



SHELL-O-GRAM

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JACKSONVILLE SHELL CLUB, INC.

May-June, 2014

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The Club will meet on the usual day, customary venue, and traditional time (fourth Thursday, SE Branch Jax Public Library, 7:00 PM), May 22 and June 26, 2014.

As the May Shell-of-the-month Rick Edwards will present the extinct Pliocene fossil *Vasum (Hystrivasum) locklini* Olsson and Harbison, 1953, which he first collected during the activities preceding the July, 2013 Conchologists of America (COA) Convention. The striking shell of this species, which looks very little like anything living nowadays, is an "index fossil" for the Lower Pinecrest Beds. Rick will explain what that term means. Switching from the two (plus) inch Vase Shell to the 2 mm microfossils of the family Caecidae, Harry Lee will discuss the approximately one dozen species found in association with Rick's shell. There are some heretofore unseen species in this assemblage - and not just because of their size. The audience will be spared eyestrain thanks to the Dept. of Geology at UF, which provided access to its scanning electron microscope to produce greatly magnified images.

John Fatu will show, and tell about, the June Shell-of-the-month, *Thersistrombus thersites* (Swainson, 1823). John more-or-less rediscovered this beautiful stromb, in the waters of his native Tonga. His industry as a collector and shell dealer helped finance his college education back in the 1970's, and this species, found only rarely outside Tonga, figured big in his mercantilism. Charlotte Thorpe will provide us a sneak preview of a program she was invited to give at the upcoming 2014 COA Convention (August 9-15). She will discuss mollusks she collected and otherwise observed in the offshore waters of North Carolina to the Florida Keys. Since the convention is in that state of North Carolina, her presentation figures to be a real highlight in a symposium which is centered on this fauna.



Thersistrombus thersites (Swainson, 1823)

Jacksonville Shell Club, Inc.
1010 N. 24th Street
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
Editor: Charlotte M. Thorpe ... E-mail: charlloyd@bellsouth.net
Assistant Editor - Harry G. Lee ... Email: shells@hglee.com

This club meets each month at the Southeast Branch of the Jacksonville Public Library, 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd., Jacksonville, Florida. Please address any correspondence to the club's address above. The *Shell-O-Gram* is issued bimonthly and mailed to all regular members. Annual membership dues are \$15.00 individual and \$20.00 family (domestic) and \$25.00 (foreign). Lifetime membership is available. Please send checks for dues to the above address and made out to the Jacksonville Shell Club. We encourage members to submit articles for this publication. 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.

PLANNING FOR OUR 2014 SHELL SHOW: July 10-13th. by Charlotte Thorpe 246-0874

Looks like it is time to bring all our members together and to see where everyone can help with our 2014 Shell Show. Here is a list of activities for our members:

Publicity: give out Posters and our advertising Shell Show hand-outs. We also need members to continue to advertize our Show. Be willing to drop off flyers at well-known shops that have shell items. We need to have our Shell Show on radio, TV, and newspapers. If you have any ideas get in touch with Chere Bernard at 654-8090 or email: shellwedecorate@yahoo.com.

Set Up/ Break Down: We can use any members who are willing to help with Setting Up our Show on July 10th and when the Show closes - breaking down. We will also need strong robust members to give Claire a hand in getting items from the storeroom to the Show and then back to our storage area. Give her a call: Cell: 400-1456.

Hospitality: Message from Billie: "Hello Everybody! Each year the club has a "hospitality" area during the shell show to provide a light lunch for our exhibitors dealers and members. We ask our members to bring sandwiches, salads, finger foods and drinks (especially water) to help defray the cost to the club. We serve lunch on Friday and Saturday, leftovers on Sunday. Please help us again. Try and bring something each day if you can. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. If you know what you will bring, give me a call 241-3755 so that everything can be coordinated. Everybody looks forward to our "hospitality". Thanks for your help. Best, Billie

Name Tags: Needed for our members and for exhibitors taking part in the Show. We will need the names and Town - State of our visiting exhibitors. Our members should also wear their name tags during the Show. We need someone who will be in charge of Name Tags. Please call Char: 246-0874 - she will buy the needed items.

Silent Auction: We will need LOTS of specimen shells, items that have shell designs, shell jewelry, shell and marine life books. This is one of our means to bring money to the club so that we do not have to have visitors paying to get in to the Show. Call Barbara Cathy for details; 737-4708.

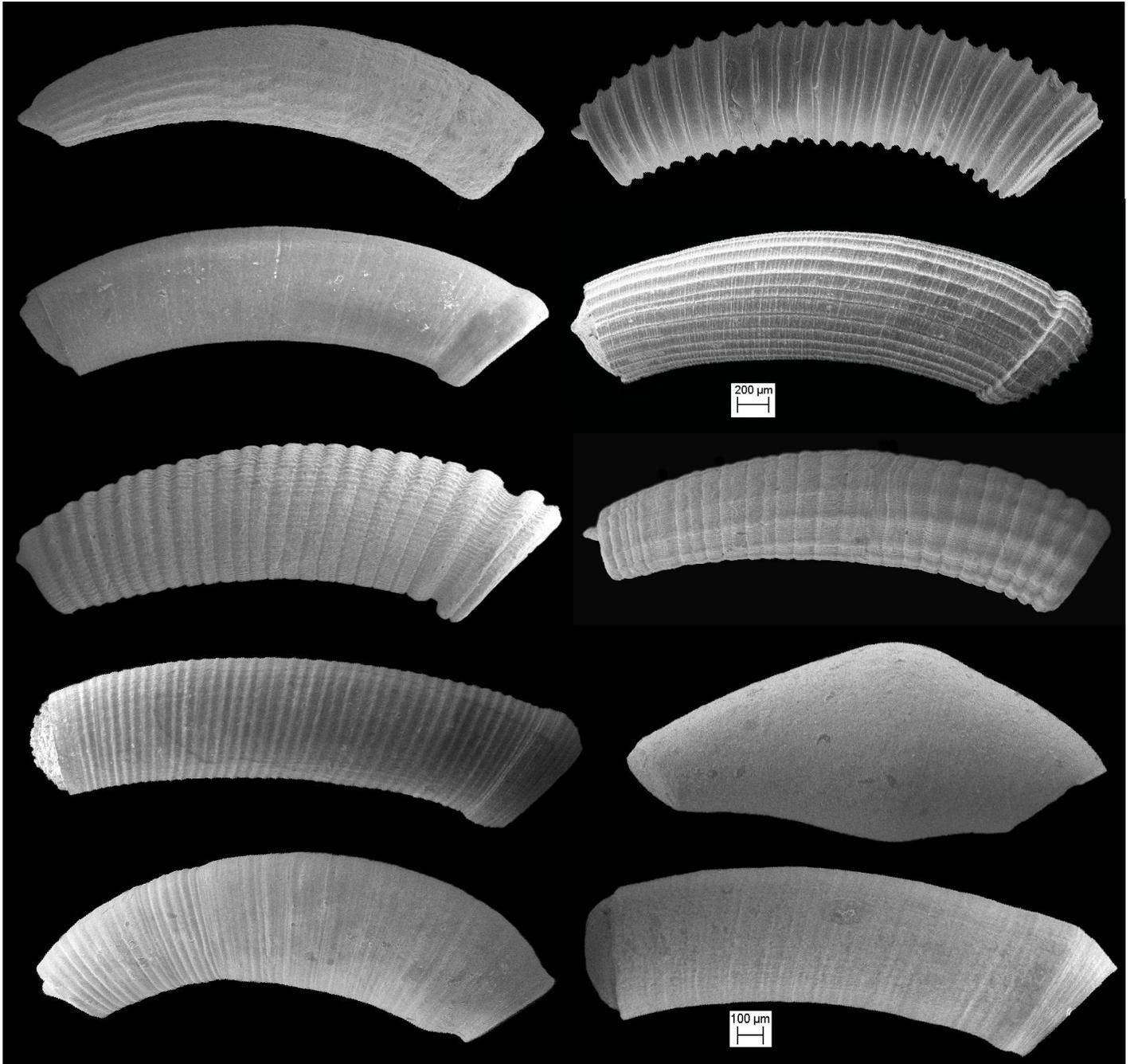
Door Prizes: WHO would like to have this job??? We need YOU! I have about 20 shell items to donate, but we need someone to announce the winners over the microphone every hour. Call Charlotte 246-0874.

Shell Store: We will need Shell Store helpers for the 3 days of the Show. Get in touch with Carmella Mastronardi, 724-0768 home phone; cell: 502-6379; email: camastro@bellsouth.net. Just having members work in the Shell Store for a few hours a day would be very helpful. We will also ask members to bring to the Shell Store any nice shells they would like to donate.

Have any other questions?? Give Charlotte a call at 246-0874.

Caecidae (Gastropoda: Rissooidea) of the Lower Pinecrest Beds, Upper Tamiami Formation exposed by the excavations at SMR Mine Phase 10, Sarasota County, Florida

This photo-essay will simply present scanning electron micrographs (SEM's) of the caecids recovered from substantial volumes of sediment excavated from Phase 10 of the SMR Aggregates mining operation in northern Sarasota Co., Florida. Some appear similar (? identical) to Recent, now referred to as Holocene, species while others seem to have disappeared in the last 3,000,000 years.



Ocean acidity is dissolving shells of tiny snails off U.S. West Coast

April 30, 2014 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Bioologists have found the first evidence that acidity of continental shelf waters off the U.S. West Coast is dissolving the shells of tiny free-swimming marine snails, called pteropods, which provide food for pink salmon, mackerel and herring, according to a new article.

First evidence of marine snails from the natural environment along the U.S. West



Coast with signs that shells are dissolving. NOAA-led research team has found the first evidence that acidity of continental shelf waters off the West Coast is dissolving the shells of tiny free-swimming marine snails, called pteropods, which provide food for pink salmon, mackerel and herring, according to a new paper published in *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*

Our findings are the first evidence that a large fraction of the West Coast pteropod population is being affected by ocean acidification," said Nina Bednarsek, Ph.D., of NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle, the lead author of the paper. "Dissolving coastal pteropod shells point to the need to study how acidification may be affecting the larger marine ecosystem. These nearshore waters provide essential habitat to a great diversity of marine species, including many economically important fish that support coastal economies and provide us with food."

The term "ocean acidification" describes the process of ocean water becoming corrosive as a result of absorbing nearly a third of the carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere from human sources. This change in ocean chemistry is affecting marine life, particularly organisms with calcium carbonate skeletons or shells, such as corals, oysters, mussels, and small creatures in the early stages of the food chain such as pteropods. The pteropod is a free-swimming snail found in oceans around the world that grows to a size of about one-eighth to one-half inch.

The research team, which also included scientists from NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center and Oregon State University, found that the highest percentage of sampled pteropods with dissolving shells were along a stretch of the continental shelf from northern Washington to central California, where 53 percent of pteropods sampled using a fine mesh net had severely dissolved shells. The ocean's absorption of human-caused carbon dioxide emissions is also increasing the level of corrosive waters near the ocean's surface where pteropods live.

"We did not expect to see pteropods being affected to this extent in our coastal region for several decades," said William Peterson, Ph.D., an oceanographer at NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center and one of the paper's co-authors. "This study will help us as we compare these results with future observations to analyze how the chemical and physical processes of ocean acidification are affecting marine organisms."

"Acidification of our oceans may impact marine ecosystems in a way that threatens the sustainability of the marine resources we depend on," said Libby Jewett, Director of the NOAA Ocean Acidification Program. "Research on the progression and impacts of ocean acidification is vital to understanding the consequences of our burning of fossil fuels." The research drew upon a West Coast survey by the NOAA Ocean Acidification Program in August 2011, that was conducted onboard the R/V *Wecoma*, owned by the National Science Foundation and operated by Oregon State University.