

# SHELL-O-GRAM

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## Editorial Board:

Charlotte M. Lloyd, Editor  
Bill Frank, Asst. Editor  
Harry G. Lee



## Club Officers:

Judy Blocker, President  
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Bill Frank, Secretary  
Jack Woodruff, Treasurer

## JULY MEETING

The July 22 meeting will be held at the Reid Medical and Science Auditorium at 7:30 PM at Jacksonville University, University Blvd., Jacksonville, FL.

Dr. John Bryan from Florida State University will present a slide program on "The Geological History of Coral Reefs in Florida."

The Shell-Of-The-Month Neasopis jabobi, a land snail from Galapagos Island, will be presented by Betty Hunter.

## AUGUST MEETING

The August 26 meeting will be held at the usual time and place.

Dr. Harry G. Lee will give a slide report on fresh water mollusks of the Choctawhatchee River and the finding of the COA field trip to that area.

The Shell-O-The-Month will be a short video by Charlotte Lloyd of diving and finding Cypraea cervus the Atlantic Deer Cowrie, on offshore reefs.

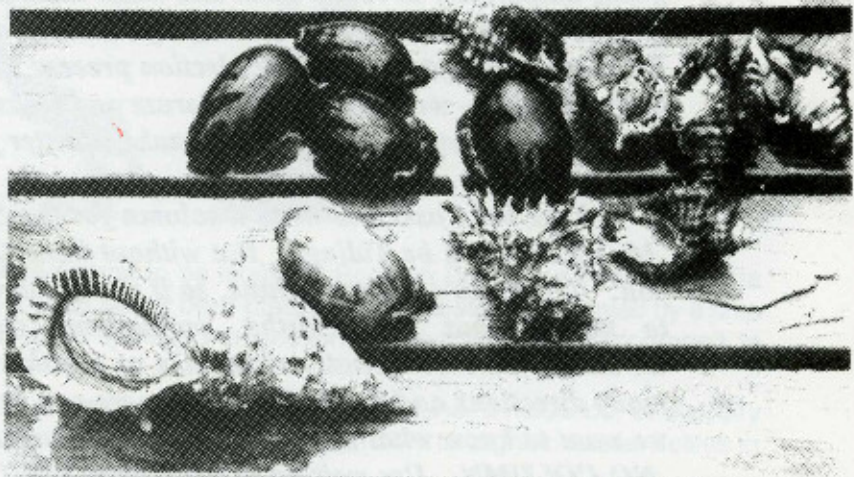
## RETURN TO THE COPPEDGE TUG

by Jack Woodruff

As previously reported in the September 1992 Shell-O-Gram, I had made a dive on this artificial reef back in August but had decided I would return in 1993.

My buddy, Ray Payne, met me at my dock at 7:00 AM and we proceeded to load our dive gear for the trip offshore. With the boat loaded we headed out the intra-coastal to the St. Johns River. By 8:15 we were transiting the Mayport Jetties and heading southeast for the dive site.

We arrived on site at 9:45 and I began my search for the tug. After about 15 minutes crossing the area, I found the wreck and got set-up to drop anchor. My buddy put the anchor out on my signal and we drifted



Array of shells found by Jack Woodruff while diving the Coppedge Tug.



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THE SHELL-O-GRAM IS ISSUED BI-MONTHLY AND MAILED TO ALL REGULAR MEMBERS. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES \$12.50 INDIVIDUAL, \$15.00 FAMILY. LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE. SEND DUES TO: JACK WOODRUFF, 4206 SEABREEZE DR., JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FL. 32250. THE CLUB MEETS THE FOURTH THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, 7:30 PM AT THE REID SCIENCE/MEDICAL BUILDING, JACKSONVILLE UNIVERSITY, JACKSONVILLE, FL. PLEASE ADDRESS ANY CORRESPONDENCE TO THE CLUB'S ADDRESS SHOW ABOVE. CLOSING DATE FOR ARTICLES TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE FIRST OF EACH MONTH OF PUBLICATION. ARTICLES MAY BE REPRINTED IF PUBLISHER SENDS TWO ARTICLES TO THE SHELL-O-GRAM; ONE FOR AUTHOR, AND ONE FOR THE SHELL-O-GRAM LIBRARY, AND THE AUTHOR'S NAME AND PUBLICATION MENTIONED IN THE PUBLICATION.



OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION  
BY LAWS CHANGES

To be presented at July Meeting.

QUORUM NECESSARY

also  
Election of Officers and Board

**President's Letter:**

*My year as president is coming to a close and I want you all to know it has been very rewarding. It's hard to believe a year has gone by. I'm disappointed we didn't have a Shell Show, but we'll make it up next year.*

*There is one more thing I'd like to accomplish before year end and we need your cooperation. Our By-Laws are very cumbersome and need to be streamlined. Your board is trying desperately to revise them and make them more workable and easy to understand. We hope to present the changes at the July meeting for adoption before the elections. If the new By-laws are adopted the whole election process will change (for the better.) So please come to the meeting - we must have a quorum and please come with a spirit of cooperation because we've spent a lot of time trying to make it better for our clubs sake! Be on time se we can accomplish this.*

*I have been asked to write a column for the Shell-O-Gram to replace Bonnie's Bubbles. My column will be Tidings. But without input there will be no column. I must hear from you. I have an answer machine, so if you cannot reach me - just leave a message. We want to know about trips, births, promotions, sickness, all the things you are doing. COMMUNICATE! That's what links us together. We are a very diversified group going in many directions and this is the one way we can keep in touch. Whether you are active or not we want to know what's happening. I can't call all of you - so please call me. NO INPUT - NO COLUMN. I'm waiting to hear from YOU! 246-4012.*

*Judy*



## Expect The Unexpected

By Bill Frank

Regardless of our varied stated reason for going shelling, deep down inside most of us share a common desire to find something truly unusual. It might be a world record size specimen, a sinistral two foot long Horse conch, or maybe the discovery of a new species which is subsequently named in our honor. Occasionally something unusual is found but over a year elapses before the significance of the find comes to light.

Such is the case with Mary Bukstel of Boca Raton, Florida; a member of the Broward Shell Club. Approximately a year and a half ago Mary, a diver and Spondylus/Chama collector, was at a depth of 90 feet off Boynton Beach searching the backside of the reef. While in the spur and groove reef formation, a movement caught Mary's eye as a large bivalve closed at her approach. There half on the reef and half on the sand was a large specimen which she collected with some difficulty.

Mary knew she had collected something special but the exact identification of the find remained elusive despite assistance from fellow club members. Opinions ranged from a mutated Spondylus to a Pearl oyster. Upon hearing the latter, a search for a pearl was made with disappointing results.

Recently at the Shellers Jamboree in Largo, Florida, identification confirmed the rarity of the find. Mary had collected a Pinctada mazatlanica (Hanley, 1856), and a large specimen at that. This species is normally found on the outer coast of Baja California through the Gulf of California and south to Peru, usually in shallow water.



**Mary and her unusual find off of Boynton Beach.**

So how did a Panamic shell from the Pacific Ocean come to be found off Boynton Beach? As with previous introduced molluscs, it could have either been attached to a ship's hull or been present in the ballast water carried by a ship transiting from the Pacific. To combat this sort of inadvertent species introduction, ships have been encouraged to exchange ballast water while on the high seas.

Too often in the past, introduced species have proven either destructive to local fauna, a nuisance, or a costly menace as in the case of several species of mussels (see Shell-O-Gram article, January 1987, "Immigrant Mussel Settles In Northside Generator.")

In this particular case, it appears that no harm to the local environment will take place and Mary has thus far been unable to locate additional specimens during subsequent dives. However, this event does make one wonder though what other Pacific species could be present off the Florida Coast, especially near the many busy ports such as Jacksonville.



## SHELLER'S JAMBOREE '93

by Charlotte Lloyd

Over Memorial Day weekend, twelve members of the Jacksonville Shell Club attended the 3rd Sheller's Jamboree held by the Suncoast Conchologists in Clearwater, Florida.

The modest cover charge included admission to all events AND provided all the meals for the two day celebration. The meals were absolutely delicious, plentiful, and outstanding in appearance. The Shellorama concluded with a biological dredging cruise on Monday for those wishing to stay over.

There were snail parades, (no live animals) just glass, ceramics, wood, and other materials that were judged for most "beautiful", "humorous", "useful", etc. Also many outstanding specimen shells were seen in the "One Specimen Division" judged by R. Tucker Abbott, Walter Sage and Kevan Sunderland. A favorite of everyone seemed to be the Spondylus americanus, Spiny Oyster, attached to (seemingly growing out of) the base of a light bulb taken from a wreck off the coast of Florida.



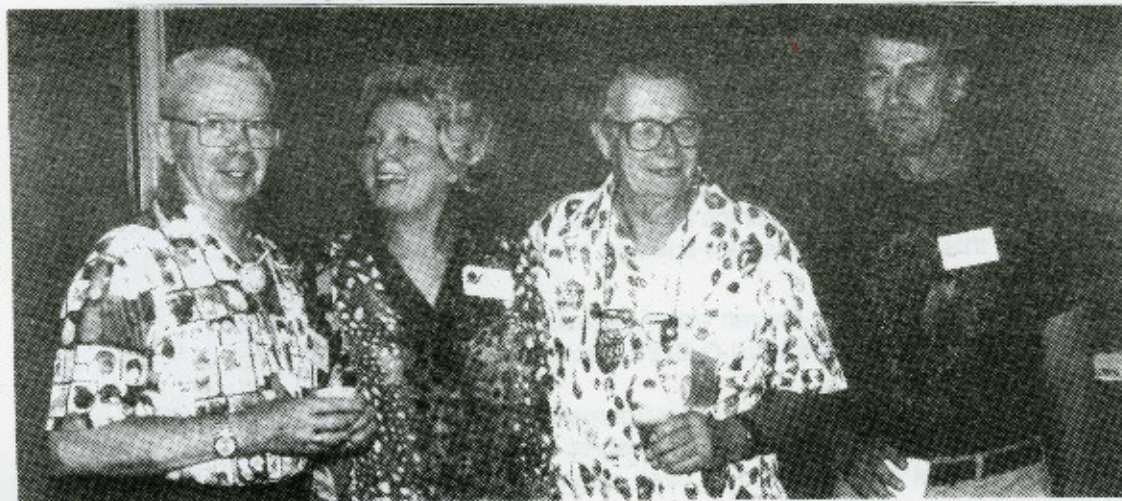
JSC members gather for photo at Shellers Jamboree (not pictured are Clara and Barry Shiflett.)

All of the JSC attendees, myself, Tucker Abbott, Bill Frank, Billie Brown, Gertrude Moller, Betty Hunter, Alan Gettleman, Norm Paschall, Allan and Hazel Walker, and Barry and Clara Shiflett really enjoyed the fun activities and everyone seemed to find the shell or shell-related item they couldn't live without at the "Sales Tables." This event is for non-dealers to sell their extra shells or related items, and we saw many "goodies" offered by local collectors. This has become a very popular event, sort of reminded one of the anticipation you see at the opening of the COA Bourse, but on a smaller scale.

But! If you missed out at the silent auctions or sales tables you were sure to find something to your liking at the Auction. I don't think I've seen a better collection of specimen shells offered, you couldn't beat the quality, color and uniqueness.

The programs were educational and well-presented. I was honored to be asked to share my live animal slides of Caribbean mollusks.

It was a great weekend to see old friends and meet newcomers to our fascinating hobby, AND it prepped us for COA '93 coming up soon.



Allan Walker, Billie Brown, R. Tucker Abbott and Bill Frank enjoy refreshments and chatting before programs.



## Coppedge Tug continued

back approximately 75 feet from the boat. We dropped the descent line and donned our dive gear.

I started down the descent line and immediately saw thousands of brightly colored Vermillion Snapper (Bee-liners) in large schools, darting through the water. As I slowly reached the 50 foot depth, I could make out the wreck outline sitting up-right and in excellent shape at 80 feet on a sand bottom.

The descent line anchor went over the bow rail and was secure. I was anxious to see how the shell population had fared in the last year. I spent 24 minutes carefully checking every nook and cranny. The boat showed very little change since my last visit but I had not found any of my favorites, Cymatium parthenopeum (von Salis, 1793), the Hairy triton. I did find two bulldozer lobster which are very good eating but no Cymatium.

My air running low, I started my ascent for the boat.

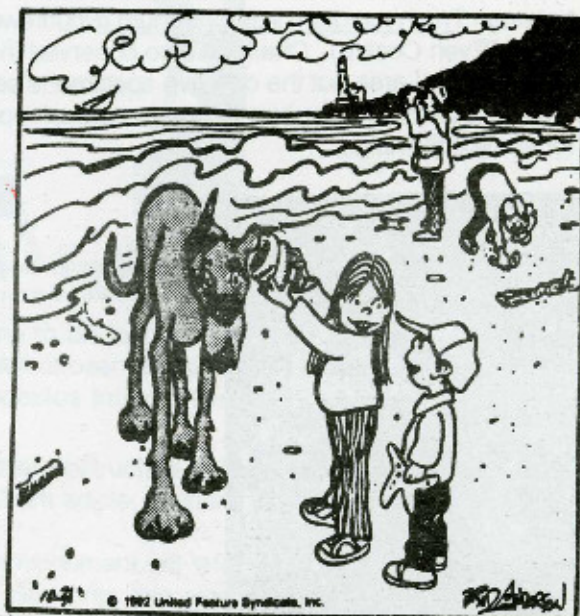
After the required surface time, we decided on one more dive each before pulling anchor. I was determined to find a Cymatium before we departed, so I spent most of my dive on the after deck. Slowly checking along the aft combing, I finally found a live Cymatium parthenopeum stuck to a large Pleuroploca gigantea (Kiener, 1840) which had just devoured my beautiful triton. This was definitely a "recent dead" shell. With confidence, I continued my slow search and four more live cymatium for a total of five. I also found four nice large Cypraea cervus (L., 1771). With this find I was quite satisfied and surfaced to make one more stop before heading home.

The next stop was at SS Reef, "Southeast 16 and 17 Fathom Hole", which is only three miles from the Coppedge. We dove a nice ledge in 106 feet of water. I found one more large Cypraea cervus and a very large live Murex fulvescens (Sowerby, 1834). However the find of the day was a very large, approximately 12 inch, Charonia variegata (Lamarck, 1816) found by my dive buddy Ray. This find made the day and as we pulled the anchor to head home, we quite satisfied with the days efforts.

## Shell Desk Diary Discontinued

Many members will be saddened to learn of the decision by the Shell Oil Company to discontinue publishing the Shell Desk Diary after more than 30 years. The 1993 diary was the last of the series. If payment has been already submitted for the 1994 diary, it will be refunded by the company.

## MARMADUKE By Brad Anderson



"Marmaduke thinks he hears the ice cream wagon chimes"



## Local Shelling Report

By Bill Frank

Summer shelling has thus far proven extremely interesting. The usual large numbers of Oliva sayana, Ravenel, 1834 can be found during low/minus tides just above the low water mark. In the same area, Busycon carica, (Gmelin, 1791) can be located buried in the sand with just their siphonal canal visible.

Of interest are the large number of juvenile olives (under 25 mm) present and the many larger specimens which show attempted predation. Upon examination, it appears that Olives are extremely successful in repairing even the most grievous of shell damage. This is further substantiated by the almost total lack of dead specimens with shell damage vs. the large number of dead olives with normal appearing shells.

When live shells are scarce, look for crabbed miniatures. Quite often when east/southeasterly winds are predominant, clumps of grass (which probably initially originated at a local marsh), at the low tide line can be especially lucrative. Pick a clump of dead grass from the surf and gently transport it to an area above the low tide line and shake vigorously. You will most likely be rewarded with a plethora of crabbed specimens. Sargassum sea weed also occasionally will produce specimens.

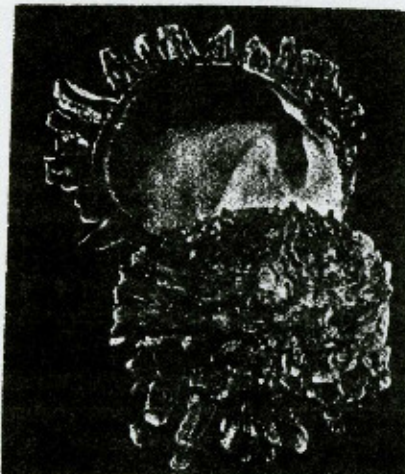
On five dates, selecting only Epitonium from the thousands of shells seen, at least nine different species were identified including Epitonium angulatum (Say, 1830), apiculatum (Dall, 1889), humphreysi (Kiener, 1838), multistriatum (Say, 1826), rupicola (Kurtz, 1860), occidentale (Nyst, 1871), multicostatum (de Boury), c.f. albidum (Orbigny, 1842), and one additional species which has yet to be identified.

The most common species you will find are Epitonium angulatum, followed by Epitonium rupicola and Epitonium humphreysi. Most of the specimens found are comparable in condition to live specimens.

There is usually intense competition for any live shells on the beach; however, none whatsoever for clumps of grass. It's interesting that my attention to grass clumps has generated much more questions from casual beach goers than live collecting ever did. They invariably ask me what in the world I am doing, shaking the grass, and then crawling around on my hands and knees. After explaining the presence of small crabbed specimens, I occasionally find they join me in my search. Thanks to Harry Lee for identification of the specimens found.

Charlotte Lloyd has been diving offshore on the wrecks and natural reefs using her new underwater video camera. On a tugboat 30 miles east of Mayport, she observed many Cypraea cervus (L., 1771) (Atlantic Deer Cowrie); only two of which she collected because of the poor quality of the specimens. Additionally, one golden variety Charonia variegata (Lamarck, 1816) (Atlantic Trumpet Triton) was found. Interestingly, of the four Tritons Charlotte has observed off-shore from Jacksonville, all were found on metal wrecks. On the natural reef about 30 miles east of Jacksonville at a depth of 114 feet, Charlotte collected three Chama macerophylla (Gmelin, 1791) (Leafy Jewel Box) the largest of which measures 62 mm. Additionally a Cockle shell was collected, which according to Harry Lee, is a hybrid between Trachycardium egmontianum (Shuttleworth, 1856) (American Prickly Cockle) and T. isocardia (L., 1758) (Even Cockle). Charlotte also observed many large crabbed Strombus alatus Gmelin, 1791 in the same general area but the only live specimens seen were juveniles.

So whether you are a diver or a beach collector, now is the perfect time to go to your favorite area for some collecting.



LEAFY JEWEL BOX. *Chama macerophylla* (Gmelin, 1791). 3 inches. North Carolina to Brazil; Bermuda.



**South Georgia River The Focus of Attention By The Nature Conservancy - Future Of Endemic Mussels at Stake**

Darien, Ga. - Runoff from rain on the Yellow Jackets in Atlanta and the Bulldogs in Athens ends up in the same place. So does the water from a lawn sprinkler in Macon, an irrigation system over a Vidalia onion field and a car wash in Dublin. All those drops and rivulets form the second-largest river basin on the Atlantic Coast, the Altamaha River, which pumps 100,000 gallons of water into the Atlantic Ocean every second.

The Oconee and Ocmulgee Rivers flow together to form the Altamaha. After that, the robust river winds capriciously for 137 miles, watering and nourishing a vast network of wetlands that, in turn, supports a variety of plants, birds, fish and other creatures. That's why the Nature Conservancy wants to preserve the Altamaha. The group is midway through a two-year, \$600,000 study to determine just what's there to save, said Chris Lambert, head of the Altamaha River Bioserve. If the study justifies it, the Nature Conservancy will, for the first time ever, work toward preserving an entire river corridor, she said. Normally, the Nature Conservancy sets aside smaller plots, like individual swamps or wetlands.

One of those studying the river is Eugene Kerferl, a Brunswick College professor, who moved south from Ohio to study the Altamaha spiny mussel (*Canthya spinosa* (Lea, 1838), a spiked shellfish that is found nowhere but in the Altamaha and some of its tributaries.

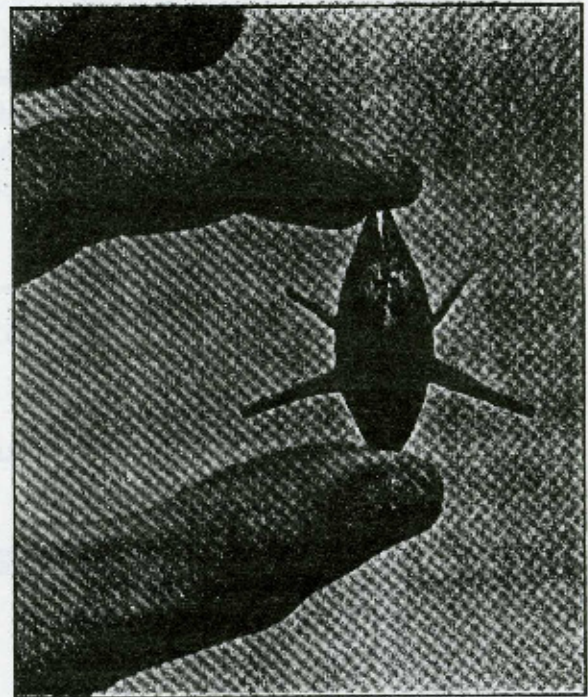
When he first saw the mussels in 1975, they were plentiful, Kerferl said. But now there are far fewer, perhaps thinned by pesticides or off-road vehicles crushing them in the shallows.

Kerferl says the mussels belong on the endangered species list. He may prove that this summer as part of a U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service contract to study the Altamaha Spiny Mussel and two other species Kerferl said.

Extracted from Florida Times Union Article, 6-13-93

The Altamaha River is the home of at least twelve species of mussels, five of which, including *Canthya spinosa*, are endemic.



The Altamaha spiny mussel is found only in the Altamaha River and some tributaries. Scientists think the juvenile mussel's spikes help anchor it in the shifting sand of the river bottom.



QUESTIONNAIRE

I ATTEND; SOME \_\_\_ MOST \_\_\_ ALL \_\_\_ MEETINGS.

AT THE MEETINGS I WOULD TO SEE MORE \_\_\_\_\_

I DISLIKE \_\_\_\_\_

I SUGGEST TO IMPROVE ATTENDANCE \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

Please drop in comment box at the next Shell Club meeting.

**The Shell-O-Gram**  
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*Judy*