

SHELL-O-GRAM

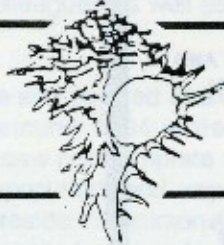
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Charlotte M. Lloyd, Editor
Harry G. Lee, Asst. Editor
Bill Frank



Club Officers:

Judy Blocker, President
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Bill Frank, Secretary
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MARCH MEETING

The **March 25** meeting will be held at 7:30 PM at the Reid Science/Medical Auditorium, Jacksonville University, University Blvd., Jacksonville.

The educational program will be a slide presentation by Jim Trudgen on "Diving Cozumel". Don't miss this opportunity to view the spectacular reefs and shells of the Yucatan.

The Shell-Of-The-Month will be presented on *Marginellas* from the Yucatan.

APRIL MEETING

The **April 22** meeting will be held at the usual time and place.

The program will be presented by several members of the club on "The Art of Shellcraft". Come prepared to make at least one craft item to take home. We need a large audience for this program (and future programs) since we will be taping a video. This will be the first in a series of video programs that will be made available to other clubs for loan.

Remember: Three shell books will be auctioned off at each meeting. This is an excellent opportunity to add to YOUR library.

Local Beach Shelling Report

by Bill Frank

Early February's minus tides, the lowest for this area for all of 1993, showed great promise in light of the mild winter weather we had been experiencing. As luck would have it, as the lowest tides approached (minus 1.4 feet on 8 February), heavy weather, which included rough seas and blustery northeasterly winds, returned.

North of the St. Johns river jetties at Huguenot Park on Fort George Inlet on 4 February, the open beach produced only two live shells (an *Oliva sayana* and a battered *Busycon contrarium*). Dead *Oliva sayana* up to 75 mm were readily available. In the inlet itself, small live *Busycon carica* and numerous *Oliva sayana* up to 73 mm were not uncommon. As a note of caution, if you are planning to drive on the sand at Huguenot Park, it is easy to get stuck. Even with a full-size Chevy Blazer, it was tough going in the inlet. It isn't readily apparent where the soft spots are until it is too late.

South of the river at Mayport Naval Station and Hanna Park, not much in the way of mollusks were found. Four trips to the beach during the lowest minus tides produced less than 10 *Oliva sayana* (all small), very small *Polinices duplicatus*, and a few *Terebra dislocata*. Collecting on most dates was hampered by heavy sea fog in addition to the aforementioned winds and rough seas.



Lettered Olive *Oliva sayana*



Moon Snail *Polinices duplicatus*



Dislocated Auger Shell *Terebra dislocata*

Continued on page 7

Jacksonville Shell Club, Inc.
1010 N. 24th Street
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

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.

Please bring 2 or 3 shell packs for Cub Scout Program to March meeting.

President's Message

If you have not heard, we had to cancel the shell show because Ed Ash of Beach Plaza reneged on his agreement to lease our Club space for the Shell Show. I am very disappointed! We already had so many plans in place. I want to thank everybody who had done so much - next year we'll make up for the last two years! - WITHOUT ED ASH

I made my first trip to the Sarasota Fossil Pit on Feb. 22 because I am unable to go in march - it was fabulous! So if you haven't been and can go - - - do it. Call Betty Hunter she has everything very organized.

It has been a shock to all of us losing Bonnie. She will be greatly missed. she was such an asset to our club and you always knew how Bonnie felt about things. Her funeral service was beautiful and a wonderful tribute to her and her family. Her spirit will always be with us. We'll never really say good-by.

Betsy and Bill Lyerty walked away from a tragic car crash coming from Sarasota Feb. 23rd. I saw their car end over end and feared for their life - they walked away unscathed - It Was A Miracle and they were so cool - I WASN'T anyway give them a hug.

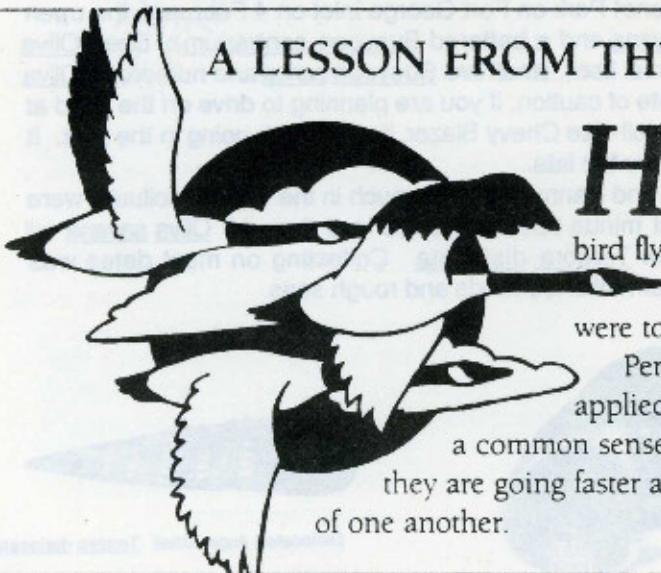
Don't take anything or anybody for granted. Enjoy our camaraderie and mutual interest NOW and dwell on the positive NOT the negative.

Fondly,
Judy



submitted by Judy Blocker

A LESSON FROM THE GEESE



Have you ever stopped to think about why geese fly in formation? When flying in a "V", the flap of each goose's wings creates an "uplift" for the bird flying behind. The flock thus achieves about 70 percent more flying range than if each goose were to fly alone.

Perhaps this is a lesson from nature that can be applied to all of us. When workers, for example, share a common sense of purpose and direction, they can get where they are going faster and easier by moving ahead on the "thrust" of one another.

Bonnie G. Holiman

(January 5, 1935 - February 1, 1993)

Although her passing leaves conchology greatly diminished, the legions who knew this dedicated spirit have been mightily enriched by Bonnie Holiman's touch. Her contributions to our cause were manifold and abiding, bringing enlightenment and pleasure to her many bereaved colleagues as well as countless others who will never be privileged to know her.

A native of Los Angeles, she reached adulthood there and married Stanley Holiman, with whom she traveled during his career in the U.S. Navy. She became a sheller around 1964 while they were garrisoned on Oahu. Subsequent assignments in Texas, Georgia, and finally Florida saw her complete her college education, receive nurse's training, augment her fine collection, and assume a position of popularity and respect in her avocation. After Stanley's retirement, he and Bonnie made the much-appreciated decision to reside in Jacksonville, Florida. After joining The Jacksonville Shell Club in 1975 she served in essentially every official capacity for the club. Although her accomplishments were profuse, she may be best remembered for two.

Bonnie was an indefatigable collector who was at her best when the ephemeral scallop fishery's fleet visited Jacksonville or St. Augustine. She pored through the bycatch with tenacity and special attention. The thousands of carefully-sorted specimens form one of the most important bases in the knowledge of our local marine malacofauna, now well in excess of 700 species - many of which are unnamed and the exclusive product of her labors.

She made an equally important mark as a caring and skillful shepherd to beginning collectors. She had many proteges, but undoubtedly the most beloved and probably the most accomplished of these was her son, Stephen, who plied the coastal waters of the Malay Peninsula and later the limestone hillocks and rice paddies of Thailand in pursuit of mollusks with dedication and no little success. A small token of his and Bonnie's industry is recapitulated in the spectacular land snail Hypselostoma holimanae Thompson & Lee, 1988, discovered by Steve.

Yet Bonnie brought other gifts to us. Her radiance elevated all whom she touched. She was usually the first to help when a friend (most of them were shellers and the reverse was nearly true) was sick, otherwise down, or in need. She served our club and others officially and otherwise for over 25 years without need for acknowledgement - recording, banking, presiding, hosting, writing, studying, shell-crafting, even baking when she was needed. The Jacksonville Shell Club and the world of conchology will miss her presence.

Bonnie leaves her husband, Stanley M., her sons Stanley C., and Stephen G., daughter-in-law Dtan, and two grandsons, Sean & Stephen C. Holiman. With them we mourn our loss and count our good fortune at having had this precious and wise friend. The following poem was written by Hazel Walker and read by Navy Chaplain, Dr. Franklin Taylor at Bonnie's memorial service. It is a fitting valediction from all of us.

Harry G. Lee

SPRING RAIN

I will not stand by your grave and weep
 You are not there, you do not sleep.
 You are the soft spring breeze that blows.
 You are the warm sandy beaches glow.
 You are the bluest springtime skies.
 You are the rarest collector's prize.
 You are the swift uplifting rush of
 the shorebirds in circled flight.
 You are the soft stars that shine at night.
 No, I will not stand by your grave and cry.
 You are not there, you did not die.

Goodbye to Bonnie from her many many friends,
 Whose lives she touched and enriched.
 God willing, we will meet again, with rakes
 and pails, on the golden shores of eternity.

Our Dove Shells

by Harry G. Lee

Since the Jacksonville Shell Club began its systematic study of our local fauna in 1975 or thereabouts no less than 729 species of marine and estuarine mollusks have been recorded. At last count almost 10% of these taxa were unnamed. While many of these "new" species are minute and rare, some are not of that recondite ilk and would turn the head of many an "oh my" collector.

Dove shells (family Columbelloidea) are small to medium sized (1/4 to 1 inch generally) colorful snails preferring tropical waters but reaching into temperate climes around the globe. We have a dozen species in our waters. Allowing for improper synonymies, one can find all mentioned in Dr. Abbott's 2nd edition of American Seashells - except one. Thereby hangs a tale.

Club members first became aware of a hard-to-pigeonhole Costoanachis species when we dredged the shallow backwater grass beds of Cedar Keys on group field trips over a decade ago. I blithely assured all who petitioned me that these colorful shells must be the West Florida form of C. lafresnayi (Fischer & Bernardi, 1856). Later friends from the Gulf Cost Shell Club inquired about identical shells they took in the shallow bays of Gulf & Bay County in the Panhandle. I gave the same reply - but secretly sought W. Florida lafresnayi. Club member Lou Therres brought beach drift from Ft. Pierce, S. E. Florida, and, you guess right, it had this species in it. As I casted about, June Dawley provided specimens she collected on Sanibel Island, S. W. Florida, and the late Bonnie Holiman "extended" the range to Corpus Christi, Texas with self-collected material. The conclusion was inescapable, the species was homogeneous throughout a large range and was quite distinct from the similarly-sculptured lafresnayi.



Photo by Charlotte Lloyd

The late Bonnie Holiman collecting small shells from scallop boat tailings at Ft. George.

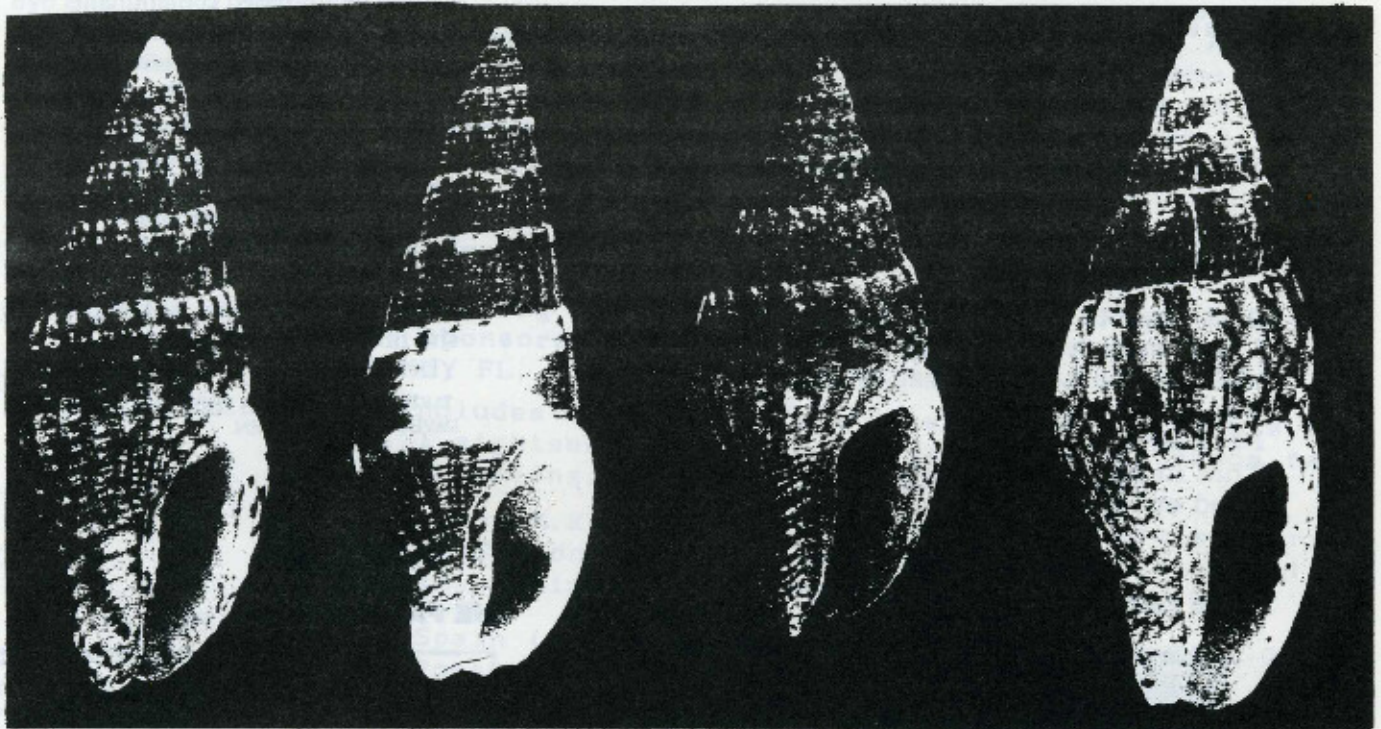
In only 1987 Bonnie brought me two (2) shells from the scallop tailings at Camp Alamacani, near Ft. George. Because of rumors and the slightest of hard evidence of W. Florida trawlings reaching "our" dumps, I told her we'd have to wait for confirmation before adding this species of our records. Until a few weeks ago no shells appeared. Then a breakthrough - my friend Joanne Lightfoot of Sedona, AZ. allowed me to review her Doves. In a matchbox I found 8 specimens of our species. Joanne had found them on the shore of Amelia Island in October, 1978! I immediately called Bonnie to announce her vindication. This wasn't the first time she'd brought an unnamed local shell to our attention, but it was probably the last confirmation she'd receive. It was difficult to tell who was the more elated at the revelation.

Continued on next page.

Dove shells continued.

I illustrate four of our local Dove shells of the genus Costoanachis (L to R: Bonnie's shell, lafresnavi (Fischer & Bernardi, 1859), similis (Ravenel, 1861), and avara (Say, 1822). Photos by Allan Walker.

Oh yes, last Fall I got W. Florida C. lafresnavi. Not our shell. Not as simple as I thought. Although they clearly have affinities with our "Eastern" form, they are deficient in spiral sculpture. Chances are they're an unnamed subspecies!



FOSSIL PIT FIELD TRIP HINTS

Betty Hunter - 786-6845

If you are planning on participating in the Sarasota field trip to the APAC Fossil Pit the weekend of 13 March, here are some helpful hints based upon my previous visits. Bring: long trousers, carry a long sleeve shirt, broad brimmed hat, sun glasses, sturdy shoes (jogging shoes are fine), and light weight gloves. For collecting in the pit, the following are recommended: two or three large buckets, a hand rake, a gallon of water (an old gallon milk jug is fine), and soap/paper towels. Some first aid products including band-aids, antibiotic cream or spray, and perhaps some alcohol wipes, are also recommended.

While collecting in the pit, try to go to the most recent piles of dirt. These will be extremely wet. Avoid the most accessible spots as they are apt to be well worked over. Less accessible spots may be the richest in goodies.

Shell Trivia

MARCUS SAMUEL, founder of the Shell Oil Company named the company after his family's important business. His family were importers of shells for Victorian ladies to decorate boxes. His family had dealt with the Middle East in business ventures, so when oil was discovered there they called on Mr. Samuel to market their oil. Thus, the name Shell Oil Co. The first tanker designed to transport oil was named Murex.

Submitted by Judy Blocker taken from Channel 7 Program on "The Oil Barrons".

SHELLER'S PRAYER author unknown

Lord grant that I may shell until my
dying day
And when it comes to my last search
I then most humbly pray
When in the Lord's Great Shelling
Bag
I'm peacefully asleep
That in his mercy I be judged
Good enough to keep.

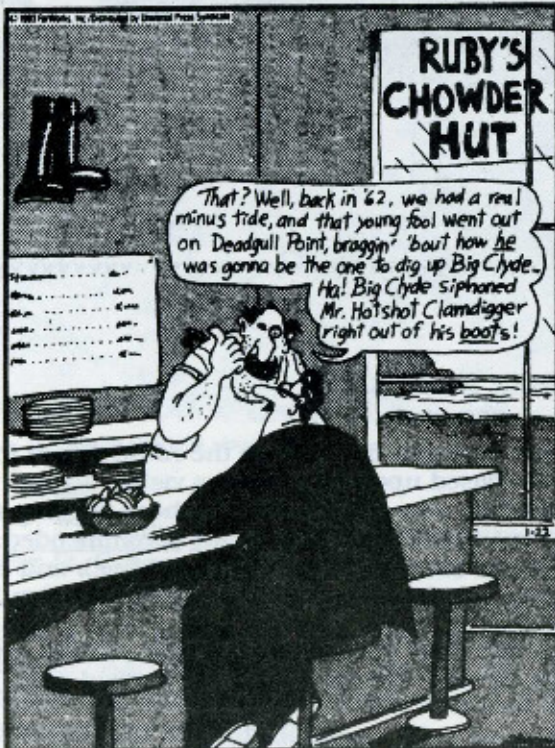
OH THOSE CANADIAN SNAILS!

Vancouver, British Columbia
-- Female snails in certain polluted coastal harbors have been turning into males, a researcher says. Snails undergoing the change, which some scientists think is caused by tin-based contaminants in the water, have been found almost everywhere University of Victoria biologist Derek Ellis and his colleagues looked for them.

We're sure this alarming development is wreaking havoc in the snail community. A guy snail comes home from a hard day of sliming around, hoping to have an intimate moment with his mate, but when she finally takes off her shell . . . YIKES!

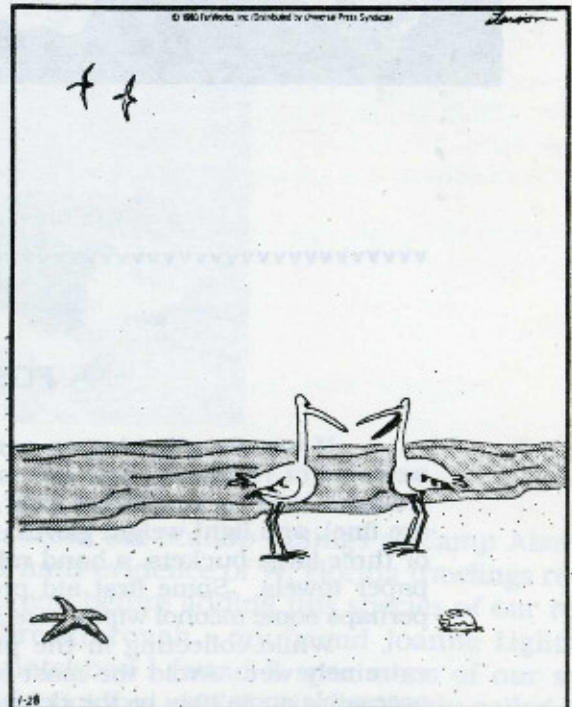
TAKEN FROM FLORIDA TIMES UNION, 1-15-93
DAVE BERRY'S COLUMN.

THE FAR SIDE By Gary Larson



More bivalve lore

THE FAR SIDE By Gary Larson



"You're not fooling me, Ned. ... Taking a long walk on the beach sounds romantic, but I know you're just looking for crustaceans."

Local Shells continued.

Interestingly, all of the *Oliva sayana* seen in Fort George Inlet had non-glossy shells while the lone specimen from the ocean beach possessed the normal gloss. Only a few hundred meters separated the two stations.

Microscopic examination of all the specimens revealed that the specimens from the inlet were heavily pitted and scratched with the specimen from the ocean beach was flawless. The spire of the eroded specimens showed very little or not pitting. It appears likely that a more abrasive sand in the inlet (possibly a higher concentration of silica) was responsible for the erosion. An almost identical situation has been noted in the past at Mayport Naval Station/Hanna Park. Olives examined at Mayport Naval Station almost without exception, have normal gloss while a majority of those found in the northern extremes of Hanna Park, 1.5 miles distant, showed pitting and loss of gloss. In the case of the naval station/Hanna Park, a visible difference in sand composition between the two localities could be detected with the naked eye.

Overall, this year the frequent northeasters have drastically changed the local beaches. At Huguenot Park no discernible change was obvious likely due to the trapping effect of the jetties. However, south of the river it is a while new beach. At least 25 feet of the dunes are gone and very little beach is exposed during minus tides. Three to six foot drops from the dunes to the beach are common. It remains to be seen what the long term affects of this heavy erosion will have on both the beaches and molluscan populations found there.

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EVOLUTION OF THE
GENUS COLLECTOR

from Of Sea and Shore, date unknown
submitted by Ruth Ranshaw

1. Collector awarensis
2. Collector shoeboxicus, or
Collector papersakia, or
Collector coffeecansis, or
Collector glassaria, or
Collector milkcartonæ
3. Collector bookshelfi, immedi-
ately followed by
4. Collector chinacabineticus,
frequently mutated into
5. Collector displaycaseus. Dead
end lines from 3, 4, 5 result in fossil

forms known as Collector embedded-
shellius or Collector shellcrafti.

6. Collector gottahavicus - at
first held in check because of limited
natural resources, late developes into
7. Collector buyemuysicus. This
species endangers its very existence
by its profligate disregard for the
conservation of natural resources
that made it possible in the first
place. It is a sad thing that the most
highly developed species of the Col-
lector genus forces itself into a gros-
sly mutated form of Collector shoe-
boxicus and becomes
8. Collector cartonensis
cartonensis
cartonensis
cartonensis



SUNCOAST CONCHOLOGISTS

HOSTS

SHELLER'S JAMBOREE '93



Join Shell Club Members from around the State at Suncoast Conchologists' Shellers' Jamboree '93. Mark your calendars as plans are being finalized for a memorable weekend when Jamboree '93 returns to the Knights of Columbus Hall in Largo, May 29-31 (Memorial Day Weekend).

WE WILL AGAIN FEATURE

- Special guests from around the state!
- Our Shell Market where you can sell or swap shells or shell-related items!
(No Dealers please)
- An auction of specimen shells from around the world
 - Our Parade of Snails!
 - Single Specimen Shell Show with AWARDS!
- Shell measuring and ID of your shells (Any new world records?)
 - A Super raffle, prizes and surprises!
- A chance to talk shells, shells, shells!

A bargain all-inclusive package for a full weekend of food and fun is \$60 for those registering prior to May 1st. This includes 4 meals plus the Banquet and a boat trip on Monday morning - a Marine Biology cruise up the intercoastal waterway. Forms will be available after March 1st. But...make your plans now.

THE SHELL-O-GRAM

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