



SEA BONES #7

A Newsletter on Southern African conchological matters from the desk of Roy Aiken.

“THE MORE YOU LEARN ABOUT YOUR NATURAL WORLD, THE MORE YOU WILL CONNECT TO ALL LIFE.”

Shelling friends:

In the worldly chaos created by humans, we can still find an underlying order in all of nature. This is represented by Phi(Fee), the number 1,618. In flowers, the human frame, insects and especially molluscs, the ratio of one segment or part to the other is consistently 1,618.

This number is the fundamental building block of nature and is considered by some to be the most beautiful number in the universe.

Beehive -- Female bees to male bees: 1,618
Seashell -- Last whorl to previous whorl: 1,618
Humans -- hip to floor over knee to floor :1,618
 shoulder to fingertips over elbow to fingertips: 1,618

How wonderful is the idea that there is divine proportion in every shell we hold.....

AGM

The main purpose of this newsletter is to advise all members and interested parties of our forthcoming AGM. It will take place in the delightful setting of the Mokha Restaurant, Pretoria National Botanical Gardens, on Saturday, 26th July 2014, from 10h30 am. The address is number 2 Cussonia avenue, Brumeria.

This is a voting year, so please use proxy forms if not attending. Please also nominate people

for the open positions on the committee. Please ensure that you nominate people that are capable and willing to serve in the different positions. Nominations to be submitted no later than 21 days prior to the meeting.

There will be some special resolutions at the meeting. Please refer to the agenda below for the detail on each resolution.

The theme for displays for this AGM is “whatever you can fit into a beer tray”. I ask all those attendees to submit at least one tray this year. Lets make it interesting and diverse. A number of older, attractive trophy’s have surfaced, and will be awarded on the day.

A fair volume of water has flowed under the shelly bridge since the last Seabones:

Stephan Veldsman has represented South Africa admirably in Miami, at an EOL sponsored session to determine the Data status of world Conidae, as this family is very high up in the Gastropod chain, and provides a good gauge as to how well gastropods are doing in our seas at present. He also attended the second Cone Collector conference in France.

A lovely story on shells (“Discover the shell secrets of Southern Africa’s shores”) was the feature article in the Feb 2014 British Airways in-flight magazine, with the delightful story of The Cowrie House on Ibo Island, Mozambique.

A considerable amount of work has been done

on the South African Marginellidae over 2011 and 2012 by various authors.

There has been a recent complete revision of the Fasciolarinae at generic level that impacted considerably on our local species, along with the description of a new species.

The Genus *Amalda* in South Africa was completely revised towards the end of 2012, with some interesting outcomes.

A new cone was described off Southern Natal in 2013.

The Genus *Vaughtia* in South Africa was comprehensively revised, including new species descriptions.

A new family, Belomitridae, was established, which included three species from South Africa.

... and finally, a fascinating snippet on that famous mollusc, the octopus, extracted from

The Archaic Revival, by Terence McKenna:

“What is not well known is the communication model that is happening in the octopus. Octopods change their colour not for camouflage purposes as might be supposed, but as a mode of communication. The blushes, spots and travelling bands of colour that an ordinary octopus can manifest, are reflective of its linguistic intent. Its language appears on the surface of its skin. This is a rich notion of telepathy, where one can see another’s words, rather than merely hearing them.”

Roy Aiken

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Notice of AGM

This serves to announce our next Annual General Meeting, which is scheduled to take place at the Mokha Restaurant, Pretoria National Botanical Gardens, on Saturday, 26th July 2014, from 10h30 am.

The Agenda consists of:

WELCOME, ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES.

HONOURING MEMBERS THAT HAVE PASSED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AGM, held on 16th June 2012

MATTERS ARISING FROM ABOVEMENTIONED MINUTES

- President's Report
- Financial Report, and focus on outstanding subscriptions
- Update on Shell publications AND STRANDLOPER.
- The status of Groups
- Special presentation
- Judging of exhibits by the President

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

- National shell
- Changing of the Society's name

GENERAL

VOTING FOR NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

THANK YOU'S.

The theme for this years' AGM is "Whatever you can fit into a beer tray"

Special Resolutions

National shell:

In *Strandloper* 288 we initiated the idea that South Africa should have a national shell. There were several reasons for that, of which the most important was to create awareness to the South African molluscan fauna, to assist with education and the conservation of species. The Society members were presented with a selection of endemic species and asked to vote for their species of choice. The options were:

Conus visagenus Kilburn, 1974
Cypraeovula capensis (Gray, 1828)
Festilyria ponsonbyi (EA Smith, 1901)
Chicoreus fosterorum Houart, 1989
Haliotis midae Linnaeus, 1758

Votes were collected over a period of time and the results indicated *Haliotis midae* as the species of choice. Primary reasons for this choice was whidespread occurance and availability of the shell to the general public. Another important factor was that designating this species as a national shell may assist in the protection and conservation thereof.

Resolution : That *Haliotis midae* Linnaeus, 1758 be assigned the status of national shell of South Africa.

The vote at the meeting will therefore be a **Yes / No** vote to affirm the selection and establish this species as the national shell of South Africa.

Changing the name of the Society:

After considerable discussion and consideration of best practice the committee has decided that it will be in the interest of the Society to change the name from the current “Conchological Society of Southern Africa” to a more user friendly and searchable “Shell Collectors SA”.

Resolution: That the name of the *Conchological Society of Southern Africa* be changed to *Shell Collectors SA* and that the Society’s constitution be amended accordingly.

The vote at the meeting will therefore be a **Yes / No** vote to affirm the change in the name of the Society. The constitution of the Society will be amended to show this change should the meeting accept this change.

Nomination form

Conchological Society of Southern Africa

AGM July 2014

Send by post to The Secretary CSSA, 30 Headingley Avenue, Westville, 3629 or e-mail rhrailway@mweb.co.za

I nominate

to serve on the Committee as

..... (position)

..... (any position) Please indicate your choice clearly.

Signed:Name:.....Date:.....

Proxy vote

Conchological Society of Southern Africa

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Send by post to The Secretary CSSA, 30 Headingley Avenue, Westville, 3629 or e-mail rhrailway@mweb.co.za

I, (A) a voting member of the Conchological Society

of Southern Africa, hereby authorize (B)

to vote on my behalf at the forthcoming AGM for all matters arising which include the election of new Committee Members. In the event of the above-mentioned person (B) exceeding the stipulation of Article 14.2 or 14.3 of the Constitution, the above-mentioned person (B) may appoint someone else (C) on my behalf.

Name of (B) Appoint (C)

Signed:Name:.....Date:.....

An article from The Herald, dated 14th March 2014.



Clued up: Roy Aiken (middle) shares some interesting facts about the history of shells with Debbie King and Geoff Wallace.

Shell talk delights

Ocean lovers got to learn more about seashells.

PRECIOUS JILI
precious@dbn.caxton.co.za

THE president of the Conchological Society of South Africa, Roy Aiken, gave a fascinating talk on the shell family at

Crystals Galore in Shelly Beach recently.

Roy enlightened everyone at the workshop on the shell family tonna, called tun, or bubble shells, explaining the differences between each South African species. He also went into detail on their growth pattern, feeding habits, and areas of distribution.

The chairman of the South Coast group, Debbie King said she was pleased with the turnout. She added that there were also a lot of new faces.



Informed:
Attending the seashell workshop at Crystals Galore are Natasha Owen and Ian Davies.