

SHELL-O-GRAM

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May - June, 1993

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Editorial Board:

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



Club Officers:

Judy Blocker, President
Bill Lyerly, 1st Vice-Pres.
Bill Frank, Secretary
Jack Woodruff, Treasurer

MAY MEETING

The **May 27** meeting will be held at 7:30 PM at the Reid Science and Medical building auditorium. The educational program will be a slide program on the "Shells of Galapagos Islands" presented by Betty Hunter. The shell of the month will be Murex brandaris, presented by Bill Frank.

JUNE MEETING

The **June 24** meeting will be at the usual time and place. Dr. Quint White will present the educational slide program on his recent trip to the Galapagos Islands. The shell of the month will be presented by Betty Hunter on Latiaxis santacruzensis - a Galapagos Islands shell.

SARASOTA FOSSIL TRIPS

By Betty Hunter

On February 19th, eleven members of the JSC made the first of four trips to the Sarasota APAC pits. Making this trip were Bill and Betsy Lyerly, Selma Thigpen, Andy Hutchison, Craig and Audrey Thom, Jack and Geynell Gebert, Judy Blocker, Gertrude Moller and myself. Judy found the prize shell of the trip - a nearly perfect Turbinella regina. Betty found a large Vasum horridum and a large Conus tryoni. Everyone enjoyed the trip.

The second trip took place on March 18th and had a larger group which included the aforementioned members as well as Fred and Charlotte Chauvin, Bill Frank, Mary Reynolds from Tallahassee, Jack and Crystal Woodruff, and Jack Gebert, this time without Geynell.

Continued on page 3.



Vasum horridum Heilprin
Length 82.4 mm. St. Petersburg.



Vasum horridum Heilprin
Top view of same specimen



Conus (Contraconus)
adversarius tryoni
Heilprin

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

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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.



Conch colony under stress because of rain runoff

The Florida Times Union, March 26, 1993

Jupiter - A conch colony made possible by drought has nearly died off from releases of rain runoff in the Loxahatchee River.

The normally brackish basin got even saltier in drought years, but the South Florida Water Management district has been dumping runoff since November through a drainage canal that enters the river.

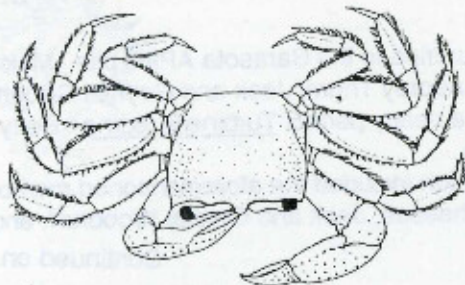
Riverside residents have been keeping an eye on the queen conch colony for 16 years and even adding to it when boaters returned from the Bahamas with live conchs.

But Barbara VanVoast realized the colony was ailing this month when she checked one of the spiral-shelled mussels (sic) at low tide.

The artificially heightened salinity in drought years made it possible for ocean-dwelling conch to thrive in the river, said Robert Glazer, a scientist with the Marine Research Institute in Marathon.

But salinity changes - like the rainwater flows - can be fatal to conch, said Leroy Cresswell, a scientist at the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution in Fort Pierce.

Sand crab, ghost crab
Ocypode quadrata



JSC Supports Kiwanis Science Fair

By Bill Frank

About 400 student exhibitors, in grades 6-12, participated in the Kiwanis Northeast Region Science and Engineering Fair held at the Florida Community College, Jacksonville South Campus Gymnasium on 4-5 March.

The Jacksonville Shell Club, one of 39 special awards sponsors, offered a \$50 cash award to the best exhibit dealing with marine biology.

Arriving early on the 4th to judge on behalf of the club, I was overwhelmed by the sheer number and high quality of the exhibits. Only one exhibit dealt with molluscs (Affects of PH on fresh water snails). Not surprisingly, at least four exhibits dealt with beach erosion.

After hearing the presentations of those exhibitors in the realm of club interest, I selected Sean C. McManus, a sophomore at Stanton College Preparatory School, as the recipient of the JSC award. His exhibit, entitled "Long-term effects of Beach Renourishment on Ghost Crab Populations" (Atlantic Beach 1991-93), was by far the best.

It was a good fair for Sean as he also received awards from the Audubon Society of Duval County, Florida Association of Science Teachers, Jacksonville Veterinary Medical Society, and the U.S. Army.

JSC Presents Educational Program To Scouts

On April 14th, club program chairman Betty Hunter, assisted by Bill Frank presented a 30 minute program on local shells to about 40 Cub Scouts at the Mandarin United Methodist Church. The program consisted of both a slide presentation featuring local shells and the exhibit and discussion of locally collected specimens. Following the program, each scout was presented a small packet of both Indo-Pacific and Florida shells to get them started in making their own collections. The program was well received by not only the scouts, but by the many parents in attendance.

Many thanks to all club members who donated shells for the clubs educational endeavors as well as Charlotte Lloyd for providing the excellent slides. More programs of this nature, in support of scouting, are planned in the future.

Fossil trip continued.

After we paid our fee and signed the official waiver, Mr. Nosal showed us the freshest piles of fossil material to the immediate right of the entrance trailer. There we beheld about 100 yards of material higher than a house and untouched by human hands for millions of years. Unfortunately, this was the day of the worst winter storm in history. We had no news of extreme weather as our TV's in the motel went out at 6:00 AM. Nevertheless, all but Fred and Charlotte Chauvin opted to weather the storm and tackle the piles of fresh material. The wind was fierce, yet Bill, Betsy, Selma, Andy, Jack Gebert, Bill Frank, Crystal and Jack Woodruff were seen atop the mounds, braced against the wind, avidly collecting newly exposed fossils. Some were carrying large worm tube colonies to their cars; others, not of our party, carted off large pieces of bones, generally presumed to be whale bones. Selma found a rather good *Turbinella regina* and was highly pleased to have found an unusual shell. Betty worked at the bottom of the pile collecting small shells, fighting the wind and fleeing to the car during frequent intermittent rains.

After two hours of a cold and unrelenting wind, Jack and Crystal, accompanied by Bill Frank, left the pit to return home, taking a side trip to Bob Lipes' Shell Store. After risking wind, rain, some discomfort, they found the store closed. Bob Lipe had access to weather reports and went home. They barely escaped the St. Petersburg Beach before the bridges closed due to high water/heavy seas and an incoming tide.

The rest of the party struggled against the steady unceasingly cold wind until about noon. A number of the club members were remaining in Sarasota until Sunday. We were somewhat ecstatic to learn that the fossil pit would be opened on Saturday and Sunday the following weekend. Betty Hunter and Jack Gebert returned home that Saturday after leaving the pit. We made the usual stop at Zephyrhills to lunch at the Cracker Barrel. Mary Reynolds joined us in this pleasant interlude.

During the return trip, we began to realize the extent of the storm's ferocity. Jack pointed out numerous places which had the tops of six or eight pine trees twisted off at mid-trunk; bill boards blown over, road signs hung precariously by a single corner, and from the Middleburg road on U.S. 301, snow flurries continued all the way to West Jacksonville. We realized this was no ordinary storm!

Three of us, Jack and Gaynell and myself, returned April 21-22, for a weekend at the fossil pit. We were joined there by George Hapsis and five others from Tallahassee. On Saturday we went to the freshest piles, another fifty yards of new material. Jack found a fairly good *Turbinella regina*. Geynell worked constantly nearly filling her bucket. Betty Managed to find two *Sconsia hodgei*, a *Colubraria acclinica*, and a *Trigonostoma druidi*.

On Sunday the three of us went to some older sites in the pit which we had visited on previous occasions. Here we found Trivias, Marginellas, and a few Turrids. While Betty dug for small shells, Jack roamed the terrain around the watery areas, and Geynell, searching near Betty, found two *Trigonostoma druidi*. We left the pits around noon, taking a longing, last look at this rich source of marine fossils.

A final trip was made to the APAC pit on 1 May by Bill Frank, myself, Dorothy Eanetta, and Michael and Kay Noble. Collecting and the weather were excellent. According to Mr. Nosel, this was the last Saturday that the pit will be officially open to collectors. A possible farewell opening of the pit on the 8th of May was indicated if there was sufficient interest. It was fun while it lasted at APAC. Mr. Nosel suggested that all fossil collectors write to APAC and thank them for the many years they allowed the public to visit their facility.



Xancus regina (Heilprin)



Crassispira verspirata (Dall)

Local Beach Shelling Report

By Bill Frank

Is it possible to go to the beach at Mayport during a mediocre low tide and find any live shells? That is what I wondered as I agreed to take a Florida Times Union Newspaper photographer shelling on Saturday the 17th of April to obtain photographs for an upcoming article on shelling to be published in "Shorelines".

My worries were further enhanced when I discovered I had misread the tide tables and our allotted brief time would come nearly two hours before actual low tide.

On what turned out to be a fantastic day for shelling, the shells actually seemed to be seeking their brief moment in the limelight. Almost immediately *Polinices duplicatus* and *Terebra dislocata* made their appearance for the camera, followed closely by a lone *Terebra saleana* which is not normally found on the beach this early in the year. Then almost on cue, many *Oliva sayana* appeared and began making impressive tracks across the sand. For good measure, *Busycon contrarium* and *Pleuroploca gigantea* were photographed in virtually the same location they had been collected previously in the year.

Two rolls of film later it was over. Only one photograph was subsequently published in the newspaper. At the time the photographs were taken, I would have bet that the *Pleuroploca gigantea* photograph would be selected. Boy was I wrong. See page five for Times Union story and photograph.

Local beach shelling has been steadily improving as the weather warms. South of the St. Johns River Jetties, five *Pleuroploca gigantea*, up to 14 inches in length, were found during March and April. One was a knobless variety. *Oliva sayana* continue to become increasingly common with two golden specimens (form *citrina*) thus far having been found. Olives should be available in significant numbers during the low tides in May/June so get out on the beach and find your own Golden Olive.



COA '93 - COA Comes Of Age

Conchologists of America Convention July 11-17, 1993

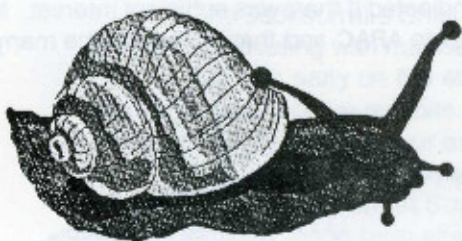
Edgewater Beach Convention Center and Resort

Panama City Beach, Florida

It is with pleasure that the Gulf Coast Shell Club invites you to join us for the 21st Annual COA Convention. Take an old fashioned field trip, dive the beautiful Gulf of Mexico, snorkel the bay, canoe Northwest Florida waters, renew friendships, and learn from the experts while enjoying the "World's Most Beautiful Beaches".

Panama City Beach offers additional recreational activities during convention free time. Go with friends or family to Shipwreck Island, a water park where one can relax floating down the lazy river or seek thrills in the wave pool or on the water slide. Visit Miracle Strip Amusement Park or the Man In The Sea Museum, Gulfworld, or Zooworld.

Edgewater Beach Resort on the Gulf of Mexico offers deluxe condominiums with 1, 2, or 3 bedrooms. Along with these completely furnished accommodations there are tennis courts, sail boats, swimming pools and a Par 3 golf course on site. This is, indeed, a tropical paradise with all modern conveniences!



GULF COAST SHELL CLUB, INC.

Argopecten irradians concentricus

Linda and Jim Brunner
POB 8188
Southport, FL 32409

Call us after 4 PM CST at (904) 265 - 5557

For members that might have missed it, this is a reprint of the article that appeared in the Florida Times Union.

Shorelines, Saturday, April 24, 1993

BEACHES FESTIVAL

Follow a few tips for a harvest of shells

By June D. Bell
Shorelines staff writer

JACKSONVILLE BEACH — Charlotte Lloyd began collecting seashells as a child, but her family wouldn't allow them inside the house. Bad luck, according to an old Spanish superstition.

Now that Ms. Lloyd is grown, her Jacksonville Beach home is brimming with thousands of finds, from the common scallop to the prized hairy triton.

Although many of her most brilliant and valuable finds come from diving expeditions in the Caribbean, Jacksonville's shorelines and inlets are far from barren.

With a field guide, some patience and a keen eye, adults and children can reap a summer's harvest of shells, said Ms. Lloyd, a member of the Jacksonville Shell Club, diver, shell cataloger and commercial fishing instructor at the Marine Science Center in Mayport.

When to go:

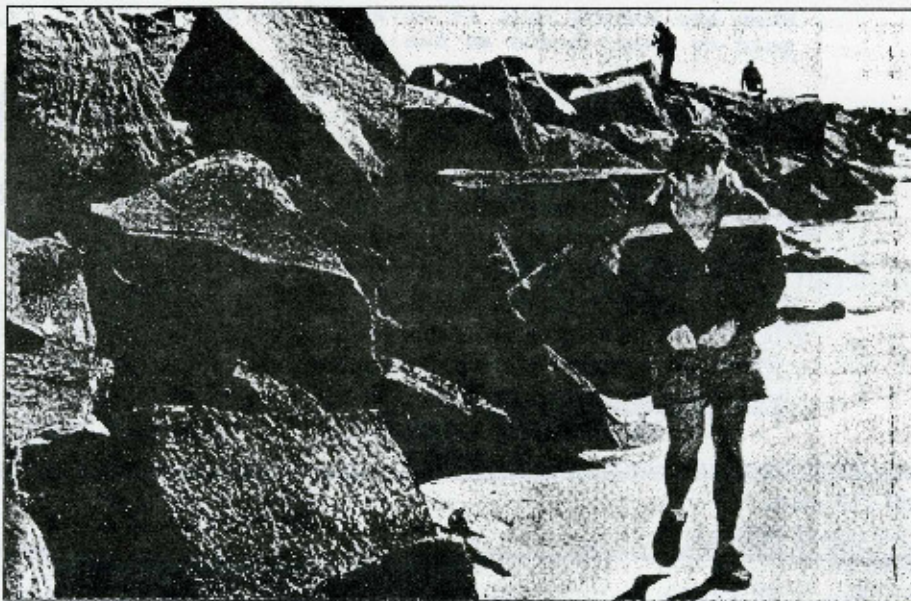
The best pickings are at the lowest tides, when wave-washed sands are exposed.

"Anything on our beaches has to be able to burrow, to get under the sand, because it's hot and because there are a lot of predators like gulls," Ms. Lloyd said.

Shell collectors recommend consulting tide charts for "minus low tide" times. The charts are available at most local bait shops, sporting goods stores and the lobby of The Florida Times-Union's Riverside Avenue building.

Big storms, especially northeasters, are also a shell collector's boon. They ruffle the ocean's bottom and send a bounty of shells and sharks teeth to beachcombers.

Keep an eye open for beach renourishment programs, which dump tons of sand on the shore from offshore sites. The sand heaps are "real treasure troves," said Harry G. Lee, an Ortega Forest doctor who is a serious amateur shell



Shorelines/Don Burk

On the prowl: Bill Frank of Arlington, a member of the Jacksonville Shell Club, investigates the area just south of the south jetties for shell treasures.

collector.

Where to go:

Ms. Lloyd recommends the south jetties at the mouth of the St. Johns River. Look for the gracefully spiraled whelks and the gleaming, marbled lettered olive.

Try your luck at the Fort George Inlet at Huguenot Memorial Park. Be sure to wear tennis shoes if you're going to poke among the oyster beds for the oyster drill, "a beautiful little thing" that attaches itself to its food source, she said.

Lee suggests the north end of Big Talbot Island, Bird Island and Nassau sounds.

On the Jacksonville beaches, seek out windrows, the piles of shell debris built by winds and tide. Look for the calico scallop there.

What you'll need, what you'll find:

Dr. Abbott's Seashells of North America is a comprehensive guide, Lee said.

In December, beachcombers

can turn to Lee's opus, *Marine Shells of North Florida*, which will include 735 shells found along our coast and backwaters.

A small shovel and bucket might be useful. You don't need a permit for shelling, unless you travel to your site by boat. If so, you need a fishing permit, Ms. Lloyd said.

Evicting the tenant:

Shell-dwelling creatures won't willingly abandon their homes.

Put large shells in a pot of cold water and simmer until the mollusk loosens its grip — about 20 minutes. Use a fork to remove the solidified contents.

Most mollusks are edible, though not all are tasty. Check a field guide before dunking anything in cocktail sauce.

Be sure to extract the liver, a brownish blob behind the mollusk, or the shell will stink. If the liver becomes detached, use a garden hose to flush the shell.

Smaller shells can be

"cooked" in the microwave on a paper towel. Heat on high power for a minute or until you hear a popping sound. Rinse out the contents.

Building a collection:

Your finds may be beautiful, but as a collection, they're worthless without this data: where and when the shell was found, the tide conditions and any unusual circumstances.

Recording this information also helps kids learn about scientific observation, Ms. Lloyd said. Serious collectors might want to invest in special boxes or glass-topped drawers to protect their specimens.

To learn more:

The Jacksonville Shell Club organizes regular shell-gathering outings and educational speakers. Members meet at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month at Jacksonville University's Reid Science and Medical Building. Membership is \$12.50 a year. For more information, call Ms. Lloyd at 246-0874.

DOGWOOD CLAM CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

Materials needed:

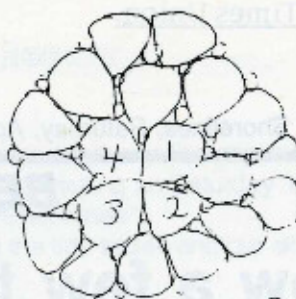
- 75 - 100 small dogwood clams
- 1 4-inch styrofoam ball
- Elmer's glue
- Gold beads, size 4MM or 5MM, or pearl beads
- Ribbon or decorative cord

Start by gluing three or four shells on the styrofoam ball. When these are dry, glue a few more on. Continue until ball is covered.

When the entire ball is covered, glue on gold or pearl beads as desired.

Glue on ribbon or cord hanger to suit your decorations.

This ornament takes a long time to make but it is worth all the time you put in it. Good Luck!



○ gold or pearl bead



dogwood clam

shellcraft design by Betsy Lyerly

The Shell-O-Gram

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