Holiday Greetings

My watercolor for Christmas this year is the **Christmas Palm Tree,** scientific name *Veitchia merrillii.* During summer months the Christmas Palm produces light green flower buds that turn into creamy blossom. In December flowers are followed by green oval fruits that turn bright red as they ripe. Berrie-like fruits are 1 inch long and 1/5 inch wide. They hang in clusters looking like Christmas ornament, therefore palm's common name is Christmas Palm. I've shown the palm here with some of the most beautiful ornaments from the sea, sand dollars and star fish.
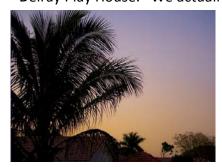
Here's the annual Christmas message from John and Donna. We hope this season finds all of you in good health & happy. This year has been mostly uneventful, and that is a good thing. The only remarkable thing that happened this year is that I became President of Palm Beach Watercolor Society. It is a great group and has kept me quite busy. The major downer this year was while we were up in Vermont and had a handyman in to do some work, the guy stole some of John's prescription meds. We got through that but it kind of tarnished a bit the amazing calm that we feel when up in the Northeast Kingdom.

We are very content, and have been doing things like attending Sea Secrets lectures in Miami at Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, for example the talk on Alvin the submersible research vessel, shown at right. We have also been to many plays, both at QNET in Derby Line, VT and the Delray Play House.   We actually got to see two versions of

Nunsense. Both were great but because of the local talent the one in VT was lots of fun. This year I took on the challenge of the "take a photo a day" at 365project.org.   You can see my project at http://365project.org/donna_w/365 and I've added some of the photos here.   It has been very helpful at helping me with artistic composition.

Happy Holidays

May the joy of the season be with you and may you enjoy
peace, happiness and prosperity in the New Year.

Donna & John