



SHELL-O-GRAM

Official Publication of the
JACKSONVILLE SHELL CLUB, INC.

September-October, 2013

Volume 54, No. 5

The the Jacksonville Shell Club (JSC) will get together on the customary fourth Thursday of September, the 26th, at the usual time and place, 7:00 PM at the Southeast Branch of the Jacksonville Public Library in Function Room A or B. The shell-of-the-month will be the extinct *Hystrivasum horridum* (Heilprin, 1886). Rick Edwards, with the collaboration of his wife, Roz and son, William, collected some fine examples in Sarasota Co. during the recent COA Convention. This is one of the very few marine mollusks ever to appear on the cover of the benchmark journal *Science*. Harry Lee will then present a program on the malacofauna collected at the same place, the SMR Aggregates Mine, which has exposed the Lower Pinecrest Beds (Upper Tamiami Formation). Plans are underway to allow the JSC to visit this provident pit next March.

Because of conflicts with other petitioners for library meeting rooms, the JSC will meet on the **second Thursday in October (the 10th)** at 7:00 PM in the same old place. John Fatu will present *Strombus thersites*, a beautiful conch he discovered in his native Tonga. Charlotte Thorpe will take us on a photographic/shelling expedition from Marco Island to off Panama City, all along Florida's Gulf Coast. The fauna differs by about 10% from ours, and the certain common species differ in size, coloration, and abundance. As always, Char's photograph's of the collecting areas and living mollusks will be captivating.

WINNERS OF THE ANNUAL JACKSONVILLE SHELL SHOW

Scientific Division Winners - Judges: Homer Rhode & Bob Janowsky

duPont Trophy: Doug Thompson - Self-Collected NW Florida Shells

COA: Gene Everson - The Shell Collecting Hobby

R. Tucker Award - Anne Joffe - "In Memoriam"

Harry G. Lee Award - Charlotte Thorpe - Self-Collected Florida Shells

Ten Feet and Under - Vicky Wall - The Family Personidae

Self-Collected Shell of the Show - Gene Everson - *Linatella pallida*

Special Judges Award - Gary & Earlene Gordon - Monsters from the Deep

Special Judges Award - Anne Joffe - "In Memoriam"

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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 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 nelfshells@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 JSC Members,

"The Jacksonville Shell Club has recently opened an account on Facebook. The page will be used as a forum to promote the club, share experiences with our fellow scientists and shelling enthusiasts, and to post shell related events and attractions. The club would like to thank Gainesville member Genie O'Brien for assisting us with the creation and administrative functions of the page. Please check us out on our FB page at <https://www.facebook.com/jacksonvilleshells.org?ref=hl>, join as friends, post your comments, and share the information with others. We look forward to hearing from you!

"For those of you that missed the July 2013 COA Convention in Sarasota (that includes me), Dr. Harry G. Lee provided members of the club with a great slide presentation of the event at our last meeting. To say the least, I sure did miss out on some fun! Thank you Dr. Lee for the wonderful presentation. In shell related news, please check out the jaxshells website < <http://www.jaxshells.org/> > for new information on recent discoveries of the *Triodopsis* species, "Florida Scrub Threetooth." Bill Frank and Dr. Lee have recently placed a lot of effort in expanding our understanding of this species and its range in Northeast Florida (see page 6). As well, Nerite lovers will want to take a peek at the recent range expansion of *Nerita fulgurans* Gmelin 1791 found by yours truly."

Brian Marshall

JSC Award Winners continued...

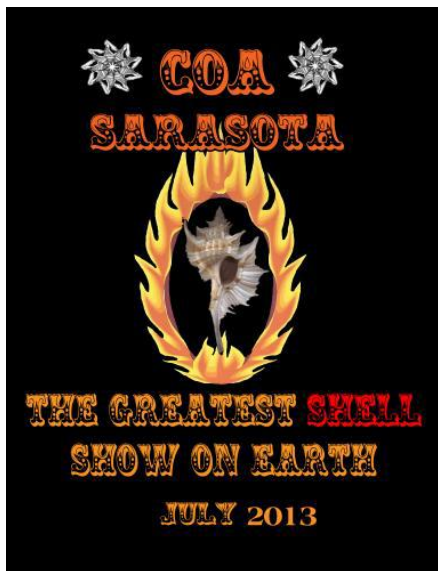
Artistic Shell Show Winners Below...Judges: Ruthie Abramson and Debbie James

Gertrude Moller Award - Shannon Webster
Helen Murchison Award - Jane Santini - Sailors Valentine "Bliss"
Most Creative - Linda Brunner - Jewelry & Personal Accessories
Special Judges Award - Shannon Webster
Special Judges Award - Billie Brown - In Memory of Mrs. Verdie Lynch

COA Convention 2013, Hyatt Regency Sarasota, FL

By Harry Lee (with considerable help from Alan Gettleman)

This year COA returned to the same venue as hosted the 2002 convention. As with the two previous Sarasota events (including 1983 at nearby Lido Key), Peggy Williams served as Convention Chairperson. JSC Club members in attendance included the Roz, Rick, and William Edwards, Matt and Dona Blaine, and the writer.



The hotel was a great setting for the (up to) eight day event. Located in downtown Sarasota, it is close to Gulf beaches at Longboat and Lido Keys as well as many great shops at St. Armand's Circle. Several of us visited the renowned Selby Gardens just a couple of miles from the hotel. The hotel had great water views of Sarasota Bay or a local marina. Many of the rooms had a balcony or a bump-out with glass on three sides to give a great view of the land- and seascape.



The proceedings didn't formally begin until Tuesday, but intrepid fossil-seekers, over forty in number, set out by bus from the hotel Sunday to the SMR quarry a few miles NW in Sarasota County.

The Opening Ceremony was a delightful performance by the Sailor's Circus, a training ground for young students who are aspiring circus performers. The kids had different skill

levels, but all were talented and vibrant. The circus was one of the most dramatic and energetic openings we have had

for a convention. The first evening was the traditional welcome party, where attendees were asked to dress as a circus character. There were dozens of spectacular disguises, including clown Dr. Gary Schmelz of Naples (left).



The programs were educational and interesting. The moderator for all three days was *Oliva* specialist and DJ, Dennis Sargent of Mt. Dora, FL. One of the programs featured Jim Cordy and Ellen Bulger with a great presentation of Eleuthera, Bahamas including areas of Half Moon Bay and Sweeting's Pond, which are more recently-discovered shelling spots. Ellen is a biologist by training and has fantastic photographic skills describing not only the shells but the other fauna and island scenes. The presentation even included photos of Winslow Homer's painting of the Glass Window. Homer was one of most famous 19th Century painters of seascapes in his native New England, all beautiful but dark and almost menacing which contrasted so dramatically to the bright, light colors he used for pictures painted in the Florida Keys and the Bahamas.



Among the dozen and a half presentations, Dr. Ron Bender talked on Florida Keys miniature marine shells, I spoke on the diminutive land snail *Vertigo*, Dr. Ron Bopp chronicled a recent Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum trip to Guaymas, on Mexico's Pacific coast, Richie Goldberg spoke on landsnail discoveries on the Island of Jamaica, Bruce Neville introduced us to the "other bivalves," the brachiopods, and Paul Callomon of the Academy of Natural Sciences (Philadelphia) gave a very interesting talk on photographing shells for publication. The always popular JSC member and shell show dealer Captain Doug Jeffries (L) spoke on shelling by several methods, including tangle nets, off NE Palawan, Philippines.

The oral auction chair was last year's JSC shell Show judge, Homer Rhode. Auctioneering was shared by Paul Callomon and recurrent JSC shell show exhibitor Jim Brunner of Panama City, FL (R). There were over 100 lots on the block, including many rare shells. This year the lion's share of the auction items were donated by COA stalwart, Dr. Rick Batt. Many bargains were had that Wednesday night.

Even more bargains were realized at the four silent auctions, among the most popular events of the week. The many hundreds of lots included books and reprints along with plenty of shells, marine, land, and a surprising number of very attractive American freshwater mussels

Beside ample and excellent food and drink, Thursday's Grand Banquet featured the annual *Neptunea* Awards. These plaques are given by the COA Board of Directors recognize outstanding and distinguished



service to conchologists and malacologists in recognition of (1) service to COA and/or (2) service to the scientific interests of COA, and/or (3) service malacology as it applies to conchologists anywhere. This year's winners were David and Lucille Green of Missouri City in category 1, Dr. Charles Rawlings of Winston-Salem, NC (L) in categories 1 and 2, and Marlo Krisberg of Merritt Island, FL, category 3.



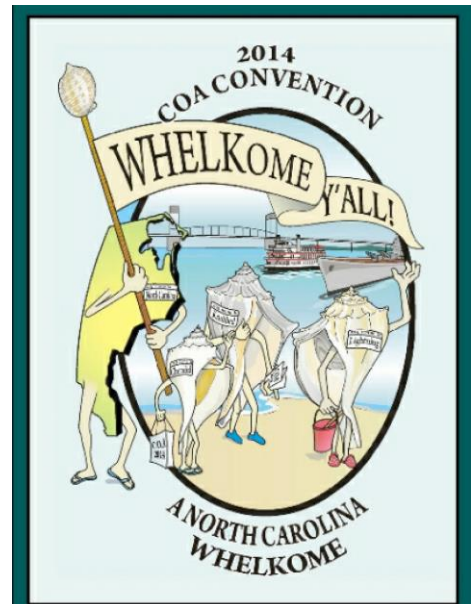
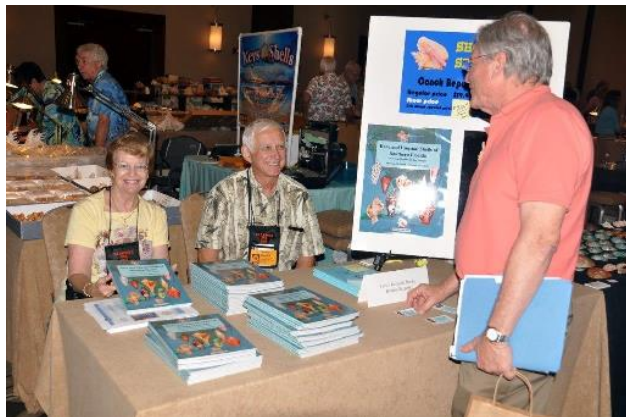
The featured speaker at the banquet was Dr. Hank Chaney of the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum (L), who gave a studied and interesting presentation entitled the "Best Shell Book Ever." Linnaeus, Lamarck, the Sowerbys, Reeve, Pilsbry, Hirase? After reviewing the iconographic masterworks of the past few centuries, Henry then discussed the value of simplicity, scope, quality illustration, and availability of shell books. His choice turned out to be a work familiar to almost everyone in the audience, R.T. Abbott's *Golden Guide to Seashells!*

The always-popular bourse convened Saturday and run for several hours on Sunday. Dozens of dealers from six continents were packed into the main conventional hall. Reports have it that everyone, on both sides of the tables, was greatly grunted.

Not mentioned here were several other events: snorkeling and wading fieldtrips, visits to the South Florida and the Ringling Museums as well as the many evening and intermission hours spent swapping shells and stories, catching up with old friends, and generally enjoying the people, beautiful natural setting, and posh amenities.



Regrettably, JSC Treasurer Charlotte Thorpe and COA President Dr. José Leal President of COA were not in attendance due to illness. The good news is that both are fully recovered and looking forward to next year's convention, which will be held in Wilmington, NC August 11-15 (above L). We'll keep our readers apprised of details over the intervening months.



Florida Scrub Threetooth, *Triodopsis* species.

Photography by Bill Frank.



L: Living Florida Scrub Threetooth from near Keystone Heights, Clay Co., FL. 13 mm.

Below: top L: *Triodopsis messana* Hubricht, 1954 from Faye Road, Jax, 11.4 mm; top R: *T. hopetonensis* (Shuttleworth, 1852) Magnolia Threetooth from Lions Club Park, Jax 10.0 mm; bottom: *Triodopsis* species Florida Scrub Threetooth from Camp Blanding, Clay Co. 13.0 mm.

