

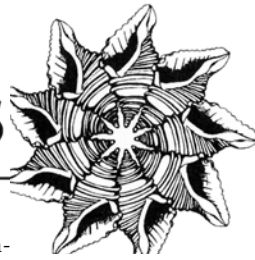
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thomas@nerite.com conchologistsofamerica.org

# *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: Harry G. Lee  
4132 Ortega Forest Dr.  
Jacksonville, FL 32210  
shells@hglee.com

Vice President:

Treasurer: Steven Coker  
202 Canyon Oak Dr.  
Lake Jackson, TX 77566  
(979) 297-0852  
shellman7000@sbcglobal.net

Secretary: Phyllis Gray  
1212 S. Eola Drive  
Orlando, FL 32806-2218  
(407) 422-0253  
phyllis.gray@amecfw.com

Membership: Karlynn Morgan  
PO Box 11703  
Winston Salem, NC 27116-1703  
karlynnmorgan@earthlink.net

Trustee: Everett Long  
422 Shoreline Drive  
Swansboro, NC 28584-7204  
nlong3@earthlink.net

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

Historian: Alan Gettleman  
2225 Tanglewood Lane  
Merritt Island, FL 32953-4287  
(321)-536-2896  
lychee@cfl.rr.com

Website Administrator:  
Marcus Coltro  
1688 West Avenue apt 805  
Miami Beach, FL 33139  
marcus@femorale.com

Immediate Past President: José Leal  
3075 Sanibel-Captiva Road  
Sanibel, FL 33957-1580  
(239) 395-2233  
jleal@shellmuseum.org

Awards & Endowments Director:  
Donald Dan  
6704 Overlook Drive  
Ft. Myers, FL 33919  
(239) 481-6704  
donaldan@aol.com

Convention Coordinator:  
Anne Joffe  
1163 Kittiwake Circle  
Sanibel, FL 33957-3605  
sanibelchiton@aol.com

Member at Large:  
Amelia Ann Dick  
378 Pagan Rd.  
Smithfield, VA 23430-1520  
amelia-ann@msn.com

Member at Large:  
Doug Wolfe  
109 Shore Dr., Shell Landing  
Beaufort, NC 28516-7861  
(252) 728-3501  
dawolfe@ec.rr.com

Member at Large:  
Ed Shuller  
409 S. Carroll Street  
Apex, NC 27539-5360  
eshuller@mindspring.com

Academic Grants Chairwoman:  
Jann Vendetti  
Twila Bratcher Endowed Chair in  
Malacological Research  
Nat. Hist. Museum of L.A. County  
900 Exposition Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90007  
jannvendetti@yahoo.com

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

Advertising Manager:  
Amelia Ann Dick  
378 Pagan Road  
Smithfield, VA 23430-1520  
(757)-357-9686  
amelia-ann@msn.com

Staff: Lynn & Richard Scheu

COA Webmasters:  
Marcus Coltro &  
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**Front cover:** *Harpa amouretta* Röding, 1798, 41.4mm, discovered in a few centimeters of water at +0.7m tide, in a sand pocket on the reef at Shimoni, southern Kenya. Both front and back covers are by Simon Aiken, who photographed the *Harpa* using a Nikon D3200, Sigma 105mm macro lens (f/22), twin SB-R200 speedlights and Nikon SU-800 commander unit.

**Back cover:** *Meganipha rhecta* Thompson, 1978, lives at the top of a ridge in the Loma del Puerto, northern Dominican Republic. Its very limited range, its specialized habitat, and the inaccessibility of these mountains mean that only a handful of collectors have observed the living snails. The exquisitely delicate varices have earned it the name “snowflake snail.” Here is a specimen *in situ*.

Photos by Simon Aiken (simonaiken@btinternet.com), who will present more landsnails from the Dominican Republic in a future *American Conchologist*.



**Editor’s comments:** I have to start off the comments in this issue with a couple of corrections. About the September *American Conchologist*, COA member Steve Rosenthal wrote, “One comment re page 43 – the description (in two places or more) for the Tripp’s winning exhibit should use the name “Meteo Tsunami” (actually “meteotsunami”) and not metro tsunami. Google “MeteoTsunami Naples 2016” to read more about it. Its [sic] fascinating. I remember seeing pics and a video from 2016 from Sanibel on Pam Rambo’s “I Love Shelling” Blog and also hearing about it from Amy Tripp, the term was totally new to me.” Thanks for the correction Steve. About the December issue, Martin Tremor was 82, not 83, and passed away in St Petersburg, FL, where he resided. For some reason I had North Dakota listed (not sure where that came from). Also, Ethel Rita Sinow was 92, not 93, when she passed away.

This is another eclectic issue and once again, Simon Aiken has come through with some fantastic shell images for both covers and a pictorial of some deep-water specimens. He also sent me a number of incredible images from a recent shelling trip to the Dominican Republic – promising a follow-up article this year.

The first article in this issue is about a mystery moon-snail; at least it was a mystery to me. A bit of research finally caught me up to where probably a lot of our members are in terms of having heard of and understanding *Haliotinella patinaria*. I applaud you each and every one. I had never heard of it.

Next we have Everett Long’s plea for *Neptunea* nominations. I understand that some of you have gotten frustrated when your nominee did not win. Do not despair! You can pull that old nomination out and resubmit your deserving person as often as you desire. The competition is tough, but if they were worthy in the past, then send in their name.

Then are the aforementioned Simon Aiken’s stunning photos of deep-water mollusks (and one shrimp), a book review by Jay Cordeiro of *Seashells of New England – A Beachcombers Guide*, and because of recent events in California, I have included a short piece on long-time COA member and shell dealer Phillip Clover and his recent travails with the California wild fires. We have Donald Dan’s listing of upcoming shell shows and a great series of collecting memories from Gene Everson. We end this issue with two pieces from Paul Callomon: a description of a new shell show award for the Philadelphia Shell Show and an Ode to the Academy.

*Tom Eichhorst*

# An interesting naticid: *Haliotinella patinaria* Guppy, 1876

Thomas E. Eichhorst

A few months ago a friend (Will Ritter of Astoria, Oregon) sent me an email with an image of a shell that looked like a single valve of a chipped, faded or bleached razor clam (Fig. 1). The kicker was that this image was from Eddie Hardy's web site, *Hardy's Internet Guide to Marine Gastropods* ([www.gastropods.com](http://www.gastropods.com)) and the shell was listed as a Naticidae. Neither Will nor I saw a naticid in this razor clam-looking shell. The shell name was *Haliotinella patinaria* Guppy, 1876 (fingernail moon snail) from Florida to Texas, the West Indies, and the Canary Islands. The size was listed as 7-14mm and the image was of the syntype from the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris. So here was a species from the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean – and I (and Will) had never heard of it. A bit embarrassing, but certainly reason enough for some serious research.

The first place I thought to look was R. Tucker Abbott's, *American Seashells* (2nd edition). That worthy volume, however, was 20 feet away in a bookcase and I was at my computer. So a fast and reliable check was the *World Register of Marine Species* (*WoRMS*) online at: [www.marinespecies.org](http://www.marinespecies.org). You can also find it by Googling "worms." I entered "*Haliotinella patinaria*" in the box titled "quick search," and was almost instantly transferred to the entry for this species. The *WoRMS* entry told me this was a valid species in the family Naticidae (subfamily unassigned) and by clicking on the genus name, *Haliotinella* Souverbie, 1875, I found there were two species in the genus and a single synonym (*Pleurobranchus lowei* Watson, 1897) for *H. patinaria*. The type species for the genus was *Haliotinella montrouzieri* Souverbie, 1875. *WoRMS* went on to list the original genus type description as: Souverbie & Montrouzier (1875), the basis of the *WoRMS* record as: Rosenberg, et al. (2009), and the basis of the synonymy as: Moro, et al. (2017). I now accepted this as a valid species, somehow placed in Naticidae, but it looked "wrong."

The shell still seemed most like a razor clam (Fig. 2) with the periostracum removed and the only known synonym was originally described as a *Pleurobranchus*. This is a sea slug genus! I now have a razor clam-like shell on a moon snail species that can be confused with a sea slug. I was still quite a ways from understanding this species.

My next step was to "Google" the name, "*Haliotinella patinaria*" and look for images of the shell online. All of the images presented (3) were variations of the same photograph by Manuel Caballer of the syntype from the Paris museum – a chipped shell

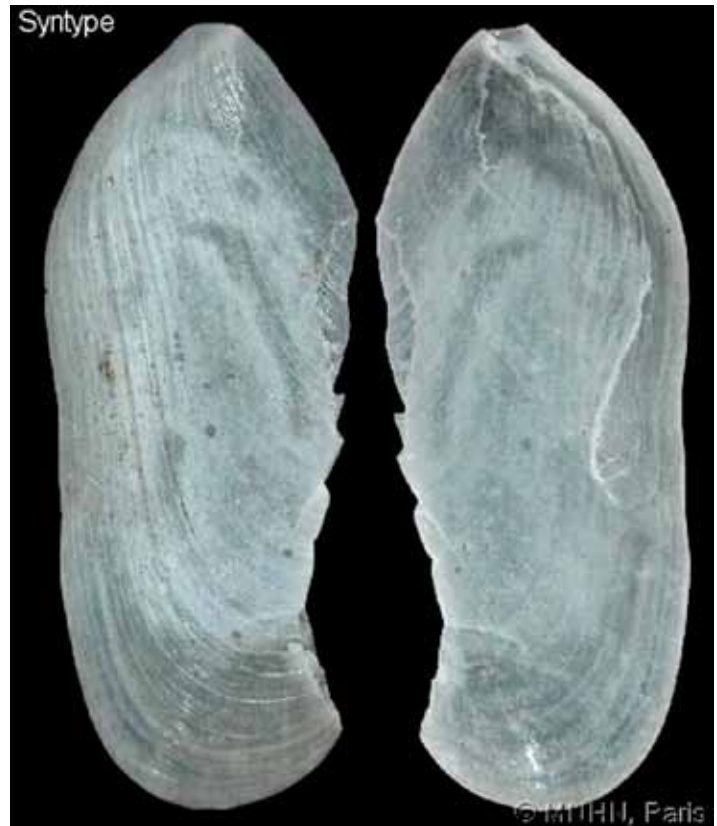


Fig. 1 (above). The image sent to me by Will Ritter with the question that started all of this, "What is it?" This image came from *Hardy's Internet Guide to Marine Gastropods* ([www.gastropods.com](http://www.gastropods.com)) and is labeled *Haliotinella patinaria* Guppy, R.J.L., 1876 (fingernail moon snail), shell size 7-17mm, E. Florida – Texas, USA; St Kitts, West Indies; Canaries. The image is credited to the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris.

Fig. 2 (left). A razor clam stripped of its periostracum (species unknown). At first glance, this seemed to be the closest match to the image sent to me by Will. Both of us thought there must be some mistake involved with the image or the identification, or both.



Fig. 3. This is the more complete image found on the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, web site. It is listed as 'syntypes,' *Haliotinella patinaria*, MNHN-IM-2000-5223, 18mm, from the Antilles, with île S. Kitts [Saint Christopher], Antilles, as the type locality. On the left is the ventral view of the shell and on the right is the dorsal. This image includes the broken pieces of the shell as well as the naticiform protoconch, including a magnified view. This image, as well as Figs. 1. and 4. were photographed by Manuel Caballer, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, [www.science.mnhn.fr/taxon/species/haliotinella/patinaria](http://www.science.mnhn.fr/taxon/species/haliotinella/patinaria), used under permission of Creative Commons 4.0, as specified on the museum web page.

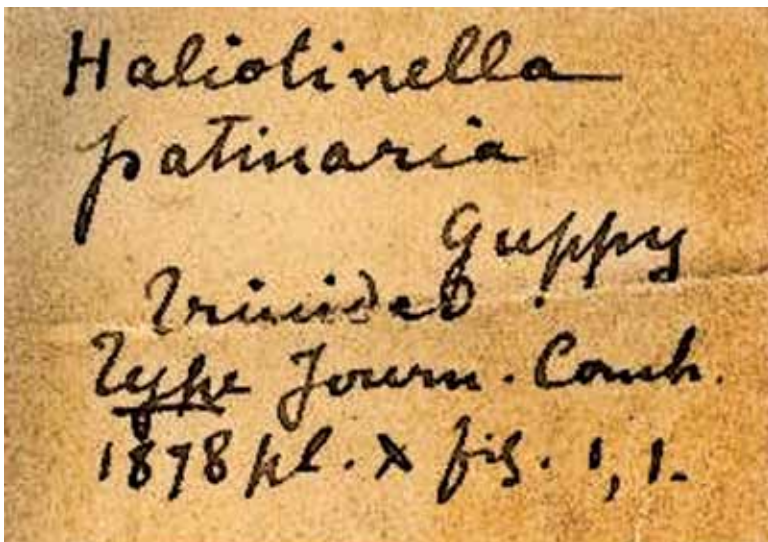


Fig. 4. This is the data slip with *H. patinaria*, listing the 1878 *Journal de Conchyliologie*, pl. X, fig. 1, 1. The correct reference of the 1876 *Journal de Conchyliologie* is provided on the museum's web page.

that looked like a razor clam ([www.science.mnhn.fr/taxon/species/haliotinella/patinaria](http://www.science.mnhn.fr/taxon/species/haliotinella/patinaria)). One of the images also included several depictions of a small naticid-like gastropod, with no explanation or indications of size or magnification (Fig. 3). It looked like it was the same shell shown dorsally and ventrally, and then magnified with the same two views. There was even an image of the data slip, referencing Guppy, 1878, instead of 1876 (Fig. 4).

The Hardy web site listed the reference for the Guppy description (as did the Paris museum web page); so using the *Biodiversity Heritage Library* ([www.biodiversitylibrary.org](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org)) web site I was able to find a copy of the original description by Guppy (1876). He did not have an illustration of his new species (with a type locality of Antilles), but rather referred to *Haliotinella montrouzieri* Souverbie, 1875 (Fig. 5). Interestingly, the 1875 article is by both Montrouzier and Souverbie, but both the new genus (*Haliotinella*) and the new species

(*H. montrouzieri*) are specifically credited to Souverbie alone, thus the "technically" correct citation would be the cumbersome Souverbie in Souverbie & Montrouzier, 1875. In any case, the new species, *H. montrouzieri*, is listed as occurring in New Caledonia and the authors include an excellent illustration (validating the Guppy description a year later of the similar *H. patinaria*).

What about the data slip date of 1878? Guppy repeated his 1876 description of *H. patinaria* in the *Journal de Conchyliologie* in 1878, and this time included a color plate of his species (Fig. 6). The data slip references this description and illustration, although International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) rules allow descriptions from this time period to reference a separate illustration, thus the 1876 date is the correct date. Of course, the Paris museum web site ([www.science.mnhn.fr/taxon/species/haliotinella/patinaria](http://www.science.mnhn.fr/taxon/species/haliotinella/patinaria)) lists the proper date and has both of the Guppy references. I had now proven to myself the validity of the species name and description (such as it was), but still major questions remained.

It was time to give R. Tucker Abbott a chance. I pulled out his 663 page second edition of *American*

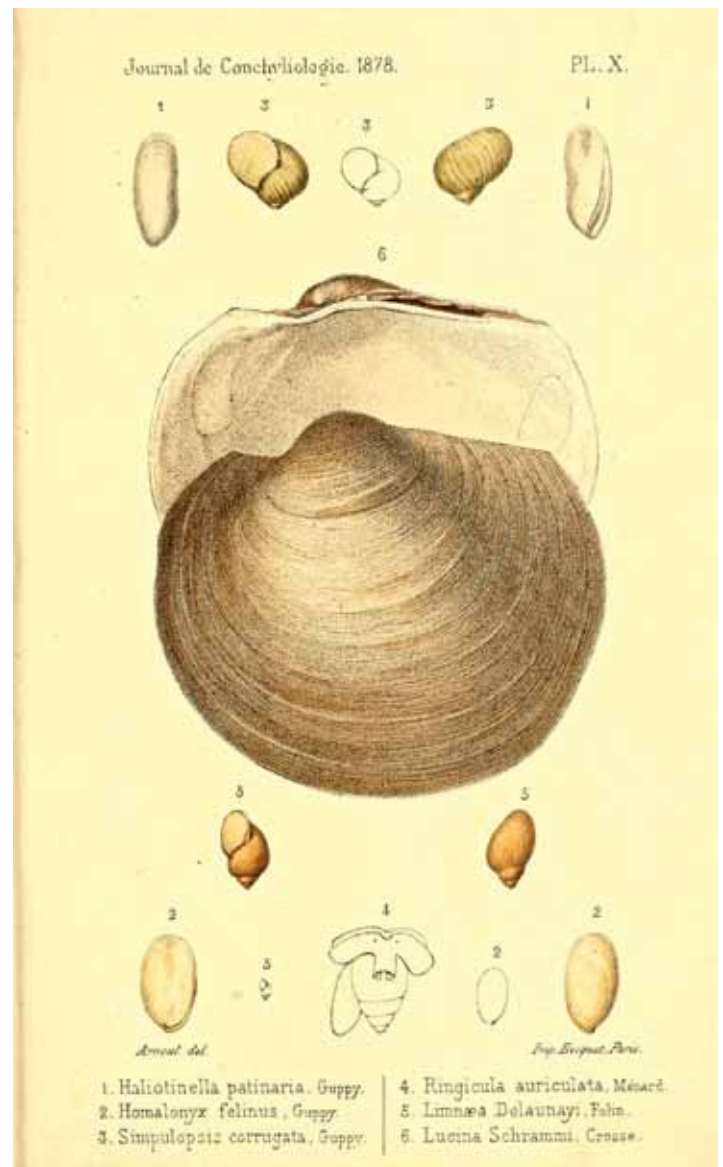


Fig. 5. Plate IV from Souverbie, S.M. & X. Montrouzier (1875). Fig. 1. is the depiction of *H. patinaria* referenced by Guppy in 1876 (close up below).

Fig. 6. Plate X from Guppy, R.J.L. (1876). Fig. 1. is his depiction of *H. patinaria*, described two years earlier (close up below).





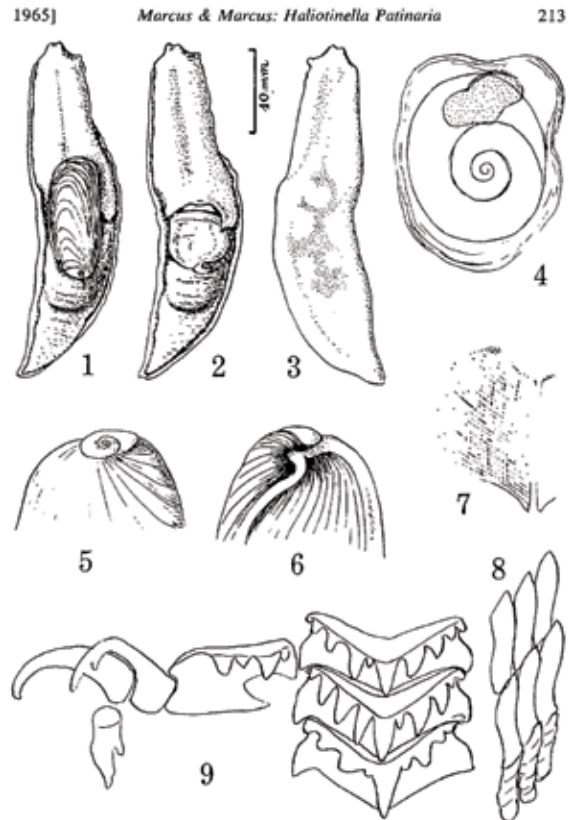
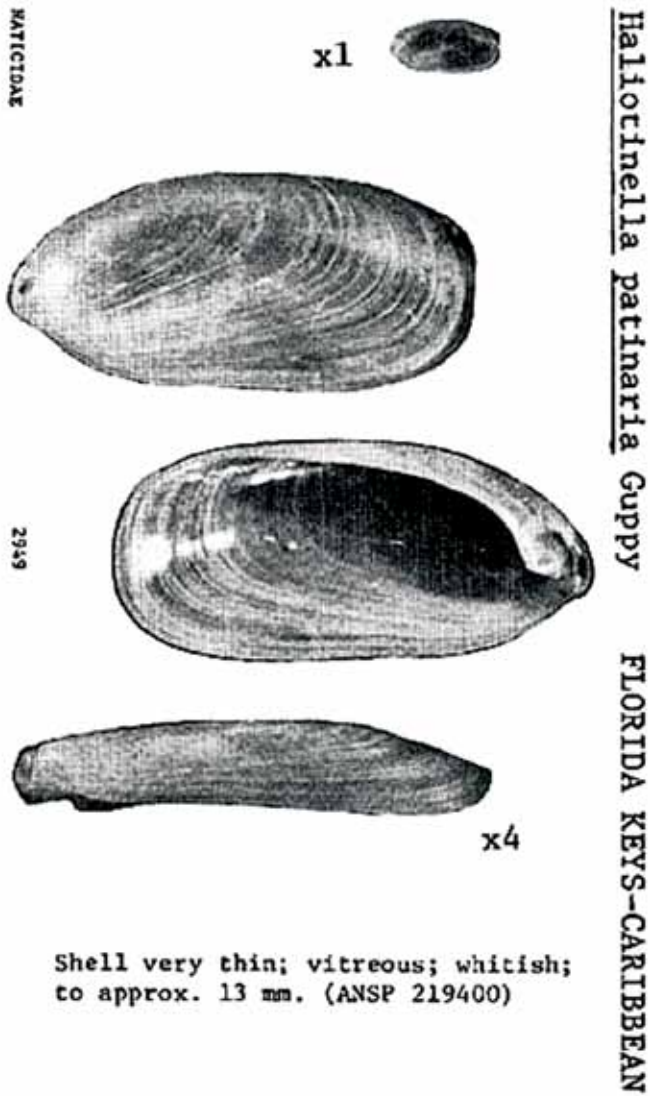
**Fig 7.** A composite of the images by Colin Redfern in *Bahamian Seashells* (2013). These images clearly show the naticiform protoconch on top of the 8mm shell on the left (1) and the similar protoconch on the much larger 15mm shell on the right (2), with its greatly extended outer lip in a flattened, elongated shape. The insert (3) is a 6x magnified view of the naticiform protoconch with its  $2 \frac{3}{4}$  whorls formed prior to the extension of the outer lip. Note the growth lines as the shell increases in size.

*Seashells* and sure enough on page 158 found a listing for *Haliotinella patinaria* as well as an adequate black and white photograph. This was R. Tucker, however, and he would not leave his reader hanging with such limited information. He wrote,

Shell 12 to 14 mm. long, fragile, narrow (1/2 wide as long), with an aperture as large as the shell itself. 2 nuclear whorls, the first one brown, the next glossy opaque-white, smooth and rounded and sitting up on the apex of the shell. Columella long, a thickened glossy ridge which extends just under the apex; an umbilical chink is present at its top left. Periostracum thin and yellow. Interior glistening white. Operculum chitinous, oval, paucispiral. Animal 2

inches. An amazing evolutionary development in the *Natica-Sinum* line. Uncommon; shallow water in sandy mud among turtle grass. (Details in Marcus, 1965, Bull. Marine Sci., vol. 15, p. 211.) (Abbott, 1974: 158)

I now knew quite a bit about this minute and strange naticid, but I still lacked a really good image. Abbott's description of a "12 to 14mm" shell on an "animal 2 inches" long did provide a solid clue as to why it was confused with a sea slug. I still did not have a real feel for what this species really looked like and how it could possibly be placed in the family Naticidae. For times like this, just above my computer is a bookshelf with a number of books I tend to reference most often. One of these is *Bahamian Seashells: 1161*



FIGURES 1-9. *Haliotinnella patinaria* Guppy. 1, dorsal view of preserved snail; 2, same, shell removed; 3, ventral view; 4, operculum; 5, initial whorls of shell, upper surface; 6, same, lower surface; 7, jaw; 8, rodlets of same; 9, radula.

Fig. 8. The Kaicher card (no. 2949) provided online by [www.femorale.com](http://www.femorale.com).

Fig. 9. The image of *H. patinaria* in Marcus & Marcus (1965: 213). They were the first to examine the two-inch animal that sported the centimeter-sized shell and confirmed its correct placement in Naticidae. Their illustration clearly shows the large animal (confused at least once for a nudibranch), the operculum, the radula, and the very small elongated shell. Used with permission.

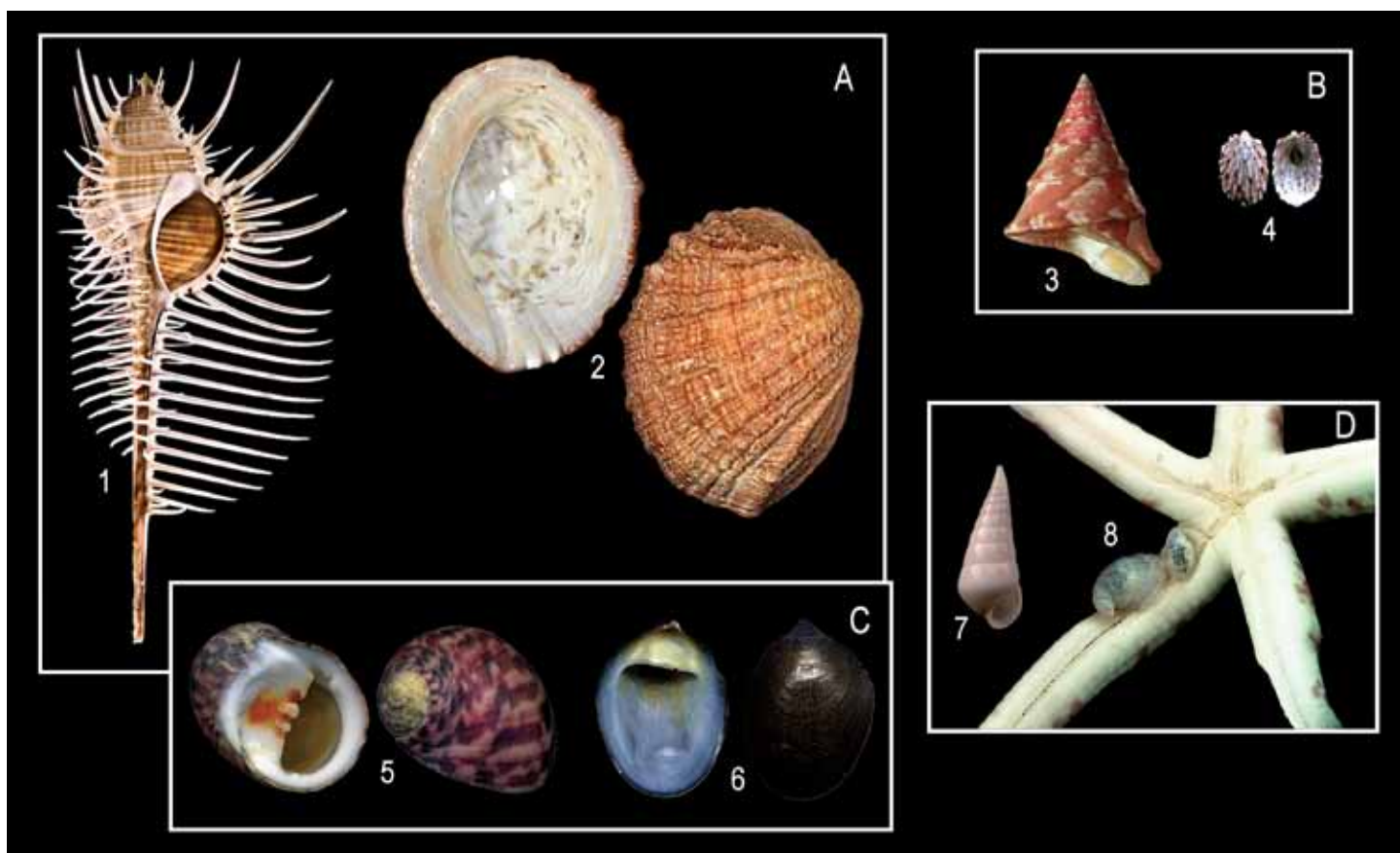
*Species from Abaco, Bahamas* by Colin Redfern (2013). Like Abbott's *American Seashells*, the Redfern volume is a vastly expanded improvement over his earlier work, but unlike the 43-year-old Abbott tome, it is full of high-quality full color images. As I expected, my odd little naticid was vividly illustrated and thoroughly described (Redfern, 2013: 50) (Fig. 7). So I now had a quality depiction of the shell of *H. patinaria* and descriptive material adding to what I learned from Abbott. With Colin's image I could easily see the small protoconch that had a typical naticid shape prior to extending out the outer lip in such a strange fashion. I emailed Colin, asking for and receiving permission to use his images (he sent me electronic copies) and he mentioned that my mystery snail had also been figured on one of Sally Kaicher's cards. So it was time to check my Kaicher card collection.

I keep my box of Sally Kaicher's cards in the garage and really did not want to go digging them out – so I clicked on the link to [www.femorale.com](http://www.femorale.com) as I remembered that

Marcus and Jose Coltro of Femorale Specimen Shells had recently published the entire Kaicher card collection on their web site for free use by researchers and collectors. They have the cards indexed by family and it is simple to use. Sally's card on this species almost completed my search (Kaicher card 2949). Her depiction of the shell shows the dorsal, ventral, and a side view, but there was one more reference needed (Fig. 8).

At the end of the Abbott description, he mentions Marcus (1965). This reference is actually Marcus & Marcus (1965) and it completes my research. They discovered a living *H. patinaria* (up to that time all that had been found were empty shells) in mud amidst *Thalassia* sea grass, in Biscayne Bay, Florida. After examining both the shell structure and the soft animal parts they were able to confirm Souverbie's contention in 1875 that this genus belonged in Naticidae, and in fact was closely related to the genus *Sinum*. They illustrated the living animal (pen & ink, Fig. 9), showing the 14mm shell hidden atop a 50mm animal. Their illustrations





**Fig. 10.** Examples of limpetiform morphology within molluscan families typified by a completely different shell structure (sizes only to scale within each box). Note that each limpetiform shell has the author in parentheses, indicating the genus has been changed from the one originally assigned by the author. Determining the taxonomy of such species is obviously no easy task. Images: box A1-2, box B3, D7-8 from Wikipedia.com, B4 courtesy of Raymond Huet, box C5-6 images by the author.

**A. Muricidae:** 1. a typical muricid, *Murex pecten* Lightfoot, 1786, and 2. the limpetiform muricid *Concholepas concholepas* (Bruguère, 1789).

**B. Trochidae:** 3. a fairly typical trochid, *Odontotrochus chlorostomus* (Menke, 1843) (was *Thalotia chlorostoma* (Menke, 1843)), and 4. the limpetiform trochid *Broderipia rosea* (Broderip, 1834).

**C. Neritidae:** 5. a typically shaped neritid, *Nerita peloronta* Linnaeus, 1758, and 6. the limpetiform neritid *Septaria apiata* (Le Guillou in Récluz, 1841).

**D. Eulimidae:** 7. a typically shaped eulimid, *Melanella martinii* (A. Adams in G.B. Sowerby II, 1854), and 8. the limpetiform eulimid *Thyca crystallina* (Gould, 1846).

also showed close-ups of the protoconch, operculum, and radula.

I was pretty satisfied that I had dug into this amazing little shell as far as I was able and now “knew its story,” even though I had not seen an actual shell specimen. On the off-chance I might have missed something, I emailed COA President Harry Lee and asked him if he had any additional thoughts on the matter. I have learned after 16 years of editing this journal that this man has an unequalled depth and breadth of shell knowledge. Sure enough, Harry apologized for being unable to get at his material that might include *H. patinaria*, but then stated, “This two-species genus reminds me of the limpetiform evolutionary extreme in shell forms exemplified by *Concholepas* (Muricidae), *Thyca* (Eulimi-

dae), *Broderipia* (Trochidae), your Phenacolepadidae (e.g., the attached from the Pinecrest beds) and *Septaria*, etc.” So yes, we have other molluscan species that have strayed as far from the “norm” of their family or genus as the small *H. patinaria* (see Fig. 10).

Harry also suggested checking with COA member Gene Everson. Apparently Gene had a prize-winning display (no big surprise there) of limpetiform mollusks (won the COA Award in 2015 for this display at the Space Coast Seashell Festival (Astronaut Trail Shell Club). I asked Gene about this and he sent me images of 14 cases of limpets and limpetiform shells (well over 300 species) that he prepared in 2015. One of the cases with non-limpet species, but with flattened limpetiform shells is shown here (Fig. 11). The



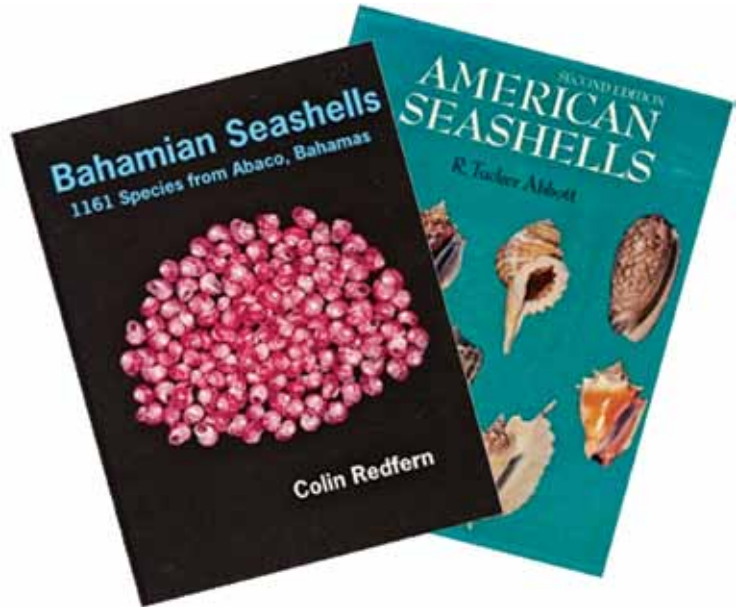
**Fig. 11.** One of 14 cases in an award-winning display by COA member Gene Everson on limpetiform mollusks. Here are muricids, trochids, neritids, and others – all with flattened limpet-like shells but not one is a limpet.

assumption most people make is that this shape is in response to a life in a habitat with fast flowing water or strong wave action. Certainly this is the case with the muricid *Concholepas*, the neritid *Septaria*, and many of the other limpetiform species, but *H. patinaria* inhabits turtle grass beds in relatively calm bays – only minor wave action. So the question remains, why did *H. patinaria*, or any of these other species, discard their familial shell structure?

Why did *H. patinaria* develop evolutionarily as it did? Naticids are predators and I would have assumed that their present morphology has been pretty much determined by the evolutionary needs of a predator – an assumption no more or less valid than the fast stream-strong wave action theory. *H. patinaria* looks more like a sea slug than a naticid – of course *Pleurobranchus* nudibranchs (or sea slugs) are also predators. We are presented with two very different molluscan predator morphologies. The driving factors that shaped *H. patinaria* are undoubtedly much more complex than simple survival of the best predator traits. Natural selection means traits evolve that work; those that do not work fall by the wayside. I spent quite a few years studying nerites and the number one, top of the list, never forget lesson, was that almost any generalized statement or “fact” concerning Neritidae has an exception. This certainly seems to be also true of the Naticidae, and I suspect could be said for pretty much any molluscan family. We may never really know the “why,” but I feel pretty good about this research exercise on the Internet and home-library shelves, generated by a casual questioning email from Will Ritter. I now know what *H. patinaria* looks like and what it “is.” Unanswered is the “why,” but maybe we need such mysteries. We are privileged to be involved, to a chosen greater or lesser extent, with the study of Mollusca, and chasing those impossible questions is endlessly fascinating.

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**Two shell books and the Internet pretty much answered my question as to the identity of the strange naticid.**

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## COA *Neptunea* Award

Many of us are beginning plans for the 2018 COA Convention in San Diego, CA. One of the many events on the agenda is the annual COA *Neptunea* Award(s), and it is 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 re-nominated - in fact their re-nomination is encouraged.** For the present cycle, nominations will close on June 1, 2018, so as to allow ample time for deliberation before the convention. **Please note that members of the Board of Directors are not eligible to receive the *Neptunea* Award while actively serving on the Board.**

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 of 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 me, the new COA *Neptunea* Award Coordinator:

Everett Long  
422 Shoreline Drive  
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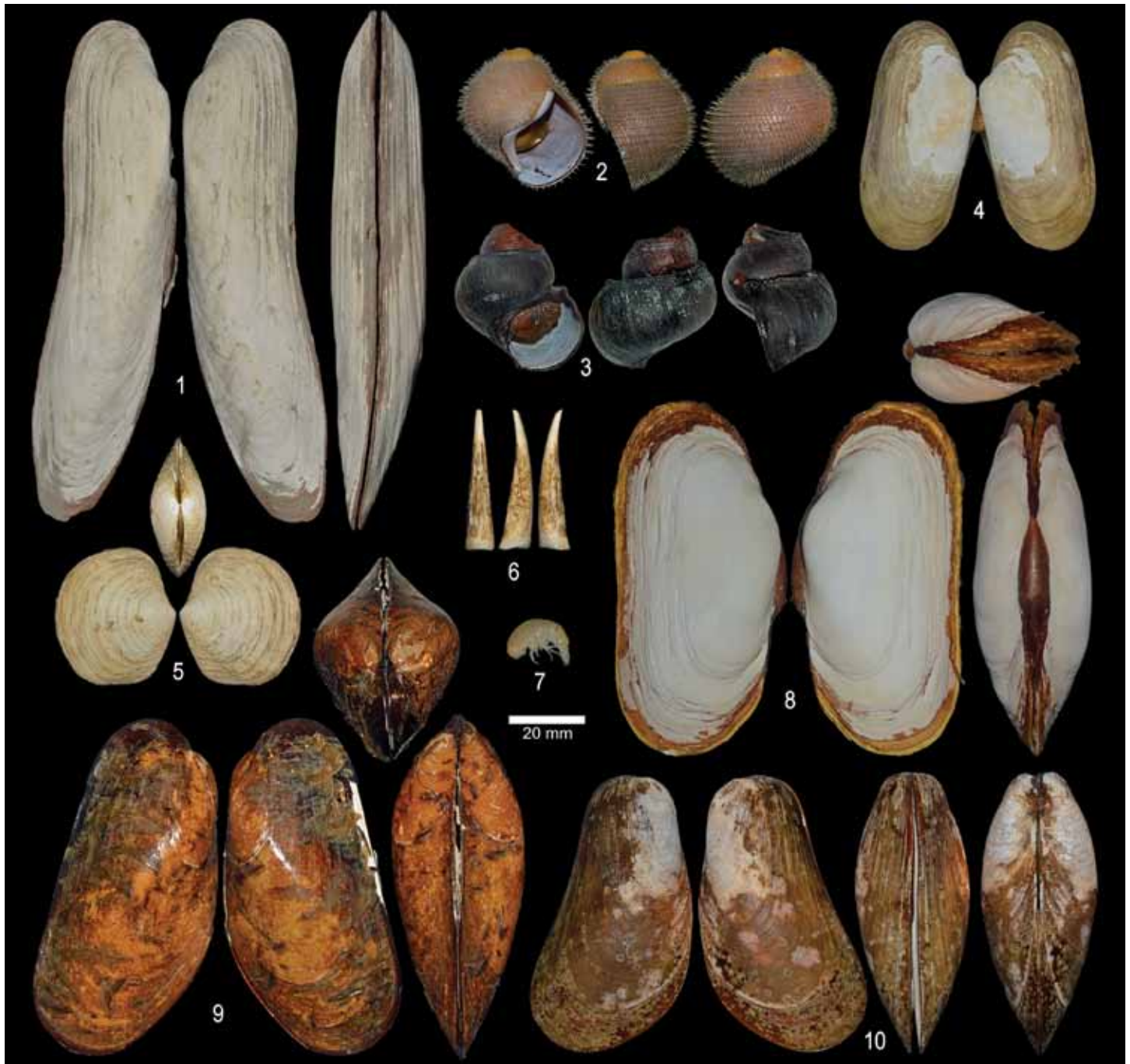
Previous *Neptunea* Award winners:

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  
2013 (Sarasota, FL): David and Lucille Green, Marlo Krisberg, and Charles Rawlings  
2014 (Wilmington, NC): Colin Redfern, Tom Rice  
2015 (Weston, FL) John and Cheryl Jacobs; Kevan and Linda Sunderland  
2016 (Chicago, IL) Rich Goldberg, Homer Rhode, Charlotte Thorpe  
2017 (Key West, FL) Robert (Bob) Janowsky

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

## An assortment of rarely seen deep-water Mollusca (and one shrimp)



1. **VESICOMYIDAE**: *Abyssogena phaseoliformis* (Métivier, Okutani & Ohta, 1986) 169mm, 4947m by ROV *ROPOS*, Shumagin Seep, Aleutian Trench (7 or 8/1996). 2. **PROVANNIDAE**: *Alviniconcha hessleri* Okutani & Ohta, 1988, 46mm, 3630m, hydrothermal vent, "Alice Springs" site, Mariana Back-Arc Basin (18°12.59'N, 144°42.43'E), DSV *Alvin* (5/1987). 3. **PROVANNIDAE**: *Ifremeria nautili* Bouchet & Warén, 1991, 49mm, 2500m, DSV *Nautil*, hydrothermal vent, "Manus Spreading Centre," Manus Basin, 3°9'S, 150°17'W (5/1996). 4. **VESICOMYIDAE**: *Phreagena kilmeri* (Bernard, 1974) 74mm, 174m, H<sub>2</sub>S cold seep, 34°12'56"N, 120°15'07"W, Santa Barbara Basin, California, USA, benthic trawl (6/1995). 5. **LUCINIDAE**: *Lucinoma aequizonata* (Stearns, 1890), 43mm, 174m, H<sub>2</sub>S cold seep, 34°12'56"N, 120°15'07"W, Santa Barbara Basin, California, USA, benthic trawl (6/1995). 6. **FISSIDENTALIIDAE**: *Fissidentalium* sp., 45mm, 5800m, Peru-Chile Trench (Atacama Trench) (2003). 7. **HIRONDELLEIDAE**: *Hirondellea gigas* (Birstein & Vinogradov, 1955), 17mm, 8200m, baited amphipod trap, Philippine Trench, 16°45'29"N, 122°29'34"E (2008). 8. **VESICOMYIDAE**: *Calypotoga magnifica* Boss & Turner, 1980, 114mm, 2630m, hydrothermal vent, East Pacific Rise, 12°59'N, 103°56'W (1999). 9. **MYTILIDAE**: *Bathymodiolus thermophilus* Kenk & Wilson, 1985, 113mm, 2565m, DSV *Alvin*, thermal vent, East Pacific Rise, 9°48.675'N, 103°56.386'W (11/1997). 10. **MYTILIDAE**: *Bathymodiolus childressi* Gustafson, Turner, Lutz & Vrijenhoek, 1998, 95mm, 1770m, cold methane seep, Louisiana Slope, Atlantic Ocean, 27°43'N, 91°16'W (9/1994).

photographed by Simon Aiken (simonaiken@btinternet.com)



**11. LEPETODRILIDAE:** *Lepetodrilus elevatus* McLean, 1988, 5.5mm, DSV *Nautila*, 2630m, thermal vent, 13°N on East Pacific Rise, Cruise “Hot 96” expedition (1996). **12. NEOMPHALIDAE:** *Cyathermia naticoides* Warén & Bouchet, 1989, 6.9mm, 2600m, thermal vent, East Pacific Rise, DSV *Nautila*, 20°49.50’N, 109°05’W. **13. COCCULINIDAE:** *Cocculina* sp. 3.3mm, trawled at 640–820m, *Sea Blazer*, kelp holdfast in brown/green mud/rubble, Juan de Fuca Canyon, SW of Cape Alava, Washington, 47°55’N, USA (3/1994). **14. LEPETODRILIDAE:** *Lepetodrilus fucensis* McClean, 1988, 7.3mm, 2200m, thermal vent, High Rise vent field, 47°58’N, 129°W, Juan de Fuca Ridge, DSV *Alvin*. **15. MYTILIDAE:** *Idas washingtonius* (Bernard, 1978) 4.2mm, 1240m, bone pickings, vertebra 21, decayed 10,000kg grey whale carcass, Santa Catalina Basin, 33°12’N, 118°30’W, DSV *Alvin* (2/1991). **16. PELTOSPIRIDAE:** *Pachydermia laevis* Warén & Bouchet, 1989, 5.0mm, 2630m, thermal vent, 13°N on East Pacific Rise, Cruise “Hot 96” expedition (1996). **17. COCCULINIDAE:** *Cocculina craigsmithi* McLean, 1992, 2.9mm, 1240m, bone pickings, vertebra 21, decayed 10,000kg grey whale carcass, Santa Catalina Basin, 33°12’N, 118°30’W, DSV *Alvin* (2/1991).




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# *Seashells of New England – A Beachcombers Guide*

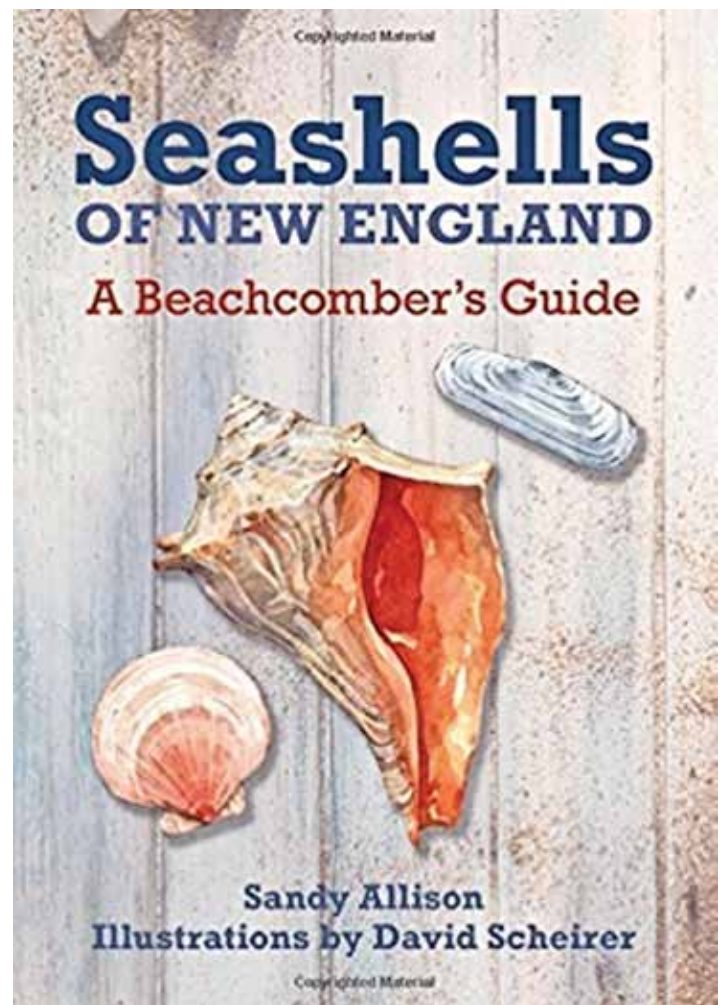
by Sandy Allison and Illustrated by David Scheirer

(Globe Pequot, 2017); ISBN: 978-1-4930-2789-7

*Seashells of New England - A Beachcomber's Guide* by Sandy Allison and illustrated by David Scheirer is the most recent, and long overdue, publication on the marine shells of New England. At a list price of \$12.95, it is affordable on any budget. I was even able to obtain mine on sale for \$9.08. A guide to New England shells (or even a state guide) is desperately needed for this region. Considering the long history of conchological studies, particularly in Massachusetts and Connecticut, a good modern guide to the fauna is sorely lacking. Early works go back to the 1840s by Harvard University's Augustus Addison Gould (*Invertebrata of Massachusetts*, 1870) with subsequent works by Johnson (1915; 1934). In my rambles across the beaches of Massachusetts, however, I continue to carry my copies of Jacobson and Emerson's books; *Shells from Cape Cod to Cape May* (1961; reprinted 1971), *Shells of the New York City Area* (1961); and *Marine Animals of Southern New England and New York* (Weiss, 1995). When I heard about this book, I planned to add or even substitute it in my arsenal.

The book is small format, 5" x 7.5" (16mo), and printed on high quality paper with card stock covers. The facing title page states it "meets the requirements of American National Standards for Information Science- Permanence of Paper." I must admit, I had to look this up, but apparently it refers to the National Information Standards Organization (NISO) which is an organization for publishers, libraries, and software developers seeking information industry standards to make their operations more professional.\* The Permanence of Paper for Publications and Documents sets the standard for coated and uncoated papers to last several hundred years under normal use. It incorporates things like pH, tear resistance, alkaline reserve, and lignin threshold. So why mention any of this? The book is nicely bound and holds up well in the field and the publisher apparently knows it.

Inside it covers 70 different species (although the rear cover states only 69), typically the most common in in-shore New England waters. Biodiversity includes mollusks only in the Gastropoda and Bivalvia (i.e. no caudofoveates, solenogasters, monoplacophorans – to be expected; but no chitons, cephalopods, or scaphopods either). The author states that species in the book are divided into three somewhat arbitrary groups; coiled snails, limpets, and clams; although the "clams section is titled "Clams & Bivalves." Slipper shells are, for some reason, included among the



"coiled snails." Bivalve species that attach with a byssus (two mussel species) and "secretions" (American oyster) are included in the "Clams & Bivalves" section. Introduced species are evidently absent as I would have included the European oyster, *Ostrea edulis*. For the most part, the common species are covered but the assessment of the New England Neptune, *Neptunea lyrata*, is a bit misinformed. The species is listed as *Neptunea decemcostata*, a name typically assigned as a subspecies. Fraussen and Terryn (2007) consider each a distinct species, but recent taxonomic work by Nakano et al. (2010) places *decemcostata* subspecific to *lyrata*. Nakano et al. (2010) is a difficult work to obtain and not yet cited in field guides, however, the name *Neptunea*

\*FYI NISO: This standard sets the basic criteria for coated and uncoated papers that will last several hundred years under normal use. It covers pH value, tear resistance, alkaline reserve and lignin threshold. Recycled papers will meet the criteria specified. This revision to the original 1984 standard is based on testing conducted by the Institute of Paper Science and Technology and contributions from paper makers, publishers, printers, and the preservation community. NISO is where content publishers, libraries, and software developers turn for information and industry standards that allow them to work together. Through NISO, all of these communities are able to collaborate on mutually accepted standards — solutions that enhance their operations today and form a foundation for the future.

*lyrata decemcostata* is the name used most frequently of late and also the name assigned in Turgeon *et al.* (1998); which should serve as the standard for scientific names of Mollusca of the U.S. and Canada unless something else supersedes it. The common name, ten-ridged whelk, is given for this species; likely lifted from Morris *et al.* (1995) *Field Guide to Shells of the Atlantic Coast*, but most New Englanders know this species as the New England Neptune, the state shell of Massachusetts. The final pages feature very short sections on “Finding Seashells” and a list of particularly productive beaches for shelling by state, most in Massachusetts.

All figures are presented in water color, however, in most cases, only the external view is present and only a single valve provided for bivalves (left valve for 21 species, right valve for 10 species, both valves for 4 species; razor clam valve is questionable). This feature is not uncommon for previous books written about mollusks from the region. From an artistic standpoint, the plates are very nice and worthy of framing, if they were larger. The artist, David Scheirer, produces artwork professionally of these and other animals in a similar style. For identification purposes, however, use of watercolors in this case is of limited utility.

Diagnostic features for the purpose of identification are not emphasized and the shells are illustrated actual size. For large species such as oysters and whelks, this is adequate, but species such as the lunar dovesnail and solitary bubble snail are only 10 mm in size in the book with diagnostic features almost impossible to see. Other recent natural history books have followed this trend (see Harasewych and Moretzohn’s *The Book of Shells*, 2010), in this case, an editorial decision rather than that of the author. University of Chicago Press has produced several books in the series of “The Book of...” (e.g. *The Book of Eggs* by Hauber, *The Book of Fungi* by Roberts and Evans, *The Book of Frogs* by Halliday), all very successful despite the use of actual size figures. Unlike the New England shells book, however, these books supplement actual size images with magnified images of each animal or, alternatively, magnified images of portions of each animal for larger species. The artist’s web site, <https://www.dswatercolors.com/>, proclaims his artistic style as “life size and for the most part... on the small size.”

Other points worth noting are that there is no index, taxonomic or otherwise. The table of contents somewhat makes up for this, listing common names, however, because it is a Table of Contents and not an Index, the Table of Contents is not alphabetic. Fortunately, only 70 species are covered, otherwise finding species in the book could be prolonged.

If the reader would like a simple, well-illustrated pocket guide with short descriptions of common seashells found when beachcombing a typical New England beach and at an affordable price, this book accomplishes that. What the illustrations lack in taxonomic certainty, they make up for in artistic aesthetics. Unfortunately, the book is geared toward the casual beachcomber rather than the semi-professional, or even amateur naturalist, as it is too short and vague on descriptions to be of much use as an identification field guide. So, don’t discard your *Shells from Cape Cod to Cape May*,

*Shells of the New York City Area*, and *Marine Animals of Southern New England and New York* just yet. A suitable replacement is yet to be seen.

Jay Cordeiro

MA Audubon Society and Northeast Natural History & Supply

[jay.cordeiro@umb.edu](mailto:jay.cordeiro@umb.edu)

Citations:

**Fraussen K. & Y. Terryn. 2007.** The family Buccinidae. Genus *Neptunea*. In: *A Conchological Iconography* [G.T. Poppe and K. Groh, eds.]. ConchBooks, Hackenheim. 159 pp., 154 pls.

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# *Collecting Shells in Times of Internet*

by Guido T. Poppe

ISBN 978-3-939767-69-5

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Editor: Conchbooks

[www.conchology.be/?t=166](http://www.conchology.be/?t=166)

Guido Poppe and his son Philippe Poppe, are certainly well-known figures in the shell world: as shell dealers based in Cebu, Philippines, and as authors of many books, the *Iconography* series, the *Philippine Marine Mollusks* series, *European Seashells*, etc. Their website ([www.conchology.be](http://www.conchology.be)) advertises 174,452 shells for sale and 826,399 images in their online *Shell Encyclopedia* (as of 12 Dec. 2017). Like their counterparts, Marcus and Jose Coltro at [www.femorale.com](http://www.femorale.com), they freely contribute images for use in this journal. So it is a bit strange that I overlooked this online publication for more than a year.

*Collecting Shells In Time of Internet* was first published in November 2016, by Conchbooks, Harxheim, Germany. This online tome sports Lovell Augustus Reeve (1814-1865) on the 'cover' - also a well-known shell dealer and author, but a bit before the Internet. Guido Poppe states in the introduction that his purpose behind *Collecting Seashells* was to meet the challenges of changing times where newer collectors did not necessarily meet with older collectors who could impart knowledge about the hobby. The Internet is today the first (and often only) choice of sharing information. That being the case, he thought to provide a repository of online shell knowledge for newcomers and even for those more experienced shell collectors. Guido acknowledges upfront that not everyone will agree with all that is presented, whether it is problems with his English (he is, after all, writing in English as a native Dutch speaker) or corrections or additions to what he has presented. The marvel here is that this is an eBook and Guido welcomes any input (he asks for readers to contact him directly at: [guido@conchology.be](mailto:guido@conchology.be)) so that he can continue to update and improve this work.

So what are we talking about for contents? Any and everything shell related: collecting (self-collecting, trading, and purchasing), curating (storage, display, data, etc.), identifying, cleaning, history of conchology, philosophy of shell collecting, rarity, ecological considerations, collecting on the web, licensing, taxonomy, restricted shells, fake shells, shell sizes, etc. It is all here. One of the chapters I particularly appreciate is the chapter on references for molluscan families. In alphabetical order, each major molluscan family has a listing of the major references for that group of shells.



## COLLECTING SHELLS In times of Internet

GUIDO T. POPPE

He also lists general references, regional references, coffee table books, technical references, and journals. Each listed reference is illustrated in color. In fact, the entire publication is full of color plates illustrating the various subjects under discussion. There is even a section highlighting various shell collectors and their collections. Again, when you read this eBook, remember that the author invites input, changes, corrections, and additions. This is a 'living' eBook that can change, grow, and get better with time.

This is an eBook and can be read using several different platforms. I downloaded it initially as a pdf file, but as the author warns, there are some disadvantages to this format. Often a series of color illustrations will have the first in the series full-sized, but the remainder are icons and cannot readily be opened in the pdf file. A better option is available to Apple iPad users who can download this volume on Apple iBooks. Android users can download the relevant app on Google Play. Another option, for both Apple and PC (Windows) users is to download the book as an EPUB. This will require you to upload one of several free EPUB readers available on the Internet. So you have a number of options to use in accessing this rather monumental work (over 400 pages). I recommend you do so. It is, after all, free. Thank you to Guido Poppe for this incredible effort to improve our conchological avocation.

# Phillip Clover: in tough times and good

Thomas E. Eichhorst

The second half of 2017 certainly included an abundance of natural disasters. In August, we watched Hurricane Harvey slam into Houston and flood that city as never before. Then in September, Hurricane Irma hit the Florida Keys, causing power outages and wind damage. It was rapidly followed by Hurricane Maria, which devastated Puerto Rico, causing damage that will take years for recovery. The effects of each of these will be long lasting and we will never know all of the hidden tragedies associated with this brutal weather. Soon after these storms hit the east side of the country, wild fires struck in Northern California. In October 2017, over 250 wildfires burned more than 245,000 acres (990 km<sup>2</sup>) in California, causing more than \$9 billion in insured property loss. This was followed in December with more fires, bringing the yearly total to an unbelievable 8,700+ fires burning over 1,350,000 acres. Literally hundreds of thousands of people were forced to evacuate their homes and many of those homes were subsequently destroyed by the fires. Again, lots of nameless tragedies, except in the October fires we had a tragedy that hit close to home for COA.

For years and years I have received mailing lists of specimen shells from Phil Clover of Glen Ellen, California. Phil joined the United States Navy in 1953 and served 21 years in seven different countries. He started SCUBA diving in 1955 and began seriously collecting shells about that same time. As his personal shell collection grew along with his increasing fascination with shells, he became a part-time shell dealer (he was after all still in the Navy) in 1960. When he retired in 1973 Phil became really serious about his shell business. He was usually at the COA convention bourse and many shells in my collection have a Phillip Clover data slip. Phil authored at least five shell books and papers over the years and there are 10 or more mollusks named after him. He has named five shells himself and has been in the shell business for over 55 years, with countless published articles (only a couple are listed here). The last time we talked at a convention, he mentioned that he was really shooting for 60 years as a shell dealer. All of this is to establish that Phil is a long time, well known shell dealer. The October fires in California came close to ending that.

The October fires whipped through Phil's neighborhood. As he tried to save his home he watched as over 50 surrounding homes went up in flames. Phil fought back the flames until he lost water pressure in his garden hose. Then he had to give in the inevitable. As is, his normally raspy voice was much worse after hours of smoke inhalation. Phil's house and belongings were a total loss. This includes his personal collections of cowries, cones, marginellids, etc. Over 20 shell cabinets (some were more than 100 years old)



A Phil Clover shell list from 1987. The envelope is from later as the early lists were folded and mailed without an envelope. These worldwide specimen shell lists were usually six or more pages, single-spaced, and small font.



This is Phil's neighborhood and one of the many homes that, like his and despite his efforts, were destroyed by fire in October.



Phil Clover and family in Japan in 1960. Left to right: daughter Susan, Phil, son Norman, and wife Joyce. Of that time, Phil remembers meeting famous Japanese shell personages and becoming friends with Mr. Teramachi and Dr. Kuroda.



Phil enjoying a low tide and a chance for that special shell. He started as a collector and never lost his initial enjoyment of both the beauty of shells and that special feeling when you find a rare specimen.



Earlier in 2017, Phil posted this image of *Terebellum terbellum* (Linnaeus, 1758) to illustrate some of the variety he had collected over 50 years. They are now gone.



Various cones Phil purchased on his latest trip to the Philippines

were destroyed. Hundreds of thousands of dollars in inventory was gone, including: shells (a number of paratypes), other personal collectables, home furnishings, books, and antiques.

Phil had just sent me a check for a year's worth of advertising in *American Conchologist*. After the fire he contacted me and stated he didn't think he would need that ad after all. I told him I would destroy the check, but keep the ad running, just in case. I knew he had a trip planned to the Philippines and probably had some stock there plus whatever he might be able to pick up. He thanked me for the ad and when he got to the Philippines he put a picture on Facebook of his shell stock – five shells. He did buy some shells and plans on continuing in the shell game, at least in a limited fashion.

No more six or eight page lists for a while, but certainly some quality specimen shells and maybe a one page list.

I have often had a notion that it might be a good idea to profile COA members: professional malacologists, amateur collectors, shell dealers, etc. on a regular basis in *American Conchologist*. This is certainly not how I planned that process to begin. I must point out that Phil's emails and Facebook postings were all positive. This was a terrible event that he described in a couple of fact-filled sentences, and then started looking forward and talking about the shells he found on this latest trip. I certainly wish Phil the best and I think with his outlook on life and positive attitude, he will be just fine.

## Shells named in honor of Phil Clover

*Benimakia cloveri* Snyder & Vermeij, 2008 (Philippines)

*Swainsonia cloveri* (Cernohorsky, 1971) (Japan, Philippines, Solomon Islands)

*Chicoreus cloveri* Houart, 1985 (Mauritius)

*Cirsotrema cloveri* L.G. Brown, 2002 (Philippines, New Caledonia)

*Cryptospira cloveriana* Wakefield, 2010 (Malaysia, Borneo)

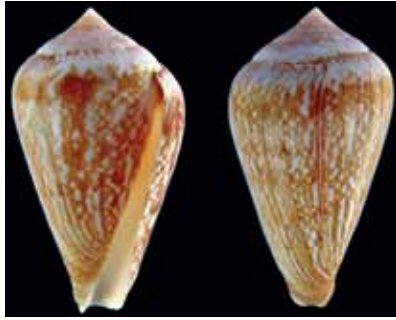
*Conus cloveri* Walls, 1978 (Senegal)

*Latirus cloveri* Snyder, 2003 [now *Fusolatirus suduirauti* (Fraussen, 2003) (Philippines)

*Lyria cloveriana* Weaver, 1962 (Sri Lanka)

*Marginella cloveri* Rios & Matthews, 1972 (Surinam, Brazil)

*Favartia philcloveri* (Houart 1984) (Philippines)



*Conus cloveri* Walls, 1978

## Shells Phil Clover has named

*Bullata lippei* Clover, 1990 (Yucatán, Mexico)

*Glabella ansonae* (Clover, 1976) (Madagascar)

*Prunum pergrandis* Clover, 1973 (Oman)

*Volvarina fortunata* Clover & Macca, 1990 (Somalia)

*Marginella huberti* Clover, 1972 (Angola)

*Marginella senegalensis* Clover, 1991 (Senegal)

*Marginella spryi* Clover, 1973 (Mozambique)

*Conus boschi* Clover, 1972 (Oman, Masirah Island)

*Cypraea angelicae* Clover 1974 (Guinea)

*Cypraea joycae* Clover, 1970 (Taiwan)

*Dentiovula oryza* (Omi & Clover, 2005) (Japan, Philippines)



*Marginella huberti* Clover, 1972

## Phil Clover publications

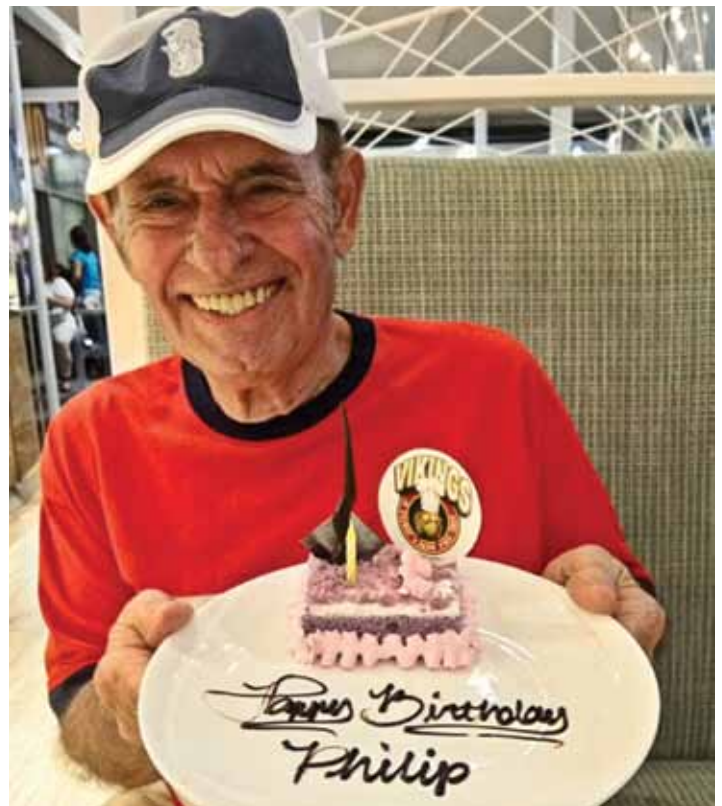
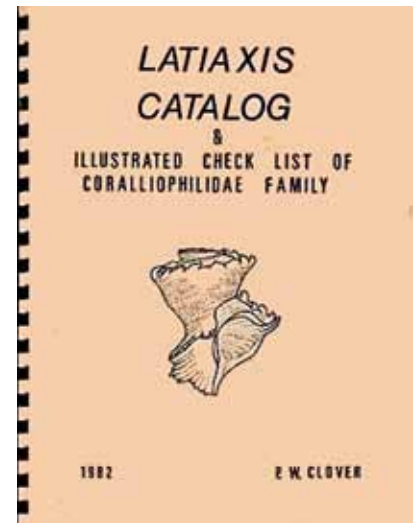
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1976. Clover, Phillip W. Recently Named *Cypraea*. *Of Sea & Shore* 7(4): 197-200.

1982. Clover, Phillip W. *Latiaxis* Catalog and Illustrated Check List of the Coralliophilidae Family. Published by author. 34 pp, 310 b/w photos or drawings on 18 full-page plates.



Phil celebrates his birthday in the new Viking's Restaurant in Cebu, Philippines. That smile certainly looks like someone enjoying life and ready for the future.

## 2018 SHELL SHOWS & RELATED EVENTS (January – August)

Following information is subject to change. Please verify with individual organization.

### Jan. 13-14, 2018

**53rd BROWARD SHELL SHOW**, Pompano Beach, FL  
Emma Lou Olson Civic Center, 1801 Northeast 6th Street  
Alice Pace, 7405 SW 128 Ct., Miami, FL 33183  
Email: alicepace90@att.net Tel. (305) 301-1296 (Cell)

### Jan. 20-21, 2018

**SPACE COAST SEASHELL FESTIVAL**, Melbourne, FL  
Eau Gallie Civic Center, 1515 Highland Avenue  
Alan Gettleman, 2225 Tanglewood Lane, Merritt Is., FL 32953-4287  
Email: lychee@cfl.rr.com Tel. (321) 536-2896

### Jan. 27, 2018

**FUM (FLORIDA UNITED MALACOLOGISTS)**, Sanibel, FL  
Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum  
3075 Sanibel Captiva Road, Sanibel, FL 33957  
José Leal Tel. 239-395-2233  
Email: jleal@shellmuseum.org

### Feb. 9-11, 2018

**ANNUAL SARASOTA SHELL SHOW**, Sarasota, FL  
(*New venue*)  
Potter Building at Robarts Arena, 3000 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota  
Nancy Marini, 5003 28th Ct. E., Bradenton, FL 34203  
Email: sarasotashellclub@gmail.com 941-758-9790

### Feb. 10-11, 2018

**AUSTRALIA NATIONAL SHELL SHOW**, Fremantle, AU  
South Fremantle Football Club, Parry Street  
Joanne Lockwood, PO Box 7037, Safety Bay 6169, W.A., Australia  
Email: xjoannex@bigpond.com  
Web site: <http://perthshells.com/National2018/>

### Feb. 23-24, 2018 (*Friday & Saturday*)

**ST. PETERSBURG SHELL SHOW**, Seminole, FL  
Seminole Recreation Center, 9100 113<sup>th</sup> St. N., Seminole, FL 33584  
John Jacobs, 202 Soldier Court, Seffner, FL 33584  
Email: johncheryl@earthlink.net Tel. (813) 309-2608 (Evening)  
*Exhibit form on web site: <http://www.stpeteshellclub.org>*

### Mar. 1 - 3, 2018

**81st SANIBEL SHELL SHOW**, Sanibel, FL  
Sanibel Community Center, 2173 Periwinkle Way  
Mary Burton, 558 Foxcreek Drive, Lehigh Acres, FL 33974  
Email: marybsanibel@hotmail.com Tel. (239) 395-3626  
Website: [www.thesanibelcaptivashellclub.com](http://www.thesanibelcaptivashellclub.com)

### Mar. 8-10, 2018

**MARCO ISLAND SHELL CLUB SHOW 38**, Marco Is., FL  
United Church of Marco Island, 320 North Barfield  
Jae Kellogg, 1402 N. Collier Blvd., Slip D-6, Marco Island, FL 34145  
Email: pjsailkw@gmail.com Tel. (239) 253-8483

### Mar. 10-11, 2018

**XXX PARIS INTERNATIONAL SHELL SHOW**, Paris, France  
Espace Charenton, 327 rue de Charenton, 75012 Paris  
Perrine Dardart, 8, Rue des Tilleuls, 02190 Pignicourt, France  
Email: perrine.dardart@gmail.com Tel. 33 (3) 23-22-46-41

### Mar. 17-18, 2018

**3rd ANNUAL HAPPENING**, Phuket, Thailand  
Phuket Seashell Museum, Viset Road, Rawai Beach  
Tom Rice, P.O. Box 3, Rawai, Muang, Phuket, 83130  
Email - ofseaandshore@gmail.com  
Tel. 66 (76) 381 122

### Apr. 28, 2018

**BRITISH SHELL COLLECTOR'S CLUB CONVENTION**,  
Essex, England  
Theydon Bois Community Centre, Essex  
Deborah Rolfe, 15 Dene Holm Rd, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8LF, UK

Email: [deborah@deborahrolfe.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:deborah@deborahrolfe.orangehome.co.uk)  
Tel. 44 1474 567 827

### May 4 - 6, 2018

**TEXAS SHELLER'S JAMBOREE**, Corpus Christi, TX  
Comfort Suites Central, 538 South Padre Island Drive  
Theresa Stelzig Tel. (361) 946-6491 Email: [cstelzig@twc.com](mailto:cstelzig@twc.com)

### May 19-20, 2018

**XXVIII BELGIUM INTERNATIONAL SHELL SHOW**,  
Antwerp, Belgium  
Sporthal Kattenbroek, Kattenbroek 14  
2650 Edegem, Belgium  
Charles Krijnen, Burgemeester Jansenstraat 10, NL-5037 NC Tilburg,  
Nederland  
Email: [bvc.shellshow@planet.nl](mailto:bvc.shellshow@planet.nl) Tel. 31 (13) 463 0607  
Website: [www.konbvc.be/shellshow.php](http://www.konbvc.be/shellshow.php)

### May 26-27, 2018

**2nd NORTH EAST INTERNATIONAL SHELL SHOW**, Trieste, Italy  
Montedoro Shopping Center, Via Flavia di Stramare, Muggia  
Email: [nesietrieste@libero.it](mailto:nesietrieste@libero.it)

### June 2 - 3, 2018

**GULF COAST SHELL SHOW**, Panama City Beach, FL  
Panama City Beach Senior Center, 423 Lyndell Lane  
Jim Brunner, 2511 Parkwood Drive, Panama City, FL 32405  
Email: [jili1043@comcast.net](mailto:jili1043@comcast.net) Tel. (850) 215-2086

### June 19-22, 2018

**AMERICAN MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING** joint with **WESTERN SOCIETY OF MALACOLOGISTS**, Honolulu, HA  
Details to be announced on AMS web site

### Jul. 7 - 8, 2018

**TOWNSVILLE SHELL SHOW**, Townsville, Queensland,  
Australia  
Orchid Society Hall in Kirwan  
Jack Worsfold  
Email: [jnw\\_48@yahoo.com.au](mailto:jnw_48@yahoo.com.au)

### Jul. 14-15, 2018

**KEPPEL BAY SHELL SHOW**, Yeppoon, Queensland, Australia  
Gus Moore Pavilion at the Yeppoon Show Ground  
Jean M. Offord, 277 McDougall St., N. Rockhampton, Qld. 4701,  
Australia Tel. 61 (7) 4928-3509

### Aug. 25-26, 2018

**3rd ANNUAL WEST COAST SHELL SHOW**, San Diego, CA  
Casa Del Prado Rm. 104, 1650 El Prado, Balboa Park  
David P. Berschauer Tel. (949) 422-6585  
Email: [shellcollection@hotmail.com](mailto:shellcollection@hotmail.com)

### Aug. 30-Sept. 3, 2018

**CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA ANNUAL CONVENTION**,  
San Diego, CA  
Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina, 1380 Harbor Island Drive, San  
Diego, CA 92101  
Registration: Nancy Hale (email: [tomnan12@att.net](mailto:tomnan12@att.net))  
Web site: [conchologistsofamerica.com](http://conchologistsofamerica.com)

### Information Source:

**DONALD DAN**, COA Awards Chairman  
6704 Overlook Drive  
Ft. Myers, FL 33919 U.S.A.  
SH-DATE1.2018  
Tel. (239) 481-6704 Email: [donaldan@aol.com](mailto:donaldan@aol.com)  
2017-11-16

# Shells are where you find them

Gene Everson

Many people have heard of the lobster walk, where one night of the year lobsters migrate in mass (Fig. 1). I have not seen lobsters migrating, but I have seen a *Strombus alatus* (fighting conch) migration. In January 1971, I took a visiting Canadian commercial diver friend for a dive off Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. I enjoy potluck, or dumb luck, diving - just trying an unknown spot. We threw the anchor over in 40' of water on a sand bottom and, reaching the bottom, saw hundreds, if not thousands, of fighting conchs (Fig. 2). They were all moving north, just inches or feet apart. I sent the other diver up to the boat for a larger bag and gathered up a few shells for the bag. We left the others. After getting back on the boat, I took several shoreline landmarks to find the spot again, and returned two weeks later. All of the live shells were gone, with one dead one remaining. I can only guess the reasons for the migration. The shells were moving north and slightly towards the shore. The nearest inlet was Hillsboro Inlet. I had snorkeled there a few years earlier and found several small, juvenile live shells. Perhaps the strombs were going there to spawn.

When I lived in Ft. Lauderdale, most of our night dives were between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reefs at 65-70'. One night the large, black sea hares were migrating by the thousands. Again, just inches apart and all moving north. I saw one lying on its side and thought if it was dead perhaps something was feeding on it. When I rolled it over there was a lemon yellow *Vokesimurex rubidus* feeding on it (Fig. 3).

In March 1993, I stayed two weeks in Port Lincoln, South Australia, diving with the late Peter Clarkson (Fig. 4). A friend of his was visiting from New South Wales and one of his goals was to collect a number of *Amoria undulata* (Fig. 5) and pose them on the bottom for a photograph. By the time he collected enough of the shells, he was so cold that he could not stand to get in the water again. I was still under water so he threw all of the shells at my bubbles. What do you think would happen when about a dozen *Amoria undulata* hit the sand in 30' of water? Bury in the sand or crawl in various directions? No, they righted themselves and all, except one which seemed a bit stunned, crawled rapidly in the same direction. And I did not see any of them with a GPS.

On this same trip to South Australia, we were about to dive at Donington Island, Boston Bay, Port Lincoln. Peter Clarkson said to run my hand along the surface of the sand and I might feel the siphon of a *Typhis*. The bottom was at 30 feet, on sand. I had the suspicion that this may be like a Kentucky snipe hunt, so I was leery of someone seeing me and having a good laugh. After awhile, however, I did not



**Fig. 1 – Spiny lobsters migrating in the wake of Hurricane Isaac, 2012, off Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Image by the Florida Marine Patrol.**



**Fig. 2 – *Strombus alatus* Gmelin, 1781 (fighting conch), observed 'migrating' in large congregations by the author. Image by L.A. Dawson, Wikipedia.com.**



**Fig. 3 – *Vokesimurex rubidus* (F.C. Baker, 1897) in the more typical pink to red coloration. Image courtesy of the Jacksonville Shell Club web site, www.jaxshells.org.**





Fig. 4 – Peter Clarkson (1960-2012) from Esperance, Western Australia, was taken by great white sharks in 2012, south of Perforated Island, near Coffin Bay, in South Australia. Peter learned to SCUBA dive in 1975 and logged thousands of underwater hours commercially collecting abalone or chasing after *Spondylus*.



Fig. 5 – *Amoria undulata* (Lamarck, 1804) (wavy volute) is not one of the rare more expensive volutes, but it is one of the more nicely colored and patterned. The living animal adds a bit of contrast to the shell. Image by Peter Southwood, Wikipedia.com.



Fig. 6 – *Monstropyphis yatesi* (Crosse & P. Fischer, 1865) is a small exquisite shell found in only a few collections. Image from Ohio State University, [www.excelsior.asc.ohio-state.edu](http://www.excelsior.asc.ohio-state.edu).



Fig. 7 – *Haustellum haustellum* (Linnaeus, 1758) feeding on squid eggs (Sulawesi, Indonesia) by Bernrad DuPont, Wikipedia.com.



Fig. 8 – *Pseudovertagus nobilis* (Reeve, 1855) is one of the larger and more impressive ceriths. Image courtesy of Guido & Philippe Poppe, [www.conchology.be](http://www.conchology.be).

see anyone else, so I took off a glove and slid my hand along the sand. In a couple of minutes I felt the siphon of a *Monstropyphis yatesi* (Fig. 6). It is true that shells are where you find them.

In November 2005, I was collecting in Sulawesi, Indonesia, with the late Marilyn Northrop. At 27 feet on sand among white soft coral fingers were eight *Haustellum haustellum* (Fig. 7). We were going to collect three each and leave two. I selected my three, and while Marilyn was deciding on hers, I looked into the coral fingers to see if we missed any. I saw several large, about 1 inch diameter, egg cases. I showed Marilyn and we both thought that they were the eggs of our large muricids. So, we carefully placed the last two *Haustellum* back where they were found. Unbeknownst to us the dive master had been watching. When we got back on the boat, he said, “You did not have to put those murex back. Those were not murex eggs, they were cuttlefish eggs”. So instead of saving the murex, we helped kill the cuttlefish.



**Fig. 9 – *Cribrarula cribraria* (Linnaeus, 1758) photographed in situ at night by COA member Charles Rawlings on a black sand slope off of Sulawesi. The mantle is partially opened. When the mantle encloses the shell it is a solid orange.**

I am a firm believer in the shell gods as their existence has been proven to me many times. In Hansa Bay, Papua New Guinea, in April 2005, I was on a night dive on a sand slope at 79-84 feet. There were many large circular, looping sand trails containing six large *Pseudovertagus nobilis* (Fig. 8). All the popular shell books list them as rare. Although in gem condition, they all had newly formed, paper thin lips. My thought was that, if I put them back, the shell gods may look kindly on me. In about two minutes I found another group of large sand trails with six specimens with mature lips. This has happened so many times that I don't think it is coincidental.

I began diving and shell collecting in Guam in 1966. One of the guys giving me diving and shelling hints said to never turn a rock and just look for a cone or a shiny cowrie. Always make sure you know what everything is because it is easy to miss something good that can be camouflaged. Months later, on an R & R in Okinawa, I was snorkeling at night. On the side of a rock or coral wall in 4 feet of water, I saw four orange lumps. I touched them, they were hard and did not move, so I thought they were hunks of coral. As I started to swim away I thought that I did not really know what they were, so I turned around and looked again and saw their mantles start retracting. They were my first *Cypraea cribraria* [now *Cribrarula cribraria*] (Figs. 9 & 10) and mark the beginnings of a fulfilling time of my life – both shell collecting and shell show displays.

Gene Everson  
gene.everson@gmail.com



**Fig. 10 – *Cribrarula cribraria* after it has been cleaned and the way it looks in countless collections. This is not a rare shell by any means, but it is a prize for its clarity of color and pattern. Image by H. Zell from Wikipedia.com.**

**Editor's comments: here is your author, COA member Gene Everson and a cone named in his honor.**



**Fig. 11 – Gene Everson at one of the many shell shows where he regularly has an award winning display of some of the numerous shells he has collected over the years.**

**Fig. 12 – *Conus eversoni* Petuch, 1987, the 18mm holotype from Honduras at the U.S. National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC. Image courtesy of Dr Alan J. Kohn, Professor Emeritus, University of Washington.**

# The Clio Prize: a new award and other news from the Philadelphia Shell Show

Paul Callomon

The 35<sup>th</sup> Philadelphia Shell Show will take place on October 27 and 28, 2018, at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University in Philadelphia. Since its inception in 1983, this has been one of the country's premier shell shows, attracting major scientific and artistic exhibits from a wide area. This year the Scientific Division is happy to announce a new award! The **Clio Prize** is named both for the Greek Muse of History and for a genus of planktonic snails whose extremely delicate shells are rarely found in prized perfect condition. It is sponsored by the Center for Molluscan Studies, a non-profit organization that supports molluscan research worldwide.

The Clio Prize acknowledges exhibits that engage the history of shell collecting and its connections with formal science. Unlike fields such as physics or medicine, zoology depends heavily on amateur workers who often become the leading experts in a particular group. Some of them travel widely and engage on an equal footing with fishermen, traders, and museum scientists, thereby embodying the ideal of "citizen science." Many professional molluscan scientists began as collectors and amateur naturalists and here is the chance to tell their stories.

Two great free resources for information about collectors and dealers are Tom Rice's *Shellers from the past and present* <https://www.conchology.be/?t=9000> and *2,400 years of Malacology* by Gene Coan and AlanKabat [www.malacological.org/2004\\_malacology.html](http://www.malacological.org/2004_malacology.html).

The great collectors and dealers of history are a rich source of inspiration for scientific exhibits. Here are a few ideas, though you may come up with your own:

- All species described by the same author, with a biographical sketch (e.g. Reeve, Sowerby, Pilsbry, etc.).
- All specimens with original labels from a well-known historic dealer, with a biographical sketch (e.g. Hugh Fulton, Walter Webb, etc.). "Historic" in this case means a dealer who died or retired before 1990.
- Reconstructions of pages from famous shell books (e.g. Reeve's *Conchologia Iconica*; Sowerby's *Thesaurus Conchyliorum*; Abbott's *Golden Guide*, etc.) using real shells and reproductions of the original plates. Most nineteenth-century works are now freely available for download in color from the online Biodiversity Heritage Library: [www.biodiversitylibrary.org](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org).
- The story of an obscure or unsung collector who nevertheless played a role in the field, told with related shells and materials.

Whatever format you choose, the subject can also be related to collecting and dealing in fossil shells!

The Clio Prize takes its place alongside the other awards unique to the scientific division of the Philadelphia Shell Show:

- The **R. Tucker Abbott Award**, for the best exhibit by a member of the Philadelphia Shell Club.

- The **Leonard Hill Award**, for the most aesthetically pleasing scientific exhibit of the show.

- The **John Dyas Parker Award**, for the most creative or educational exhibit in the scientific division.

- The **Robert B. Fish Award**, for the best small exhibit, not to exceed 12 feet in length.

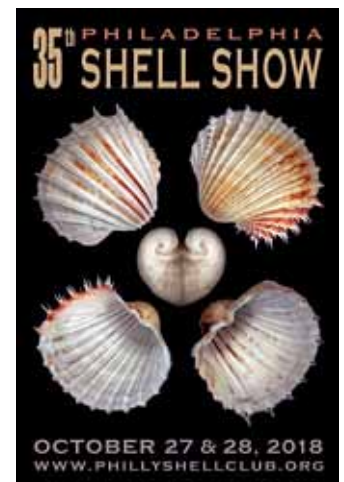
- The **Conrad Award**, for the best paleontological exhibit.

- The **Pilsbry Award**, for exhibits that present new discoveries and ideas.

In addition the show of course continues to offer the **COA Award**, the **DuPont Trophy**, and the **Masters Award**, as well as Best Shell in Show for self-collected and non-self-collected.

In other news: for 2018, the Scientific Division will accept electronic, fax, and postal submission of entry forms. We will also offer a limited number of show cases for loan, allowing exhibitors to bring just their shells, labels and backboards. Priority will be given to those coming from afar, but otherwise it will be first come, first served. We will be announcing the number and size of available cases on the club's web site and Facebook page early in the New Year, so check back regularly!

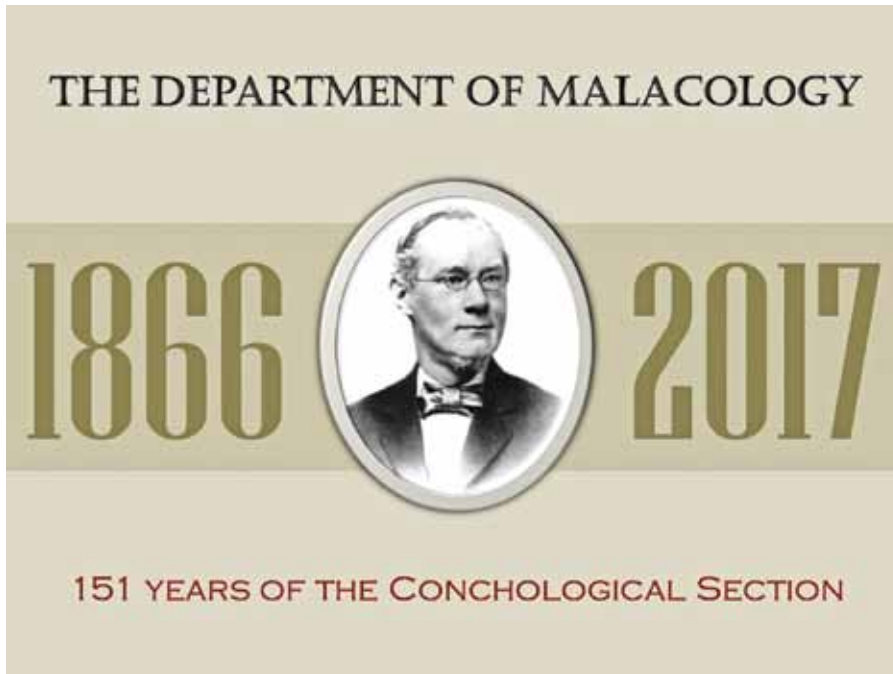
Paul Callomon  
Chair, Scientific Division  
2018 Philadelphia Shell Show  
[www.phillyshellclub.org](http://www.phillyshellclub.org)



Editor's comments: this is a bit of a departure from the typical *American Conchologist* fare, but I think worth inclusion in this issue. At the 2017, Key West COA Convention, Paul Callomon presented these slides in Power Point as he read the accompanying "Ode to the Academy." With Paul's dry (and sometimes not so dry) wit, we get a sense of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University in Philadelphia and their mission as it involves mollusks. I did a couple days research at the Academy a few years ago and I remember telling my wife when I returned that it was a truly pleasurable experience. To a person, the professionals and amateurs at the Academy were dedicated, cheerful, always helpful, and surprising knowledgeable. I think it suitable we acknowledge that institution in these pages.

## Ode to the Academy

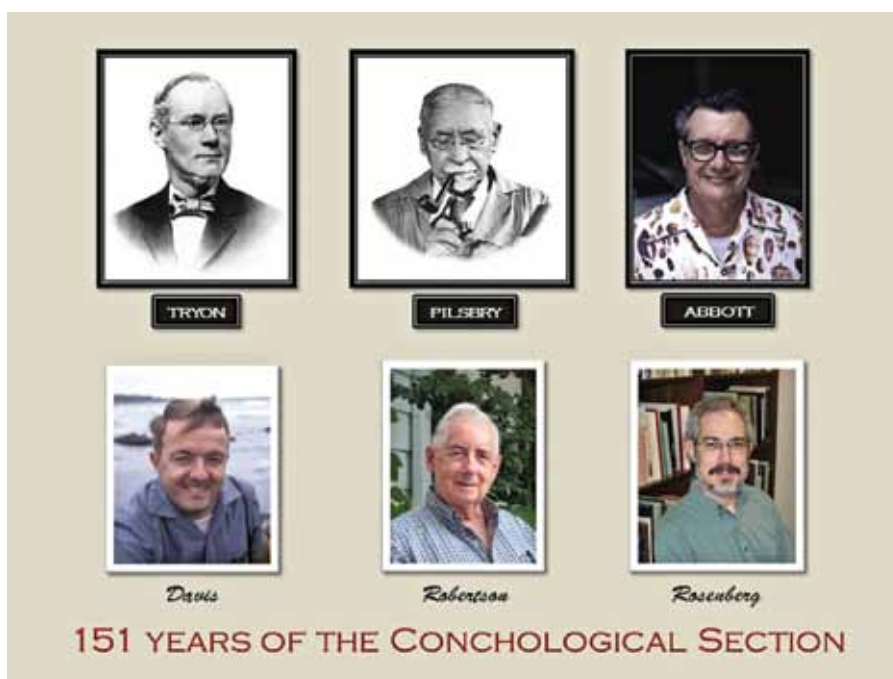
Paul Callomon



Draw nigh my dears, lend me your ears  
For I would have you hear  
Of exploits bold by young and old  
A tale of science neatly told  
And pleasing to the ear

It all began with one great man  
George Tryon was his name  
A man of industry and letters  
Who also wrote fine operettas  
And played the ol' shell game

He drew in clams and snails and such  
From each and all directions  
Full eighty thousand lots with ease  
Then founded the Academy's  
Conchological Section



Since Tryon lo! The years have rolled  
But we are proud to say  
The banner that he once unfurled  
As leader of the shelling world  
Is carried yet today

First came Pilsbry, sage and wise  
Our science's brightest star  
Who churned it out for seventy years  
And said rude things about those peers  
Whose work he thought sub-par

Then Abbott, he of vivid shirts  
Whose books we know so well  
Among collectors he's sore missed  
This mollusk-mad evangelist  
Who founded Sanibel

The three below are with us yet  
The chain down all these years  
Remains intact; it is unbroken  
Of each man much may be spoken  
Somewhere they can't hear

And here in short are all the things  
 That keep us from retiring  
 Science with its discipline  
 Collections vast and glistening  
 It's all so darn inspiring  
 There is no profit in our work  
 And money is the question  
 But we care not, for that which guides us  
 Is a noble light inside us  
 That, or indigestion



**Current Projects**

- Philippine symbiont ICBG
- Biodiversity and phylogeny of land snails
- Type imaging
- Alcohol collection overhaul
- Taxonomic work
- Cataloging incoming collections

Within the labyrinth unplumbed  
 Of the mollusc bowel  
 Lie hidden from our view exterior  
 Trillions of cute bacteria  
 Making odors foul

Their sul'frous stink has made us think  
 That these industrious bugs  
 Can nibble into solid wood  
 And turn it into something good  
 Like Biofuels and drugs

Who knows what other things we'll find  
 What magic symbioses?  
 By taking mollusks from the brine  
 And probing where the sun don't shine  
 With clothes-pegs on our noses



**Philippine symbiont ICBG**

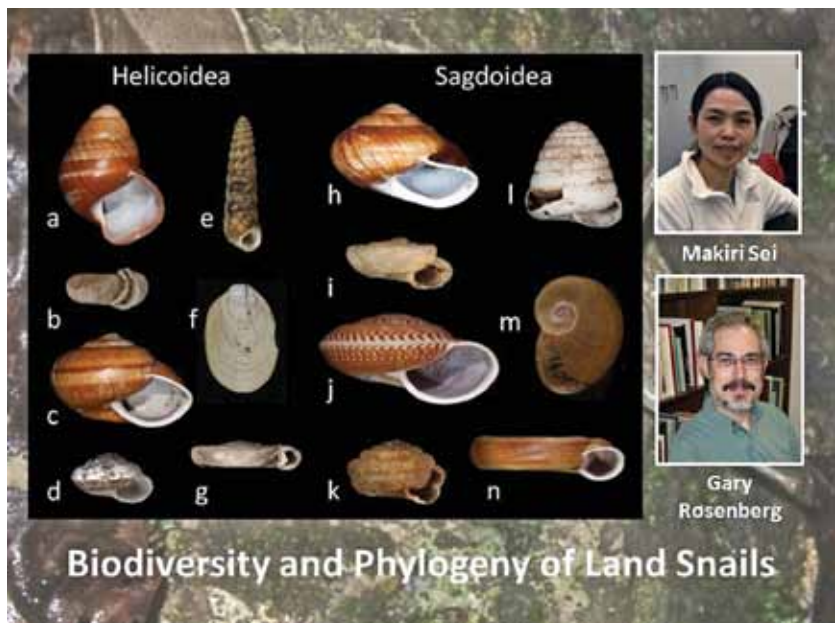
- 8th year of research funded by NIH, DoE
- **Natural products** from molluscan symbionts, especially bacteria, for energy and medicine
- Collaboration with US and Philippine institutions (Oregon Health Sciences University; Northeastern University; University of Utah; University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute)
- Gary Rosenberg, Gizelle Batomalaque
- Field and laboratory work
- Spinoffs in phylogenetics and taxonomy

We temper zeal for commonweal  
 With other vital tasks  
 Mute snails cannot relate the story  
 Of their rise to present glory  
 Even if we ask

So we must go within their cells  
 And probe their DNA  
 Whose coiled and stranded mystery  
 Expressed as branches of a tree  
 Makes all as clear as day (not)

The silent snails that smoothly glide  
 On slime through hill and dale  
 Have kids who do not ride the plankton  
 So it seems they must be ranked on  
 Quite a diff'rent scale

Barriers like streams and bogs  
 Stand firmly in their way  
 And if they thus can't travel far  
 They speciate right where they are  
 For life will find a way

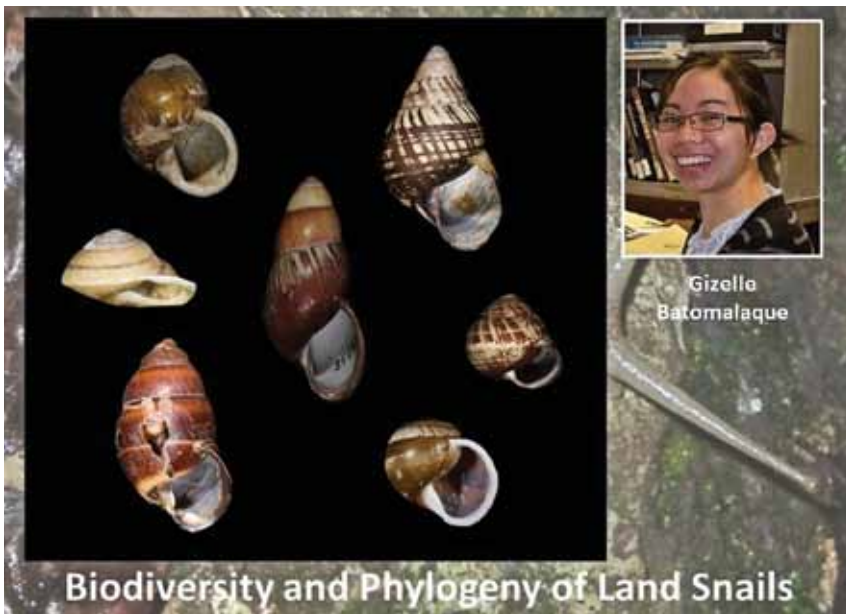


**Biodiversity and Phylogeny of Land Snails**

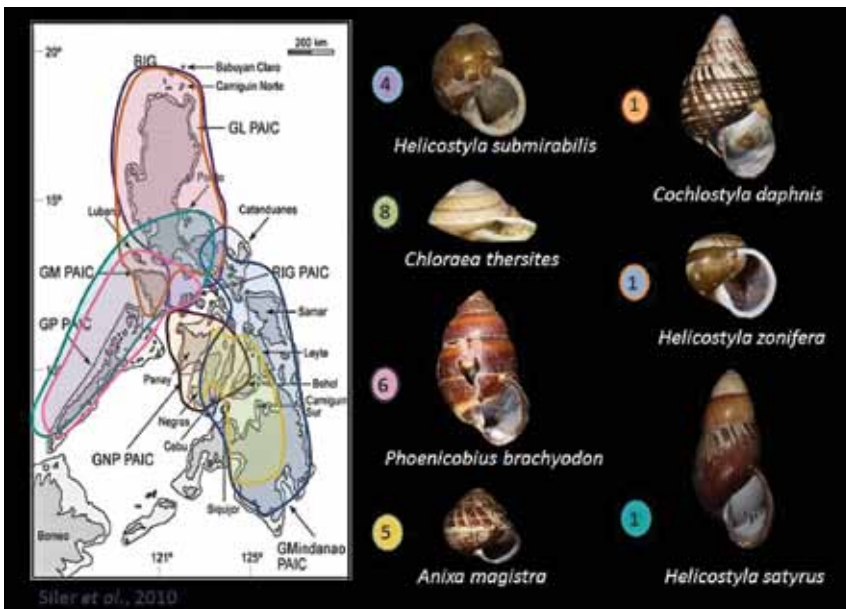
Helicoidea      Sagdoidea

a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n

Makiri Sei  
 Gary Rosenberg



We might surmise: whence came these guys  
 So varied and diverse  
 By what devices, ways and means  
 Did they invade the Philippines  
 And which ones got there first?



The bold Gizelle, that mad'moiselle  
 Of steely-eyed resolve  
 Has theorized the very order  
 In which they all crossed the water  
 Further to evolve



Half a world away, meanwhile  
 Held firm in nature's thrall  
 Young Nate has fixed his steadfast focus  
 On the genus Naesiotus  
 Familiar to you all  
 Their sculpture's odd - the ribs arranged  
 Like blisters on the shell  
 So far it seems we're at a loss  
 That's normal in Galapagos  
 The teeth are weird as well

What use is having all those types  
 But hiding them away?  
 Let truth unfold; let eyes behold  
 The evidence of names of old  
 From Lea to Thomas Say  
 Pilsbry named five thousand things  
 And looks down from on high  
 Prolific, yes, but not precise  
 He never used the same words twice  
 He's not our fav'rite guy  
 Some folks think man the masterpiece  
 The last word of his maker  
 We counter with this evidence  
 That swampy marshland, deep and dense  
 The works of H. B. Baker  
 Back in the day, they'd rarely say  
 Which specimen they meant  
 But Ellen's eye and steel-trap mind  
 Can any Gordian Knot unbind  
 To everyone's consent

Then Kasey takes the types and makes  
 Portraits so exact  
 They seem to shine in living light  
 And elevate mere human sight  
 To arbiter of fact  
 Her poses true and focus too  
 Immortalizes them  
 Even the tiniest don't defeat her  
 Once below two millimeters  
 There's the SEM

### Type Imaging Project

- Kasey Seizova and Ellen Wildner, both former co-op students
- Increasingly cited in monographs and in descriptions of new species

ANSP 96695 *Ernea pleistogyra* 10.1 mm SL

Kasey Seizova

ANSP 113320 *Brachypodella ramadani*

ANSP 131748 *Palaina ballanensis* 1.9 mm SL

Yet what's the meaning of this work  
 If none its worth behold?  
 Out go the pictures, set by set  
 Upon the billowing internet  
 Free to all, not sold

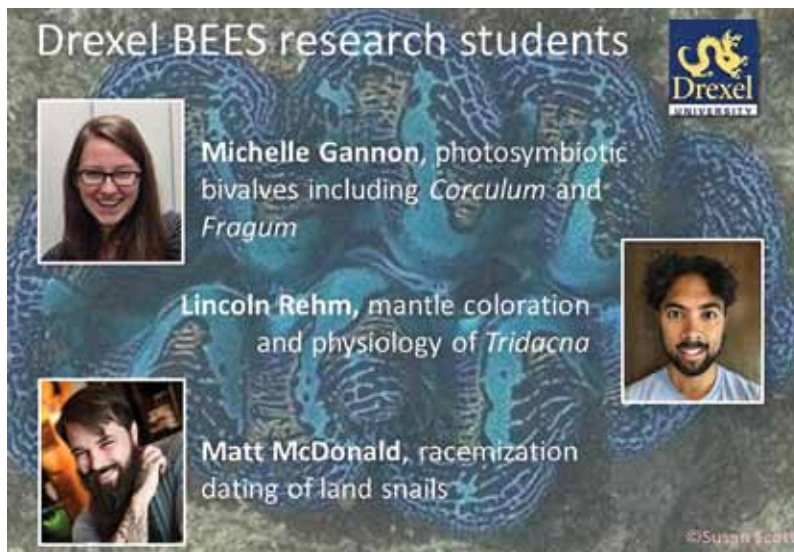
### Malacology Collection

THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

Name	Location	Collector/Donor/Donor	Catalog Number	Type Status
<i>Oreohelix angulata</i> Gabb, 1844	USA	Baker, H.B.	174158	holotype
<i>Oreohelix angulata</i> <i>perplexa</i> Filabry, 1939	USA	Baker, H.B.	174159	holotype
<i>Oreohelix angulata</i> <i>perplexa</i> Filabry, 1939	USA	Baker, H.B.	174160	holotype
<i>Oreohelix moultoni</i> Cockerell, 1901	USA	Filabry & Fortin	172542	holotype
<i>Oreohelix moultoni</i> <i>florida</i> Filabry, 1939	USA	Filabry & Fortin	172543	holotype
<i>Oreohelix perplexa</i> Anzcy, 1891	USA	Bertch, F.	113572	holotype
<i>Oreohelix perplexa</i> <i>unifera</i> Anzcy, 1891	USA	Bertch, F.	113573	holotype



Where doubt persists there now exists  
 A way to see what's true  
 By taking figures, like a book  
 And zooming for a closer look  
 In details lie the clues



The young and eager, full of zeal  
 Immune to all suggestion  
 They probe, they test, they strive to learn  
 And seek us out at every turn  
 With darned impert'nent questions  
 The BEES department is the fruit  
 Of our Drexel alliance  
 Through it both increase their worth  
 The dept. of Biodiversity, Earth  
 And Environmental Science



And now we must take off our hats  
 And clarion trumpets sound  
 For volunteers, who down the years  
 Have shared with us our vale of tears  
 By no employment bound  
 They pack a lunch and cheerfully  
 Come weekly into town  
 And tackle tasks whose mighty scope  
 Would make Sisyphus give up hope  
 And suck his teeth and frown  
 They are our strength, our volunteers  
 For theirs is careful work  
 Replacing ancient vials and jars  
 And listening to NPR  
 Which is the only perk



The time has come to beat the drum  
 For those who keep collections  
 Whose world of bottles, vials and trays  
 Lies hidden in gloomy maze  
 That doesn't bear inspection  
 They sort; they label, file and place  
 Each shell within its drawer  
 A quiet life of contemplation  
 Slow, osmotic education  
 Who could ask for more?

### Collections Rehousing

- Dry collection re-housed; re-vialing continuing
- Electronic inventory in progress
- Now rehousing entire alcohol collection




Tackling the Unionidae backlog  
 Art Bogan and Bob Howells, **Jane Heintz**  
 advisors Volunteer

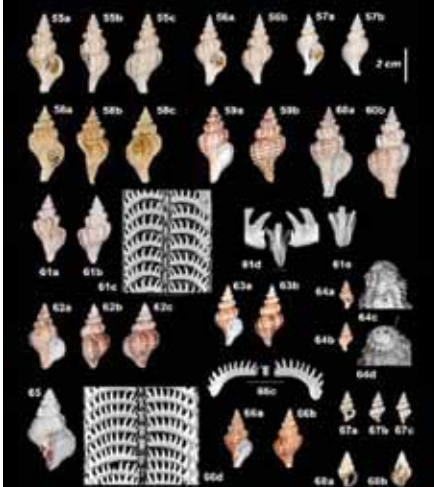
Filled with ancient liquors gold  
 The wet collection's jars  
 Need topping up and wiping clean  
 So they by all may yet be seen  
 When we are off in bars  
 Nas and Alex see to it  
 That all of this gets done  
 For fifty thousand jars and vials  
 Yet cheerfully with winsome smiles  
 And drinking almost none

### Alcohol collection overhaul

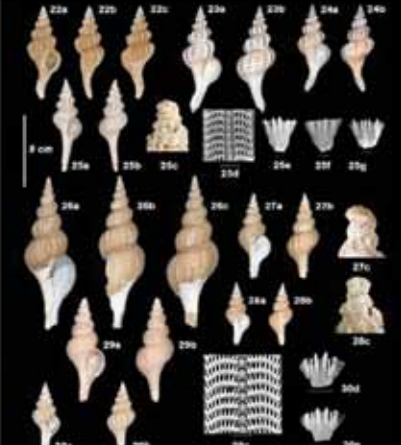



**Nasreen Phillips & Alex Bundrick**

Now and then we get a yen  
 To put all things to rights  
 By naming shells that nameless lay  
 Until the bright and fateful day  
 They came into our sight  
 Yet there is none who knows it all  
 (Though some thereto aspire)  
 In blaming some benighted deity  
 For the Fasci-o-lariidae  
 I'm preaching to the choir



#### Taxonomic work: new species



**Callomon & Snyder, 2017: A new genus and nine new species in the Fasciolaridae from southern California and western Mexico. Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences 165 (1): 55-80**



And now, as promised, happy news  
Of a great resurrection  
Beneath the snow of dust and grime  
Laid hidden for a long, long time  
Our fossil shell collection

Its savior is a fossil gal  
And bona-fide professor  
With plans for students, digs and papers  
Field work and related capers  
Welcome Doctor Sessa



October's winds bring falling leaves  
But ere they start to blow  
Collectors from both near and far  
Stuff huge exhibits in their cars  
And head up for the show

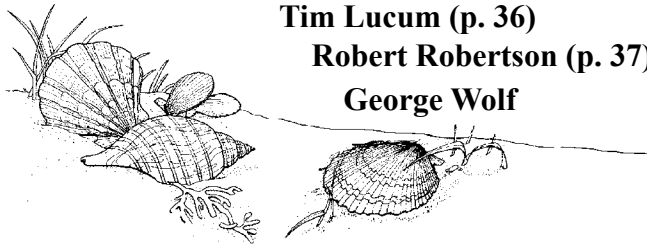
This year as ever we expect  
A range of fine displays  
As art and science lightly dance  
Entwined as if in deep romance  
If only for two days



And so dear friends that is the news  
From Philly in PA  
Where young and old their stories share  
And set aside their worldly cares  
At tea-time, anyway.

Apologies to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and  
fulsome acknowledgment for digital wizardry to  
Academy web and database guru Steve Dilliplane.

Paul Callomon  
prc44@drexel.edu

**In memoriam:****Jean Dickman (p. 35)****Charles Finley****Wayne Humbird (p. 35)****Abe Levine (p. 35)****Tim Lucum (p. 36)****Robert Robertson (p. 37)****George Wolf****Jean Norton Dickman**

(84) was born in Rocky Mount, NC, on April 16, 1933, the daughter of the late Dr. John William Roy and Jaunita F. Norton. Jean moved to several states as a child during WWII for her father's job as an Army public health officer. She moved to Raleigh, NC, during her high school years and graduated from Broughton High School in 1951. She graduated from Duke University in 1955 with a major in sociology, where she was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority. It was there she met and married the love of her life, Henry Dickman, from Florence, SC. During the next 26 years, Jean was a devoted Air Force wife, supporting Henry and his career in 13 locations, quickly establishing roots at home and in the community. She embraced the challenge of guiding the family to participate in many enriching activities that have had far-reaching influences on her children's lives. After Henry died in 1981, Jean received her M.S. in Urban Planning from UTSA and began a new life devoted to learning, adventure, and travel. Her many activities and duties, both volunteer and paid, include Toastmaster International, Girl Scout and Cub Scout leader, San Antonio Symphony Guild, President of the San Antonio Shell Club, President of Friedrich Wilderness Center (San Antonio), certified professional San Antonio tour guide, teacher, and certified tax professional. Her interests included collecting seashells, genealogy, playing bridge and worldwide traveling. Jean seemed to have an ever-present smile and a calm, relaxing demeanor welcomed by many at COA events. She was happiest when surrounded by family or at the beach.

**Jean Dickman**

(Larry) **Wayne Humbird** (69) of Lake Jackson, Texas, was born on June 27, 1948, to Irene Carley Humbird and Jim W. Humbird in Houston, Texas. He graduated from Lamar University in 1971 and retired from Dow Chemical

**Wayne & Patty Humbird won the COA Award at a recent shell show.**

in 2009 after 38 years. Wayne had a boisterous personality with a ready laugh and an outgoing nature that seemed to befriend all he met. He was extremely active in shelling activities and devoted countless hours to the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science. He and his wife Patty were well-known, well-respected, and well-loved fixtures at COA conventions. Wayne also volunteered his time as Vice President of COA. He is survived by his wife, Patricia of Lake Jackson, Texas; his sons, William of Clute, Texas; and David and wife Julie of Denver, Colorado; sisters Terry Andrews of Palestine, Texas; and Nancy Baker and husband James of Goliad, Texas; and granddaughter, Ruthie Humbird.

**Abe Levine** (93) made his home in Quebec, Canada, but he and his wife Anita joined Suncoast Conchologists in November 1984, at our second meeting. He was determined we were going to succeed and was very aware that our new treasury was quite lacking in funds. He contacted a dealer friend in

**Abe Levine with a few trophies from a Sanibel Shell Show.**

the Philippines and received a donation worth about \$80-\$90 – a beautiful golden cowrie, then *Cypraea aurantium* – now *Lyncina aurantium*. This large, orange cowrie was destined for a raffle, but not just any raffle! Our cowrie was featured at the next three meetings with chances at \$5 each. Yes, our treasury certainly received a huge boost! Abe donated his sizable shell collection to the Redpath Museum at McGill University in Montreal. This collection of shells is titled "Conchologycitus – The Abe Levine Shells," forever commemorating Abe's lifelong passion. The exhibit showcases over 2,000 gem-quality shells (of some 7,000 donated by

Abe). He is labeled “Quebec’s premiere shell collector,” in the museum literature. According to Dr. Tony Ricciardi, the Curator of Invertebrate Zoology at the Redpath Museum, this collection is “one of the finest in the world.”

Abe wrote:

*In nineteen hundred and seventy two, a shell collector I became.  
And since that time my life and home have never been the same.  
Many moments of my leisure time, I spend among my shells.  
As I study and admire the gorgeous homes, wherein the Mollusc dwells.  
Ever since I was a youngster, Redpath visits gave me pleasure,  
making them the logical recipients of my conchological treasure.  
In nineteen hundred and ninety four, I had to face the truth:  
That I had just turned seventy, and getting a little long in the tooth.  
Your shells you can't take with you and although it will break your heart.  
The logical conclusion is with your shells you must start to depart.  
Since then I have made donations with pleasure as the number swells.  
The total of these donations are over seven thousand shells.  
McGill and Redpath have honoured me declaring this exhibit permanent.  
Therefore my shell collecting hobby represents time and money well spent.  
As this exhibit will be permanent my shells will no longer roam.  
They are resting in the shelter of their final Redpath home.*



**“Conchologycitus – The Abe Levine Shells,” at the Redpath Museum, McGill University, Montreal.**



**Tim Lucum**, a long-time member of the Pacific Northwest Shell Club (PNWSC) passed away just weeks short of his 100th birthday. Older PNWSC members will fondly remember Tim and his wife Lois, who passed away in 2011. Lois was the active sheller and Tim shared her love of shells with his support and his willingness to help in the club. Words that Evelyn Adkins wrote sixteen years ago about Tim and Lois, are as fitting today as they were then and are repeated here. “They joined soon after the PNWSC began, and were part of that early, dedicated cadre of members - and extremely active. This has been their gift to those of us who came, later, a viable, busy club. It is an on-going legacy of theirs that



**Tim Lucum**

has kept on giving for many decades and which we very much appreciate.” Tim was unable to attend meetings in later years, but kept up with club happenings through the *Dredgings*. He greeted all with a smile and will always be remembered for that. By George Holm.

**Robert Robertson** (83) was born in Great Waldingfield, Suffolk, England, in 1934, the son of David William and Katherine Anne West. He came to the United States in 1952 and studied as an undergraduate at Stanford University. He graduated in 1956 with a



**Robert Robertson**

thesis on the mollusks of the Bahamas. He received his PhD from Harvard in 1960 and joined the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia that same year. He chaired the Department of Malacology from 1969 to 1972 and was an authority on molluscan larval development as well as the mollusks of the Bahamas. As the Chair and later as Curator Emeritus, Robert was a familiar and well respected figure at both AMS and COA meetings, and a member of the Marine Biological Association, United Kingdom. Aside from his writings on mollusks (he was a frequent contributor to *American Conchologist*) and his continued work with the Academy, he had a passion for both photography and classical music. His photographs of people interested in malacology and conchology, both professional and amateur, was termed by him, "The Rogues Gallery." Robert married Marian Ropes in 1959 (deceased 1975) and they had a daughter, Pamela Lucinda of Seattle, WA. He married Harriet H. Hopkins (Happy) in 1980, and their children include, Lynne A. Anderson (David) of Spotsylvania, VA, and Julia R. Lockwood (Neil) of Spokane, WA. His grandchildren include, Elijah Kaplan, Izador Kaplan, Aiden Kaplan, Timothy Anderson, Rebecca Anderson, Jonathan Anderson, Neil W. Lockwood III and Dean E. Lockwood. Robert had an easy-going manner and never stopped learning.

## COA Nominated Slate of Officers for 2018

COA Bylaws state:

Sec. A. Immediately following the annual meeting the Nominating Committee is appointed by the President with approval of the Executive Committee. It consists of three (3) persons, one of whom is chairperson. No currently serving officer may be a member of the Nominating Committee.

Sec. B. Nominees for the offices of President and Vice President must have served, or are presently serving, on the Board of Directors.

Sec. C. The Nominating Committee submits to the Board of Directors and makes available to the membership a full slate of candidates for office (namely President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Trustee), each of whom has indicated a willingness to serve, at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting.

Sec. D. Members in attendance at the annual meeting may be nominated from the floor during the meeting by written petition signed by five (5) members also in attendance. The nominees must signify a willingness to serve at the time of their nomination.

Sec. E. Members who indicate their willingness to serve and are not in attendance at the annual meeting, may be nominated by written petition. Any such petition verifies the nominee's willingness to serve by the nominee's signature, is signed by not less than five (5) members, and is submitted to the Nominating Committee prior to the meeting.

In accordance with the COA Constitution (amended and adopted 7 July 2008) and COA Bylaws (amended and adopted 2 August 2007), Harry Lee, President of COA, appointed a COA Nominating Committee (with Executive Committee approval) consisting of Dave Green (chairperson), Tom Grace and Rick Edwards. Their slate of COA officers nominated for the 2018 election is:

**President: Harry G. Lee**

**Vice President: Karlynn Morgan**

**Secretary: Amy Dick**

**Treasurer: Steven Coker**

**Trustee: Everett Long**

The election will be held during the business meeting at the 2018 COA Convention in San Diego. Thank you to the nominating committee and the nominated officers.

# Looking Forwards – COA 2018

## 29 August – 2 September 2018

David B. Waller<sup>1</sup> and David P. Berschauer,<sup>2</sup> Co-Chairs

<sup>1</sup> 505 Willowspring Drive, Encinitas, California 92024  
dwaller@dbwimpmg.com

<sup>2</sup> 25461 Barents Street, Laguna Hills, California 92653  
shellcollection@hotmail.com

This year's Conchologists of America Convention will be hosted by the San Diego Shell Club at the Sheraton Hotel across from the San Diego Airport, from August 29<sup>th</sup> to September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018. This convention follows the conclusion of the West Coast Shell Show on August 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> so that attendees may enjoy both events. COA field trips will be offered on Monday and Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> to venues like Balboa Park, Scripps Aquarium, a San Diego dinner cruise, and a tour of the U.S.S. Midway. Convention goers may also explore on their own and visit any number of attractions and interesting sites, including Old Towne San Diego, the Gaslamp Quarter, SeaWorld, the San Diego Zoo, and many more.

The theme of this year's convention is "Treasures from the Sea." Following the opening ceremonies and a silent auction, the welcome party will take place on the evening of August 29<sup>th</sup>. There will be a "Funny Theme Hat" contest at the welcome party, so be sure to wear an award winning hat (related to "Treasures from the Sea"). The convention goes into full swing the next day with two action packed days of shell related programs, silent auctions, and an oral auction; all with amazing rare and unusual shells. Once again there will be many fantastic select shells from the Frederic Weiss legacy collection that was donated to COA last year and contributed to some amazing auction results in Key West, Florida. In addition, some of the member shell clubs will have tables at this event with souvenirs including t-shirts, shells, books, pins and more.

There will be a closing banquet and oral auction on the evening of August 31<sup>st</sup>. The logo for this year's COA Convention is an original piece of artwork painted by our very own Lisa Dawn Lindahl and is a Pacific octopus (*Enteroctopus dofleini*) wrapped around a red abalone (*Haliotis rufescens*) with a Catalina trophon (*Austrotrophon catalinensis*) in the foreground. The painting will be auctioned off at the oral auction.

The dealers' bourse will take place on September 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, so be sure to attend. Special thanks in advance to all of the volunteers of both COA and the SDSC who are working hard to will make this a great event.



The COA 2018 San Diego Convention will be at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina, located just across the highway from the airport on Harbor Island, 1380 Harbor Island Drive, San Diego, CA 92101. For reservations call 1-877-734-2726 and use the code COA when booking. The hotel provides shuttle service from the airport. Go to: <http://www.conchologistsofamerica.org/conventions/> for further details and registration information.

### 2018 COA Convention – San Diego

#### Field trips: 27 & 28 August

**27 Aug:** the world famous San Diego Zoo or the aircraft carrier USS *Midway*.

**28 Aug:** Balboa Park (gorgeous park with 17 different museums), the Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography-University of California, San Diego, and dinner cruise on San Diego Bay.

#### COA Convention: 29 Aug – 2 September

**29 Aug:** opening ceremonies, silent auction & welcome party.

**30 Aug – 31 Aug:** shell programs, silent auctions, oral auction & banquet.

**1-2 Sept:** dealer's bourse.



The San Diego Zoo, sitting on 99 acres in Balboa Park, houses over 3,700 animals, comprising more than 650 species and subspecies. The zoo was a pioneer in the concept of open-air, cageless exhibits that re-create natural animal habitats and is one of the few zoos in the world housing and successfully breeding the giant panda. In 2013, the zoo added a new Koalafornia Adventure exhibit, providing an updated Australian animal experience. The newest exhibit, called Africa Rocks, opened in 2017.

The US Navy aircraft carrier USS *Midway* (CVB/CVA/CV-41) was the lead ship of her class and the largest ship in the world until 1955. Commissioned a week after World War II, the *Midway* was the first U.S. aircraft carrier too big to transit the Panama Canal. After 47 years of operation, including action during the Vietnam War and service as the Persian Gulf flagship in Operation Desert Storm, she was decommissioned in 1992. The USS *Midway* is now a museum ship.



Birch Aquarium at Scripps (sometimes referred to as Scripps Aquarium or Birch Aquarium) is the public outreach center for Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego. Accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the aquarium has an annual attendance of over 439,000 and features more than 3,000 animals representing 380 species. The hill-top site provides views of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography campus and the Pacific Ocean.

Balboa Park is a 1,200-acre urban cultural park encompassing open space areas, gardens, walking paths, museums, recreational facilities, gift shops, restaurants, several theaters, and the world-famous San Diego Zoo. Reserved in 1835, the park is one of the oldest in the United States dedicated to public recreational use. The park is named for the Spanish maritime explorer Vasco Núñez de Balboa (a man we all learned about in grade school US history). There are several historic Exposition buildings in the park which led to the park and buildings being declared a National Historic Landmark and National Historic Landmark District in 1977 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places.





Old Town got its name when the first port was built in the bay in 1869 and people and businesses moved to the new development, calling it New Town, San Diego. In 1968, the State of California dedicated the area as a State Historic Park and invested money in refurbishing old buildings and building replicas of many of the important 19th century buildings. Today the history is celebrated and remembered in the museums, restaurants, hotels, and specialty shops.



The Gaslamp Quarter is a 16½ block historical neighborhood in Downtown San Diego and is the site of several entertainment and night life venues, as well as scheduled events and festivals, including Mardi Gras in the Gaslamp, Street Scene Music Festival, Taste of Gaslamp, and ShamROCK, a St. Patrick's Day event. Stained glass windows, moldings, carvings, columns, and railings are just a part of the fantastic masterpieces that line the streets equipped with today's gaslamps, brick sidewalks, landscaping, galleries, theaters, boutiques and shops, and more than 100 restaurants, bars, and nightclubs.

SeaWorld San Diego is an animal theme park, oceanarium, outside aquarium, and marine mammal park, located inside the Mission Bay Park. It is owned by the City of San Diego, operated by SeaWorld Entertainment, and is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). They have agreed to cease their orca breeding program, so the orcas on display now are the last that will be seen at Sea World. The park also houses belugas, dolphins, seals, sea lions, etc.







Just north up Interstate 15 is the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve, a spectacular 784-acre open space park and recreational area. Pictured is Escondido Creek, one of the many attractions along numerous hiking trails. The Reserve has been designed to unify the interests of domestic water supply development, natural resources management and recreational opportunities. Park Rangers and docents conduct guided group tours to help promote environmental awareness and preservation of local watersheds. All Reserve wildlife and natural resources are fully protected so that future generations may enjoy these wonders.

Point Loma is a seaside community within the city of San Diego, California. Geographically it is a hilly peninsula bordered on the west and south by the Pacific Ocean, the east by the San Diego Bay and Old Town, and the north by the San Diego River. Point Loma has an estimated population of almost 50,000 and is home for two major military bases, a national cemetery, a national monument, a university, residential and commercial areas, and some rock and sand beaches surrounded by cliffs and weathered hillsides.



Register now for the 29 Aug-2 Sep 2018 COA Convention in San Diego. All of the required forms are available online at: <http://www.conchologistsofamerica.org/conventions/> Registration forms will also be included in the next issue of *American Conchologist*, but that is cutting things a bit close. Our conventions just seem to keep getting better, and there is plenty to do and see in San Diego. Come talk shells and see the sights.



## odds and ends

In closing are some shell related odds and ends. First we have two different shell sculptures sent in by Dr. Emily Vokes of Louisiana, and a rather beat up buccinid of questionable identity offered by William Ritter of Oregon.



Well-known COA member Dr. Emily Vokes provided a couple images of larger than life molluscan shells in public venues. About the snail sculpture in the top image, she says, "This large bronze sculpture is titled 'History of the Conquest', by Hank Willis Thomas, 2017 – and is said to 'take aim at prejudicial historical depictions of the people of North Africa.' It is a recreation of a tiny 17th Century German artwork and I have absolutely no idea what he is saying! But it is a beautiful sculpture."

This piece is on the grounds of the New Orleans Jazz Museum at the Old U.S. Mint in New Orleans. The write up says that this work uses the same materials as typical monuments to military figures or colonial regimes to depict a small native African boy with a bow and arrow. The inflated size of this piece adds an "Alice in Wonderland" sense of fantasy.



The bottom left photo was taken in downtown Marble Falls, Texas, and shows Dr. Emily Vokes (right) and her sister Sis Hoskins (left) with a stylized "murex." It is part of an art installation in the "Historic Downtown" district. Emily stated, "I would have stolen it, if it fit in my purse! It did have the artist's name on it, along with the price, but I didn't think to note it. Sorry." Still, if you are ever in Marble Falls (on the Colorado River northwest of Austin) it might be worth a quick stop.

The shell image to the right was sent in by Will Ritter and he states, "*Neptunea*, 118.5 mm, crabbed, trawled off Cape Disappointment, Washington State, U.S., in 40-45 fms (normal depth for a live specimen) – a favorite specimen of mine because of the terrible breaks and recoveries!" Presently unidentified, but similar to *N. ithia* (Dall, 1891) or *N. smirnia* (Dall, 1919).



José and Marcus Coltro

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**Cx.P. 15011 São Paulo - SP Brazil 01537-970  
Fax + 55 11 3208 7214  
shells@femorale.com**

