

President's Message

I hope all who attended the March field trip were pleased with their trip. Personally, I was a day late but not a dollar short. For those who didn't attend and haven't experienced the travels through the central coast of California, it is an experience like no other in the state. Highway 101 is a gorgeous drive with its variable habitats from shorelines to mountainous terrain.

In spring, the green grassed hills of San Luis Obispo are contrasted by rugged rock outcroppings. The boardwalk of Morro Bay meets a harbor with fishing and whale watching boats. In the background, the large gaping "Morro Rock" stands high above the horizon and soars into the sky. The city of Morro Bay has a variety of cozy bed and breakfasts and hotels, along with some wonderful restaurants. The main road along the boardwalk, Embarcadero, is filled with interesting shops and stores, including a small aquarium.

Across the street from the Aquarium is the 400 square foot display

room in the, *Shell Shop* located at 590 Embarcadero, Morro Bay, California 93442. This store is filled with both souvenir shells and collector's specimen. The selection is awesome, boasting hundreds of different world-wide species, including a lot of rare or uncommon species at reasonable prices. The staff is very friendly and helpful, and ready to assist any collector, who is interested in inspecting the specimen shells that are housed in the glass cases that line the walls.

Best of all were the low tides throughout the weekend. The fauna in Central California is like no other place in the state. The rich coastline yields both micro and large specimen. A large variety of habitats and species makes a very interesting and fun place to study. One of my favorite finds, north of Morro Bay, was a *Clathurella canfieldi* (Dall, 1871). If you missed the field trip be sure to visit this region when you get a chance, it's outstanding!

Happy Shelling,
Shawn



Clathurella canfieldi
(Dall, 1871) collected during
March 2008 PCC field trip, 6.7 mm

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Las Conchas is a publication of the Pacific Conchological Club

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Secretary:	<i>Phil Liff-Grieff</i>	Las Conchas Editor:	<i>Phil Liff-Grieff</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Kathy Kalohi</i>		

The Pacific Conchological Club was organized in 2003 as a result of the merger between the Pacific Shell Club and the Conchological Club of Southern California. Its mission is to further the interest in shell collecting and malacology and to provide a forum for individuals who love shells and other marine life. The Club meets on the second Sunday of each month from October through June at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History (900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles).

Annual dues are \$10 for an individual and \$12 for a family membership. Checks can be mailed to Treasurer, Kathy Kalohi (13901 Wilkie Avenue, Gardena, CA 90249).

California Fish and Game Regulations Revisited

by Phil Liff-Grieff

Collecting shells in Southern California is a touchy business. Since the 1970's, the California Department of Fish and Game has regulated the collecting of live animals and their regulations are sometimes poorly understood.

It is important for local shell enthusiasts to be familiar with the rules for collecting live shells in Southern California. In this article we will summarize the 2008-2009 regulations.

The basic details are:

- Anyone over the age of 16 needs a current resident fishing license to collect live specimens.
- No collecting is permitted in state marine reserves or other areas with special restrictions.
- Mollusks may be collected subtidally by scuba with a bag limit (number that can be taken) of 35 specimens, unless otherwise specified. All rules listed below also apply to mollusks taken while diving.
- No abalone can be taken south of the center of San Francisco Bay. (the rules for abalone collecting will not be detailed here).
- Tidal invertebrates may not be taken in any tidepool or other areas between the high tide mark (defined as Mean Higher High Tide) and 1,000 feet seaward and lateral to the low tide mark (defined as Mean Lower Low Water). ***The exceptions to this regulation are described below.***

Gastropods

The following gastropods can be collected live in Southern California intertidal:

Limpets

Families Lottiidae and Fissurellidae.



Giant Keyhole Limpet
Megathura crenulata



Wavy Turban Shell
Megastraea undosa
photo by Terry Rutkas

Turban Shells

the family Turbinidae
(specifically, the genera Homalopoma, Lithopoma and Megastraea)

Moon Snails

the family Naticidae
(genera include Polinices, Euspira and Natica)

Moon snail bag limit– 5

Moon snails may not be taken north of the Golden Gate Bridge.



Moon Snail *Euspira lewisii*

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Start making your plans for COA this summer

This year's convention of the Conchologists of America will take place on July 5-10, 2008 in San Antonio, Texas. Sponsored by six different shell clubs in Texas, this convention should be an incredible experience.

One of the highlights of any COA convention is the "bourse"- a maddening shell sale where dealers from all over the world present their latest and greatest stock for sale. The bourse is an outstanding opportunity to purchase new shells or just see who's selling what (at WHAT PRICE???). This year's bourse will take place on July 9 and 10.

For additional information and registration materials, log check out the convention's website at <http://www.coa2008.org/>

COA 2008 Convention

**Crowne Plaza Riverwalk Hotel
San Antonio, Texas**

These conventions are remarkable experiences for all collectors – novices and veterans alike. Hotel rooms are filling up fast. Don't miss out!

Minus low tides provide great conditions for observing mollusks and other marine life on Southern California shores. Listed below are some minus low tides that occur during daylight hours in the coming months:

Please be sure that you are familiar with the California Dept. of Fish and Game regulations regarding the collecting of live mollusks, described in this issue of Las Conchas.

May, 2008			June, 2008		
Date	Time	Ht.	Date	Time	Ht.
Wednesday, May 7	5:39 am	-1.6	Thursday, June 5	5:32 am	-1.8
Thursday, May 8	6:35 am	-1.4	Friday, June 6	6:23 am	-1.5
Friday, May 9	7:38 am	-1.0	Saturday, June 7	7:14 am	-1.1
Saturday, May 10	8:45 am	-0.6	Sunday, June 8	8:06 am	-0.6
Sunday, May 11	9:52 am	-0.3	Friday, June 20	5:31 am	-0.6
Monday, May 12	10:53 am	0.0	Saturday, June 21	6:06 am	-0.5
Thursday, May 22	5:46 am	-0.4	Sunday, June 22	6:40 am	-0.3
Friday, May 23	6:28 am	-0.3	Monday, June 23	7:15 am	-0.1
Saturday, May 24	7:13 am	-0.1			

California Fish and Game Regulations (Continued from page 2)

Pelecypods

The basic rules for pelecypods (clams) are:

- Clams may be taken from a half hour before sunrise until a half hour after sunset
- Hand tools (except for spears and gaff hooks) may be used to collect clams

Fish and Game regulations list the following pelecypods as permissible to be collected in the intertidal;

“chiones, clams, cockles, mussels, rock scallops, native oysters”

As there are differing rules for different taxa, these are detailed below:

Chiones (California species: *C. californiensis*, *C. undatella*, *Chionista fluctifraga*)

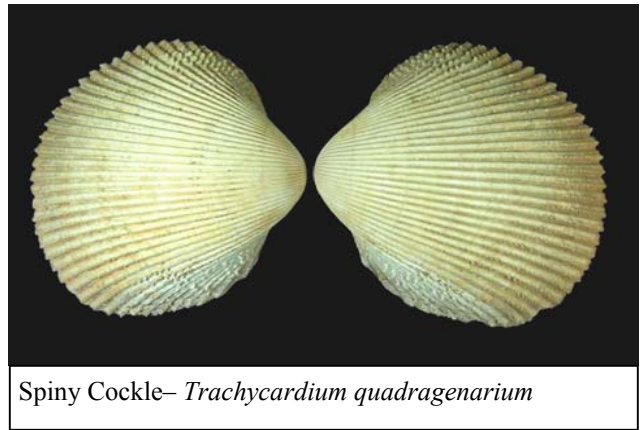
- Bag limit: up to 50 in combination with other small clams (see below)
- Size limit: must be at least one and a half inches wide



Chione undatella



Americardia biangulata
photo by Terry Rutkas



Spiny Cockle– *Trachycardium quadragenarium*

Cockles (family *Cardiidae*– Southern California species: *Americardia biangulata*, *Laevicardium substriatum*, *Trachycardium quadragenarium*)

- Bag limit: up to 50 in combination with other small clams (see below)
- Size limit: must be at least one and a half inches wide

Mussels (family *Mytilidae*, most specifically, *Mytilus californianus* and *Mytilus edulis*)

Bag limit: ten pounds of all mussels

Rock Scallops (*Crassodoma gigantea*)

- Bag limit: 10
- Rock Scallops can only be taken by hand, using either a dive knife or abalone iron



Rock Scallop– *Crassodoma gigantea*

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Other pelecypods with specific regulations are:

Littleneck Clams (*genus Protothaca*— *California species: P. staminea, laciniata, tenerrima*)

Bag limit: up to 50 in combination with other common clams

Size limit: must be at least one and a half inches wide



Littleneck Clam
Protothaca staminea

Soft-Shell Clams (*family Myidae*— *California species: Cryptomya californica, Platyodon cancellatus*)

Bag limit: up to 50 in combination with other common clams

Size limit: must be at least one and a half inches wide

Gaper Clams (*Tresus nuttalli*)

Bag limit: 10 in Southern California.

Geoducks (*Panope generosa*)

Bag limit: 3

Pismo Clams (*Tivela stultorum*)

Bag limit: 10

Size limit: 4 and a half inches minimum below the San Luis Obispo/Monterey Co. line; five inches minimum size above that line



Pismo Clam *Tivela stultorum*

Razor Clams (*the family Solenidae*)

Bag limit: 20

Note— there are seasonal restrictions on razor clams in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties

**It's still not too late to pay your 2008 Membership Dues!
The Pacific Conchological Club has the following annual dues structure:**

**Individual members— \$10 per year
Family membership— \$12 per year**

**Please drop a check in the mail right away to
PCC Treasurer, Kathy Kalohi
13901 Wilkie Avenue
Gardena, CA 90249**

Life's Little Surprises— A Florida Tree Snail Encounter

by Phil Liff-Grieff

A few months ago, I had to take a business trip to South Florida. When forced to travel to destinations with collecting potential, I usually make a point of flying in a day early in order to scout around for shells. In addition to the standard beachcombing at low tide, I like to use this time to search for native land snails.

My approach to South Florida land snail collecting is very basic:

1. find an accessible area of fairly dense vegetation
2. Search through the leaf litter
3. Keep an eye open for alligators

This simple strategy has proven very successful and I have, over the years of taking these trips, amassed a pretty decent collection of land snails from an area from Ft. Lauderdale south to the northern Florida Keys.

Following this approach on my most recent trip, I pulled onto a side street off Highway 1 in the northern Keys and checked out a wooded lot next to a residential area (see photo below). This narrow strip of trees didn't look very promising, sandwiched between the highway and a busy street. But, it was certainly worth spending a few minutes for a quick look.



where in Southern Florida so I collected a few representative shells and prepared to be on my way. Suddenly, I started seeing broken shells of the endangered Florida Tree Snail, *Liguus fasciatus*. These shell fragments all showed evidence of rodent predation and, judging by the



Liguus fragment among the leaf litter

As I worked my way through the leaf litter, I did find a number of interesting species (*Chondropoma dentatum*, *Drymaeus multilineatus*, *Lucidella tantilla*, *Helicina clappi*, *Allopeas gracile*, among others). These species are all found else-

amount of shell material in evidence, the rats were eating very well.

After a few more minutes of searching the ground for shell fragments, it dawned on me that, if I want to see

tree snails, I shouldn't be looking at the ground but, rather, in the trees above my head. Scanning the trees around me, I eventually saw my first *Liguus*, about three feet above me (*a little below center in the top photo below*).



Liguus fasciatus #1



Liguus fasciatus #2



In all, I saw only four live specimens in the trees around me (*see photo of specimen #2 above, right*). It was interesting that all of the live snails and many of the dead shells were of light-colored unbanded color form. But some of the dead shells were heavily banded in orange or

dark brown. Some looked like *Liguus f. roseatus*, others like *Liguus f. castaneozonatus*, others like neither.

Was this a location where someone had transplanted a range of color forms? Or, do different color forms exist side-by-side in this little colony?

The answer may come from Henry Pilsbry's classic work on Florida Tree Snails, *A Study of Variation and Zoogeography of Liguus in Florida* (1912). In this monograph, Pilsbry describes hybrid colonies of *Liguus* in northern and central Key Largo containing specimens of the *castaneus*, *roseatus* and *castaneozonatus* types. Clearly, I had encountered the remnant of one of the colonies that Pilsbry had written about almost a hundred years ago.

The next time that I am forced to attend a meeting in Florida, I will prepare as I've always done— come a day early, rent a car and keep looking out for those gators (well, better safe than sorry!). But, in the future, I will deploy a new strategy for seeing local land snails: in addition to staring at the ground, I will occasionally peer upwards into the trees. After all, there are Tree Snails around!

Liguus Tree Snails are protected in the State of Florida and no snails are to be taken. Land snail enthusiasts will have to be satisfied with photographs of these animals in the wild.

HOLD THE DATE
Remaining meeting dates
for 2007-2008

May 4

Shawn Weidrick
Variation in Western Marine
Shells

June 7

Auction and party

May Meeting: **SUNDAY, May 4, 2008**
1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Shawn Wiedrick will present
Variation in Western Marine Shells

June Meeting: **SATURDAY, June 7, 2008**
1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Annual Auction and party

Both meetings will take place in the Times Mirror Room, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (900 Exposition Boulevard)

Parking is no longer available in the east lot due to Museum construction. Please park in one of the lots on Menlo Street, directly west of the Natural History Museum.

Articles of interest to shell collectors are solicited for publication in this newsletter. Contents may be reprinted with credit being given to the Pacific Conchological Club, Inc.



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