



# SHELL-O-GRAM

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**JACKSONVILLE SHELL CLUB, INC.**

September - October 2010

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This month the Jacksonville Shell Club (JSC) will meet at the usual time and place on Thursday, Sept. 23. Brian Marshall will provide some home-spun shelling as he will show the Shell-of-the-Month, *Daedalochila peninsulae* (Pilsbry, 1940), the St. Johns Liptooth. This species is endemic to only four Florida counties, and Brian discovered a colony just a few miles from his residence. A surprise program will be presented.

We have a special treat in store for the October meeting, which will be on **Wednesday** the 27 at 7:00 PM. Dr A. Quinton White, Director of the Marine Science Research Institute (MRSI), will host the club at his grand, newly-opened facility, on the St. Johns River at Jacksonville University. Quint, who has been a member and friend of the JSC for many years will provide a short tour of MRSI before we sit down to hear Charlotte Lloyd's update on shelling Pacific Panama. Charlotte has paid this area several visits and is building a seaside home near Gobernadora Island. She is fast becoming one of the world's most expert collector of Panamic marine mollusks. Furthermore, she never leaves home without her camera. Harry Lee will follow with a Shell-of-the-Month presentation on the tree snail *Drymaeus tropicalis* (Morelet, 1849), which was originally described from shells on Yucatan beaches. **Directions:** Go straight into the main entrance, and proceed straight towards the river. Turn right when you reach the T in the road/parking lot and then take the first left. You'll see the building on the left. Parking is parallel on the road in front. There is an adaptive rowing program that night and most of the disabled parking spaces may be taken.

### August Meeting

The August meeting was held at President Barbara Cathey's home. Short presentations were given by several members on some of their favorite shells. One presentation concerned the use of shell tools by Florida Indians. Possible shelling trips were discussed. The desserts were wonderful and a good time was had by all.



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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.

### **Beginners Beach Walk**

Learn about NE Florida Beaches and Shelling. 8:30 AM. October 16 and November 6 at the GTM South Beach Parking Lot. Walk conducted by Rick Edwards. Call for information and reservations 823-4500. A \$3.00 parking fee per vehicle applies.

### **President's Corner**

Greetings,

The August 26<sup>th</sup> dessert social meeting was a success with lots of good ideas and general socializing. And, of course, there was the dessert. Thanks to everyone who helped with the sweets. The mini shell of the month idea had a good variety of subjects including shells, a tool, a trip, and archeology. I am sure that everyone learned something.

We are left with some real needs:

1. We still need a chairman for the 2011 Shell Show and soon! Please step forward so we can have a show in 2011.
2. We need to firm up plans for a Cedar Key trip and Christmas party.
3. We need a permanent membership chairman. I will do what I can with Mary Reynolds's help until someone steps up.

Call me if you can help.

Be sure to attend the meetings so that your ideas and help can be considered. Thanks to everyone.

Barbara Cathey (737-4708)

### **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**

### **Cedar Key Shelling**

Brian Marshall is developing the annual visit to Cedar Key for the November-January period. If you have suggestions or recommendations, contact Brian. Spaces on boats will be limited and payments will need to be made in advance. More details will be discussed at the September meeting.

## A Search for the Red Cones of Roatan

by Charlotte Thorpe and Karen VanderVen

The trip to Roatan, Honduras was scheduled for June 11-18th of this year and hosted by Rob Macino; (see: [www.nakedconchology.com](http://www.nakedconchology.com)). The plans were in place for five nights of diving, 2 tanks each night, plus several daytime snorkeling trips. Seven divers were on this trip; Neil Deynzer, Mark Johnson, Marc Nathanson, Charles Rawlings, Charlotte Thorpe and Karen VanderVen, and Marc's wife Suzanne was along to relax and enjoy the scenery. For some of us this was our 3rd or 4th trip to Roatan and we anticipated the beautiful reefs and some of the rare shells that come out at night.

We meet at the Miami airport at 3:00AM and the Taca flight left on time at 5:00AM. At dawn a warm breakfast was served and Karen spotted a mountain with a crater with puffs of smoke emanating from it. A volcano! We landed at the Managua, Nicaragua airport and didn't deplane, then it was off to El Salvador to change planes. We landed at Roatan on time - indeed, four countries before lunch!

We stayed at the beautiful Turquoise Bay Resort, and had lovely appointed rooms, three meals a day included, and all the soft drinks/bottled water provided. The staff was most helpful and friendly. It was also convenient to have the dive shop and boat adjacent the Resort. We stored our dive gear at the dive shop, and it was easy to pick up the dive gear and step onto the boat where our tanks were waiting for us. The reefs we would be diving were a 5 minute boat ride to the dive sites - what more could you ask for?

The water was clear, and the reefs at night are even more beautiful than during the day. When the divers' bright dive light shines on the reef, the reds, oranges and yellows seem to explode out of the darkness. Colors are everywhere - and you also see marine animals that are usually hiding during the day. There are octopus, cuttlefish, and lobsters crawling about, and of course, those beautiful red cones. Sometimes they are out on the algae hunting for worms, and *Conus kulkulcan* stands out like a red bulb on a Christmas tree. Other cones take some searching, *Conus granulatus* like to sit in small caves where they encounter red worms, their favorite prey. *Conus mindanus* can be found around the base of coral in the coarse sand/coral gravel. Right: Photo of *Conus granulatus*. Middle cone found by Mark, flanked by Charlotte's two.



A typical night of diving: We are all on the boat headed for the dive spot. The divers put their regulators on their tanks, check their gear making sure they have everything they need, such as, weight belt, dive lights (2- a primary and a secondary), mask, dive hood, collecting containers, knife, gloves and other accessories are ready. Once the boat is tied off to the buoy and the dive strobe lowered into the water (so a diver can see the blinking light and know where the boat is at all times), divers start jumping in. We are usually in 30-60 feet of water. The shells we are searching for are in these depths. You can dive deeper, but it is not necessary, as the best shell of the trip was found in 40' of water. Between the first and second dive we enjoy the cold bottled water and fresh fruit brought by our Boat Captain Max. After about a 30 minutes rest, we re-enter the water for our second dive of the night, and by the end of the night divers will have been in the water for 2.5-3 hours.



We found other shells during our diving, and some of the more outstanding shells were: See photos above as described from left to right: *Conus kulkulcan* Petuch, 1980 (2) 33 and 31mm., *Dalphnella lymneiformis* (Kiener, 1840) 12mm., *Enaeta reevei* (Dall,

1907) 19mm., *Calliostoma javanicum* (Lamarck, 1822) 26.5 mm., and *Bursa granularis cubaniana* (Röding, 1798) 37 mm. Other great shells were, *Muricopsis chesleri*, *Columbraria testacea*, *Latirus abbotti*, and of the larger shells found was a beautiful Flame Helmet, *Cassis flammea*, nice *Macrocypraea zebra*, and brightly colored *Cypraeacassis testiculus*.

We did not SCUBA dive the first night we arrived, or the last night before the morning flight. We needed to rest up the first day, so after lunch we decided to walk down the coastline to a spot to snorkel for *Strombus pugilis* near the mangroves. The bottom in this area was pretty muddy - just what the *S. pugilis* like. Everyone found several nice brightly colored orange shells with very long pointed spines. Charlotte also found a very dark colored *Strombus raninus* in this area. She also enjoyed lying in 2' of water under a mangrove tree watching a long-nose batfish hunting for micro-mollusks, their favorite food. Since we were not scuba diving the last day before our morning flight, we set up a snorkel trip. [Without getting technical, the general rule is that: if you've made a non-decompression dive you should have a pre-flight surface time of 12 hours.] So - we went snorkeling during the day to the shallow edge of the outer reef to look for shells in 2-8 feet of water. Many interesting shells were found such as; *Conus regius*, *Pisania pusio*, *Bursa rhodostoma thomae*, *Mitra barbadensis* and *Mitra nodulosa*, *Vexillum variatum*, *Pilsbryspira albocincta*, *Craspedochiton hemphilli*, and an *Enaeta reevei* found in 2' of water under coral rubble.

Karen reports this about the trip, "I'm not usually lucky in finding the special "it was right under the boat" shell, but the first shell I found - as soon as I descended on my first night dive - was a *Conus kalafuti*, the first of this species I ever found. Soon after I found a *Natica tedbayeri*, another new species for me". Several nights later while I was puttering around at the sandy base of the coral formations on a night dive, I was startled by the sudden appearance of a hand that incisively set in front of me a large orange-red tulip with an active animal extending from the aperture. I could tell that I was supposed to pick it up and as I tucked this wonderful "self-collected" shell into my bag I loudly woofed "Wow" and "Thank-you" into my regulator. Two blue fins receded into the darkness. When I got back on top I checked out who had the blue fins. It was Charlotte. The last day of our dive I was under the weather, and I couldn't dive that night. The next morning one of the divers left a shell-filled cup outside my door filled with shells saved for me by the divers. I was delighted with all its treasures and warmed by everybody's generosity. I smiled to myself as I realized that had I actually dived, I wouldn't have found as many nice shells by myself." Everyone really enjoyed this trip, it was comfortable easy diving and the camaraderie was great. We enjoyed our group meals where we could listen to the spirited conversations about collecting spots and habitats. What a great learning experience.



Close-up of *Conus granulated* Linnaeus, 1758

Below is a listing of the Shells found by Charlotte Thorpe and Karen VanderVen

#### ROATAN, HONDURAS SPECIES LIST \* DENOTES OBSERVED AND NOT COLLECTED

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <i>Arene cruentata</i> (Mühlfeld, 1829)             | <i>Bursa corrugata</i> (G. Perry, 1811)          | <i>Conus kulkulan</i> Petuch, 1980                |
| <i>Gabrielona sulcifera</i> Robertson, 1973         | <i>Bursa granularis</i> (Röding, 1798)           | <i>Conus mindanus mindanus</i> Hwass, 1791        |
| <i>Lithopoma tectum</i> (Lightfoot, 1786)           | <i>Bursa rhodostoma thomae</i> (d'Orbigny, 1842) | <i>Conus regius</i> Gmelin, 1791                  |
| <i>Turbo callieti</i> Fischer and Bernardi, 1856    | <i>Aspella pauperula</i> (C.B. Adams, 1850)      | <i>Cassispira fuscescens</i> (Reeve, 1845)        |
| <i>Calliostoma javanicum</i> (Lamarck, 1822)        | <i>Muricopsis chesleri</i> Houart, 2006          | <i>Daphnella lymneiformis</i> (Kiener, 1840)      |
| * <i>Nerita fulgurans</i> Gmelin, 1791              | <i>Trachypollia nodulosa</i> (C.B. Adams, 1845)  | <i>Fenimorea fucata</i> (Reeve, 1845)             |
| <i>Cerithium litteratum</i> (Born, 1778)            | <i>Coralliophila abbreviata</i> (Lamarck, 1816)  | <i>Fenimorea halidorema</i> (Schwengel, 1940)     |
| <i>Cerithium lutosum</i> Menke, 1823                | <i>Engina turbinella</i> (Keiner, 1836)          | <i>Pilsbryspira albocincta</i> (C.B. Adams, 1845) |
| <i>Turritella exoleta</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)          | <i>Pisania pusio</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)            |   |
| * <i>Littoraria angulifera</i> (Lamarck, 1822)      | <i>Nassarius ambiguus</i> (Pulteney, 1799)       | <i>Craspedochiton hemphilli</i> (Pilsbry, 1893)   |
| <i>Erosaria acicularis</i> (Gmelin, 1791)           | <i>Colubaria testacea</i> (Mørch, 1852)          |   |
| <i>Macrocypraea zebra</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)          | <i>Fasciolaria tulipa</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)       | <i>Barbatia cancellaria</i> (Lamarck, 1819)       |
| * <i>Cyphoma gibbosum</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)          | <i>Latirus abbotti</i> Snyder, 2003              | <i>Glycymeris decussata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)      |
| <i>Natica tedbayeri</i> (Rehder, 1986)              | <i>Latirus cariniferus</i> (Lamarck, 1816)       | <i>Ctenoides scaber</i> (Born, 1778)              |
| * <i>Strombus costatus</i> Gmelin, 1791             | <i>Leucozonia nassa</i> (Gmelin, 1791)           | <i>Lima caribaea</i> d'Orbigny, 1853              |
| * <i>Strombus gigas</i> Linnaeus, 1758              | <i>Columbella mercatoria</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)    | <i>Caribachlamys pellucens</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)   |
| <i>Strombus pugilis</i> Linnaeus, 1758              | <i>Enaeta reevei</i> (Dall, 1907)                | <i>Lucina pensylvanica</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)       |
| <i>Strombus raninus</i> Gmelin, 1791                | <i>Prunum apicinum</i> (Menke, 1828)             | <i>Parvilucina costata</i> (d'Orbigny, 1842)      |
| <i>Cassis flammea</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)              | <i>Prunum guttatum</i> (Dillwyn, 1817)           | <i>Trachycardium muricatum</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)   |
| <i>Cypraeacassis testiculus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)    | <i>Mitra barbadensis</i> (Gmelin, 1791)          | <i>Eurytellina alternata</i> (Say, 1822)          |
| <i>Cymatium aquatile</i> (Reeve, 1844)              | <i>Mitra nodulosa</i> (Gmelin, 1791)             | <i>Eurytellina lineata</i> (Turton, 1819)         |
| <i>Cymatium cynocephalum</i> (Lamarck, 1816)        | <i>Vexillum histrio</i> (Reeve, 1844)            | <i>Chione cancellata</i> (Linnaeus, 1767)         |
| <i>Cymatium martinianum</i> (d'Orbigny, 1846)       | <i>Vexillum variatum</i> (Reeve, 1845)           |   |
| <i>Cymatium occidentale</i> Clench and Turner, 1957 | <i>Conus granulated</i> Linnaeus, 1758           |   |

**Shell Kit Workshop – September 18<sup>th</sup>**

A Workshop to assemble shell kits for 12 schools will be held at Claire Newsom's at 10:00, Sat. Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>. Her address is 3875 Copper Circle East, 398-6383. You might want to bring a sandwich. After Duval County schools are supplied, we will decide if we want to expand to other counties. This, of course would help us with the educational requirements of our tax-free status.

**Wish list / Swap opportunities planned**

Interest has been shown for an opportunity to list your needs and wants for shells for your collection or craft needs. Our room at the library is usually open about 6:30 and we will take the time before the 7:00 meeting time to let you list your needs, or show shells you might want to swap. Mary Reynolds has volunteered to keep a wish list. If we have enough interest, we can use the Shell-O-Gram or meeting time to advertise such needs.