

GUIDELINES FOR THE CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA AWARD

(COA Executive Board amended April 24, 2026)

The Conchologists of America Award, consisting of a trophy and a pin, has been established to encourage open participation by shell collectors at shell shows and to stimulate improvements in shell exhibits.

This award, based on sound and impartial judging processes, is given at a shell show to a single scientific (vs. artistic) exhibit **of multiple shells/mollusks** which best advances the interest in shells and shell collecting.

The COA Award may only be given to a blue ribbon or first prize winner and **MAY NOT** be given to:

- An exhibit receiving another major award (i.e. The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia Award, Smithsonian, American Museum of Natural History) at the same show (meaning the same occasion).
- An exhibit which has previously won a COA Award, at any show, unless 50% or more of the contents and format has been changed or added.
- An active specimen shell dealer, unless the exhibit is made entirely of self-collected shells.
- A professional malacologist.
- A single shell entry.

There is no limit to the number of times a person may win the COA Award.

The COA Award may be given only at shell shows open to the public and where no restrictions are placed on the club or regional affiliation of the exhibitors.

This Award may be given to a shell club for its shell show no more than once a year. It is sent free of charge upon approval of a trophy request.

Sponsoring clubs are advised to incorporate the above guidelines in their respective shell show rules and have them communicated to all prospective exhibitors and judges.

All clubs are encouraged to obtain membership in the Conchologists of America.

The COA Award Director shall be responsible for receiving and processing trophy requests in a timely manner and for overseeing that the aforementioned guidelines are adhered to.