



# SHELL-O-GRAM

Official Publication of the  
**JACKSONVILLE SHELL CLUB, INC.**

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November-December 2008

Volume 49 no. 6

### Programs

This being November, instead of the fourth Thursday (Thanksgiving), the club will meet on the third Thursday, Nov. 20, at the usual time (7:00 PM) and place. Owing to popular demand and added discoveries, Charlotte Thorpe will present a much-expanded version of her northwest Gulf of Mexico trip. Many of the findings of this expedition are scientific novelties and will be published in an upcoming article in *American Conchologist*, the official organ of the Conchologists of America. Harry Lee will report on *Cymatium rehderi* A. H. Verrill, 1950 (Twisted Triton), the Shell-of-the-month.

The annual JSC Christmas party will be held at Harry and Kitty Lee's on Saturday, Dec. 6. Plan to arrive at 7:00 PM. Their place is the ninth house on the right side of Ortega Forest Drive after entering from Roosevelt Blvd. immediately south of the bridge over the Ortega River (just south of Roosevelt Mall; also see map). The no. "4132" is visible at driveway entrance. As has become customary, each attending member should bring a shell-related gift (about \$10.00 in value) for a member of the same gender (the method of distribution will be made apparent later). The club will provide a ham, a fowl, and beverage set-ups. BYOB and a covered dish. Call Harry at (904) 389 4049 or email <shells@hglee.com> for further details. A map to the Christmas party is located on the next page.

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### Cedar Key Field Trip

The dates for the JSC fieldtrip are December 11 - 14. Normally, we try to stay at the Beachfront Motel (Phone 866-543-5113). Rates vary according to the size and location of your room. If you mention that you are with the JSC, there is a discount for the rooms. With such good minus low tides other shell clubs will likely be there also. It will be a good idea to make your reservations as early as possible. On Friday evening we will gather at the Thorpe's room for sea food chowder. Everybody please bring something to go with the chowder or a dessert. We always have a fun time so make plans to come and join us!

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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 is sent to the above address.

**Beach Shelling and Learning  
 about our local Beaches**

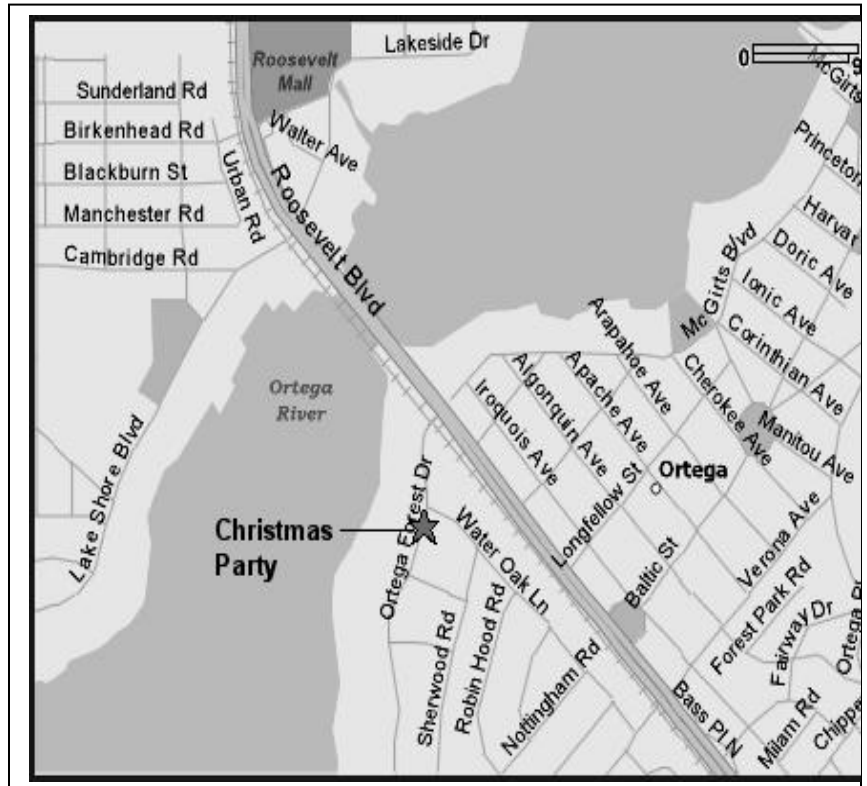
Rick Edwards will be conducting shell walks for the GTMNERR (Guana Environmental Education Center) on November 15. If you are new to the area or are a novice collector, you may wish to consider one these guided beach walks. For information on time and meeting place contact the Environmental Center at 904-823-4500. A \$3.00 parking fee does apply to park in the beach parking lot.

President's Corner

Hello Everybody!

I hope that all is well with everyone. Don't forget the planned trip to Cedar Key. See you at the next meeting.

Best, Billie  
 241-3755

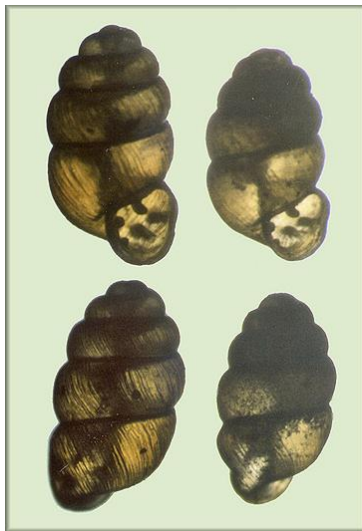


**Membership Dues are Due Now**  
**Please send in your dues: Individual \$15.00 Family \$20.00 to**  
**Charlotte Thorpe**  
**1010 24<sup>th</sup> St. N**  
**Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250**  
**Want to know your due date? Look at your S-O-G address tag and if the date has passed or is close to today's date -Your Dues are Due**

## Growing the Bennington Co., Vermont landsnail inventory. A testimonial to armchair collecting by Harry G. Lee

The writer has amassed a sizeable collection of Bennington Co. landsnails over the last 47 years (Lee, 2004a, b; 2008 a, b) – with each of six major collection campaigns (1961; 2003-2007) the list of species grew. However, with a robust 52 species on the record already, this year (May 22-26) it seemed the principle of diminishing returns might finally be imposed and terminate the skein of successes that marked this reiterative reconnaissance. In fact, after the final processing of soil samples, it appeared the string of victories was broken - nothing different was found.

Nothing different indeed. A bit miffed by the apparent shutout with the May, 2008 material, the writer followed his own advice and pored over the rest of the remainder of this county's productions - the already-curated stuff: about 2,000 specimens from nearly two dozen stations comprising about 200 lots. Armed with some good literature (notably Nekola, 2004 and Pilsbry, 1919, 1946) and his microscope, he looked at virtually every specimen. *Mirabile dictu!* There were surprises to be had. After sorting, resorting, reading more, sorting and resorting ... well, you get the idea, not one, nor two, but **three** species emerged from concealment amongst look-alike congeners in the shelly "archives," and two of the three had actually traveled to Florida *incognito* amongst the May harvest.



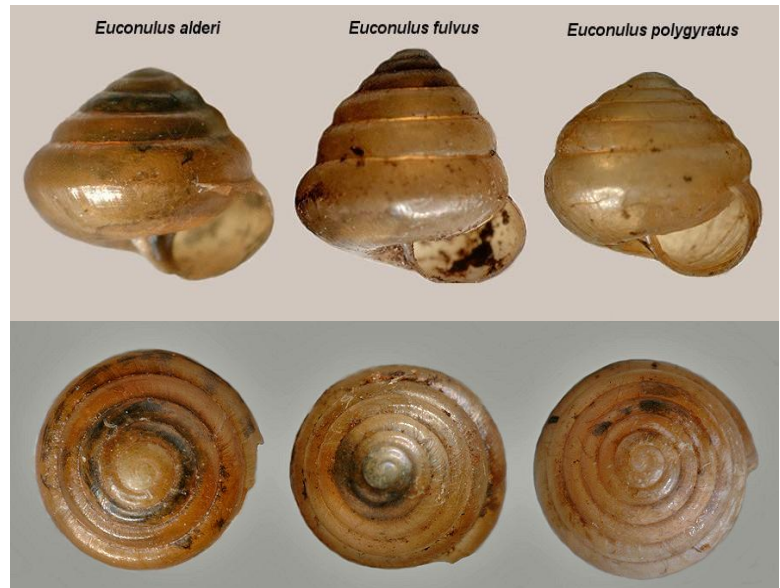
The first "stowaway" was *Vertigo bollesiana* (Morse, 1865), the delicate *Vertigo*. Its shells intermixed with no less than three lots labeled "*V. gouldii*\* (Binney, 1843), the Variable *Vertigo*." The distinction between these two species was apparently questioned until Henry Pilsbry (1919: 101-102), attributing this comparison to Morse, wrote: "it [*V. bollesiana*] is smaller, lighter-colored and more translucent than *V. gouldii*, and it is less distinctly striated [H.A.P. italics]. The teeth are smaller, especially the palatals." Pilsbry also noted the "rather large oblique depression over the palatal fold." **The figure on the left** shows *V. gouldii* (1.85 mm) on the L and *V. bollesiana* (1.65 mm) on the R. All of the features Pilsbry (Morse) cited are evident. Particularly stark is the lateral sulcus just behind the outer lip seen in the dorsal perspective (lower right image). Surprisingly, this view has never appeared in the literature. Although the distinction of these two species is not a slam dunk, once the "search image" kicked in, dozens of specimens of *V. bollesiana* were identified and removed from the generally larger, slightly less

common *V. gouldii*, placed in new capsules and vials, and relabelled. The illustrated shells were collected together in leaf litter in mixed woods near the marble quarry swimming area in the valley of the West Branch of the Batten Kill, E side of VT Rte. 30, 1.6 mi. SE Dorset, Bennington Co., VT by H. Lee on 11 Sept., 2004 (see Lee, 2004b for details of that station).

The genus *Euconulus*, known as Hives in the vernacular, has always been an irksome taxon for the writer and likely the vast majority of American landsnail enthusiasts. There are very few characters to analyze as the shells are, at first glance, lacking in sculpture and of a monotonous shape. Distinctions among species are subtle and not usually well-expressed in the literature. Consequently, published identifications and species distributions are open to skepticism in many instances. With admitted reluctance, the writer tackled an analysis of the nearly dozen lots of VT Hive shells accumulated over the years.

Despite problems presented by a predominance of immature shells, certain features eventually emerged from the rote process of nearly random Hive study. Firstly, there was a difference in the tightness of coil. Shells of the dominant upland (as in mountain marble quarry) form had more whorls in shells of comparable diameter. Secondly, many of the lowland forms (collected close to the bank of the Batten Kill's West Fork) were quite glossy – particularly on their bases. By comparison the upland tightly-wound shells were distinctly matte or silky in texture. Thirdly, among the glossier, less tightly-wound shells some had higher profiles than others, were of paler coloration, had more subdued spiral grooving on their bases, and, even in the freshest condition, were a little less glossy than the squat forms. Whereas the dark, squat, glossy, striate form was limited to the Batten Kill stations, the taller, loosely coiled, semi-glossy morph seemed to occur in modest numbers in a variety of habitats.

Nekola (2004: 29, 31) seems to have been the first to recognize a “trichotomy” in northern US *Euconulus*. Analyzing a phenomenal 242 sites personally collected in NE Wisconsin and the adjacent southern Upper Peninsula of Michigan (slightly overlapping the latitude of Bennington Co., VT), he recognized the European species *E. alderi* (Gray, 1840), the Shiny Hive, as well as *E. fulvus* (Müller, 1774), the Wild Hive, and *E. polygyratus* (Pilsbry, 1899), the Fat Hive. The last of these was for years regarded as a subspecies of *E. fulvus*. Reconciliation of Nekola's descriptions with the figures and text of Pilsbry (1946: 235-242) and the British work by Kerney and Cameron (1979: 148-149) indicated that the three names were applicable to the Vermont snails that had been considered all *E. fulvus* previously. **The figure above, right** demonstrates these three species with Bennington Co., VT specimens (L to R: *E. alderi*, *E. fulvus*, and *E. polygyratus*; all about 2.5 mm in diameter).



**The figure above, right** demonstrates these three species with Bennington Co., VT specimens (L to R: *E. alderi*, *E. fulvus*, and *E. polygyratus*; all about 2.5 mm in diameter).

Thus “armchair collecting” proved itself as an indispensable complement to work in the field. It preserved the unbroken VT “string” and allowed the cumulative list to grow from 52 to 55 native species (see below). To paraphrase Mark Twain, there is more than one way to find a snail!

#### Cumulative list of landsnails collected in Bennington Co., VT (1961-2008)

##### ***Carychium exile* H. C. Lea, 1842 Ice Thorn**

*Carychium exiguum* (Say, 1822) Obese Thorn

*Cochlicopa lubrica* (Müller, 1774) Glossy Pillar

##### ***Cochlicopa morseana* (Doherty, 1878) Appalachian Pillar**

##### ***Columella simplex* (Gould, 1841) Toothless Column**

*Gastrocopta armifera* (Say, 1821) Armed Snaggletooth

*Gastrocopta contracta* (Say, 1822) Bottleneck Snaggletooth

***Gastrocopta corticaria* (Say, 1817) Bark Snaggletooth**

*Gastrocopta pentodon* (Say, 1822) Comb Snaggletooth  
***Gastrocopta tappaniana* (C.B. Adams, 1841) White Snaggletooth**  
*Pupilla muscorum* (Linnaeus, 1758) Widespread Column  
*Pupoides albilabris* (C.B. Adams, 1841) White-lip Dagger  
***Vertigo bollesiana* (Morse, 1865) Delicate Vertigo**  
***Vertigo elatior* Sterki, 1894 Tapered Vertigo**  
***Vertigo gouldii* (A. Binney, 1843) Variable Vertigo**  
*Vertigo ovata* Say, 1822 Ovate Vertigo  
***Vertigo pygmaea* (Draparnaud, 1801) Crested Vertigo**  
***Vertigo ventricosa* (E. S. Morse, 1865) Five-tooth Vertigo**  
***Vallonia costata* (Müller, 1774) Costate Vallonia**  
***Vallonia excentrica* Sterki, 1893 Iroquois Vallonia**  
***Vallonia pulchella* (Müller, 1774) Lovely Vallonia**  
*Haplotrema concavum* (Say, 1821) Gray-foot Lancetooth  
*Punctum minutissimum* (I. Lea, 1841) Small Spot  
*Helicodiscus parallelus* (Say, 1817) Compound Coil  
***Helicodiscus shimelki* Hubricht, 1962 Temperate Coil**  
*Anguispira alternata* (Say, 1817) Flamed Tigersnail  
*Discus catskillensis* (Pilsbry, 1896) Angular Disc  
***Discus whitneyi* (Newcomb, 1864) Forest Disc**  
*Catinella vermeta* (Say, 1829) Suboval Ambersnail  
***Novisuccinea ovalis* (Say, 1817) Oval Ambersnail**  
*Oxyloma retusum* (I. Lea, 1834) Blunt Ambersnail  
***Euconulus alderi* (Gray, 1840) Shiny Hive; first record from New England!**  
*Euconulus fulvus* (Müller, 1774) Brown Hive  
***Euconulus polygyratus* (Pilsbry, 1899) Fat Hive**  
***Guppya sterkii* Dall, 1888) Tiny Granule; first record from New England!**  
*Glyphyalinia indentata* (Say, 1823) Carved Glyph  
*Glyphyalinia rhoadsi* (Pilsbry, 1889) Sculpted Glyph  
***Glyphyalinia wheatleyi* (Bland, 1883) Bright Glyph**  
*Hawaiiia minuscula* (A. Binney, 1841) Minute Gem  
*Mesomphix cupreus* (Rafinesque, 1831) Copper Button  
***Mesomphix inornatus* (Say, 1821) Plain Button**  
***Nesovitrea binneyana* (E. S. Morse, 1864) Blue Glass**  
*Nesovitrea electrina* (Gould, 1841) Amber Glass  
***Paravitrea multidentata* (A. Binney, 1840) Dentate Supercoil**  
*Striatura exigua* (Stimpson, 1850) Ribbed Striate  
*Striatura ferrea* E. S. Morse, 1864 Black Striate  
*Striatura milium* (E. S. Morse, 1859) Fine-ribbed Striate  
*Zonitoides arboreus* (Say, 1817) Quick Gloss  
***Zonitoides nitidus* (Müller, 1774) Black Gloss**  
***Vitrina angelicae* Beck, 1837 Eastern Glass-snail**  
*Appalachina sayana* (Pilsbry, 1906) Spike-lip Crater  
*Euchemotrema fraternum* (Say, 1821) Upland Pillsnail  
*Neohelix albolabris* (Say, 1817) Whitelip

*Triodopsis tridentata* (Say, 1817) Northern Threetooth  
*Xolotrema denotatum* (Férussac, 1821) Velvet Wedge

55 species; 27 new county records in **bold**, of which 13 are new state records (indented) vs. Hubricht (1985).

\* Amos Binney (1843: 105) named his new species *Pupa gouldii*. Although many later authors have rendered the species epithet "gouldi," that spelling constitutes an incorrect subsequent spelling or an unjustified emendation, and the binomen *Vertigo gouldi* is unavailable for purposes on taxonomic nomenclature (ICZN, 1999: 42-43; Article 33.3 and 33.4).

Binney, A., 1843. A critical notice on the species of Pupa found in the United States. *Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist* 1:104-105. March 15.

Hubricht, L., 1985. The distributions of the native land mollusks of the Eastern United States. *Fieldiana* 24(1359): pp. 1-191 + viii. June 28.

International Commission for Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN), 1999. *International code of zoological nomenclature fourth edition*. pp. 1-306 + i-xxix.

Kerney, M.P. and R.A.D. Cameron, 1979. *A field guide to the land snails of Britain and northwest Europe*. Collins, London. Pp. 1-288 + 22 color plates.

Lee, H.G., 2004a. Advancing Vermont malacology -or- finding lime recycled after half a billion years of mineral inertia. *Shell-O-Gram* 45(1): 2-5. Jan.-Feb. <<http://www.jaxshells.org/vermont.htm>>.

Lee, H.G., 2004b. Marble quarry/natatorium also produces conchological gold. *Shell-O-Gram* 45(5): 6-8. Sept-Dec. <<http://www.jaxshells.org/vermontnew.htm>>.

Lee, H.G., 2008a. Five years later new discoveries continue in the Vermont "Reunion Roundup. *Shell-O-Gram* 49(2): 3-6. March-April. <<http://www.jaxshells.org/vermont07.htm>>.

Lee, H.G., 2008b. ["September, 2006 - June, 2007"]. Native snail surveys in Bennington County, Vermont. *New York Shell Club Notes* 377: 8-15. April. <<http://www.jaxshells.org/vermont06.htm>>.

Morse, E.S., 1865. *Annals Lyc. Nat. Hist. N. Y.* 8: 209, figs. 4-6. [not seen]

Nekola, J.C., 2004. Terrestrial gastropod fauna of northeastern Wisconsin and the southern upper peninsula of Michigan. *American Malacological Bulletin* 18(1-2): 21-44. May 7.

Pilsbry, H.A., 1918-20. *Manual of Conchology (second series)*. 25. Pupillidae (Gastrocoptinae, Vertigininae). Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. ix + 1-401 + 34 pls. Nov. 5 to Apr.

Pilsbry, H. A., 1946. *Land Mollusca of North America (north of Mexico) vol. 2 part 1*. Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. vii + pp 1- 520. Dec. 6.

Photography by the author and David Kirsh; image editing by Bill Frank.

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### School Shell Kits

We have 4 complete kits and a 5<sup>th</sup> nearly complete. We are still looking for suggestions as to what the teacher's guide should include and what format. Samples and suggestions would be appreciated.

**School Shell Kits.****If you have extras you can spare, bring them to a meeting.**

1. **Knobbed Whelk** *Busycon carica* (Gmelin, 1791)
2. **Lightning Whelk** *Busycon sinstrum* Hollister, 1958
3. **Pear Whelk** *Busycotypus spiratus* (Lamarck, 1816)
4. **Shark Eye** *Neverita duplicata* (Say, 1822)
5. **True Tulip** *Fasciolaria tulipa* (Linnaeus, 1758)
6. **Eastern Banded Tulip** *Fasciolaria hunteria* (G. Perry, 1811)
7. **Crown Conch** *Melongena corona* (Gmelin, 1791)
8. **Lettered Olive** *Oliva sayana* Ravenel, 1834
9. **Florida Rocksnail** *Stramonita haemastoma floridana* (Conrad, 1837)
10. **Horse Conch** *Triplofusus giganteus* (Kiener, 1840)
11. **Eastern Auger** *Terebra dislocata* (Say, 1822)
12. **Eastern Mudsnail** *Ilyanassa obsoleta* (Say, 1822)
13. **Thick-lip Drill** *Eupleura caudata* (Say, 1822)
14. **Common Atlantic Slippersnail** *Crepidula fornicata* (Linnaeus, 1758)
15. **White Baby Ear** *Sinum perspectivum* (Say, 1831)
16. **Channeled Duckclam** *Raeta plicatella* (Lamarck, 1818)
17. **Disk Dosina** *Dosinia discus* (Reeve, 1850)
18. **Common Jingle** *Anomia simplex* dOrbigny, 1832
19. **Incongruous Ark** *Anadara brasiliana* (Lamarck, 1819)
20. **Green Mussel** *Perna viridis* (Linnaeus, 1758)