



# SHELL-O-GRAM

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

November-December 2009

Volume 50 no.6

## Programs

The November meeting of the Jacksonville Shell Club will be held at the usual time and place BUT the date will be the third Thursday (Nov. 19) as has been customary for many years (but fewer than the Thanksgiving holiday, which annually necessitates this shift. Charlotte Lloyd will present the Cancellarioidea, the Nutmeg snails, a fascinating group with an unusual spectrum of shell morphology. As a special treat, there will be two shells-of-the-month: *Littorina Irrorata*, the Marsh Periwinkle, presented by Mary Reynolds, and a "neighbor snail" to be discussed by Brian Marshall.

Barbara Cathey and Laura Rowley will host the annual Christmas party to be held at Barbara and George Cathey's home. The date is Saturday December 12. Information is provided below. The next regular meeting will be on Jan. 28, 2009, and details will appear in the next issue (Jan.-Feb., 2010) *Shell-O-Gram*.

## Annual Christmas Party

The annual JSC Christmas party will be held at Barbara Cathey's on Saturday, Dec. 12. Plan to arrive at 7:00 PM. The address is 5444 Rollins Av., which is in Lakewood on the Southside. The Rollins cul-de-sac is south off of Cornell Rd. which can be reached from San Jose Blvd or from University via Stanford Ave. (see map). As has become customary, each attending member should bring a shell-related gift (about \$10.00 in value) for a member of the same gender (the method of distribution will be made apparent later). The club will provide a ham, a fowl, and beverage set-ups. BYOB and a covered dish. Call Barbara at (904) 737-4708 or email [blcathey@bellsouth.net](mailto:blcathey@bellsouth.net) for further details. A map to the Christmas party is provided.



**Jacksonville Shell Club, Inc.**  
**1010 N. 24<sup>th</sup> Street**  
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This club meets each month at the Southeast Branch of the Jacksonville Public Library, 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd., Jacksonville, Florida. Please address any correspondence to the club's address above.

The *Shell-O-Gram* is issued bimonthly and mailed to all regular members. Annual membership dues are \$15.00 individual and \$20.00 family (domestic) and \$25.00 (foreign). Lifetime membership is available. Please send checks for dues to the above address and made out to the Jacksonville Shell Club.

We encourage members to submit articles for this publication. Closing date for article submission is two weeks prior to the first of each month of publication. Articles may be republished provided full credit is given the author and this newsletter and one copy of the complete publication in which the article appears is sent to the above address.

### **Beach Shelling and Learning about our local Beaches**

Rick Edwards will be conducting shell walks for the GTMNERR (Guana Environmental Education Center) on November 14. He is also scheduled to present *Shells and Shelling in NE Florida* tentatively on December 4 at the Education Center. If you are new to the area or are a novice collector, you may wish to consider one these guided beach walks. For information on time and meeting place contact the Environmental Center at 904-823-4500. A \$3.00 parking fee does apply to park in the beach parking lot.

### **President's Corner**

Hello Everybody!

Thank you for the opportunity to act as your President. I hope I can complete the required duties without too many slips. Feel free to let me know if I have forgotten something.

After not meeting for the summer we got off to a slow start. First we were kept out of the library due to AC problems and had to face a late election. I hope this is not a sign of the year to come. Let's try to make the rest of the new Club Year a good one. One of my hopes is to have more field trips, both fun and educational or a combination of both. Rick Edwards has agreed to coordinate these activities with those willing to get trips going. We thank you Rick.

Be sure to note the change in date for the November meeting due to Thanksgiving and the information about this year's Christmas Party. Hope you all can come.

Best, Barbara 737-4708

**Membership Dues are Due Now**  
**Please send in your dues: Individual \$15.00 Family**  
**\$20.00 to**  
**Charlotte Thorpe**  
**1010 24<sup>th</sup> St. N**  
**Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250**  
**Want to know your due date? Look at your S-O-G**  
**address tag and if the date has passed or is close to**  
**today's date -Your Dues are Due**

### Perversity among the Volutes

Many conchologists are aware that species in certain taxonomic groups are more prone to develop mutant reverse-coiled shells than in others. Reversal-prone families include the melongenids (not very speciose) and the marginellids (a much more species-rich taxon). In fact the number of species in the latter family, when combined with the sister group, the cystiscids, known to include at least one mutant sinistral specimen is now well over 60 (Coover and Lee, 1989; Lee personal observations); on our website alone 40 (37 + 3) are cited and most illustrated <<http://www.jaxshells.org/reverse.htm>>. This is one of the reasons the marginshells, AKA marginelliforms (Marginellidae + Cystiscidae), have achieved a sort of celebrity status with specialist and general collectors. Despite the greater attention paid them by conchologists, the volutes (Volutidae), the “aristocratic” marginshell cousins, are far less well known for their peculiar proclivity – sinistrality. The number of living volute species is probably half that of the marginelliforms, which number between 500 and 600 at the time of this writing.

Feeling that the volutes were receiving short shrift in this regard, the writer produced a tabulation of its species known to occur as sinistral mutants. The total came to 19, with the reports spread among 13 sources, 11 of which were published (Lee, 1982). Here is that tally in alphabetical order by genus and then by species:

*Alcithoe arabica johnstoni* Powell, 1928  
*Amoria grayi* (Ludbrook, 1953)\*  
*Amoria turneri* (Griffith and Pidgeon, 1834)  
*Amoria undulata* (Lamarck, 1804)  
*Cymbiola cathcartiae* (Reeve, 1850)  
*Cymbiola flavicans* (Gmelin, 1791)  
*Cymbiola imperialis* (Lightfoot, 1786)  
*Cymbiola nobilis* (Lightfoot, 1786)  
*Cymbiola nivosa* (Lamarck, 1804)  
*Cymbiola magnifica* (Gebauer, 1802)  
*Cymbiola vespertilio* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Cymbiolacca complexa* (Iredale, 1924) [Fig 1]  
*Cymbium cymbium* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Cymbium marmoratum* (Link, 1807)  
*Melo amphora* (Lightfoot, 1786)  
*Melo broderipii* (Griffith and Pidgeon, 1834)  
*Melo melo* (Lightfoot, 1786) [Fig. 2]  
*Scaphella junonia* (Lamarck, 1804)  
*Volutoconus grossi* (Iredale, 1927)\*

Later Cailleux (1987) listed twelve species without further documentation. Only one of them was not reported by Lee (1982), *Amoria dampieria* Weaver, 1960. This specimen became known to me several months after my paper was published [George Rayner, personal communication, Oct. 12, 1982]. This was the 20th species of sinistral volute on record. Cailleux' list follows:

*Amoria dampieria* Weaver, 1960\*  
*Cymbiola flavicans* (Gmelin, 1791)  
*Cymbiola imperialis* (Lightfoot, 1786)  
*Cymbiola nobilis* (Lightfoot, 1786) [Fig. 3]  
*Cymbiola vespertilio* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Cymbiolacca complexa* (Iredale, 1924)  
*Cymbium cymbium* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*C. marmoratum* (Link, 1807)  
*Melo amphora* (Lightfoot, 1786)  
*M. melo* (Lightfoot, 1786)  
*Scaphella junonia* (Lamarck, 1804)  
*Volutoconus grossi* (Iredale, 1927)



Hitherto unpublished records have accrued after 1987: *Cymbiola (C.) rutila* (Broderip, 1826) [George Rayner, personal communication, March 15, 1988], *Alcithoe fusus* (Quoy and Gaimard, 1833) [Andrew Grebneff, personal communication, Sept. 29, 1998], a triad, *Amoria ellioti* (G. B. Sowerby II, 1864), *Melo aethiopica* (Linnaeus, 1758), and *Zidona dufresnei* (Donovan, 1823) [Dr. Peter Simpson of Loudon, TN, personal communication August 17 and 23, 2009], and one from Hugh Morrison: *Cymbiola (C.) nivosa oblita* (E.A. Smith, 1909) [Hugh Morrison, personal communication, 9/11/09]. Thus the inventory of sinistral volutes by (sub)species is now 26:

*Alcithoe fusus* (Quoy and Gaimard, 1833) Z  
*Alcithoe jaculoides* Powell, 1924 [Large forms were named *A. johnstoni* Powell, 1928 and incorrectly assigned to *A. arabica* (Gmelin, 1791) by some authors (e.g., Lee, 1979, who followed Weaver and Dupont, 1970). (Powell, 1979: 212) later synonymized his two species. Z  
*Amoria dampieria* Weaver, 1960 A  
*Amoria ellioti* (G. B. Sowerby II, 1864) A  
*Amoria grayi* (Ludbrook, 1953) A  
*Amoria turneri* (Griffith and Pidgeon, 1834) A  
*Amoria undulata* (Lamarck, 1804) [typical **and** form *sclateri* Cox, 1869] A  
*Cymbiola (C.) cathcartiae* (Reeve, 1850) A  
*Cymbiola (C.) flavicans* (Gmelin, 1791) A  
*Cymbiola (C.) imperialis* (Lightfoot, 1786) A  
*Cymbiola (C.) nobilis* (Lightfoot, 1786) A  
*Cymbiola (C.) nivosa nivosa* (Lamarck, 1804) A  
*Cymbiola (C.) nivosa oblita* (E.A. Smith, 1909) A  
*Cymbiola (C.) magnifica* (Gebauer, 1802) A  
*Cymbiola (C.) rutila* (Broderip, 1826) A\*  
*Cymbiola (C.) vespertilio* (Linnaeus, 1758) A  
*Cymbiola (Cymbiolacca) complexa* (Iredale, 1924) A  
*Cymbium cymbium* (Linnaeus, 1758) Z  
*Cymbium marmoratum* (Link, 1807) Z  
*Melo aethiopica* (Linnaeus, 1758) A  
*Melo amphora* (Lightfoot, 1786) A  
*Melo broderipii* (Griffith and Pidgeon, 1834) A  
*Melo melo* (Lightfoot, 1786) A  
*Scaphella junonia* (Lamarck, 1804) S  
*Volutoconus grossi* (Iredale, 1927) A  
*Zidona dufresnei* (Donovan, 1823) Z [Fig. 4]



Of these 26 species-level taxa, 21 are placed in the Amoriinae (A), five in the Zidoninae (Z), and one in the Scaphellinae (S). No instances of sinistrality in the other five subfamilies of the Volutidae (Volutinae, Athletinae, Calliotectinae, Fulgorariinae, and Plicolivinae) have come to the attention of the writer. It appears that there is something non-random in this distribution!

Dr. Simpson has eight sinistral volute species in his collection (**boldface** indicated believed by me to be **unique**):

***Amoria ellioti* (G. B. Sowerby II, 1864)**  
*Cymbiola (C.) imperialis* (Lightfoot, 1786)  
*Cymbiola (C.) nobilis* (Lightfoot, 1786)  
*Cymbiola (C.) vespertilio* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
***Melo aethiopica* (Linnaeus, 1758)**  
*Melo broderipii* (Griffith and Pidgeon, 1834)  
*Melo melo* (Lightfoot, 1786)  
***Zidona dufresnei* (Donovan, 1823)**

These are the six species in my collection (boldface likewise):

***Amoria undulata* (Lamarck, 1804)** 7.35 Botany Bay, Australia. 1979.

*Cymbiola (C.) nobilis* (Lightfoot, 1786) 12.56 Nha Trang, Vietnam. 2005.  
*Cymbiola (C.) vespertilio* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Linnaeus, 1758) 6.11 Sulu, P.I. 1969.  
***Cymbiola (Cymbiolacca) complexa* (Iredale, 1924)** 7.87 Colundra, Australia. 1962.  
***Cymbium cucumis* (Röding, 1798)** 16.24 Accra, Ghana. 1966.  
*Melo melo* (Lightfoot, 1786) 15.28 Viet Nam. (2004).

Two comments can be made on the lists above: About half the species listed above are there by virtue of a unique specimen. The percentage of sinistral volutes (number of sinistral species vs. total Recent species) rivals that of the marginelliformes – close but probably not quite as high. That is a distinction that can only be exceeded by the Melongeniidae, a much, much smaller family which includes our Whelks and Crown Conchs.

\* Dr. George Rayner of Brighton, Victoria, Australia, assembled an extensive and valuable shell collection over a period of about four decades. His specialty was the volutes, and the Australian species were his favorites. He sold most of his collection, including the volutes, among which were six or seven species, to Hugh Morrison of Perth in 2005. Among the prominent collections that received the Rayner volutes are those of Dr. Henry Chaney of Santa Barbara, CA and Dr. Stimpson.

Bail, P., 2008. *Taxonomy of Recent Volutidae*. [unpublished] Pp 1-24. Dec.  
 Caillez, J-C., 1987. Left-hand corner: Even a bivalve can turn anti clockwise. *Hawaiian Shell News* 35(5) [new series 329]: 1, 4. May.  
 Coovert, G. A. and H. G. Lee, 1989. A review of sinistrality in the family Marginellidae. *Marginella Marginalia* 6(1-2): 1-15. Jan.-Feb.  
 Lee, H.G., 1982. Perversity among volutes. *New York Shell Club Notes* 279: 4-5. Feb.  
 Powell, A.W.B., 1979. New Zealand Mollusca marine, land and freshwater. Collins, Auckland, pp. 1-500 + 82. pls + i - xiv.

#### Administrative Notes

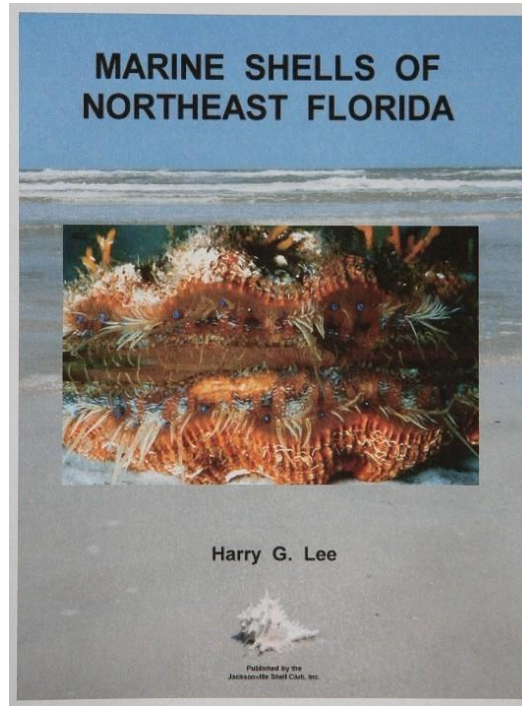
**New President** –Barbra Cathey. New officers and Board of Directors were elected at the October meeting.

**Shell Show Chairman** –John Fatu. John has agreed to chair our Shell Show. He will be looking for assistance and support in making it our best ever. Thank You!

Those who served in **leadership roles** did an outstanding job at the **shell show** and made it a huge success, but failed to complete one important task, the turning in to the President your **summary of the job you did, the duties of the job, and how to complete those duties**. It is very important that you follow-up and complete this remaining task to assist in preparation for next year's show. Thanks to those that have already completed this important task.

**Field trips**- Rick Edwards has agreed to coordinate field trips for us. So, if you would like some shell outings, please provide the information to Rick for the SOG. The information will be published, and any payments for arranged trips will need to be done in advance according to the published information. We would like to increase our opportunities for a wider variety of trips related to collecting and education.

**School Shell Kits**- Approximately 26 additional kits will be needed for schools that did not receive them. A modified list of shells will be developed making it easier to supply the new kits.

**Marine Shells of Northeast Florida by Harry G. Lee**

This book is based on collections made by over 50 members and friends of the Jacksonville Shell Club, Inc. over a span of more than 35 years. This work treats 804 species of marine and estuarine mollusks, many reported from the region for the first time and several new to science. All taxa are illustrated, a substantial number in color. Glossy paperback 6.75 by 9 inches, 204 pages of text plus an additional 19 pages filled with color images. This is a must-have book for identifying marine shells along the coast from Cape Hatteras to Cape Canaveral as well as the shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico from S.W. Florida to W. Yucatan.

**Comments on the book:**

"What a great resource! This will undoubtedly be slightly dog-eared before our Keys gastropod volume is completed."  
Rudiger Bieler, Field Museum of Natural History.

"Wonderful! There is so much new and exciting information in it. I cannot stop reading."  
Marien Faber, Duivendrecht, Netherlands.

"... magnificent shell book ... I love the color plates as well as the thorough bibliography."  
Douglas S. Jones, Director, Florida Museum of Natural History.

"What a magnificent contribution to regional malacology!" Jon Greenlaw, Tampa, FL.

"I can tell it is a labor of love, and one that will surely prove to be extremely valuable in our daily ID chores at the Museum!" José Leal, Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum, Sanibel, FL.

"I'm sure I will be using your important contribution to Malacology for years to come!"  
Fabio Moretzsohn, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

"Just chock full of all the obscure and hard to identify mollusks. Great job!" Phil Poland, Clearwater, FL.

"I am sure that I will employ it many times as important geographic and taxonomic information." Emilio Rolán, Vigo, Spain.

"What a treat to see photos of shells I know, and to learn a great deal more about species I had no idea even existed. Hours of fascinating reading." Karen van der Ven, University of Pittsburgh.

"... this is the best and the most important work done on the shells of this area since they were last covered by Abbott in his American Seashells."  
Robert Janowsky, MdM Shell Books, Wellington, FL.

"... excellent book, and it is a real treasury of information... It's a big book pretending to be a little book!"  
Susan Hewitt, American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY.

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*Melo aethiopica*  
Linnaeus, 1758



*Cymbium cucumis*  
Roding, 1758