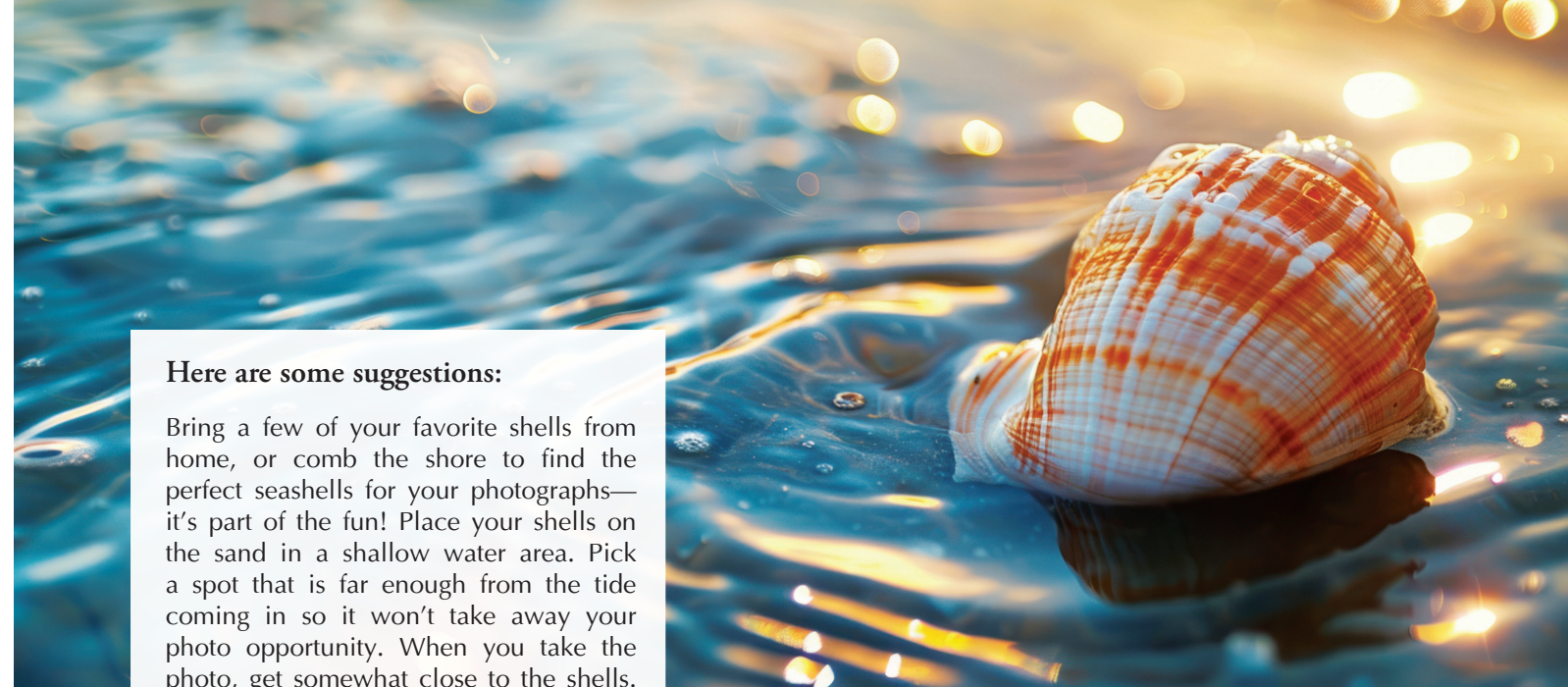


Capturing Treasures of the Sea



BY CHRIS FRANCIN
VENICE GULF COAST LIVING MAGAZINE

Sensational sunsets and beautiful birds are always a pleasure to photograph, but have you ever thought about capturing a view of seashells under water? If this sounds like an interesting way to spend some time outdoors, head to the beach or even your backyard and experience some water photography. Photographing nature's treasures that are surrounded by water, under the water or topped with delicate dew drops can produce stunning photography—and it's really not that difficult, it just takes a little time gathering your items and a little dab of patience. If you are photographing shells for fun, you can take all the creative license you want and see what you end up with...maybe something fantastic!



Here are some suggestions:

Bring a few of your favorite shells from home, or comb the shore to find the perfect seashells for your photographs—it's part of the fun! Place your shells on the sand in a shallow water area. Pick a spot that is far enough from the tide coming in so it won't take away your photo opportunity. When you take the photo, get somewhat close to the shells. Taking photographs at sunset can often be just the added touch you need to make your photo glow with a variety of colors. Additionally, beach sand is always being pushed by waves so there can be an endless array of interesting patterns and textures available to you. Once you have taken a few shots, you'll realize how many creative photo opportunities there are for these types of coastal photos.

You can also experiment at home photographing your shells using a tall, large clear glass bowl or vase filled with water and placing it outdoors in a sunny spot. Have a friend drop 5 to 8 shells all at the same time from about 12 inches above the container and photograph the shells as they move downward in the water. Get as close as possible to the vessel. You need to be quick while snapping the photo, and it will probably require a few practice sessions. It may be challenging, but fun!

Continued on page 10





Another interesting approach to photographing shells in water is to position your favorite shells in a creative design on the steps of your pool. You will want to get as close as possible to get a good shot. You can use your hand to move the water creating different water effects and patterns, bubbles, and the sun's reflection on the water.



A reflective mat placed outside in the direct sunlight, maybe on a table, is an interesting approach to set up a photo shoot. Add water to the mat so when the sun shines on its surface you'll get a glistening, starry effect. Drip water over the shells until you create droplets and photograph the shells close up or maybe a little farther back.

When photographing anything in water, patience is your friend, and many times you will have to try different angles, lighting and locations. No matter how you decide to photograph your treasures, be forewarned that this type of photography can be addictively enjoyable!



(941) 867-6077
HONESTLANDSCAPES.COM

**Elevate Your Outdoor
Living Experience!**

- Design
- Irrigation
- Lighting
- Patios & Driveways
- Water Features
- Outdoor Kitchens



Visit Our Plant Nursery
973 1st Dirt Road
Venice, FL 34292

