



SHELL-O-GRAM

Official Publication of the
JACKSONVILLE SHELL CLUB, INC.

July-August, 2002

Volume 43(4)

Editorial Board:

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Harry G. Lee, Asst. Editor

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Claire Newsome, President
Harry G. Lee, 1st Vice Pres.
Carol Rishel, Secretary
Teresa St. John, Treasurer

July Meeting

The Thursday, July 25th meeting of the Jacksonville Shell Club will be held at the Southeast Branch Public Library at 7:00 PM.

No formal educational program will be presented. Instead, that portion of the meeting will be devoted to discussion of the club's recently completed shell show.

Harry Lee will offer a shell identification clinic and each attendee is encouraged to bring up to five shells (with locality data) for identification. Harry will then give a two-minute Shell-Of-The-Month presentation on six of the species that were identified.

Don't miss this opportunity to have your "mystery shells" finally identified!

August Meeting

The Thursday, August 22nd meeting of the Jacksonville Shell Club will be held at the usual time and place.

Mr. Bob Joseph, Park Manager of the Talbot Island State Parks, will talk to us about our local parks including their past, present, and future.

Bill Frank will present the Shell-Of-The-Month on *Busycotypus canaliculatus* (Linnaeus, 1758) [Channeled Whelk] – one of the four whelk species found in Northeast Florida.

Duval County's Best Shelling Bets – Part III

In the last issue we examined Huguenot Memorial Park, Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park and Mayport Naval Station Beach. In this third and final installment we return to the wilds of northeast Duval County take a look at Big Talbot Island State Park - Ft. George, Florida.

Located about twenty-three miles from downtown Jacksonville, Big Talbot Island is one of only a few undeveloped barrier islands left along the Atlantic Coast and the island shoreline is unlike any other in northeast Florida. Wind and wave action have eroded the shoreline and sculpted the eastern appearance of the island. The power of this dynamic action has created a bluff of up to twenty feet. Organic soil formations called "Blackrock" are also exposed on the shoreline. The entire island is a State Park. Florida State Parks are managed as natural systems. All plant and animal life is protected. Do not remove, deface, mutilate or molest any natural resources.

Bounded on the north by the Nassau River/Nassau Sound, on the south by Simpson Creek/salt marsh, and shielded from the open Atlantic Ocean on the east by a series of constantly shifting sand bars/islands, Big Talbot Talbot Island offers a variety of molluscan habitats found nowhere else in Duval County. These include mud, muddy sand, sandy beaches, "Blackrock" formations, and oyster bars. Overall, the area could best be described as "rough terrain" and one should exercise caution. [Continued on page 2.]



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The **Shell-O-Gram** is issued bimonthly and mailed to all regular members. Annual membership dues are \$12.50 individual and \$15.00 family (domestic), and \$20.00 (foreign). Lifetime membership is available.

Send dues to: Teresa St. John, Treasurer
2605 Emily Court
Jacksonville, FL 32216-5101

The club meets each month, excluding December, at the Southeast Branch Public Library, 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd., Jacksonville Florida. Please address any correspondence to the club's address shown above.

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

Welcome New Members

Portia Ackerman
1371 East Coast Dr
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233
Phone: 246-6532

Mary Hazel & Roberta Neilly
2022 Sea Hawk Circle
Ponte Vedra, FL 32082
Phone: 285-8993
Email: Rneilly1@bellsouth.net

Pauline Doane & Bill Hall
2535 Ligustrum Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32211
Phone: 744-2600
Email: imkecandie@aol.com

Mrs. Johnnie Fellabaum
107 South 25th Avenue Apt. 09
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
Phone: 270-0279

Address Change

Christine Cavan & Family
11432 Chase Meadows Dr. N.
Jacksonville, FL 32256
Phone: 642-0147

Upcoming Events

****Sep. 13-15 – North Carolina Shell Show** at the North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores near Atlantic Beach, North Carolina. Contact Ann Buddenhagen, 804 Westwood Dr., Raleigh, NC 27607, Phone (919) 787-7103; Email pabjetster@aol.com. See: <http://www.aquariums.state.nc.us/pks/>

Duval County's Best Shelling Bets [Continued]

Additionally, alligators have been seen on the beach and a visitor was attacked by an eight-footer during July of 2001. Because of the rough terrain and lack of easy access/suitable bathing beaches, the visitor load is not high and you may have the entire area to yourself, other than summer weekends.

Big Talbot Island is probably the last easily accessible area within Duval County which in any way represents what might have existed 20 or more years ago in regards to molluscan fauna. Whether it's the large (12-inch) *Busycon sinistrum* Hollister, 1958 mating in the surf or the smaller easily overlooked specimens (some unnamed) crawling on the muddy sand, this is the place to visit if diversity is your goal. Screening the muddy-sand bottom at wading depth can yield an amazing variety of small shells. Some collector's items which can be found here include *Busycotypus spiratus* (Lamarck, 1816) (very uncommon in Northeast Florida) and *Oliva sayana* form *citrina* Johnson, 1911 - including a specimen measuring about 75 mm. which may be the largest specimen ever collected.

JSC's 36th Shell Show

Under the leadership of co-chairpersons Pam Rice and D.D. Jewell, the Jacksonville Shell Club held its 36th Shell Show at the Brampton Inn Resort in Jacksonville Beach on Saturday, July 6th and Sunday, July 7th.

This year's show featured a total of 244 linear feet of exhibits (180 linear feet in the scientific categories and 64 in the arts & crafts) – down significantly from the 352 linear feet in 2001. This total included 25 scientific

entries submitted by 11 entrants (in contrast to 25 entries from 13 exhibitors in 2001) and 24 arts & craft entries also submitted by 11 entrants (in contrast to 42 exhibits from 16 exhibitors in 2001).

Paid attendance at this year's show was a respectable 634 guests, which represented a significant increase over the 427 recorded in 2001.

The Jacksonville Shell Club owes a debt of gratitude to all the exhibitors who made the show possible – specifically our out-of-town group. That list includes Leslie Crnkovic (Houston), Gene Everson (Louisville) and Alice Monroe (Clearwater).

--Shell Show Winners--

[Scientific Categories]

Judges: Wayne Harland and Chris Takahashi

A-1-3 One Area

1st “Australian Shells” – Teresa St. John (Jacksonville)

2nd “Molluscan Life Without Light” - Leslie Crnkovic (Houston)

A-1-5 Self-Collected: Southeast US & Caribbean

1st “The Super Family Trochoidea” – Leslie Crnkovic

A-1-6 Self-Collected: Worldwide

1st “Beach Bums Treasure Trove” – Pam Rice (Jacksonville)

A-1-8 One Major Family

1st “Strombidae Worldwide” – Gene Everson (Louisville)

2nd “Small Cypraea of the World” – Leslie Crnkovic

A-1-10 One Genus

1st “The Genus *Haustellum*” – Gene Everson

2nd “The Genus *Cymatium*” – Bill Frank (Jacksonville)

3rd “Those Amazing Spider Conchs” – Bill Frank

A-1-11 Single Specimen

1st “*Epitonium worsfoldi*” – Judy Blocker (Jacksonville)

2nd “*Altivasum flindersi*” – Leslie Crnkovic

3rd “*Cassis cornuta*” – Gene Everson

A-1-12 Educational

1st “The Functional Significance of Color in Molluscan Shells – Alice Monroe (Clearwater)

1st “Dispelling the Myths – *Calliostoma brunneum* (*Fluxina*) (Dall, 1881) - Leslie Crnkovic

A-1-13 Rare

1st “*Pternynotus xenos* Harasewych, 1982” – Leslie Crnkovic

A-1-14 Oddities

1st “Southpaw Seashells” – Harry Lee (Jacksonville)

2nd “AnuTsMeG” – Leslie Crnkovic

A-1-15 Minatures

1st “A Tiny Marginellid” – Leslie Crnkovic

A-1-17 Beginner

1st “My First Visit to Sanibel Island” – Danielle Wirsansky (Jacksonville)

A-1-18 Sea Life

1st “What Lies Beneath” – Pam Rice

2nd “Skate Egg Cases” – Billie Brown (Jacksonville)

3rd “Starfish” – Gertrude Moller (Jacksonville)

A-2 Non-Marine Mollusks

1st “Caracoles of the Mayan Empire” – Leslie Crnkovic

A-3 Marine Fossils

1st “The *Athleta petrosa* Complex – Leslie Crnkovic

The duPont Trophy - Dispelling the Myths -

Calliostoma brunneum – Leslie Crnkovic

The Conchologists of America Award - The Genus *Haustellum* – Gene Everson

R. Tucker Abbott Memorial Trophy - The Functional Significance of Color in Molluscan Shells- Alice Monroe

William Clench Award - Caracoles of the Mayan Empire – Leslie Crnkovic

“Shell of the Show” – *Haustellum wilsoni* – Gene Everson

“Self-Collected Shell of the Show” *Epitonium worsfoldi* – Judy Blocker (Jacksonville)

“Florida-Caribbean Shell of the Show” - *Conus anabathrum* – Harry Lee (Jacksonville)

Judges Special Awards (one given by each judge)

---The Super Family Trochidea (Leslie Crnkovic)

---My First Visit to Sanibel Island (Danielle Wirsansky)

[Arts & Crafts Categories]

Judges: Mathilde Duffy and Anne Joffee

B-1-1 Pictures: Glass covered or open

1st Selma Hutchinson (Jacksonville)

2nd Selma Hutchinson

B-1-3 Christmas Related Items: Wreaths, Trees. Tree Ornaments

1st Selma Hutchinson

2nd Danielle Wirsansky

3rd Jacqueline Warshaw (Jacksonville)

B-1-4 Mirrors: All sizes

1st Gertrude Moller

2nd Gertrude Moller

3rd Selma Hutchison

B-1-5 Jewelry and Personal Accessories:

2nd Rodney & Anita Davis (Jacksonville)

B-1-6 Paintings and Drawings of shells:

1st Leigh Murphy (Jacksonville)

2nd Leigh Murphy

B-1-7 Photography:

1st Alice Monroe

2nd Alice Monroe

B-1-9 Needlework: Original Design or Kits

1st Julie Newsome (Jacksonville)

2nd Jacqueline Warshaw

B-1-10 Wreaths and Wall Hangings: Not Christmas

1st Jacqueline Warshaw

2nd Judy Blocker

3rd Danielle Wirsansky

B-1-11 Home Decor':

1st Paul Brown (Jacksonville)

2nd Judy Blocker

3rd Selma Hutchison

B-1-12 Miscellaneous:

2nd Anita & Rodney Davis

2nd Danielle Wirsansky

Helen Murchison Award: Getrude Moller (Large Mirror)

Most Creative: Leigh Murphy (Water Color Painting)

Judges Special Awards:

---Jacqueline Warshaw (Needlepoint)

---Jacqueline Warshaw (Wreath - Not Christmas)

Exhibitor's Choice Award: Two-way tie

---Paul Brown (Nautilus lamp)

---Gene Everson (Strombidae worldwide)

Unwitting Malacological Fraud!

The following is a posting by Assistant editor, Harry G. Lee to the Conch-L listserve, which connects about 500 Internet shell enthusiasts and is supported in large part by The Conchologists of America. The message is of potential interest to students of nomenclature, taxonomy, and the history of biological science as well as plain old shell collectors. It appeared at 6:36 PM EDT on Sunday, 6/16/02

Dear Luis and others,

On 5/26/02 I posted a response to Luis, who inquired about some marginellid taxa:

Pseudomarginella von Maltzan, 1880

Pseudomarginella leptopus Carrière, 1880

Pseudomarginella platypus Carrière, 1880

Well, Charlie Sturm responded to plea at the end of my message and provided a photocopy of a paper [Cooke, A. H., 1922. On the pseudo-genus *Pseudomarginella* v. Maltzan. *Proc. Mal. Soc London*15(1): 3-5. April], which answers most of Luis' question. Furthermore, Cooke's report has such an illuminating message, I feel compelled to share it.

It seems that von Maltzan "collected" some eleven specimens of living marginellas off the Isle of Goree (W.

Africa), somehow had them preserved, and provided them to Carrière, "privatdocent" in zoology at the University of Strasburg, Germany. Dissection of these eleven by the latter scientist revealed that all had the shell of *Marginella glabella* (Linnaeus, 1758), but only six had the animal of that species! Of the remainder, all five had animals with opercula - so large as to prevent the animal withdrawing into its shell! Von Maltzan, apparently stunned by this discovery, erected a new genus, *Pseudomarginella*, to accommodate these remarkable creatures! Based on operculum and radulae, Carrière went on to name the four with unguiculate opercula [the animals of a *Polliia* species, it seems] *Pseudomarginella leptopus*, and the one with a purpuroid operculum [the animal of *Stramonita haemastoma* (Linnaeus, 1758) it appears] *Pseudomarginella platypus* (referring, I guess, to the improbable combination of features).

Cooke offered this analysis: "Carrière seems scarcely to be aware of the *a priori* difficulty of the thesis which he maintains, or the improbability, on the face of it, that three species of mollusca, which he admits, differ essentially from one another in the anatomy of the soft parts, should all be capable of secreting a precisely identical form of shell. It is true that he bravely attempts to meet the obvious suggestion that the Negroes, who collected the shells for v. Maltzan, extracted the soft parts of other mollusca and inserted them into the empty shells of *M. glabella*. His honesty is indisputable, but it will require stronger evidence than he is able to produce in order to make us believe in phenomena which, if true, would revolutionize our theories of development, and throw the deductions of biology into confusion.... before we can accept observations of the nature contained in these papers, or theories built upon these observations, ample confirmation and illustration are required..."

Needless to say, there has been no "confirmation," and Cooke's tactful treatment of the situation has resulted in the generic level name *Pseudomarginella* von Maltzan, 1880 becoming unavailable by the principle of subjective junior synonymy (based on the same type species - *Voluta glabella* L.), and the two species *Pseudomarginella leptopus* Carrière, 1880 and *P. platypus* Carrière, 1880 treated likewise as subjective junior synonyms of *Marginella glabella* (Linnaeus, 1758).

Furthermore, Cooke exposed a malacological fraud arguably more preposterous than the Piltdown Man (which I distinctly recall as legitimate, nay, orthodoxy, when I was in elementary school) in anthropology, yet perhaps unique in the unwitting and probably guile-less conspiracy involving Senegalese fishermen and two gullible ivory tower zoologists.