



SHELL•O•GRAM

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JACKSONVILLE SHELL CLUB, INC.

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Upcoming meetings

The club will meet on the usual fourth Thursday, time (7:00 PM), and venue (Southeast Branch Public Library) - **September 27, 2012**. Rick Edwards will present the Florida Fighting Conch, *Strombus alatus* Gmelin, 1791 as Shell-of-the-Month (SOM). This species is limited to the Carolinian Sub-province (Cape Hatteras to Yucatan, typically skipping parts of southernmost FL) but is progressively rarer in increasing latitudes within our state's waters, especially near shore. The main program will be presented by Harry Lee and deal with the marine gastropod genus, *Morum*. It is a tidy group, whose numbers include about 30 Recent species occurring in tropical waters around most of the globe. Aspects of their conchology, anatomy, phylogeny, evolution, and nomenclature will be explored.

The **October 25th** confab will be very special. For many years, notably the 1990's the club had a once annual autumn meeting at the Duval County School System's Marine Science Center (MSC) in Mayport. This year we'll reprise that tradition, including a Dutch-treat seafood dinner at nearby Singleton's immediately preceding the session (5:30 restaurant; 7:00 MSC). After a short tour of the premises led by MSC educator emerita Charlotte Thorpe, Harry Lee will present the SOM, the New England miniature cerith, *Cerithiopsis greenii* C.B. Adams, 1839), which wasn't adequately described for 173 years after being named by the Amherst professor - that is, until two months ago. Charlotte will then return to the podium and present a talk on the marine mollusks of Roatan, Caribbean Honduras. She has visited this island shelling paradise on several occasions and has become quite an expert on the marine mollusks living in its nearby waters. As has been consistently the case, we can expect a fine panoply of excellent and colorful images of living animals, many of which are endemic to the western Caribbean and very few of which occur in our NE FL waters.

Funding for Fouling Community Research

Shell Club member and GTM NERR biologist Wendy Eash-Loucks has been conducting a study on fouling communities (mussels, barnacles, etc that settle onto hard substrates) within the GTM Research Reserve, which surrounds the city of St. Augustine, since May of 2011. So far she has collected 70+ species of marine invertebrates, including 6 species of Gastropoda and 11 species of Bivalvia.

Currently, she is trying to raise funds for a microscope camera (\$2,500) that will be used to take high resolution photographs to send to expert taxonomists who can assist with identifications, as well as for documenting voucher specimens. Great rewards are available based on the amount you pledge including postcards, photo books, and a guided field day. If you are interested in contributing to the project, pledges can be made through the website petridish.org, which allows the community to fund research projects that interest them. Your credit card will only be charged if the goal of \$2,500 is met.

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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.

President's Message:

"Dear JSC Members,

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our shell show this year. Participation from our JSC members, exhibitors and other friends of our shelling community was outstanding and we managed to consistently pack a full house of visitors. It was quite unexpected, overwhelming at times, but much appreciated and an incredible success. Another JSC venture will be in the planning in our upcoming meetings, and our annual field trip to Cedar Key. I look forward to seeing everyone!

Election of Officers Fiscal Year Sept., 2012 - Sept., 2013

Because of scheduling conflicts imposed by the timing of our shell show and fair this year, a nominating committee was not constituted in time to present a slate of officers and JSC Board members at the August 23 meeting. Charlotte Thorpe moved that the slate installed in September, 2011 be presented at the September 2012 meeting, at which time nominations will be re-opened and voting will follow.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Marjorie Jennings, 3630 Galicia Rd., 1-219, Jacksonville, FL 32217, 904-739-2741
Elizabeth Mills, 3447 Browden Cir. W., Jacksonville, FL 32216, cell 850-832-9937

Happy to have our Returning Members:

Pam Rice, 215 Green St. S., Green Cove Springs, FL 32043, 904-284-9933
Louis Therres, 6820 Ryance, Jacksonville, FL, 32211, 904-745-1283

Jacksonville Shell Club's Cedar Key Shelling Trip

Below are the best low tides for this year at Cedar Key. We will be hoping for pleasant weather so it is not as cold as it has been in the past. We will walk the mud flats finding wonderful shells, and if possible we'll have a boat to take us offshore to some of the exposed sandbars. The cost for the boat trip is usually about \$40. plus we all tip the Captain that takes us out.

We will have a get together for dinner(whoever has the largest room with a kitchen). We all chip in for stone crab claws, clams, etc. and we will bring some items from home to make the dinner complete. (Call Charlotte for more information ..904-246-0874, if you would like to take part in this field trip.) Below are some photos from last year's trip. Minus low tides shown below.

Wednesday: 2012-12-12	07:01 EST	-1.11 feet	Low Tide.	Sunrise 07:16 EST
Thursday: 2012-12-13	07:50 EST	-1.22 feet	Low Tide.	Sunrise 07:17 EST
Friday: 2012-12-14	08:37 ES T	-1.16 feet	Low Tide.	Sunrise 07:18 EST



Shell Club President Brian Marshall checking out the whelks.



Sunset at Cedar Key



***Busycon perversum sinistrum* Hollister, 1958 common name- is the Lightning Whelk.**

This lightning whelk is busy eating a oyster.

Photos by Charlotte Thorpe

Funding for Fouling Community Research continued.

If you would like more details about the project and you would like to contribute, please visit:
<http://www.petridish.org/projects/a-foul-community-diversity-of-biofoulers-in-florida> .

Epilogue: In a unanimous vote at our August 23 meeting, the Jacksonville Shell Club (JSC) approved a grant of \$250.00 to support Wendy's work. We have already seen a sample of her discoveries - the first FL record of the miniature cerith, *Cerithiopsis aimen* Rolán and Espinosa, 1995, which she presented as Shell-of-the-Month at the June JSC meeting.

Below: Wendy checking the settlement plate attachment. *Mytella charruana* - an invasive mussel collected in St. Augustine, Fl.



JACKSONVILLE SHELL CLUB'S SHELL SHOW REPORT FOR 2012

Our 2012 Shell Show held on July 20, 21, 22 was a great success in all areas. We were filled with exhibitors, dealers and visitors. Everyone was happy with the success and all of our members pitched in and worked hard. Our Co-chairmen Brian Marshall and Charlotte Thorpe had lots of help and great ideas from our membership, and we wish to thank them all for their help and hard work. On the next page are the major award Winners for 2012.

Scientific Division:

"A Sampling of Philippine Cones": Harry Berryman: duPont Winner

"Veneridae": Gene Everson: COA Award Winner

"Self Collected Worldwide": Charlotte Thorpe: R. Tucker Abbott Award

"10 Feet of a Few Uncommon to Rare Florida and Caribbean Murcids":

Best 10 Foot Exhibit Award: Bob & Alice Pace

"The Florida Tree Snails": J. R. Schaffer: Harry G. Lee Florida Award

"The World Wide Invader ("GAS") Giant African Snail": Bob & Alice Pace": Clench Award

"*Fasciolaria tulipa*": Charlotte Thorpe: Shell of the Show

"*Astraea phoebia*": Charlotte Thorpe: Self-Collected Shell of the Show

"Self Collected Shells of the Caribbean Province": Peggy Williams: Special Judges Ribbon

"Self Collected Worldwide": Charlotte Thorpe: Special Judges Award

Arts & Crafts Division:

"Pictures": William Edwards: Most Creative Award

"Home Decor": Shannon Webster: Most Artistic Entry

"Sailor's Valentine": Jane Santini: Gertrude Moller Award

"Sailor's Valentine": Jean Ford & Bill Jordan: Judges Special Award Ribbon

"Jewelry & Personal Accessories": Anna Fastenau: Judges Special Award Ribbon

We had wonderful crowds - partly because we did not charge admission for this Show. It worked out so well for us that we have decided not to charge admission until we absolutely have to. Our dealers were very happy with this event and will certainly be back next year.

Photo courtesy of Bill Frank.

