

# SHELL-O-GRAM

Published By The Jacksonville Shell Club, Inc.

May-June, 1994

Volume 35:3

## Editorial Board:

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



## Club Officers:

Bill Lyerly, President  
Crystal Woodruff, 1st Vice-Pres.  
Harry Lee, Secretary  
Bill Frank, Treasurer

## MAY MEETING

The May 26 meeting of the Jacksonville Shell Club, Inc. will convene at 7:30 PM at the Reid Science and Medical Auditorium, Jacksonville University.

The Program will be a slide program of "Shells of Northeast Florida" showing both inshore and offshore species. This will be an audience participation presentation with comments from those familiar with the shells.

The Shell-Of-The-Month will be presented on a local shell.

## JUNE MEETING

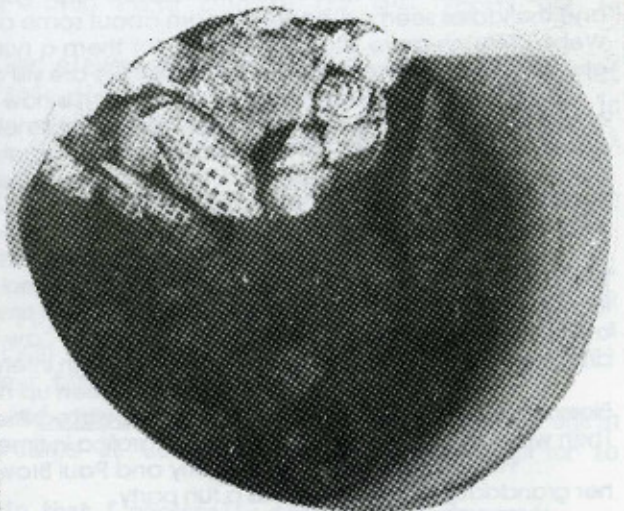
The June 23 meeting will be held at the usual place. The meeting time will be at 7:00 PM instead of the usual 7:30 PM. This will be a Shell Show Work Meeting - please make note of the following:

Four crafters have been asked to bring supplies for crafting (with members help) items for the Shell Show Store sales. If you wish to take part, please bring your glue gun and extension cord. We will also have a member available to give helpful suggestions to anyone planning on entering the Scientific or Arts and Crafts Divisions at our Show.

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## Down In The Dumps With The JSC by Bill Frank

Thirteen members of the Jacksonville Shell Club traveled to the Florida Panhandle the weekend of March 18-20, for some intense collecting in the area's scallop dumps. Headquarters for the trip was the Oaks Motel in Panama which offers cheap and clean accommodations.



Some of Jack's "finds."



Jacksonville Shell Club, Inc.  
1865 Debutante Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32246

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:

BILL FRANK, 1865 DEBUTANTE DRIVE,  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32246.

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.

## President's Corner

### Notes from the April Board Meeting:

Billie Brown was selected to serve on the board to fill the unexpired term of Linda Erwin; no longer an active member of the club.

Decided to continue club meeting time of 7:30 pm.

Our collection of publications from other shells clubs and organizations will be reviewed and only those with scientific merit will be retained.

Billie Brown will write a column for the Shell-O-Gram on club happenings.

Field trips in the planning stage include Simpson's Creek in May, Spruce Creek in June, and Peanut Island in September.

### Changes to JSC Membership List

#### Add:

Mrs. Helen M. Johnson  
1275 St. Johns Bluff Rd. N.  
Jacksonville, FL 32225  
PH: 641-7974

#### Delete:

Lucille Van Buskirk (Deceased)

### \*\*\* CLUB NEWS \*\*\*

by Billie Brown

Our Club is staying busy. The field trips to the West Coast scallop dumps have been great and quite a few of our members have been going. There is a trip tentatively planned for the weekend of May 13-14. Call Betty Hunter at 786-6845 for details.

Betty Hunter and Bill Frank recently talked with an intermediate Girl Scout Troop and the younger girls (now called Daisies). Betty and Bill make a good team and were a big hit with the girls. The Girls especially liked the shells that they were given to take home with them. I walked the beach with them on Sunday, May 1st, hoping to find and ID shells. Unfortunately most of the shells were broken, but we did manage to find the usual slipper shells, a couple of shark eye's, a whole pen shell and some tusks. There were 22 girls and 5 adults. We had a nice morning and the girls were delightful.

On April 19, I spoke with the ladies of the "Poinsettia" Circle of the Arlington Garden Club. We had a pleasant evening and the ladies seemed eager to learn about some of the shells here in Northeast Florida. They asked about members Marion Webb (Marlon gave a craft program for them a number of years back) and John Fatu (one of the ladies knows John from church). They were pleased to know that we are still an active club and willing to give programs.

Our "Shell Board" has been redone. It is now very sturdy and easy to assemble, disassemble, and transport. The board is a very good visual aid and has been used many times. Thanks to members and friends who helped, Paul who constructed and covered the board, Bill Stevens from "Seaside Casuals" who donated the letters, Bob Marsden who matted the pictures (Bob is a Jacksonville Beach Councilman who has helped us with the city many times), and to Jack Woodruff who unselfishly gave a "Hairy Triton" to go along with the picture on our board. Someone said I had "guts" to ask for such a treasure. Our finished product is very good and it is something we can display with pride. Any shell club member is welcome to use it, just call.

A few of us got together on Saturday the 16th of April to try our hand at making the "topiaries." Our group included Betty Hunter, Charlotte Lloyd, Andy Hutchison, Selma Thigpen, Babe Snyder, and myself. (Paul chose not to join us except for lunch and pass through with raised eyebrow from time to time). We had pleasant, chatty conversation with the punctuations of OOh! OUCH! mmmmm! and an occasional "aw #\*\*%\*!" It was a fun day and we were productive. Think about June 11 and we will get together again if there is enough interest.

Heard that Dale and Norma have been up north for a visit. Hope it was fun. Paul and I went to Macon for the Cherry Blossom Festival. Of course the blossoms peaked the week before. It was a nice old town with lots of interesting things to do. Then we went on to the cabin in North Carolina in time for a snowfall!

Happy Birthday to Betsy Lyerly and Paul Brown in April! Selma was planning a 16th Birthday party - turns out it was for her granddaughter. Hope it was a fun party.

Stanley Hollman telephoned with news of a new baby for Steve and Dtaen - Elizabeth! Steve and family have moved to Tampa and Steve is working in St. Pete for a division of the National Marine Fisheries. Congratulations and love from your shell club friends.

Please call me with news and things of interest to our members. I think it is important to be a "in touch" club. Knowing each other better will certainly help to keep us together.

Remember - call me at 241-3755 and I will be calling you!

## DOWN IN THE DUMPS CONTINUED.

Ten of the group (Bill & Betsy Lyerly, Betty Hunter, Gertrude Moller, Bill Frank, Selma Thigpen, Jack Gebert from Jacksonville, and Craig & Audrey Thorn and Andy Hutchison of St. Augustine) arrived in Panacea during the morning/early afternoon on Friday. After checking into the hotel, the group caravanned to the well-hidden dump at Carrabelle, some 25 miles distant.

Although not large, the dump at Carrabelle made up for its relatively small size by its immense odor and presence of two billion flies. A couple of hours of digging in the heat and stench was plenty for even this dedicated group - though the collecting was quite profitable and included four species of Murex as well as five Junonias. The stench, flies, and dead/dying trees surrounding the site, will not soon be forgotten.

Having worked up quite an appetite, all agreed to adjourn to Julia Mae's Restaurant, just outside Carrabelle, for a seafood dinner; stinky clothes and all. Understandably, no one ordered the fresh scallops from the menu. The restaurant was not fancy by any means, but the food was great. The only drawback was the establishment's choice of hand soap in the mens room; **Comet Cleanser**. It did do a good job of removing the smell of the scallop dump but something more gentle to the hands would also have been appreciated. Following dinner, the group returned to Panacea for some well deserved rest and relaxation.

The next morning, the aforementioned group was joined by Kay & Michael Noble of Jacksonville and George Hapsis from Tallahassee. Following breakfast at the motel, the group headed west to the dumps at Apalachicola and Port St. Joe.

Following a scenic 45 mile coastal drive, the caravan arrived at Apalachicola, where George guided the group to the dump. And what a dump it was. Imagine your average-sized residential lot stacked 12 feet high with scallops (and oysters) and you have a mental picture of the dump. Despite its size, there was very little odor. Unfortunately, about all there was in the dump was scallops with very few shells of interest to a shell collector.

With Selma and Andy in the lead, the caravan then continued westward to Port St. Joe, some 20 miles further. As the caravan approached Port St. Joe, the pace quickened as anticipation mounted. Soon the clouds of pollution from the paper mill came into sight signaling our arrival. Buckets came out of the cars and the race for shells was on.

The St. Joe dump was quite large. It consisted of a long driveway of spoil as well as piles of scallops to be explored. It appeared that no recent dumping had taken place, despite its close proximity to two processing plants. The odor was negligible.

The long driveway was first explored and several Junonias were found lying on top in plain view as well as many Distorsio and Murex species. Digging into the piles of scallops then began in earnest.

As the day wore on, the heat and sun began to take their toll. Long sleeve shirts, hats, and even beach umbrellas were the order of the day. After more than four hours of non-stop digging, everyone had a sizeable collection of the species represented and about 35 Junonias had been found.

As is often the case, relatively new club members and first time scallop dump collectors, Kay and Michael Noble, had beginners' luck on their side and collected 15 Junonias as well as a number of Cassis. The couple had demonstrated their collecting talent a year earlier during a club field trip to the APAC Fossil Pit in Sarasota.

After packing up their booty, everyone returned to Panacea and eleven of the tired but happy collectors met at Angelo's Restaurant for a delicious seafood dinner. Getting this dinner was somewhat of an accomplishment in itself. It seems that virtually everyone in Northwest Florida eats regularly at Angelo's and the crowd was something to be envied by any restaurant owner.

The next morning, part of the group returned directly home while the remainder did some marine collecting in the Panacea area.

The most unusual find(s) award for the trip, if there was one, would go to Jack Gebert for his Atlantic Yellow Cowrie and his Neapolitan Triton. To the best of my knowledge, only one of each was found during the whole trip. The bad luck award goes to Bill Lyerly, who did not find a single Junonia. Bill appeared to have a mental block, which prevented his recognizing this species. Even when George partially dug one up, Bill couldn't find it despite George pointing it out with his rake. Next time, Bill!

Overall, everyone enjoyed the collecting, scenery, seafood, and camaraderie. The club needs to do it again real soon! Special thanks to Selma for locating and scouting the dumps at Carrabelle and Port St. Joe prior to the trip.

The following is a preliminary list of species found on the trip that I personally collected or observed:

A = Abundant (as many as you wanted)

C = Common (everyone found some)

R = Rare (not found by everyone)

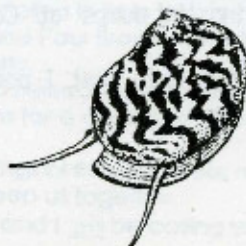
VR = Very Rare (1-2 found during the trip)

Continued on next page.

## DOWN IN THE DUMPS CONTINUED.

- Oliva bifasciata bollingi* Clench, 1934 (C)  
*Oliva sayana* Ravenel, 1834 (Lettered Olive) (C)  
*Cancellaria reticulata* (L., 1767) (Common Nutmeg) (A)  
*Distorsio clathrata* (Lamarck, 1816) (Atlantic Distorsio) (A)  
*Tonna galea* (L., 1758) (Giant Tun) (VR, fragments)  
*Phalium granulatum granulatum* (Born, 1778) (Scotch Bonnet) (C)  
*Cassis madagascarensis spinella* Clench, 1944 (Clench's Helmet) (R)  
*Busycon spiratum* (Lamarck, 1816) (Pear Whelk) (R)  
*Busycon contrarium* (Conrad, 1840) (Lightning Whelk) (A)  
*Strombus alatus* Gmelin, 1791 (Florida Fighting Conch) (A)  
*Ficus communis* Roeding, 1798 (Common Fig Shell) (R)  
*Sinum maculatum* (Say, 1831) (Spotted Ear Moon) (C)  
*Fasciolaria liliun hunteria* (Perry, 1811) (Banded Tulip) (C)  
*Fasciolaria tulipa* (L., 1758) (True Tulip) (C)  
*Cypraea spurca acicularis* Gmelin, 1791 (Atlantic Yellow Cowrie) (VR-Carrabelle)  
*Xenophora conchyliophora* (Born, 1780) (Atlantic Carrier-shell) (R)  
*Pleuroploca gigantea* (Kiener, 1840) (Florida Horse Conch) (R)  
*Melongena corona* (Gmelin, 1791) (Common Crown Conch) (R)  
*Architectonica nobilis* Roeding, 1798 (American Sundial) (C)  
*Natica canrena* (L., 1758) (Colorfull Atlantic Moon) (R)  
*Neverita duplicata* (Say, 1822) (Shark-eye Moon) (C)  
*Turbo castanea* Gmelin, 1791 (Chestnut Turban) (R)  
*Conus delessertii* Recluz, 1843 (Sozon's Cone) (C)  
*Conus spurius* Gmelin, 1791 (Alphabet Cone) (R)  
*Scaphella junonia* (Lamarck, 1804) (The Junonia) (C)  
*Cymatium krebisii* (Moerch, 1877) (Kreb's Hairy Triton) (VR)  
*Cymatium parthenopeum* (von Salis, 1793) (Neapolitan Triton) (VR-Port St. Joe)  
*Murex pomun* (Gmelin, 1791) (Apple Murex) (A)  
*Murex fulvescens* (Sowerby, 1834) (Giant Atlantic Murex) (C)  
*Murex dilectus* (A. Adams, 1855) (Lace Murex) (C)  
*Murex cabritii* Bernardi, 1859 (Cabrit's Murex) (R)  
*Murex rubidus* F.C. Baker, 1897 (Rose Murex) (R)  
*Thais haerastoma floridana* (Conrad, 1837) (Florida Rock-shell) (R)  
*Thais rustica* (Lamarck, 1822) (Rustic Rock-shell) (R)  
*Cantharus cancellarius* Conrad, 1846 (Cancellate Cantharus) (R)  
*Aequipecten muscosus* (Wood, 1828) (Rough American Scallop) (C)  
*Lyropecten nodosus* (L., 1758) (Lion's Paw) (VR, fragments)  
*Laevicardium laevigatum* (L., 1758) (Common Egg Cockle) (C)  
*Macrocallista maculata* (L., 1758) (Calico Clam) (C)  
*Chione latilirata* (Conrad, 1841) (Imperial Venus) (C)  
*Arcinella cornuta* Conrad, 1866 (Florida Spiny Jewel Box) (C)  
*Arca zebra* (Swainson, 1833) (Atlantic Turkey Wing) (C)

Ever wonder where the scallop boats get their haul? The following is taken from the March issue of the Apalachicola Coast Line newspaper. "The local economy received a much-needed boost when a herd (make that bed) of scallops wandered through the area in January. Usually unpredictable, the succulent, shelled-encased morsels formed a trail some 25 miles long and 100 yards wide in about the same area off St. Joseph Peninsula as three years ago. Knowledgeable locals had predicted the location some six months ago." That would be a prodigious amount of scallops. The catch from this concentration may be what we examined during this trip.



## JSC Supports Science Fair

by Bill Frank

On 3 March Club President Bill Lyerly and I embarked on a challenging mission; to judge the Kiwanis Science and Engineering Fair on behalf of the Jacksonville Shell Club. The club sponsored a \$50 cash award to the best exhibit dealing with marine biology and a \$25 award to the runner up.

As in previous years, the fair was held in the gymnasium of Florida Community College, Jacksonville South Campus and featured over 400 exhibitors. The high quality of the exhibits and the knowledge demonstrated by these school students was extremely impressive. Almost as impressive was the fact that the organizers were able to fit all 400 exhibits/exhibitors, judges, and Fair personnel onto one gymnasium floor.

Fortunately, our arrival coincided with the exhibitors lunch break, and we were able to relatively quickly inspect the exhibits while the gym floor contained only the exhibits and a handful of other judges. There were no exhibits which dealt with mollusks.

After comparing notes, we listened to the presentations of the exhibitors we felt were worthy of the club awards and selected as winners the following:

**1st Place** - Sean C. McManus, a student at Bishop Kenny High School.

**2nd Place** - James Victor Spruill, a student at Englewood High School.

Mr. McManus, last years JSC award winner with a project entitled "Long-term Effects of Beach Renourishment on Ghost Crab Populations," this year expanded his project to include "The Seasonal Effects."

Based upon published literature, Mr. McManus expected there would be no significant difference in populations in the two study areas between summer and winter months. However, after over 20 weeks of study, a significant decrease in the crab populations in the two areas of interest was observed during the winter months.

Mr. Spruill conducted a four year study on how the St. Johns River Jetties affect beach erosion. His study area included Huguenot Memorial Park, north of the river, and both Mayport Naval Station and Hanna Park south of the river. The procedure used to determine erosion was beach profiling. This was accomplished by measuring the height between the sand of the beach and the horizon. A profile is done from the plant life to the waterline in five meter intervals with the various profiles compared to find how much the beach eroded or gained. Published literature indicated that a gain of sand should occur north of the jetties and significant erosion should occur south of the jetties.

Measurements at Huguenot Park from August-December 1993 showed the beach gained 44 cm of sand. In comparison, Mayport Naval station eroded 76 cm. At the same time the beach in Hanna Park eroded 48 cm. Overall, between December 1990 and December 1993, the beach at Hanna Park eroded 91 cm.

His study illustrates how a jetty can cause an accretion in one particular area and produces severe erosion in another.

Mr. Spruill's previous studies had indicated that the greatest erosion occurs during the Fall and Winter months but that during Spring and Summer a portion of the lost sand is redeposited.

President Lyerly returned the following evening for the awards ceremony and personally presented the club's awards to the winners. Bill reports that the crowd on hand was at least double that we had observed during our judging foray.

### JSC Member Wins Awards

Jacksonville Shell Club founding member, Gertrude Moller, was the recipient of two awards at the 57th Annual Sanibel Shell Fair and Show held in that island community March 3rd-6th.

In the Scientific Division, single shells-worldwide, self collected, Gertrude won the second place award with a specimen of Phyllocoma convoluta (Broderip, 1834) (Convolutated False Triton). She had collected the specimen only recently while on a three week trip to the Solomon Islands. Great timing Gertrude!

In the commercial exhibits category, mirror-shells from any source, Gertrude received the first place award for her craft work.

Harry Lee was one of the judges in the Scientific Division and claims he was totally impartial to our founding member.



### Whelk Harvest Important To Georgia Fishermen

A little more than a decade ago, they were virtually ignored. But whelks have become an important harvest for some of Georgia's coastal fishermen. Currently Georgia is the nation's No. 1 producer of whelks, with three species of commercially valuable whelks found in Georgia waters. During the past five years, whelk fishing has ranked as high as fourth in value - behind food shrimp, blue crabs, and bait shrimp. The average harvest over the past 14 years was 1.18 million pounds a year, including shell weight.

Although the annual harvest nets only about \$250,000, whelk fishing is one of the few things shrimpers can do in the off-season to make their boat payments, when many shrimping areas are closed for the season. Generally, only 15 to 40 boats of a 400-plus commercial fleet participate in the harvest.

In addition to benefiting the fishermen, the fishery also provides income to seafood processors who might otherwise shut down during the winter months.

Lewis Crab Factory in Brunswick is one of Georgia's largest whelk processors, averaging 45,000 to 60,000 pounds of shell stock in season. While prices paid to the fisherman fluctuate, depending on market demand, fishermen report processors are currently paying 21 cents a pound, shell, sand, barnacles, and all. Once pressure steamed and removed from the shell and cleaned, whelk meat weighs one third of the shell stock weight. The bulk of the processed meat is sold to Northeastern markets, where it ultimately goes to seafood markets and restaurants.

In Savannah, Michael Han of Keith's Crab House said whelk is one of his restaurant's most popular items. "We can't keep up with it," he said. "On weekdays, we sell 60 to 70 pounds and on Fridays and Saturdays, at least 100 Pounds a day." Some of his customers tell him whelk is an aphrodisiac, and they believe it makes them good lovers.

The fishermen state that fishing for whelks is harder work than shrimping. Shrimp drags last three hours average but whelk drags are only 15 minutes because the shells are so heavy. When the nets are brought aboard, the whelks must be separated from spider crabs, stingrays, starfish, and other incidental catch, and stowed in the hold.

Georgia's whelk fishery is still so new that there are no laws regulating it, according to the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Overfishing of related species has prompted strict regulations in other states, particularly in South Florida.

However, the Georgia DNR doesn't think overfishing will be a problem anytime soon in Georgia. A spokesman stated that if everybody in

the shrimp business got into fishing for whelks, it would be overfished. At the present time, most of the whelk fishermen are doing it only as a sideline.

Abridged from The Atlanta Constitution, March 15, 1994 and provided by Claire Whipple of Atlanta.



**Milledge Boone** (top) empties nets that drag the bottom off Jekyll Island, while **Champ Warren** and **Grovea Simpson** (above) sort the catch.

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### THE FAR SIDE By Gary Larson



After flicking on the light, Professor Quint White is caught off guard by the overnight success of his efforts to cross-breed flying fish and piranhas.

### Squid Was One-of-a-kind Find

An 11 year old beaches' boy's fascination with the ocean may have led to the discovery of a new species of squid. Young Matt Strate was but one of several people who had gathered around a large squid which had washed up on Atlantic Beach during late March.

While others casually examined the creature and walked away, Matt knew it was something special. He covered the squid with sand and returned home to tell his father, George Strate, a Mayport party boat captain, of his find.

Later that evening, the pair returned to the beach and Matt showed his father the creature. It initially appeared that what Matt had found was a juvenile Giant Squid in that it was three feet long and weighed 9½ pounds. This species, which can grow to 50 feet long, is considered rare off the northeast Florida Coast. Twenty years ago a 16 foot specimen was brought into St. Augustine.

The father and son team wrapped the squid in a plastic bag and placed it in an ice chest. George then called his friend Roger Lloyd, a professor of zoology at Florida Community College at Jacksonville (FCCJ), South Campus. Professor Lloyd was skeptical when he heard about the find but later was ecstatic. "We may just have a one-of-a-kind specimen," Lloyd said. "I think we've got something that may not be described in literature. I took one look at it and knew we had an incredible find."

The unusual squid is presently immersed in ethanol at a laboratory at FCCJ.

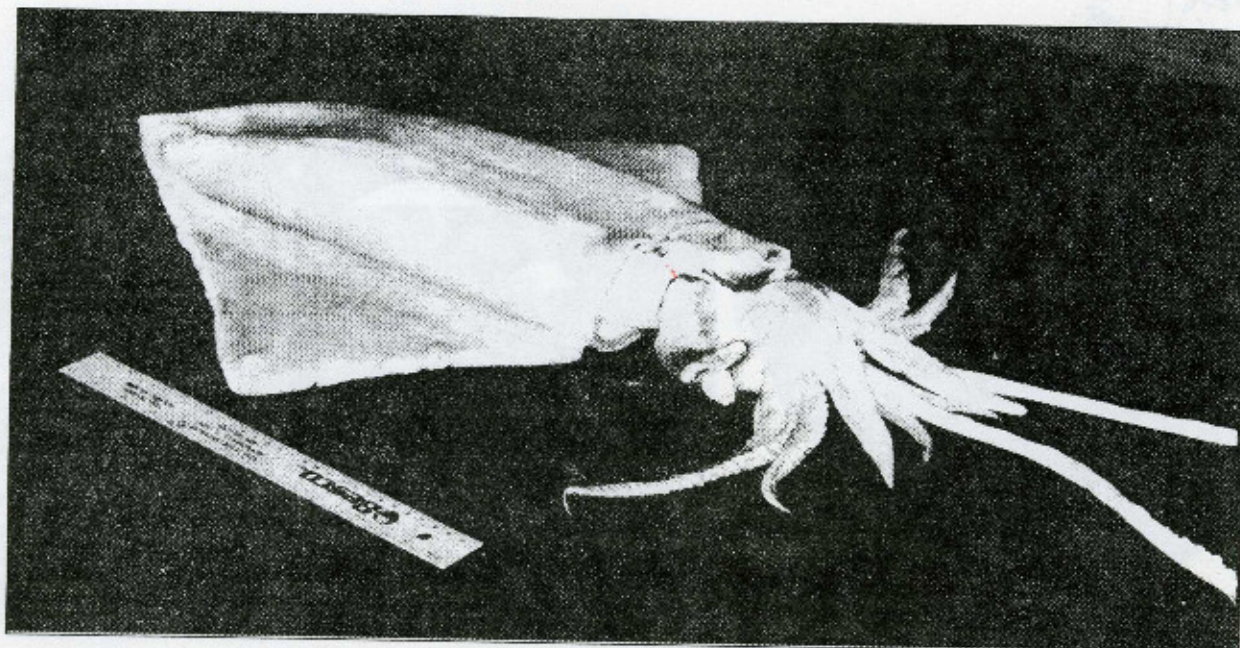
Professor Lloyd said colleagues from around the country are interested in the find. Scientists at Woods Hole Marine Biological Lab in Massachusetts are trying to match the squid's characteristics with that of known species - thus far to no avail.

Dr. Nancy Voss, a cephalophod specialist at the University of Miami, speculates it is probably *Thysanoteuthis rhombus* Troschel, 1857, an extremely rare species that is believed to live in waters 1,000-4,000 feet deep. Professor Lloyd tends to agree that it's closely related to *rhombus*, probably an immature specimen, but there are still details such as body proportions and tentacle length that don't add up.

"The squid she's describing looks more like a pencil with fins," Lloyd said. "This one is fat. She thought with the exception of the tentacles that it fit *rhombus*, but I don't think that we've definitely classified it - and we may never. Either the literature is incorrect or we have a unique species." The possibility that the specimen is a juvenile Giant Squid has been ruled out.

Only further study may shed light on the identification of the unusual squid. "We know more about the moon that we know about the bottom of the ocean," Lloyd said. "When you start looking at organisms that come from 4,000 feet, there's just so many questions unanswered."

Abridged and edited from the Florida Times Union, April 3, 1994.

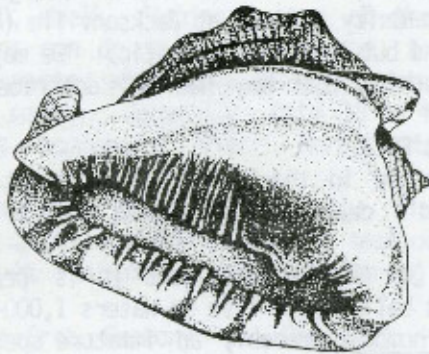
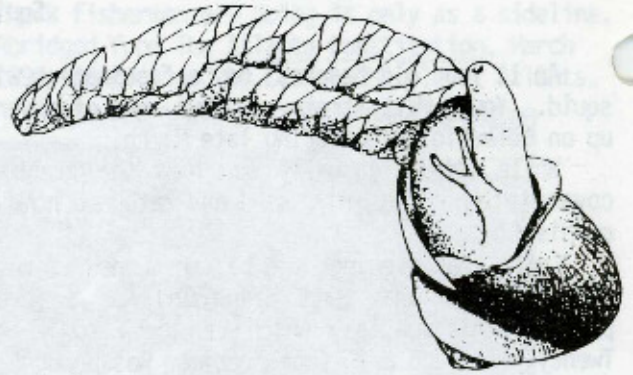


This rare 9½-pound, 3-foot squid found at Atlantic Beach has approximately 600 suction cups.

— Special

### FIELD TRIP TO SIMPSON'S CREEK

**Wed. May 25th. Meet at Camp Allmacani at the foot of the Ft. George Bridge at 2:30 PM. If you are wondering why at this strange time - but for the tides of course! We are going to take advantage of an incredible -1.1 low tide. Bring buckets, wear laceup tennis shoes and be on time!**



**Peanut Island - Snorkle, wade, and dredge. This field trip is being planned for sometime in September. Watch for more information in the S-O-G.**

SPRUCE CREEK- As soon as the field trip chairman can find the proper low tide!

**The Shell-O-Gram  
1865 Debutante Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32246**

