



SHELL•O•GRAM

Official Publication of the
JACKSONVILLE SHELL CLUB, INC.

Sept.-October, 2016

Volume 57 (no. 5)

Upcoming programs

Because of conflict at the Southeast Branch Public Library (<<http://www.yelp.com/biz/jacksonville-public-library-southeast-regional-jacksonville>>), the September meeting of the Jacksonville Shell Club (JSC) will be held on the 15th of September (3rd Thursday vs. customary 4th) at the usual time (7:00 PM). Brian Marshall will discuss the shells-of-the-month, the Liptooths (*Daedalochila* spp.) of Levy Co., FL, held over from the August proceedings. Originally a sidebar of the JSC annual marine shelling expedition to Cedar Key, land-snailing during the flood tide has become an integral part of the field experience, and participants, including Brian, have been rewarded with copious nice material, including at least one un-named species (L). For the main program, Harry Lee will report on the annual COA Convention held the last week of July at Chicago's O'Hare Crowne Plaza Hotel, about which you can also read in this issue and on-line<<http://www.conchologistsofamerica.org/conventions/default.asp>>. You'll see lots of familiar faces and old friends in the extensive portfolio that accompanies his presentation.



Once again foiled by early voting, our October meeting will be held earlier than usual, Thursday the sixth, but at the usual time and place. Lou Therres will present the shells-of-the month, the rissoidids of Mactan Island, off Cebu, Philippines. For a couple of years Lou has been examining the living and crabbed microshells that are brought up by the tangle (lumun-lumun) nets deployed by Cebuano fishermen off the coast of Mactan Island in the central Philippines. This methodology has resulted in the discovery of hundreds of new marine gastropod species, many quite small. Harry Lee will give the main program, "Rare Shells." We shall see the many attributes that conspire to make a shell rare and desirable. Among these are remoteness of range, inaccessibility of habitat, specimen quality, presence of desirable abnormalities, exceptional size (small or large), and non-conchological. The presentation will include illustrations of some of the most prized specimens in the world of conchology such as *Vasum crosseanum* (Souverbie, 1875) on the R.



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This club meets monthly at the Southeast Branch of the Jacksonville Public Library, 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd., Jacksonville, Florida <<http://jpl.coj.net/lib/branches/se.html>>. Please address any correspondence to the club's address above. Annual membership dues are \$15.00 individual, \$20.00 family (domestic) and \$25.00 (overseas). Lifetime membership is available. Please remit payment for dues to the address above and make checks payable to the Jacksonville Shell Club. The club's newsletter and scientific journal, the *Shell-O-Gram* (ISSN 2472-2774) is issued bimonthly and mailed to an average of 15 regular members and friends by specific request and no less than ten scientific institutions with permanent libraries. An electronic (pdf) version, identical except for "live" URL's and color (vs. B&W) images, is issued the next day and sent to about 200 individuals who have demonstrated an interest in malacological research. These pdf's (ISSN 2472-2782) have also been posted to <<http://jaxshells.org/letters.htm>> since November, 1998. We encourage members and friends to submit articles for publication. Closing date for manuscript submission is two weeks before each month of publication. Articles appearing in the *Shell-O-Gram* may be republished provided credit is given the author and the *Shell-O-Gram*. As a courtesy, the editor and author should receive a copy of the republication. Contents of the *Shell-O-Gram* are intended to enter the permanent scientific record.

Final nominations, voting at September Meeting

Roz Edwards, JSC Secretary

Pursuant to the JSC Constitution and Bylaws <<http://www.jaxshells.org/pdfs/laws.pdf>>, a Nominating Committee, consisting of Harry Lee (Chair), Rick Edwards, and Lou Therres, was appointed at the June 23rd meeting. After deliberations it recommends the following individuals for officers and/or Board membership for the Sept. 2015-Sept. 2016 cycle.

Officer nominees:

President: Brian Marshall (incumbent); Vice President: Paul Jones; Secretary: Roz Edwards (incumbent);
Treasurer: Harry Lee.

Board of Directors slate:

Officers Brian Marshall, Paul Jones, Harry Lee, Roz Edwards, and Harry Lee; at large: Rick Edwards, Mary Reynolds, Charlotte Thorpe, Lou Therres, and Carmella Mastronardi. Carmella will fill the vacancy traditionally reserved for the immediate past President.

Further nominations were solicited from the floor at the August 11th meeting, but none was forthcoming. The floor will again be opened for nominations at the September meeting, and the annual election will take place immediately thereafter.

COA CONVENTION 2016 Chicago, Illinois; Chi-Town not shy with museums and fantastic COA by Alan Gettleman*

The Chicago Shell Club hosted the Shellabrate Chicago Conchologists of America (COA) convention, which ran the last week in July. This is only the second time the COA has ventured to the U.S. Midwest for their annual convention.

Chicago had a thunderstorm the night before the first fieldtrips but the rest of the week was mid-80's, sunny, and pleasant, a great change from the oppressive 90+ temperature and humidity of late July Florida.

The writer had a conflict which did not allow him to make plane reservations until Thursday before the event, but a very inexpensive airfare to Chicago Midway instead of the monstrously crowded O'Hare and a short shuttle trip got him to the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Rosemont (a suburb at the O'Hare airport region). Having been several times to the Shedd Aquarium and the Field Museum of Natural History, both important and wonderful places to go, the editor instead opted for the architectural tour of downtown Chicago by boat. The day sunny and bright and as the docent said the weather was "perfectly wonderful." The tour went past more skyscrapers that one could count, including the signature Willis Tower. As we passed that century plus floor edifice, you could see several panes of glass just below the summit. That is the attraction where you can go out onto the glass and have nothing between you and the ground than that hopefully sufficiently strong pane of glass. As a former firefighter, one particular site of interest to me was the Chicago Fire Academy on the site of the start of the great Chicago Fire of October 1871. Twice it was related that indeed the fire started in Mrs. O'Leary's barn, but the cow which was blamed for knocking over a lantern starting the blaze has since been cleared of any involvement.

That tour was immediately followed by an excellent dinner cruise on Lake Michigan. Since our group was in downtown Chicago from the architectural tour, we arrived an hour early and had an opportunity to see tall sailing ships and enjoy the very busy Chicago waterfront. Due to horrendous downtown traffic, the bulk of the convention goers going on the cruise were hopelessly stuck in traffic. Our docent tried to intercede with the dinner cruise, which agreed to hold the ship for ten minutes, as they already had boarded all their other passengers. Fortunately, about ten minutes past the deadline, the others arrived in a sort of semi-jogging to get to the boat before launch. It was a great dinner cruise with a wonderful sunset toward the Chicago skyline just northwest of downtown.

The Chicago club excelled in having a full breakfast buffet for convention-goers each morning, which frill was very well appreciated.

The programs were literate, useful, informative, interesting, and many were on different enough topics to provide a wide variety of molluscan subjects. Bruce Neville of Texas presented on Malacology 101, and there was a great variety of information on the mollusks which I am sure was new to many.

Dr. Janet Voight spoke on an intriguing subject, and possibly the most esoteric talk. She has gone on the deep water submersibles and commented upon how computerization has freed up space on the tiny, compact, and COLD deep sea craft to lessen crowding. How molluscan life evolves in the hydrothermal deep water seeps and how related species can be found outside deep water vents are profoundly interesting topics.

Dr. Tom Watters of The Ohio State University spoke of the diversity and evolution of the Annulariidae, an operculate group of land shells from primarily Cuba, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, and the Bahamas. These are a very ancient group and have the unique ability to suspend their shells from rocks with mucous threads to protect against predators.

Andres Bonard, a shell dealer and biology teacher from Argentina, spoke on the several geographic regions of Argentina and the diversity of endemic shells in each region. Doug Stemke spoke on "Vagabond Conchology through Australia, New Zealand and Fiji." Largely camping along the way, Doug was able to cover an extraordinary amount of territory. Vicky Wall provided a tour of the Perlas Islands off the Pacific Coast of Panama. The North Carolina Shell Club trip had the use of a 31' boat with local crew to visit many different islands in that island chain named for the pearl oysters found there.

Dr. Rudiger Bieler gave a fascinating and ominous talk on the massive die off of corals in that once pristine ecosystem. He and other scientists are working to transplant vegetatively propagated small corals onto dead coral heads of the same species. To date these transplants are regenerating although coral growth is very slow. Dr. Andy Kough of Chicago's Shedd Aquarium spoke on the Aquarium's work in the Bahamas on *Strombus gigas* habitat study and preservation.

Dr. Paula Mikkelsen spoke on "Clams are Cool (too)." For many collectors, bivalves seem confined to pectens and *Spondylus*. Paula, who co-authored a monograph on the bivalves of the Florida Keys, spoke about the great diversity and interest of that group of bivalves which seemingly get no respect.

These were just a part of the programs given. Also the Chicago Shell Club sponsored several silent and a

successful oral auction, which was one of the most financially successful efforts to support COA grant awards.

(L) *Thatcheria mirabilis* Angas, 1877. A specimen was part of the place setting for COA Banquet attendees. This shell is said to be the inspiration for Chicagoan architect F. Lloyd Wright's Guggenheim Museum. Photo: Alan Gettleman.

* first published in the Sept., 2016 *The Capsule*, official journal of the Astronaut Trail Shell Club, of which Alan is editor.



Membership Dues are payable in September each year.

If you're not paid up, please send in your dues: Individual \$15.00; Family \$20.00, to
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Veteran JSC member Charlotte Thorpe a 2016 COA *Neptunea* Award Recipient

Three *Neptunea* Award winners were announced at the Chicago COA convention banquet July 29. Charlotte Lloyd was one of the recipients of the coveted plaque in recognition of her half century of “service to the scientific interests of the Conchologists of America.” Charlotte is known around the world for her spectacular photographs of living marine gastropods, but she has made many other contributions to conchology as well as the shelling and diving communities. She was a national SCUBA spearfishing champion early in her amateur diving career, and about then began underwater photography of marine life, mostly mollusks. In 1992 she served as COA Convention Chair when the JSC hosted the event at the Sawgrass Resort in Ponte Vedra. She joined the JSC before any current member and served our organization in virtually every capacity, most notably Shell Show Chairman, Editor, Membership Chair, and Treasurer, often all four at once, and for most of the past two decades. For many years she led shelling trips here and abroad, more than a few JSC members and out-of-towners remember the offshore SCUBA trips out of Mayport beginning in the 1970’s, and others her trips to Caribbean and Panamic destinations. She served many organizations as shell show judge, banquet speaker, and auctioneer, but most memorable were her presentations to the JSC on marine mollusks so beautifully illustrated by her photography *in situ* as well as in her portable aquaria. Her photographs appeared in many diving magazines, the *Shell-O-Gram*, *American Conchologist* (the official COA journal), and a host of shell books, popular magazines, newspapers, and scientific papers. The JSC joins the COA in offering Charlotte our congratulations - and thanks - for a lifetime of achievement and enlightenment.

The other two recipients were Homer Rhode of Englewood, FL for “service to the science of malacology as it applies to conchologists anywhere.” Alan Gettleman wrote that Homer is one of the few who have collected marine shells on all seven continents. Homer has been probably taught more able conchologists how to be productive field collectors than any other Floridian, and his *Liguus* collection is among the finest ever created. Rich Goldberg of Columbia, MD was the other winner, cited for “service to the COA.” Almost a charter member, Rich served the international organization in official capacities for decades, has made regular and substantive contributions to *American Conchologist*, and given presentations at COA conventions with great regularity. He has done extensive terrestrial malacological field work in Indonesia and Jamaica. In the case of the latter island, his work is regarded as cutting-edge by fellow experts. Both men have judged our Shell Show.

Ten years of Sicilian Shell Collecting by Paul Jones (photo’s by the author)

My late wife Theodora and I had the experience of a lifetime during the 1990s when we had the rare and unusual chance to spend the entire decade living and working on the island of Sicily, Italy in the center of the Mediterranean Sea.

We came to be there when I was in the Navy and accepted orders for overseas duty to Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily in 1990. I had previously visited the island twice while stationed on a ship out of Mayport, Florida on a Mediterranean cruise in the 1980’s and had fallen in love with its beauty and old world charm.

I wanted to share that sense of beauty and adventure with my then new wife Theodora (Teddie, for short), and so we packed up our stuff, rented out our house and took off on the “bucket list” experience of a lifetime! Most people are lucky to spend a few days on the island; we spent ten years there. Our tales and stories could fill volumes, but I will limit my topic to another aspect of the adventure – Sicilian Shell Collecting!

I have been an avid specimen shell collector since the 1970’s, and the chance to add Sicilian and Med species to our collection was as appealing as were the many other amazing things about the island. I could have hardly imagined though the full length and breadth of the opportunities I ended up having!

For someone who doesn’t SCUBA dive, I’ve always been able to find alternative sources for excellent quality specimen shells (without buying them). And Sicily proved no different. Fortunately, the Sicilians, like folks from most European countries, consume virtually anything that comes out of the ocean. That meant street markets bustling with daily fresh loads of clams, murex, whelks, mussels, scallops, and many more families and species brought in by local fishermen.

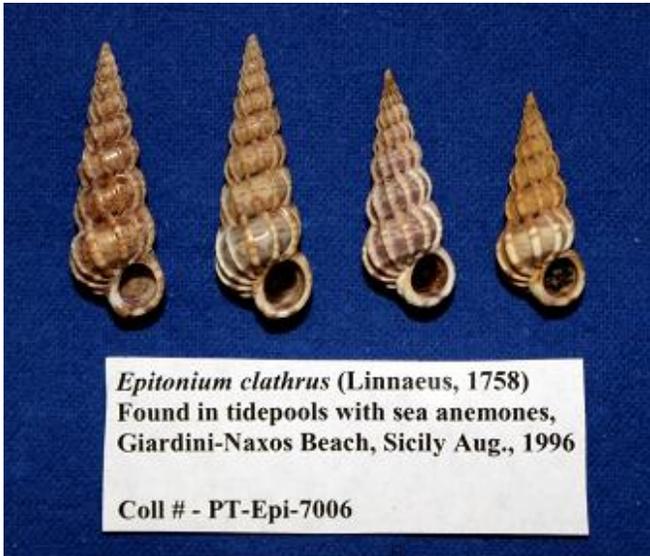
Teddie and I went to the huge and well-stocked Catania, Sicily street market every Saturday for ten years and would often come home with freshly caught Ionian Sea mollusks still alive and in perfect condition. After we enjoyed their succulent taste, the shells entered our collection. The many seafood restaurants in the quaint and ancient fishing village of Acitrezza, Sicily (R), where we settled in, were another great source of beautiful shells. We always got strange looks from the locals as Sicilians could not understand us saving the shells from our molluscan meals.



There were also a couple of other very unexpected sources of beautiful Sicilian shells that I discovered during our time there. One was right there in the little town of Acitrezza. The many owners of the small two-man fishing boats in the village would clean their nets each day, leaving considerable bycatch in piles in shallow water right next to the where they tied off their boats in the harbor. I would come behind them with a dip net and comb through the bycatch finding many perfect and beautiful specimens unknowingly left unclaimed by the fishermen, e.g., R.

Another unlikely source for great shells was the strong winter storms that came down through the Straits of Messina, just north of where we lived. The ensuing high seas would wash up hundreds of beautiful specimen quality Ionian Sea bivalves on the beaches of Catania, Sicily only about three miles from our little village. There were many a winter’s day when I took full advantage of this unexpected bounty as well!





And finally, since we lived in a seaside village, I also had snorkeling access to the crystal clear and prolific waters of the Ionian Sea right outside our back door! Aside from the fabulous underwater scenery and a plethora of fascinating undersea creatures, I found many a beautiful specimen shell from my snorkeling adventures (**L**).

Teddie and I had the experience of a lifetime spending ten years living in a foreign country, and we brought back many, many Italian and Sicilian treasures of all kinds with us. And solidly among them, I count the over 100 different species of Sicilian seashells, many self-collected, that now adorn the Paul and Theodora Jones Shell Collection!

A Florida Outing

by Rick Edwards (photo's by the author)

For several years, we have made an annual weekend trip to Venice, Florida, a regular event. It started in the early 90's when our kids were younger and we were looking for an activity that they would enjoy. Venice was advertised as the "Shark Tooth Capital of Florida." So we drove from Orlando to Venice and stopped at a tourist information station that told us about beaches where we could find fossilized shark teeth and how to find them on the beach. That first trip was highly successful when we found over 100 teeth in about 3 hours on the beach, some of which are on the **R**. We would scoop up shell "hash" at the water's edge with our hands and dump it on the beach as water washed over it exposing teeth. We also checked areas of black sand on the beach as water washed over it exposing teeth. We were hooked and were only driven away that first day when a thunderstorm with lightning approached.



many different bivalves (**L**).

Over the years, the kids became adults, and our daughter moved away. My son became a certified diver. So, our collecting changed from beach collecting to diving and snorkeling for teeth. By diving we increased our chances of finding a giant Megalodon tooth, which we are still looking to find, and nicer teeth that are not beach worn. Over the years, we have also found that the area is a relatively decent place for shells. Finding shells on the shore all depends on wind and storms. It is the only place I have found a very nice Junonia Volute on the beach. Live shells seen while diving include Horse Conchs, Whelks, various Cones, Fighting Conchs, and

Since the beach was “replenished” about 2 years ago, shark teeth have been less than plentiful. When the conditions present clear water along the shoreline, snorkeling in 18 inches of water is very productive for both shells and teeth in the shell “hash.”

Another interesting discovery relates to fossil shells. At one Venice public beach park, fossil material from local pits was used for ground cover and decoration. The stuff was rich in species and in excellent condition for shells that were between 2.5 and 3.5 million years old. None was over 2½ inches and well worth collecting **(R)**.



Venice is about 4½ hours from Jacksonville. We usually arrange for a hotel and drive down Friday evening so we miss most of the I-4 and I-75 intersection traffic. We spend Friday and Saturday nights at the hotel and return Sunday afternoon. Saturday is diving and beachcombing. Sunday morning may be a second dive if conditions are favorable, or exploring.

Possible Field trip to the Mote Aquarium by Rick Edwards

Recently, we visited the Mote Aquarium near Sarasota, Florida. I think it may be a good field trip for our members of the Jax Shell Club. Through our Council on Aging, I priced a 14-passenger bus from St. Augustine and back at \$600 inclusive of everything. This is an excellent price since the normal rate is \$300 for four hours. A smaller van (9-passenger) would be the same price. It would be an all day trip since it would be five hours each way plus the time at the aquarium. I know many of our members no longer drive after dark or drive any distance. The trip would be planned when it got cooler (Sept, Oct, Nov).

I would need to know if there is enough interest in trying to arrange this trip. The more participants, the cheaper it is. Also, should we open it to non-club members at a higher charge?. If interested, email me at edwar1@hotmail.com with “Mote Aquarium Trip” in the subject field. This is so I know it is not junk and don’t delete it. If there is sufficient interest, a date will be set and arrangements made.



R: William Edwards at the Mote Aquarium. Photo by author.

***Chicoreus falsinii* Nicolay, 1976: unavailable name, but valid species concept?**

Referring to the image of the 68 mm. shell on the left, which appeared in the text and on the cover of the issue, editor Kety Nicolay, wrote in *La Conchiglia* "**Chicoreus** [sic; Roman] **sp.** (N. sp.?) Remarks: the species closest to this is *C. territus* REEVE, 1845 [sic; no parens], from which it clearly differs by the bigger number of spiral whorls, for the vitreous protoconch, for the wider size, for the white color on the inside of the foliated varices, for the more curved siphonal canal, and for the forking of the spines. This last character is very similar that of *C. damicornis* HEDLEY, 1903 [sic; no parens]. **If this Murex is a new species** [our boldface], we propose the name of *Chicoreus falsinii* in honor of the owner of the specimen who so politely put it our disposition to study and photograph" (Nicolay, 1976: 18).



The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) (1999: Article 15) maintains that "Names and nomenclatural acts published after 1960. 15.1. Conditional proposal. A new name or nomenclatural act **proposed conditionally** [our boldface] and published after 1960 is not thereby made available...." This was clearly a conditional proposal, and the binomen was not made available by the act cited above.

Roland Houart (1992: 83) placed that unavailable name, *Chicoreus falsinii* Nicolay, 1976, in the synonymy of *C. damicornis* (Hedley 1903), but, since he introduced the name in synonymy, his action does not make the topical name available either.

I received the 61.0 mm. shell on the right from the late Bernice Pipher of Tekamah, NE at the fabulous (800 lineal ft. of displays; Aug. 1) 1975 Jacksonville Shell Show. Misidentified as *Pterynotus loebbeckei* (Kobelt, 1879), it was accompanied by the same indication of provenance as the Nicolay shell: "Dredged in 300 meters, off Cape Naturaliste, western Australia by Taiwanese trawlers." These two shells bear an uncanny resemblance to each other and not so much to *C. damicornis*, with its much reduced webbing between the variceal fronds and rectilinear siphonal canal. Are they really the same species, as Houart, who only knew of the *La Conchiglia* specimen, thought? Stay tuned; we'll engage in some taxonomic rumination in an issue(s) to come.

Houart, R., 1992. The genus *Chicoreus* and related genera (Gastropoda: Muricidae) in the Indo-West Pacific. *Mémoires du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle 4e série. Section A, zoologie, biologie et écologie animales 154*: 1-188. Oct. 15.

ICZN (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature), 1999. *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. Fourth edition*. International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, London. Pp. xxix + 1-306. <<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted-sites/iczn/code/>>

[Nicolay, K.], 1976. Family Muricidae. *La Conchiglia* 8(93-94): cover; 16-18. November. [unattributed; editor]

Image (L) scanned from *La Conchiglia*, photo (R) by editor, and composite edited by Bill Frank.



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