



# SHELL•O•GRAM

Official Publication of the  
**JACKSONVILLE SHELL CLUB, INC.**

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## Upcoming meetings

The Jacksonville Shell Club, Inc. (JSC) now meets on the **fourth** Sunday of each month except for November (a week earlier due to Thanksgiving) and December (traditional Xmas get-together/TBA) in the **Village Inn** in **St. Augustine**. The meeting will be from **5 to 7 PM**. Those who wish to have dinner prior to the meeting should be there by 4 PM to order dinner.

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, **May 24**. The program will be presented by Paul Jones on one of his collecting areas. Rick Edwards will show and discuss how to do a shell serving tray.

At the **June 23** meeting Nancy Galdo will do a Program on collecting in Honduras. Rick will show and discuss shell candle making.

A Shell of the month will be presented yet to be determined.

The main programs are normally posted on <http://www.jaxshells.org/pdfs/sepoct16.pdf> but has not been updated. It is hoped that this will be functional by July.

## Progress Update

The club held its first meeting in St. Augustine on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April. The new location and format appears to be an initial success. The president modeled a format for future meetings. Most members started the evening with dinner before the meeting. At 5 PM, the meeting started with the shell of the month presented by Mary Reynolds.

The scientific program was presented by Rick Edwards on the Maui Ocean Center. The program was followed by the approval of the minutes, reports, and both old and new business. With the conclusion of the business portion, a crafters program was presented by Rick Edwards on making a glass Christmas ornament containing sand, shells, a starfish, and shark tooth. Everyone got to make an ornament and take it with them. The meeting concluded before 7PM.

It seems that this format will be used for the future, Although the science program was a Powerpoint program this time, other types of programs are desired and will be offered in the future as individuals volunteer to share a program with us. The attendance was the largest we have had in years, and many members expressed high satisfaction with our new format and location. I encourage as many members as possible to attend in the future. There will be several interesting programs in the future, both scientific and crafts presented by club members.

Membership Dues are payable in **September** each year.  
Many of you have complied, but if you're in arrears, please send in your dues:  
Individual \$15.00; Family \$20.00, to  
To be determined after reorganization

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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 about two days later and sent to about 200 individuals who have demonstrated an interest in malacological research and/or Florida mollusks. These pdf's (ISSN 2472-2782) have also been posted to <http://jaxshells.org/letters.htm> since November, 1998. We encourage members and other 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 *Shell-O-Gram* Editor-in-Chief. As a courtesy, the editor and author should receive a copy of the original and republication version respectively. Contents of the *Shell-O-Gram* are intended to enter the permanent scientific record. The club is a chartered corporation in the State of Florida and a non-profit educational organization under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the US IRS Code.

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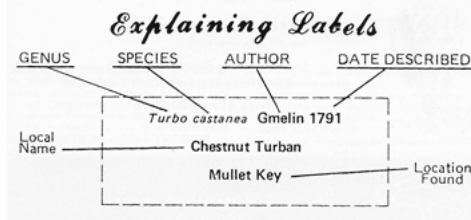
We hope to resolve several issues in the future. Doug Plishka, our treasurer, will be able to sign checks by the end of May allowing us to pay expenditures. Nancy Galdo is working on compiling an accurate membership list as we have not had one in recent years. We know there are problems with the receiving of the Sell O Gram. We hope to have them rectified as quickly as possible. It is planned to only produce an electronic version of the SOG in the immediate future. Please email your valid email to me at the above email so that you can continue to receive the Shell-O-Gram when the switch from paper to full electronic version is made. A large amount of shell club materials and club related items that Dr. Lee was custodian of, have been passed on to me. I have parceled them to University of Florida, and other appropriate parties. A question is being explored with an expenditure for digitizing the collection of the Shell-O-Grams dating to the 1960's and

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making it into a searchable data base. Our JAX website, now operated by the COA, does not have updated information at this time. Dr. Lee had been the “go-between” for the site. Hopefully, the situation will be rectified by July.

Last, we are still in need of an editor for the Shell-O-Gram. I have been producing a short version of the newsletter, but time devoted to its production and the time devoted to reinvigorating the club is consuming a large portion of time, I would like to spread the activities around.

Thanks to all who have “pitched -in” to help the club reinvigorate itself.



## What is your label like?

By Rick

In the early 1970's, putting information on your label for shells in your collection was pretty “loose”. A common name, the genus species name, and country of origin was fine. However, it is insufficient for the serious collector or museum today. In reviewing some of my earlier labels (made with a typewriter) with the above information, I found that I wished I had been more careful and kept better data records. I was smart enough to start numbering shells and recording data, The notebook with the data on my early collecting disappeared in one of our many moves as a kid and/or a young adult. At least the shells are here.

Today, it is always better to have as much data as possible. If you are starting out, I would recommend a good computer program like Excel or something similar. Notes about the field can be included in this data base. Other programs will work also. It is extremely helpful to know what shells you have avoiding multiple duplications unless collecting the same shell from a host of locations. When your collection gets into the 100's or 1,000's it is difficult to keep track of your shells. Also, unless it is written down, you tend to lose a lot of information about the more “mundane” shells.

For a collection today, the following is considered a minimum:

- Genus species name
- Author of the name
- Common and/or Local name
- Location

Most labels today contain far more information. They may include conditions under which the shell was found. Such things as on the beach, diving, snorkeling, or trawled may be included. Was it in mud, sand or under coral? Day or night, live or empty, depth, GPS location, or special conditions are also helpful. These conditions are not limits to the information.

The date of collection may also appear on the label. This tells the viewer if it is a recent find or an older one. My collection spans from 1953 to the present.

The location can be general like “the Philippines.” Most collectors prefer a lot more specificity. A shell found on a Florida coast location could have the location described as Sea Horse Key-west side, near Cedar Key, Florida.

A lot of collections now include the collector's name as part of their data. With a lot of collectors purchasing shells rather than self-collecting, it is important to know the source of the shell.

Also, do not forget that the labels should be attractive, especially if the shell is to be displayed in a show. Neat, attractive, properly labeled shells can make a difference in an outstanding exhibit and a “so so” exhibit.



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