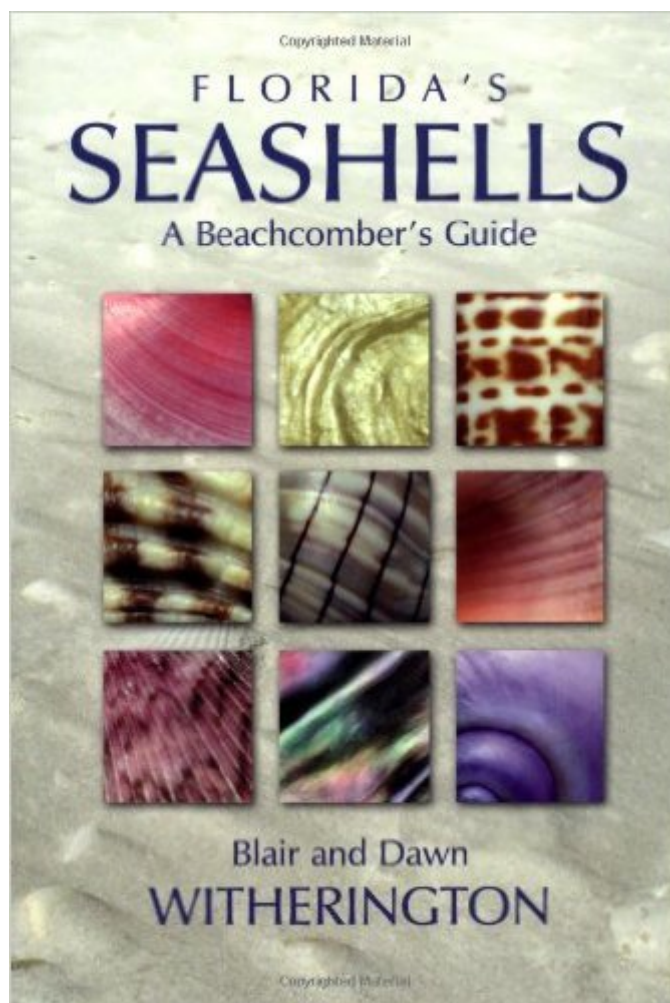


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# Florida's Seashells: A Beachcomber's Guide



## Synopsis

A visit to any Florida beach can spark curiosity about seashells. Satisfy questions about the names and lives of seashells by comparing beachcombing finds to color photographs representing hundreds of individual shells. This book heralds the diversity of Florida's seashells and presents them in the way they come to us on beaches. Knowing the names, stories, and various appearances of seashells can sharpen a beachcomber's eyes to their beauty and rarity. Florida's seashells offer both collectors an outlet for the appreciation of nature's splendor. This guide includes species common to the southeastern United States and the Caribbean, with full color photographs and maps throughout. Guide organization is simple, and images show shells as they would be found on beaches, not in museums. Other Pineapple Press guides for the curious beachcomber: Florida's Living Beaches Seashells of Georgia and the Carolinas Living Beaches of Georgia and the Carolinas

## Book Information

Paperback: 83 pages

Publisher: Pineapple Press (September 1, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1561643874

ISBN-13: 978-1561643875

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 0.4 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (104 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #53,083 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) [#1 in Books > Travel > United States > Florida > General](#) [#7 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Seashells](#) [#60 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Oceans & Seas](#)

## Customer Reviews

Each page features specie detail, 3 or 4 high quality photographs with scale/size information, and a fun "Did You Know?" section covering specific shells. I had to smile when I read that area regarding Augers on page 24 where the "auger's summer mating swarms" is compared with "the style portrayed by Burt Lancaster and Deborah Kerr in From Here to Eternity...". This guide uses the same format as the thicker and more expansive 2007 work (by the same authors) "Florida's Living Beaches: A Guide for the Curious Beachcomber". In fact, I would say about 95% of the content comes from that volume directly, so I recommend paying a little extra to get that excellent guide which covers most anything you see at a Florida beach (unless you are specifically and only

interested in Florida shells).

I recently took a class called, "Coastal Systems" which is a module in the Florida Master Naturalist Program through the University of Florida. In taking that class, I have come to love not just picking up shells along the coast but in knowing more about what I'm finding. This book is THE best book going-- except for maybe the book, Florida's Living Beaches, by the same authors. If you want a quick, easy and COMPLETE seashell guide that's small and easy to take along and that's packed with interesting information as well, this is the best book. I wouldn't go to the shore without it! It's even easy enough for young children to use since it's small and shells are in easily recognizable categories. It makes finding seashells a whole new experience.

I purchased this book on a recent trip to Sanibel, Florida. The photos are great and there's just the right amount of information about the shells. Of all the shell identification books available (on Florida), the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum in Sanibel (the world's only shell museum) suggested this one and I see why. It's a keeper!

I purchased this book to use with our homeschool materials with my 5 year olds. We were amazed at how many unique shells we could identify from our casual collections on the beach---and how many we let slip away because we didn't know what they were! My children now love going to the beach to collect and then consulting the guide afterwards. The guide has many clear photos along with other identifying information to help you correctly identify the type of shell you have. Well written, illustrated and photographed. I highly recommend this book for anyone with small children or has found themselves picking up shells on the beach!

I own the authors' excellent guide, Florida's Living Beaches. I purchased their Florida's Seashells, naively assuming it was a more comprehensive treatment of Florida's shells as compared to "Living Beaches". Should have checked the page numbers on this one first, though, would have seen it's the same as the shell treatment in "Living Beaches". Yes, the publishers just lifted the almost exact mollusk section from "Living Beaches" and made it into a new book! Still giving it 4 stars, because it is so well done, and I didn't do my homework first, my fault. Do yourself a favor, though, skip this one and get their "Living Beaches", has all the same info on the shells, plus 200 plus additional pages on Florida's other beach fauna, flora, and beachcombing treasures.

Being a Floridian, I was obsessed with seashell taxonomy as a little girl. My niece is a serious nature girl, like myself. She really enjoys Audobon taxonomy guides and such, so I got her this. Definitely worth it.

We bought this book from before going to the Florida Gulf Coast earlier this month based, in part, on the reviews of other readers. It has proved itself invaluable in helping us identify our shell treasures. So, I thank all those reviewers for steering us in the right direction. I have consulted it many times since getting back home and organizing our shells. It has added to our knowledge of shells that we have also picked up along the Virginia, North and South Carolina beaches, as well as Sanibel, Captiva, Cayo Costa, and Marco Island in Florida. I liked, in particular, that the photos were of both sides of the shell, further aiding in identification. As another reviewer noted, the "Did You Know?" section at the bottom of each page adds another dimension of information about the mollusks presented in the book. I'm thinking I'll have to purchase other Blair and Dawn Witherington books--they are just right for the novice sheller and beach aficionado, packed full of fascinating reading.

Jim and I are really getting into visiting FL and planning to retire in the Panhandle. Part of the fun is the amazing variety of seashells. We have Florida's Living Beaches: A Guide for the Curious Beachcomber by the same authors and love it. We wanted a book dedicated to shells though. Wonderful descriptions, clear pictures, maps, and tips on collecting shells make this book a real winner for anyone interested in the variety and beauty of Florida's seashells. The writing is clear, interesting, and full of information on each shell.

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