



SHELL-O-GRAM

Official Publication of the
JACKSONVILLE SHELL CLUB, INC.

January-February 2009

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Programs

The January meeting of the Jacksonville Shell Club will convene at 7:00 PM at the Southeast Branch Public Library on Thursday the 22nd. The "Shell"-of-the-Month will be presented by Brian Marshall, who will show photographs of a nudibranch not previously recorded from northeast Florida. This animal was observed by him near St. Augustine Inlet in December, 2008. The program will be given by Harry Lee, who will discuss the freshwater mussels of the American Southeast.

The club will meet on Thursday Feb. 26, 2009 at the usual time and place. The "Shell"-of-the-Month will be a curtain-call for Brian Marshall, who will share images of a second species of nudibranch new to our area. It was also photographed near St. Augustine Inlet in December, 2008. Charlotte Thorpe will present a program on the new and exciting finds made in the Cedar Keys by the contingent of a dozen club members who trekked across the state in mid-December, 2008 to catch the extreme low tides.

Cedar Key Field Trip

The field trip to Cedar Key during December 11 – 14 was quite productive. With the minus tides, we had some of the lowest tides that any of us could remember seeing. On both Friday and Saturday a boat had been arranged to take us out to the flats near Seahorse Key. The tide was low enough that the boat ran aground on the Saturday return trip to the dock. Although the weather was very cold by Florida standards, we braved the cold air and the warm water seeking shell treasures. Shelling on the flats as well as near the hotel was quite good by all accounts. A future article will review some of the traditional finds and some of the new ones made on this trip. On Friday evening we gathered at the Thorpe's room for sea food chowder and a potluck dinner. Several first time shell seekers participated and were rewarded for their efforts. Additionally, some of our long distance members were able to participate. A great time was had by all.

Jax Shell Club members participating in our December 12-13 field trip added four species to our cumulative Cedar Key species inventory < <http://www.jaxshells.org/cedarkey.htm> >, which now totals 314 species:

Lucina pensylvanica (Linnaeus, 1758) Pennsylvania Lucine. Harry Lee!

Calliostoma tampaense (Conrad, 1846) Tampa Bay Topsnail. Jeff Ward!

Urosalpinx cinerea (Say, 1822) Atlantic Oyster Drill [apparently a recent introduction] Mark Johnson!

Aplysia morio (A. E. Verrill, 1901) Sooty Seahare. Charlotte Thorpe!

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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 March 7, April 25, and May 23. 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 Message

Hello Everybody!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and you are ready to begin 2009. I am sorry that we missed the Christmas party-from all reports everyone had a very good time. As always Kitty and Harry were very gracious hosts and we thank you.

Looking to our new year, time is fast approaching for the '09 Shell Show. (5 months). Thanks to Charlotte for stepping up and agreeing to be chairman. Now we need volunteers for the various jobs that need to be done for us to have a successful show. There will be a Board/Shell Show Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 18, at 2 PM at Charlotte's Home. Remember, anyone interested may attend these meetings. We urge you to come and give us your input. This promises to be an exciting show. We are planning our show to coincide with the Coin Club of Jacksonville in the same time frame and in the same building. We hope that this will be beneficial for both clubs.

PLUS, the N. E. FLORIDA MARINE SHELLS BOOK that we have awaited for a long time will be in print . (I have this info from a good source)

We have a lot to do in the next few months and we need our members to be active for us to be successful. CAN WE COUNT ON YOU?

See you soon! Best,
 Billie

Welcome a New Member

James C. Goldsmith

Membership Dues are Due Now

**Please send in your dues: Individual \$15.00 Family
\$20.00 to**

**Charlotte Thorpe
1010 24th 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**

Déjà-vu all over again; tell-tale tangles

by Harry G. Lee

Around mid-afternoon on April 6, 2008, Bill Frank was making his customary rounds during a minus low tide at Mayport N. S. beach, when he noticed a larger-than-usual something-or-other in the distance, about 25 yards S of the boulders comprising the south jetty of the St. Johns River entry. As he approached, it became apparent that this was not a Horse Conch or giant whelk but rather a tangle of heterogeneous marine life (fig. 1). On closer inspection it was found to be studded with the shells of small mollusks, mostly hermit-crab-inhabited gastropods. By instinct he bagged the whole thing up and stowed it in his back pack. After toting the "heavy mess" (Bill's words) around for a couple of hours and getting soaked as a consequence, he finally got back to his car and headed home.



Knowing he had an entire shell collection in this half cubic ft. conglomeration, he asked me to evaluate the part of the assortment comprised of molluscan remains. We tacitly admitted a sense of déjà-vu as Brian Lloyd had provided his mom, Charlotte Thorpe with a similar tangle eight years earlier, and it proved to be a the a sheller's equivalent of a Vegas slot-machine jackpot (Lloyd, 2000, 2000a).

I was able to extract the mollusk shells from this mix of algae, seawhips, marsh grass, parchment worm casings, whelk egg cases, etc, and here is what was there (phylogenetic order):

- 5 *Modiolus squamosus* Beuperthuy, 1967 Southern Horsemussel
- 2 *Lunarca ovalis* (Bruguière, 1789) Blood Ark [one alive]
- 21 *Anadara transversa* (Say, 1822) Transverse Ark [19 alive]
- 17 *Mulinia lateralis* (Say, 1822) Dwarf Surfclam
- 1 *Tellina versicolor* DeKay, 1843 Many-colored Tellin
- 2 *Donax variabilis* Say, 1822 Variable Coquina
- 5 *Abra aequalis* (Say, 1822) Atlantic Abra
- 1 *Crepidula convexa* Say, 1822 Convex Slippersnail [alive]
- 17 *Neverita duplicata* (Say, 1822) Shark Eye
- 21 *Tectonatica pusilla* (Say, 1822) Miniature Moonsnail
- 12 *Epitonium angulatum* (Say, 1830) Angulate Wentletrap
- 2 *Epitonium humphreysii* (Kiener, 1838) Humphreys' Wentletrap
- 1 *Epitonium multistriatum* (Say, 1826) Many-ribbed Wentletrap
- 6 *Epitonium rupicola* (Kurtz, 1860) Brown-band Wentletrap
- 30 *Eupleura caudata* (Say, 1822) Thick-lip Drill
- 2 *Stramonita haemastoma floridana* (Conrad, 1837) Florida Rocksnail
- 24 *Urosalpinx cinerea* (Say, 1822) Atlantic Oyster Drill
- 3 *Gemophos tinctus* (Conrad, 1846) Tinted Cantharus
- 8 *Busycon carica* (Gmelin, 1791) Knobbed Whelk
- 3 *Busycotypus canaliculatus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Channeled Whelk
- 1 *Busycotypus spiratus* (Lamarck, 1816) Pearwhelk
- 4 *Ilyanassa obsoleta* (Say, 1822) Eastern Muds nail
- 69 *Ilyanassa trivittata* (Say, 1822) Threeline Muds nail
- 989 *Nassarius acutus* (Say, 1822) Sharp Nassa
- 2 *Fasciolaria hunteria* (G. Perry, 1811) Eastern Banded Tulip
- 1 *Triplofusus giganteus* (Kiener, 1840) Horse Conch
- 269 *Astyris lunata* (Say, 1826) Lunar Dovesnail [almost all alive]
- 14 *Costoanachis avara* (Say, 1822) Greedy Dovesnail [a few alive]
- 3 *Costoanachis translirata* (Ravenel, 1861) Well-ribbed Dovesnail
- 5 *Parvanachis obesa* (C. B. Adams, 1845) Fat Dovesnail
- 50 *Olivella mutica* (Say, 1822) Variable Dwarf Olive
- 1 *Olivella cf. prefloralia* Olsson and Harbison, 1953 cf. Rice Olivella
- 2 *Hastula cinerea salleana* (Deshayes, 1859) Sallé's Auger
- 1 *Terebra concava* (Say, 1826) Concave Auger
- 32 *Terebra dislocata* (Say, 1822) Eastern Auger

Brian Marshall scores 800 on the SAT

The St. Augustine minus low tide (SAT) just two days after a dozen other JSC members returned from the Cedar Key field trip was exploited by Brian Marshall, who captured digital images of two nudibranch species:

Doriopsilla pharpa (Er. Marcus, 1961)

Lemon Drop <

<http://www.jaxshells.org/0127.htm>>.

Dondice occidentalis (Engel, 1925)

Western Dondice <

<http://www.jaxshells.org/0125.htm>>.

Neither of these was previously collected by our group in northeast Florida. These additions bring the total on our cumulative marine/estuarine checklist to a major milestone - 800 species!

That's 1625 shells of 35 species. All but two of bivalve species were represented by single valve(s), often not fully preserved. The majority of gastropod shells showed evidence of hermit crab occupancy, and very few living mollusks were encountered. In both groups exceptions are noted above.

Brian Lloyd's one cubic ft. tangle was "collected" by being foul-hooked while he was whiting-fishing in the surf at Katherine Hanna Park, Atlantic Beach on 4/24/00. It was composed of "a discarded fishing rig entangled with algae, dead seaweeds, marsh grass, a large parchment worm, sponges, and an empty whelk case" (Lloyd, 2000, 2000a; fig. 2). Although somewhat larger in volume, the tangle's description sounds essentially the same as Bill's 2008 material and invites comparison. Brian's tangle was handed over to his mom, and I was able to identify 3952 shells of 60 species.



Brian's top ten species were [rank and number in Bill's tangle]:

1. 2088 *Nassarius acutus* (Say, 1822) Sharp Nassa [1; 989]
2. 431 *Tectonatica pusilla* (Say, 1822) Miniature Moonsnail [8; 21]
3. 323 *Parvanachis obesa* (C. B. Adams, 1845) Fat Dovesnail [16(tie); 5]
4. 269 *Astyrus lunata* (Say, 1826) Lunar Dovesnail [2; 269]
5. 161 *Terebra dislocata* (Say, 1822) Eastern Auger [6; 32]
6. 133 *Ilyanassa trivittata* (Say, 1822) Threeline Mudsnap [3; 69]
7. 92 *Olivella mutica* (Say, 1822) Variable Dwarf Olive [4; 50]
8. 51 *Neverita duplicata* (Say, 1822) Shark Eye [11; 17]
9. 47 *Eupleura caudata* (Say, 1822) Thick-lip Drill [5; 30]
10. 40 *Acteon candens* Rehder, 1939 Rehder's Baby-bubble [not found]



and Bill's top ten [rank and number in Brian's tangle]:

1. 989 *Nassarius acutus* (Say, 1822) Sharp Nassa [1; 2088]
2. 269 *Astyrus lunata* (Say, 1826) Lunar Dovesnail [4; 269]
3. 69 *Ilyanassa trivittata* (Say, 1822) Threeline Mudsnap [6; 133]
4. 50 *Olivella mutica* (Say, 1822) Variable Dwarf Olive [7; 92]
5. 30 *Eupleura caudata* (Say, 1822) Thick-lip Drill [9; 47]
6. 32 *Terebra dislocata* (Say, 1822) Eastern Auger [5; 161]
7. 24 *Urosalpinx cinerea* (Say, 1822) Atlantic Oyster Drill [11; 34]
8. 21 *Tectonatica pusilla* (Say, 1822) Miniature Moonsnail [2; 431]
9. 21 *Anadara transversa* (Say, 1822) Transverse Ark [15; 17]
10. 17 *Mulinia lateralis* (Say, 1822) Dwarf Surfclam [17; 13]



Why the hermit-crabs concentrated in these tangles is not clear, but such gregarious behavior has been observed in other situations such as among intertidal rocks in various localities. The relative abundance of the shells of the Sharp Nassa (figs. 3, 4) and Dovesnails stands out, and, as Charlotte indicated (Lloyd, 2000, 2000a) in the case of the Nassa snails, the numerical dominance of members of this family (Nassariidae) is encountered in shallow water ecosystems of other parts of the world. The same can be said of the Dovesnails of many species in many disparate geographic areas.

There are other similarities and differences in these analyses, but the similarities are the more striking. I think it safe to conclude that the composition of the molluscan fauna, at least the smaller species, on our beaches hasn't changed appreciably over the first eight years of this millennium.

Acknowledgements: I thank Charlotte Thorpe for Fig. 2 and Bill Frank for Figs. 1, 3 and 4.

Lloyd, C., 2000. A remarkable catch. *Shell-O-Gram* 41(4): 1, 3-5. July-August.

Lloyd, C., 2000a. A remarkable catch. *American Conchologist* 28(3): 4, 24. Sept.

2009 SHELL SHOWS & RELATED EVENTS (Jan. – Jul.)

- **Following information is subject to change. Please verify with individual organization -**

- Jan. 17-18 **SPACE COAST SEASHELL FESTIVAL**, Melbourne, FL
 2009 The Melbourne Auditorium, 625 E. Hibiscus Blvd.
 Jim & Bobbi Cordy, 385 Needle Blvd.
 Merritt Is., FL 32953 (321) 452-5736
 E-mail: corshell@earthlink.net
- Jan.30 - **BROWARD SHELL SHOW**, Pompano Beach, FL
 Feb. 1 Pompano Beach Recreation Center, NE 18th Av. & NE 6th St.
 2009 Nancy Galdo/Richard Sedlak, 4266 Chase Ave.
 Miami Beach, FL 33140-3008 (305) 531-0036
 E-mail: nancygaldo@gmail.com
- Feb. 13-15 **SARASOTA SHELL SHOW**, Sarasota, FL
 2009 Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, Tamiami Trail
 Sandy Pillow, 11017 Jasmine Circle
 Bradenton, FL 34209 (941) 792-2529
 E-mail: spillow6@comcast.net Cell: (810) 516-6120
- Feb.28 - **ST. PETERSBURG SEA SHELL SHOW**, Seminole, FL
 Mar. 1 Seminole Recreation Center, 9100 113th St. N., Seminole, FL
 2009 Bob & Betty Lipe, 348 Corey Avenue
 St. Pete Beach, FL 33706 (727) 391-2197; FAX: 360-3668
 E-mail: blipe@tampabay.rr.com
 Exhibit form available at web site: <http://www.stpeteshellclub.org>
- Mar. 5 - 7 **SANIBEL SHELL SHOW**, Sanibel, FL
 2009 Sanibel Community Center, Periwinkle Way
 Irene Longley, 2823 8th Ave.
 St. James City, FL 33956-2133 (239) 283-7417
 E-mail: milsfrills@cs.com
- Mar. 14-15 **XXI^{ème} RECONTRES INTERNATIONALES DU COQUILLAGE**, Paris, France
 2009 Bourse de Commerce, 2 rue des Viarmes, 75004 Paris, France
 M. & D. Wantiez, 88, Rue du General Leclerc
 95210 Saint Gratien, France 33 (1) 34-17-00-39
 E-mail: wantiez.mada@wanadoo.fr
- Mar. 12-14 **MARCO ISLAND SHELL CLUB SHOW XXVIII**, Marco Is., FL
 2009 Marco Presbyterian Church, Elkcam Circle
 Linda Shockley, 348 Colonial Avenue
 Marco Island, FL 34145 (239) 394-5416
 E-mail: marco-sheller@earthlink.net
- Apr. 24-26 **OREGON SHELL SHOW**, Portland, OR
 2009 Oregon Museum of Science & Industry, 1945 SE Water Ave.
 Donna Saffir, 10409 NW Burkhardt Court
 Portland, OR 97229 (503) 297-3009
 E-mail: dragonz@comcat.net
- May 2 **BRITISH SHELL COLLECTOR'S CLUB CONVENTION**, Essex, England
 2009 Theydon Bois Community Centre, Essex
 Tom Walker, 38 Redlands Road
 Reading, Berkshire RG1 5HD, England 44 (118) 987-4294
 E-mail: tom@tmwalker.co.uk

May 9 -10 **XVIX BELGIUM INTERNATIONAL SHELL SHOW**, Antwerp, Belgium

2009 Schijnpoort, Schijnpoort Straat
Charles Krijnen, Burgemeester Jansenstraat 10
NL-5037 NC Tilburg, Nederland 31 (13) 463 0607
E-mail: bvc.shellshow@planet.nl
Web site: www.bvc-gloriamaris.be/beurs_e.htm

May 29-31 **JACKSONVILLE SHELL SHOW**, Jacksonville, FL

2009 Morocco Shrine Temple, 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road
Charlotte Thorpe, 1010 N. 24th St.
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250 (904) 246-0874
E-mail: challoyd@bellsouth.net

Jul. 19-23 **AMERICAN MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING**, Ithaca, NY

2009 - Details to be announced -

Jul. 19-23 **CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA ANNUAL CONVENTION**, Clearwater Beach, FL

2009 Hilton Clearwater Beach Resort, 400 Mandalay Avenue
Alice Monroe/Carolyn Petrikin, P.O. Box 1564
Palm Harbor, FL 34682-1564 (727) 796-4117
E-mail: COA2009@aol.com
Web site: www.conchologistsofamerica.org

Jul. 11-12 **KEPPEL BAY SHELL SHOW**, Yeppoon, Queensland, Australia

2009 Yeppoon Town Hall
Jean M. Offord, 277 McDougall St.,
N. Rockhampton, Qld. 4701, Australia (7) 4928-3509

Jul. 18-19 **TOWNSVILLE SHELL SHOW**, Townsville, Queensland, Australia

2009 Cutharinga Bowls Club on Harold Street, West End
Glenda Rowse, 19 Farrell Street
Kirwan 4814, Queensland, Australia (7) 4773-2817