



SHELL-O-GRAM

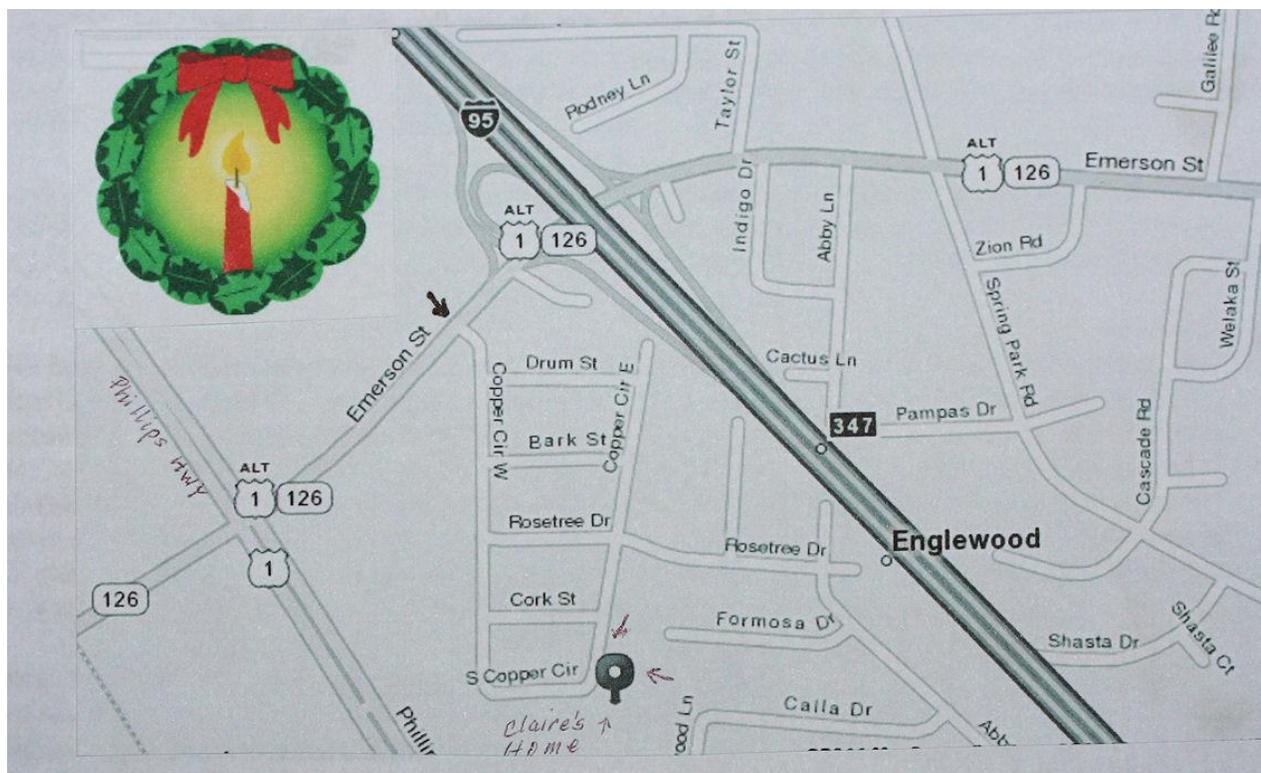
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JACKSONVILLE SHELL CLUB, INC.

November-December, 2011 _____ Volume 52 no. 6

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, November 16** at the usual time and place (Southeast Branch Public Library, 7:00 PM). Brian Marshall will be providing a slide show presentation of shells from Okinawa. Some photos were taken of the shells completely *au naturel*. We'll have some fun with it and see if we can name all these shells, of which some are hiding behind their mantles, perio- and various growths. Brian says he looks forward to seeing all who attend and hopes you will all enjoy the photographs of these beautiful gems of the Pacific. The Shell-of-the-Month will be *Prunum pruinosum* (Hinds, 1844), one of the "Snowflake Marginella" group, which Charlotte Thorpe collected in the shallow Caribbean waters surrounding Roatan, Honduras. Char will also show how to distinguish it from its close relatives living in the western Atlantic.

There will not be a regular meeting in December. Instead we will have a **Christmas Party** hosted by Claire Newsome at her home on **Saturday December 10th at 6:30PM**. Claire's address is: 3875 Copper Circle East, Jacksonville, FL 32207; **see map below**. Call her at 398-6383 for more information on what to bring.

The club will supply the ham and turkey and drink mixers, and everyone attending is asked to bring an hors d'oeuvre, or a side dish for dinner, or a dessert. We will have our usual gift exchange with an emphasis on "shell-related". We look forward to having all of our members attend this celebration.



We realize that the forced rescheduling of the Club's meetings from Thursday to Wednesday has proven a hardship for several members over the last few months. **Now the JSC can look forward to resuming our fourth Thursday arrangement beginning with January 24, 2012.**

Jacksonville Shell Club Inc., 1010 24th St. N., Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250-2883
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Assistant Editor, Harry G. Lee; email: shells@hglee.com or 904-389-4049

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 emailed or USPS mailed to all regular members. Annual membership dues are \$15.00 for individuals or \$20.00 for families (domestic) and \$25.00 (foreign). Lifetime membership is available. Please send checks to the above address and made out to the Jacksonville Shell Club, Inc. For members that use PayPal, you can now go to PayPal to pay your dues. Use neflshells@bellsouth.net as the address and be sure to add a note with your name.

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 from this newsletter 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.

President's Message:

Dear Shell Club Members,

It is with great pleasure that I have been handed the honor of being elected President of the Jacksonville Shell Club for the upcoming year. I am sure many of you have been conspiring towards this achievement for quite some time! Lots of laughs... In all seriousness, I am due to put forth this contribution to the club and I am both grateful for and look forward to the opportunity. I feel our number one priority this year is to focus on what I am sure has been lingering in everyone's minds for some time. That would be attracting new members. I am confident we can collectively explore the challenges, find ways to curb those challenges, and determine strategies to both attract and retain members. I recently had an effortless and enjoyable experience that I will share with everyone at the November meeting regarding this matter. Please take some time to contemplate this topic for discussion.

In our last meeting we unanimously voted in our officers and Board Members as follows: Rick Edwards, Claire Newsome, Tab Parker, and Jeff Ward. Additionally, President (Brian Marshall), Vice President (Harry Lee), Secretary (Mary Reynolds), Treasurer (Charlotte Thorpe), and Barbara Cathey (Immediate Past President) are *ex officio* members of the board.

We have a couple of activities nearing that we will be finalizing at the November 16th meeting. There will be a Cedar Key Field Trip scheduled primarily for November 25th and 26th. Additionally, we have the upcoming Shell Club Christmas Party in December. We may also need to have some discussion and decisions regarding the possibility of a Shell Show for 2012, should further information be available. Before all this business, I will be providing a slide show presentation of shells from Okinawa. Some photos were taken of the shells in their pre-intervention disposition. We'll have some fun with it and see if we can name all these shells, of which some are hiding behind their mantles, perio and various growths. I look forward to seeing all that attend and hope you will all enjoy the photographs of these beautiful gems of the Pacific.
Brian Marshall dusaveli@gmail.com 904.655.7738
(Interested in the Cedar Key field trip? Contact Brian at the email or telephone number above.)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

DeGraeve, Bob & Mel, 9401 Dice Lane, Lenexa, KS, 66215 913-271-6583 dhcklbrry@aol.com
Linn, Robert & Patricia, 1100 Curlew Rd. Lot 36, Dunedin, FL 34698 727-735-9813
Stewart, Josh, and Teresa G., 6224 N. Lagoon Dr., Panama City Beach, FL 32408, 478-213-3015
asweetdiversion@aol.com cell

Message from Selma and Andy Hutchinson

Dear Friends,



Our shelling days are over. We are not able to do what we use to do. Andy and I will miss our great and happy times on field trips, especially the ones to Carrabelle Island's scallop dumps. One day Andy and I were digging in the driveway near Julia Mae's Restaurant, when a man on a bike came up and said, "What are you 'all doing? Getting a few shells?" He said, "Go over that bridge to Port St. Joe and get all the shells you want!" We did - and I got my favorite, Junonias."

Sometimes Andy and I start laughing about the Good Old Times". We also loved the Shell Shows too.

So friends, so long for now and Thanks for the Memories!

Sincerely,
Selma Junonia and Andy Wentletrap

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Cypraeacassis testiculus (Linnaeus, 1758) by Charlotte Thorpe

In 2006 while snorkeling at night on a reef in 8-12 feet of water at Winding Bay in Eleuthera Bahamas I watched *C. testiculus* drill purple sea urchins. I collected specimens 1 & 2 at that time. Below are specimens **left to right - Figures 1-2 and 3**. Shell #1 is shown live below. Shell #3 is from the Bahamas.

This shell is the only *Cypraeacassis* species in the Western Atlantic and it is easy to identify. It has a broad ovate body, with a low wide spire and about 10-12 shallow spiral grooves crossed by narrow axial ridges on the body whorl. The dorsal surface of the specimens 1 (51mm) & 2 (54mm) from Eleuthera are a rosy-pink color with maroon chevron-shaped markings. Whereas the smaller Bimini Bahamas specimen(46mm.) has a pinkish lighter dorsum with blotches rather than chevrons. All have a wide parietal shield with low plaits on the length of the long narrow aperture. The thickened outer lip has teeth the entire length and crossed by orange bars that coincide with the dark blackish spots on the outer lip. Live specimens are rarely seen during the day.



Land Snail *Hemiplecta distincta* (Pfeiffer, 1851)
Giant Asian Land Snail

This is a synopsis of a report that was written in the Triton Newsletter No. 21 March 2010. The report is written about the first interception of the edible land snail *Hemiplecta distincta* at an airport in Israel.

A batch of 23 living snails was discovered during a check of the luggage of a temporary laborer arriving at the Ben Gurion Airport from Thailand. This species is a well-known intermediate host of the Rat lungworm *Angiostrongylus cantonensis*, which can infect humans. The ministry of Agriculture in Israel maintains permanent control posts at the places of entrance to Israel, airports, harbors, and land border crossings with some posts operating 24 hours a day.

The person from Bangkok who tried to enter Israel with 23 fairly large land snails admitted that he transported them to grow them for consumption. Among the local people *Hemiplecta distincta* (photo below) is intensively exploited as a food source in spite of the fact that the snails are known to serve as an intermediate or parasitic host. The parasitic Rat lungworm may cause meningoencephalitic angiostrongylosis or parasitic meningoencephalitis in human beings. The snails are collected in the wild and are either used for local consumption or are sent to markets in other parts of Thailand.



This snail may be considered a nocturnal species which feeds on a large variety of foods including not only fresh green leaves, fruit, fungi, and algae, but also decaying plant material, dead animals and soil. It is not certain that *H. distincta* will be able to establish a population under natural conditions in Israel. However, that was also the general opinion when they were first confronted with *Achatina fulica* the Giant African snail. Of much concern is the possibility that populations of these snails may become the focus for the transmission of the Rat lungworm *Angiostrongylus cantonensis* in Israel, an unwanted, dangerous parasite.

Excerpts from the October 17, 2011 - Newspaper article from club member Gary Gordon , Warner Robbins Ga.

Spiny mussel added to endangered species list

Georgia species found only in Ocmulgee and Altamaha rivers

The mysterious Altamaha spiny mussel is becoming the latest Middle Georgia addition to the endangered list. The Endangered Species Act makes it illegal to kill or harm listed species and directs federal wildlife officers to help it recover. The Wildlife Service is designating critical habitat along the upper Altamaha, lower Ocmulgee and Ohoopsee rivers in Appling, Ben Hill, Coffee, Jeff Davis, Long, Montgomery, Tattall, Telfair, Toombs, Wayne, and Wheeler counties. Critical habitat is an area that received special protections to provide an endangered species a place to live.

Mussels reproduce with the help of host fish. Adult mussels make a lure that looks like a young fish or worm, which attracts feeding fish. The mussel releases its fertilized eggs onto the fish's gills, and young develop there before dropping off, all apparently without harming the fish. The spiky-shelled mussel looks like a projectile and is believed to eat with its foot during a portion of its life cycle.

Jimmy Rickard, a biologist for the U.S. Wildlife Service says there are few Spiny mussels to be found. Rickard said biologists have spent about 1,000 hours since 1997 searching rivers for the Altamaha spiny mussels, finding only about 60 of them. (In the 60's as many as 60 were found in one bed.)

The Altamaha spiny mussel (*Elliptio spinosa*) is a type of pearly mussel found nowhere else except in the Altamaha. It's large—a full grown one would fill your hand--dark brown, shiny and has one to five distinctive spines on its upper and lower shells.

If you see one, you won't mistake it for any other kind of mussel. According to the Center for Biological Diversity, fresh water mussels are the most imperiled group of organisms in the United States. This is partly because they filter algae, bacteria and decaying matter from water. This

makes the water cleaner, but also makes the mussels very susceptible to pollution. Rickard said the mussel also might be suffering from changes in bottom sediments, pollution from wastewater effluent and heavy metals contamination. The leading theory is that the mussel's host fish has become rare, perhaps because flathead catfish introduced to the river system have eaten most of the host fish.

Copies of the final rule and maps published in the Federal Register on Oct. 11 are available by contacting Jimmy Rickard, U.S. Wildlife Service, Athens Ecological Services Office, 105 Westpark Drive, Suite D, Athens, GA 30606; or calling (706)613-9493, extension 223. The final rule and maps also can be found at www.fws.gov/athens.



Two Altamaha spiny mussels

Message from Jacksonville Club Member Gary Gordon

Dear Club Members,

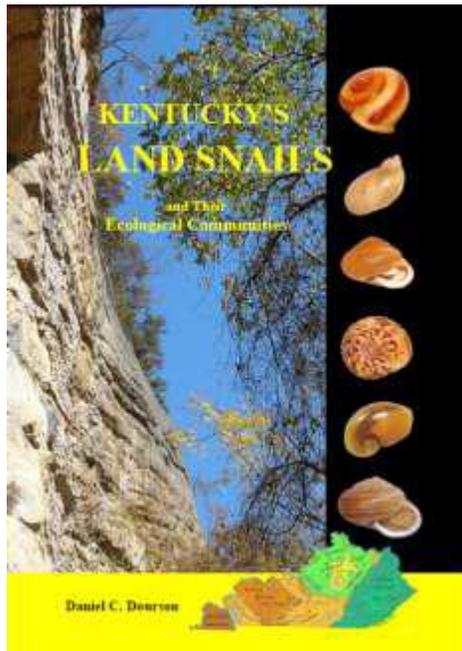
I first want to tell you that the Big Box of Shells I donated to the Jacksonville Club Shell Store at a couple of Shell Shows belonged to the late Mrs. Daisy Duncan. Daisy often exhibited in the Artistic Division when we had Shows at the Pavilion. When she passed on she left her large collection to me, I told the family to take what they wanted. With the items left I picked out some of her art work to remember her by and our club got the rest.

I have been downsizing my collection giving shells to deserving friends. This year I sent three large boxes of Nerites to Henk K. Mienis, and to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Dr. Mienis in thanks sent me a good number of scientific papers for the club members' pleasure. In one of his letters he explains how the rains come less and less and the heat lasts longer and is hotter every year. He said one of his favorite things to do was walk the plowed fields after a good rain and search for ancient coins. He said he always found at least one, but it seldom rains there anymore.

I plan on displaying sea shells at the Show in Panama City Beach this coming year. Hope to see you all there.

Announcing.....

Kentucky's Land Snails and their Ecological Communities



Not since 1962, when John B. Burch published his classic work, “How to Know the Eastern Land Snails”, has there been an illustrated manual to assist in identification of Kentucky's land snails. In that time, many new species have been described, forms have been elevated to species and there have been a number of taxon revisions. Nevertheless, the information has remained largely ambiguous, scattered in obscure publications. Wildlife biologist and malacologist, Dan Dourson, recently completed **Kentucky's Land Snails and Their Ecological Communities**, in an effort to fill that gap.

With nearly 900 color and 500 black and white photographs and illustrations, it is the first book of its kind in more than 50 years that comprehensively covers Kentucky's 194 native species and much of the fauna that occurs in the bordering states of Ohio, West Virginia, Illinois, Indiana, Virginia and Tennessee (and should be useful in identifying as much as 90-95% of the snail fauna in the bordering states). Other features:

- **An innovative pictorial key to Kentucky's native land snails and exotics are included and is designed for both the beginner and advanced malacologist alike.**
- **County distribution maps are provided for each species of snail found in Kentucky as well as species of land snails that have either been extirpated from Kentucky or could likely occur based on records in surrounding states.**
- **The book also includes sections how to collect and preserve land snails, shell anatomy and morphology, land snail ecology and earth-friendly methods for dealing with the exotic garden pests.**
- **The book is hardcover, lays open, with 307 pages coated for durability.**

Only \$45 plus shipping and handling

To order your copy now, contact Dan or Judy Dourson at jdourson@earthlink.net