



SHELL-O-GRAM

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JACKSONVILLE SHELL CLUB, INC.

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May Meeting

The May 24th meeting of the Jacksonville Shell Club will be held at the Southeast Branch Public Library at 7:00 PM.

John Slapcinsky, Collections Manager, Malacology, Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville will speak to the group on the land mollusks of Bermuda, where they came from and where they're going.

The Shell-Of-The-Month will be given by John Fatu on *Haliotis fatui* Geiger, 1999 - including a very interesting story on how it was named.

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend.

June Meeting

The June 28th meeting of the Jacksonville Shell Club will be held at the Southeast Branch Public Library at 7:00 PM.

No formal educational program will be presented. Instead, that portion of the meeting will be devoted to finalizing plans for the upcoming shell show.

The Shell-Of-The-Month will be given by Teresa St. John on *Xenophora conchyliophora* (Born, 1780) – American Carriersnail.

See you there!

Reef Encounters Of The First Kind

By Phil Poland

When I returned to Florida after college, I immediately went back to the snail hunting I'd enjoyed years before.

It was the early 1970's. I was back in the Keys, driving over a series of former railroad trestles. On this trip, I was following a tip about a collector who worked at Marathon Liquors who might help me get out to the reefs. I found the contact, and she in turn sent me to the Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce on Big Pine Key.

I found a very small building filled with trophies from Looe Key (an exposed reef area south of Big Pine), and its operator, Margaret Teskey.

Margaret liked my appreciation of her specimens, but she liked the live *Cittarium pica* (Linnaeus, 1758) [West Indian Top Snail] I'd found and brought in even more. She'd never seen one in the Keys before. I was in my beginner's luck phase.

Margaret almost immediately invited me to join her for a snorkeling trip to Looe. "Just help pay for the gas." I think it was about \$5 per-person.

Toni Wood operated the Happy Turtle Boatel at the northeast end of Big Pine Key. It was little more than her house and accommodations for a few visitors, but superbly suited to the needs of visiting shellers.

Toni's boat looked pretty small. It was mid-morning when we headed south to pick up Margaret at her trailer park's dock on Little Torch Key. Low tide at the reef was about 2:00 PM.

Now a little about the reefs. Paralleling the line of the Keys is an offshore ridge of living coral. At Big Pine Key, it lies about nine miles south of US 1. At this ridge, the continental shelf ends, and deep oceanic water lies beyond it. At various points along its length, shallow or exposed areas allow for easy snorkeling and diving. These points include Looe Key.

(continued on page 6)



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The **Shell-O-Gram** is issued bimonthly and mailed to all regular members. Annual membership dues are \$12.50 individual and \$15.00 family (domestic), and \$20.00 (foreign). Lifetime membership is available.

Send dues to: **Teresa St. John, Treasurer**
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Jacksonville, FL 32216-5101

The club meets each month, excluding December, at the Southeast Branch Public Library, 10599 Deerwood Park Boulevard, Jacksonville Florida. Please address any correspondence to the club's address shown above.

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 mailed to Editor at the above address.

Rest In Peace

Dorothy June Eanetta passed away April 2nd at the age of 73 after a battle with cancer. She is survived by two daughters, one son, and one grandson.

Dottie as she was known to her friends, had been an active member of the Jacksonville Shell Club for many years. She will be sorely missed by all that knew her.

Club Member Honored

Well known amateur malacologist, shell identification guru, and Jacksonville Shell Club member Harry G. Lee was recently recognized by having a marine gastropod from southwestern Panama named in his honor. In naming the new species – *Nassarius harryleei* Garcia, 2001 – Emilio cited Harry “in recognition of his many years of dedication to the study of Western Atlantic

micro-mollusks, and his unreserved willingness to share his knowledge with others.”



The new species is known only from the type locality (Gulfo de Chiriquí from a depth of 270-360 meters). The 3.8 mm. Holotype and one 3.9 mm. Paratype are deposited in The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, California.

Editor's Comments: This is the third gastropod species to be named in Harry's honor – the first a Honduran terrestrial species *Mayaxis leei* Thompson, 1995 – and the second a Lesser Antilles marine species *Macromphalina harryleei* Rolán & Rubio, 1998.

Important Notice

The shell show rules and regulations that were mailed to individuals and other clubs contained an incorrect numerical address for the Arts and Crafts Chairpersons - Rob & Delores Jewell. Their correct address is “6425 Victoria Dr. S.” vice what was previously disseminated.

Welcome Rejoined Members

Rodney & Anita Davis
2114 Larry Drive W.
Jacksonville, FL 32216
Phone: (904) 721-5754

Another Shelling Ban Is Coming!

At their April 3rd meeting, members of the Lee County Commission voted 4-1 to begin the process of totally banning the collection [in Florida law - harvest] of all live shells within the county (“Bonita Daily News,” April 4, 2001). The current law (excepting Sanibel and Fort Myers Beach where total bans are presently in effect, effective Jan. 1st, 1995 and Aug. 1st, 2000, respectively) is two live specimens of each species per-day. Manatee County has also adopted the Lee County rules effective July 1st, 1996. It should be noted that the

term “shells” as used here is synonymous with “shellfish” which is defined in law as members of the phyla Mollusca and Echinodermata. Specifically excluded are those edible species “oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*), hard clams (*Mercenaria* spp.), and (sic) sunray venus clams (*Macrocallista nimbosa*), bay scallops (*Argopecten irradians*), and coquinas (genus *Donax*.” Harvest is defined as “the catching or taking of live shellfish by any means whatsoever, followed by a reduction of such shellfish to possession. Temporary possession of a shell for the purpose of determining whether it contains a live shellfish shall not constitute harvest, so long as such shellfish is not harmed in any manner.” Additionally, simple possession (other than temporary) is prohibited.

The next step in the process of enacting the ban is submitting it to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) which will hold public hearings on the proposal. If there is no significant public input against the proposal, it will be approved, written into law, and instituted.

Editor’s Comment: I personally don’t think that shelling bans accomplish the stated purposes for which they are enacted (save the mollusks and other sea life) and just represent another “feel-good” and probably unenforceable law. Habitat destruction and declining water quality due to development on the coastline are certainly much more of a threat to mollusks than over-collecting. However, since even professional malacologists can’t agree on what constitutes a species and how many there are, the current “two of each species per-day” law in Lee County is probably untenable and is probably virtually impossible to enforce.

39th Annual Conch Shell Blowing Contest

The 39th annual conch shell blowing contest was held in Key West, Florida (Conch Republic) on March 24th. The competition was a highlight of Key West's Old Island Days celebration, commemorating the island's heritage and history.

This year’s event attracted 41 entries (down from of 58 entries in 2000) in four age group categories. The judges scored for clearness of tone, duration of sound, range, loudness and novelty.

Crediting famed jazz trumpeter Louis Armstrong for providing inspiration, Key West boat builder Todd Brandwein played "At the Hop," to capture top adult male honors. Todd wowed the judges by not only belting out the 1950’s sock hop-era tune, but also danced as well.

One of the most unusual entries was Key West guesthouse owner Kate Miano and her small dog Toto.

While Miano blew a conch shell, a friend held another shell to Toto's lips who sat upright in a petite chair. Alas, there was no toot from Toto and Miano admitted her dog wasn't quite ready for the competition. "We're trying to teach her to play. She knows how to sit in her chair, but apparently doesn't know how to play yet."

Key West natives are affectionately known as conchs, and transplanted residents can claim the title of "freshwater conchs" after living on the island for at least seven years. Conch shells have been used as communications devices for hundreds of years, and the Calusa Indians, early residents of the Keys, once used conch shells for message transmission. A toot could mean a sign of distress or survival.

Editor’s Comments: While the word “conch” is a generic term which can mean different things to different people; in the Florida Keys it is generally used to refer to *Strombus gigas* Linnaeus, 1758 (Queen Conch).

Web Page News

As most of you probably already know, our club has a robust presence on the Internet at www.jaxshells.org with some 750 total pages covering a wide variety of information about the club and mollusks. As time permits, your Webmeister and Harry Lee continue to add to this unique shell club web site.

In addition, we maintain a more rudimentary presence on the Florida “Times-Union” web site <http://firstcoastcommunity.jacksonville.com/129/> with a more focused look at what those interested in shells might find on local beaches in addition to our upcoming events, community involvement, etc. This site incorporates some of the best images (of the actual live mollusks when possible) from the club’s web site.

In case you missed it, our “Times-Union” web site was prominently featured on the Florida “Times-Union” home page during late March – early April, and in addition, was featured in Rich Ray’s column which appeared in the “Times-Union” on March 31st in which he wrote:

“Don’t head out to the beach without stopping by the Jacksonville Shell Club’s site. This information-rich Web site presents details of upcoming events and offers photo albums featuring sea shells, land snails, shells in the classroom and more.”

Short Note

Long-time Jacksonville Shell Club member Dr. Quint White, one of the area’s foremost marine biologists, was

recently named dean of Jacksonville University's (JU) College of Arts and Sciences.

Quint, who began his academic career at JU in 1976, has been serving as interim dean during this academic year. He established JU's marine biology program in 1978 and founded Jacksonville's Manatee Research Center. But even with the added duties of managing JU's largest college, Quint plans to continue teaching.

*Florida "Times-Union," April 18, 2001.

Field Trip To Central Florida Shell Club Show

On Saturday, May 5th, fourteen Jacksonville Shell Club members boarded a chartered motor coach at the Southeast Branch Public Library for a club field trip to the Central Florida Shell Show at the Central Florida Fairgrounds in Orlando, Florida. The trip was conceived and impeccably organized by new club member, Barbara Moon. Participating in the trip were Barbara, Gertrude Moller, Claire Newsome, D. D. Jewell, Linda Haack, Teresa St. John, Bill and Betsy Lyerly, Trudy Doerr, Judy Blocker, George Hapsis, Cathy Williams, Carol Rishel and Mary Reynolds.

To keep the group entertained during the trip; Bill and Betsy brought a videotape chronicling several previous club field trips, which was shown on the bus's video system. Barbara graciously provided refreshments consisting of both juice and fruit to the enthralled audience. Bill's tape brought back fond memories for many of the group who had participated in these outings.

Upon arrival at the shell show, the Central Florida Shell Club members warmly welcomed us and we enjoyed seeing our old shell buddies and vendors. After viewing the exhibits and the wares of the vendors, some of the group ate lunch at the club's hospitality room while others went back to the bus to eat a sack lunch.

After lunch we went to check out the flea market, which predominates at the fairgrounds on weekends, and some visited a dog show which was also being held there.

It was then time for us to say goodbye to the show and the wonderful hospitality shown us by the Central Florida Shell Club.

During the trip back to Jacksonville, the group played BINGO with the assistance of David our driver, who called out the numbers via the bus's audio/visual system. David, as it turns out, had previous experience with collecting shells during a stay in Guam. He was invited to join the club.

In keeping with her generosity, Barbara passed out chips and sodas to the players and even provided the prizes.

The club sincerely owes a debt of gratitude to our lady Barbara, for not only conceiving the trip and organizing it, but also for her unselfish generosity in regards to refreshments, snacks, and prizes. Some say that she had even brought blankets in case anybody got cold or wanted to sleep. If only we had more members like her!

The following note from the Central Florida Shell Club was subsequently received on May 14th: "The Central Florida Shell Club wishes to convey their thanks to the group of Jacksonville shellers who chartered a bus to attend our shell show last week. Although it was not a particularly large show, we thought it was a good one, and we greatly appreciated your support.

Good luck on your show this summer. Some of our members are planning to exhibit, and more are planning to attend. Hope to see you all there."

The following article, featuring two well-known Jacksonville Shell Club members (Billie and Charlotte) accompanied by four color photos, appeared on the front page of the Florida "Times-Union" Lifestyle section on April 12th and is here reprinted with permission.

Look What Washed Ashore

For devoted beachcombers, the coastline is a continual discovery zone

By Jaimie Wilson
Times-Union staff writer

Eggs, sea pork, sea beans and beets. Sounds like the ingredients for the worst meal you could wrap your lips around. But instead of being stewed in a pot, these items are strewn throughout the ocean, and when the sands are stirred, some of them are served up on our sandy beaches.

Sure, there are shells to be found, but local shores also offer up other oddities, such as mermaids' purses, parchment worms, sea pearls, ship parts, even oysters cemented to a child's Batman belt. But they don't stay on the sands long, because however bizarre or icky they may look, smell or feel, they are a prize to any number of local beachcombers.

"I just love anything unusual," said Charlotte Lloyd, whose been combing the beaches for about 40 years. "You find the strangest things -- that I know. I've found eggs that are not broken that have goose neck barnacles attached to them, which means that they have been tossing around in the ocean a couple of months and have washed ashore unbroken. I've seen it several times. I figure it's just garbage being dumped from passing ships. You also find a lot of animal bones that may be soup bones that have washed ashore."

Lloyd, who is also a diver and underwater photographer, has her own collection of oddities she calls "Strange Attachments."

"I have a fisherman's boot that has about 30 shells attached to it," she said. "Some shells form a kind of cement and cement themselves to hard objects. I have spiny oysters attached to a Batman belt, a D-cell battery, a piece of a gun, and plastic and glass bottles, just to name a few."

Lloyd used to help people identify their unusual finds when she taught at the Marine Science Center.

She's seen Indian artifacts and fossils and, of course, sea pork. Sea pork looks as gross as it sounds, but many people excitedly brought it to the Center thinking it was ambergris, which is almost as bad. Ambergris is basically whale vomit. It's a waxy substance produced in the hindgut of sperm whales that washes ashore sometimes after it's regurgitated. It's used as a fixative in more expensive perfumes because it causes it to retain its scent for a much longer time.

"There were all these stories about people finding ambergris and getting rich," Lloyd said. "I have heard you can get \$1,000 or so if you find a big wad of it. People would bring in this stinky smelling wad of something, which always turned out to be sea pork. Sea pork is a colonial tunicate, a marine animal that is globular in shape. When they make a colony, a lot of them, it can be larger size. They look like a large mass of jelly-looking substance, and people will find them and go, 'I'm rich!' "

Not every beachcomber is interested in getting rich, of course. Some just enjoy the oddities.

Billie Brown is fascinated by her rare find of mermaids' purses, or skate egg casings, on the Gulf Coast. Skates resemble rays, and after their eggs hatch, the current sometimes carry in the casings -- ebony rectangles with curlicue corners. But what's unusual about Brown's find is that she found a string of the casings. (Most wash ashore alone.)

Still, Brown's seen stranger things. Her ex-husband, who was a commercial fisherman, once found a bale of marijuana while he was fishing.

And then there were the bananas.

"I've been down diving in the Keys, and we have scooped up bunches of bananas, just floating in the ocean," she said. "They were in a trail. We followed them, and they even had their Dole stickers on them. We ended up putting them on the dock so that everyone could enjoy them. You also find coconuts and things like that, but very rarely up here. You just don't find a lot."

Jacksonville seldom gets the flotsam and jetsam that other areas get because our coast is tucked in a little bit away from the Gulf Stream, but some local

beachcombers say they used to find more and better things than they do now.

"I haven't found a whole sand dollar on this beach in 10 years. The closest place I've found them is off St. Simons Island," Brown said. "And sea beans or sea pearls . . . it's been years and years since I've even found sea beans down there. I think it has to do with the layout of the sandbars and the jetties. It used to be that once in a while you would come across sea beans floating in the current.

"When my children were little, we would go to the beach everyday, and we would walk from Ninth Avenue North to 15th or 16th Avenue North. We could find sharks teeth in the coquina. You could come back with maybe a handful, depending on your eyes and the tides. We used to find a lot, and there's just not a lot anymore, or if there is, I haven't found it."

Barbara O'Sullivan, who was already combing the Jacksonville Beaches when she attended Fletcher High School in the 1950s, has also noticed dwindling beach goodies. O'Sullivan, 61, likes to hunt for driftwood and beach glass.

"I don't think there's as much as there used to be, and Atlantic Beach has better sea glass than Jax Beach," she said. "I don't know why . . . maybe the currents are a little different. When we walk on Atlantic Beach we usually find at least one or two pieces. We seldom find it on Jax Beach."

It's all about location, said Don Slouha, gunners mate first class with the Coast Guard. The Gulf Stream has a bigger impact on places like the Cape Canaveral area, which juts out. There, the Gulf Stream has a stronger cyclonic effect on the ocean floor and brings up a lot of older stuff from the shifting sands. Jacksonville gets less of that effect.

Slouha said that the Coast Guard's stiffer fines for polluting may also reduce the number of odd treasures that wash ashore. He said the best time for beachcombing is when there are storms that generate higher seas, causing the sands to shift faster. Slouha can recall when some northern tourists found a 30-caliber Browning machine gun on a Miami Beach in 1987. The gun used to be mounted on a jeep used for a beach patrol and dated back to WWII.

"It gives you an idea of how the cycle goes," he said, "how it took a little over 40 years for the gun to pop back up on the beach in Miami."

But no matter how long things may have tumbled through the watery depths, someone will find them eventually. To some they will be a prize, to others they may be trash. Still others will find them mysteries waiting to be unraveled.

"I remember when my son brought home something one time," Lloyd said. "He was all excited and he said,

'Mom, look what washed ashore. What is it?' And you know what it turned out to be? A beet!"

Okay, so a beet is less than glamorous.

But even if your treasure turns out to be a beet or your whale vomit is only sea pork, it's always worth your while to keep your eyes on the sand.

"A true beachcomber will always keep looking," Billie Brown said.

OK, so maybe your chances of getting rich discovering globs of ambergris on Northeast Florida's shores aren't great, but it doesn't hurt to be well-informed. Here are a few things you never wanted to know about ambergris:

- Ambergris is a black, semi-viscous liquid produced in the hindgut of the sperm whale. On exposure to sunlight and air, it quickly oxidizes and hardens to a pleasantly aromatic, grayish waxy substance.
- When warmed, it produces a very pleasant, mild, sweet, earthy aroma.
- From ancient times, it has been used in the West and in Japan as a fixative for rare perfumes.
- It is said that a single drop of ambergris applied to a paper and placed in a book will still be fragrant 40 years later, and that if you touch it, your fingers will smell of it even after several days and several washings.
- Ambergris was known to Arabs as *anbar*. It was used as medicine for the heart and brain.
- Ancient Chinese referred to ambergris as *lung sien hiang*, or "dragon's spittle perfume," because they thought it originated from the drooling of dragons sleeping on rocks at the edge of the sea. It is still known by this name and is used as an aphrodisiac and as a spice for food and wine.

Source: www.sinthai.com/homepage.

Reef Encounters Of The First Kind

(continued from first page)

We picked up Margaret and headed south through Newfound Harbor Channel. The wind was a gentle breeze from the north and the water was smooth. Toni opened it up and we flew through one of the tiny bridge arches of the original Overseas Highway. Scared me to death! In a few minutes we were in Hawk Channel, between the Keys and the reef.

About halfway across, the water became noticeably bluer. I was used to the muddy-green of inside waters. We saw flying fish, and a sea turtle popped up at one point. The water turned bluer and brighter. The pole that marked the Looe Key shallows came into view.

It looked like a pile of rocks surrounded by the now patchy blue water. It was calm, and I was told that it

was unusual to find it that way. We anchored on the north edge of the little island, the side facing the Keys.

We had a short swim with our gear to the rocks. The rocks weren't like those inshore. Coral slabs, chunks and coarse carbonate "sand" made up this little hump that was just now emerging from the ocean. Dead shells too.

One of the first shells that caught my eye was a large dead *Lithopoma caelatum* (Gmelin, 1791) [Carved Starsnail], almost never found on Keys shores. The crabbed shells gave an indication of the diversity there. *Turbo canaliculatus* Hermann, 1781 [Channeled Turban] and even *Mitra florida* Gould, 1856 [Florida Miter], worn and holed, were scuttling among the rocks.

The tide was still far from low. I followed the water's edge by foot, covering new areas as the tide fell. Nerites gave way to species and forms I'd never seen before. Large and colorful *Columbella mercatoria* (Linnaeus, 1758) [West Indian Dovesnail] were found in clusters under the rocks. I'd never seen pink and orange ones. *Mitra barbadensis* (Gmelin, 1791) [Barbados Miter], then my first live cowry, *Erosaria acicularis* (Gmelin, 1791) [Atlantic Yellow Cowrie] were found. The cowry wasn't recognized until it retracted its mantle. Another nest of snails was found. What looked like a small handful of M&Ms under a slab turned out to be *Tegula hottentotiana* (d'Orbigny, 1842) [Caribbean Tegula] – red, brown, yellow and mixed. The related *Tegula lividomaculata* (C. B. Adams, 1845) [West Indian Tegula] was abundant under the rocks too. I began finding *Caribachlamys sentis* (Reeve, 1853) [Scaly Scallop] – orange, purple and white, and more cowries including *Talparia cinerea* (Gmelin, 1791) [Atlantic Gray Cowrie].

I put on my mask and fins and went directly toward the open ocean. There was very little surf and more tumbled rocks and slabs. Sea fans came into view almost immediately. The water was only a few feet deep but already live coral was everywhere. I found out how fire coral got its name (As I'm writing this, I'm suffering from Poisonwood blisters from a much more recent Keys trip). The tide was dropping, and it was sometimes difficult to clear the live coral.

The tumbled rocks gave way to the heart of the reef. Large and dramatic coral formations rose to the surface. Channels meandered through them like small canyons. Brilliantly colored fish circled the coral. The feeding plumes of worms burst like colorful feather dusters from holes in the coral. This was Technicolor!

The slabs in this environment were not too productive. They were either chronically wave-tumbled or welded to the reef with coral. *Lithopoma* were here, covered with coralline algae. A few *Cyphoma* were found on the fans and whips. On later trips I'd learn how to find the

Coralliophila snails among these corals. I retreated to the rocks.

The most productive areas were not facing the reef and deep water, but at the sides of this little island. There, a mix of carbonate sand, rocks, slabs and marine grass, at a comfortable snorkeling depth, forms one of the richest habitats in Florida. It was there that I found my first *Charonia*, an orange one, the prize of my trip.

In the “sand” under the slabs, the tops of *Cypraeacassis testiculus* (Linnaeus, 1758) [Reticulate Cowrie-helmet) and *Conus regius* Gmelin, 1791 [Crown Cone] were uncovered with a sweep of the hand. Smaller species found clinging to the undersides of the slabs on this and subsequent visits would make a long list indeed. Among the genera found that day were *Aspella*, *Daphnella*, *Tritonoharpa*, *Lucapina*, *Trivia*, *Volvarina*, *Calliostoma*, *Pisania*, *Favartia*, *Heliacus*, *Bursa*, *Bailya* and many more. Typically, the larger the slab, the better the catch. Unfortunately, eels like it under there too. Margaret needed stitches after one trip.

Behind the island, facing Hawk Channel, patchy grass is home to the conchs. *Strombus gigas* Linnaeus, 1758 [Queen Conch] were plentiful. *S. raninus* Gmelin, 1791 [Hawkwing Conch] and *S. costatus* Gmelin, 1791 [Milk Conch] were found too. Rocks were few behind the island but were worth turning.

We spent hours snorkeling the fringes of Looe Key. In the early afternoon, we went gathered back at the boat for water, lunch and a break. The tide was at its lowest. On the reef itself, the tops of live coral and bent-over seafans were visible. The island was huge compared to the pile of rocks we’d found in the morning. Fields of sand, grass and rocks were bare and explorable without the use of snorkeling gear. And explore we did.

Several *Cymatium nicobaricum* (Röding, 1798) [Goldmouth Triton] and large *Calliostoma jujubinum* (Gmelin, 1791) [Mottled Topsnail] were found as rocks were turned, along with more of the species we’d found earlier. Among the high intertidal rocks I’d ignored at the start, I found *Fissurella angusta* (Gmelin, 1791) [Narrow Keyhole Limpet], *Arene cruentata* (Mühlfeld, 1829) [Star Cyclostreme] and some very clean green and pink Carved Starsnails.

By mid-afternoon we were sunburned and tired. The tide was coming in, and one by one we gathered at the boat. I snorkeled this relatively bare area to kill time and stay cool. Trails! Coarse as the sand was, there was no mistaking them. Together, the three of us got a dozen *Olivella nivea* (Gmelin, 1791) [Snowy Dwarf Olive] and two *Hastula hastata* (Gmelin, 1791) [Shiny Auger].

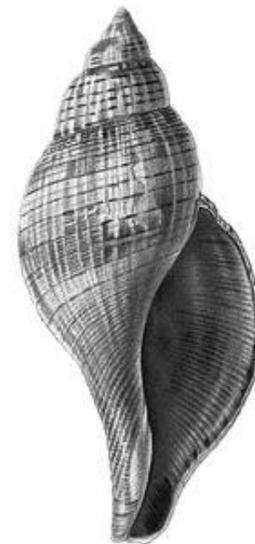
At the end of the day, each of us had a bag or jar of goodies in addition to various larger specimens wrapped in paper, shirts or towels, and stowed in buckets. We had

our special prizes. Margaret had a monster Crown Cone, Toni had a small *Cassia*, and I had my *Charonia*.

It had been a wonderful day, but we were pleased when the motor started.

In subsequent years, returns to Looe and trips to other reef locations including Pelican Shoal, Sand Key and the Western Dry Rocks were often as productive, but this first encounter, and these first finds, will be my most memorable.

Editor’s Comment: With the establishment of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary in 1990, shell collecting in the above-described areas (excluding Pelican Shoal) was prohibited.





THE SHELL SHOW IS COMING

**Brampton Inn Resort – Jacksonville Beach, Florida
Saturday, July 14th and Sunday, July 15th**

The show will be open to the public:

Saturday from 9:00 A.M. until 5:30 P.M.

Sunday from 10:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M.

Don't procrastinate – get your entry forms in today!



**Jacksonville Shell Club
1865 Debutante Dr.
Jacksonville, FL 32246-8645**

