake Jackson, TX. There will be social events to renew acquaintances and make new shell friends. The Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show has proven to be a major event in shelling and we invite you to come and join us.

Please read the categories and rules that are included with this letter.

Our schedule for the show is:

1. Send entry forms to the Sea Shell Searchers, C/O Brazosport Museum of Natural Science, 400 College Blvd. Clute, TX 77531, by September 15, 2023. Space is limited this year; applications accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis.
2. We have a seasonal category - SSS (Sunny Sea Snail). This would be a fun and quick category for those who wanted to get started in exhibiting.
3. Set up exhibits at the Civic Center, Thursday, October 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
4. Judging to begin at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, October 12. All exhibitors must leave the shell show area during judging.
5. Awards will be given at the awards dinner Thursday evening. Place, cost and menu to be decided.
6. Show will open to the public Friday, October 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 14 from 10:00 a.m. at 3:00 pm.
7. Exhibit removal will begin as soon as the show closes on Saturday at 3:00 p.m. No exhibit or part of exhibit may be removed prior to 3:00pm.
8. Some decisions such as menus and social events are still in planning.

We look forward to your participation in the show. If you would like to support our show, please let us know. Patron donations \$25.00 and greater will be acknowledged at the awards dinner.

For more information, please contact Patty Humbird at 979-373-8602, [humbirdpatty@gmail.com](mailto:humbirdpatty@gmail.com) or Wanda Coker 979-236-5274, [emptybobbin51@yahoo.com](mailto:emptybobbin51@yahoo.com).

Sincerely,

Wanda Coker and Patty Humbird

Co-chairpersons Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show 2023

## 2023 Sea Shell Searcher Shell Show Rules

1. Exhibitors may enter no more than 6 scientific exhibits (categories 1 - 12).
2. Exhibitors may enter more than one category, but only one entry per category or subcategory, unless otherwise stated.
3. In order for a self-collected shell to be considered for Shell of the Show self-collected, a small star should be placed or printed on the label of self-collected shells. If the entire exhibit is self-collected a statement to that effect will take the place of the red star on individual labels.
4. Contents of exhibits must belong to the exhibitor.
5. Exhibitors must pre-register before September 15 to reserve a place. Late entries will be accepted if space allows. Tables as well as space will be limited this year, so please register early.
6. Exhibitors must check in and set up exhibit between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Thursday, October 12. All exhibitors must leave the shell show area at 1:00 p.m.
7. Exhibits must remain for the duration of the show. No part of any exhibit may be removed early for any reason.
8. Exhibits must be removed between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. Saturday, October 14. Show committee will remove any exhibits not removed by 5:00 p.m. and exhibitor is responsible for retrieving his/her exhibit from the committee.
9. As judging is to be done anonymously, no name or identifying information is to be put with the exhibit. After judging, cards will be placed with exhibits identifying exhibitor.
10. Judging will be based on attractiveness of arrangement, quality and choice of shells, accuracy of labeling, apparent amount of work on the exhibit and educational value. Decisions of the judges are final. Awards will be given only if judges determine exhibits are of sufficient merit.
11. The committee may add or subdivide categories if deemed necessary.
12. No live exhibits.
13. Tables are 30" deep x 6' long. Long exhibits may be exhibited in 2 parts depending on available running length.
14. The height of an exhibit (including backboard) may not exceed 36" from tabletop and the backside of any exhibit must be plain and finished so as not to detract from exhibit.
15. If your exhibit is more than 30" deep including backboard and braces, please indicate on your application.
16. No electricity is available for exhibits.
17. Beachcomber collections must be exhibited in natural state, as found on beach.
18. It is recommended that all scientific exhibits (categories 1-12) be in cases. Exhibitors must provide their own cases. Exhibits in category 13-17 should be enclosed if possible.
19. In artistic exhibits, categories 14 and 15, entries must be the work of the exhibitor.
20. Exhibitors in categories 14-17, exhibitor must provide any needed easel, stand, etc. for display.
21. The Shell Show committee, the Sea Shell Searchers and the Doris Williams Civic Center will not be responsible for exhibits; however, security will be provided.

## 2023 SSSSS Exhibit Categories

1. One Family
  - a. One major family (Muricidae, Cypraeidae, Conidae, Volutidae, Pectinidae)
  - b. One minor family (any family not listed as a major family)
2. One genus (if the family consists of only one genus, it must be entered as a family)
3. One species (growth series, color or other variations)
4. Single Specimen (a single shell)
5. Texas (up to 500 yards offshore)
6. Gulf of Mexico
7. Locality
  - a. Regional
  - b. Worldwide
8. Educational
9. Fossils (shells and/ or marine life)
10. Land and/or Fresh Water mollusks
11. Marine Life
12. Beachcomber
13. Junior (12<sup>th</sup> grade or younger)
14. Shell art (anything with shell motif, must be work of the exhibitor)
  - a. Photography
  - b. Needlework
  - c. Painting, drawings, sketches
  - d. Christmas
  - e. Other
15. Shell craft (craft items made with shells, must be the work of the exhibitor)
  - a. Pictures, floral arrangements, mirrors/frames
  - b. Sailor's Valentines
  - c. Personal accessories
  - d. Christmas
  - e. Other
16. Collectables (made by another person but exhibitor must currently own)
17. SSS (Sunny Sea Snail): Anything “sunny and shell-y”, real shell or fake, photo, painting, sculpture, and so on, but must be a single sell. Be creative!!

# Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show 2023

## Application for Entry

Name: (as you want it to appear on your exhibit(s)) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Shell Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill in the following information to the best of your ability

	Category Number	Category Name	Total exhibit length, ft.	Exhibit Title
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				

### Scientific exhibitors only:

Are you eligible for the Conchologists of America Award? (Circle Exhibit Number(s) – 1 2 3 4 5 6)

Are you eligible for the Dupont Trophy? (Circle Exhibit Number(s) – 1 2 3 4 5 6)

Are you eligible for the Wayne Humbird Memorial Award? (Circle Exhibit Number(s) – 1 2 3 4 5 6)

I have read and understand the Shell Show Rules and agree to abide by them.

Signature of exhibitor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Patron donation: \$\_\_\_\_\_

***All applications should be received by September 15, 2023***

Mail Application(s) to:  
 The Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show  
 C/O: Brazosport Museum of Natural Science  
 400 College Blvd  
 Clute, Texas 77531

E-mail to:  
[emptybobbin51@yahoo.com](mailto:emptybobbin51@yahoo.com)  
 Wanda Coker: 979-236-5274  
[humbirdpatty@gmail.com](mailto:humbirdpatty@gmail.com)  
 Patty Humbird: 979-373-8602

# Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show 2023

## Application for Non-scientific Entry

Name: (as you want it to appear on your exhibit(s)) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Shell Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill in the following information to the best of your ability

	Category Number	Category Name	Total exhibit length, ft.	Exhibit Title
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				

### Non-Scientific exhibitors only:

I have read and understand the Shell Show Rules and agree to abide by them.

Signature of exhibitor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Patron donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***All applications should be received by September 15, 2023***

Mail Application(s) to:  
 The Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show  
 C/O: Brazosport Museum of Natural Science  
 400 College Blvd  
 Clute, Texas 77531

E-mail to:  
[emptybobbin51@yahoo.com](mailto:emptybobbin51@yahoo.com)  
 Wanda Coker: 979-236-5274  
[humbirdpatty@gmail.com](mailto:humbirdpatty@gmail.com)  
 Patty Humbird: 979-373-8602

## Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show 2023 Trophy and Award List

### Special Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show Trophy

**Wayne Humbird Memorial Award for the Best of the Best:** Presented by the Sea Shell Searchers of Brazoria County and sponsored by Linda and Dave Green. To be awarded to a **scientific exhibit** of mollusks that demonstrate excellence in malacology and conchology and has won a major award at any shell show including the current Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show. Major awards for this consideration are DuPont, Conchologists of America, American Museum of Natural History, and Smithsonian.

### National Scientific Trophies:

**COA:** Sponsored by the Conchologists of America. The COA Award is given to a single **scientific exhibit** which best advances the interest in shells and shell collecting. It may only be given to a first-place winner. It cannot be given to an exhibit which has previously won a COA Award, at any show, unless fifty percent or more of the contents and format has been changed or added. (For more criteria, see the Guidelines for the COA Award).

**Dupont:** Sponsored by the Delaware Museum of Natural History. The purpose of this award is to advance the cause of amateur malacology by encouraging the entry of exhibits which will stimulate public interest in, and appreciation of, the hobby and the **scientific** study of mollusks. It is given to a first-place winner for the **outstanding exhibit** of the Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show.

### Scientific Trophies:

**Mildred Tate Gulf of Mexico:** Sponsored by the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science. To be awarded to the outstanding **shell or exhibit** of shells collected from the Gulf of Mexico or along the shores of the Gulf States or Mexico.

**Thomas Pulley Texas** In Honor of Tina Petway. Sponsored by the Houston Conchology Society. To be presented to a shell show exhibitor for an outstanding **Texas marine shell**.

**Clara Lucille Green Memorial Award for One Minor Family:** Sponsored by Linda and Dave Green. To be awarded to the Best Scientific single-family exhibit, in the opinion of the judges, to the entry which best represents the mollusks of **one minor family**. This excludes Muricidae, Cypraeidae, Conidae, Volutidae, and Pectinidae. All other families will be eligible for this award.

**Scientific Exhibit under 10 feet:** Sponsored by Linda and Dave Green and given to an exhibitor for an exhibit that the total length of exhibit does not exceed 10 feet.

**Shell of the Show – self-collected:** The exhibit must be labeled as self-collected to be considered.

**Shell of the Show – any source:** Sponsored by Collene Costello. The shells in this exhibit can be for any source.

**Educational:** For the best educational scientific exhibit (excludes categories 14-17)

#### **Additional Trophies:**

**Dean Harris Beachcomber:** Sponsored by Patty Humbird and presented to the **best beachcomber** item in any category.

**Junior:** Presented to an exhibitor in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade or younger (not limited to category 13)

**Jo Tirrell Memorial Trophy:** Sponsored by Tina Petway for the best **shell art or shell craft** exhibit in categories 14 & 15.

**People's Choice:** This award will be chosen by popular vote and given on Friday and Saturday.