



SHELL-O-GRAM

Official Publication of the
JACKSONVILLE SHELL CLUB, INC.

May-June, 2011

Volume 52 no. 3

The club will meet at the usual time and place on May 26 and June 23.

In May we will have a special program. Every club member who attended the May 14th outing to Hanna Park is asked to present a five to ten minute vignette on his/her shelling experience on the outing. There will be also be a shell ID clinic - mostly for the Hanna Park material, but, if you have some real posers, bring them along too.

The June meeting will feature a DVD titled *The secret lives of seashells*. Joyce Matthys, of Sanibel (and Oregon) produced this colorful and informative video, which deals with marine life, principally molluscan, in the shallow waters of Chub Key, Bahamas. Harry Lee will present the shell-of-the-month, *Cittarium pica*, the West Indian Topsnail.

Remembrances of Gertie



Left: Poster from the 1st Shell Show in 1962.

Above: Gertie with her award winning duPont Trophy at the Shell Show in 1977.



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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. E-mail: challoyd@bellsouth.net

President's Message:

Hi Everyone,

Feels like summer is in full swing and it's only April! The Biodiversity Day last Saturday at the Whitney Laboratory tested our ability to survive the sun and heat. Thanks to sunscreen and a good free lunch in air conditioning, we survived. Thank you Harry for the info on this opportunity.

I look forward to the Hannah Park outing on May 14th. Hope we have a really good turnout. Remember your sunscreen. If you have decided to attend give me or Harry a call for info.

Here's to a wonderful, safe and sane summer!

Barbara Cathey

JULY 13-17, 2011
CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA
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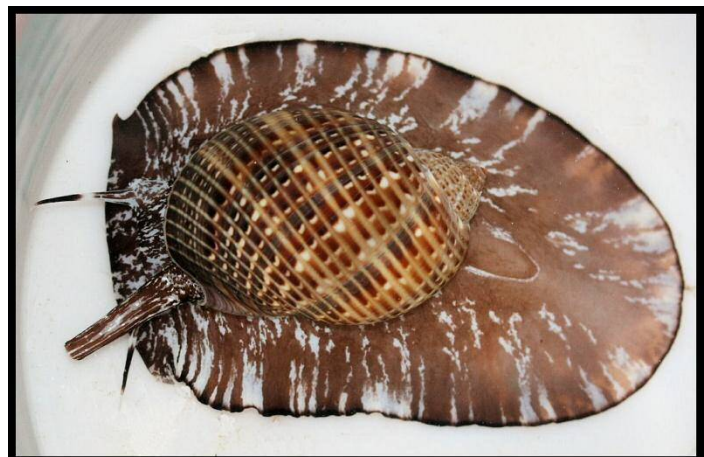
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 Go to: www.conchologistsofamerica.org

In Remembrance

Rob Jewell
Long time Jacksonville Shell
Club Member



Pacific Partridge Tun *Tonna perdix* (Linnaeus, 1758)
 Collected in 5' water at night in Oahu, Hawaii by Charlotte Thorpe

The 56th Northeast Florida Regional Science and Engineering Fair

On Monday, February 17, 2011 emissaries Rick Edwards and Harry Lee judged 53rd Annual Northeast Florida Regional Science and Engineering Fair on behalf of the Jacksonville Shell Club. As in past years, the judging criteria were based on excellence in a project dealing with malacology, invertebrate zoology, or marine science. There were several fine projects, and the judging took about two hours. The consensus winners were:



Senior Division
William R. Sample
Freshman, Stanton Preparatory School
"Effect of different salt tolerant aquatic plants on the salinity of St. Johns water."



Junior Division:
Taylor Sheppard
Fifth Grade, Stillwell Middle School
"Effect of oils spills on aquatic plants"

Photos by Rick Edwards

SOG 52(2) March-April 2011

Semicassis cicatricosa

The following passage was intended for bottom of page 7 of Lee (2011):

Acknowledgements: The writer thanks Richard I. Johnson (Chestnut Hill, MA) for help navigating the bibliographic arcana of Gronovius and Meuschen. Charlotte Thorpe and Bill Frank lent specimens for reference, and Mr. Frank provided valuable image-editing and other editorial assistance.

Lee, H.G., 2011. Is *Semicassis cicatricosa* (Gmelin, 1791) [Tonnoidea: Tonnoidea: Cassinae] a valid biotaxon. *Shell-O-Gram* 52(2): 1, 3-7. March-April.

Shell exhibit opens at Jacksonville's Museum of Science and History

by Harry G. Lee

About a year ago I was approached by Maria Hane and Christina (Lenny) Leonard, Executive Director and Director of Collections and Exhibits, respectively, of the Museum of Science and History (MOSH) in Jacksonville. I was familiar with MOSH, a place I, my kids, and, lately, my grand-daughter, had enjoyed for many of its seventy years of existence. These ladies suggested I place a collection of shells in the one of the two halls dedicated to temporary exhibits, the Loft Gallery. This space, occupying all of the public portion of MOSH's third floor, is actually a large balcony overlooking some of the exhibit areas of the floor below. Realizing this would be a unique, but likely challenging, opportunity, I accepted.

About four months before the scheduled opening, I conceived of a title for the exhibit (borrowing heavily from Stix, Stix, and Abbott): "The shell: 530,000,000 years of inspired design."

Lenny and I had several preliminary conversations and email exchanges through which she provided floor diagrams and educated me on the resources MOSH would provide. The spacious 2,000 square foot gallery came with fourteen display cases, a video console, and plenty of wall space. Furthermore there was a generous budget to support printing, artwork, graphics, signage panels, publicity, a modicum of in-house fabrication, and an on-site event.

Feeling a bit more confident, I set out to develop about fourteen basic theme-messages, each supported with at least a few specimen shells. Early on I secured the support of Dr. Baldomero Olivera, who allowed me to use a video on conesnail biology he helped create. This feature, ultimately edited by MOSH techies to eleven minutes of run-time, explains the predatory habits of these snails and delves into the pharmacological aspects of their venom. But most-of-all it is chock full of cones successfully subduing fish, worm, and snail prey. Another vital acquisition was a 42 inch wide *Tridacna gigas* lent to me by the Florida Museum of Natural History. This single valve weighs well in excess of 200 lbs. and just barely fit in the trunk of my Chevy coupe, which, in turn miraculously cleared the curb at the end of the museum driveway. A total of over a dozen *ad hoc* stevedores and onlookers participated in the pick-up/hand-off in Gainesville/Jax that morning in early January.

Over the final three to four weeks of lead-up to the opening, the specimen selection, signage, labeling, and details of layout took shape. Topics were narrowed down to what is a mollusk, the classes of mollusks, shell-collecting (science and hobby), fossil mollusks, the giant clam, conesnails ("friend and foe"), the illustrious cowries, snail coiling, the Chambered Nautilus, land and freshwater mollusks, 2400 years of scholarship on the Mollusca (Aristotle, 19th Century iconographies, etc.), man and mollusks, "Living on the Edge" (extremophile mollusks), northeast Florida mollusks, nacre, and Mollusca in the context of the history of life on earth.

Within these topics I was able to incorporate current discoveries and technologies such as life in the vicinity of hydro-thermal vents and methane seeps, ultra-deep marine biota, the latest archaeo-malacological breakthroughs, and the elucidation brought by scanning electron microscopy. Biological phenomena as diverse as cave life, sulfide metabolism, evolution and extinction, biodiversity, discovery of new species, ecological adaptation, endosymbiosis, biomineralization, zoogeography, and man-induced environmental impact were treated. Supporting disciplines such as anthropology, literature, fine art, the history of science and of shell-collecting, taxonomy, and nomenclature also found their way into the displays. As it turned out, a lot of the text had to be trimmed because of space constraints, but all the core messages made it through the editing process, and the "overflow" information was filed away.

The week before the opening things got quite busy. The Chevy coupe ferried material to MOSH twice daily, and signage, labels, and specimens merged together. A growing number of collaborators, including MOSH electricians, lighting experts, carpenters, exhibit fabricators, and curatorial volunteers appeared on the scene. Any anxiety about meeting the deadline was dispelled by mid-day Friday, February 11, hours before evening preview was scheduled; we'd made it. Before long MOSH's housekeeping team gave the Loft Gallery a face-lift after all our depredations, and the event planning team moved in with food and drink. At that point, and now, sixteen display modules, including kiosks, wall-fixed and free-standing cases were all populated. To my surprise, two-dozen "overflow" molluscan facts, printed on foot-long whelk-shaped placards had made a surprise appearance. These were resuscitated from the "overflow" I thought was relegated to the cutting room floor as an eleventh hour innovation by Christie. She deployed them along an undulant fillet of oystershell tabby spanning the wall of about a third of the periphery - the later embellishment an obliging but merely coincidental relic of a the preceding exhibit, which dealt with Native Americans of the region.

Within a couple of hours the exhibit was unveiled at a VIP champagne/hors d'oeuvres reception. MOSH Executive Director Maria Hane welcomed the guests, passed the microphone, and I introduced two local artists, John Bunker and David Montgomery, whose work nicely complemented the shell exhibit. I then conducted a tour of the premises. The next

morning "The shell: 530,000,000 years of inspired design" opened to the public.

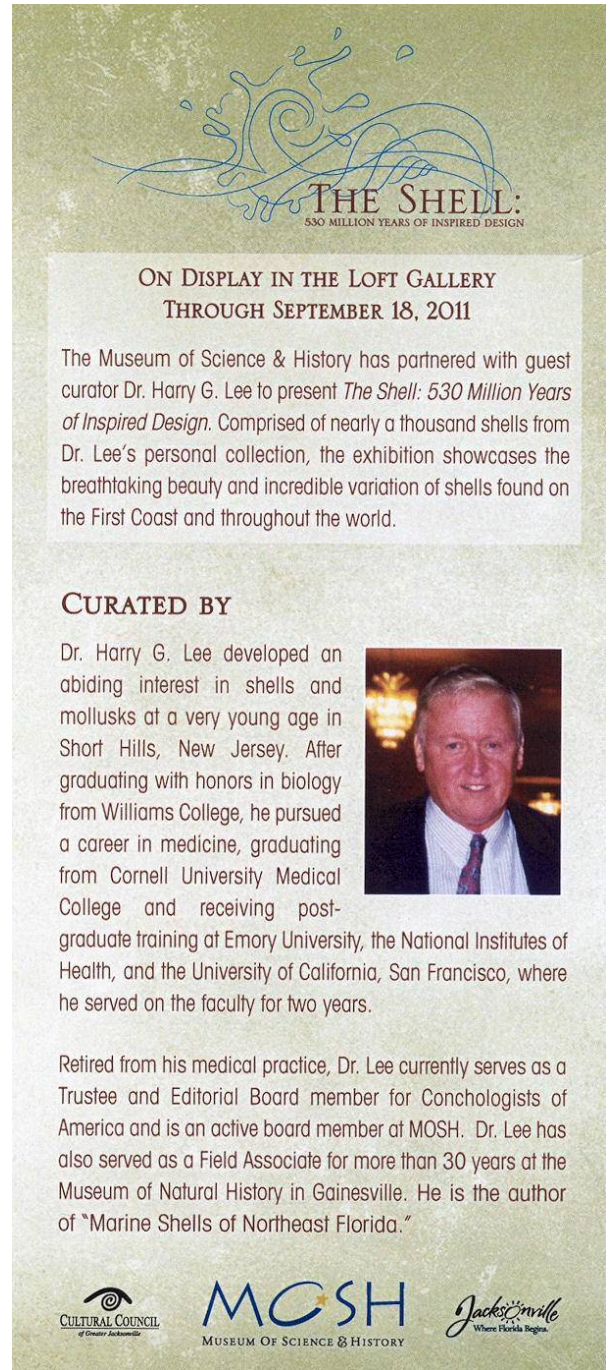
This was a learning experience for me. Having a proven track record as a mediocre shell-show exhibitor, I needed lots of study, planning, and just plain schlepping to pull this off. Without the vital contributions of others such as Bill Frank, Dr. José Leal, Charlotte Thorpe, Dr. Baldomero Olivera, Roger Portell, Dr. Emilio Rolán, John Slapcinsky, and, most of all, Christina Leonard and the staff of MOSH, it would not have ever happened.

Harry and Director of Collections and Exhibits Christina Leonard at VIP premier



Jacksonville Museum of Science and History (MOSH)

Rack card distributed at the exhibit



THE SHELL:
530 MILLION YEARS OF INSPIRED DESIGN

**ON DISPLAY IN THE LOFT GALLERY
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 18, 2011**

The Museum of Science & History has partnered with guest curator Dr. Harry G. Lee to present *The Shell: 530 Million Years of Inspired Design*. Comprised of nearly a thousand shells from Dr. Lee's personal collection, the exhibition showcases the breathtaking beauty and incredible variation of shells found on the First Coast and throughout the world.

CURATED BY

Dr. Harry G. Lee developed an abiding interest in shells and mollusks at a very young age in Short Hills, New Jersey. After graduating with honors in biology from Williams College, he pursued a career in medicine, graduating from Cornell University Medical College and receiving post-graduate training at Emory University, the National Institutes of Health, and the University of California, San Francisco, where he served on the faculty for two years.

Retired from his medical practice, Dr. Lee currently serves as a Trustee and Editorial Board member for Conchologists of America and is an active board member at MOSH. Dr. Lee has also served as a Field Associate for more than 30 years at the Museum of Natural History in Gainesville. He is the author of "Marine Shells of Northeast Florida."

CULTURAL COUNCIL
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MOSH
MUSEUM OF SCIENCE & HISTORY

Jacksonville
Where Florida Begins

Continued: Remembrances of Gertie and friends



Gertie and Bill Clench admiring an exhibit, July, 1975.



Gertie and Fred Chauvin, 1975



Hazel Walker, Don and Minnie Lee Campbell, Marian Webb, and Allan Walker- group photo of winners at the 1975 Shell Show.



Gertie in front of Flag Pavilion, 1976.



Left: Gertie with award winning mirror, 1984.



Right: Gertie setting up display in 1992.