



# SHELL-O-GRAM

Official Publication of the  
**JACKSONVILLE SHELL CLUB, INC.**

**January February 2011**

**Volume 52no.1**

The club will meet at the usual time and place (7:00 PM; Southeast Branch Public Library) on Thurs., Jan. 27. Brian Marshall will present the Shell-of-the-Month from his legendary Expedition to Levy Co., FL in pursuit of the Liptooth landsnails (*Daedalochila* spp.). Charlotte Lloyd has just returned from Union Island in the Grenadines (Windward Is. Lesser Antilles) and will present a lavishly-illustrated report of her diving and collecting. To whet your appetite, read on in this issue of the *Shell-O-Gram*; she has two articles on these edenic collecting grounds.

On Thursday, February 24, the club will meet at the Jacksonville Museum of Science and History (MOSH) at 6:00 PM, where Harry Lee will present a talk on mollusks to museum-goers in MOSH's "Speaking of Science" lecture series. We will convene our business meeting in the lecture room immediately following the talk. Arrive early if you can, and view the exhibit "The shell: 530,000,000 years of inspired design" which will open on Feb. 12 in the Third Floor Gallery.

### Union Island Cones

See the inside pages for Charlotte Thorpe's exploration of the waters of Union Island.



*Conus cedonulli dominicanus* Hwass, 1792 Tobago Cays, in 2000]



*Conus cedonulli dominicanus* Hwass, 1792, Union Island, 2010]

**Jacksonville Shell Club, Inc.**  
**1010 N. 24<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250**

**Editor: Richard Edwards**  
**E-mail: [rozedwards@bellsouth.net](mailto: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.

#### **Sarasota Shell Club Presents**

#### **The 48th Annual Shell Show – 2011**

This is what Florida's Gulf Coast has been waiting for: Worldwide seashells, fossils, shell flower arrangements, books, jewelry, shell art and much more. Artistic and scientific exhibits that are world class.

Friday, February 11, noon - 5pm, Saturday, Feb 12, 10am - 5pm, Sunday, Feb 13, 10am-4pm

Free shells with \$5 paid admission. Children under 12 are free with a paid adult.

**Manatee Convention Center**, One Haban Blvd, Palmetto, FL 34221

For more information, please check out [sarasotashellclub.com](http://sarasotashellclub.com)

### **President's Corner**

Greetings to all,

I don't need to tell any of you how much the loss of Gertrude Moller has meant to all of us. With her passing so soon before the Christmas party, there was an opportunity for a tribute by those attending. She will be missed. I am a late comer to the group and know personally only her later years, but had so much admiration and respect for her and her work for the club. We should talk about a club memorial in her honor.

With the Holidays behind us we will now have to buckle down to other tasks. We will have to do the takedown at the Beaches Museum as well as have a board meeting to plan future activities and making sure all past projects have been successfully completed. A new year is an inspiration in itself.

Here's to a great New Year!

Barbara Cathey (737-4708)

#### **Membership Dues are Due Now**

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

**Charlotte Thorpe**  
**1010 24<sup>th</sup> 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**

December Shell Club Christmas Party Attendees



## Return to Union Island to search for *Conus cedonulli dominicanus* Hwass, 1792 by Charlotte M. Thorpe

I enjoy diving in the Caribbean and especially revisiting islands in the Bay of Honduras. It is great to again dive areas where you have had success and to search for new dive spots to expand your collection from one area. I have been fortunate to visit Utila Island four times, Roatan Island also four times, and now I was really looking forward to seeing Union Island once again.

In October of 2000 I visited Union Island with 3 friends and we made many night dives searching for *Conus cedonulli dominicanus* Hwass, 1792 (Ceds.). We were lucky enough to find a few nice specimens at Tobago Cays plus a handful of other shells. (Go to: [www.jaxshells.org/grenadi.htm](http://www.jaxshells.org/grenadi.htm) for the article in the Jacksonville Shell Club's *Shell-O-Gram* that was published in 2000 about that trip.)

When I heard that Rob Masino was leading a trip to Union I signed up along with dive buddy Karlynn Morgan. As it turned out there were 14 people on this trip including 2 non-divers. Two boats were used for our dive trips and our boat had Mark Johnson-South Carolina, Scott Robichard -Maryland, Mike Els-W. Africa, Rob Masino-Florida, Karlynn Morgan-North Carolina and myself as passengers. We stayed at King's Landing Hotel - the same place I stayed in 2000, but they had updated the rooms with kitchens, and the air conditioner worked in our room - not so sure about the others.

The first day we snorkeled on a beautiful reef at Petit Bay within walking distance from our hotel. I found a *Charonia tritonis variegata* (Lamarck, 1816) in 3 feet of water on turtle grass, and about a dozen small reef shells including the beautiful orange-red *Muricopsis withrowi* E. Vokes & Houart, 1986. This whole trip was set up for two dives each night (the cones are



under the sand during the day and emerge at night to feed). Our first night we went to Chatham Bay, and we were dropped off in about 50 feet of water - we went with the current finding assorted sand dwelling mollusks. I finally found a nice *Conus cedonulli dominicanus* Hwass, 1792 and was quite happy until I found out that the divers in the "other boat" had found hundreds! On our second dive of the night Karlynn and I hit the band of grass and found many! The cones feed on worms that live around and on the grass. It was totally amazing; I kept about 8 nice shells - could have filled a large ziplock bag but did not want to keep small shells or those with chips and scars.

[At left: *Conus cedonulli dominicanus* Hwass, 1792 Tobago Cays, in 2000]

Our second night of diving found us inside of Chatham Bay, and we were dropped into 72 feet of water on the first dive - only found 1 cone but did find: *Cassis flammea* (Linnaeus, 1758) *Oliva reticularis* Lamarck, 1810, *Haustellum messorium* (G.B. Sowerby II, 1841), *Strombus raninus* Gmelin, 1791, and assorted fresh dead bivalves. Our second dive was great, could have picked up hundreds but only kept 6 nice large colorful Ceds. We were getting the hang of the diving now - jump off the boat swim down to between 35-55 feet of water, find the grass and go with the flow. You can swim against the current but it is very hard to do so, and takes too much energy.

Our diving was going pretty well so far. However, there was no light on the boats and when you surfaced you had to rely on the boat captain and his mate to locate your light and then to decide if you belonged on his boat, or if you were a diver from the other boat. We were able to recognize our boat as it had a blue hull and the other boat had a white hull - I kept an extra light in my dive vest in case my main light died, I certainly did not want to be out there in the dark floating around without a way to signal for the boat... the areas we were diving were not inhabited and there was no ambient light. On another night Karlynn and I came up in a terrible rain storm - could see nothing and the boat took 10 minutes to find us. I was not too worried since we were within 300 feet of land.



[Above:  
*Conus cedonulli dominicanus* Hwass, 1792, Union Island, 2010]





One thing I have noticed about the Ceds that I collected on this trip [photo at left] is that some of the cones are almost identical to the cones that I found on Bequia Island in the 1990's. The size, colors and patterns are so similar it is hard to tell them apart. I believe you would be perfectly correct to call them *Conus cedonulli* Linnaeus, 1758

At left is a photo of Ceds. that range in size from 54mm. to 40mm.

Our third day Karlynn and I went to the fruit/vegetable stand in the town and asked if we could buy fresh fish. A fellow came by our room and said he would bring fresh grouper the next day. Karlynn and I picked up a few potatoes, fresh veggies, fruit, bread, and planned for a dinner the next night. I really did not care for the food at the local restaurant and thought we would be better off if we fixed some of our meals. That night we headed to Bloody Bay about a 20 minute boat ride in calm seas. The first dive was again on sand and I did find live shells. I was lucky enough to find a beautiful *Oliva bifasciata bollingi* (f) Clench, 1937 [Photo at right]. I had found a dead *O. bollingi* offshore of Jacksonville in 140' many years ago.

Our second dive was in 35' of sand, and I lost Karlynn, I drifted along with the current, saw a light and found Rob. We continued our dive and I collected Murex, Cymatiums, Ceds., 1 live sundial, and 2 *Strombus gallus* Linnaeus, 1758 the Rooster-tail Conch. On this dive we encountered very large sea urchins *Astropyga radiata* with long spines. The urchins were in groups of 20-30 and they were green, red, orange, yellow, purple, and other colors. Their spines stuck straight up in the water and we were careful to avoid them as I had been told they are venomous.



The next day the diver delivered our fresh fish, and we had a wonderful meal that we shared with our dive buddies. That evening we went to a new spot and dove a wreck in 30-50 feet of water. It was a great change in our diving routine, and we saw many beautiful fish, crustaceans, and soft and hard corals. I found only a few shells, but one was a large *Conus daucus* Hwass, 1792 that measures 59 mm. - the largest one I have ever found. The second night dive was on the west side of Mayreau Island and produced about the same shells on the sand including a *Voluta musica* Linnaeus, 1758.

This method of diving was relative easy and we spent about 1 hour and a half on each dive with two dives a night. Lots of fun and certainly a good workout, we continued this schedule for the next 3 nights. We did snorkel the Airport Reef during the day on Sept. 9th and found a few reef shells. It seems to me that just about every island in the Caribbean that I have visited has an "airport reef." Also, one night the current took us to the base of a beautiful dense reef that went right up to within 10 feet the surface from 65 feet of water. I was able to catch 5 lobsters and then the next day purchased 5 more for another great dinner with friends.

It was a great trip - much more productive than my first visit, however, we did not find the very large (64mm.), white and orange colored Ceds. that I found on the first trip. So when I add the shells from this trip to the 2000 collection it really rounds out my collection of Union Island shells.

## Species List - Union Island, 2010

**Gastropods**

*Hemitoma octoradinata* (de Blainville, 1825)  
*Astraea tuber* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Cittarium pica* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Nerita fulgurans* Gmelin, 1791  
*Nerita tessellata* Gmelin, 1791  
*Puperita pupa* (Linnaeus, 1767)  
*Cerithium eburneum* Bruguière, 1792  
*Turritella exoleta* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Cenchritis muricatus* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Strombus costatus* Gmelin, 1791  
*Strombus gallus* Linnaeus, 1758  
*Strombus gigas* Linnaeus, 1758  
*Strombus raninus* Gmelin, 1791  
*Bosrtycapulus aculeatus* (Gmelin, 1791)  
*Xenophora conchyliophora* (Born, 1780)  
*Cyphoma gibbosum* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Natica canrena* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Polinices lacteus* (Guilding, 1834)  
*Stigmaulax sulcatus* (Born, 1778)  
*Cassis flammea* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Semicassis granulata* (Born, 1778)  
*Cymatium comptum* (A. Adams, 1855)  
*Cymatium martinianum* (d'Orbigny, 1846)  
*Cymatium muricinum* (Röding, 1798)  
*Cymatium nicobaricum* (Röding, 1798)  
*Charonia tritonis variegata* (Lamarck, 1816)  
*Haustellum messorium* (G. B. Sowerby II, 1841)  
*Muricopsis withrowi* E. Vokes and Houart, 1986  
*Favartia cellulosa* (Conrad, 1846)  
*Trachypollia nodulosa* (C.B. Adams, 1845)  
*Pisania pusio* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Pollia auritula* (Link, 1807)  
*Columbella mercatoria* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Oliva reticularis* Lamarck, 1810

*Oliva bifasciata bollingi* (f) Clench, 1937  
*Leucozonia nassa* (Gmelin, 1791)  
*Voluta musica* Linnaeus, 1758  
*Mitra barbadensis* (Gmelin, 1791)  
*Vasum capitellum* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Conus cedonulli dominicanus* Hwass, 1792  
*Conus daucus* Hwass, 1792  
*Conus jaspideus* Gmelin, 1791  
*Conus mindanus* Hwass, 1792  
*Neodrillia cydia* Bartsch, 1943  
*Architectonica nobilis* Röding, 1798  
*Bulla occidentalis* A. Adams, 1850

**Bivalves**

*Anadara notabilis* (Röding, 1798)  
*Arca zebra* (Swainson, 1833)  
*Barbatia cancellaria* (Lamarck, 1819)  
*Glycymeris decussata* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Pinctada imbricata* (Röding, 1798)  
*Isognomon radiatus* (Anton, 1839)  
*Ctenoides mitis* (Lamarck, 1807)  
*Argopecten nucleus* (Born, 1778)  
*Euvola ziczac* (Dall, 1898)  
*Lucina pensylvanica* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Americardia media* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Laevicardium serratum* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Papyridea soleniformis* (Bruguière, 1789)  
*Trachycardium magnum* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Tellina laevigata* Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Chione paphia* (Linnaeus, 1767)  
*Globivenus rigida* (Dillwyn, 1817)

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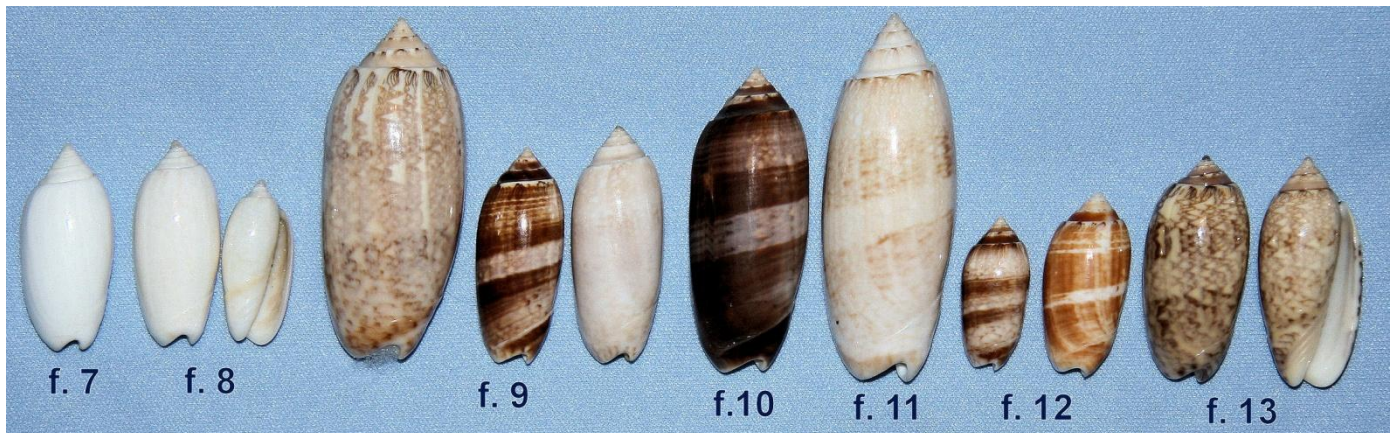
A closer look at *Oliva reticularis* Lamarck, 1810 the Netted Olive and some of its forms.  
Charlotte M. Thorpe

I thought I would share with readers some observations that I have made while diving the past 45 years. During my dives I keep an eye out for mollusks that seemed to be different from the norm. Finding the *Oliva reticularis* form *bollingi* Clench, 1934 in Union Island got my attention, since I had not collected a live specimen previously. So, I went to my shell cabinet and located all of the *O. reticularis* and their forms that I had collected over the years. I'm also including some interesting *Oliva fulgurator* (Röding, 1798) images. Below are *O. reticularis* with their different colors, sizes, form, and shell patterns.



Above -Color and patterns of *Oliva reticularis* Lamarck, 1810.

- Figure 1: (2 shells) larger 48mm. light netting pattern with two darker bands, small shell has markings very hard to see, Utila, Honduras, April, 1988.  
 Figure 2: (2 shells) left, 43mm pinkish color with small netting, right, 37mm brown netting, Store Bay, Tobago, June, 1987.  
 Figure 3: (2 shells) large shell on left: 42mm tan large netting pattern and bands, right: tan with dark marking showing two bands on dorsal surface, Water Isle, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, 1985.  
 Figure 4: (2 shells) largest 37mm, shells pinkish and white with large netting and more globose, Bonaire, November, 1986.  
 Figure 5: size 32mm., very pale but can still see the two bands of netting, Memory Rock, Bahamas, July, 1996.  
 Figure 6: (2 shells) size 38mm on left, 39mm on right, both dark brown with netting - hard to see the two bands on dorsal surface, Bloody Bay, Union Island, September, 2010.



Above and below Figures 7 through 18 - Color patterns and forms of *Oliva reticularis* and *Oliva fulgurator*

- Figure 7: *O. reticularis* form *olorinella* Duclos, 1835, pure white shell, 33mm., Puerto Rico, April, 1987.  
 Figure 8: 2 white *O. reticularis* form *olorinella* Duclos, 1835, largest 33mm., Store Bay, Tobago, June, 1987.  
 Figure 9: 3 shells dived from offshore of Mayport, in sand by airplane wreck, 100ft., March, 1979, l. to r. *Oliva fulgurator*. (Röding, 1798), *O. reticularis* form *bollingi*, and a lavender (faded) *Oliva fulgurator* or possibly *O. sayana*.  
 Figure 10: *Oliva reticularis* form *bollingi* dived from 140' water off Mayport, Fl, July, 1984.  
 Figure 11: *Oliva sayana* Ravenel, 1834, light colored, 61 mm., from scallop boat trawling 110' offshore SE of Mayport.

Most *O. sayana* are found in shallow water from sandbars to approx. 70' feet, however, there are always exceptions, proved with this shell.

Figure 12: *Oliva reticularis* form *bollingi* l. to r. 25 and 31mm., from beach renourishment, Miami Beach, 1980.

Figure 13: *Oliva reticularis* form *ernesti* Petuch, 1990, dredged from 7 meters on sand, Portobello, Caribbean Panama, 1999.

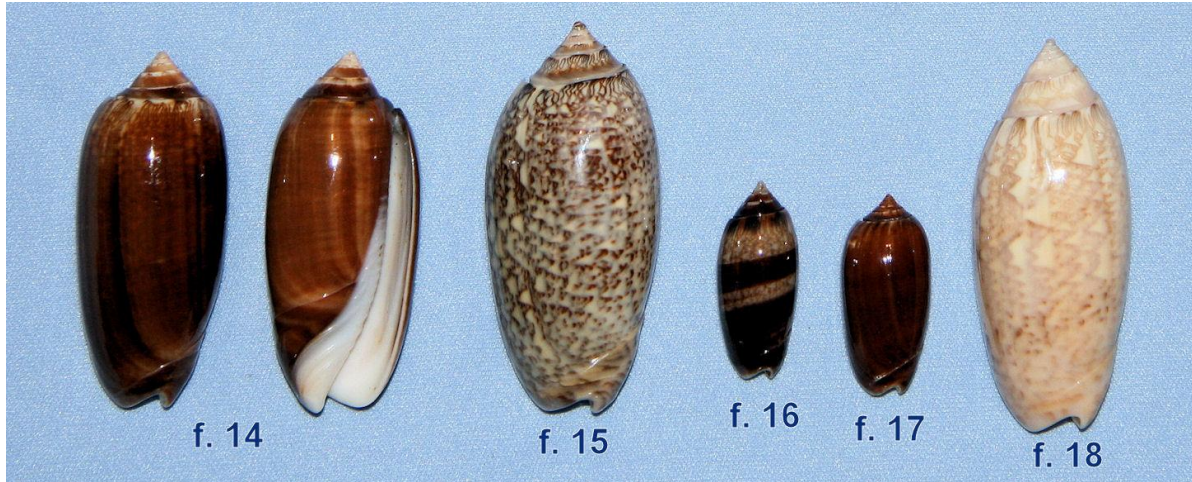


Figure 14: *Oliva fulgurator* (Röding, 1798) form *formosa* Marrat, 1870, left 53mm. - right 55mm., from scallop boats 110' water, St. Augustine, FL, 1980.

Figure 15: *Oliva tsiaphona* Duclos, 1844, dived from 20' of water near rocks, Tobago Is., Trinidad, 6/1987. For many years believed to be a form of *O. reticularis*.

Figure 16: *Oliva reticularis* form *bollingi* on sand 40', Chatham Bay, Union Island, Honduras, 9-9-2010.

Figure 17: *Oliva fulgurator* (Röding, 1798) form *formosa* Marrat, 1870, North Beach, Porto Rico, 8/1983.

Figure 18: *Oliva fulgurator* (Röding, 1798) trawled in 100' Cabo la Vela, Guajira Peninsular, Caribbean Colombia.

Many sources were used for identification from books, and internet, and all of the names listed are found in the most up-to-date identifications.

### In Memoriam

#### Gertrude Moller

Gertrude Moller passed at the end of November, 2010. She was a founding member of the Jacksonville Shell Club and an active and respected member up to her passing. The website indicated was in the Jacksonville paper concerning her life.

<http://jacksonville.com/news/metro/2010-12-10/story/gertrude-hildebrandt-moller-1920-2010-jacksonville-singers-seashells>