



SHELL•O•GRAM

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March-April, 2019 _____ Volume 60 (no. 2)

Upcoming meetings

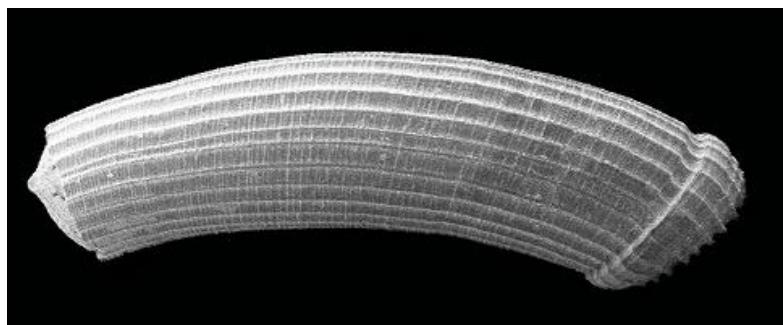
The **March** meeting of the Jacksonville Shell Club (JSC) will be held at the usual venue, the Southeast Branch of the Jacksonville Public Library <http://www.yelp.com/biz/jacksonville-public-library-southeast-regional-jacksonville>, on the **fourth** Thursday (the **28th**) in Function Room **D** at 7:00 PM. Harry Lee will present the



shell-of-the-month, *Fossaria cubensis* (L. Pfeiffer, 1839), the Carib Fossaria [L], a half-inch denizen of a variety of local habitats, most notably ephemeral roadside swales. Certain aspects of its lifestyle makes it ideally suited to such environments, which are generally inimical to mollusks. Rick and Roz Edwards will then take over the podium and provide us with a rare treat – a discussion of the many aspects of shell-crafting, complete with a demonstration of the creation of a unique objet d'art from start (except for the collecting phase) to finish. It has been well over a decade since the membership has been treated to such a presentation; perhaps one or more of us will

be recruited into this wonderful pastime.

The JSC meeting-after-next will be on the **third** Thursday, **April 18**, a week earlier than is customary, due to competition from another organization. We'll convene at the usual time, 7:00 PM, and place,



Room D. Paul Jones will discuss the Giant Atlantic Cockle, *Dinocardium robustum* ([Lightfoot], 1786), which lives throughout the Carolinian (Sub)Province and even straggles into Virginia. It is easily found close to (and on) the shores of most of our state and is nearly the largest species of its family. Harry Lee will

update us on the Caecidae of the Pinecrest beds of SW Florida, several species of which persisted, like *Caecum cycloferum* Folin, 1867 [above] over 3,00,000 years and can be found in our state's marine waters today.

Jacksonville Shell Club, Inc.
4132 Ortega Forest Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32210-5813

Editor-in-Chief: Harry G. Lee ... Email: shells@hglee.com
Managing Editor: Rick Edwards ... Email: edwar1@hotmail.com

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 below 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.

Parsing the Pear Whelks, a North American complex complex; follow-up

by Harry G. Lee

At our February meeting, four of our members answered the call to bring Pear Whelk shells collected on either side of the Florida peninsula so that everyone present could determine if there were consistent differences



among localities, mostly the Cedar Keys (Levy Co., on the W) and Matanzas Inlet (St. Johns Co., on the E; see L). Recalling that recent work by Petuch *et al.* (2015) parsed the genus *Fulguopsis* further than previous authors, distinguishing shallow water W Florida shells from those of the southern Atlantic slope. The latter are more "heavily sculptured, with strong spiral cords and ribs on the body whorl and spire," with "a rough, coarsely-textured shell" whereas W Florida shells are "much smoother, with a sculpture made up only of fine spiral threads, and ... a distinct silky texture to the body whorl and spire." Because of Solomon Hollister's quirky neotype/type locality designation, the E GOM form fell under the mantle of *F. pyruroides*, and *F. rachelcarsonae* was introduced to by the authors to accommodate the populations occurring from Cape Hatteras to Broward Co., FL, which stretch includes our local stomping grounds.

The first consensus observation was that the smaller (younger?) shells tended to be more deeply sculpted and angulate at the shoulder. Taking that bit of ontogeny into consideration, however, we agreed that **almost** all shells seemed to conform to the above dichotomy. All of us agreed that there was

an exception or two among the approximately 20 shells. Somewhat over a week earlier, Rick Edwards and I did a similar experiment in Gainesville involving ~ 40 Florida Museum specimens approximately equally divided geographically, and we observed somewhat less compliance with the dichotomy.

Based on the two experiments, those in attendance concluded that the two allopatric taxa better fit a **subspecific** model, i.e.,

- *F. pyruroides pyruroides* (Say, 1822) NE Florida
- *F. pyruroides rachelcarsonae* Petuch, Myers, & Berschauer, 2015 Cedar Key and Sanibel, W Florida

Hollister, S. C., 1958. A review of the genus *Busycon* and its allies, Pt. 1. *Palaeontographica Americana* 4(28): 1-126. <<http://biodiversitylibrary.org/page/10693643>>

Petuch, E.J., R.F. Myers, and D.P. Berschauer, 2015. *The living and fossil Busycon whelks: Iconic mollusks of eastern North America*. San Diego Shell Club, California. [i] + [i]-viii + 1-[195].

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
Harry G. Lee, Treasurer, JSC
4132 Ortega Forest Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32210-5813

The JSC Award winners at the 64th Northeast Florida Regional Science and Engineering Fair by Harry G. Lee and Rick Edwards

Monday, February 11 saw the main hall of the Morocco Shrine Auditorium brimming with competitive project exhibits – not the kind we veterans JSC recall from the days when the venue hosted our annual shell shows, but the work of 240 regional 6th to 12th graders competing in 12 categories including zoology, computer science, chemistry, and engineering hoping to win acknowledgement and maybe a trip to the state science and engineering fair.



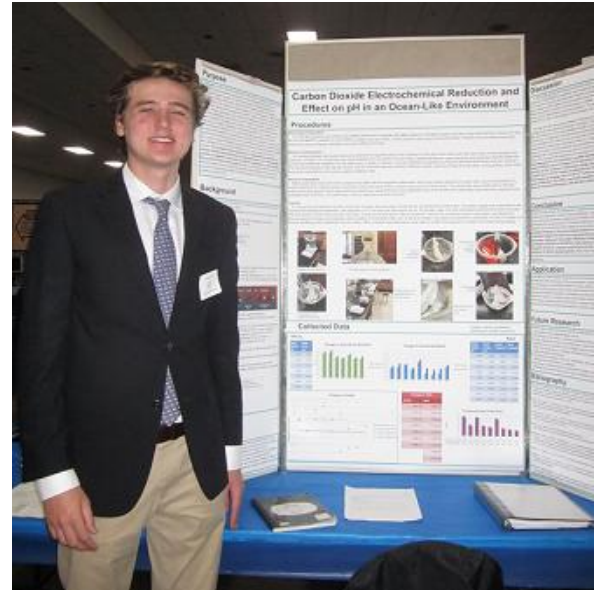
As in previous iterations, we looked at every one of the exhibits since our award criteria, excellence in a project dealing with malacology and/or marine science, could be placed in any one of the major categories.

Sara Baker [L], a seventh-grader at James Weldon Johnson Middle School, Jacksonville, looked at behavior of a freshwater pulmonate snail she identified as the Red Ramshorn, a planorbid snail called *Planorbis rubrum* [sic]* in the aquarium trade. After manipulating the pH of the ambient water in several aquaria, she was able to appreciate differences in motility, egg-laying, fertility, and other measured parameters. A slightly alkaline medium seemed to be the most favorable for the snails. Sara won the our

Junior Division Award, a check for \$50.00. Her advisor was Mikalene Temples.

* This binominal construct, which is a nomenclatorial malapropism, seems to have its origin in the red pigmentation of the snail's body, due to hemoglobin, the normal oxygen-carrying pigment in the Planorbidae, which is quite apparent due to the (abnormal, mutant) lack of melanin in the soft tissues. The actual identity of the species is unclear, but it may be *Biomphalaria glabrata* (Say, 1818) <<http://www.jaxshells.org/bh115.htm>>. In any event, the specific adjectival epithet *ruber*, *rubra*, *rubrum* does not appear to have been made nomenclatorially available in combination with any planorbid genus in the formal taxonomic literature. This binomen also appeared in the work of the 2017 JSC Senior division winner (*Shell-O-Gram* 58(2) <<http://jaxshells.org/pdfs/marapr17.pdf>>, Alice Baker, who bears a certain resemblance to Sara. This connection, possibly at the sibling level was not made until weeks after the event during the preparation of this report.

Our senior division winner was Spencer Huie [R], who is a Junior at Episcopal High School of Jacksonville. He applied electrolysis to sea water using a variety of electrodes and found some evidence that carbon dioxide could be sequestered and converted into simple organic molecules. Although the process appeared to be lack immediate applicability, Spencer presented a thoroughgoing hypothetical analysis of how such a process would be vital in remediating climate change and acidification of the world's oceans. He received a check for \$75.00 from the JSC treasury. Of interest is the fact that his faculty preceptor, Marion Zeiner, the Director of the Fair, has been our coordinator for many of the three decades the JSC has been involved with this laudable event.



2019 Shell Shows & Related Events

by Vicky Wall, COA Awards Director

March 26, 2019

Freshwater Snail Workshop, 11 am-4 pm

Glasgow Museum Resource Centre,
200 Woodhead Rd., South Nitshill Industrial Estate
Glasgow G53 7NN

Contact: Joanna Lindsay

Tel: 01786 447504

Email: joanna.lindsay@buglife.org.uk

March 30 – April 9, 2019

Philippines Seashell Convention

Marielle's Seashell Museum

San Juan, Siquijor

Contact: Mark Reekie on Facebook or

E-mail: seashelldude@gmail.com

April 12 – 15, 2019

14th Australian Shell Show

Incorporating the 125th MSSA Birthday Celebration
Goodwood Community Center, Rosa Street,
Goodwood

Adelaide, South Australia

For information and registration packets contact:
sashellclub@gmail.com

April 26-28, 2019

Bangkok Shell Show

Thailand Creative & Design Center

Central Post Office Building

1160 Charoen Krung Rd., Kywaeng Bang Rak,
Khet Bang Rak, Krung Thep Maha Nakhon
(Bangkok) 10500

Contact: Tom Rice email: ofseaandshore@gmail.com

May 3-4, 2019**Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show**

Brazosport Museum of Natural Science
400 College Blvd. Clute, Texas 77566
Contact: Wanda Coker
email: emptybobbin51@yahoo.com

May 18 – 19, 2019**29th Belgium International Shell Show, Belgium**

Sporthal Kattenbroek, Kattenbroek 14
2650 Edegem, Belgium
Charles Krijnen, Burgemeester Jansenstraat 10,
NL-5037 NC Tilburg, Nederland
E-mail: bvc.shellshow@planet.nl
Tel: 31(13) 463-0607
Website: www.konbvc.be/shellshow.php

May 31 – June 2, 2019**Gulf Coast Shell Show, Panama City, FL**

Panama City Beach Senior Center, 423 Lyndell Lane
Jim Brunner, 2511 Parkwood Drive, Panama City, FL
32405
E-mail: jili1043@comcast.net Tel: 805-215-2086

June 17 – 23, 2019**Conchologists of America Annual Convention,
Captiva Island, FL**

South Seas Island Resort, 5400 Plantation Road,
Captiva Island, FL 33924
Registration: Ed Shuller E-mail:
eshuller@mindspring.com
Website: conchologistsofamerica.com

July 5 – 7, 2019**Townsville Shell Show, 50th Anniversary
Celebration**

Orchid Society Hall in Kirwan, Charles Street,
Townsville, Queensland, Australia
Contact: Jack Worsfold
Email: jnw_48@yahoo.com.au

July 13 – 14, 2019**52nd Keppel Bay Shell Club Shell Show, Yeppoon,
Queensland, Australia**

Gus Moore Pavilion at the Yeppoon Show Ground

Jean M. Offord, 277 McDougall St., N.
Rockhampton, Qld. 4701, Australia
Tel: 61 (74) 391-313 Website:
keppelbayshellclub@bigpond.com

August 9-11, 2019**Jersey Cape Shell Show, Stone Harbor, NJ, 08247**

The Wetlands Institute, 1075 Stone Harbor Blvd
Phil Dietz, 242 6th Avenue,
West Cape May, NJ 08204
email: info@jerseycapeshellclub.com
tel: 609-425-6083

August 22-25, 2019**North Carolina Shell Show, Wilmington, NC 28401**

Coastline Convention & Event Center, 501 Nutt St
Karlynn Morgan, 3098 Shannon Drive
Winston-Salem, NC 27106
email: karlynnmorgan@earthlink.net
tel: 336-692-4492
website: www.ncshellclub.com

August 23-25, 2019**4th Annual West Coast Shell Show**

Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park,
San Diego, CA
Contact: David Berschauer
Tel: 949-457-9210
Email: shellcollection@hotmail.com
Webpage: sandiegoshellclub.com/Facebook

August 23-September 2, 2019**Oregon Shell Show**

Salem Oregon (venue information coming soon)
Contact: Marici Reid
Tel: 408-891-5643
email: marici@earthlink.net

September 21-22, 2019**German Club Conchylia Shell Show**

KULTURA, Herrenwiesenstr. 12, 74613
Oehringen, Germany
Contact: Kurt Kreipl, Hoehenweg 6, 74613
Oehringen, Germany
email: meeresmuseum@t-online.de

Two Florida clams rarely seen alive



***Anatina anatina* (Spengler, 1802) Smooth Duckclam**

Mud flat, Kice Is., just S of Marco, Collier County, FL 12/15/2012 (~60 mm adult). Digital image by Amy Tripp.



***Mactrotoma fragilis* (Gmelin, 1791) Fragile Surfclam**

In sand, Big Talbot Island, Duval Co., FL 3/2003 (30 mm juv.). Digital image by Bill Frank.



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