



SHELL-O-GRAM

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July-Aug., 2017

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Upcoming programs

The **July** meeting of the Jacksonville Shell Club will be held at the usual venue, the Southeast Branch of the



Jacksonville Public Library <<http://www.yelp.com/biz/jacksonville-public-library-southeast-regional-jacksonville>> on the customary fourth Thursday, the **27th**, at 7:00 PM. Rick Edwards will present the Shell-of-the-Month, *Semele proficua* (Pulteney, 1799), the Atlantic Semele (L). It is one of several kinds of smallish white clams (SWC's) that one encounters on our beaches. Although this often pure white inch-long species appears nondescript to a casual beachcomber, Rick will show us how to distinguish it from other northeast Florida (NE FL) SWC's. Harry Lee will present the main program. He'll expand on the analysis of the genera of micromollusks he and Rick have found at the SMR 10 fossil locality in Sarasota Co., FL, where the Upper Tamiami Formation and its Pinecrest beds are exposed. He'll offer evidence that these shells, dating to the Upper Pliocene Epoch, ~ 3,000,000 years ago, represent an extraordinarily diverse fauna by

comparing it to various other Cenozoic assemblages, including that of present-day NE FL. Photo by Rick Edwards; scale in 1/16ths of an inch



On Thursday **August 24** we'll reconvene at the above time and venue, when Rick Edwards and Harry Lee will combine the Shell-of-the-Month and main program into a single presentation on the annual Conchologists of America Convention at the Grand Key Resort Doubletree by Hilton in Key West, FL. The event will run from August 13-19 and will include the usual activities: parties, banquets, didactic programs, field trips, auctions of fine shells and other conchological memorabilia, and conclude with the Dealers' Bourse – a giant upscale flea market featuring shells from almost everywhere you can imagine. We won't be able to determine the Shell(s)-of-the-Month before an on-site review of the auction and bourse offerings, but you can wager that it'll be spectacular. Lot 29 in the oral auction, *Sthenorytis pernobilis* (P. Fischer and Bernardi, 1857) measuring no less than two inches, is on the L.

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This club meets monthly at the Southeast Branch of the Jacksonville Public Library, 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd., Jacksonville, Florida <<http://jpl.coj.net/lib/branches/se.html>>. Please address any correspondence to the club's address above. Annual membership dues are \$15.00 individual, \$20.00 family (domestic) and \$25.00 (overseas). Lifetime membership is available. Please remit payment for dues to the address below and make checks payable to the Jacksonville Shell Club. The club's newsletter and scientific journal, the *Shell-O-Gram* (ISSN 2472-2774) is issued bimonthly and mailed to an average of 15 regular members and friends by specific request and no less than ten scientific institutions with permanent libraries. An electronic (pdf) version, identical except for "live" URL's and color (vs. B&W) images, is issued the next day and sent to about 200 individuals who have demonstrated an interest in malacological research. These pdf's (ISSN 2472-2782) have also been posted to <<http://jaxshells.org/letters.htm>> since November, 1998. We encourage members and friends to submit articles for publication. Closing date for manuscript submission is two weeks before each month of publication. Articles appearing in the *Shell-O-Gram* may be republished provided credit is given the author and the *Shell-O-Gram*. As a courtesy, the editor and author should receive a copy of the republication. Contents of the *Shell-O-Gram* are intended to enter the permanent scientific record.

Officers for the 2018 Fiscal Year

Because of declining attendance at our meetings over the past few years (average this year is < 7), as Treasurer and Editor, I propose we suspend (1) the offices of 2nd and 3rd Vice-President [Section IV], (2) Board of Directors [Section V], and (3) the Nominating committee [Section 6] of the JSC Bylaws. Since these rather drastic actions require written notice to the membership, the *Shell-O-Gram* seems to be a suitable medium to that end. The JSC Constitution and Laws are posted at <<http://www.jaxshells.org/pdfs/laws.pdf>>. I further recommend we retain the following officers in their present positions:

President: Brian Marshall
Vice President: Paul Jones
Secretary: Roz Edwards
Treasurer: Harry Lee.

Appointed leadership (Historian and SOG Editor Harry Lee, Membership Chair Rick Edwards) will likewise remain in their positions. If this proposal is accepted by two other members at the July 27 meeting, it will be re-presented at the August 24 meeting, at which a vote of two-thirds of a quorum (defined at Section IX, paragraph 9, given attendance as noted above, as no less than 4 members) will be needed for passage.

***Fissurella nimbosa* (Linnaeus, 1758) revisited**

Your editor must apologize for the mislocalization of Don Swenson's find of the above specimens at Coral Cove, Palm Beach Co., FL [SOG 58(2): 9]. These large keyhole limpets actually came from the beach at Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge, which is located on Jupiter Island in Martin Co., Florida.

<<http://jaxshells.org/hobes.htm>>, which makes it all the more surprising. According to Rosenberg (2009 <<http://www.malacolog.org/search.php?nameid=348>>), the closest recorded occurrence is Puerto Rico. Of further interest, and partially exonerating your editor, Don reports finding a single specimen at [Coral Cove](#) about two decades ago.

Rosenberg, G., 2009. Malacolog 4.1.1: *A Database of Western Atlantic Marine Mollusca*. Electronic database accessible at: <<http://www.malacolog.org>>.

Membership Dues are payable in September each year.

If you're not paid up, please send in your dues: Individual \$15.00; Family \$20.00, to
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An offer from the two fellow Florida shell clubs

The Sarasota and St Pete Shell Clubs are in the process of selling a number of shell cabinets donated by the estate of the late Peggy Williams. These cabinets are large with anywhere from 15 to 20 adjustable drawers. These beautiful cabinets were handcrafted in solid wood (not oak) by Peggy husband Tom. Cabinet A has already been sold but the dimensions of the remaining cabinets are listed below. I have also attached photos.

These cabinets are being kept at a storage facility in Bradenton. You would be responsible for pick-up and transport. We are asking \$50 per cabinet or best offer. Contact me at my email or my phone number below.

Cabinet B: 45" W x 42.5" H x 25.5" D

Cabinet C: 47.5" W x 36.5" H x 17.5" D

Cabinet D: 45" W x 34" H x 14.5" D

Cabinet E: 48" W x 34" H x 14.5" D

Cabinet F: 48" W x 38.75" H x 24" D

Cabinet G: 48" W x 42" H x 14" D

Cabinet H: 48" W x 38.5" H x 24" D

Cabinet I: 45.25" W x 49" H x 25.75" D

Cabinet J: 45.25" W x 32.75" H x 25" D

Cabinet K: 45" W x 41.5" H x 25.5" D

There are also a number of beautiful display cases for exhibits. These cases are made of blonde wood, hinged with glass tops. They all have dimensions of 24" x 20.75" as seen from above but with different depths. These are \$30 each or best offer.

Thank you,

Sally Peppitoni

President, Sarasota Shell Club.

<shellmaniac8@gmail.com>; (941) 720 3810.



Ruthie Abramson

May 9, 1935-July 2, 2017

Ruth (Ruthie) Henshaw Rogers Abramson, 82, of Jacksonville, FL, died peacefully on July 2, 2017. Born to Emma and Lynn Henshaw in North Miami, Ruth attended Miami Edison High school, then received a teaching degree from FSU and a Master's Degree from UNF. After teaching High School American History on Channel 7, Ruth taught at Fletcher High School and Sandalwood High School, where she was the Department Head. She was a dynamic and creative teacher who inspired enthusiasm in her students. For many years Ruth served the community through her involvement with the Jacksonville Shell Club and the Greater Jacksonville Coin Club. Ruth's greatest gifts were her endless creativity, her unrelenting graciousness and her ability to light up any room she entered.

Ruth is survived by her beloved husband of forty years, Frank Abramson. They loved traveling the country with each other, exploring new things and meeting interesting people. Her brother, Lynn Ernest Henshaw, whom she adored through hugs, teasing and unwavering support. Her children, William Michael Rogers, Patricia (Patti) Rogers Weigel and Karen Rogers Tripp, whom she raised with her loving heart in good times and bad, her grandchildren, William (Bill) Weigel, Emily Weigel, Garrett Tripp, Heidi Tripp, Katherine Rogers, and Christina Rogers, who gave her endless joy and smiles, her Great-Grandson, Giovanni Garrido, who brought a bright light to the whole family, her stepdaughters Sue Dawson, Laurie Abramson, Vicki Hallenbeck and Janette Abramson who were blessed by her smiles and caring ways.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, July 20 at 2:00pm at Holiday Hill Baptist Church, 730 Mandalay Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32216. A small reception will follow in the church's reception hall.

A surprise find of a colony of live *Strombus alatus* Gmelin, 1791 in St. Augustine Inlet

by Paul Jones and Bill Frank

Recently, Canadian visitor Harold Lamb directed our attention to a rather large number of living *Strombus alatus* Gmelin 1791 (Florida Fighting Conch) he found in the Salt Run entrance area of St. Augustine Inlet last month. He noted many large, live specimens crawling on the mud flats in the intertidal area along the banks of Davis Shores in St. Augustine during unseasonably low minus tides. This is an area I have shelled before and even wrote about in the *Shell-O-Gram* last year. At that time, however, I had only found crabbed and/or empty Fighting Conch shells there, not living snails. Prior to 2016, the only recorded find of a live Fighting Conch was JSC president Brian Marshall, who took one live juvenile specimen in the Tolomato River near Comanche Cove area close to the west rampart of the Usina Bridge in June, 2008.

Apparently, from Harold's report, that situation had changed a great deal this year. So, fellow JSC member Bill Frank and I both checked the area and, lo and behold, we also noted many large, beautiful, live Fighting Conch

specimens. Further, we decided to meet up at the spot on late June New Moon minus tides and investigate a large sand bar in the inlet itself across a fairly narrow (about 100 feet wide) channel of water from Davis Shores. We suspected that sand bar could be the source of the Fighting Conch colony, even seeing shells lying on the bar from a distance across from Davis Shores.

We met on June 23rd, and Bill graciously served as my safety man as I donned snorkel equipment and headed over to check out the sand bar. Both Bill and I suspected that the channel was fairly deep and would require some effort to get over to the bar itself. It turns out that the water in the channel was only waist deep during these very low tides, and I made it over with no trouble at all!

Once on the bar, I found myself surrounded by dozens of Fighting Conchs crawling around on the surface everywhere I looked! The bar is a collection of mostly sand with some mud mixed in. It is firm to walk on and covers several football fields in area. I even went back over to the bar later with camera in hand, snapping over a hundred shots. Apparently, the conchs love that micro-environment and seem to live partially or fully submerged in the substrate most of the time. When the low tides expose the bar, they pop out of the sandy mud in plain sight looking for water and feeding possibly on the long strings of green algae that apparent over the bar in the bright sunlight.

I said they are large – both Bill and I collected many stunning specimens well in excess of 110 mm, with a couple of them even possibly being world-record-sized specimens (WRS) at over 115 mm. In addition to their sizes, like the scallop bycatch specimens from the 1980's, the conchs are extremely dark (almost black in some cases) and beautiful in coloration with gorgeous tones of yellow, purple, orange and red! Interestingly, though, there seems to be few other obvious species of mollusks on the bar except the colony of conchs. I did see two large, live Florida Horse Conchs over there, however (each about 14 inches in size).

Now that we know how easily the channel to the bar is traversed at the lowest tides, subsequent trips over to it to observe the colony (and conscientiously collect some select specimens) are safe and relatively easy, so the club may want to set up a field trip to study the area further in the near future (see p. 8).

To elaborate on the size of these shells: twenty two randomly selected adult specimens were measured, and the average size was 105 mm. The largest shell measured 116.6 mm. while the smallest shell measured 90.7 mm. The 2017 edition of the *Registry of World Record Size Shells* lists a 112.27 mm specimen as the current record holder. According to its collector, Gerald Munshower, it was collected near Tyndall AFB in the Panama City area of the Florida Panhandle.

Our largest shell to date is pictured on the **R**, but I'm having second thoughts about the stated size. It's over 116 mm, but I get a slightly different measurement every time I take a caliper to it.

The intertidal strombs are apparently a relatively recent arrival. Johnson (1890 a, b, c, d; 1919) didn't report *Strombus alatus* from St. Augustine during his several homecomings before and after the turn of the century before lasts. Also the late Phil Poland occasionally worked the Davis Shores area and never indicated that he found *Strombus alatus*. Marlo Krisberg has also worked that area at least



once by kayak within the past decade or so but I don't know whether he found *Strombus*. I know he did work the jetty area on north Anastasia Island. I don't know if the late Fred Chauvin ever found strombs in St. Augustine, but we suspect not.

Johnson, C. W., 1890a, b, c. An annotated list of the shells of St. Augustine, Florida. *The Nautilus* 3: 103-105 <<http://biodiversitylibrary.org/page/27053480>>, 114-115 <<http://biodiversitylibrary.org/page/27053491>>, 137-139. <<http://biodiversitylibrary.org/page/27053514>>

Johnson, C. W., 1890d. An annotated list of the shells of St. Augustine, Florida. *The Nautilus* 4: 4-6. <<http://biodiversitylibrary.org/page/12596630>>

Johnson, C. W., 1919. An old collecting ground revisited. *The Nautilus* 33(1): 1-8. <<http://biodiversitylibrary.org/page/1744508>> [note concluding paragraph on pp. 7-8.]

The Peripatetic Stillwater Periwinkle – an astounding chronicle of zoogeographical vagility by Harry Lee

Only recently described (*Echinolittorina placida* Reid, 2009: 56), this species has a zoogeographic history unparalleled among benthic marine snails. Its stunningly exploitative range extension, beginning in a small area of sparse rocky outcrops of the southeastern Gulf of Mexico and moving 4500 km around the Gulf of Mexico to Florida and as far as North Carolina, spans just one century!



For JSC members, the story began when we noted there was an historical disconnect in the composition, zoogeography, and population densities (L; from the S jetty at Mayport; photo Bill Frank) of our periwinkle fauna just in the last few decades. As we struggled to pigeonhole the apparent newcomer using a variety of incorrect names, most notably *E. interrupta* (Philippi, 1856) Interrupted Periwinkle, we sent specimens to Dr. Reid in the early 2000's, and he kept us abreast of his work as it progressed.

Over several years Reid verified and pieced together collection data and literature records to support the geographic and chronologic progress of this speedy invasion. He reasoned that widespread construction of sea walls, jetties, etc. along

the otherwise soft sedimentary coastline of the Gulf of Mexico since the late nineteenth century, facilitated this range expansion by providing suitable habitat (hard intertidal substrate) where none existed historically. Although the majority of localities cited by Dr. Reid were based on public museum specimens, the collections

of Florida amateurs, including our club and Marlo Krisberg, played a role in the reconstruction of this saga (Reid, 2009)

Besides providing readers with a chronicle of colonization of a marine intertidal habitat of unprecedented dimensions, this fine work once again demonstrated the importance of well-curated collections of citizen scientists in the recognition and definition of biological processes - in this case a breathtaking large-scale one.

Now that the taxonomy has been clarified, the JSC website places the Stillwater Periwinkle in a NC (Sunset Beach <<http://jaxshells.org/sunset.htm>>) and five FL (NE <<http://jaxshells.org/marine.htm>>, Coral Cove <<http://jaxshells.org/coralcove.htm>> and Peanut Is. <<http://jaxshells.org/peanut.htm>>, Palm Beach Co. (SE), Kice Is. <<http://jaxshells.org/kice.htm>>, Collier Co. (SW), and NW <<http://jaxshells.org/nwfla.htm>> locality checklists.

Reid, D.G., 2009. The genus *Echinolittorina* Habe, 1956 (Gastropoda: Littorinidae) in the western Atlantic Ocean. *Zootaxa* 2184: 1-03. Aug. 6. Abstract at <<http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/2009/f/z02184p103f.pdf>>

JSC Field Trip to Matanzas Inlet, Florida in late July

Paul Jones

The Jacksonville Shell Club will embark on a pair of exciting minus tide walking/wading/snorkeling intertidal area shell collecting field trips to Matanzas Inlet, Florida in late July. The dates are Saturday, July 22nd and Sunday, July 23rd, 2017. Matanzas Inlet is located about fifteen miles south of St. Augustine on A1A about a mile or so north of Marineland (about 55 or so miles south of Jacksonville).

The low tides on those days will both hit in the afternoon time frame - 1:45 p.m. on the 22nd and 2:40 p.m. on the 23rd. Both will be minus tides hitting at about -.8 or so. We should plan to meet up about an hour and a half before the low tides actually hit to maximize our shell collecting time. There are loads of beautiful shells at the part of Matanzas Inlet that we will go to, including nerites, rock shells, horse conchs, orange banded tulips, true tulips and many species of bivalves among many others. Many other types of sea life can also be found in the area.

Things to bring along include: water/snacks, buckets, rakes and trowels; plastic ziplock bags for tiny shells; hats and loads of sun block for sun protection; umbrellas in case of rain and insect repellent. Snorkeling gear is optional and not required. Be sure to wear strong soled shoes though as there are many oysters in the areas we will go. NO flip flops or bare feet allowed!! Be advised there will be some walking involved and in some spots, rock jetties to get over.

Our meeting place will be the Kangaroo gas station right along A1A in Summerhaven, Florida (the only gas station in town!). From there, we will caravan the short distance to the collecting area. I will also go out with an email reminder to all when it gets closer and we will also assess weather situations. If anyone has questions or needs more information, please feel free to call or text me (Paul Jones) at (904-347-7254).



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