



SHELL-O-GRAM

Official Publication of the
JACKSONVILLE SHELL CLUB, INC.

May-June 2010

Volume 51 no.3

The club will meet at the usual venue: Southeast Branch Public Library, usual time: 7:00 **but** one week earlier than the customary fourth Thursday. The new date is **Thursday, May 20, 2010**. The change is necessitated by the annual shell show, for which set-up is the following Thursday (May 27). The program will be devoted to shell show preparations. Be sure to attend as the success of the show depends on maximal participation by as many members as possible. Brian Marshall will give us a short presentation on his (re)discovery of the landsnail, *Daedalochila subclausa* (Pilsbry, 1899), the Suwanee Liptooth in northeast Florida - in two counties no less!

The first summer meeting of the JSC will be at the usual time and place, June 24, 2010. After a shell-of-the-month presentation by Rick Edwards on *Olivella mutica* (Say, 1822), the Variable Dwarf Olive, Charlotte Thorpe will present an illustrated program on the offshore marine life of northeast Florida. As has been consistently the case, we can expect some wonderful revelations from Charlotte's camera (and vast underwater experience)

Change to Shell-O-Gram Policy

Due to the increasing cost of mailing and the desire to avoid raising member dues, it was voted on at the April Meeting to discontinue mailing Shell-O-Grams(SOG) to members that have e-mail addresses and send the SOG electronically, and in color. If this is not satisfactory, members are asked to contact Charlotte Thorpe and indicate that a "hard" copy" is still desired.

Also, hard copies sent to other clubs that have not responded in kind by providing their newsletters, will be dropped from the club's "hard copy" mailing list, but will still be provided an electronic copy if we possess a valid electronic address. It is hoped that the club will avoid increasing membership dues with this action.

Donation items for the door drawing should be brought to either to next meeting or to the show. A volunteer is needed to go with the judges during judging. Contact John Fatu

Hello,

On Friday and Saturday during the shell show we will, again, have our hospitality area open for lunch. We provide lunch for our dealers, exhibitors, members of visiting clubs, and our club members. Everybody looks forward to this time. We ask our members to sign up to bring food donations. It is important to know what foods we will have. We passed a list for donations at our last meeting, and we will be asking again at our next meeting. We suggest finger foods, sandwiches, salads, desserts and drinks.

Please let us know what you will be willing to contribute. Everybody has been very generous in the past and your help is appreciated.

Sign up at our May meeting or give me a call. 241-3755 or PBrown@comcast.net.

Thanks. Billie

Jacksonville Shell Club, Inc.
1010 N. 24th Street
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Membership: Charlotte Thorpe
E-mail: charlloyd@bellsouth.net

Editor: Richard Edwards
E-mail: rozedwards@bellsouth.net

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.

Welcome new members

Robert F. Higgins, One Chestnut
 St., Boston, MA 02108
 Ranji & Amelia Schulz, 5021
 Atlantic Blvd. Unit 269,
 Jacksonville, FL 32207

Beginners Beach Walk

Learn about NE Florida Beaches and Shelling. 9:00 AM. 22 May at the GTM South Beach Parking Lot. Walk conducted by Rick Edwards. Call for information and reservations 823-4500. A \$3.00 parking fee per vehicle applies.

President's Corner

Hi Everybody.

Two months ago I felt like everything was falling into place, but I for one have fallen behind in the work I need to do for the Shell Show. I have yet to decide what my craft entries will be and have not yet decided if I will try for a scientific entry in the educational area. We all need to buckle down and get those entries in. This is not to mention the items that are needed for the hospitality room, door prizes and the silent auction. Here's hoping we can turn our good intentions into a wonderful show.

Look elsewhere in the SOG for a report on the field trip to Little Talbot Island State Park. We have some good projects underway. Try to participate in or better yet initiate a field trip in the future. The work on the school shell kits will resume after the Shell Show.

I will also remind you that the Shell Club meeting will be a week early this month due to the Shell Show. Hope to see you all there.

Barbara

P.S. A little housecleaning: I have someone's fruit bowl and red slotted spoon from the Christmas party. Please call me so I can get it back to you. (737-4708)

Membership Dues are Due Now

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

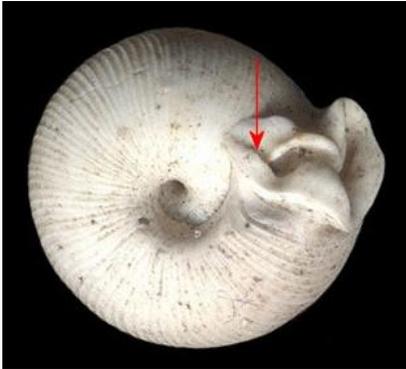
Charlotte Thorpe
1010 24th St. N

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

An exception to the exception to the rule
by Harry G. Lee

Valentines Day fell on a Sunday this year. The date also coincided with the final day of the Sarasota Shell



Show, from which event I was homeward-bound when I took a slight detour east of I-75 via SR 50 and US 301 through easternmost Pasco and westernmost Sumter Cos. My sights were set on collecting what appears to be a novel, un-named land snail of the genus *Daedalochila*, which group has formally come to be called Liptooths. As it turned out, the first living specimen remained elusive - and even now has yet to be seen by a (human) collector. I tried my best, however, and made about a half dozen prospecting stops, finding a few empty shells of this seven and a half mm species, figured on the **left** and informally dubbed the "Panasoffkee Liptooth," at two places. The final collecting destination of this side-trip was pre-ordained: the spot where CR 48 crosses Jumper Creek, just W of Center Hill and about six miles E of Bushnell. Here

John Slapcinsky and François Michonneau of the Florida Museum of Natural History had found specimens of the target species two years earlier (FLMNH 392539 [as *Daedalochila peninsulae*]; see http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/scripts/dbs/malacol_pub.asp >). I scoured all four bridge approaches looking in the low grassy roadside areas, "maintained" by the highway department and serving as prime Liptooth habitat. Nada!

Just before quitting the scene, I clambered down the embankment and checked out Jumper Creek. The water level was at a fairly low stage, and a bit of a current was evident. Although traversing fairly pastoral setting, the creek wasn't exactly pristine as discarded trash was evident in and around it. Several "snags" in the watercourse were visible from my vantage point, and surrounding each was an accumulation of whitish granular material. Thinking the stuff was degenerated Styrofoam®, I nonetheless approached this flotsam and discovered the white stuff was actually tens of thousands of empty Ghost Rams-horn shells, ¼ to ½ inch in diameter and aptly-dubbed, belonging to the aquatic snail *Biomphalaria obstructa* (Morelet, 1840). The sheer numbers were mind-boggling - the lotic equivalent of the shell windrows on some beaches of Sanibel and Marco or, closer to home, the heaps of scallop boat bycatch.

Unable to curb my conchomaniacal appetite, I gathered up the equivalent of a pillowcase-full of the stuff and stashed it in the largest Ziploc® bag on which I had ever laid hands. It was shortly apparent that other kinds of shells and a component of fine bits of vegetation were included in the harvest - and that waters of Jumper Creek were unusually cold this 14th of February.

I returned home just early enough deliver a timely Valentine felicitation, and the next morning I dumped



the sodden contents of the plastic bag into a meter square, ten cm deep plastic photographic processing pan, the same one used by Lee (1990: 3). It took about five weeks in the carport for the stuff to dry sufficiently for efficient visual perusal, and periodically thereafter I would noodle around in the shell mulch, about ten percent of which appears in the **juxtaposed figure**. Just short of six weeks after Valentines Day I hit the jackpot. While noodling for shells on my return from the domestic garbage detail late the morning of March 24, I started culling *Physa pomilia* Conrad, 1834, which, due to their glossy amber shells, stood out among the bits of vegetation

and the ultra-dominant Ghost Rams-horns. Another distinguishing feature of it and its confamilial relatives is its exception to the general rule of clockwise coil in Gastropoda being one of the few groups which normally grow counterclockwise and thus form sinistral shells. Despite limitations of illumination and visual acuity, I was able to pluck about a dozen five to ten mm specimens before noting that next one was different. It seemed to coil to the right, contrary to any physid I had ever seen. Not ready to believe what my mediocre eyesight was indicating, I swiftly went back indoors and repaired to my Swift® stereomicroscope, where I confirmed the chirality of this five mm dextral shell (see below). The specimen is a bit atypically broad and short-spined for the species, but corollary aberrations of no less magnitude are known among reverse-coiled (sinistral) mutants in members of the pulmonate land snail *Cerion* (Gould *et al.*, 1985).

As one who has an interest in gastropod coiling reversal bordering on the fanatic, I immediately paused to ponder whether this was reverie or some kind of a ruse, but these more plausible explanations quickly dissipated. What I had before me was a *rara avis*, no, a *hapax legomenon* - an exception to the exception of the rule and certainly as close as most conchologists could expect to get to a unique work of mother nature [see image immediately **below**].



My reading told me this kind of epiphany was very unusual but not the only one of its kind. It appears that Dr. John Michael Williams (1838-1925) was the first to report the occurrence of coiling reversal in *Physa*: “While collecting on June 8th, at Barnes Common, Hammersmith, I took a good quantity of *Physa fontinalis* out of the brook, and among these was a dextral one. The mouth in this last was a more elongated-oval than what we find in the type generally - an errant-knight from the conventionali- ties of this otherwise

sinistral genus. - J.D. Williams, D.Sc., June 10, 1887” (Williams, 1887). Extensive reviews of gastropod coiling reversal by Sykes (1905: 270) and Dautzenberg (1914: 60) included only *Physa fontinalis* (Linnaeus, 1758). However, it appears that the latter author overlooked the minutes (Anon., 1907) of the 355th Meeting of Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland, which convened on September 12, 1906. At the event there were at least 14 shell exhibits, a veritable shell show, and three of them contained a total of nine specimens of that many species of mutant reverse-coiled snails. In the exhibit of Reverend Canon John William Horsley (1845-1921) was a dextral physid which was bred, almost certainly under the Canon’s watchful eye, in St. Peter’s Rectory, Walworth from “parents” transplanted from nearby Kew Gardens in Richmond. The identity was given as *Physa acuta* Draparnaud, 1805, a species described from the Garonne River of France. In the inclusive style of Sykes and Dautzenberg, Pelsener (1920: 37) corrected his countryman’s venial omission and cited Horsley’s and Williams’ specimens as the only two examples of dextral chirality in *Physa*. Over fifty years later, a third instance of reversal of coil in was reported by Dr. Eva Pip (1950-), who collected a dextral specimen she identified as *Physa gyrina* Say, 1821 in Manitoba June of the preceding year. Although she failed to cite the earlier literature on physid dextrality and mention the size of her specimen, she provided precise locality and ecological data as well as a photograph of the shell (Pip, 1974).

Driven by the aspiration of encountering another mirror image shell (as well as a modicum of undiscouraged lust for the new Liptooth), I sieved and examined the rest of the several liters of flotsam grossly and microscopically finishing on March 29. Although I looked at perhaps 10,000 shells and selected over a thousand specimens of 21 molluscan species including 284 *Physa*, there was no other reversed shell apparent. The *rara avis* was *sui generis* in this context (see Appendix).

In retrospect, the Jumper Creek collection, while failing to produce even a chard of a Liptooh, certainly did provide a memorable discovery - a unique gift from St. Valentine, and, unlike the conventional and ephemeral candy or flowers, one that will keep on giving.

Acknowledgements: I thank Rob Dillon for informative discussions on physid taxonomy and Bill Frank for image editing and website-posting,

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Appendix: Analysis of selected invertebrates culled from ca. ten liters of rafted flotsam collected in USA: Florida, Sumter Co., 0.7 mi Center Hill, just S (downstream) of SR 48, Jumper Creek. 28° 38.992'N 082° 00.293'W. H.G. Lee! 14 Feb., 2010. Each entry is a complete inventory (all found) except where indicated in brackets. Approximate sizes are included for each.

Terrestrial snails

- Pupisoma dioscoricola* (C.B. Adams, 1845) **Yam Babybody** 1; 1 mm.
Gastrocopta pellucida (L. Pfeiffer, 1841) **Slim Snaggletooth** 6; 2 mm.
Gastrocopta rupicola (Say, 1821) **Tapered Snaggletooth** 7; 2 mm.
Gastrocopta servilis (Gould, 1843) **Wandering Snag** 13; 2 mm.
Gastrocopta tappaniana (C. B. Adams, 1842) **White Snaggletooth** 3; 2 mm.
Euconulus trochulus (Reinhart, 1885) **Silk Hive** 3; 2 mm.
Guppya gundlachi (L. Pfeiffer, 1840) **Glossy Granule** 3; 2 mm.
Hawaiiia minuscula (A. Binney, 1840) **Minute Gem** 1; 2 mm.
Ventridens demissus (A. Binney, 1843) **Perforate Dome** 164 [vastly undersampled, especially juveniles]; 1-10 mm.
Euglandina rosea (Férussac, 1821) **Rosy Wolfsnail** 1; 19 mm.
Drymaeus dormani (W. G. Binney, 1857) **Manatee Treesnail** 1; 25 mm.
Polygyra cereolus (Mühlfeld, 1816) **Southern Flatcoil** 20 [vastly undersampled]; 9 mm.
Bradybaena similis (Férussac, 1821) **Asian Trampsnail** 17 [undersampled]; 2-14 mm.
Allopeas clavulinum (Potiez and Michaud, 1838) **Spike Awlsnail** [undersampled] 300; 1-9 mm; distinction vs. *A.mauritianum* (L. Pfeiffer, 1852) **Mauritian Awlsnail** is tenuous.
Lamellaxis micrus (d'Orbigny, 1835) **Tiny Awlsnail** 1; 4 mm.
Opeas pyrgula Schmacker and Boettger, 1891 **Sharp Awlsnail** 20; 1-7 mm.

Aquatic snails

- Pomacea paludosa* (Say, 1829) **Florida Applesnail** 1; 25 mm.
Physa pomilia Conrad, 1834 **Pewter Physa** 284 (including one **dextral**); 1-12 mm.
 ** *Biomphalaria obstructa* (Morelet, 1840) **Obstructed Planorb** 309 [galactically undersampled]; 1-12 mm; distinction vs. *B. havanensis* (L. Pfeiffer, 1839) **Ghost Planorb** is tenuous.
Gyraulus parvus (Say, 1817) **Ash Gyro** 1; 3mm.
Planorbella duryi (Wetherby, 1879) **Seminole Ramshorn** 6; 10-18 mm.

"Bivalves" [Arthropoda: Ostracoda]

- Seed Shrimp, assorted shapes** 12 [vastly undersampled]; 2-4 mm.

** Stay-tuned: Many of the smaller shells of *Biomphalaria obstructa* (Morelet, 1840) had a peculiar feature, which will be discussed in a follow-up *Shell-O-Gram* article.

2010 SHELL SHOWS & RELATED EVENTS (August – December)

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

Provided by: Donald Dan, Chairman COA Awards, 6704 Overlook Drive Ft. Myers, FL 33919, U.S.A Tel. & Fax (239) 481-6704

Aug. 20-22 **JERSEY CAPE SHELL SHOW**, Stone Harbor, New Jersey

2010 The Wetlands Institute, Stone Harbor
Karen Lelli e-mail: kjlelli@comcast.net (856) 691-5831

Aug. 27-31 **CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA ANNUAL CONVENTION**, Boston, MA

2010 The Boston Park Plaza Hotel, 50 Park Plaza & Arlington Street
Don Robak (617) 889-1841 E-mail: shellsnail@comcast.net
Warren Graff (978) 749-3351 E-mail: wgraff@vicr.com
Web site: www.conchologistsofamerica.org

Sept. 18-19 **31st INTERNATIONAL SHELLS & FOSSIL BOURSE**, Ottmarsheim, France

2010 Salle Polyvalente, Rue de la Priscine
Michel Rioual, 2 Rue des Vergers
68490 Ottmarsheim, France (3) 89-26-16-43

Sept. 24-26 **NORTH CAROLINA SHELL SHOW**, Wilmington, NC

2010 Cape Fear Museum of History & Science
814 market Street
Ann Buddenhagen, 618 Crabbery Lane
Raleigh, NC 27609 (919) 787-7103
E-mail: abuddenhagen@nc.rr.com

Sept. 25-26 **ANNUAL GERMAN SHELL FAIR**, Oehringen, Germany

2010 KULTURA Hall, Herrenwiesenstr. 12
Kurt Kreipl, Hoehenweg
D-74613 Oehringen-Cappel, Germany
E-mail: meeresmuseum@t-online.de
Tel. (7941) 62-826

Oct. 9 -10 **PHILADELPHIA SHELL SHOW**, Philadelphia, PA

2010 Academy of Natural Sciences, Parkway & 19th St.
Paul Callomon, Academy of Natural Sciences
Parkway & 19th St., Philadelphia, PA 19103 (215) 405-5096
E-mail: callomon@ansp.org

Date to be confirmed **SEA SHELL SEARCHERS SHELL SHOW**, Lake Jackson, TX

Brazosport Museum of Natural Science
400 College Blvd., Clute, Texas 77531
Patty Humbird, Tel. (979) 265-1320
Wanda Coker, Tel. (979) 297-0852
Email: shellclub@earthlink.net

Oct. 30 **BRITISH SHELL COLLECTOR'S CLUB CONVENTION**, Essex, England

2010 Theydon Boys Community Centre, Theydon Boys, Epping, Essex
Tom Walker, 38 Redlands Road

Reading, Berkshire RG1 5HD, England
E-mail: tom@tmwalker.co.uk

44 (118) 987-4294

Oct. 30 **SYDNEY SHELL SHOW**, Sydney, Australia
2010 Show contact:

Steve Dean, 166 Narabeen Pk Pde
Mona Vale, NSW 2103
E-mail: steve@easy.com.au

61 (2) 9979-9536

Nov. 13-14 **XV PRAGUE INTERNATIONAL SHELL SHOW**, Prague, Czech Rep.
2010 KULTURNIDUM LADVI Buresova 1661, Prague 8

Jaroslav Derka, Holeckova 51/370
15000 Praha 5, Czech Republic

42 (2) 5731 6246

Email: jderka@volny.cz <http://cksl.webpark.cz> <http://shells.webz.cz>

April 10th Field Trip Barbara Cathey

There were only three members who were able to participate in the April 10th trip to Little Talbot Island State Park. Susie Smith, Laura Rowley and Barbara Cathey were at pavilion 5 to hear the ranger talk. We invited several families in nearby pavilions to join us and the park also posted the activity as a park lecture. We ended up with about 20 participants. The ranger, Erick Steffey, brought the shell display contributed by the Jacksonville Shell Club some years back as well as maps and pictures of the park. The talk was informal and questions were encouraged. We all learned something. We were able to hand out information about the shell show and left flyers at the park office.

After the talk, we checked out the low tide and found very little as we walked south. Hope those who went north did better.

We went to a nearby kayak outfitter and learned about a location where old scallop dump material had been used as fill. Our visit to that site was very productive. Along with many of the common Atlantic Calico Scallops [*Argopecten gibbus* (Linnaeus, 1758)] we found Nucleus Scallops [*Aequipecten muscosus* (Wood, 1826)] and Imperial Venus Clams [*Lirophora latilirata* (Conrad, 1841)] in good numbers. We also found a good variety of other shells and a non-shell, the Texas Longhorn that we had never found before. It was identified by Harry Lee and is a symbiotic relationship of a hermit crab and a colony of tiny marine animals of the phylum Bryozoa.

We all felt the trip was a success and hope we will have other members create a field trip from their favorite beach walks.

