

SHELL-O-GRAM

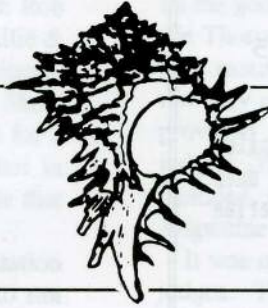
Published By The Jacksonville Shell Club, Inc.

September-October, 1997

Volume 38(5)

Editorial Board:

Bill Frank, Editor
Harry G. Lee, Asst. Editor
Billie Brown
Mary R. Reynolds



Club Officers:

John Fatu, President
Charlotte Lloyd, 1st Vice-Pres.
D. D. Jewell, Secretary
Teresa St. John, Treasurer

September Meeting

The September 25th meeting of the Jacksonville Shell Club will be held at the Reid Medical Science Building of Jacksonville University at 7:30 PM.

The educational program will be a scripted slide show entitled "Lovell Reeve, amateur malacologist?" It deals with the life and contributions of one of the eighteenth century's most prolific conchologists. Harry Lee will exhibit some of Reeve's classic "Conchologica Iconica."

The Shell-Of-The-Month will be given by Mary Reynolds on *Corculum cardissa* (Linne', 1758) (True Heart Cockle).

A proposed change to the By-Laws will be voted on (see page 6) and the 1998 Board of Directors will be elected.

Refreshments will be served, and everyone is encouraged to attend this important meeting.

October Meeting

The October 23rd meeting of the Jacksonville Shell Club will be held at the usual time and place.

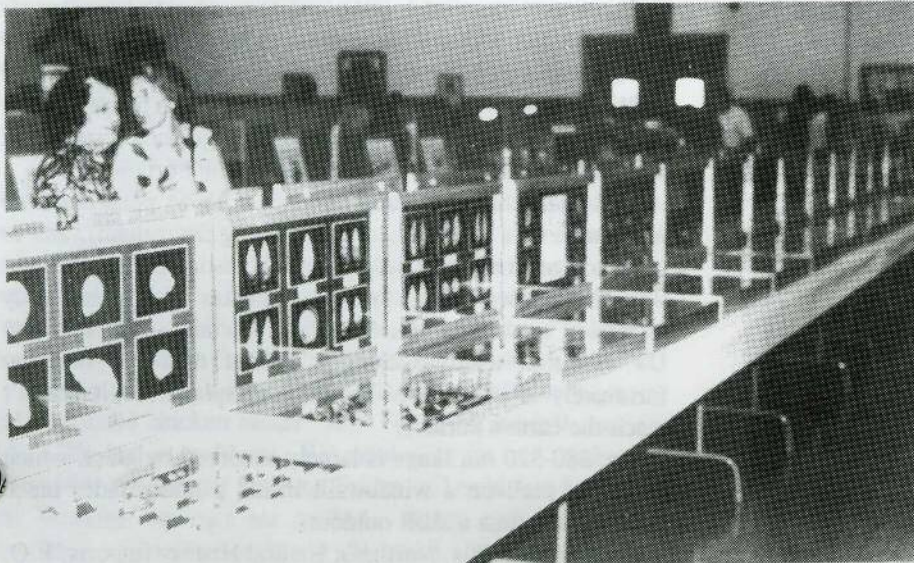
The month's educational program is entitled "Shelling Australia's Coastline," another fine shell-lecture from the archives of Time Rice (Of Sea & Shore Museum) of Port Gamble, Washington.

The Shell-Of-The-Month will be presented by Gertrude Moller on *Chama macerophylla* (Gmelin, 1791) (Leafy Jewel Box); a common Florida shallow water species.

As is customary, refreshments will be served and visitors, guests, and new members are cordially invited to attend.

Shell Show Comes To The Nation's Oldest City

The Jacksonville Shell Club celebrated its 37th anniversary by staging its 31st shell show at the Lance National Guard Armory in historic downtown St. Augustine the weekend of August 16th. A virtual tripling of rental costs at the Sea Turtle Resort in Atlantic Beach, site of the club's two previous shows, necessitated the change of venue. The armory offered over 7,000 square feet of floor space, a manageable rental fee, and something severely lacking in recent years - ample parking.



Despite the doubling of linear footage vis-a-vis the Sea Turtle, the exhibit hall was completely filled with a combination of nine shell and shell related dealers, the club's own sales table and sand flea market, as well as a total of 446 linear feet of exhibits including 408 linear feet of scientific exhibits and 88 linear feet of craft exhibits. Another 80-plus linear feet of scientific displays and one dealer had to be turned away due to lack of space.

Handling the judging duties were Dr. Emilio Garcia (Lafayette, Louisiana) and Dr. Jose' Leal (Sanibel, Florida) on the scientific side, and Mrs. Bobbi Cordy (Merritt Island, Florida) and club member Lola Josey (St. Simons Island, Georgia) for the crafts. [continued on page 7]

Part of Dr. Alfredo Romeu's 85 linear foot display of "Tree and Land Snails of the World;" winner of the R. Tucker Abbott Award. Pictured (left) is Dr. Esther Romeu.

Jacksonville Shell Club, Inc.
1865 Debutante Dr.
Jacksonville, FL 32246-8645
E-mail: Strombus@msn.com

The Shell-O-Gram is issued bi-monthly and mailed to all regular members. Annual membership dues \$12.50 individual, \$15.00 family. Lifetime membership is available.

Send dues to:

Teresa St. John, 2605 Emily Court,
Jacksonville, Florida 32216-5101.

The club meets the fourth Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM at the Reid Medical/Science Building, Jacksonville University, Jacksonville, Florida. Please address any correspondence to the club's address shown above.

Closing date for articles two weeks prior to the first of each month of publication. Articles may be republished provided full credit is given the author and this newsletter and one copy of the complete publication, in which the article appears, is mailed to Editor at the above address.



Welcome New Members

Rodney & Anita Davis
(Sealife Creations)
2114 Larry Dr. West
Jacksonville, FL 32216-4449
PH: 721-5754
E-Mail: Slifec@aol.com

Shew-Fan Bielefeld
P.O. Box 675
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233
PH: 247-3932

Welcome Re-joined Members

Ms. Kay Porto
3033 Club Villas AIP
Amelia Island, FL 32034-5055

Mr. Sam Pickering
1414 Twin Pines Lane
Macon, GA 31211-1335
PH: (912) 743-9323

Don't Forget Your Membership Dues!!!



Jacksonville Shell Club membership dues for the 1997-98 fiscal year were due on September 1st for the vast majority of club members. If your mailing label has "0897" prior to your name, **your membership expired on August 31st**. For members who recently joined, joined the club during mid-year and paid a full years dues, or paid a year in advance, the appropriate expiration month and year are reflected.

Don't delay - mail your check (\$12.50 for individual membership or \$15.00 for a family membership) to:

Teresa St. John, Treasurer
2605 Emily Court
Jacksonville, FL 32216-5101

Why Sunlight Fades Shells*

Shortwave ultraviolet (UV) radiation, in the wavelength range of about 280 to 320 nanometers (nm) is responsible for the alternation of pigment molecules resulting in fading of shells exposed to direct sunlight (not to mention drapes, house paint, colored paper, and various other pigmented materials). This same wave-band is responsible for sunburn.

This radiation has enough energy both to penetrate into many materials (as opposed to reflecting from them), and to cause alternations in molecules which absorb them. Longer wave UV is lower energy radiation, and has a greater tendency to reflect, as well as less disruptive potential. There is also UV radiation with wavelengths shorter than 280 nm, but fortunately it is absorbed by the atmosphere, so it doesn't reach the earth's surface.

The 280-320 nm range is largely absorbed by glass, which is why a shell on a windowsill inside a house fades much more slowly than a shell outdoors.

*By Paul Monfils, Northeast Natural History Imports, P.O. Box 6183, Providence, RI 02940 via the Conchologist of America Listserve, Conch-L.

President's Message

I would like to extend my personal thanks to D.D. & Rob Jewell, Bill Frank, Teresa St. John, Charlotte Lloyd, Billie & Paul Brown, Bill Lyerly, Claire Newsome, their committees, and everybody that had a part in making our 31st Shell Show possible. I really appreciate each and everyone of you for a job well done. This shows that when we are altogether in sweet spirit and harmony, we can overcome any obstacle that crosses our path.

As we all know, we are not a profit-making organization but we always strive to make enough money in order to run the organization efficiently and effectively. We didn't make a profit on this year's shell show as we had several factors working against us. However, we will learn from this year and plan to make our 1998 show a very successful one and profitable too. As we discussed at the August meeting, let's give St. Augustine another chance and revitalize our effort and strategies for a greater and a more beautiful show next year.

I have really enjoyed working with all of you and I appreciate your hard work and cooperation.

Wishing you a very successful year and best wishes to everyone. Happy shelling.

Club News

by Billie Brown

Big sigh - shell show is over. Now we can get to work on next year's. I was glad to see and be with our friends. Some travelled a ways to attend our show and we are grateful.

Some of our folks have been traveling this summer. The Blockers were in North Carolina in July. Chris says they found wonderful blackberries. Paul and I can attest to the berries. We put up 60 plus jars of preserves. Paul picked and I cooked. His shoulder problem didn't affect his picking. Charlotte and Fred Chauvin made a trip to Tupelo, Mississippi for a family reunion of Charlotte's family. They traveled some in that part of the country, also visited Biloxi. You know what that means. Charlotte Lloyd and granddaughter Ty visited friends in Costa Rica the first part of August. Had a great time.

There have been several articles in the newspapers about the Mayport Light House (It is inside the fenced navy base but visible from the end of Palmer Street in Mayport). The plans call for the light house to be open to the public along with a small museum. People are just now recognizing its importance to the history of this area. I am pleased to have a water color done in the 80's; a birthday gift done by a friend.

You know the old saying how many shell collectors does it take to make chicken salad? No? Well, let me tell you - a lot. We had a problem. We needed to be out of the St. Augustine Armory by 5 PM on Friday. The chicken for lunch on Saturday was not yet cooked. Selma and Andy were hosting a small get together at the beach and we could cook there. A lesser hostess than Selma couldn't have handled my pot and the almonds also needing to be cooked.

We packed the pot in ice and took it to Selma's. The aroma of boiling Chicken is not the best but it didn't interfere with all the good things to eat. From there the pot went home with the Thornes to be cooled and refrigerated then delivered the next morning. Audrey and Craig are two lovely people who not only cheerfully helped in the kitchen and elsewhere, but provided Jacksonville airport transportation for one of our judges. They were kind enough to make sure Dr. Garcia was included in activities besides being given a tour of St. Augustine with appropriate facts and stories about the city.

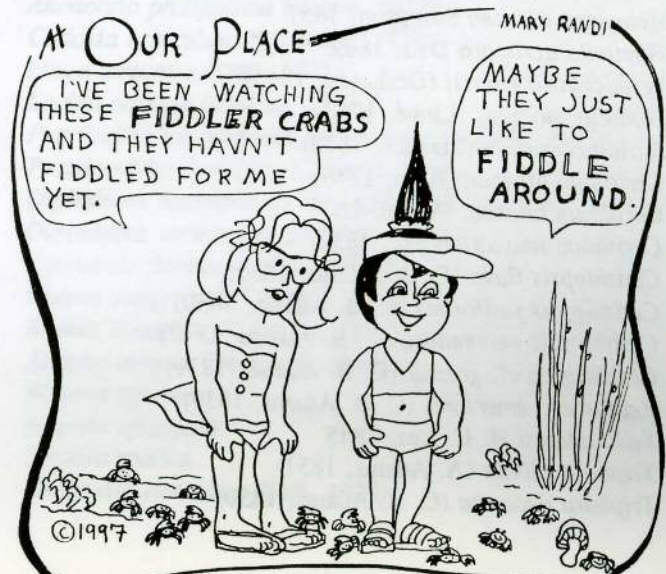
It was one of my privileges to clerk for the Arts and Crafts judges. There are good lessons to be learned and experience to be gained. Such as - glue showing - not good. Too busy, co-ordinate color, good idea, original. Small, but important words of wisdom. We had several "first time" entrants, and that is always exciting. Maybe you didn't do as well as had hoped, but don't be discouraged. You will be better each year, and it is important to our show to have a good representation of Arts and Crafts.

I have looked at the membership list and I see names that I cannot put with faces. Can't help wondering "who are these people?" "Where are these people?" At some point these people were interested enough to join our club. What has happened to them? We desperately need new members and help for our club. Since this newsletter goes to all members, maybe some of you who have not been coming to meetings, etc., could give us a call. Let us know if you are still interested and what we can do to have you take an active part in our club. Put faces with names, please.

September birthdays include Charlotte Chauvin on the 7th, Bill Frank on the 18th, and Kitty Lee on the 26th. And Happy Birthday to Eli Leslie on October 22nd. A good year to you all! Best, Billie (241-3755).

Upcoming Events

****Jan. 17-18, 1998 - Astronaut Trail Shell Show,** Melbourne Auditorium, 625 E. Hibiscus, Melbourne, FL. Contact Show Chairperson Bobbi Cordy, 385 Needle Blvd., Merritt Island, FL 32953 or phone (407) 452-5326. Entry forms/additional information are available from your Editor.



Cedar Key, Florida Mollusk Checklist Updated

The following is a checklist of marine mollusks collected or otherwise observed in the immediate vicinity of Cedar Key, Levy County, Florida based on work done by Emilio F. Garcia (Lafayette, Louisiana), Robert C. Granda (Panama City, Florida), James H. Keeler (Tallahassee, Florida), Marlo Krisberg (Merritt Island, Florida), Phillip L. Poland (Clearwater, Florida), several members of the Jacksonville Shell Club (1974-1997), and the editor. Species letters included (eg. *Triphora* species B) equate to specific citations which will appear in the Jacksonville Shell Club's upcoming book "Marine Shells of Northeast Florida" by Harry G. Lee. All identifications have been confirmed by the Editor.

Class Gastropoda

- Diodora cayenensis* (Lamarck, 1822)
Diodora meta (von Ihering, 1927)
Calliostoma tampaense (Conrad, 1846)
Arene tricarinata (Stearns, 1872)
Turbo castanea Gmelin, 1791
Eulithidium thalassicola (Robertson, 1958)
Littoraria angulifera (Lamarck, 1822)
Littoraria interrupta (Philippi, 1856)
Littoraria irrorata (Say, 1822)
Alvania auberiana (d'Orbigny, 1842)
Rissoina decussata (Montagu, 1803)
Rissoina elegantissima d'Orbigny, 1842
Schwartziella catesbyana (d'Orbigny, 1842)
Schwartziella floridana (Olsson and Harbison, 1953)
Zebina browniana (d'Orbigny, 1842)
Assimineia succinea (Pfeiffer, 1840)
Littoridinops palustris Thompson, 1968
 Hydrobiid species
Truncatella pulchella Pfeiffer, 1839
Circulus supressus (Dall, 1889)
Cochliolepis striata Dall, 1889
Cyclostremiscus pentagonus (Gabb, 1873)
Episcynia inornata (d'Orbigny, 1842)
Parviturboides interruptus (C. B. Adams, 1850)
Solariorbis blakei (Rehder, 1944)
Solariorbis infracarinata Gabb, 1881
Teinostoma altum Pilsbry in Olsson and Harbison, 1953
Teinostoma cryptospira Verrill, 1884
Caecum cooperi S. Smith, 1880
Caecum floridanum Stimpson, 1851
Caecum heladum Olsson and Harbison, 1953
Caecum pulchellum Stimpson, 1851
Meioceras nitidum Stimpson, 1857
Turritella acropora Dall, 1889
Vermicularia knorrii (Deshayes, 1843)
Modulus modulus (Linné, 1758)
Bittium varium (Pfeiffer, 1840)
Cerithium atratum (Born, 1778)
Cerithium lutosum Menke, 1828
Cerithium muscarum Say, 1832
Cerithiopsis flava (C. B. Adams, 1850)
Cerithiopsis fusiformis (C. B. Adams, 1850)
Cerithiopsis gemmulosa (C. B. Adams, 1847)
Cerithiopsis cf. greenii (C. B. Adams, 1839)
Retilaskeya emersonii (C. B. Adams, 1839)
Seila adamsi H. C. Lea, 1845
Triphora albida (A. Adams, 1851)
Triphora decorata (C. B. Adams, 1850)
Triphora modesta (C. B. Adams, 1850)
Triphora species B
Triphora species F
Triphora species G
Epitonium cf. albidum (d'Orbigny, 1842)
Epitonium angulatum (Say, 1830)
Epitonium apiculatum (Dall, 1889)
Epitonium candeanum (d'Orbigny, 1842)
Epitonium humphreysii (Kiener, 1838)
Epitonium rupicola (Kurtz, 1860)
Eulima bifasciata (d'Orbigny, 1842)
Eulimostraca hemphilli (Dall, 1884)
Melanella atypha (Verrill and Bush, 1900)
Melanella conoidea Kurtz and Stimpson, 1851
Melanella hypsela (Verrill and Bush, 1900)
Melanella jamaicensis (C. B. Adams, 1845)
Vitriolina conica (C. B. Adams, 1850)
Calyptrea centralis (Conrad, 1841)
Crepidula aculeata (Gmelin, 1791)
Crepidula fornicata (Linné, 1758)
Crepidula maculosa Conrad, 1846
Crepidula plana Say, 1822
Strombus alatus Gmelin, 1791
 Lamellaria species
Erato maugeriae Gray, 1832
Neverita duplicata (Say, 1822)
 Neverita species
Sinum perspectivum (Say, 1831)
Tectonatica pusilla (Say, 1822)
Phalium granulatum (Born, 1778)
Calotrophon ostrearum (Conrad, 1846)
Chicoreus florifer dilectus (A. Adams, 1855)
Eupleura sulcidentata Dall, 1890
Eupleura tampaensis (Conrad, 1846)
Favartia cellulosa (Conrad, 1846)
Phyllonotus pomum (Gmelin, 1791)
Stramonita haemastoma canaliculata (Gray, 1839)
Urosalpinx perrugata (Conrad, 1846)
Astyris lunata (Say, 1826)
Columbella rusticoides Heilprin, 1887
Costoanachis semiplicata (Stearns, 1873)
 Costoanachis species
Parvanachis obesa (C. B. Adams, 1845)
Parvanachis ostreicola (Melvill, 1881)
Suturoglypta iontha (Ravenel, 1861)
Cantharus cancellarius (Conrad, 1846)
Polia tinctoria (Conrad, 1846)
Busycon sinistrum Hollister, 1958 [including one dextral specimen]

- Busycotypus spiratus* (Lamarck, 1816)
Melongena corona (Gmelin, 1791)
Nassarius acutus (Say, 1822)
Nassarius consensus (Ravenel, 1861)
Nassarius vibex (Say, 1822)
Fasciolaria liliun hunteria (Perry, 1811)
Fasciolaria tulipa (Linné, 1758)
Pleuroploca gigantea (Kiener, 1840)
Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834
Olivella cf. *adela* Olsson, 1956
Olivella inusta Sowerby, 1915
Olivella mutica (Say, 1822)
Olivella perplexa Olsson, 1956
Olivella pusilla (Marrat, 1871)
Dentimargo aureocinctus (Stearns, 1872)
Dentimargo eburneolus (Conrad, 1834)
Gibberula lavalleana (d'Orbigny, 1842)
Granulina hadria (Dall, 1889)
Prunum apicinum (Menke, 1828)
Prunum avenaceum auctores, non (Deshayes, 1844)
Prunum succineum (Conrad, 1846)
Conus stearnsi Conrad, 1869
Terebra dislocata (Say, 1822)
Terebra protexta Conrad, 1845
Terebra vinosa Dall, 1889
Brachycythara biconica (C. B. Adams, 1850)
Cerodrillia perryae Bartsch and Rehder, 1939
Cerodrillia thea (Dall, 1883)
Cryoturris cerinella (Dall, 1889)
Cryoturris forthiensis (Reeve, 1845)
Cryoturris vincula (Usticke, 1971)
Glyphoturris quadrata (Reeve, 1845)
Kurtziella atrostyla (Tryon, 1884)
Kurtziella limonitella (Dall, 1885)
Pilsbryspira leucocyma (Dall, 1883)
Pyrgocythara plicosa (C. B. Adams, 1850)
Pyrgocythara species
Pyrgospira ostrearum (Stearns, 1872)
Strictispira acurugata (Dall, 1890)
Boonea impressa (Say, 1821)
Boonea nioba (Dall and Bartsch, 1911)
Careliopsis species
Eulimastoma canaliculatum (C. B. Adams, 1850)
Fargoa buijsei (deJong and Coomans, 1988)
Odostomia laevigata (d'Orbigny, 1842)
Peristichia toreta Dall, 1889
Pyramidella crenulata (Holmes, 1859)
Turbonilla (*Chemnitzia*) cf. *abrupta* Bush, 1899
Turbonilla (*Chemnitzia*) *aequalis* (Conrad, 1827)
Turbonilla (*Chemnitzia*) *dalli* Bush, 1899
Turbonilla (*Pyrgiscus*) *conradi* Bush, 1899
Turbonilla (*Pyrgiscus*) *constricta* Bush, 1899
Turbonilla (*Pyrgiscus*) *incisa* Bush, 1899
Turbonilla (*Pyrgiscus*) *puncta* (C. B. Adams, 1850)
Turbonilla (*Pyrgiscus*) cf. *punicea* Dall, 1884
Turbonilla (*Pyrgiscus*) species A
Turbonilla (*Pyrgiscus*) species B
Turbonilla (*Pyrgiscus*) species C
Turbonilla (*Pyrgiscus*) species

- Turbonilla* (*Pyrgiscus*) species
Turbonilla (*Pyrgiscus*) species
Turbonilla (*Pyrgiscus*) species
Rictaxis punctostriata (C. B. Adams, 1840)
Acteocina canaliculata (Say, 1826)
Acteocina candei (d'Orbigny, 1842)
Tornatina inconspicua (Pilsbry and McGinty, 1958)
Cylichnella bidentata (d'Orbigny, 1841)
Bulla striata Bruguière, 1792
Haminaea succinea (Conrad, 1846)
Melampus bidentatus Say, 1822
Pedipes mirabilis (Mühlfeld, 1816)
Oxynoe antillarum Mörch, 1863
Aplysia wilcoxi Heilprin, 1886
Class Scaphopoda
Antalis pilsbryi (Rehder, 1942)
Graptacme eborea (Conrad, 1846)
Class Polyplacophora
Acanthochitona pygmaea (Pilsbry, 1943)
Ischnochiton niveus Ferreira, 1981
Class Bivalvia
Nucula proxima Say, 1822
Nuculana acuta (Conrad, 1831)
Anadara floridana (Conrad, 1869)
Anadara transversa (Say, 1822)
Arcopsis adamsi (Dall, 1886)
Barbatia domingensis (Lamarck, 1819)
Noetia ponderosa (Say, 1822)
Glycymeris pectinata (Gmelin, 1791)
Amygdalum papyrium (Conrad, 1846)
Brachidontes exustus (Linné, 1758)
Geukensia demissa (Dillwyn, 1817)
Ischadium recurvum (Rafinesque, 1820)
Modiolus modiolus squamosus Beuperthuy, 1967
Musculus lateralis (Say, 1822)
Atrina rigida (Lightfoot, 1786)
Atrina seminuda Lamarck, 1819
Lima pellucida C. B. Adams, 1846
Argopecten irradians concentricus (Say, 1822)
Anomia simplex d'Orbigny, 1842
Crassostrea virginica (Gmelin, 1791)
Ostreola equestris (Say, 1834)
Anodontia philippiana (Reeve, 1850)
Codakia orbiculata (Montagu, 1808)
Linga amiantus (Dall, 1901)
Lucina nassula (Conrad, 1846)
Parvilucina multilineata Tuomey and Holmes, 1857
Pseudomiltha floridana (Conrad, 1853)
Diplodonta nucleiformis Wagner, 1838
Diplodonta semiaspera (Philippi, 1836)
Cyrenoida floridana (Dall, 1896)
Chama congregata Conrad, 1833
Bornia longipes (Stimpson, 1855)
Aligena elevata (Stimpson, 1851)
Aligena species
Mysella species B
Mysella species
Orobitella floridana (Dall, 1899)

[Cedar Key Checklist - continued from page 5]

Ensitellops elliptica Olsson and Harbison, 1953
Ensitellops protexta (Conrad, 1841)
Basterotia cf. corbuloidea Dall, 1899
Basterotia quadrata (Hinds, 1843)
Carditamera floridana Conrad, 1838
Pleuromeris tridentata (Say, 1826)
Crassinella lunulata (Conrad, 1834)
Dinocardium robustum robustum (Lightfoot, 1786)
Laevicardium mortoni (Conrad, 1830)
Trachycardium egmontianum (Shuttleworth, 1856)
Trachycardium muricatum (Linné, 1758)
Mactra fragilis Gmelin, 1791
Spisula raveneli (Conrad, 1831)
Mulinia lateralis (Say, 1822)
Ervilia concentrica (Holmes, 1860)
Ensis minor Dall, 1900
Macoma brevifrons (Say, 1834)
Macoma constricta (Bruguière, 1792)
Tellidora cristata (Récluz, 1842)
Tellina aequistriata Say, 1824
Tellina alternata Say, 1822
Tellina iris Say, 1822
Tellina tenella Verrill, 1874
Tellina texana Dall, 1900
Tellina versicolor DeKay, 1843
Cumingia tellinoides vanhyningi Rehder, 1939
Semele bellastrata (Conrad, 1837)
Semele proficua (Pulteney, 1799)
Abra aequalis (Say, 1822)
Tagelus divisus (Spengler, 1794)
Anomalocardia auberiana (d'Orbigny, 1842)
Chione cancellata (Linné, 1767)
Dosinia discus (Reeve, 1850)
Gemma gemma (Totten, 1834)
Macrocallista nimbose (Lightfoot, 1786)
Mercenaria mercenaria (Linné, 1758)
Parastarte triquetra (Conrad, 1846)
Pitar simpsoni (Dall, 1889)
Timoclea grus (Holmes, 1858)
Transenella conradina Dall, 1883
Choristodon robustum (Sowerby, 1834)
Petricola lapicida (Gmelin, 1791)
Paramya subovata (Conrad, 1845)
Corbula barrattiana C. B. Adams, 1852
Corbula contracta Say, 1822
Gastrochaena hians (Gmelin, 1791)
Cyrtopleura costata (Linné, 1758)
Martesia striata (Linné, 1758)
Lyonsia floridana Conrad, 1849

Harry G. Lee, 9/4/97, 258 species



Proposed JSC By-Laws Change

Pursuant to the By-Laws of the Jacksonville Shell Club (JSC), Section VII., A., 1., it has been proposed that the By-Laws of the Jacksonville Shell Club Section V. Board Of Directors, paragraph E. which currently reads: "The term of office will be for one year or until a successor is duly elected or appointed, with a maximum of two consecutive terms." be changed to read "The term of office will be for one year or until a successor is duly elected or appointed."

With the declining active membership of the JSC, it has become virtually impossible to fill the Board Of Directors positions with the existing restriction on serving more than two consecutive years in that capacity. This restriction precludes six of nine incumbents from continuing to serve and would likely result in several vital positions (Secretary and Treasurer) going unfilled.

In accordance with the By-Laws, notice is hereby given that this proposed change will be voted on at the September 25th regular meeting of the JSC. If approved, the nominating committee will present their proposed slate of officers for the coming year for a vote. The membership, of course, has the option of offering additional nominations from the floor.

Don't miss this important meeting. This is your club, and you have a responsibility to make it a successful.

COA 1997

The week of 12-18 July, eight local members of the Jacksonville Shell Club (JSC) attended the Conchologists of America (COA) Convention held at the South Seas Plantation Resort on Captiva Island, Florida.

In attendance were Bill & Betsy Lyerly, Gertrude Moller, Harry Lee, Frank & Ruth Abramson, and Craig & Audrey Thorn.

Fortunately for JSC members, the 1998 COA convention will be held much closer to home in Orlando; hosted by the Central Florida Shell Club.



Craig, Audrey, Bill and Betsy at the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum.

[Shell Show - continued from page 1.]

The judges had their work cut out for them with 42 entries in the scientific divisions (21 exhibitors) and 38 entries in the craft divisions (17 exhibitors). Despite this challenge, judging was thorough, professional, and completed in record time (at least in comparison to previous years).

While publicity was probably the best the club has ever had (although there was little support from the mainstream print and broadcast media in Jacksonville), paid attendance at this year's show was a disappointing 587; down precipitously from the 1,377 paying guests who attended the 1996 show or the 1,139 at the 1995 show.

Because of this decline in attendance, the club took a book loss of just over \$600 on the show. However, considering that show expenditure figures include over \$1,100 worth of purchases of shells for resale and re-usable street signs (materials which are available for use/resale in future years), it can be argued that the club broke even or in actuality made a modest profit.

The club owes a debt of gratitude to show chairperson D. D. Jewell and husband Rob, Paul & Billie Brown (craft chairpersons and Billie again for hospitality), Bill Frank (scientific chairman), Judy Blocker (banquet table decorations), Teresa St. John (banquet arrangements and Treasurer), Charlotte Lloyd (dealers, silent auction, trophies), Gertrude Moller (sand flea market), Cathy Williams (shell store), Harry Lee (attendance), Craig Thorn (facility blueprints), Bill & Betsy Lyerly (trophies and ribbons), Selma Thigpen (St. Augustine publicity), and last but certainly not least, Claire Newsome (publicity and raffle).

Of course while the above made organization and execution of the shell show possible, we couldn't have such an event without the support of our dealers, exhibitors and guests. A special thanks to exhibitors Leslie Crnkovic (Houston, Texas) and "super-sheller" Gene Everson (Louisville, Kentucky) for their considerable travel to enter our show. Likewise, thanks to guests Jim & Linda Brunner and Gerry & Wendy Munshower (Panama City, Florida) and Phyllis Diegel and Richard Duerr (Palm Beach, Florida), among others, for making their long drive to attend the show.

Planning for the 1998 show is already underway. Details will be provided as they become available.

A Snail And Clam History Lesson

by Alice Monroe

Through the ages, snails have been put to many interesting uses. Here are just a few:

In Roman times (before Avon) women used a snail powder face pack for whitening and softening their skin. They also used a salve from snails for eczema, a scar fader from cockle broth, and cough syrup from snail mucus.

An ancient belief was that an object that resembled a body part possessed magical and vital powers for the body part. For this reason, cowries were believed to confer fertility, protect against sterility, provide easy childbirth and plentiful crops, promote long life and safe passage to the afterlife, and

possess medicinal magic. (Maybe modern day *Cypraea* collectors are on to something...).

Daedalus, an inventor and member of the Royal House of Athens, was challenged by King Minos to pass a thread through a triton. He bore a hole in the apex of the shell, tied thread to an ant, and let the ant crawl through the shell, lured by honey at the other end.

In western Scotland, two people who made an agreement would split a mussel, cockle, or oyster shell. When their transaction was complete, they would rejoin the shell halves. In the Scottish highlands, shells of swan mussels were used for skimming milk and serving shots of whiskey.

In Asia, people used the close-fitting edges of clam shells as tweezers to remove facial hair.

Medieval European artists used mussel shells to hold paints.

And finally, Greeks in the first known democracy, scratched the name of their choice of candidate on the inside of a shell so it could not be erased.

From Suncoast Shorelines, Vol. 13, No.2, Nov.-Dec. 1996; newsletter of the Suncoast Conchologists.

Top Ten Reasons To Marry A Shell Collector

by John Caldeira*

10. They take you on vacations to nice tropical seashores.
9. They understand when you do something that makes the house smell.
8. Shells look better than stamps on a shelf.
7. Easy to decide what to give them for a birthday present.
6. Has no excuse when you want to spend money on *your* hobby.
5. The mating habits of mollusks can give them ideas.
4. Less competition for the TV remote control.
3. They'll go with you anywhere, if they can find shells.
2. Plenty of pretty books for the coffee table.
1. Helps you learn the Latin language.

*Co-editor of the Conch Courier; newsletter of the North Texas Conchological Society.

In Search Of An Albino Horse Conch

by Gary Gordon

The Florida Horse Conch (*Pleuroploca gigantea* (Kiener, 1840)) is a favorite of Florida shell collectors - which fact led to it being designated the official Florida state shell in 1969. The species normally has nodules on its whorls, but sometimes, however rarely, it is found with smooth shoulders. This form has been informally dubbed a "Knobless Wonder."

The shell is also rarely found as a beautiful albino specimen with the shell being of a white porcelain color. The albino form has been found in several areas around Florida, and I had looked for many years, and never found one, to my disappointment.

[continued on page 10.]

Jacksonville Shell Club's 31st Shell Show Award Winners

Craft Divisions

B-1-1 Pictures (glass covered)

- 1st - Marion Richeson
3rd - Caryl Plata

B-1-2 Pictures (open)

- 1st - Gertrude Moller

B-1-4 Flower Arrangements (over six inches)

- 1st - Dr. Thea Busch

B-1-5 Holiday/Christmas Related Items

- 1st - Betsy Lyerly
2nd - Charlotte Lloyd
3rd - Judy Blocker

B-1-6 Mirrors

- 1st - Judy Blocker
2nd - George Lacasse (Edgewater, FL)
3rd - Selma Thigpen

B-1-7 Jewelry and Personal Accessories

- 1st - Mary Reynolds
2nd - Judy Blocker

B-1-8 Paintings and Drawings of Shells

- 1st - Susan VanHoek
3rd - Selma Thigpen

B-1-10 Needlework

- 1st - Jean Kempfer (Margate, FL)

B-1-11 Miscellaneous

- 1st - Judy Blocker and Paul Brown (tie)
2nd - Charlotte Chauvin and Gertrude Moller (tie)
3rd - George Lacasse, Judy Blocker and Leslie Crnkovic (Houston, TX) (three-way tie)

B-2-1 Pictures, Sailor Valentines, Antiques, etc.

- 2nd - Dorothy Eanetta

B-2-2 Paintings of Drawings of Shells

- 1st - Leslie Crnkovic

Judges Special Awards - The awards went to separate exhibits both created by Judy Blocker.

Most Creative - Betsy Lyerly (Christmas decorations)

Helen Murchison Memorial Trophy - Jean Kempfer (Quilt)

Scientific Divisions

A-1-1 Beautiful

- 1st - Darryl & Helen Kwiat (Casselberry, FL)

A-1-2 World-Wide

- 1st - Gene Everson (Louisville, KY)
2nd - Jake & Sylvia Dominey (Orlando, FL)

A-1-3 One Area

- 1st - Leslie Crnkovic
2nd - Darryl & Helen Kwiat
3rd - Fred Chauvin

A-1-4 Florida and Caribbean

- 1st - Jim Vunkannon (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)
2nd - Charlotte Chauvin
3rd - Leslie Crnkovic

A-1-5 Self-Collected S.E. U.S./Caribbean

- 1st - Leslie Crnkovic
2nd - Jim Vunkannon
3rd - Nancy Garry-Chadwick

A-1-8 One Major Family

- 1st - John & Jane Fatu
2nd - Leslie Crnkovic
3rd - Teresa St. John

A-1-9 One Minor Family

- 1st - Mary Reynolds

A-1-10 One Genus

- 1st - Bill Frank
2nd - Mary Reynolds
3rd - Jim Vunkannon

A-1-11 One Single Specimen

- 1st - Gene Everson "*Cancellaria gladiator*"
2nd - John & Jane Fatu
3rd - Jim Cordy (Merritt Island, FL)

A-1-12 Educational

- 1st - Charlotte Lloyd
2nd - Gertrude Moller

A-1-13 Rare

- 1st - Leslie Crnkovic "*Pterynotos zenos*"

A-1-14 Oddities

- 1st - Harry Lee
2nd - Darryl & Helen Kwiat
3rd - Leslie Crnkovic

A-1-16 Related Specialty

- 1st - Leslie Crnkovic

A-1-18 Sea Life

- 1st - Teresa St. John
2nd - Jim Vunkannon
3rd - Carolyn Vunkannon (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)

A-2 Non Marine Mollusks

- 1st - Dr. Alfredo Romeu

A-3 Marine Fossils

- 1st - Leslie Crnkovic
2nd - Bill Frank
3rd - Nancy Garry-Chadwick

Judges Special Awards:

- Jake & Sylvia Dominey "Shell Shapes"
--Mary Reynolds "Littorinidae - The Periwinkles"

Shell of the Show

- Gene Everson "*Cancellaria gladiator*"

Self-collected Shell of the Show

- Leslie Crnkovic "*Pterynotos zenos*"

Florida-Caribbean Shell of the Show

- Leslie Crnkovic "*Calliostoma* sp." (unnamed))

R. Tucker Abbott Award

- Dr. Alfredo Romeu "Tree and Land Snails of the World"

The duPont Trophy

- Gene Everson "Seashells of Africa"

Conchologist of America Award

- Bill Frank "The Genus *Cymatium*"

Exhibitors Choice Trophy

- Charlotte Lloyd "Molluscan Connections"

Gerald Combs: The Man With A Million Mollusks

As reported in the July-August issue of the Shell-O-Gram, Jacksonville Shell Club Honorary Life Member Gerald Combs passed away on July 3rd at the age of 84. Some twenty years prior to his passing, he remarked in a press interview that he wanted to keep working with shells, one way or another, as long as he lived. He realized his dream and had only disposed of his quaint store and shell stock just prior to his death. He would never part with his prized personal collection while he was alive.

The following, adapted from a story which appeared in the Florida Times-Union on February 27, 1977, provides an insight into this unique and interesting man.

ARTESIA PARK - You probably could count on your fingers folks who could tell you how to get to Artesia Park. Even residents and neighbors to the south at Flagler Beach don't recognize the name. They call the area "the hammock." Maybe they should rename it Combsville because the name Gerald Combs, one of Artesia Park's longtime residents, is much better known. It rings a bell with divers, gift shop owners, shell collectors and craftsmen everywhere.

Combs is the man with a million mollusks at his fingertips and a direct line to Heaven. While operating the Sea Shell Museum - a supermarket of marine gems - on State Road A1A, he has served for 20 years without pay as the minister of a tiny interdenominational chapel up the road.

Combs is up before seven every morning reading the Bible. At 7 a.m., he opens the door of the museum since many of his best customers are early-bird shoppers. In the busy tourist season, he stays open until 9 p.m. He never closes before seven.

He has been working in the backyard two hours already - processing raw Queen Conchs for a big order going to Canada when we arrived at the shell outlet at 9 a.m. He came through the back door in faded work clothes, peeling off wet rubber gloves that protect his hands from cleaning acids.

He greeted us in a booming, friendly voice, assuring that the interruption was a welcome one on such a chilly morning. He pulled up two chairs near a kerosene space heater. Combs remembered we had been there before with a friend who likes to comb through the jungle of scrap shells in the backyard, looking for scallops she bleaches and glues on mirror frames.

Digging in the mounds can be a dirty, all-day job. Only "pet" customers are invited backstage. It has to be someone who doesn't mind the stench of raw, unprocessed specimens from the sea, waiting to be washed, cleaned, polished and packaged. Someone who doesn't object to scraping under the crud and grit of yet-to-be-processed merchandise.

Combs does most of the processing himself because it's not the kind of work that appeals to people looking for full-time employment.

People who don't know any better might mistake his backyard as a junk outlet for old bathtubs. Combs uses them to soak the thousands of shells he cleans every week.

Divers all over the world supply Combs with a large variety of both common and rare shells which he processes and sells by the item, the kilo, the gallon and the bushel - both wholesale and retail. Single sale items at his emporium range in price from a penny to \$1,000.

Combs came to Florida from Oklahoma in 1938 and opened a produce business in Miami. But he didn't discover shells or God until 1945, he said. His life has since been dedicated to both.

"It's kind of a long story," Combs said, thinking back to the pre-World War II days when coconuts were considered a nuisance in Miami. During the war, Combs discovered coconut meat was easier to sell than fruits and vegetables and converted his business.

"At the time, imported coconut meat which is better than Florida varieties ... was hard to get. I hired a helper and we began gathering and cracking nuts and packaging the meat. Then later when the import business got going again, I quit shelling and started selling coconut novelties to tourists and souvenir shops all over the state."

One day, he and his brother, John, who later opened a shell museum near Orlando, saw an ad run by "a fella who wanted to trade a load of shells from the Bahamas for a load of coconuts." The Combs brothers made the swap and soon discovered that while coconut souvenirs were good sellers ... shells were better.

"We began buying shells from boats coming in at Palm Beach from the Bahamas and as we got deeper and deeper in shells, we dropped coconuts altogether. My brother and I split up. He took the central part of the state and I went on the road selling shells to shops along the East Coast.

It was during his traveling salesman days the he was "converted" to Christianity, he said. "There was no particular denomination involved but I did join a Baptist Church at West Palm Beach when we moved there from Miami."

In 1952 he moved again to Artesia Park and opened a wholesale shell place. "I had a deal with Marineland of the Pacific to supply them with their commercial shells." Combs stayed "wholesale" until 1967. He made regular trips to the Keys to dive for shells in addition to the ones he bought from boats and divers around the world.

Selling shells is somewhat like selling clothes. "You get to know what your regular customers will like."

Combs writes his sermons before he comes to work. "I have to do it early in the morning when my head is clear. Once I get here ... there's too much else to think about."

Combs said he hopes to begin phasing out his wholesale business and become strictly retail because his three sons aren't interested in taking over the processing. "I used to ship to Italy, South Africa and England. Now, I limit you orders to the states and Canada."

Combs wouldn't think of retiring although he said he hasn't had a real vacation in 20 years. "I want to keep working with shells one way or another, as long as I live."

[Albino Horse Conch - continued from page 7.]

At the 1980 Jacksonville Shell Show, the famous shell collector Fred Chauvin won the Self-collected Shell of the Show Trophy with a fantastic albino, smooth-shouldered Florida Horse Conch. The shell was of good size and in gem condition. This shell was a dream-come-true for any collector and it made me dream of the day I too would find one. However, I dared not hope that it would be a "Knobless Wonder" like Fred's.

At the show I talked to Fred at some length about trying to find an albino horse conch. I knew he was an expert on finding shells along the N.E. Coast of Florida, and he can entertain a shell collector for hours with his exciting shelling stories. I finally talked him into taking me shelling that weekend in my boat.

Low tide was around noon so we met early at the boat dock. Soon Fred was directing me to go this way and that way until we landed on a large exposed sand bar. I kept wondering to myself, "Has Fred brought me to one of his secret shelling spots and will he help me find an albino horse conch?" My mind raced on and thought that even if Fred had brought me to a good spot, the chances of finding an albino might be one in a thousand. So far, we had not seen even one horse conch. I dared not ask Fred if this was his secret spot for fear of jinxing the trip, so I simply walked along, exploring the tide pools and finding a shell here and there.

The tide started back in and I knew it would soon be time to go, and my hopes of finding the shell of my dreams were pretty low at that point. Fred told me to go around one way, while he went another way back towards the boat. I had walked along maybe 200 feet or so when there to my delight, in a tide pool, was a fantastic albino horse conch! It was not a "Knobless Wonder" but it was a beautiful 12 1/2 inch specimen. It was one of the best finds I had made in several years and the shell is a real prize in my collection.

When Fred sent me in one direction and he took another, did Fred know that the shell was there waiting for me, or was it all a big coincidence? I would like to think that Fred knew all along there would be an albino horse conch in that tide pool. After all, Fred had shelled that area for years. You can decide for yourself. I just want to say THANKS FRED for a wonderful shell and a wonderful shelling trip.

Adapted from CARFEL (Manila) Philippine Shell News, Vol. 4, No. 2, March-April 1982.

Editors Note: For those of you who were at our recent shell show, you may have noticed that Fred's exhibits included not one, but two knobless albino Florida Horse Conchs.

The Shell-O-Gram

1865 Debutante Dr.

Jacksonville, FL 32246-8645

