



SHELL•O•GRAM

Official Publication of the
JACKSONVILLE SHELL CLUB, INC.

September-October, 2018

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Upcoming meetings

The **September** meeting of the Jacksonville Shell Club (JSC) 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 **27th**) in Function Room **D** (vs. the historical A) at 7:00 PM. Paul Jones will present the Shell-of-the-Month, *Codakia orbicularis* (Linnaeus, 1758), the Tiger Lucine, shells of which he collected in abundance on the shores of the Middle Florida Keys last month. Harry Lee will then walk us through the 47th annual Conchologists of America (COA) convention, held in San Diego, CA from August 27-September 2. We'll visit the scientific presentations, group festivities, field trip destinations, auctions, and dealers' bourse as his tag-alongs. Although there's nothing quite like being there in person, Harry will try to assure the audience of a close second place finish. The image to the **R** is the only self-collected specimen landed during the proceedings, a 102 mm *Megastrea undosa* (Wood, 1828) found dead by Alan Gettleman on rocks in front of the Coronado del Mar Hotel.



The **October** JSC meeting will be on the usual Thursday date (the **25th**), time and place (see above). Rick Edwards, fresh back from the Galapagos with travelling companion and JSC Secretary Roz, will present a Shell-of-the-Month from among those observed near the shores of this Panamic Province outpost. In order to provide him with maximum latitude in its selection, the shell's identity will remain a mystery until he takes to the podium. Paul Jones, who has recently shifted his attention from Matanzas to Matecumbe, will recount his field experience in the Middle Florida Keys, where he collected dozens of mollusk species for the first time. His Facebook friends will attest to the beauty and exoticism of his finds - not to mention the exuberance he expresses in reporting them. To the **L** is a Bleeding-tooth Nerite, *Nerita peloronta* Linnaeus, 1758 Paul found on his trip.



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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.

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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Annual COA Convention: 2018 San Diego, CA; week of August 26

I arrived in San Diego early in the afternoon of Monday, August 27, and it was immediately apparent that the venue, the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina resort just minutes away from the airport, was no ordinary place for a convention; get a gander at the view out the back of the lobby on the L.

My first activity was attending a feast that night at the lovely home and grounds of Don and Jeanne Pisor. The charter bus ride to the event allowed many of the small legion of guests to appreciate the landscape, architecture, and overall flavor of the city, which is a arguably the most spectacular and charming



venue for any such event I've attended. The cuisine included fresh abalone and fish; all was superb.

The next morning I and about 30 other conventioners were off on another charter to Scripps Oceanographic Institute, on the University of California San Diego campus up the coast from the hotel and downtown. We toured the Birch Aquarium after some photo-ops (see **below**; George and Amy Dick, COA Secretary on **R**)



Most of us first entered the north hall, where there were a couple dozen aquaria mostly containing the often spectacular regional marine life, a very thorough tour-de-force through this flora and fauna.

The south wing had generally smaller exhibits, but all were just as engaging as the first and included living jellyfish and a kaleidoscope of seahorse relatives from around the world. A grand patio outside the back door had a living replica of a tidepool and some stunning marine mammal statuary (**below: L to R**)



It was from this patio that we got our first good view of the Pacific, where we could see the Scripps lab and its pier, to which large research vessel was tethered. To the south we could see most of San Diego Bay (**below**).



That evening a large contingent enjoyed a dinner cruise through San Diego waterways including its famous Mission Bay (**below**).



Wednesday morning I followed the signage (**R**) and took care of the paperwork with the help of friendly volunteers mostly from the San Diego Shell Club (SDSC)

I was able to purchase some newly-published books dealing with southern California marine mollusks at a nearby table and pore over a quite



spectacular exhibit of regional shells put together by David Berschauer (**R**), one of the two cochairmen (David Waller; **L**) of the convention. The two also moderated the scientific programs, which began later that day. There were some fifteen, continuing for three days. A number dealt with regional marine fauna (Dr. Paul Tuskes, David B., Dr. Murray Kaufman and Paul Kanner, Dr. Doug Eernisse), but speakers from overseas (Ray Walker: ROV collection of deep water *Zoila* cowries from NW Australia; Roy Aiken the *Similyria* complex of SE Africa), as well as others treating topics as diverse as western US aquatic mollusks (Tom Grace), terrestrial snails (Dr. Jerry Harasewych: *Cerion*; Adrian Gonzalez-Guillen and Pete Krull: *Liguus*), Alaskan chitons (Roger Clark), Philippine turrids (*sensu lato*: Shawn Wiedrick), collecting and curating (Michael Small; David Berschauer, **L**), taking pictures of shells (Randy Bridges), and even biography (Anne Joffe) made excellent presentations.



Wednesday evening centered around the welcome party, where the featured accessory was “hats.” There was quite an assortment of headware, but my favorite was COA Membership Director Linda Powers’ clam topper (**below L**). Vice President Karlynn Morgan (**center**) and Awards Director (Vicky Wall; **R**) gave Linda a run for her



money. The party was well-attended, and the food, drink, and merriment were superlative.

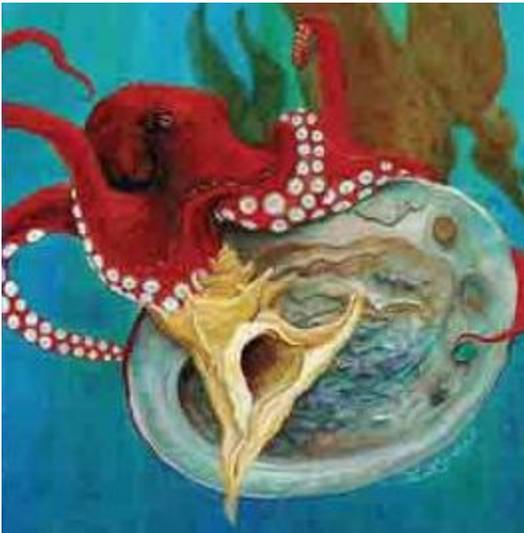
There were six silent auctions, which ran from Wednesday to Friday. Hundreds of lots, most hand-picked by COA Endowments and Academic Director Donald Dan from the famous Frederic Weiss Collection, the securing of which donation was initiated by him over two years ago.

Thursday closed out with the oral auction. A preview of items (**below**), cocktails, etc. preceded the serious proceedings. A lavishly illustrated and carefully-edited 24-page program illuminated the bidding, which was sometimes frenzied.

Auctioneer Dr. Hank Chaney further fueled the action with witty and informative commentary. Of the 104 lots *in toto*, Item 46, a fine *Austrotrophon catalinensis* (I. Oldroyd, 1927)



[native to the San Diego area and the logo created by Lisa Lindahl (**L, below**) for the convention] led the hammer prices, fetching \$6,000.00 as Dr. Chaney designated the fortunate winner. Steven Coker, COA Treasurer, who presided over the financial end of this grand event, informed me that, after CA state sales tax, were on the order of \$30,000. These monies are dedicated to support the COA Academic Grants Program.



After the conclusion of the scientific programs and silent auctions on Friday, the COA General Business Meeting was convened by me. New officers and directors were introduced, and the retirement of COA Phyllis Gray was announced. The Minutes of last year's meeting had been circulated before the meeting and their reading was unanimously declared unnecessary. Treasurer Steven Coker presented the financial statement and proposed 2019 budget, which were accepted by those in attendance. Membership Director

Linda Powers reported a slight decline in numbers. Academic Awards Chairperson Dr. Jann Vendetti gave some details of the 14 grants totaling some \$25,000.00 which were awarded this year to Masters and PhD candidates from a wide assortment of institutions. *Neptunea* Award Chairman Everett Long reminded us that in six months he'd have to close the nominations for the 2019 cycle and that this year's winner(s) would be announced at the banquet this evening. Endowments Director Donald Dan reported that donations had been flowing in and two eponymous academic awards had been added, the Anne Joffe and Toto Oliveira/Donald Dan. The proceeding closed with a presentation by COA Convention Coordinator Anne Joffe and Joyce Matthys, Chairs of the 2019 convention to be held on Captiva Island, FL. They invited us to attend.

That evening we mustered for the traditional COA Convention banquet (**below**). The food was great and conviviality pervaded the room.



COA Trustee Everett Long presented the *Neptunea* Award to Bruce Neville (**below, L**) in recognition of his years of service to the organization. [This service continues with Bruce spearheading a campaign to create, and give full access to, an index of the entire run of the COA journal, *American Conchologist* and its predecessors.] Bob Yin was the featured banquet speaker. He presented a breathtaking underwater



photographic revelation of living mollusks. Among the attendees were Linda and Jim Brunner (**above, R**), 2003 winners of the award. Linda helped found the *Neptunea* Award nearly two decades ago.

Saturday morning saw the Club Rep's Breakfast, which was attended by over 30 people representing that many shell clubs in the continental USA and Guam. As is customary, COA Vice President, Karlynn Morgan, presided. A lively meeting it was, and everyone – everyone! – had something to say. I was the JSC delegate and learned a lot which may be of eventual benefit to us members.

At 1:00 the doors opened to the dealers' bourse in the aptly-dubbed Nautilus Room of the neighboring Marina Tower. Images **below** give you a reasonable idea of the capacious venue, but they do not capture the size and rapacity of the assembled crowd as they were taken during slack hours when photography dis not play second gun to instinctual acquisition.



I boarded my plane back to Jax very early the next (Sunday) morning, so I missed day two of the largest shell-vending event in the world, which ran from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

We conventioners owe a **debt of gratitude to Davids B. and W. along with their worthy SDSC lieutenants;** see page five at <http://www.conchologistsofamerica.org/conventions/2018/files/2018_COA_Schedule.pdf>

Acknowledgements for photographs in this issue: : Leslie Crnkovic, Amy and George Dick, Alan Gettleman, Paul Jones, Karlynn Morgan, Linda Powers, and Vicky Wall.



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