



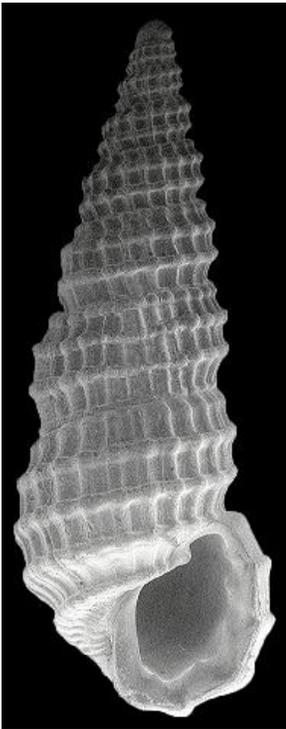
SHELL-O-GRAM

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Volume 59 (no. 1)

Upcoming programs



The **January** meeting of the Jacksonville Shell Club will be held at the usual venue, the Southeast Branch of the Jacksonville Public Library <<http://www.yelp.com/biz/jacksonville-public-library-southeast-regional-jacksonville>> on the customary fourth Thursday (the **25th**) in Function Room **D** (vs. the historical A) at 7:00 PM. Paul Jones will present the ubiquitous but underappreciated hardclam, *Mercenaria mercenaria* (Linnaeus, 1758) as shell-of-the-month. Lately very colorful specimens have been turning up in the Matanzas Inlet area, Paul's no. 1 collecting destination (see p. 5). Harry Lee will follow a program on the fossil Pyramidellidae of SMR 10 sand and shell mining pit (Pinecrest beds, Late Pliocene Epoch. He and member Rick Edwards have been culling micromollusks from samples of sediment taken from that exposure since the July, 2013, when they were part of a COA field trip to the site. The pyrams, as shells of this family are called, constitute the largest family of predominantly "micro" (< 5.50 mm when adult) shells in this fossil as well as Recent faunas. In fact it appears to be the largest, in terms of species richness, of all mollusks for several million years, right up to the present, **regardless of size**. Harry will show scanning electron micrographs (SEM's; example on **L**: *Peristichia pliocena* Bartsch, 1955; 4.81 mm) of several selected species of the 86 species (in 23 genera) he and Rick have culled over the last half decade. See p. 6 for a teaser.

The **February** meeting will be on the usual date (the **22nd**), time and place. Harry Lee will present the shells-of-the month, members of the genus *Stenotrema* Rafinesque, 1819. The 27-odd species all occur in the USA, and only a few straggle into Canada. The metropolis of the group is the uplands of the Southeast, but one species reaches the coastal plain of the Florida Panhandle (*Stenotrema florida* Pilsbry, 1940: 12 mm; **R**). The exquisitely ironic chronicle of its discovery appeared over 40 years ago in the *Shell-O-Gram* <<http://www.jaxshells.org/onethat.htm>>. Rick Edwards will take us to the West Indies, E. Mexico, and Caribbean Central America, where he and Roz cruised once again last December. There will be new shell images and movies depicting marine mollusks in habitat along with the display of a synoptic collection of many shells found during their several trips to the Bahamas and Caribbean



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This club meets monthly at the Southeast Branch of the Jacksonville Public Library, 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd., Jacksonville, Florida <<http://jpl.coj.net/lib/branches/se.html>>. Please address any correspondence to the club's address above. Annual membership dues are \$15.00 individual, \$20.00 family (domestic) and \$25.00 (overseas). Lifetime membership is available. Please remit payment for dues to the address below and make checks payable to the Jacksonville Shell Club. The club's newsletter and scientific journal, the *Shell-O-Gram* (ISSN 2472-2774) is issued bimonthly and mailed to an average of 15 regular members and friends by specific request and no less than ten scientific institutions with permanent libraries. An electronic (pdf) version, identical except for "live" URL's and color (vs. B&W) images, is issued the next day and sent to about 200 individuals who have demonstrated an interest in malacological research. These pdf's (ISSN 2472-2782) have also been posted to <<http://jaxshells.org/letters.htm>> since November, 1998. We encourage members and friends to submit articles for publication. Closing date for manuscript submission is two weeks before each month of publication. Articles appearing in the *Shell-O-Gram* may be republished provided credit is given the author and the *Shell-O-Gram*. As a courtesy, the editor and author should receive a copy of the republication. Contents of the *Shell-O-Gram* are intended to enter the permanent scientific record.

Cedar Key Trip

President Brian Marshall will be the club's facilitator for a trip to Cedar Key this winter – maybe in early February, 2018. This is the nearly annual tradition of the JSC and is planned to coincide with the lowest tides of the year. Keep in touch with Brian dusaveli@gmail.com for further details – including the status of the Beachfront Motel after Hurricane Irma.

Membership Dues are payable in September each year.

If you're not paid up, please send in your dues: Individual \$15.00; Family \$20.00, to
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Jacksonville Shell Club Field Trip and Christmas Party by Paul Jones

On Saturday, December 10, 2017, several members of the JSC gathered in Summerhaven, Florida on a beautiful day for shelling, to hit the scheduled minus tide, and peruse the rich collecting area of Matanzas Inlet. Afterwards, we all re-gathered a few miles up A1A for the annual JSC Christmas party held at the South Beach Grill restaurant in Crescent Beach, Florida.

On hand to enjoy the day were Rick and Roz Edwards and their son, William; Harry Lee; Paul Jones; Helen Gardner; Diane Koontz; Mercedes Lawler; and Tammy Myers. Paul had organized the excursion, leading the group to the obscure, off-the-beaten-path, yet very lucrative collecting area on the extreme southwest bank of Matanzas Inlet. This area is the place where many of the prized, orange form of the Banded Tulip, *Cinctura hunteria* (G. Perry, 1811), are found. These amazing color forms seem endemic to the vicinity of Matanzas and St. Augustine Inlets.

Even though the tide did not go out nearly as far as we had hoped it would, we still managed to come away with some very nice finds (including several of the prized orange Banded Tulips and Tammy even found an empty Giant White Atlantic Murex, *Hexaplex fulvescens* (G.B. Sowerby II, 1834), and no one went away empty-handed. We figured the water levels were still somewhat elevated from Hurricane Irma and a series of northeasters subsequent to it. As a result, the extensive oyster bars and mud flats normally are exposed during the minus tides remained under the water. Paul and Mercedes came upon a small area about thirty feet wide on the bar that was exposed where they spotted over a dozen Banded Tulips (both the orange form and the normal colored form). Most were either empty or crabbed, but when they looked closer, they also saw a few small live orange forms, half buried in the mud. No live ones were taken, however. On the other hand, three live Green Mussel (*Perna viridis* Linnaeus, 1758 L) were removed from their riprap rubble doldfasts



We then all retreated hungry and tired, to the South Beach Grill where we enjoyed a nice meal of fresh seafood and shrimp and lively discussions on a myriad of shell-collecting related experiences and adventures we had. All in all, it was a very pleasant day shared with good shelling friends. We plan additional excursions to the Matanzas Inlet area in the near future.

The next day, Paul Jones and Bill Frank met to check out the minus tide at the Davis Shores area of St. Augustine Inlet. Once again however, they encountered unusually high water levels at low tide and were unable to reach the large sandbar that was recently discovered to have a large colony of huge-sized, Florida Fighting Conchs (*Strombus alatus* Gmelin, 1791). Bill was able to find a lovely specimen of the tiny snail *Melampus bidentatus* Say, 1822 and Paul found a huge (78mm) specimen of the Florida Rock Shell *Stramonita*

floridana (Conrad, 1837) among the live oysters in the area. They also found numerous large, empty and/or crabbed Fighting Conchs and whelk shells as well. **(More pictures follow.)**

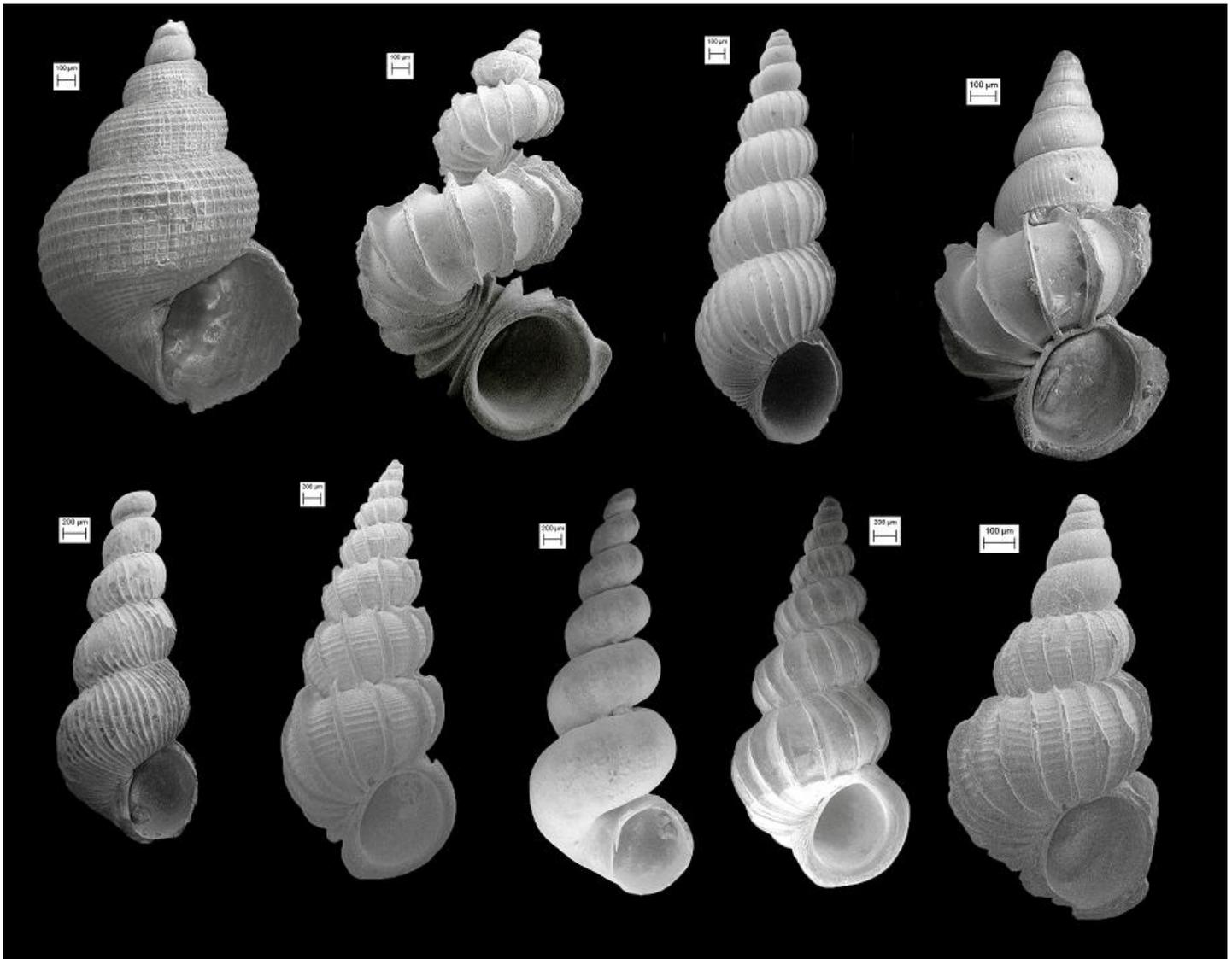


L to R: Paul Jones, Tammy Myers, Mercedes Lawler, William Edwards, Diane Koontz, Roz and Rick Edwards, Harry Lee



Part of Harry Lee's appetizer: the venerid *Meretrix lusoria* (Röding, 1798), which, like the Green Mussel shown on the previous page, is native to E. Asia.

**Wentletraps from the SMR 10 sand and shell mine Pinecrest beds, NE Sarasota Co., Florida.
Upper Tamiami Formation, Late Pliocene, ca. 3,000,000 years ago.**

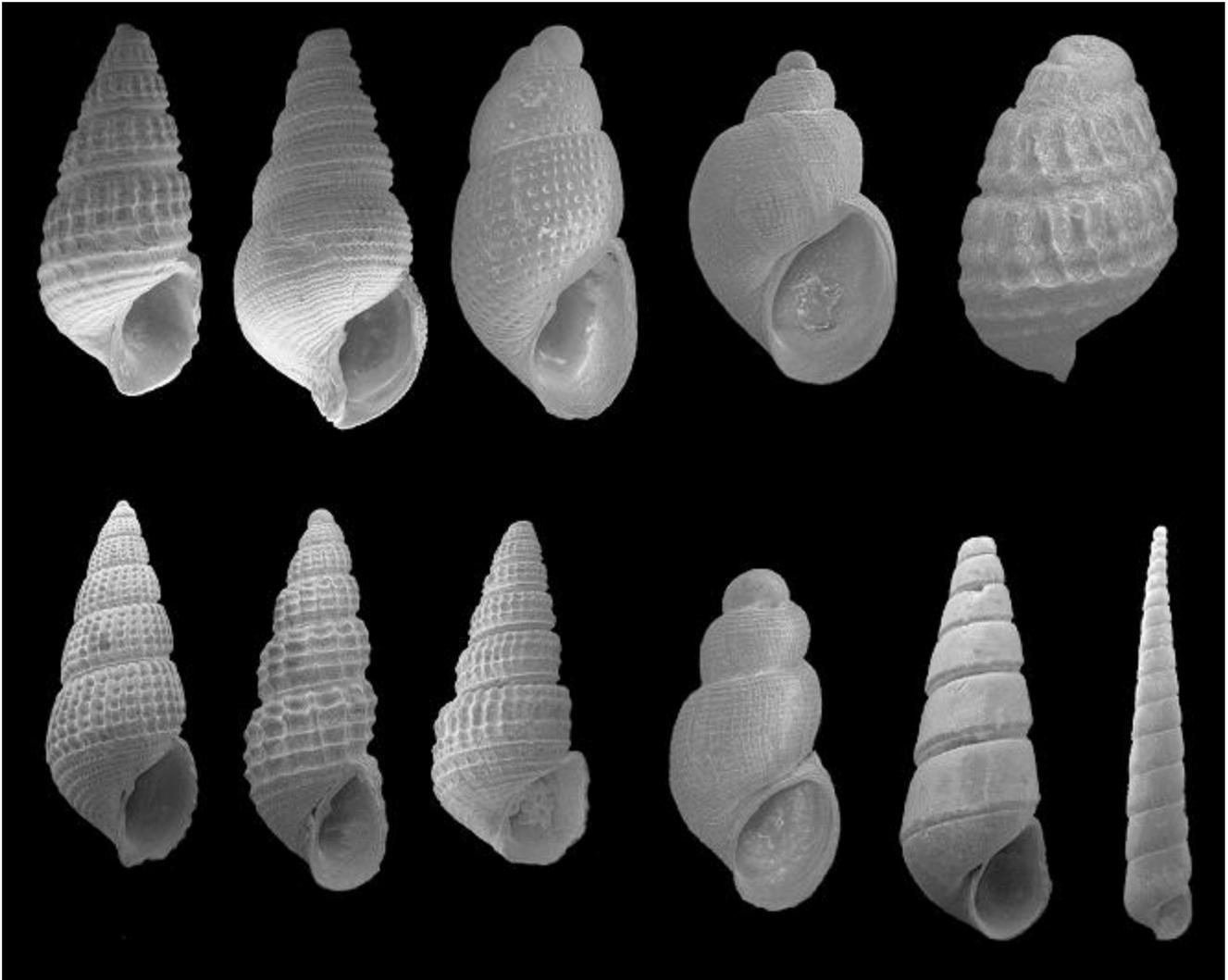


L to R, top: *Alora* sp. cf. ***A. gouldii*** (A. Adams, 1857)[†] 2.24 mm; *Cycloscala echinaticosta* (d'Orbigny, 1842) 2.39mm; ***Epitonium junceum*** Gardner, 1848[†] 2.27 mm; *Epitonium foleaceicosta* (d'Orbigny, 1842) 1.58 mm; bottom: ***Epitonium*** sp. cf. ***E. carolinae*** Gardner, 1948[†] 3.09 mm; *Epitonium novangliae* (Couthouy, 1838) 4.78 mm; **epitoniid ?new genus consistently solute and sparsely-ribbed**[†] 4.62 mm; *Gyroscalea* sp. cf. *G. rupicola* (Kurtz, 1860)[†] 3.53mm; *Epitonium candeanum* (d'Orbigny, 1842) [Not to scale]. Not figured: *E. multistriatum* (Say, 1826).

Boldface signifies probable adult, i.e., true micromollusk (< 5.50 mm as adult; n=5).

[†] signifies extinct (n=5); the genus *Alora* appears to have disappeared from the shallow waters of the western Atlantic altogether.

A small sampling (~ 1/8) of small pyram species from SMR 10. Much more to come in this month's meeting.



L to R; top to bottom: (Top row) *Chrysallida archeri* (Bartsch, 1955) 2.27 mm, pyramidellid ?genus 3.00 mm, *Odostomia* sp. 1 1.09 mm, *Odostomia* sp. 2 1.79 mm, *Fargoa dianthophila* (H. Wells and M. Wells, 1961) 0.86 mm; (bottom row) *Boonea seminuda* (C.B. Adams, 1839) 2.01 mm, *Chrysallida* sp. cf. *C. cookei* Bartsch, 1955 2.38mm, *Fargoa archeri* Bartsch, 1955 gerontic 3.51 mm, *Odostomia* sp. 3 1.09 mm, *Eulimastoma* sp. 2.60 mm, *Eulimella tampaensis* Bartsch, 1955 5.63 mm. About half extinct and half un-named.



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