

# Rare Shell Found On Sanibel Beach



Harlan Wittkopf with the rare giant tun shell

A rare giant Atlantic tun shell turned up on Sanibel last week while the island was filled with shell enthusiasts and exhibitors.

Noted international shell authors Harlan E. Wittkopf and S. Peter Dance arranged to lead a group of avid shellers and shell show exhibitors on a night beach excursion, complete with flashlights and other gear, at Sandalfoot Condominium last week.



The tun shell

Wittkopf, the only one who waded into the chilly water, was rewarded by the sight of the shell sticking out of the mud. It was a giant Atlantic tun or *Tonna galea*.

Last year a broken portion of a giant Atlantic tun was found on the beach in front of Sandalfoot by a guest, but the one that Wittkopf found is intact.✱