



SHELL-O-GRAM

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JACKSONVILLE SHELL CLUB, INC.

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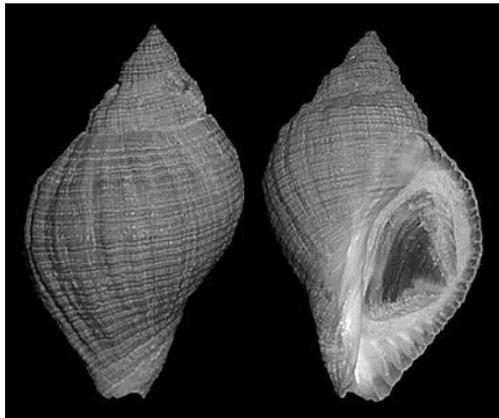
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May Meeting

The Thursday, May 23rd meeting of the Jacksonville Shell Club will be held at the Southeast Branch Public Library at 7:00 PM.

The educational program will be given by Harry Lee who will discuss antiquarian shell books. Harry will have many examples available for examination.

Pam Rice will present the Shell-Of-The-Month on *Stramonita haemastoma floridiana* (Conrad, 1837) [Florida Rocksnail] – a species she has frequently observed at Big Talbot Island State Park.



June Meeting

The Thursday, June 27th meeting of the Jacksonville Shell Club will be held at the usual time and place.

The educational program will be given by Dr. Roger Lloyd of the Florida Community College, Jacksonville who will give an account of our local cephalopods, including a very rare critter he has been studying for several years.

Bill Frank will present the Shell-Of-The-Month on *Spirula spirula* (Linnaeus, 1758) [Ram's Horn Squid] – a species he collected in the Florida Keys.



Duval County's Best Shelling Bets – Part II

Last issue we began this series with a look at Little Talbot Island State Park. In this second installment we continue southward along the Atlantic coastline and take a look at two additional shelling areas.

Huguenot Memorial Park - Ft. George, Florida

Located about seventeen miles east northeast from downtown Jacksonville, Huguenot Memorial Park is a 450-acre horseshoe shaped peninsula, surrounded by three bodies of water - Ft. George Inlet (north), [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 Member

Jeffery Ward
P.O. Box 104
Macclenny, FL 32063

Change Of Address

Anna Bechak
2359 Admiral Street
Aliquippa, PA 15001

JSC At Tree Hill Nature Center

On Sunday, May 5th, Jacksonville Shell Club members Claire Newsome and Barbara Moon, with moral support by your editor and wife Chin, staffed a club information/shell sales tables at the Tree Hill Nature Center (www.treehill.org) in Arlington as the facility celebrated its 30th anniversary by holding an open house.

For those not familiar with Tree Hill Nature Center, it is a non-profit wildlife preserve, encompassing some 50

acres of unspoiled forest, swamps, freshwater streams, gardens, nature trails, and exhibits, located just off Lone Star Road in the center of Arlington. For one who has driven by the preserve many times over the past three decades and never visited, the facility was a pleasant and unexpected surprise. Equally surprising was the large crowd that attended the day's four-hour event.

Due to early arrival (and great planning) by the aforementioned ladies, the club's tables and three Florida shell display boards were positioned just inside the centers entrance – a great location for public exposure. On the down side, it was also conveniently located in close proximity to a group of drummers that solicited public participation as they continued virtually non-stop for hours.

Although the purpose of the club's participation in the days celebration was to garner publicity for the club in general and the upcoming July shell show in particular, the sales tables also generated a profit of \$100 for the club treasury. For those of you who have never staffed the club sales tables, that equates to a lot of sales considering most items are priced less than 50 cents. Thanks to Claire and Barbara for a job "well-done."

Note: On the Internet see www.jaxshells.org/htree.htm.

Duval County's Best Shelling Bets [continued]

St. Johns River (south), and the Atlantic Ocean (east). The park is also referred to as the Big Jetties or North Jetties. These names come from the fact that the park offers access to the north St. Johns River Jetty rocks.

This is the only beach within Duval County where driving on the beach is permitted. Despite its advertised 450-acre area, because of the shifting of the Ft. George River Channel northward, it may now actually be a third larger. This is a very popular area with wind surfers and jet-ski enthusiasts and the entire park can become extremely crowded during the summer months - especially weekends.

Despite its seductive appearance on a map and variety of shelling habitats available (backwater, beach, jetty, flats, river channel), the whole area is disappointing as compared to other close-by areas. Like Little Talbot Island just across the Ft. George Inlet, the best shelling is 2-3 days after a "northeaster" or other similar rough seas. There are no restrictions on the collection of live shells.

Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park - Jacksonville, Florida

Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park, encompassing 450-acres on the sandy shores of the Atlantic Ocean, is located about 17 miles east of downtown Jacksonville - just south of Mayport Naval Station. The park has 1.5 miles of sandy beach and is noted for its fine surfing at an area

known as "The Poles" located immediately south of the Mayport Naval Station Beach. The actual "poles" have long ago succumbed to the vicissitudes of the sea.

This city-run park also provides access to the Mayport Naval Station Beach, which extends northward about 1.5 miles to the south St. Johns River Jetty. Crossing onto the Navy controlled beach during normal times is no problem. However, during periods of heightened security such as exist at the present time, the beach is guarded, and only those possessing appropriate identification will be permitted to enter. The park is a popular weekend destination and during the summer months can become quite crowded.

Mayport Naval Station Beach and the northern portion of Hanna Park are two of the most productive shelling areas in the county. But, like other northeast Florida beaches, it can be a hit-or-miss proposition (i.e. some days are very productive while on other days the beach can be devoid of shells). The best shelling is 2-3 days after a "northeaster" or other similar rough seas. The area known as "The Poles" can be especially productive due to a sea bottom/current anomaly which also produces the waves craved by the surfers. Some collector's items, which can occasionally be found, are *Pleuroploca gigantea* (Kiener, 1840), *Oliva sayana* form *citrina* Johnson, 1911 and albino *Busycotypus canaliculatus* (Linnaeus, 1758). The surfing Auger, *Hastula cinera salleana* (Deshayes, 1859), is quite prolific during the summer months while March/April are the prime months to collect *Epitonium*. Eleven *Epitonium* species have thus far been collected here. Don't overlook beached marsh grass that can yield a treasure trove of small crabbed specimens. One such tangle collected during 2000 yielded an amazing 3,952 shells representing 59 species (See: www.jaxshells.org/remarkab.htm). There are no restrictions on the collection of live shells.

Because of their proximity to the St. Johns River shipping channel, these two beaches are "renourished" about every two years during channel maintenance - an event that has had a disastrous effect on the living mollusk population.

Note: On the Internet see:

www.jaxshells.org/jaxshelle.htm

www.jaxshells.org/jaxshell1.htm

Editor's Note: Julius (Junkie) Fleischmann died in 1970. Born to great wealth (heir to the Nabisco fortune), he was well-educated and exhibited a remarkably modest manner as encouraged by his paternal grandfather, who arrived in the U.S. from Hungary essentially penniless. Instead of following the lifestyle of the characters of *The*

Great Gatsby (penned by his contemporary F. Scott Fitzgerald), Junkie pursued a more productive and challenging lifestyle, becoming a student of cultural anthropology - not an armchair, ivory tower type, but a field worker with a distinctly hands-on approach. Using his yacht, *Camargo* (which went through four reincarnations), he sailed the seven seas and immersed himself in the natural history, particularly the local culture, of places such as the Cocos Is. (off Costa Rica), New Hebrides, Solomon Is., New Guinea, Sri Lanka, and the Arabian peninsula. His diaries, most notably those written during his trip to Melanesia in the early 1930's chronicled societies which, for all practical purposes, have become extinct as a result of colonialism, W.W. II, and "globalization." His philanthropy was renowned, particularly in his native Cincinnati, where he supported numerous charitable causes, including the city's natural history museum - not just with money, but with the donation of hundreds of priceless artifacts, most notably of Melanesian origin. His collections also included shells (see Gertrude Moller's memoir below) and flowering plants, some of which formed the basis for Caribbean Gardens in Naples, Florida. It is gratifying to read how shell-collecting gave Junkie great pleasure, and it certainly no surprise that Gertrude Moller made her mark on this humble giant.

Remembrances Of Eleuthera

By Gertrude Moller

It was February 1956, and I was managing a small but lovely yacht club at Hatchet Bay Harbor, on the island of Eleuthera in the Bahamas, where we lived. I usually arrived at the club about 7:00 PM, but my husband came home about 6:00 PM and mentioned that before he left the club, two couples came in, but he couldn't recall their names. As they walked through the club door, the taller of the two gentlemen asked my husband if he knew whom on the island could take them on a "shelling trip." My husband answered, "You've come to the right place; my wife would be happy to take you."

Later that day when I arrived at the club, they introduced themselves as Donette and "Junkie" Fleischmann and their friends, the Haynes'es. I told them I'd be glad to pick them up at the dock the next morning and take them shelling if they "don't mind our '49 Ford." They didn't.

The next day when I arrived, they had gone to the nearby village and rounded up some natives to carry all the food for the day, since the beach to which I had planned to take them, required about a mile trip down a narrow dirt path, through thick bush, and as a result, it was like a regular "safari." Upon arrival at the beach, we five collectors spread out. I was at the waters' edge of

the Atlantic side, when all of a sudden “Junkie” called: “Gertrude come here a minute.” As I approached him near the sand dune in the shade, I presumed he had found something “very special.” In his palm he held a beautiful, tiny, bright, yellow half pecten. He said, and I’ll never forget this: “Gertrude, have ever seen anything so beautiful in your life?” This from a man who could have bought an entire island. I was very touched by his “human-ness.” On the way back to the dock where the beautiful ship “Camargo” was berthed, we had to go over a hill on the road, and our Ford couldn’t make it. To my embarrassment, the two men jumped out of the old car and began pushing us up the hill.

It was wonderful having been invited for cocktails and dinner on their beautiful ship. My husband was especially pleased, as their captain was from Denmark, as was he. The foursome stayed another day for shelling and, upon leaving on day three, promised they’d come back again.

One lovely day in February 1957, our family was having lunch when all of a sudden we heard a car approach. We thought it one of the natives who worked for my husband calling him about a problem at the powerhouse or dock or whatever. As I opened the front door, this man (Junkie) had already hurriedly jumped out of the taxi, and, with his arms wide open, yelled “Gertrude.” Another memorable moment and giving me another pleasant memory to cherish.

The next morning, after another enjoyable shelling trip the preceding afternoon, I wanted to give them something to remember me by. I went to a nearby salt pond and found a live adult sea horse, as I recalled seeing one of those large, rounded, old-fashioned fish aquaria aboard the *Camargo*.

After dinner that evening, De Witt Haynes had gone back to the huge “living room” exclaiming, “here comes another one.” I wondered whom she was talking to, and, lo and behold, the baby sea horses were floating all over the tank. I’m sure she never forgot that sight.

As they were leaving the next morning, I asked De Witt why Mr. Fleischmann asked me to call him “Junkie.” Her answer was, because he finds “junk” on all his world travels, for his “museum.” She also told me about “Caribbean Gardens” in Naples, Florida, which he founded and where he has a special all-glass “cathedral” for his orchids from all around the world.

This was truly a man whose warmth and interest in the world around him provided cherished legacies for many, many people.

Note: On the Internet see:

www.jaxshells.org/remb.htm

40th Annual Conch Shell Blowing Contest

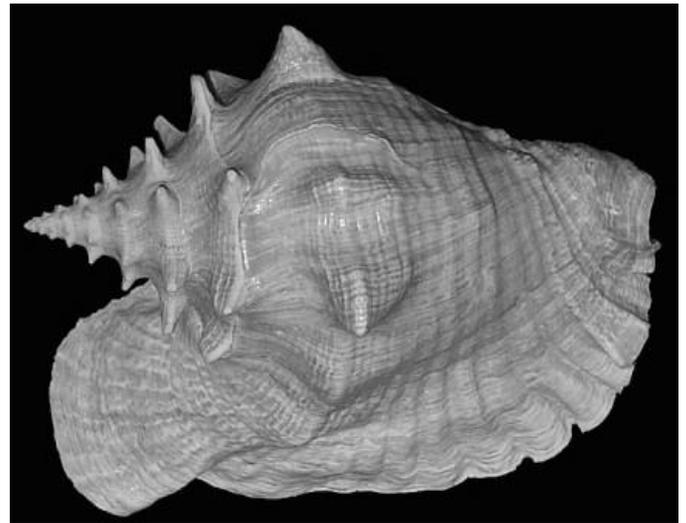
The 40th annual conch shell-blowing contest was held in Key West, Florida (Conch Republic) on March 24th. The competition was a highlight of Key West's Old Island Days celebration, commemorating the island's heritage and history.

Kathe Betz, a retired high school art teacher from Milwaukee, outperformed 40 contestants ranging in age from 4 to 92 to garner her win. Ms. Betz admitted her experience playing brass instruments since her college days was key in her victory.

The judges select the winner based upon clearness of tone, duration of sound, range, loudness and novelty.

Conch shells have been used as communications devices for hundreds of years, and the Calusa Indians, early residents of the Keys, once used conch shells for message transmission. A toot could mean a sign of distress or survival.

Editor’s Comments: While the word “conch” is a generic term, which can mean different things to different people; in the Florida Keys it is generally used to refer to *Strombus gigas* Linnaeus, 1758 [Queen Conch].



***Strombus gigas* Linnaeus, 1758 [Queen Conch]
Key West, Monroe Co., Florida Keys**