

Vol. 41, No. 1 March 2013  
thomas@nerlfe.com www:conchologistsofamerica.org

# *American* CONCHOLOGIST

Quarterly Journal of the Conchologists of America, Inc.



# CONCHOLOGISTS



# OF AMERICA, INC.

In 1972, a group of shell collectors saw the need for a national organization devoted to the interests of shell collectors; to the beauty of shells, to their scientific aspects, and to the collecting and preservation of mollusks. This was the start of COA. Our membership includes novices, advanced collectors, scientists, and shell dealers from around the world. In 1995, COA adopted a conservation resolution: Whereas there are an estimated 100,000 species of living mollusks, many of great economic, ecological, and cultural importance to humans and whereas habitat destruction and commercial fisheries have had serious effects on mollusk populations worldwide, and whereas modern conchology continues the tradition of amateur naturalists exploring and documenting the natural world, be it resolved that the Conchologists of America endorses responsible scientific collecting as a means of monitoring the status of mollusk species and populations and promoting informed decision making in regulatory processes intended to safeguard mollusks and their habitats.

## OFFICERS

President: José Leal  
3075 Sanibel-Captiva Road  
Sanibel, FL 33957-1580  
(239) 395-2233  
jleal@shellmuseum.org  
Treasurer: Steven Coker  
332 Banyan St.  
Lake Jackson, TX 77566  
(979) 297-0852  
shellman7000@sbcglobal.net  
Membership: Doris Underwood  
7529 Ensemble Lane  
Melbourne, FL 32940-2603  
dunderwood13@cfl.rr.com  
(321) 622-4372  
Trustee: Bill Lyons  
4227 Porpoise Drive SE  
St. Petersburg, FL 33705-4328  
(813) 895-6202  
w.lyons@verizon.net  
Web Page Coordinator:  
José Coltro  
CX.P. 15011  
Sao Paulo, SP 01599-970  
Brasil  
55-11-5081-7261  
jose@femorale.com  
Convention Coordinator:  
Anne Joffe  
1163 Kittiwake Circle  
Sanibel, FL 33957-3605  
Member at Large:  
Jim Brunner  
2511 Parkwood Drive  
Panama City, FL 32405-4444  
jili@knology.net

Vice President: Harry G. Lee  
4132 Ortega Forest Dr.  
Jacksonville, FL 32210  
Secretary: Phyllis Gray  
1212 S. Eola Drive  
Orlando, FL 32806-2218  
(407) 422-0253  
psgray@mactec.com  
COA Awards Chairman:  
Donald Dan  
6704 Overlook Drive  
Ft. Myers, FL 33919  
(239) 481-6704  
donaldan@aol.com  
Historian: Mary Ruth Foglino  
4 Trent Court  
Smithtown, NY 11787-1266  
(631) 265-7811  
foglinh@sunysuffolk.edu  
Past President: Alice Monroe  
2468 Timbercrest Circle West  
Clearwater, FL 33763-1626  
(727) 796-5115  
monroea@spcollege.edu  
Academic Grants Director:  
Daniel Geiger  
Santa Barbara Mus of Nat History  
Invertebrate Zoology  
2559 Puesta del Sol Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105 - USA  
(805) 682 4711 x152  
geiger@vetigastropoda.com

AMERICAN CONCHOLOGIST, the official publication of the Conchologists of America, Inc., and issued as part of membership dues, is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December, printed by JOHNSON PRESS OF AMERICA, INC. (JPA), 800 N. Court St., P.O. Box 592, Pontiac, IL 61764. All correspondence should go to the Editor. ISSN 1072-2440.

Articles in AMERICAN CONCHOLOGIST may be reproduced with proper credit. We solicit comments, letters, and articles of interest to shell collectors, subject to editing. Opinions expressed in "signed" articles are those of the authors, and are not necessarily the opinions of Conchologists of America. All correspondence pertaining to articles published herein or generated by reproduction of said articles should be directed to the Editor.

MEMBERSHIP is for the calendar year, January-December, late memberships are retroactive to January. 2010 DUES: \$25; postal surcharge: USA none (\$5 additional for USA first class), \$5 for Canada and Mexico (total of \$30), \$15 for all other countries (total of \$40). New members apply to Doris Underwood, Membership Director. Please pay in U.S. dollars (\$), or with a check on a U.S. bank with Transit Enrouting and Account Numbers printed at the bottom, or with money order. Make checks payable to: CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA. Notify Membership Director with change of address.

BACK ISSUES are available from Doris Underwood, Membership Director. Prices: prior to 1999, \$3 each, 2000 to 2008 \$4 each, 2009 to current, \$5 each; postage extra.

Advertising in AMERICAN CONCHOLOGIST is presented as a service to our membership, but does not automatically imply endorsement of the advertisers by the AMERICAN CONCHOLOGIST staff or the Conchologists of America, Inc. Advertising space is available at the following rates: Black & White: 1/2 page, \$600 per year or \$200 per issue; 1/4 page, \$300 per year or \$100 per issue; 1/8 page, \$150 per year or \$50 per issue. Color: 1/2 page, \$1050 per year or \$350 per issue; 1/4 page, \$525 per year or \$175 per issue; 1/8 page, \$262.50 per year or \$87.50 per issue. Deadlines are as follows: #1 Jan 15, #2 Apr 1, #3 July 11, #4 Oct 1. High-resolution digital images, slides, or prints may be changed every issue. Copy changes \$25. Send advertising copy to the editor, Tom Eichhorst, 4528 Quartz Dr. N.E., Rio Rancho, NM 87124-4908, USA, email: thomas@nerite.com. Payments should be made to: Betty Lipe, 11771 96th Place, Seminole, FL 33772, USA. Make checks (in US dollars on a US bank) payable to Conchologists of America.

Editor:  
Tom Eichhorst  
4528 Quartz Dr. N.E.  
Rio Rancho, NM 87124-4908  
(505) 896-0904  
thomas@nerite.com

Advertising Director:  
Betty Lipe  
11771 96th Place  
Seminole, FL 33772-2235  
blipe@tampabay.rr.com

Staff: Lynn & Richard Scheu

COA Webmaster:  
Carlos Henckes

## EDITORIAL BOARD

Donald Dan	José H. Leal	Bruce Neville
Emilio Garcia	Harry G. Lee	G. Thomas Watters

Visit the COA website: <http://conchologistsofamerica.org>.  
Subscribe to Conch-L, the COA listserv (owned and operated by the University of Georgia) at: [listserv@listserv.uga.edu](mailto:listserv@listserv.uga.edu)  
Instructions for joining Conch-L are on the COA web site.

# In This Issue

Editor's comments .....	3
Report on a dredging expedition off the Louisiana coast, including geographical extensions and new record sizes II by Emilio F. García .....	4
In Memoriam .....	8
COA Convention 2013 - Sarasota, Florida .....	9
Vindication after 37 or more years by Joaquin M. Inchaustegui .....	11
Effects of lowhead dams on aquatic gastropods by Jeremy S. Tiemann .....	12
Dealer Directory .....	14
Neptunea Award by Harry Lee .....	16
Domenick Nicolaci Shell Collection: A Donation to the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University Edward Nieburger and Adam J. Baldinger .....	17
Alphie Finds The Seashell Alphabet - reviewed by Rusti Stover .....	23
The Cone Shells of Florida - reviewed by Tom Eichhorst .....	20
The Family Babyloniidae - reviewed by Tom Eichhorst .....	25
Museum's anniversary to be celebrated by Tom Rice .....	26
Broward Shell Show - 2013 .....	30
Sarasota Shell Show - 2013 .....	32
Astronaut Trail Shell Show - 2013 .....	33
Charles Rawlings photos .....	34

**Front Cover:** *Harpa costata* (Linnaeus, 1758), photographed in the waters off Mauritius in 2012 by Charles Rawlings. To our knowledge, this is the first *in situ* image of this species, much less two of them!

**Back Cover:** *Euvola laurentii* (Gmelin, 1791), photographed by Edie Kehoe of Sugarloaf Key, Florida. These colorful left hand valves (often thought of as top valves as that is their typical orientation when found alive on the sand) were arranged by Frank Frumar. He obtained them from shrimp fishermen in the Florida Keys (fisher NE of the Tortugas) who had eaten the insides and often busted one or both valves in the process.

## Editor's notes:

This has been an interesting issue. I started with the two cover illustrations (normally the last part of the magazine worked on) and then started scrambling for material to go in between. I believe the two covers make this issue really stand out. The photograph by Charles Rawlings of *Harpa costata* is certainly a major coup. Two specimens of this rare species caught *in situ*, definitely a first. After setting aside a couple future cover images I decided more of the Rawling's Mauritius images should be shared - pages 34 and 35. Then Frank Frumar had his composition of *Euvola raveneli*, photographed by Edie Kehoe. A great presentation of this handsome shell.

Next we have another report by Emilio F. García about his further adventures dredging in the Caribbean. This ongoing series has been quite interesting to follow over the past few years. Peggy Williams gives us an invitation to the COA convention in Sarasota, Florida. I well remember the 2004 convention at this same hotel, great rooms and hotel facilities, but most memorable for the lunch on the patio - a grouper sandwich that will long be remembered. After Peggy we have long-time contributor, Joaquin M. Inchaustegui, with his tale of a pearl found and lost. Jeremy Tiemann relates the progress of his research on the effects of lowhead dams on freshwater gastropods, research partially funded by a COA grant.

Edward Nieburger and Adam Baldinger tell us about Domenick Nicolaci and his shell collection, now housed in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University. For readers with Internet access (and maybe acumen), try looking for the Nicolaci house on the "island" (now a peninsula) off West Island, Buzzard's Bay, in Fairhaven, Massachusetts. Google Maps shows a great view of this estate.

We then have three book reviews. Rusti Stover reviews a kid's book, "Alphie Finds The Seashell Alphabet," and I review "The Cone Shells of Florida" and "The Family Babyloniidae." All three are available now by direct mail or online and I am sure they will be available at the convention in Sarasota.

We close with a great story about Tom Rice's *Of Sea and Shore* enterprises: the museum in Port Gamble, the shell magazine, and now the online blog and web site.

Finally, a couple of corrections to the last issue. Lyle Campbell wrote to identify mystery person #32 in the convention photograph as Sarah Campbell. Dave Pugh wrote to correct the caption on page 23 for fig. 4b. Dave states the photo is of the Shell Show judges Len Hill (left) and Dave Pugh (right) presenting the Du Pont Trophy to Stanley & Bobbi Phillips of Miami, FL. He further states the photo had to have been taken at the Greater Miami Shell Show in 1983 or 1984.

**Tom Eichhorst**

# Report on a dredging expedition off the Louisiana coast, including geographical extensions and new record sizes II

Emilio F. García

Readers of *American Conchologist* may remember the report on a dredging expedition in August 2012, off the Louisiana coast, when the two benthic skimmers brought specially for mud-bottom dredging were lost, and when the trip was shortened because of the threats of hurricane Isaac in the northern Gulf of Mexico (García, 2012b). This is a report on a three-day campaign to make up for the “unused” days in August. Our main purpose was to inspect the areas we would have covered had we not lost the dredges.

We did not waste any time, promptly departing for our easternmost and deepest station at 12:01 a.m. on November 17 and not getting to our first station until after 4 p.m. As has been mentioned before, when the benthic skimmer is dropped in deep water it takes about one hour for it to reach the bottom; we then dredge for an hour before bringing it back up. It was some 20 hours from departure time before we got to see the first haul.

The dredge reached the bottom at **Station 1** (see map) at 27°34.52'N, 89°19.39'W, in 1750 m of water and was brought up an hour later at 27°31.028'N, 89°26.986'W, in 1816 m. As is the case with all of these deep-water stations, the bottom is composed of very soft mud, at times becoming lumpy, hard, gray clay - conditions for which the Benthic Skimmer was specially designed.

At this first station the dredge brought up several live specimens of *Tindaria amabilis* (Dall, 1889) and numerous live, young *Propeamussium dalli* (E. A. Smith, 1886). Also collected were several empty specimens of the elegant *Graptacme perlonga* (Dall, 1881). This species had been reported before from the Gulf of Mexico from a single specimen (García, 2011a). Among the gastropods up came a few empty specimens of *Leucosyrinx verrilli* (Dall, 1881), *L. tenoceras* (Dall, 1889), *Drilliola pruina* (Watson, 1881) (**fig. 1**), and *Spirotropis centimata* (Dall, 1881) (**fig. 2**). Station 1 is the westernmost record for both of these species. Moreover, the specimen of *Drilliola pruina* figured here is the largest on record at 28.3 mm. These, and all geographical extensions and maximum record sizes listed below, are taken from Rosenberg, 2009.

**Station 2** (see map) was only 27.5 nautical miles from Station 1. The dredge hit bottom at 27°34.153'N, 89°50.224'W, in 1125 m, and was brought up at 27°31.028'N, 89°26.986'W, in 1148 m. This haul was composed mainly of a number of live *Leucosyrinx tenoceras* and *Propeamussium*

*dalli* (most of them damaged because of their fragility), and one empty specimen each of *Gymnobela agassizii* (Verrill & Smith, 1880) and *Janthina pallida* (Thompson, 1840). Also dredged was one live *Oocorys sulcata* Fischer, 1883 (**fig. 3**), a westernmost record for that species.

**Station 3** (see map) was 62.2 nautical miles away. The dredge was set down at 27°53.746'N, 91°06.535'W in 346 m, and brought up at 27°50.727'N, 91°09.042'W in 360 m. Only one live mollusk was collected, that of a *Leucosyrinx* (?) species (**fig. 4**) that may be undescribed. Several empty specimens of the handsome *Calliodentalium callipeplum* (Dall, 1889) and the rare *Scaphella robusta* (Dall, 1889) were also collected. I was very excited about the *Scaphella* because I had not personally collected this species before. This population, all juveniles, shows an interesting elongate form, even when compared with juveniles of approximately the same size of the “marionae” form of *S. robusta* from west Florida. Nevertheless, a *robusta* is a *robusta*, and all other characters of this population agree with its original description.

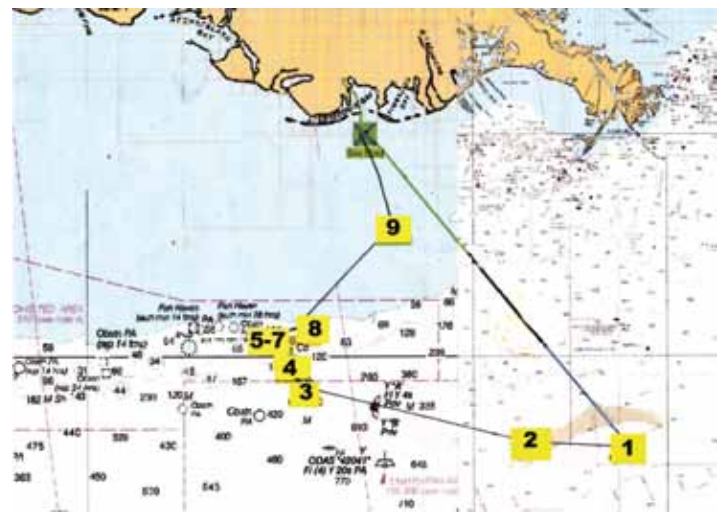
**Station 4** (see map) was a treasure trove. We started dredging at 27°55.879'N, 91°12.839'W, in 203 m, and finished at 27°56.235'N, 91°08.156'W, in 204 m. The empty shells collected, consisting of one or two specimens per species, included *Calliodentalium callipeplum*, *Cuspidaria microrrhina* Dall, 1886; *Diodora fluviana* Dall, 1889; *Calliostoma orion* Clench & Aguayo, 1960; *Epitonium krebsii* (Mörch, 1874); *Eudolium crosseanum* (Monterosato, 1869); *Pteropurpura bequaerti* (Clench & Aguayo, 1945); *Paziella nuttingi* (Dall, 1896); *Antillophos virginiae* (Schwengel, 1942); *Metula agassizii* Clench & Aguayo, 1941; *Scaphella dubia* f. *kieneri*, Clench, 1846; *S. robusta* (Dall, 1889); a relatively large *Conus cancellatus* Hwass, 1792 (64.8 mm); and a *Polystira* sp. One of the two specimens of *Metula agassizii* (**fig. 5**) measures 39.6 mm, 2.3 mm over the maximum reported size; and the single specimen of *Diodora fluviana* (**fig. 6**) is, at 17.8 mm, 5.8 mm larger than the previously reported maximum size. Also, the *Eudolium crosseanum* (**fig. 7**) is a record for its westernmost distribution, and *Paziella nuttingi* (**fig. 8**) had never been recorded from Louisiana. The single specimen of *Scaphella robusta* (**fig. 9**) shares the same elongated shape with the *S. robusta* population from the previous station.

Collected alive at Station 4 were the bivalves *Limopsis cristata* Jeffreys, 1876; *Microcardium peramabile* (Dall, 1881); *Aequipecten glyptus* (Verrill, 1882); and *Macoma extenuata* Dall, 1900. Also alive were three specimens of *Siratus beauii* (Fischer & Bernardi, 1857) and several specimens each of *Conus villepini* Fischer & Bernardi, 1857 (fig. 10) and *Conus mazei* f. *mcgintyi* Pilsbry, 1955 (fig. 11). The specimen of *Siratus beauii* figured in the plate (fig. 12) measures 123.6 mm. Rosenberg reports a maximum size of 121 mm but there may be larger specimens in private collections.

As Stations 5, 6 and 7 (see map) were scheduled for Ewing Bank, we changed from the benthic skimmer dredge to the box dredge, as we would be working on hard bottom. The dredging was done between 28°05.871'N, 91°02.054'W and 28°05.278'N, 91°02.467'W, in 54-79 m. As was the case in the August 2012 expedition, several live *Turbo castanea* Gmelin, 1791; *Erosaria acicularis* (Gmelin, 1791); and *Acrosterigma magnum* (Linnaeus, 1758) were dredged. Also collected were a few dead specimens of *Globivenus listeroides* (Fischer-Piette & Testud, 1967); *Turbo cailletii* Fischer & Bernardi, 1856; *Cheilea equestris* (Linnaeus, 1758); and *Pusula maltbiana* (Schwengel & McGinty, 1942). What saved the day for me was dredging an empty specimen of *Vexillum articulatum* (Reeve, 1845) (see García, 2011b) and, more importantly, a live specimen of *Ranularia rehderi* (A. H. Verrill, 1950). A single live specimen of this species was collected off Louisiana by Charlotte Thorpe in August 2008 during an expedition on the R/V Pelican sponsored by Mr. Bill Cargile (García, 2008). This latest record is only the second for the northern Gulf of Mexico.

**Station 8** (28°08.534'N, 90°53.517'W to 28°09.585'N, 90°50.186'W, in 100 m) was very near Ewing Bank (see map), but it may as well have been a hundred miles away, the faunas of the two stations are so very different: hard, calcareous bottom in Ewing and soft muddy bottom at the new station. We changed back from the box dredge to the benthic skimmer.

After an hour of dredging the skimmer brought up empty shells of *Scaphella dubia* f. *kieneri*, *Antillophos virginiae*, *Conus mcgintyi*, *Mitra antillensis* Dall, 1889 (large but “very” dead), and *Epitonium krebsii*. You may remember that I had earlier reported a gargantuan specimen of *E. krebsii* (García, 2011a) measuring 27.7 mm. This one measures 29 mm! The smaller specimen had been collected in December 2010, at approximately 28°06.383'N, 90°55.435'W, in rubble, in 76 m; that is, in a bank very near Station 8. As both specimens were collected in excellent condition but empty, the question is does this population of large *E. krebsii* live in rubble or in mud? My guess is that its habitat is rubble with sediment or shell hash, the kind of bottom that occurs in the lower parts of some banks. This station also produced live *Anadara baughmani* Hertlein,



**Map showing the Louisiana coast off the Mississippi river delta and dredging stations:** 1. 27°34.52'N, 89°19.39'W to 27°31.028'N, 89°26.986'W, in 1750 to 1816 m. 2. 27°34.153'N, 89°50.224'W to 27°31.028'N, 89°26.986'W, in 1125 to 1148 m. 3. 27°53.746'N, 91°06.535'W to 27°50.727'N, 91°09.042'W, in 346 to 360 m. 4. 27°55.879'N, 91°12.839'W to 27°56.235'N, 91°08.156'W, in 203 to 204 m. 5.-7. 28°05.871'N, 91°02.054'W to 28°05.278'N, 91°02.467'W, in 54 to 79 m. 8. 28°08.534'N, 90°53.517'W to 28°09.585'N, 90°50.186'W, in 100 m. 9. 28°36.534'N, 90°23.544'W to 28°38.727'N, 90°22.468'W, in 23 to 34 m.

1951; *Macoma tenta* (Say, 1881); *Sconsia grayi* A. Adams, 1855; *Conus armiger* Crosse, 1858; *Clathrodrillia* sp.; *Polystira florenceae* Bartsch, 1934; and *P. tellea* (Dall, 1889).

Sailing 36.2 nautical miles to the northeast we reached Station 9 (28°36.534'N, 90°23.544'W to 28°38.727'N, 90°22.468'W), our shallowest station at between 23 to 34 m with a mud bottom (see map). There were no expectations of new discoveries here, and no new discoveries were made, but a good amount of live material was collected: *Noetia ponderosa* (Say, 1822); *Microcardium peramabile*; *Argopecten gibbus* (Linnaeus, 1758); *Lirophora clenchi* (Pulley, 1952); *Distorsio clathrata* (Lamarck, 1816); *Solenosteira cancellaria* (Conrad, 1846); *Terebra taurina* Lightfoot, 1786; and a juvenile *Hexaplex fulvescens* (Sowerby II, 1834). These juveniles look so different from the “grown-ups” that when first seen by Clench and Pérez-Farfante they thought they were dealing with a new species and named it *Murex (Poirieria) burryae*.

I did not detect oil from the Macondo Spill (28°44.12N, 88°23.13W) in any of the sites sampled. Station 1 (1750-1816 m) and station 2 (1125-1148 m) produced live material consistent with those depths, as did stations 4 (203-204 m), 8 (100 m) and 9 (23-34 m). Station 3 (346-360 m) was inexplicably poor, producing a single live specimen in one hour of dredging and the crustacean population was equally poor. Perhaps this area happens to be one of those





1. *Drilliola pruina* (Watson, 1881) 28.3 mm (EFG 30871) 2. *Spirotropis centimata* (Dall, 1881) 23.7 mm (EFG 30893) 3. *Oocorys sulcata* Fischer, 1883, 32.0 mm (EFG 30827) 4. *Leucosyrinx* (?) sp., 20.8 mm (EFG 30872) 5. *Metula agassizii* Clench & Aguayo, 1941, 39.6 mm (EFG 30828) 6. *Diodora fluviana* (Dall, 1889) 17.8 mm (EFG 30840) 7. *Eudolium crosseanum* (Monterosato, 1869), 26.8 mm (EFG 30846).



8. *Paziella nuttingi* (Dall, 1896) 35.5 mm (EFG 30834) 9. *Scaphella robusta* (Dall, 1889), 45.9 mm (EFG 30830) 10. *Conus vilipinii* Fischer & Bernardi, 1857, 47.0 mm (EFG 30880) 11. *Conus mazei* f. *mcgintyi* Pilsbry, 1955, 36.2 mm 12. *Siratus beauii* (Fischer & Bernardi, 1857), 123.6 mm (EFG 30829).



restricted benthic “dead zones” that occur naturally? And then there is Ewing Bank (54-79 m) that so far does not show signs of recuperation.

This expedition is labeled Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative III (part II) and is part of a study project to assess the impact of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the surrounding marine biota. A preliminary assessment on the mollusks was reported in *American Conchologist* (García, 2012a). The expedition was sponsored by British Petroleum, and its Primary Investigator is Dr. Nancy Rabalais, Executive Director and Professor at Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, Chauvin, Louisiana. My thanks to Drs. Darryl Felder and Suzanne Fredericq for inviting me to participate in this campaign. A complete list and many images of mollusks found in offshore Louisiana waters can be found at <http://www.jaxshells.org/efg1030.htm>. I thank Bill Frank, the webmaster of JAXSHELLS, for his excellent work.

#### REFERENCES

**García, E. F. 2008.** Molluscan findings from a recent dredging expedition off the Louisiana coast. *American Conchologist* 36(4): 4-9.

\_\_\_\_\_. **2011a.** Noteworthy mollusks of the Gulf of Mexico, including record sizes and geographical extensions. *American Conchologist* 39(3): 4-9.

\_\_\_\_\_. **2011b.** On *Vexillum (Pusia) articulatum* (Reeve, 1845) and *V. (P.) trophonium* (Dall, 1889). *American Conchologist* 39(3) 10-11.

\_\_\_\_\_. **2012a.** Preliminary report on the possible effect of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico on the molluscan fauna of the surrounding area. *American Conchologist* 40(1): 32-33.

\_\_\_\_\_. **2012b.** Report on a dredging expedition off the Louisiana coast including geographical extension and new record size. *American Conchologist* 40(4): 7-10.

**Rosenberg, G. 2009.** *Malacolog 4.1.1: A Database of Western Atlantic Marine Mollusca. [WWW database (version 4.1.1)] URL <http://www.malacolog.org/>.*

Emilio F. García  
115 Oak Crest Dr.  
Lafayette, LA 70503  
Efg2112@louisiana.edu



## GLORIA MARIS

A magazine dedicated to the study of shells.

Edited by the Belgian Society for Conchology,  
organizers of the Belgian Shellshow

Subscription: Belgium: € 30 - The Netherlands: € 33  
Other countries: € 40

Members account manager: J. Wuyts Koningsarendlaan 82 B 2100 Belgium  
tel.: 32 3 324 99 14 e-mail: wuyts.jean@pi.be



**Club Conchylia**  
e.V.  
German Shell Collector's Club

Our journals:



Conchylia



Mitteilungen



Acta Conchyliorum

Yearly subscription rate: 40.- €

Visit our site:

[www.club-conchylia.de](http://www.club-conchylia.de)

Further informations:

Klaus Kittel

Sonnenrain 10

D-97859 Wiesthal

e-mail: [klaus\\_kittel@hotmail.com](mailto:klaus_kittel@hotmail.com)

#### In Memoriam:

Albert F. Chadwick

Dieter Cosman

Ruth Stallings Dixon

Rachel Imlah

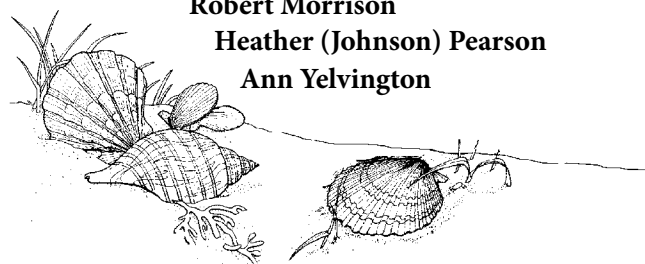
Josephine Kohn

Carlos (Charlie) Leobrera

Robert Morrison

Heather (Johnson) Pearson

Ann Yelvington





# COA Convention 2013

This year's COA Convention will be held in Sarasota, Florida, at the same venue as the very satisfying 2004 convention, the Hyatt Sarasota. Rates for the Hyatt rooms are \$109 single or double, with a few suites also available. Alternative housing is abundant in Sarasota, though we urge you to stay at the Hyatt for better camaraderie, closeness to events, and the fact that the Hyatt is counting on us to provide them a profit, in exchange for free use of the meeting rooms.

We have a great convention planned for you, with several field trips: fossil, scuba, snorkeling, and wading trips, plus a couple of great museums visits.

Here's the tentative timetable:

## COA 2013 July 14-21

**Sun 14**- 8am-2pm field trip: fossil **SMR Aggregates**, Roger Portell leading, (limit 40)

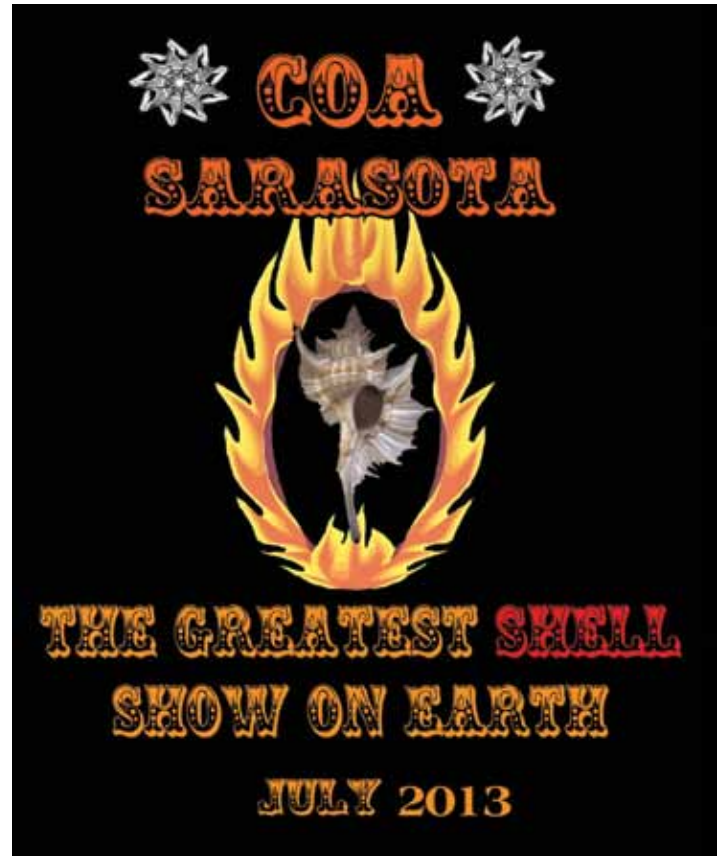
**Mon 15** - 9am field trip: **scuba** (limit 12)  
- 2pm-4:30pm field trip: **Ringling Museum of Art** (limit 22); John Ringling's home and the Circus Museum (requires additional admission)

**Tues 16** - 10am-3pm+ field trip: boat **snorkeling** (limit 12)  
- 1pm-5pm field trip: **South Florida Museum**, home to Bill Clendenin's shells  
- 1pm registration: **cheap shells** (25¢ and up)  
- 2pm **COA Board** meeting  
- evening welcome party 6pm-9pm

**Wed 17** - 8am-10am registration: club tables setup 8am-9am, open 9am-10am  
- 8:30am silent auction, **cheap shells** in lobby until 10am  
- 10am **opening ceremonies & entertainment** followed by talks (ends @4:30pm) with break for lunch, silent auction continues until 15 min after talks are over  
- evening **auction** (preview 6:30pm, auction 7pm)

**Thur 18** - 7am COA rep meeting 7am-8:45am (continental breakfast)  
- 8am-9am club sales in lobby  
- 8:00 silent auction begins  
- 9am-4pm presentations with break for lunch  
- silent auction ends 15 min after talks end  
- 6pm cocktails in lobby, **banquet** 6:30pm

**Fri 19** - 8am silent auction begins  
- 9am-2:30pm presentations and annual meeting  
- 3pm silent auction ends  
- 4pm-8pm **wading field trip** (limit 40), box lunches included  
- 9pm turtle excavation?\*



**Sat 20** - 8am-12am craft sessions: make a flower arrangement!

- am free shuttle to St Armand's, Lido Beach, downtown (you make arrangements)
- am bourse setup
- 1pm-9pm **Bourse**

**Sun 21** - 9am-4pm **Bourse**

- 8am-11pm fossil field trip

\*Official turtle nest excavations may occur during the convention and if possible we will take people to watch. The eggs are carefully kept for incubation and the hatching turtles are escorted to the sea. If a public turtle excavation occurs during July 17-20, we will arrange a car caravan.

The **Ringling Museum of Art** is Florida's Official Art Museum. It has mostly Old Masters, including four huge "cartoons" (full sized tapestry designs) by Rubens.

The **South Florida Museum** houses the Bill Clendenin shell collection and has a great display of local fossils, the oldest Manatee in captivity (over 50 years old), and a Planetarium. Buses will take participants to both locations.

Many other attractions are found in Sarasota, and the hotel provides a free shuttle to St Armand's Key (shopping), Lido Beach, and downtown Sarasota (also walkable). The **GeeWiz Kid's Science Museum** (fun for grownups too) is across the street from the Hyatt, as is the **Garden Club's** lovely garden. With transportation, you can visit: the **Sarasota Jungle Gardens** (alligators, tropical birds, bird acts, and more), **Selby Botanical Gardens** (specializing in orchids and bromeliads), **Mote Marine Aquarium**, where you can touch live shells and watch manatees, sharks, turtles, and giant grouper.

There are several live theaters and an opera and ballet. With field trips and all the things to do, you might want to stay a few extra days in Sarasota! Downtown Sarasota is within easy walking distance, with myriad restaurants (with varied cuisines available) and lots of antique shops on Main St and Fruitville Rd. There are two groceries you can walk to: on 1st St is Whole Foods Market, and to the south a few blocks is a Publix Supermarket. You can take a **free** shuttle from the hotel to **St Armand's Key shopping, Lido Beach, and downtown Sarasota's shopping and restaurants.**

so...**Come to Sarasota in July!**

For more information, email [Peggy@Shelltrips.com](mailto:Peggy@Shelltrips.com)





# Vindication after 37 or more years

Joaquin M. Inchaustegui

As you can see to the right, I submitted a short note to the magazine of *Sea and Shore* published in the Spring 1975, issue. I discovered a small tear-shaped pearl from a *Conus striatus* that I had exchanged with an American shell collector, temporarily living in Kenya, East Africa. When I received this shell there was a distinct aroma that all shell collectors recognize and I could see part of the mollusk's flesh in the aperture. Before adding this to my collection I decided to clean the shell by soaking in fresh water and exchanging the water about every six hours or so to avoid developing Bynes Disease which would ruin the shell.

While on one of the water changes I noticed a piece of flesh had fallen out of the shell taking with it the operculum and a strange "something" shaped like a tear or a grape seed. It had the same colors as the *striatus* and when I rolled it between my thumb and finger I noticed it was hard and smooth. Not knowing what to think of this, I showed it to Dr. R. Tucker Abbott on one of our Caribbean trips in the 70's and after he examined it under low magnification, he concluded that the shell had been damaged and while repairing this damage the animal trapped a piece of the shell and started to form a "pearl" by secreting new material around it.

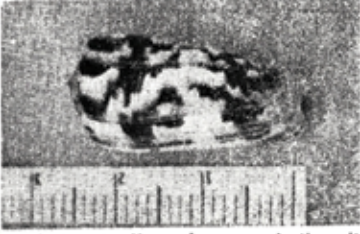

Unfortunately, I was not experienced enough to recognize the rarity or importance of this so I did not pay much attention to it other than sending a short article to *Of Sea and Shore*, bringing it to the Louisiana Malacological Society monthly shell meeting for a "Show and Tell," and showing it off to my shell collecting friends who were dubious as to the authenticity of this "pearl" and would take

OF SEA AND SHORE 58 Spring 1975

## Pearls From Cones and Cowries ?

It has often been reported that some cone shells have caused poisonous stings that have resulted in much suffering and, in some cases, even death to the victim. In Australia and other areas of the Pacific, death from cone stings occur nearly every year. However, I have not seen written reference to the fact that cone shells can produce pearls!

The accompanying photographs were taken by Wil Richard of Gretna, Louisiana, of a *Conus striatus* that I received in exchange from Kenya. While examining the shell I noticed that a dried piece of the animal's flesh was still inside, so I took it out. When the piece of dried flesh fell out I noticed a small piece of "something"

J. M. INCHAUSTEGUI; Gretna, Louisiana

---

On Saturday, January 11, 1975, a diver friend of mine, Bill French, went out on the dive boat "Kona Princess" to Santa Rosa Island off the coast of Southern California. He is not a conchologist, but he does pick up an occasional shell. When he finds something unusual, he brings it to me. On this particular trip he picked up a couple of *Cypraea spadicea* Swainson, 1823, that he found on a pinnacle in 65 feet of water. This Chestnut Cowry is the only cowry found in local waters.

When Bill got home he cleaned his shells. He couldn't get everything out of one of the cowries. He kept shaking it and still it didn't come out so he took a close look. He saw, what he first thought was a rock, looked like a part of the shell. He couldn't believe his eyes so decided to call me.

His first question was, "Have you ever heard of a pearl being found in a cowry?" Of course my answer was "No!". When he brought it over and showed it to me, I had to agree that it was, indeed, a pearl.

I called my friend, Dr. James McLean, Curator of Invertebrate Zoology at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. When I asked him about finding a pearl in a cowry he said that if there were such a thing ... and he was not doubting my word ... it was a "freak of nature"

Bill went to the Museum so Dr. McLean could see the "pearl". He agreed that it was a pearl and of the same material as the cowry shell. He said that the irritation, the star the pearl, had been in the mantle of the cowry. The cowry shell is 45 mm long and the pearl is approximately 5 mm in diameter. The aperture of the shell is 3 mm wide and so the pearl is inside to stay. The color of the pearl is:

ALBERTA JONES  
Burbank, California

it as poppycock or a tall tale when I would show it off. When in the same magazine issue there was mention of a "pearl" found inside a cowry shell, I concluded that this was not such a rare occurrence and put my "pearl" in a little poly-bag with the *C. striatus* in my cone cabinets. Little did I know that Hurricane Katrina would come along and reclaim this back to the Gulf of Mexico in 2005.

And so it went till Dr. Alan J. Kohn of the University of Washington and *Conus* expert co-author of *Manual of the Living Conidae Volume 1: Indo-Pacific Region*, discovered a second pearl in a *Conus* (*C. cedonulli*) that Robert Masino recently found off Union Island in the Grenadines, which confirmed that I had really found a "pearl" in a *Conus* way back when, a nice vindication after 37 years. All this will be summarized in the upcoming manual in the revisionary systematics of the west coast *Conus* being prepared by Dr. A. J. Kohn and will make great reading even for those with only a slight interest in *Conus*.

# Effects of lowhead dams on aquatic gastropods

Jeremy S. Tiemann

Freshwater gastropods are a diverse group of invertebrates that are vital components of stream ecosystems. Not only does their sensitivity to stream disturbances make them good biological indicators of stream integrity, but they also occupy a central position in food webs by grazing on periphyton and providing a food source for predators (e.g., fishes, turtles, and birds). They constitute a high percentage of the biomass in many habitats, making them critically important in ecosystem and community dynamics. Aquatic gastropods are, however, among the most rapidly declining groups of organisms on Earth, and have become one of the most imperiled groups of organisms in North America. Nearly 75% of the approximately 700 species have become extinct or are endangered, threatened, or in need of conservation status. Among factors affecting the group are anthropogenic disturbances that result in habitat destruction and fragmentation. Impoundments are one of the major sources of anthropogenic disturbances on streams by affecting both the physical and chemical conditions of streams.

One of the first evidences of an impoundment being constructed was in Egypt along the Nile River. This dam was built nearly 4,500 years ago. Since then, dams have been created for a variety of great reasons to advance human society, including: hydroelectric power, drinking water supplies, irrigation, navigation, flood control, and recreation. Today, dams regulate most major rivers of the world. There are an estimated two million dams in the United States, the majority of which are lowhead dams (also known as low-water or mill dams). Many of these lowhead dams, similar to the one in Figure 1, no longer function for the purpose for which they were created. Nevertheless, they are physical barriers in streams that not only are safety concerns, but can also cause severe disruptions to riverine ecosystems and hinder how streams function.



**Figure 1 – A lowhead dam in the Vermilion River, Illinois. Dams such as this one are only <12 feet high but still affect both the physical and chemical conditions of rivers (photo from Kevin Cummings, Illinois Natural History Survey).**

Impoundments dramatically affect both the physical and chemical conditions of rivers by converting free-flowing habitats to more lake-like conditions, changing flow regimes, altering water quality of streams (e.g., changes in temperature, reductions in oxygen), and increasing siltation upstream from the dam while increasing erosion downstream from the dam. These habitat alterations cause changes in aquatic faunas (e.g., fishes, freshwater mussels, and aquatic insects) by restricting distributions, isolating populations, reducing the numbers of native species, and increasing the numbers of non-native species. Several studies have documented effects of dams on fish, freshwater mussel, and aquatic insect communities, but few have addressed effects of dams on aquatic gastropods. The Conchologists of America (COA) provided funds to help me complete a study that addressed this issue. Data on how lowhead dams affect freshwater mussels are important for the protection of this imperiled fauna.

I set up a study design similar to that of my previous studies, where I addressed the effects of lowhead dams on fishes, freshwater mussels, and aquatic insects. Using



existing data from the Illinois Natural History Survey Mollusk Collection, Champaign, I chose three basins in Illinois that contained a diverse and abundant aquatic gastropod fauna and had at least one lowhead dam. I established four sites around each dam: an upstream and a downstream reference site that were free-flowing and had no obvious signs of being affected by the impoundments; a site in the impounded area, which resembled a lake (e.g., no flow); and a site immediately downstream from the dam (e.g., <100 meters from the dam). At each site, I sampled aquatic gastropods by throwing out quadrats and counting the number of snails on and under rocks in the quadrats (Figure 2). I also examined various habitat variables, including substrate type and flow, to determine if any environmental variables could help explain the results. After all, we scientists *love* statistics and can't make any conclusions without them.



**Figure 2. Snorkeling and counting snails in the Kankakee River, Illinois.**

The results from my study suggest that dams cause changes in the gastropod fauna by altering instream habitat. The free-flowing sites had substrates that were not covered in silt. These “clean” substrates provided more surface area for algae to grow and therefore more area for snails (Figure 3) to graze. This pattern was not true in the impounded areas, where there was no flow and therefore more silt covering the rocks. These areas had very few, if any, aquatic gastropods.



**Figure 3. *Elimia livescens* and *Pleurocera acuta* in a free-flowing site on the Kankakee River, Illinois.**

The sites immediately downstream from the impoundments varied. All areas had “clean” substrates, but some had snails whereas others did not. It is important to note that, using data from the INHS Mollusk Collection, these areas had snails present prior to the construction of dams. Those areas that did not have snails typically had high velocities, which suggest that the snails might have been scoured off the rocks.

Data collected from my study are similar to those reported from studies addressing the effects of lowhead dams on fishes, freshwater mussels, and aquatic insects. Because of the reduction in flow and increase in siltation, impounded areas often lack the species described as “habitat-specialists.” These areas typically are dominated by “habitat-generalists,” or species who can thrive in a variety of habitat conditions. Those areas immediately downstream from the dam contain “habitat-specialists,” but they often occur in low densities when compared with free-flowing areas.

My COA-funded study will be published in a scientific journal and therefore will be available to other researchers. COA will be acknowledged in the publication. The monies were used for travel to my study sites and were critical in data collection. I am truly thankful for the support of COA. If you have any questions about my study, please do not hesitate to contact me (jtiemann@illinois.edu).

Jeremy S. Tiemann – Illinois Natural History Survey  
1816 South Oak Street – Champaign, IL 61820  
jtiemann@illinois.edu

[www.AquaShells.com](http://www.AquaShells.com)  
 "QUALITY & SERVICE GUARANTEED"

- \* **15% DISCOUNT + FREE SHIPPING** on your first shell order
- \* **FREE SHIPPING ON ORDERS OF \$100+** (Sorry - all Free Shipping applies to continental USA only)
- \* **RECEIVE FREE BONUS AQUABUCKS** with your orders

email: [dorothy@aquashells.com](mailto:dorothy@aquashells.com) phone: (702) 241-6320  
 2251 N. Rampart #258, Las Vegas NV 89128



**The BAILEY-MATTHEWS SHELL MUSEUM**

Join Anne Joffe and Gary Schmelz as they lead another Natural History and Shelling Trip to Chub Cay, a charming private island in the Bahamas. Proceeds from Museum trips help the institution's educational programs, while allowing you to have a fantastic experience.

From May 30-June 6, 2013

For more information, contact Anne Joffe at [sanibelchilton@aol.com](mailto:sanibelchilton@aol.com)



**ALGOA BAY SPECIMEN SHELLS**  
**Brian Hayes**  
 In the shell business for 20 years !

919 - 931 - 6197 ( cell )  
 PO BOX 97564 NORTH RIDGE RALEIGH NC 27624 USA

<http://www.algoabayshells.co.za/>  
[brian@algoabayusa.com](mailto:brian@algoabayusa.com)




**Molluscan Research**  
[www.publish.csiro.au/journals/mr](http://www.publish.csiro.au/journals/mr)

A major journal for the publication of research articles and reviews in all branches of malacology, with an emphasis on the Australasian, Indo-West Pacific and South East Asian regions: • molluscan biology • physiology • systematics • morphology • ecology • research with conservation or economic significance

*Molluscan Research* welcomes the submission of papers presenting original and significant research. All papers are refereed by at least two reviewers. Manuscripts should be submitted to the Managing Editor, who, in conjunction with the Associate Editors, selects referees and is responsible for acceptance decisions.

**As an author you can expect:**

- Expert refereeing by at least two reviewers
- 25 FREE reprints
- Wide circulation
- Online availability of all papers from 2002
- Abstracting by major biological indexing services

**Visit the website for:**

- Information for Authors
- Table of contents and abstracts
- Papers in press
- Subscription information and ordering
- Link to the Malacological Society of Australasia

**Molluscan Research is for:**

- professional malacologists
- biologists
- conservationists
- conchologists
- amateurs
- students
- those interested in any aspect of the Mollusca

**Managing Editor**  
 Dr W.F. Ponder, Australian Museum, Sydney

**Associate Editors**  
 Mr B. A. Marshall, Te Papa Tongarewa, Museum of New Zealand, Wellington  
 Professor B. Morton, University of Hong Kong  
 Dr W.B. Rudman, Australian Museum, Sydney  
 Dr J. Stanisic, Queensland Museum, Brisbane

**Send your submissions to:**  
 Dr W. F. Ponder  
 Australian Museum  
 6 College Street  
 Sydney NSW 2010, Australia  
 Phone: +61 (0)2 9320 6120  
 Fax: +61 (0)2 9320 6050  
 Email: [winstonp@austmus.gov.au](mailto:winstonp@austmus.gov.au)


**To order a subscription**  
 Visit the website:  
[www.publish.csiro.au/journals/mr](http://www.publish.csiro.au/journals/mr)  
 or email: [publishing.sales@csiro.au](mailto:publishing.sales@csiro.au)  
 Personal subscriptions are available direct from the *Malacological Society of Australasia*:  
[www.amonline.net.au/malsoc](http://www.amonline.net.au/malsoc)

 PO Box 1139, Collingwood VIC 3066, AUSTRALIA  
 Fax: (+61 3) 9662 7666 Phone: (+61 3) 9662 7555  
 Email: [publishing.sales@csiro.au](mailto:publishing.sales@csiro.au) Web: [www.publish.csiro.au](http://www.publish.csiro.au)

SEP02

**\*SHELL COLLECTIONS WANTED\***

And also other Marine Life collections  
 We will find good homes for your shells...many of which will be placed in a Shell Museum of education for children and others.  
 Call for a price evaluation...  
 Phone Brian at: (919) 931-6197




Displays at Most Shell Shows  
[donaldan@aol.com](mailto:donaldan@aol.com)

**Donald Dan**  
 Shells for the Discriminating Collector  
 6704 Overlook Drive  
 Ft. Myers, FL 33919  
 By appointment (239) 481-6704  
 Inquiries welcome — no list

Come join us shelling...  
 **Margarita Island**   
**April 23-30 all-inclusive resort**  
 For details contact: Glenn Duffy  
 1719 Shoreland Dr., Sarasota, FL 34239  
 tel: 941-923-3590, 941-356-5920  
 email: [glenn.duffy11@comcast.net](mailto:glenn.duffy11@comcast.net)





**GLORIA MARIS**

A magazine dedicated to the study of shells.

Edited by the Belgian Society for Conchology,  
organizers of the Belgian Shellshow

Subscription: Belgium: € 30 - The Netherlands: € 33  
Other countries: € 40

Members account manager: J. Wuyts Koningsarendlaan 82 B 2100 Belgium  
tel.: 32 3 324 99 14 e-mail: wuyts.jean@pi.be



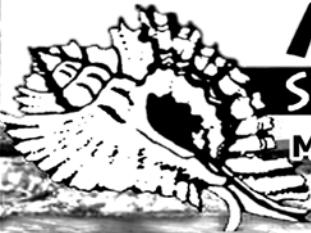
**www.shellsfromchina.com**  
updated every week with new specimens arrived

He Jing 0086-21-67737531  
shellsfromchina@hotmail.com

**Keys Shells**

*We Buy Shell Collections*

**www.keysshells.com**  
**Don@keysshells.com**  
**305.744.0043**




**MDM SHELL BOOKS**  
**MDMSHELLBOOKS.COM**

The finest selection of books  
and publications on shells  
and shell collecting from around the world!

(561)790-0097 - mdmbooks@gmail.com  
11924 Forest Hill Blvd Ste 22 Wellington, FL. 33414

**PHILLIP CLOVER**

Dealer in Specimen Since 1960



Worldwide Sea Shells Specializing

In Ancilla, Cancillaria, Conus, Cypraea, Marginella, Mitra, Latiaxis, Morum, Typhis, Voluta and Out-of-Print Shell Books

PH/FAX# 707-996-6960 Free lists  
Email: clovershells@juno.com  
P.O. Box 339 - Glen Ellen, CA 95442

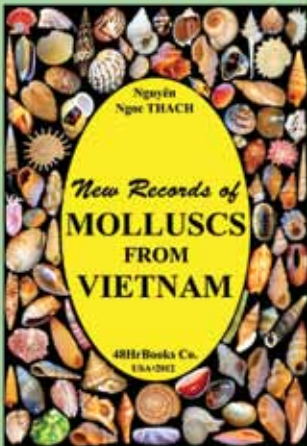
**www.theshellstore.com**



The Shell Store  
348 Corey Ave  
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706

specimen@theshellstore.com  
Phone: (727) 360-0586  
Fax: (727) 360-3668

**Specimen shells, Craft shells, Craft supplies  
and instruction books, Home decorating**



**NEW BOOK**  
by Dr. THACH

1,314 New Records of Vietnam shells in 166 color plates, 261 pages. 12 Hybrids, 12 new species

Size 8.5"x11" hard cover. Price 99USD. If order, please contact e-mail: **kurodash@dng.vnn.vn**

Fax: 0084 583 824 120  
No 267 Thong Nhat, Nha Trang, Vietnam

**WORLDWIDE SPECIMEN SHELLS**



Your One Stop Marine & Land Shell Connection

**www.worldwideconchology.com**

*Shells of Scientific Value and Aesthetic Beauty*

Richard L. Goldberg  
P.O. Box 6088  
Columbia, MD 21045, U.S.A.

telephone: (443) 535-0427  
email: worldwide@rcn.com  
*Our 31st Year*

## COA *Neptunea* Award

Many of us are beginning plans for the 2013 COA Convention in Sarasota, FL. One of the many events on the agenda is the annual COA *Neptunea* Award(s), and it is once again my privilege to call for nominations.

The consensus of the COA Board is to reopen nominations with a “clean slate” annually. Nominees not selected in previous years are certainly welcome for consideration if renominated - in fact their renomination is encouraged. For the present cycle, nominations will close on June 1, 2013, so as to allow ample time for deliberation before the convention.

By way of background, the *Neptunea* Award (Brunner, 2000; Lipe, 2000) was established at the midyear (1999-2000) meeting of the COA Board in order to recognize outstanding and distinguished service to conchologists and malacologists in recognition of:

1. Service to the Conchologists of America.

AND/OR

2. Service to the scientific interests of Conchologists of America.

AND/OR

3. Service to the science of malacology as it applies to conchologists anywhere.

Although notable exceptions have been made, the COA Board, which serves as the jury for the *Neptunea* Award, has traditionally weighed its consideration for award recipients toward (1) amateurs: those not currently pursuing a principal career involving collection, study, or commerce involving mollusks, (2) individuals “working behind the scenes” and relatively unrecognized, in the COA world, for their contributions, and (3) active members of the COA. Up to three awards have been made at our annual conventions beginning with the Houston event in 2000 (see below). Nomination(s) for the *Neptunea* Award may be made by any COA member, and the format is simple:

Name of nominee:

This person deserves this award because (Here a somewhat detailed paragraph will suffice.)

..... Signed .....

and either snailmail or email that nomination to the COA *Neptunea* Award Coordinator.

[currently Harry. G. Lee / 4132 Ortega Forest Drive / Jacksonville, FL 32210 / shells@hglee.com]

Previous *Neptunea* Award winners:

2000 (Houston, TX): Ross Gunderson, Ben and Josy Wiener, Debbie Wills

2001 (Port Canaveral, FL): Emilio Garcia, Harry Lee, Lynn Scheu

2002 (Sarasota, FL): Richard Petit, Bernard and Phyllis Pipher

2003 (Tacoma, WA) Jim and Linda Brunner, Kevin Lamprell, Doris Underwood

2004 (Tampa, FL): Bobbi Houchin

2005 (Punta Rassa, FL): Richard Forbush, Anne Joffe, William Lyons

2006 (Mobile, AL): Jack Lightbourn, Betty Lipe

2007 (Portland, OR): none given

2008 (San Antonio, TX): Bill Frank, Archie Jones

2009 (Clearwater, FL) none given

2010 (Boston, MA): none given

2011 (Port Canaveral, FL): Alan Gettleman

2012 (Cherry Hill, NJ): Gary Rosenberg, Martin Avery Snyder

Brunner, L., 2000. The *Neptunea* Award. *American Conchologist* 28(3): 3. Sept.

Lipe, B[etty], 2000. Presidents Message. *American Conchologist* 28(4): 2. Dec.

Harry G. Lee

Vice President, Conchologists of America

Submitted 23 September, 2012



# Domenick Nicolaci Shell Collection: A Donation to the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University

Edward Nieburger<sup>1</sup> and Adam J. Baldinger<sup>2</sup>

Domenick Nicolaci (fig.1) was born in Brooklyn, New York, on April 19, 1920, the son of the late Pasquale and Rosaria (Picariello) Nicolaci. He died on Sunday, January 13, 2013, at 92 years of age following a brief illness. He had been living in a retirement home in North Dartmouth, Massachusetts. Mr. Nicolaci graduated from New Bedford High School in 1939. He served in Europe during World War II from 1942-1946 and later in the United States Medical Corps where he graduated from the Walter Reed Pharmacy School. He was a retired American industrialist.

During World War II, the Nicolaci factory, then known as the Youth-Craft Clothes Company, Inc., and later as the Cliftex Corporation, of New Bedford, Massachusetts, was instrumental in keeping our troops warm and dry with its wool and manufactured strong cotton fabric battle garments. They produced over a quarter of a million units of clothing for the military. By 1970, the Cliftex Corporation employed over 3,100 people in seven plants, manufacturing mostly men's suits. Cliftex Corporation reached \$100 million in annual sales and had been known to produce 100,000 items per week, including 40,000 men's suits and accessories. The suits were supplied to J. C. Penney's, Sears, Men's Warehouse, Macy's, Mr. Sid's, Jordan Marsh, and Bloomingdale's, among others. They had their own labels including American Trend, Focus, and Floravanti for men and Richard Evans for women. A general manager and senior vice-president once said: "Our products are in some of the finest and some of the most mediocre stores in the country."

Domenick was the President of Cliftex Corporation from 1965 and the Chairman of the Board from 1973. He was active in Junior Achievement, Chamber of Commerce, United Way, and Bank of Boston Bristol N.A. He also served as a Member of the Manufacturer's Advisory Committee of the Governor's Advisory Council. On June 4, 1985, he received the New Bedford area Business Hall of Fame Award.

In 1986, Domenick received an honorary doctorate, Doctor of Business Administration, from the University of Massachusetts in Dartmouth, for his involvement in a number of community activities. He was a member of the Financial Advisory Committee, Trustee, and Chairman of the Fund Raising Committee of Saint Luke's Hospital. In 1976, he and his wife Lydia founded the New Bedford Harbor Services, Greater New Bedford's largest non-profit agency for



**Figure 1. Domenick Nicolaci – age 92 at his home in Dartmouth, Massachusetts. He is holding one of his many Riker Specimen mounts of *Argopecten irridians irridians* (photo taken 16 October 2012 by Mike Estabrook).**



**Figure 2. Domenick Nicolaci with George Hampson – Mr. Nicolaci's artwork done with no training (photo taken 16 October 2012 by Mike Estabrook).**



**Figure 3. Domenick and Lydia’s home on Bella Vista Island in Fairhaven, Massachusetts.**



**Figure 4. Domenick in his shell room that displayed his “outstanding shell collection from all over the world.”**

mentally challenged adults that monitors five-day and residential programs serving one hundred people. He served as the Treasurer, and as a Board Member assisted New Bedford Harbor Services in the development of the State’s first deinstitutionalization program for handicapped adults. He raised money from the private sector to construct several facilities for the mentally challenged.

Domenick’s hobbies were many, including oil painting on canvas (fig. 2). He liked automobiles and owned a Jaguar XKE and a Rolls-Royce. He also raised greyhound dogs for racing. In 1971 he purchased an island off West Island, Buzzard’s Bay, in Fairhaven, Massachusetts, where he built a villa (fig. 3) with radiant heat. He named his home Bella Vista, meaning “Beautiful View.” He wanted his villa to resemble a light-house tower with an observation tower study area, an exterior balcony, and space for his outstanding world-wide shell collection. Access to this four and a half acre island home was by an 1800 foot causeway over marshlands. It was in 1972 that he used three hundred tons



**Figure 5. Domenick’s collection of corals, echinoderms, minerals, and other artifacts on shelves at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University.**

of concrete for the foundation and another three hundred tons of concrete for the causeway. The local planning board had rejected a builder’s plan for seven houses on the island. The 8,900 square foot house was the only one on West Island. The villa was featured in the October 1971 issue of the *New England Architect Magazine*. The ground floor level was set at an elevation of fourteen feet which allowed two feet above the twelve foot storm tide from the area’s worst hurricane which occurred in 1938. Mr. Nicolaci had his ground floor contain only mechanical, work rooms, storage, beach dressing and showers, a patio, two car garage, and elevator entrance. The importance of the shell collection was evident in its being housed on the second and third floors where 450 square feet was reserved for shells (fig. 4).

Both Domenick and Lydia were interested in, among other things, children’s charities, and often hosted charity events at their estate. In 1975, 250 people attended the Fairhaven Mothers Club annual fund-raising event that was held at their estate – the event raised \$1,000.00 for scholar-





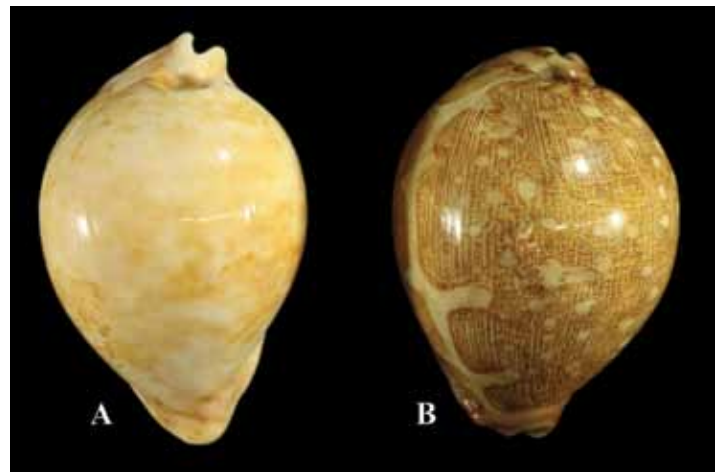
**Figure 6.** Specimens from the collection that remain on exhibit at the Sea Lab, New Bedford, Massachusetts (photo taken 26 November 2012 by Mike Estabrook).

ships. Domenick and Lydia also entertained many celebrities including Robert Ballard, known for his many underwater documentaries.

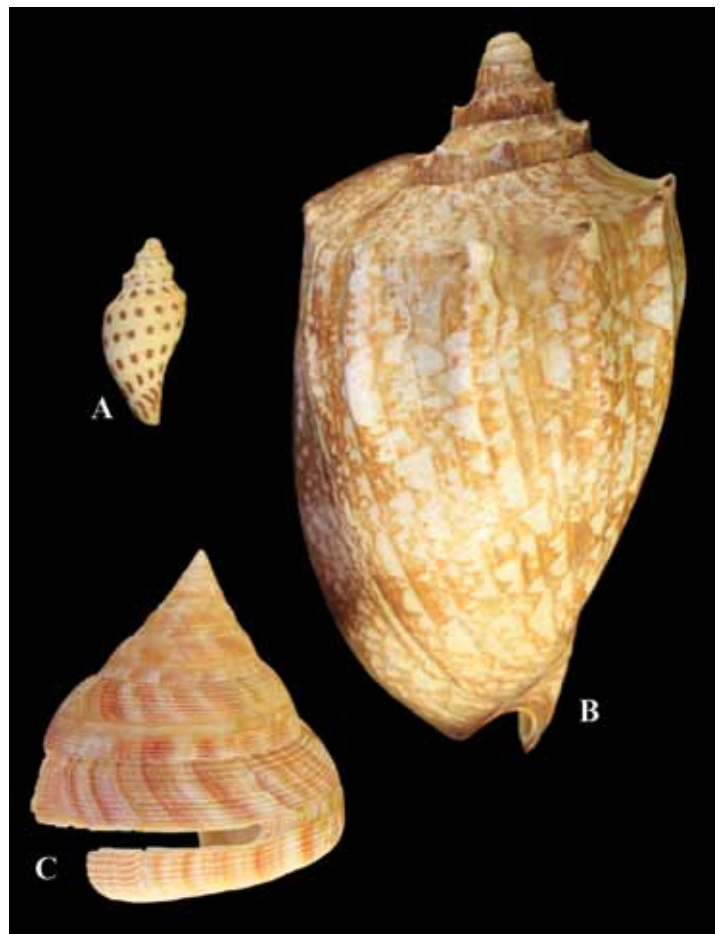
Domenick and Lydia, had a daughter, Rosalie (Hassey), two granddaughters, Lisa Perry and Lori Randall, and three great-grandsons, Derek, Jason, and Kevin. Domenick and Lydia's son, Armand Nicolaci, died tragically at the age of forty-five in 1997. Lydia (Madeiros) Nicolaci died on June 3, 2006, at the age of 85. She was born in New Bedford and was one of the original founders with her husband of New Bedford Harbor Services, was a past member of the Fairhaven Mother's Club, and was a former director of the Girl Scouts. Married to Domenick for 63 years, she shared his interest in shells and travel. She also enjoyed gardening, sewing, and painting and was an avid stamp collector.

In happy days, Domenick traveled the Caribbean, island hopping by sailboat, shell collecting along the way. He also did substantial self-collecting in the South Pacific. He visited Hawaii, Fiji, and much of the east and west coastlines of Australia, including the Great Barrier Reef and Broome, gaining the assistance of local guides and collectors when possible. He remembered fondly a resort hotel on Fiji where he collected 25 species of cowries on the nearby reef. A woman collector he had met in Hawaii told him to preserve cowries with formaldehyde. Domenick liked to tell the story of the time he was flying from one collecting spot to another in a small six passenger plane. He was holding a bottle of formaldehyde in his lap for the purpose of preserving specimens. A young couple in front of him was making some distracting commotion, and upon Domenick's looking forward, the bottle in his lap exploded, flooding his lap. Domenick claimed, with tongue in cheek, that he was never quite the same again despite living to the age of 92.

It was actually "in his back yard" that Domenick discovered the wonderful color forms of the local Bay Scal-



**Figure 7.** Larger sized Cypraeidae within Domenick Nicolaci's collection: A. *Umbilia armeniaca* (Verco, 1912) MCZ 374472, B. *Leporicypraea mappa viridis* (Kenyon, 1902) MCZ 374490



**Figure 8.** Other interesting shells within Domenick Nicolaci's collection: A. *Scaphella (Scaphella) robusta* (Dall, 1889) MCZ 374478, B. *Cymbiola (Cymbiola) rossiniana* (Bernardi, 1859) MCZ 362723, C. *Mikadotrochus hirasei* (Pilsbry, 1903) MCZ 374931

lop, *Argopecten irridians irridians*. It appears some of these brightest colored forms were farmed nearby and sold to local restaurants. Nevertheless, Domenick would collect them and exhibited many of these pink and lavender shells on Riker Specimen mounts (fig. 1).

Domenick's collection of shells, corals, echinoderms, minerals, and artifacts (figs. 5-6) was given to Sea Lab, Marine Science Education Center, part of the New Bedford (Massachusetts) Public School system. The collection was curated (see discussion [www.newbedford.k12.ma.us/sealab/shell.htm](http://www.newbedford.k12.ma.us/sealab/shell.htm)) by George Hampson (fig. 2) under the auspices of Principal Arthur A. Dutra and Curriculum Developer Simone P. Bourgeois. The collection had been used for teaching purposes and exhibit. In late 2009, Domenick and the Sea Lab Center decided that that collection might be best served in a Natural History Museum. In January 2010 the first shipment of Domenick's precious shell collection was received by the Department of Malacology at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Shipments continued with the last of the shells arriving in November 2011. A select number of shells remain on exhibit in a case towards the main entrance to Sea Lab (fig. 6).

The collection contains 1,117 lots of specimens collected from all around the world. In particular the collection includes over 230 species (N=355 lots) of *Cypraea* (figs. 7 & 12). Particularly special is a rare golden form of *Zoila friendii friendii* (fig. 12, top) from Australia, and a *Cypraeovula cruickshanki* from South Africa, a *Ovatipsa rashleighana rashleighana* from Hawaii, a 52mm tiny adult of *Lyncina broderipii*, a *Zoila friendii vercoi* from the Great Australian Bight, *Nesiocypraea teramachii teramachii* and *Leporicypraea mappa viridis* both from Taiwan, and *Austrasiatica langfordi* and *Zoila jeaniana jeaniana* from Australia. The volute collection is also well represented (N=129 lots), including a huge, 117 mm *Voluta (Cymbiolaca) thatcheri* (fig. 11b, right) from Chesterfield Reef or Bellona Reef, in the Coral Sea, northeast of Australia, *Scaphella (Scaphella) robusta* from the Gulf of Mexico, and *Cymbiola (Cymbiola) rossiniana* from New Caledonia. The epitonid *Sthenorytis pernobilis* from Caribbean deep-water in this collection is noteworthy for its beauty and rarity. Most of these shells were collected between 1960 and 1973. Some of his shells were purchased from Phillip Clover of California, although Domenick did buy a collection of cowries which came with several shell books. Domenick apparently had a connection with members of the Boston Malacological Club. Specimens of his *Aporrhais occidentalis* have Club member George Buckley as the collector. Another shell has the name of former club member Joy Nielson, formerly of East Wareham, Massachusetts as the collector. A list of specimens and additional information was recorded in Domenick's ledger (figs. 9-10). A complete list of species and associate col-

lection data can be viewed under Accession number 403501 on the MCZ's on-line database (<http://mczbase.mcz.harvard.edu/SpecimenSearch.cfm>).

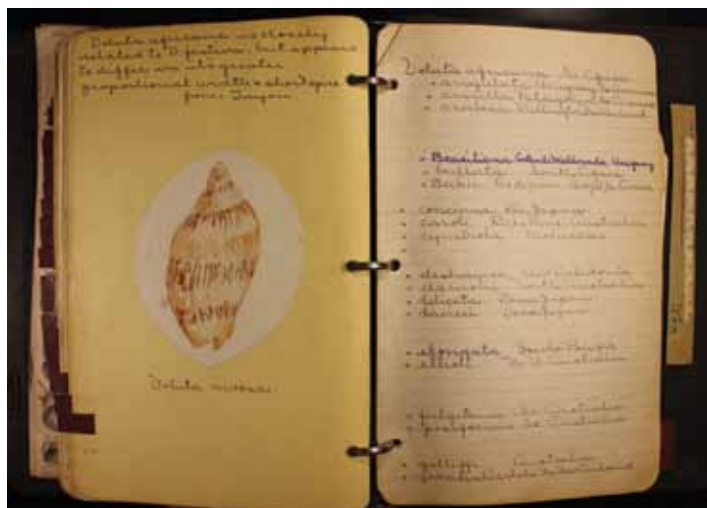
This is indeed an extremely fine and valuable collection which clearly represents a lifetime of work. The MCZ is fortunate to acquire such a complete general and historical collection and this material augments their existing collection quite well. The species represented within Domenick's collection make it evident that this was one of a handful of premier shell collections of its time. There are probably specimens which may no longer be available. It has been a privilege to research and document this fine world-wide collection of extremely fine and valuable shells.

Many of Domenick's most exquisite specimens (fig. 11) are now on public display within the Harvard Museum of Natural History as part of an exhibition titled "*Mollusks: Shelled Masters of the Marine Realm*." This exhibition will be in place through February 2014.

Acknowledgements: Much of the contents of this article were the results of direct interviews with Domenick himself. Additional information was provided by his daughter Rosalie Hassey. George Hampson and Simone P. Bourgeois, both at Sea Lab, provided valuable comments and assistance. Gayle and Braden Nieburger assisted in revising and proofreading.

<sup>1</sup>Edward Nieburger, owner of The Shell Gallery, 476 Great Pond Road, North Andover, Massachusetts 01845 enieburger@hotmail.com

<sup>2</sup>Adam J. Baldinger, Department of Malacology, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, 26 Oxford Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138 abaldinger@oeb.harvard.edu



**Figure 9.** The "V" section of Domenick Nicolaci's ledger book – *Voluta* species. He writes "*Voluta africana* is closely related to *V. festiva*, but appears to differ in its greater proportional width & short spire form – Tyron"



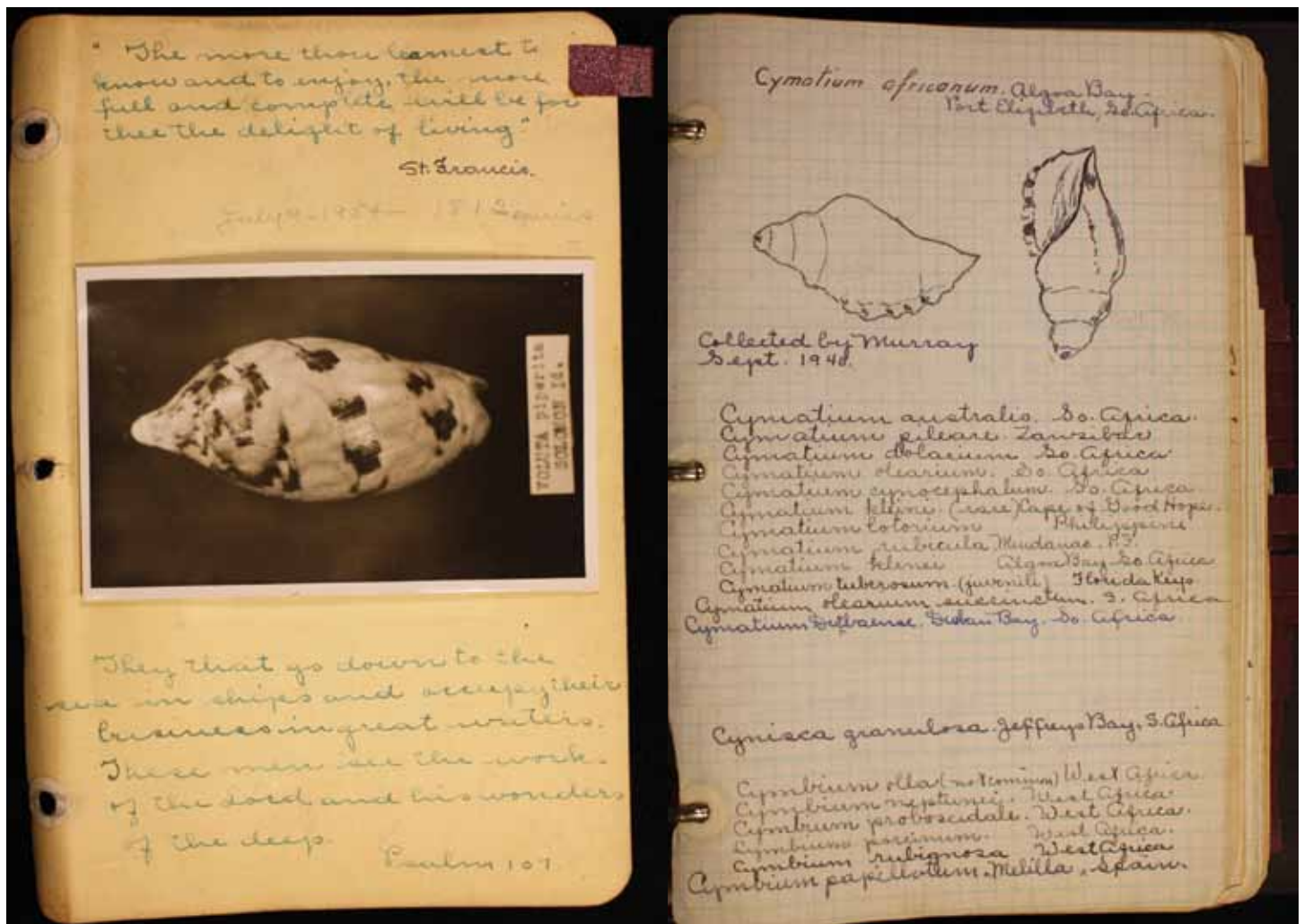


Figure 10a & b. Page one (left, a) and an additional page (right, b) taken from Domenick Nicolaci's specimen ledger. He writes on page one, "The more thou learnest to know and to enjoy, the more full and complete will be for thee the delight of living" – St. Francis" and "July 9 - 1954 – 1812 species." Although the original picture is missing from the middle of the page, presumably it was something like an image of *Voluta piperita* that was found in the back of his ledger. And finally, at the bottom of page one he writes "They that go down to the sea in ships and occupy their business in great waters; These men see the works of the Lord and his wonders of the deep. Psalms 107."



Figure 11a & b. Domenick's specimens within the Harvard Museum of Natural History as part of an exhibition titled "Mollusks: Shelled Masters of the Marine Realm." This exhibition will be in place through February 2014. Left image (a), upper left shell is the rare golden form of *Zoila friendii friendii* from Australia. Right image (b), left volute is a huge (117mm) *Voluta (Cymbiolaca) thatcheri* from northeast Australia.

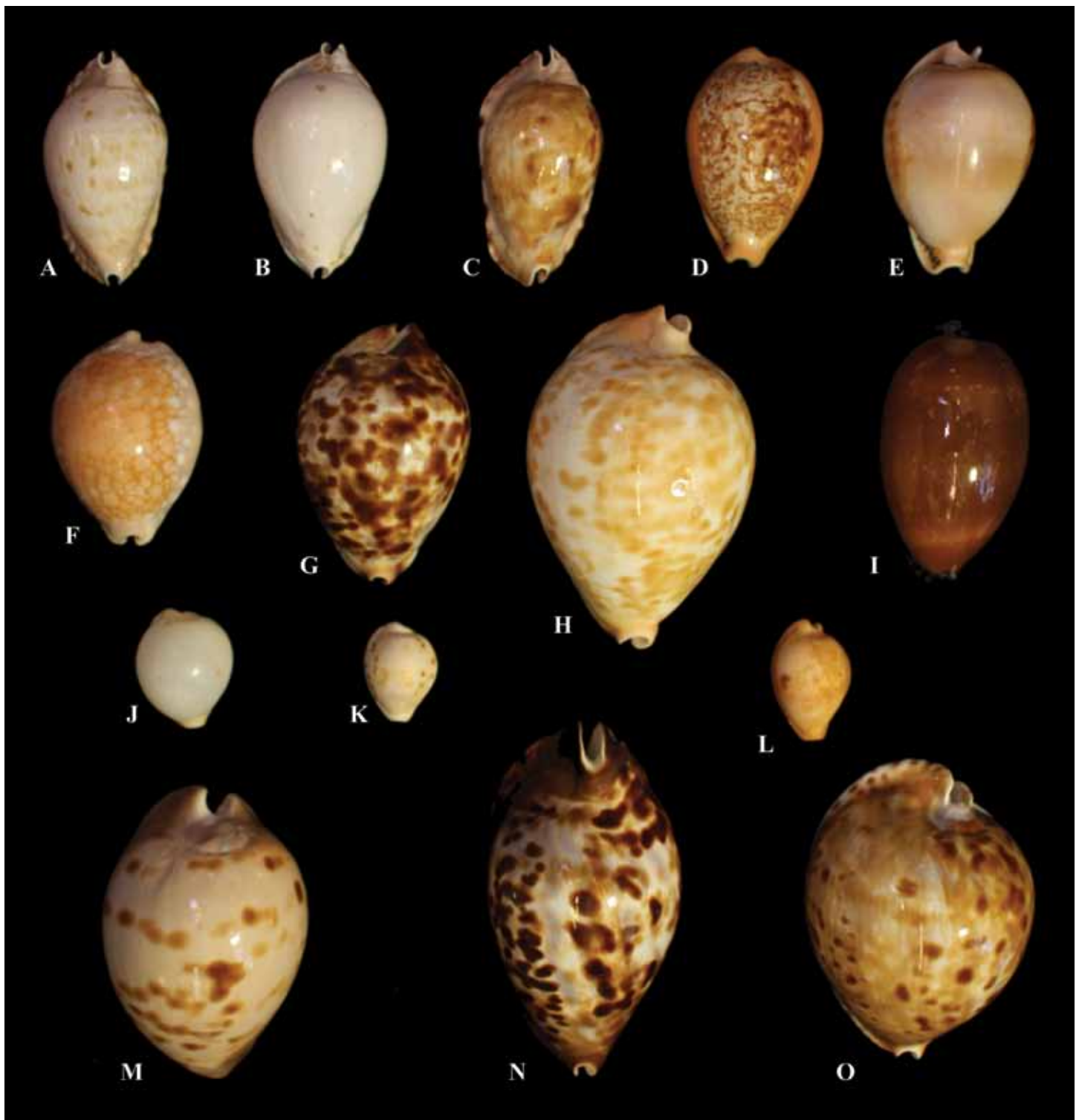


Figure 12. A select number of Cypraeidae within Domenick Nicolaci's collection: A. *Zoila marginata marginata* (Gaskoin, 1849) MCZ 374498, B. *Zoila marginata albanyensis* L. Raybaudi, 1985 MCZ 374496, C. *Zoila marginata consueta* Biraghi, 1993 [= *Z. marginata marginata* (Gaskoin, 1849)] MCZ 374497, D. *Austrasiatica langfordi* (Kuroda, 1938) MCZ 374466, E. *Nesiocypraea teramachii teramachii* (Kuroda, 1938) MCZ 374465, F. *Lyncina broderipii* Gray "in" G.B. Sowerby I, 1832 MCZ 374464, G. *Zoila jeaniana jeaniana* (Cate, 1968) MCZ 374485, H. *Zoila jeaniana aurata* L. Raybaudi, 1979 MCZ 374474, I. *Talparia exusta* (G.B. Sowerby I, 1832) MCZ 374486, J. *Cypraeovula cruickshanki* (Kilburn, 1972) MCZ 370306, K. *Ovatipsa rashleighana rashleighana* (Melvill, 1888) MCZ 361962, L. *Propustularia surinamensis* (G. Perry, 1811) MCZ 370315, M. *Zoila venusta* (G.B. Sowerby, 1847) MCZ 374473, N. *Zoila friendii friendii* (J.E. Gray, 1831) MCZ 374491, O. *Zoila friendii vercoi* F. Schilder, 1930 MCZ 374470.



# Alphie Finds The Seashell Alphabet

by Harlan E. Wittkopf, illustrated by Ken Vinton, with a foreword by S. Peter Dance

## Book review by Rusti Stover

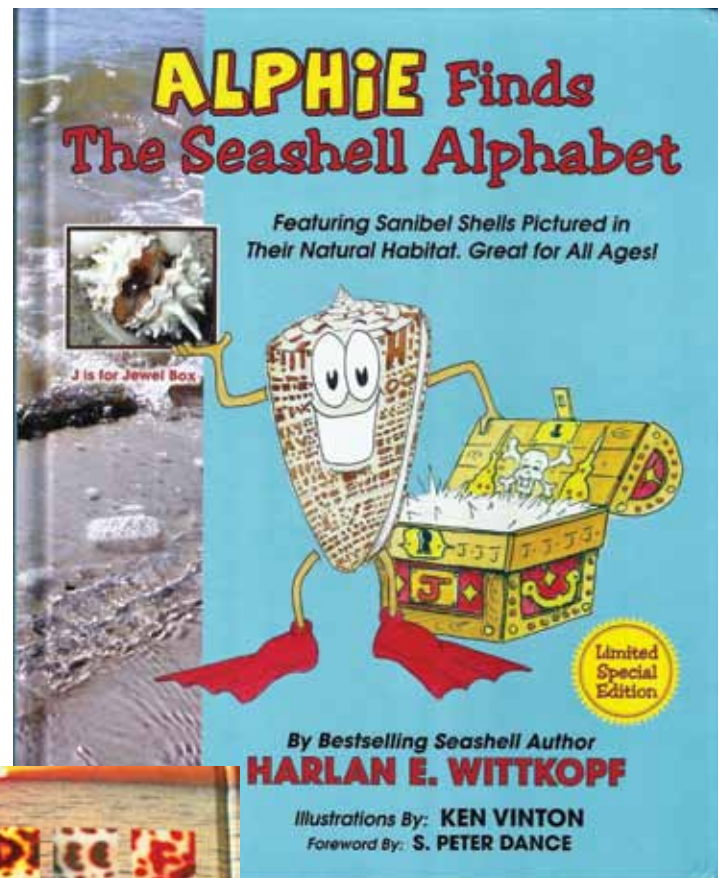
Reviewing a children's book in this publication may seem unusual, but this particular volume is worth noting for its educational offerings to young future shell collectors. Most present-day shell clubs will acknowledge that their membership rosters are dwindling, as members "age out" and younger members are few and far between. The time to foster a lifetime interest in shells and shelling may indeed be in the grade-school age group, and this cleverly written and beautifully illustrated volume does indeed address that!

"Alphie Finds the Seashell Alphabet" is the culmination of Harlan Wittkopf's obsession with the alphabet cone (*Conus spurius atlanticus*), stemming from shells found in the proximity of his beach house on Sanibel Island over the years. Harlan mainly lives in Iowa, but frequents his second home on the lighthouse end of Sanibel, where, since he found an alphabet cone in 2005 that happened to show all three of his initials - HEW - he has amassed a collection of them that show every letter and the numbers 1 through 12.

He published a brochure, "Alphabet Cones: Living Learning Tools" a few years back, and has made it available to schools far and wide. After international exposure of the brochure in books, journals, and newspapers, and a serendipitous meeting with a talented cartoonist and illustrator while hunting the cones on the Sanibel beaches, the book came together and premiered at the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum on Sanibel in November of 2012.

Noted shell book author and friend of Harlan's, S. Peter Dance, wrote the foreword for the book and also sent a message to be read at the premiere, wherein he cites how Harlan has "brought the fascinating world of shells vividly to the attention of children," which hopefully will ensure the future of interest in shells and shell collecting for generations to come.

There is a special feature hidden in each of the book's full-page illustrations; Ken Vinton has cleverly inserted the American Sign Language symbol for every letter into his illustrations, a further learning note and more fun for the reader. The story line of the book tells how Alphie and his classmates are learning letters, when their teacher tells



them that the names of seashells on the island are a great way to learn the alphabet, and points out that they can also find letters ON the shells...piquing Alphie's interest. The classmates go on the hunt for local shells, and an adventure ensues.

The book is published in soft cover featuring 64 pages with full-color illustrations and photographs throughout in an 8.25 x 10.5 format (the example shown in the photograph is a Limited First Edition Hard Cover). The book's colorful front and back covers are key to the fun contained inside. Front and back flyleaf pages attest to the diversity of this shell, and the back cover wraps up the book with photos of the

entire alphabet on shells. All of the beautiful photographs throughout were taken on Sanibel by Harlan, and the charming cartoon illustrations of Alphie and friends on the beach, in the water, and under the sea were vividly rendered by Ken Vinton.

The book can be ordered for \$13.00 a copy plus \$1.00 postage and handling (total of \$14.00) from: Harlan E. Wittkopf, 216 Robinson Drive, Algona, Iowa 50511. Phone number: 515-295-5597.

To any sheller with young children or grandchildren in their life, looking for a way to light that shelling spark in another generation, this book seems to be the answer!

# The Cone Shells of Florida: An Illustrated Key & a Re- view of the Recent Species

by John K. TUCKER, 2012

MdM Publishing, Wellington, Florida, ISBN 978-0-9847140-1-8, 155pp., 48col.pls., hardcover, Euro 70.00

Review by Tom Eichhorst

This is the first fully illustrated guide dedicated to Florida cones and it is most welcome. To date, perhaps the best information on Florida's cone shells was to be found as a hit or miss proposition on the Internet, or to the seriously dedicated, a series of often difficult to find monographs. John Tucker, a long time cone collector and expert (now retired from the Illinois Natural History Survey), has changed all of that with this concise and lavishly illustrated volume. One of the first things the reader will notice is that John has provided a key to Florida cones. Anyone who has ever attempted to construct an identification key will appreciate just how difficult this is. John provides color images along with the key, to make working out an identification even easier. I personally found it expedient to go straight to the color plates of the various species, but then go back to the key to confirm some morphological differences. Most everyone has *Jaspidiconus jaspideus* (Gmelin, 1791) in their collection (listed as *Conus jaspideus*). So when you get the book, take your specimen in hand and compare it to the color plate on page 37. Ah, not an exact match? There are three more subspecies to confuse the issue. Going back to the key can make proper identification a bit easier. Another really nice feature of this book is that on page iii there is a "List of figures." This is a list of the color plates of each cone species with page number(s). This makes a quick check on identity easy and straightforward.

The book uses a multi-family systematics for Florida's cones, based largely on Tucker & Tenorio, 2009, "Systematic classification of Recent and fossil conoidean gastropods" (Hackenheim: Conchbooks, 296 pp.) This book is not included in the bibliography, but is required reading for anyone interested in the latest systematics of the more than

## The Cone Shells of Florida

An Illustrated Key and a Review of the Recent Species

By John K. Tucker



600 species of cone. For Florida this means two cone families: Conilithidae, with two subfamilies (1 in Florida) and 19 genera (3 in Florida), and Conidae, with two subfamilies (both represented in Florida) and 66 genera (9 in Florida). This gives a grand total of 33 Florida cone species and subspecies (including one new species) described and illustrated in this book.

If the description of the new systematics sounds daunting, do not be put off. This book is easy to use and the superb color illustrations make checking identification simplicity itself. There are multiple views and multiple examples showing shell variation. If you have a Florida cone, the odds are quite good you will find an example that matches it in this book. If not, I am sure John would be most interested in hearing about your shell.

This book is pretty much a "must have" for anyone interested in cone shells, and especially to anyone interested in Florida cone shells. Both the amateur collector and the professional malacologist will benefit with the addition of John Tucker's book to their shell library.



# The Family Babyloniidae

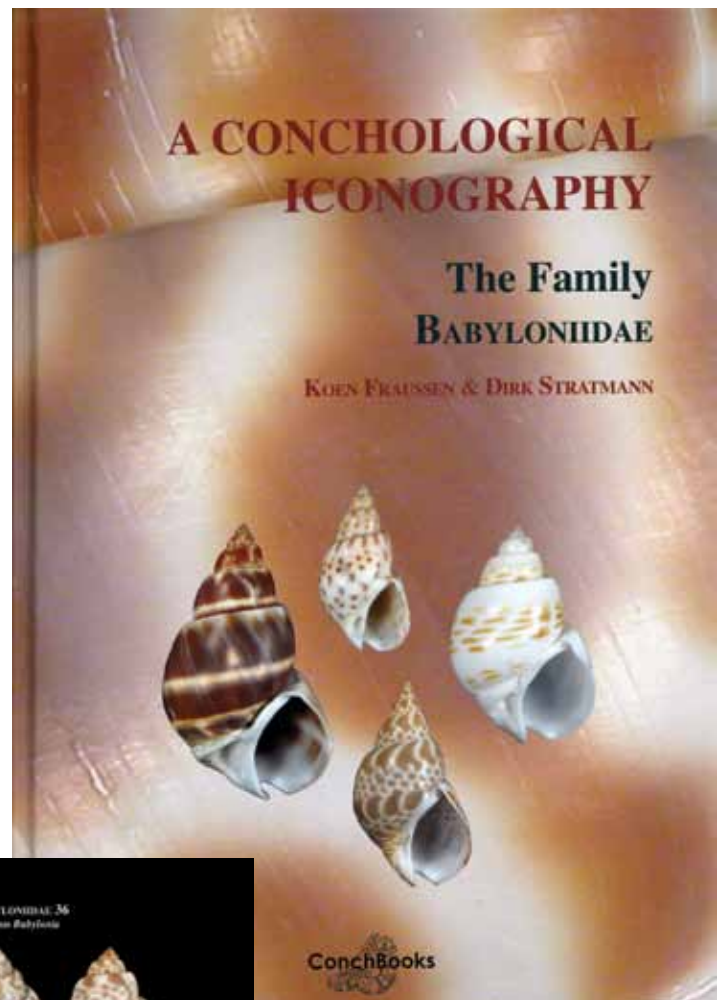
by Koen Fraussen & Dirk Stratmann, 2013

Conchbooks, Harxheim, Germany,  
ISBN 978-3-939767-48-0 (hard bound),  
978-3-939767-47-3 (loose-leaf as part of the *Conchological Iconography*), 93 pages of text, 43 color plates (about \$77 for the loose-leaf and \$98 for the hard bound)

## Review by Tom Eichhorst

This has long been a favorite family of many shell collectors, whether considered a subfamily of Buccinidae or with the more recent full family status. The Babyloniidae are attractively patterned, glossy shells that are fairly easy to acquire, except for a few really difficult species that make completing the family a real accomplishment. There are only about 20 species and subspecies, and for a long time it seemed to be a fairly stable group. Then newly named species began to appear and when collectors went looking for references, they found them rather few and far between. There are the original descriptions in the various Sowerby and Reeve publications, then a more recent (1981) monograph by Altena and Gittenberger, a 2001 monograph by Harasewych and Kantor, and an update of the previous work by Gittenberger and Goud (2003). This publication (*American Conchologist*) printed a short review of the family (thought of then as a subfamily) by Eichhorst in 2005. These all pretty much covered the same names and the modern collector, who was seeing a plethora of new names and new color and pattern variations, was without any really usable reference.

This book has done more than answer those issues. The authors provide a lavishly illustrated and concise guide to this family, with a history of the so-called ivory shells or sometimes Babylon shells, an interesting etymology of the Babylon name, a review of the shell in its many uses today (mainly food and as a collectible, but there are other uses), and some of the most thorough species accounts you will find anywhere. Each known species is listed with type data, complete synonymy, taxonomic history, type locality and range, and a discussion (remarks) of each species and how it differs from others. The color plates are large and clear and show many examples of each species, including locality variants and color forms. Because *Babylonia* are a popular food item, the authors point out the



problems this can cause with locality data (many are raised well away from their home range and escapees are almost a given) and color and pattern identification. Many of the farm-raised specimens are being selected for more “attractive” colors and patterns. Where the authors determined that new species were actually color variations or forms, they illustrated this quite convincingly. At the same time they admit that much remains unknown about this small family and that there are almost certainly undescribed species waiting for the lucky collector.

Collecting Babyloniidae has long been frustrating due the rarity of a couple of the species, the many forms and varieties, the newly named species, and the uncertain locality data often associated with this group. This book goes a long way to answering all but the rarity issue - you are on your own there. A must add to the shell collector's library. You will find it an interesting, sometimes intriguing read.

# Museum's anniversary to be celebrated

Tom Rice

It doesn't seem possible, but forty years have passed since the opening of THE OF SEA AND SHORE MUSEUM in The General Store Building in historic Port Gamble, Washington. But it is indeed true! And to celebrate this occasion, the current proprietors of the General Store, Kim and Eric, are planning something special for Sunday, May 26, 2013. Docents will be on hand to guide visitors through the display areas and explain and answer questions concerning the specimens of shells and other natural history objects on display. Refreshments will be served. Plans are for curator Tom Rice to be in attendance, travelling from his home in Phuket, Thailand. He hopes to meet and greet many of you on May 26.

Tom and friends opened a small display area on the second floor mezzanine of the General Store building on Memorial Day weekend in 1973. The display consisted of several show cases of shells from Tom's collection. During the next few months the displays were expanded into the rest of the mezzanine level – taking advantage of the wall-mounted display boxes (some 54 in total) where, in the era of the company-run (Pope & Talbot, Inc.) store, there had been clothing items such as socks, shirts, underwear, etc. displayed. The shell and natural history displays were put together by Tom and Larry and Judy Peck (Larry's father, Charles, was manager of the lumber mill and granted us the use of the area for our display – I don't think he realized how, like Topsy, this display would grow and grow). Judy painted the two sea-view murals, one depicting a South Seas coral reef, the other a typical Puget Sound area beach.

Over the next few years more display cases were added and glass covers and lighting built for the 54 open display boxes and carpet installed. The Jerry Ward and Herb Young families were instrumental in this endeavor. The original entrance to the museum was via a nearly hidden (between two beer coolers) staircase. Eventually, during a later remodel of the building's interior (being a National Historic Site the exterior of the buildings cannot be altered), the stairs were moved to their original position and access to the Museum was made more visible.

The Museum's displays continued to expand and included a large portion of the third floor mezzanine. Our guest book reflected the far flung homes of our visitors: from nearby towns to the Galapagos Islands, South Africa, Russia, and Israel (to name but a few). "You'll Be Amazed" soon became the motto of the museum – as this was the exclamation of myriads of visitors who had no idea of the variety and diversity of colors and shapes presented by the lowly mollusk. Over the years we found third generations of the same families returning to view our displays.



The store front, pretty much as it has appeared for the last 40 years.



R. Tucker Abbott (left) and Tom Rice (right) at the base of the "hidden" stairwell.





Basket stars and other sea stars on display.



Crabs, big and little, with and without shells, on display.



Seashells were not the only display items, as these quartz crystals attest.



The improved mezzanine display cases and new stairs.



The Pectinidae display wowed visitors, both shell collectors and casual drop-in guests.



Riker mount displays cover the wall, a perfect spot for smaller shells.



A display of glass floats and *Xenophora*.

The Museum took an active part in several meetings, over the years, of shell enthusiasts, hosting the Conchologists of America twice and participating in the meeting of the American Malacological Union. Our magazine, *Of Sea and Shore*, published 108 issues between 1970 and 2007 and was read by subscribers in more than 70 countries. The Pacific Northwest Shell Club (which curator Tom Rice founded in 1960) has met numerous times in Port Gamble and its members have been instrumental in obtaining some of the objects on display.

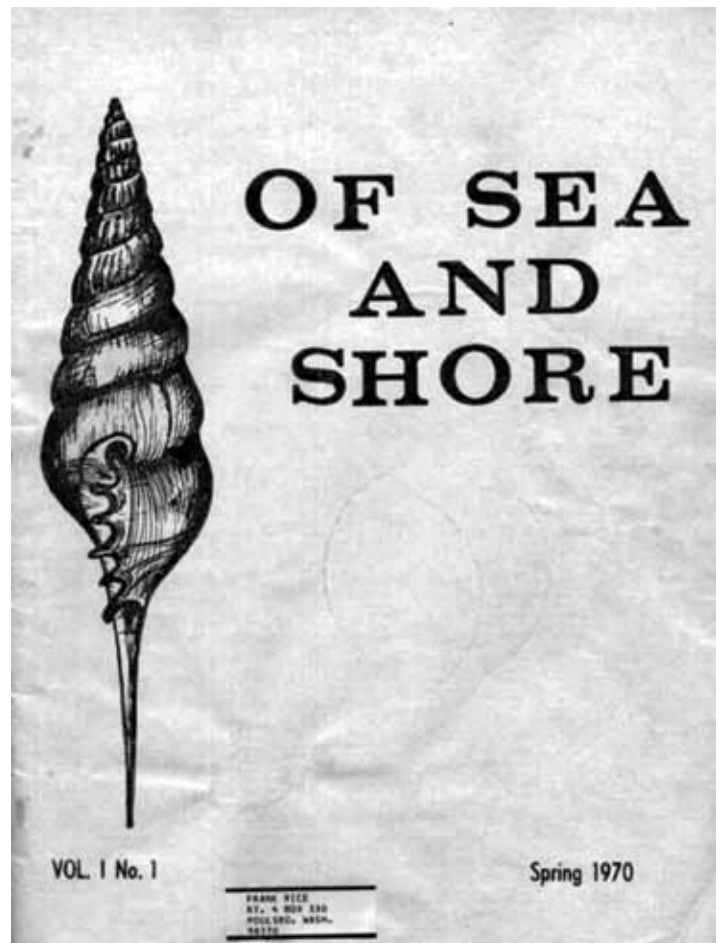
The Museum downsized in 2002 as our curator had retired from his employment with the Washington State Department of Transportation and was planning a move to far-off Thailand. We eliminated the sales area (and the need for someone to constantly be on site) and consolidated the displays from the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor onto the 2<sup>nd</sup>. A further change to the display area was the new carpeting and lighting installed by Olympic Resource Management (who manage the town site), and the maintenance of the area has been undertaken by the management of The General Store.

One realizes the passage of time when recalling the events mentioned above. The Museum has been in existence through seven different managers of The General Store, six different Postmasters at the Post Office, four different managers of the saw mill (prior to its closure in 1995), and likely more than 100,000 visitors, who have all, we hope, enjoyed and learned from our efforts.

Tom Rice, Curator  
Of Sea and Shore, Inc.



Tucker and Cecelia Abbott visit the store and museum.



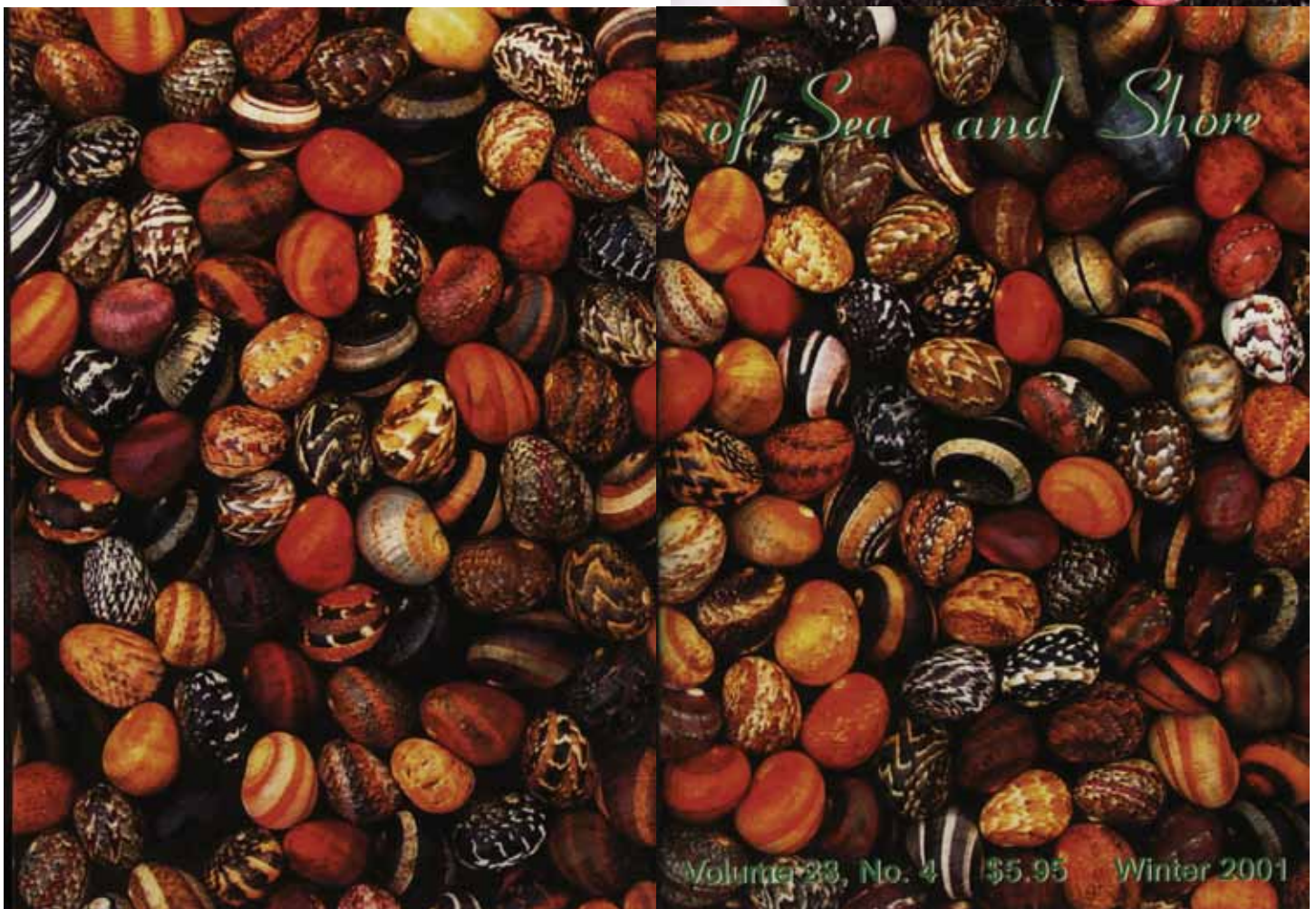
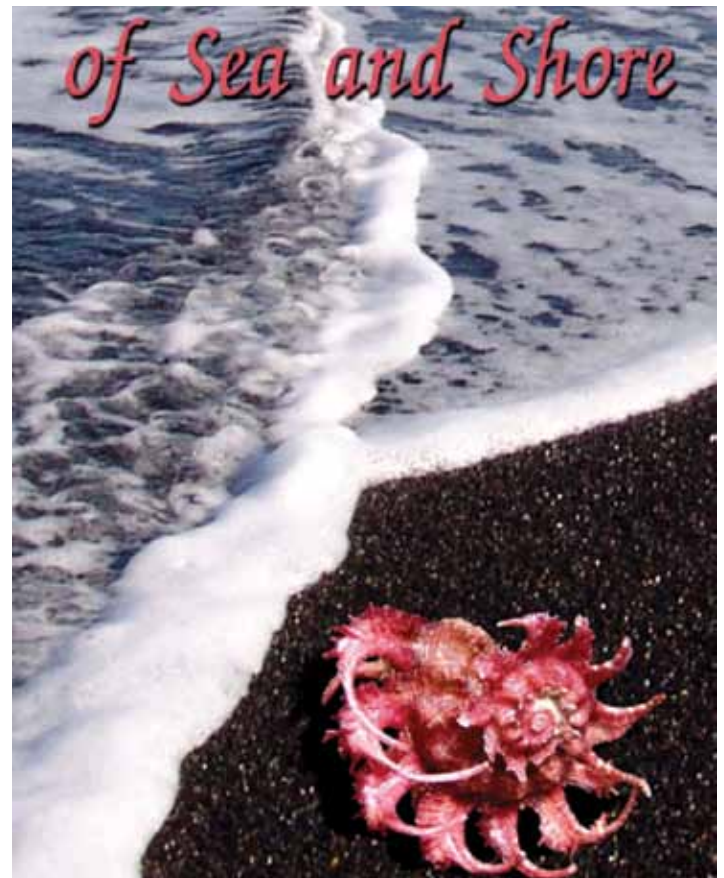
The first issue of Tom Rice's *Of Sea And Shore*, Spring 1970. This issue had 53 pages! All of the issues of *Of Sea And Shore* are available as high quality PDF files on a DVD available online for \$25 from editor@ofseaandshore.com. Low quality samples of the issues from 1970 to 2007 may be seen at [www.ofseaandshore.com](http://www.ofseaandshore.com)



Editor's note:

I vividly recall my first visit to the Of Sea And Shore Shell Museum in Port Gamble. I remember driving through the narrow tree-lined streets and finally arriving at the picturesque General Store, just as pictured on page 26. What all of these images do not quite convey is the atmosphere. The feeling of walking into that crowded store and finally realizing the shells were upstairs. This is not a light, glass and stainless museum, but much more like an old turn of the 19th Century establishment. I actually don't remember if the floors creaked, but either way, the atmosphere was singular. I do remember looking into a glass case of olive shells, all decked out in martini glasses. There was plenty of science here, but Tom never takes himself too seriously. Only someone with a sense of humor and a dedication that is hard to be believed could have turned out 108 issues of what was a premiere American shell magazine. The back issues (available on DVD, see previous page) are a treasure trove of shell information and history. Thank you Tom Rice for all you have given to our avocation.

Tom Eichhorst





# Broward Shell Show - 2013

The 2013 Broward Shell Show was enjoyed by all and very well attended. Our exemplary judges, Nancy Leslie, Sandy Moran, Harry Lee, and Richard Kirk, had a difficult time awarding trophies this year as there was tough competition with the many high quality exhibits. Congratulations to the award winners and thank you to everyone who participated in our show. We were very pleased to sign up over fifty members at the show this year!!!

Nancy Galdo and Alice Pace  
Co-chairs - Broward Shell Show



Bob and Alice Pace won the American Museum of Natural History Award with their exhibit, "Uncommon to Rare Florida/Caribbean Gastropods."



Sheila Nugent won the DuPont Award for her entry, "Native Americans, the First Collectors."



Gene Everson won the COA Award for his entry, "GLYCYMERIDIDAE," a fitting follow-on to his last year's winning exhibit, "VENERIDAE."



## 2013 BSC SHELL SHOW AWARDS – SCIENTIFIC DIVISION

**AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY AWARD** – Robert L. Pace and Alice L. Pace – Uncommon to Rare Florida/Caribbean Gastropods (Category: Florida/Caribbean any manner)

**CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA AWARD** – Gene Everson – GLYCYMERIDIDAE – (Category: Super 10)

**THE DuPONT AWARD** – Sheila Nugent – Native Americans, the First Collectors (Category: Educational)

**"BEST OF THE BEST"** – Robert L. Pace and Alice L. Pace – The World Wide Invader - Giant African Snail!

**LEN HILL MEMORIAL** – Doug Thompson – Lion's Paws (Category: One species Any manner)

**SHELL OF SHOW - Self Collected** – Jae Kellogg – *Conus spurius* Gmelin, 1791 (Category: Single Shell self-collected)

**SHELL OF SHOW - Any Manner** – Robert L. Pace and Alice L. Pace – *Latirus mcmurrayi* Clench & Aguayo, 1941, in "Uncommon to Rare Florida/Caribbean Gastropods" (Category: Florida/Caribbean any manner)

**JIM VUNKANNON MEMORIAL FLORIDA / CARIBBEAN TROPHY** - Robert L. Pace and Alice L. Pace - Uncommon to Rare Florida/Caribbean Muricidae (Category: Super 10)



**GERRIT deGRAFF MEMORIAL – Doug Thompson**  
 – *Spondylus americanus* Hermann, 1781 (inside another *Spondylus americanus*) (Category: Florida/Caribbean Self-collected)

**NEIL HEPLER MEMORIAL TROPHY FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE – Pat & Bob Linn** – Those Amazing Spider Conchs (Category: One genus any manner)

**BEST STUDENT EXHIBITOR TROPHY – SCIENTIFIC – Marissa Linn** – Treasures from the Beach (Category: Student 7-12 Grade, Self-collected)

**BEST SEA LIFE EXHIBIT TROPHY – Doug Thompson**  
 – Texas Longhorns (Category: Sea Life)

**PEOPLE’S CHOICE AWARD – SCIENTIFIC - Robert L. Pace and Alice L. Pace** – The World Wide Invader - Giant African Snail!

**Judge’s Special Merit ribbons (2)** – Each scientific judge awarded a Special Merit

Doug Thompson – triple *Spondylus* (2 species, 3 colors) in Spiny Oyster exhibit

Robert L. Pace and Alice L. Pace – *Murex beauii* Fischer & Bernardi, 1857, in Uncommon to Rare Florida/Caribbean Muricidae exhibit

**2013 BSC SHELL SHOW AWARDS – ARTISTIC DIVISION**

**BEST STUDENT EXHIBITOR TROPHY - ARTISTIC – Marissa Linn** – Rolling to the Beach (Category: Hobbyist Student Grades 7-12)

**BEST IN SHOW TROPHY - HOBBYIST – Tom Laurin** – Emerging Sun & Ocean Produce (Category: Beginning Exhibitor – Hobbyist)

**BEST IN SHOW TROPHY - PROFESSIONAL – Kinsey Maxell** – Neptune’s Treasures (Category: Professional Décor – Tabletop only)

**BEST IN SHOW TROPHY - SAILOR’S VALENTINE – David Rhyme** – Farewell My Love (Category: Professional Double Sailor’s Valentine)

**BEST TABLE TOP TROPHY – Sue Burns-Piras & Mario Piras** – Worldwide Sea Glass (Category: Professional Special)

**BEST WALL HUNG TROPHY – Marci Chamberlain** – Mermaid’s Garden (Category: Professional Décor – Wall hung only)

**FAY MUCHA MEMORIAL BEST COLLECTIBLES TROPHY – Sonny Ogden** – Stickchart Exhibit

**BEST BEGINNING ARTISTIC EXHIBITOR – Betty Mixon** – Neptune’s Parlor (Category: Hobbyist Beginning Exhibitor)

**Judge’s Artistic Special Merit ribbons (2)** – Each scientific judge awarded a Special Merit

**Betty Mixon** – Neptune’s Parlor (Category: Hobbyist Beginning Exhibitor – Hobbyist)

**Shannon Webster** – Neptune’s Crown (Category: Professional Décor – Tabletop)



Thanks to this year’s judges: (left to right) Nancy Leslie, Sandy Moran, Harry Lee, and Richard Kirk.

**The Jacksonville Shell Club, Inc.**



Presents its...

**SHELL SHOW & FAIR**

To be held at the

**MOROCCO SHRINE AUDITORIUM**  
 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road South, Jacksonville, FL

**Friday June 14th 10am-4pm**  
**Saturday June 15th 10am-5pm**  
**Sunday June 16th 10am-3pm**

**FREE ADMISSION**  
**FREE PARKING**

Bring the whole family and enjoy the Educational Displays of  
 Beautiful Local and Worldwide Shells, Fossils, Shell Arts and Crafts.

Dealers will be present with great items for sale.

# Sarasota Shell Show - 2013

The 2013 Sarasota Shell Show was held at the Bradenton Area Convention Center and was a huge success, with a plethora of great scientific exhibits as well as many artistic ones. There were 35 scientific entries on six long rows in the exhibit hall. Seen in the photographs are winners of the various scientific awards. In addition, there were two special gold ribbon awards celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Sarasota Shell Club. The judges, Bill Lyons and David Green (scientific), and Phyllis Gray and Pam Rambo (artistic), awarded these special ribbons to Donna Cassin for her “Fifty Shades of Gray” artistic display and Ron Bopp for his “Ed-U-Card Display” scientific entry.



Ron Bopp, Awards Chairman



“COA-Berryman” - Harry Berryman from North Port, Florida, won the COA award for his multi-cased display of “A Sampling of Philippine Cones.”



“DuPont-Tremor” - Martin Tremor & Conrad Forler from St. Petersburg, Florida, won the DuPont Award for their display, “The Frog Prince: Bursidae.”



“SSC Fossil Award - Bopp” - Mary Jo & Ron Bopp from Bradenton, Florida, were presented the Sarasota Shell Club’s “Hertweck Fossil Award” by Donna Cassin, shell show chairman, for their display “Bermont Formation.”



“Mote Gold-Thompson” - Doug Thompson from Tallahassee, Florida, won the coveted Mote Gold Award for his display of “NW Gulf of Mexico Beauties.”



“SSC Small Scientific Award - Bopp” - Ron Bopp was awarded the Sarasota Shell Club’s Small Scientific Award for his “Macrostrombus” entry.





“SSC Member’s Award - Colegrande” - Donna Cassin presented John Colegrande (Venice, Florida) the Sarasota Shell Club’s Member Award for his single shell display of an “*Argopecten irradians*.”



“SSC Self-Collected Award - Thompson” - Doug Thompson received the Sarasota Shell Club’s Self-Collected Award for his “Lion’s Paw” display.



“Young Scientist Award - Ervin” - 14-year-old David Ervin won the Robert and JoAnn Morrison Young Scientist Award for his display, “Fifty Fantastic Florida Fossils.”

## The Astronaut Trail Shell Show - 2013

The Astronaut Trail Shell Show was held January 12-13, 2013. Scientific judges were Dr. José Leal, President of the Conchologists of America (COA), and Bill Lyons, COA Trustee. Arts and Crafts judges were Linda Koestel and Betty Lipe, both past COA Presidents.



We thank the judges, exhibitors, visitors, and club members for their participation, enthusiasm, and help.

Alan Gettleman  
Merritt Island, Florida  
Shell Show Chairman 2013

**Master’s Award: Robert & Alice Pace**, Miami, Florida. Title: The World Wide Invader (“GAS”) Giant African Snail.

**Conchologists of America Award: Anne Joffe**, Sanibel, Florida. Title: In Memoriam.

**DuPont Trophy** (this is the premier of the new 2013 DuPont design featuring a spectacular watercolor of *Scaphella junonia*): **Gene Everson**, Louisville, KY. Title: Veneridae.

**Fossil Award: Ron and Mary Jo Bopp**, Bradenton, Florida. Title: “Bermont Formation” at Big Island Excavation.

**Shell of Show: Robert & Alice Pace**, Miami, Florida *Siratus beauii* (Fischer & Bernardi, 1857).

**Florida/Caribbean Shell of the Show: Robert & Alice Pace**, Miami, Florida *Muricopsis chesleri* Houart, 2006.

**Astronaut Trail Shell Club Premium Arts and Craft Trophy** (restricted to previous winners): “All Things Nantucket” **Wendy Marshall**, Yarmouth Port, Massachusetts.

**Astronaut Trail Shell Club Arts and Craft Trophy:** “Sailor’s Valentine” **Gerda Reid**, Marston Mills, Massachusetts.

**Astronaut Trail Shell Club Collectible or Antique Trophy:** “Tagua-Vegetable Ivory.” **Phyllis Gray**, Orlando, Flor-



COA Award winner Anne Joffe for her presentation, “In Memoriam.” This image is from the Sanibel show, but it is still Anne!



These closing pages highlight some mollusks photographed in Mauritius by Charles Rawlings in 2012. Charles has provided literally hundreds of such images, from around the world, all for use by *American Conchologist*. Because these images will probably not be used for a cover due to size considerations, I decided to share them with our readers. Enjoy...







Facing page, clockwise from top right: *Harpa costata* (Linnaeus, 1758); *Harpa ventricosa* Lamarck, 1816; *Harpa ventricosa*.

Above, clockwise from top right: *Conus lithoglyphus* Hwass in Bruguière, 1792; *Conus quercinus* Lightfoot, 1786; *Conus* sp. (“yellow cone”).

All images by Charles Rawlings, taken in Mauritius. I am extremely grateful for his continued support in providing COA with such superb shell images. Your magazine cover would suffer otherwise.



