

SHELL-O-GRAM

Published By The Jacksonville Shell Club, Inc.

November-December, 1995

Volume 36:6

Club Officers:

John Fatu, President
Charlotte Lloyd, 1st Vice-Pres.
D. D. Jewell, Secretary
Teresa St. John, Treasurer



Editorial Board:

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

November Meeting

The November 16th meeting (one week earlier due to Thanksgiving) of the Jacksonville Shell Club will be held at the Marine Science Education Center in Mayport at 7:30 PM. (See enclosed map for directions.)

An educational slide program, entitled "Shelling in Pclau", will be presented by Kurt Auffenburg of the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville. A guided tour of the Center's exhibits and live tanks will be conducted by Charlotte Lloyd.

Members are meeting at Singleton's Seafood Shack in Mayport at 5:30 PM for dinner. Visitors and new members are encouraged to attend.

December Christmas Party

The Traditional Christmas Party will take the place of our December meeting. It will be held at the home of Charlotte and Vic Lloyd, in Jacksonville Beach, on Saturday December 16th at 6:30 PM. (See enclosed map for directions.)

As is our custom, each attending member is asked to bring a small shell related gift for a member of the same sex. Also, please bring an appetizer or any covered dish of your choice and BYOB. The Club is providing drink mixers and a ham.

Should you have any questions or need further directions, call Charlotte at 246-0874. See you there!

SEAFEST '95 - Another JSC Success by Bill Lyerly

Fall is the time of year in Jacksonville when you complain about the heat one day and the cold the next. Such was the case for SEAFEST '95 held Saturday and Sunday, September 23rd and 24th on the South Bank River Walk. As in previous years, club members manned a tent featuring club information and shells/shell craft items for sale.

Continued on page 3.



Photo by Bill Lyerly.

Some of Saturday's crowd at the J.S.C. tent on the River Walk.

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 is available. Send dues to:

Teresa St. John, 2605 Emily Court,
 Jacksonville, Florida 32216-5101.

The club meets the fourth Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM at the Reid Medical/ Science Building, Jacksonville University, Jacksonville, Florida. Please address any correspondence to the club's address shown above.

Closing date for articles 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 mailed to the Editor at the above address.

President's Corner

As you all know, September 1st was the beginning of the new 1996 fiscal year. The club now has many new members of the Board of Directors as well as several new appointed Officers.

The latter include Harry Lee (2nd Vice-President and Program Chairman), Judy Blocker (3rd Vice-president and Special Activities Chairperson), Teresa St. John (Membership Chairperson), Gertrude Moller (Historian), Mike Noble (Field Trip Chairman), and Bill Frank (Newsletter Editor).

I would personally like to thank each of the board members and Officers for their willingness to serve in the various positions and am looking forward to working with all of you during the upcoming year.

I believe that we have started out the year with a great team!

Mike Noble generously donated metal shelving for use in the club's storage unit. This was subsequently installed by Mike, Bill Lyerly, and Bill Frank which significantly reduced the previous clutter. Thank you Mike for looking out for the Club.

John

Upcoming Events

**** Nov. 24-26 - Jacksonville Shell Club Field Trip** to Cedar Key with headquarters at the Beach Front Motel. Contact Mike Noble at 783-3014 for information and the motel at (904) 543-5113 for reservations.

**** Jan. 20-21 - Astronaut Trail Shell Show,** Melbourne, FL. Contact Jim & Bobbi Cordy, 385 Needle Blvd., Merritt Is., FL 32953 or phone (407) 452-5736. Entry forms and information are available from your Editor.

**** Jan. 26-28 - Greater Miami Shell Show,** N. Miami, FL. Contact Frank R. Gomez, 1371 Westward Dr., Miami Springs, FL 33166 or phone (305) 887-3230.

**** Feb. 2-4 - Broward Shell Show,** Pompano Beach, FL. Contact Wayne M. Harland, 2549 SE 15th St., Pompano Beach, FL 33062 or phone (305) 942-3950.

**** Feb. 16-18 - Sarasota Shell Show,** Sarasota, FL. Contact Peggy Williams, P.O. Box 575, Tellevast, FL 34270 or phone (941) 455-4984.

**** Feb. 23-25 - Naples Shell Show,** Naples, FL. Contact Gary Schmelz, 5575 12th Ave. S.W., Naples, FL 33999 or phone (941) 455-4984.

**** Mar. 7-10 - Sanibel Shell Show,** Sanibel, FL. Contact Charles Barr, P.O. Box 990, Boca Grande, FL 33921 or phone (941) 964-1034.

Welcome New/Re-joined Members

Michael & Diane Joyce
 Kathleen & Patricia Joyce
 2308 Oceanwalk Dr. W.
 Atlantic Beach, FL 32233
 Phone: 247-3631

Ms. Kathleen Kughes
 2605 Emily Ct.
 Jacksonville, FL 32216-5101
 Phone: 725-1501

Ms. Mary F. (Babe) Schneider
 204 Second Ave. S. #25
 Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250-6840
 Phone: 249-4943

Snail's Pace

The fastest-moving species of land snail is probably the common garden snail, which can travel at a top speed of 0.0313 MPH.

"SEAFEST '95" ... continued from page 1.

Saturday was beautiful and hot, especially during morning set-up, where John and Jane Fatu, Claire Newsome, and Betsy and I learned very early that fall weather had not yet arrived. Some relief came in the afternoon in the form of rain, but after the rain, the sun and heat returned.

Sunday was another story - overcast and a chilly 68 degrees. The Maxwell House Coffee tent offered free coffee and needless to say, the lines were long.

Neither the heat, rain nor cold deterred the crowds. There was virtually a steady procession through the club's tent, manned at various times by Cathy Williams, Barbara Brown, Billie and Paul Brown, and Charlotte and Vic Lloyd; in addition to those previously named.

The shell craft items, fashioned and donated by Billie, Charlotte, and Betsy, were a tremendous success and sold out. The loose shells were also big sellers, and as usual, the free shells for children was extremely popular.

Now for one of the bright spots that make working the club's booth so enjoyable. Sunday afternoon (the cold day) a little girl, probably 10 years old, barefooted, came up and immediately fell in love with a Christmas ornament (\$3.50) and wanted it for her teacher. She held out a crumpled dollar bill and said, "I only have a dollar by my brother has a dollar." Off she ran, but in a minute she was back with her brother and another dollar. A charitable mood prevailed, and she was given the ornament for \$2.00. Her brother then said he would like to have an ornament for his teacher but by then he only had a dollar. Again, the charitable mood prevailed and he was given an ornament for a dollar. They disappeared in the cold, overcast day, happy to say the least.

We saw these kids one more time that day - as they passed by our booth, playing on the deck of a very large yacht.

When it was all over and done, the club had sold \$236.70 worth of items, less the \$50.00 expense for booth and table rental, yielding a net profit of \$186.70. Thanks to everyone to who contributed to this success and those of you who offered to work but were not needed.

Central Florida Shell Show

Three members of the Jacksonville Shell Club (JSC) (Charlotte Lloyd, Betty Hunter, and Bill Frank) traveled to Orlando the weekend of September 16th to enter exhibits in the Central Florida Shell Club Show held at the fairgrounds.

The JSC's big winner was Charlotte, who was awarded the duPont Trophy (as well as a 1st place ribbon) and the Edward B. Sarkin Memorial Trophy for her exhibit of "Self Collected Marine Shells." Her exhibit had previously won the COA Trophy at the JSC Show during 1994.

Demonstrating her versatility, Charlotte also received a blue ribbon for her Christmas ornaments "Gifts From The Sea" in the Artistic Division.

Bill Frank received a 1st place ribbon for his exhibit of "The Genus *Cymatium*" and Betty Hunter brought home a 2nd place ribbon for her exhibit of "Shells Of Galapagos" and a 3rd place ribbon for her single specimen entry of *Cypraea eludens*.

Gene Everson of Louisville, Kentucky, a frequent exhibitor in JSC shows, was awarded the COA Trophy for his 43 foot exhibit of "Muricidae - Worldwide;" a truly impressive exhibit.

Judging the show were Bill Lyons and Bob Lipe (Scientific) and B.J. Larson and Mary Lou Pugh (former JSC member), Artistic Division.

Congratulations to Helen Kwiat, the Show Chairman, for an outstanding job!



A Forrest Gump Of The Dinosaur Era

Nature does not always favor the fleetest or most sophisticated. Paleontologists have unearthed the remains of a huge, strangely shaped mollusk from the Cretaceous period that succeeded in spite of its ungainly body.

While digging on Seymour Island off the coast of Antarctica, Anton Oleinik and William Zinsmeister from Purdue University, discovered a 6-foot-long fossil belonging to a 65-million-year old ammonite called Diplomoceras maximum. Scientists had found only fragments of the animal in the past and therefore did not realize it had a long, awkward shell shaped like a giant paper clip (see drawing below).

Relatives of the chambered nautilus (*Nautilus pompilius* Linné, 1758), ammonites filled the seas during the Mesozoic era, the age of the dinosaurs. Because 95 percent of the ammonites had beautifully coiled bodies, paleontologists have traditionally considered the uncoiled forms as evolutionary dead ends that could not compete well.

But the Diplomoceras proliferated near Seymour Island, and the new find shows that some grew quite large. "They seemed to have competed as well as their swift and agile cousins. That's why I refer to the fossil as the Forrest Gump of the ammonites," says Zinsmeister.

Adapted from Science News, Vol. 147, April 95; submitted by member Carol Ruckdeschel of Cumberland Isl., GA.



Bad Year For The Panhandle

Hurricane Opal's visit to the Florida Panhandle (their 3rd storm this year) and accompanying damage necessitated the cancellation of the Gulf Coast Shell Club's Shell Show scheduled in Panama City the weekend of 4-5 November. In a letter from the club, members indicate that damage to businesses and homes in the area is extensive, and while everyone is physically fine, they face months of repair work. The show has been re-scheduled for the weekend of September 14th, 1996.

Well known mail-order shell dealer and proprietor of "Ed's Shell House" in Ft. Walton Beach, Ed Schelling, lost a portion of his stores roof which resulted in serious water damage to the interior. Ed reports that recovery from the storm is progressing expeditiously and he expects to be fully operational by the middle of November.

In recognition of the losses that shell club members in Alabama, Georgia, or northwestern Florida may have suffered, The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum on Sanibel has generously offered to replace lost or severely damaged popular shell books either free of charge (from their duplicates or museum publications) or at half price in the case of several books normally available from American Malacologists including the Compendium of Seashells.

As stated by Dr. Tucker Abbott in a letter to affected shell clubs, "This is your shell museum and we're here to help you in collecting and studying shells."

References:

Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum Letter, Dated Oct. 6, 1995

Gulf Coast Shell Club Letter, Dated Oct. 9, 1995

TV's Discovery Channel Features Dr. Abbott

Dr. R. Tucker Abbott, noted malacologist, author and director of the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum on Sanibel Island, was recently featured on the Discovery Channel's daytime craft, hobbies, and collectibles half-hour show "Start to Finish."

If you missed the segment, which also included Christmas ornaments crafted from shells, you can catch it on the morning of November 20th at 10:30 a.m.

Taken in part from the Sanibel-Captiva Island Reporter, Sep. 29, 1995.

Did You Know?

Did you know that 14 of the 20 coastal states of the continental United States have an officially designated state shell?

Florida's state shell, Pleuroploca gigantea (Kiener, 1840) (Florida Horse Conch), is by far the most imposing of the lot. It was officially designated by House Bill #568 signed into law by then governor Claude R. Kirk, on 18 June 1969. This designation was a direct result of the efforts of the Palm Beach County Shell Club, their friends, and Representative William G. James. The shell club provided every legislator in Tallahassee, more than 84 of them, with a mimeographed sheet telling about the mollusk as well as a specimen of the shell.

The state to officially designate a state shell most recently is New Jersey. As of April 13th, the state's lawmakers designated Busycon carica (Gmelin, 1791) (Knobbed Whelk) as the state's official shell.

Other states which have designated an official shell (with year of designation) include:

North Carolina (1965) - Phalium granulatum (Born, 1778) (Scotch Bonnet)

Mississippi (1974) - Crossostrea virginica (Gmelin, 1791) (Eastern American Oyster)

Maryland (1984) - Ecphora quadricostata (fossil species)

South Carolina (1984) - Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834 (Lettered Olive)

Texas (1987) - Busycon perversum pulleyi (Hollister, 1958) (Perverse Whelk)

Georgia (1987) - Busycon carica eliceans (Montfort, 1810) (Kiener's Whelk)

Massachusetts (1987) - Neptunea lyrata decemcostata (Say, 1826) (New England Neptune)

Rhode Island (1987) - Mercenaria mercenaria (Linné, 1758) (Northern Quahog)

New York (1989) - Argopecten irradians irradians (Lamarck, 1819) (Atlantic Bay Scallop)

Oregon (1989) - Fusitriton oregonensis (Redfield, 1848) (Oregon Triton)

Connecticut (1989) - Crossostrea virginica (Gmelin, 1791) (Eastern American Oyster)

Alabama (1990) - Scaphella junonia johnstonae (Clench, 1953) (Junonia)

References:

- American Conchologist, Vol 17, No 4, Dec. 1989
American Conchologist, Vol 23, No 3, Sep. 1995
Hawaiian Shell News, Vol XXXVIII, No 7, Jul. 1990
Of Sea & Shore Magazine, Vol 7, No 3, Fall 1976

Molluscan Malfeasance

Probably nowhere else in the United States do sea shells and shell collecting play such a prominent role in everyday life as they do on Sanibel Island, Florida. The island, widely known for its shell-strewn beaches and March shell show, now also possesses one of the only museums in the world dedicated solely to sea shells (The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum).

In light of the town's close association with mollusks and increasing crime nationwide, it should come as no surprise that sea shell related incidents, reported to the Sanibel Police Department, appear to be on the rise as evidenced by these two items recently published in "Police Watch" of the Sanibel-Captiva Island Reporter.

"Mailbox Tampering - Police received a call from a resident caretaker, Tuesday evening Oct. 3, who complained several mailboxes along her street had been filled with sea shells with the flag up at the same time."

"Disgruntled Beach Bum - A Sanibel-Captiva Road woman called police Sunday morning, Oct. 8, to report a man who was throwing shells at beachgoers on the beach telling them to get off his sand. Police patrolled the area but could not find the man fitting the 60-year-old, gray haired description."

These two serious incidents in such a short period of time beg the question - could they have been committed by the same deranged shell collector?

Surely Postal Inspectors will waste no time in investigating the first incident since not only is it a federal offense to tamper with a mail box, but the perpetrator also had the gall to put the flags up as well.

The latter incident is equally serious and worthy of follow-up. Police have a term for this type of behavior - "Throwing Deadly Missiles." If apprehended, the perpetrator will no doubt receive a ride to the nearest mental health facility unless, of course, he can unequivocally prove his ownership of the "sand."

Taken in part from the Sanibel-Captiva Island Reporter, Oct. 6 and Oct. 13, 1995.



Club News

by Billie Brown

Club news seems to come up short some/most months. I really think that somebody, somewhere must be doing something of interest to our members. **SHARE!**

Seafest 95 was a good event. Bill & Betsy Lyerly did a great job of organizing. Our tent looked good and there were a lot of people stopping. Of course the children really enjoyed picking a "free" shell. There were a few parents that gave advice on which one to pick. So, please remember, if you have extras, we can always use "give-aways" as well as shells to sell. We also made contacts with teachers and others that were interested in programs. To the members who gave their time, shells, and craft items - **THANKS AGAIN.**

I gave a talk to the Ponte Vedra AARP in September. They were very gracious and **SURPRISED** to learn that there is a J.S.C.! Also, a lady asked about Elvira's family. Older members will remember her as Ellie Macedonia - a lovely lady and fellow shell collector.

Had friends here from Massachusetts who brought me a few mussels. While we rode through Atlantic Beach reminiscing, we took time to go out on the beach to the renourishment site. The dredge pipe was spewing out all sorts of stuff - mostly broken, but I did pick up a nice scotch bonnet, a whole heart urchin, and a U.S.N. ring that had been encrusted with grunge. There didn't seem to be a problem with collecting reasonably close. At least no one asked us to leave.

Bruce Brown (Paul's son) will be in Washington, D.C. this week to receive an award from the Treasury Department. He is being recognized for outstanding achievement in his department. Bruce works at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Artesia, New Mexico. We are very proud.

Belated birthday wishes to our friend Dale Bulock. Happy Birthday this month to Selma Thigpen on the 25th and next month to Marjorie Jennings on the 2nd, Charlotte Lloyd on the 11th, and Claire Newsome on the 20th.

I hope our new members will share birthdays with us. Please give me a call (241-3755) with birthdays and family news.



Mr. Seashell Is Gone...

The Club has received word that world-renowned malacologist, author, and Founding Director of the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum on Sanibel Island, Dr. R. Tucker Abbott, passed-away at the age of 76 on Friday, November 3rd.

During his some 50-year involvement with malacology, Dr. Abbott not only authored more than 30 books on shells, but served as Curator of Mollusks at the Smithsonian Institution, The Academy of Natural Sciences (Philadelphia), and The Delaware Museum of Natural History.

Dr. Abbott first became associated with the Jacksonville Shell Club (J.S.C.) in 1964, when he, Dr. Ruth Turner, and the late Dr. William (Bill) Clench served as judges at one the Club's first Shell Shows.

Dr. Abbott has been a member of the J.S.C. since 1975 and an honorary life-member since 1987. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Snails Find Way To Get The Lead Out

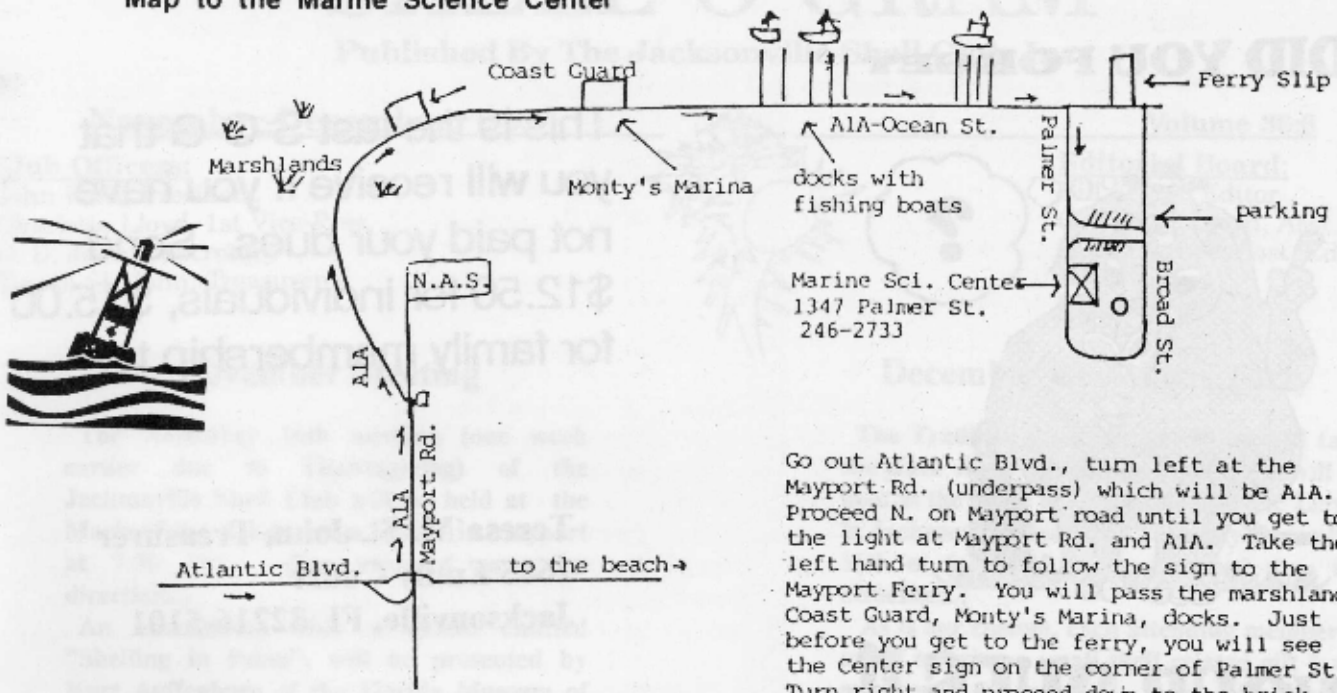
In places where centuries of mining have contaminated the soil with lead, snails have adapted by shunting the toxic metal into their shells, two ecologists have found.

Michael Newman and Margaret Mulvey of the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory in Aiken, South Carolina studied snails living in northern England and Wales, where mines have operated since Roman times. They found that snails there have changed the way they metabolize calcium, and thus lead. Because the two elements are chemically similar, the body's processes often treat them the same way.

The biologists found that snails living on mine sites store more lead in their shells compared to snails that live in other places. Snails outside of polluted areas have a higher proportion of lead in their soft tissues.

From The Florida Times-Union, June 21, 1995.

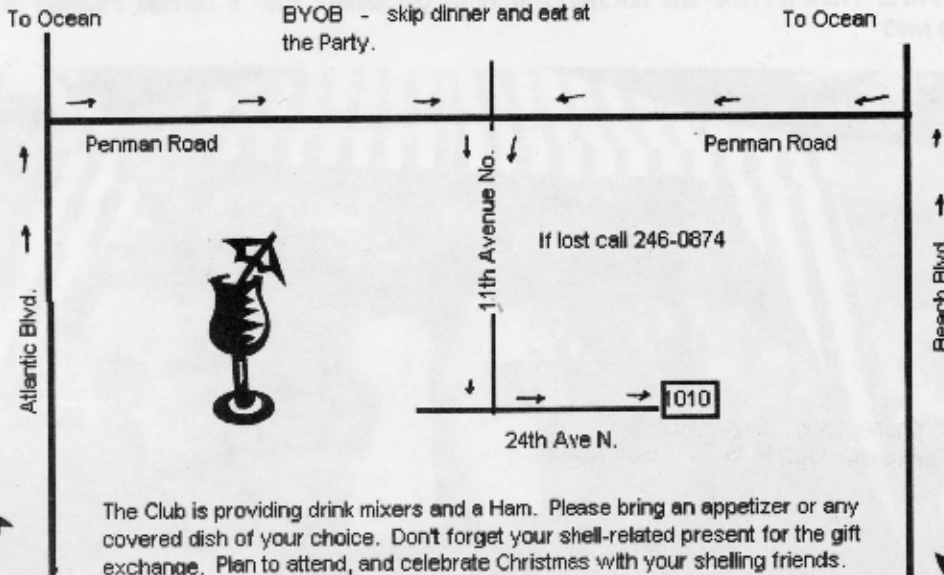
Map to the Marine Science Center



Go out Atlantic Blvd., turn left at the Mayport Rd. (underpass) which will be ALA. Proceed N. on Mayport road until you get to the light at Mayport Rd. and ALA. Take the left hand turn to follow the sign to the Mayport Ferry. You will pass the marshland, Coast Guard, Monty's Marina, docks. Just before you get to the ferry, you will see the Center sign on the corner of Palmer St.. Turn right and proceed down to the brick school building. Parking on the left of building.



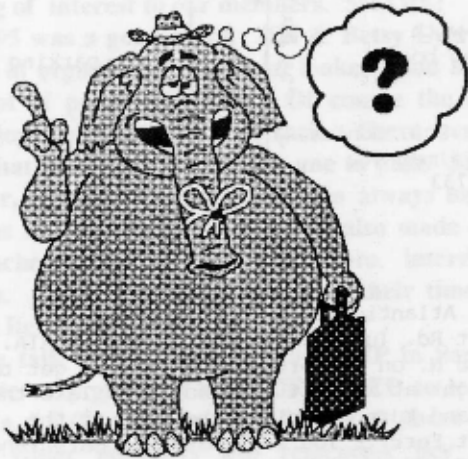
Christmas Party at the Lloyd's
6:30 PM on Dec. 16th
BYOB - skip dinner and eat at the Party.



The Club is providing drink mixers and a Ham. Please bring an appetizer or any covered dish of your choice. Don't forget your shell-related present for the gift exchange. Plan to attend, and celebrate Christmas with your shelling friends.



DID YOU FORGET



YOUR DUES !!

This is the last S-O-G that you will receive if you have not paid your dues. Send \$12.50 for individuals, \$15.00 for family membership to:

Teresa M. St. John, Treasurer
2605 Emily Court
Jacksonville, FL 32216-5101

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

