In 1972, a group of shell collectors saw the need for a national organization devoted to the interests of shell collectors; to the beauty of shells, to their scientific aspects, and to the collecting and preservation of mollusks. This was the start of COA. Our membership includes novices, advanced collectors, scientists, and shell dealers from around the world. In 1995, COA adopted a conservation resolution: Whereas there are an estimated 100,000 species of living mollusks, many of great economic, ecological, and cultural importance to humans and whereas habitat destruction and commercial fisheries have had serious effects on mollusk populations worldwide, and whereas modern conchology continues the tradition of amateur naturalists exploring and documenting the natural world, be it resolved that the Conchologists of America endorses responsible scientific collecting as a means of monitoring the status of mollusk species and populations and promoting informed decision making in regulatory processes intended to safeguard mollusks and their habitats.

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BACK ISSUES are available from Karlynn Morgan, Membership Director. Prices: prior to 1999, $3 each, 2000 to 2008 $4 each, 2009 to current, $5 each; postage extra.
Editor’s comments: This has been an interesting summer for COA. In the last two issues of American Conchologist (Vol. 44, no. 4, Dec 2016: 3 & Vol. 45, no. 1, March 2017: 36-37) I reported on efforts by COA to access the Frederic Weiss shell collection in time for the Key West convention. Thanks to Herculean efforts by Donald Dan (in both time and money) and some timely volunteer help, this valuable collection will be featured at Key West, with plenty left over for the next couple of conventions. I think all COA members realize the value of such collections to COA - both in funding our grant program for molluscan research and ensuring that a well-curated collection does not go to waste in a garage sale or to fill large decorative jars. During all of this, it came to light that COA needs a written process to guide us in accessing such a collection. Receiving such “gifts-in-kind” is not a simple process. There are legal ramifications as well as concerns about how our organization handles such matters. These issues were brought to the attention of COA President Harry Lee. He not only agreed on the need for such a document, but also suggested a codified COA Code of Ethics. To this end, he set up two ad hoc committees to research and prepare the necessary documentation, one for each product:

**COA Code of Ethics**

Jose Leal (Chair)  Richard Kirk  Donald Dan (Co-chairman)  Steven Coker (ex officio)  Gary Rosenberg  Harry Lee (ex officio)

**Gifts-in-Kind**

Bob Janowsky (Co-chairman)  Doug Wolfe  Donald Dan (Co-chairman)  Steven Coker (ex officio)  Gary Rosenberg  Harry Lee (ex officio)

Both committees completed their tasks in a timely fashion and the final products were voted on and approved by the COA Board of Directors. President Harry Lee personally thanked all of the ad hoc committee members for both stepping up to the task when asked and for producing quality products. These documents are included in this issue of American Conchologist for dissemination to the COA membership (see pages 38-42 & back cover). Also included (back cover) is a copy of a letter from COA President Harry Lee to each vendor at the 2017 COA Convention bourse. This letter welcomes the vendors as the highlight of the convention and restates COA policy toward molluscan conservation and the need to be aware of and in compliance with “…any governmental regulation, US or overseas, that may impact your bourse activities.” COA recently published American Conchologist Supplement no. 1: 1, 3-32. January 2017. Written by Doug Wolfe and Harry Lee, this resource is intended to help members and responsible agencies become aware of some of the myriad of regulations and policies concerning molluscan conservation. The efforts by the COA Board of Directors and many concerned members will surely improve the COA organization and help guide us into the future.
There was a minor event last year
Thomas Eichhorst

Introduction

There was a minor event last year (2016) that went unnoticed by most people, and even if a few people did read about it, its importance went unremarked by most. You see, in 2016, the last, I repeat, the last, Partula faba (Gmelin, 1791) died (Gerlach, 2016). The loss of a small (25mm or so), nondescript brown land snail is hardly front page (or any page for that matter) news, but maybe it should have been. Why? Well, there are a number of reasons, not the least of which is that humans caused this extinction through ignorance, greed, perfidy, incompetence, and maybe a bit of bad luck. Again, so what? Read on.

The family Partulidae Pilsbry, 1900, is found throughout the islands of the Pacific and, until relatively recently, has coexisted and thrived alongside humans for thousands of years. The family has five genera (some authorities cite only three or four, with up to a dozen subgenera – not used here) with fewer than 115 valid named species, of which many (almost 50%) are now extinct in the wild (Gerlach, 2016; WoRMS, 2017). The largest genus, Partula (with about 82 species), was concentrated in the Society Islands, French Polynesia, with perhaps 61 valid species in the Society Islands alone (Cowie, 1992).

Partulid Taxonomic History

The first described species in Partulidae was Partula faba (Gmelin, 1791) – yes, the same species now extinct. It was originally described by Thomas Martyn (1735-1825) from shells brought back from Raiatea by the HMS Endeavour, under the command of Captain James Cook (1728-1779) (Lee, 2012). In his Universal Conchologist, Martyn named his shell Limax faba Martyn, 1784 (Fig. 1). This superbly illustrated but obscure publication has been noted for, “its range of content and the beauty of its production [that] make it the greatest of all shell books” (William, 2015). Because his work was not universally binominal, the ICZN ruled most of the names (including Limax faba) as unavailable in 1957 (Lee, 2012; ICZN, 1957). Interestingly, after numerous firsts in the Pacific and circumnavigating the globe, the HMS Endeavour was sold and ended up under the new name Lord Sandwich, serving as a contract troop carrier for Britain during the American Revolutionary War. It was scuttled in a blockade off Rhode Island in 1778, where it was never recovered.

Gmelin (1748-1804) was the next to publish the name, as Helix faba Gmelin, 1791, thus he becomes the au-

Fig. 1. As can be seen above, Thomas Martyn devoted plenty of space for his near life-size shell depictions in his self-published Universal Conchologist. His use of color and details of shell structure were exacting – far better, in fact, than the much more famous volumes on shells that followed 50 years later. He also positions his shells spire upwards, a convention that did not appear in general use until about 1840. The illustrated shell is his Limax faba, later Partula faba (Gmelin, 1791).
**Partula faba** (Gmelin, 1791), 25mm, once found by the thousands on Raiatea, was the first species described in the family *Partulidae*. This species occurred as both the banded morph (shell on the left, courtesy of Harry Lee, see Lee, 2012) and the solid colored morph (author’s collection). The last *Partula faba* died in captivity in 2016.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partula</th>
<th>Férussac, 1821 (82+, Society Islands, Belau Islands &amp; New Guinea)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Samoana</em></td>
<td>Pilsbry, 1909 (21, Polynesia &amp; the Mariana Islands)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Partulidae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Palaupartula</em></td>
<td>Pilsbry, 1909 (3, Belau Islands)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Eua</em></td>
<td>Pilsbry &amp; Cooke, 1934 (4, Tonga &amp; Samoa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Sphendone</em></td>
<td>Slapionsky &amp; Kraus, 2016 (1, Belau Islands)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table - 1. A notional tree of the Partulidae. The number of species and principal range is shown in parenthesis.**

After *Partula faba* was named, other malacology notables became involved with this land snail family (land snail used here as including tree snails). *Partula otaheitana* (Bruguière, 1792) (as *Bulimis otaheitana*) was named by the French malacologist Jean Guillaume Bruguière (1749-1798) (Fig 2) a year after the Gmelin species – also from material brought back by Captain Cook. Over twenty years later the French naturalist Baron André Étienne Justin Pascal Joseph François d’Audebert de Férussac (1786-1836) named *Partula gibba* Férussac, 1821, and *Samoana fragilis* (Férussac, 1821). Like these other early names, subsequent authors renamed them any number of times. Quite a few years went by before French surgeon, naturalist, herpetologist, and ornithologist Dr. René Primevere Lesson (1794-1849) (Fig. 3), named three *Partula* species in 1831 (*Partula grisea* Lesson, 1831 & *Partula rufa* Lesson, 1831, are still valid) (WoRMS, 2017). He collected from South Pacific islands in the 1820s while serving on the
French Corvette *La Coquille*.

In the mid 1820s, English collector Hugh Cuming (1791-1865) (Fig. 4) amassed a prodigious amount of natural history specimens from Pacific Islands. He made his mollusk collection available to a number of malacologists of that era. *Partulidae* supplied by Cuming were named by English lawyer and naturalist William John Broderip (1789-1859, named 3) (Fig. 5) and English lawyer and naturalist William John Broderip (1789-1859, Fig. 5), who named three; English conchologist and publisher Lovell Augustus Reeve (1814-1865, Fig. 6), who named five, three still valid; and German physician, botanist, and conchologist Ludwig Karl Georg (Louis) Pfeiffer (1805-1877, Fig. 7), who named 24, 16 still valid. (Fig. 7).

A little more than 10 years after Pfeiffer’s efforts, there were a number of malacologists naming and describing *Partulidae*. Perhaps most notable were the Americans Andrew Garrett (1823-1887) (Fig. 8) and William Harper Pease (1824-1871). Garrett lived and collected throughout the South Seas for Louis Agassiz of Harvard College from 1856-1872 and later for the Museum Godeffroy in Hamburg, Germany, between 1872-1875. The museum also operated as a natural history store and closed in 1885. A great number of natural history objects from this museum exist today in other European museums.

Garrett lived on a number of different islands and was friends with William Harper Pease. Garrett supplied Pease with a great number of mollusk specimens, including *Partulidae*. Pease (relatively unknown except for his published works and shell library) published names for these in the mid 1860s to the early 1870s (Kay & Clench, 1975). After Pease’s death, Garrett also published a few works, some of which were based on unpublished manuscripts by Pease (Lee, 2012; Gerlach, 2016). Altogether, Pease named some...
31 valid partulid species (most provided by Garrett from the Society Islands) and Garrett named 11, of which 9 were based on Pease manuscripts (Lee, 2012). Garrett’s *The terrestrial Mollusca inhabiting the Society Islands* of 1884 was by far the best reference for the many Partula species of that island group, until the recently published *Icons of Evolution: Pacific Island tree snails, family Partulidae* by Gerlach (2016).

In the years following the works by Pease and Garrett, there were a number of authors describing new partulids and drawing some important conclusions about these Pacific island snails. Because of Cuming, Garrett, and Pease, major collections of partulids were established at a number of museums (Zoologisches Museum Hamburg; Natural History Museum, London; Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard; Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Hawaii; Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh; Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia; and the American Museum of Natural History, New York) – an invaluable resource for later researchers (Gerlach, 2016). Two of the later researchers of note were William Dell Hartman (1817-1899, described six partulid species) and Alfred Goldsborough Mayer (1868-1922). Both of these individuals used field collecting as well as museum specimens to derive some taxonomic order to what was up-to-then a confusing morass of valid names and synonyms applied to Partulidae in an almost haphazard manner. Hartmann (1881) (Fig. 10) used his own material as well as museum specimens to bring some order to the Partulidae, grouping like specimens into genera and subgenera. He later dropped the subgenera as being of insufficient importance (and many were preoccupied names and unavailable) to the understanding of the partulid family (Gerlach, 2016). Mayer (1902) argued that using shell shape, color, and form of adult partulid shells (the norm of the time) was insufficient for determining inter-species relationships (Gerlach, 2016).

Preeminent among partulid researchers was Henry Edward Crampston (1875-1956) (Fig. 11), a paleontologist, evolutionary biologist, and malacologist from Columbia University and Barnard College. Crampston made 12 expeditions to the Society Islands as well as Guam and Saipan in the Mariana Islands. He was greatly influenced by the ordered approach of Hartman and the relationship questions of Mayer. He wrote several comprehensive volumes on the natural history and evolution of partulid snails and published a couple of papers with Charles Montague Cooke Jr. (1874-1948) (Fig. 12), a Hawaiian malacologist from a wealthy and famous Hawaiian family. Cooke also worked with the indefatigable Henry Augustus Pilsbry (1862-1957) from the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, on Hawaiian...
land snails. While Pilsbry named only three partulid species, one with Cooke, he did name the family – Partulidae. Crampston’s primary interest with partulid snails was with taxonomy (Hartman’s influence) and Mendelian inheritance (Mayer’s influence) (Gerlach, 2016). His rather lengthy and very complete publications demonstrated evolution and speciation in partulids from valley to valley. Unfortunately he died with much of his work on several islands still unpublished (Gerlach, 2016). Crampston estimated that in the course of his research he collected some 400,000 specimens. He named 40 partulid species, 19 with Cooke, 26 valid. Crampston’s work using exacting species descriptions and his use of statistics is common today, but at the time it was revolutionary (Gerlach, 2016).

One hundred years after Crampston’s seminal volume, Studies on the variation, distribution and evolution of the genus Partula. The species inhabiting Tahiti (1916), Justin Gerlach published Icons of Evolution: Pacific Island tree snails, family Partulidae (2016) (Fig. 13). The Gerlach work completes, closes out, and updates Crampston and other previous partulid authors. This one work addresses the Partulidae as no other volume has done before. Taxonomy, synonymy, history, natural history, ecology, evolution, etc., all are covered island by island – a most thorough coverage of a complex and vexing family of land snails. Questions and issues remain, but even these are addressed as problems still to be solved.

Partulid Natural History

Partulidae are often found isolated between ridges on the different islands they inhabit. Human pressure in the form of habitat loss began affecting the snails in the 20th century, but the death knell was the introduction of the carnivorous wolfsnail, Euglandina rosea (Férussac, 1821), in the late 1950s to early 1970s. A couple decades earlier, the giant African snail, Lissachatina fulica (Férussac, 1821), previously known as Achatina fulica, had been imported to the Society Islands. The resulting calamitous string of events happened before, but no lessons were apparently learned.

In 1936 Lissachatina fulica was inadvertently introduced onto Hawaii. It was discovered in 1938 and despite various attempts at eradication, the rapacious snails spread from Maui to Oahu, and from Kauai to Hawaii (a separate infestation). Some 30 species of snail predators were brought to Hawaii to determine which one(s) would be most effective in controlling the giant African snail (Davis & Butler, 1964). According to Davis & Butler (1964), three snail predators were deemed most effective and were propagated and released, rather widely – Gonaxis quadrilateralis (Preston, 1910), Gonaxis kibweziensis (Smith, 1894), and Euglandina rosea. In 1955 authorities released 616 Euglandina rosea on Oahu and three years later harvested 12,000 of these predator snails on Oahu for release on other Pacific islands (Gerlach, [2015]). Two decades after the initial Hawaiian release there was no substantial proof that these predators were having any effect on Lissachatina fulica, prompting some scientists to advise authorities to use caution against this method of control in the future (Christensen, 1984). Within a couple of years there were some 56 Hawaiian land snails (Amastridae and Achatinellidae) thought extinct or near extinction due primarily to predation by Euglandina rosea (Hadfield, 1986; Cowie, 1992; Régnier et al., 2009).

Sadly, at about the same time these predatory snails were released in Hawaii, authorities on Guam released the same three snails for the same reason – E. rosea was released in 1957, G. kibweziensis in 1954, and G. quadrilateralis in 2016.
With seemingly no consideration of the Hawaiian experience, *Euglandina rosea* was introduced in the early 1990s into the Society Islands as a means of control for *Lissachatina fulica*. Within 10 years 51 species of endemic partulid snails were extinct (Coote & Loève, 2003). To be sure, habitat loss and heavy collecting pressure (many of these snails were used for islander jewelry – leis) must have also had some effect, but the rapid extinction of the Partulidae seemed a direct result of the introduction of *Euglandina rosea* (Cowie, 1992; Coote & Loève, 2003; Régnier, 2009).

So, reason number two for concern over the extinction of the very last *Partula faba*, centers around the fact that this species and other partulid snails are now extinct because of man’s ill-thought-out intervention. And reason number three for concern is that we caused the extinction of a number of other partulid species. We were now working on the extinction of an entire family, rather than just a single species. Intentional and ill-advised changes in the ecosystem had unintended but predictable results. Authoritative hubris and at best ignorance, at worst a callous lack of regard, killed these snails. To date, the exact relationship and dynamics of gastropod predator and gastropod prey is poorly understood, at best. The evidence, although damning, is largely circumstantial (Barker & Efford, 2004). What is known is that predatory gastropods are polyphagous – that is they can and will prey upon multiple species (Barker & Efford, 2004).

### Other Molluscan Extinctions

This is all, of course, part of a larger whole. One study demonstrated that while there were 278 molluscan extinctions listed by the IUCN Red List in 2007, there were another 288 molluscan extinctions not yet listed (Régnier et al., 2009). The U.S. has the world’s most varied and most numerous freshwater mussel or unionid population. Yet of the 300 species found in the U.S., river impoundment, pollution, and invasive species introduction have resulted in 52% of these species now recognized by the Nature Conservancy as endangered or extinct (Williams et al., 2008). A more recent study of molluscan extinctions found, “...638 species as extinct, 380 as possibly extinct, and 14 as extinct in the wild, a total of 1,032 species in these combined categories, and more than twice as many as listed by IUCN in these categories.” (Cowie et al., 2017: 3) Similar accounts can be found for Europe and Asia (Régnier et al., 2009). So, what can be done? What should be done? For freshwater systems the obvious solution is to take due diligence when altering freshwater systems and to halt pollution. Outside of a classroom environment these solutions prove extremely difficult to implement. Monetary and political obstructions often make altering the status quo almost impossible. As for introduced exotic species like the zebra mussel, *Dreissena polymorpha* (Pallas, 1771), not much can seemingly be done. Poisonings have eliminated the zebra mussel from controlled areas, but only for a limited time and at an unknown expense to other life in the water system (Mackie et al., 1989). Probably someone is, at this very moment,
considering a biological control, such as a rapacious predator species—despite the lessons of Hawaii and French Polynesia.

**Attempts at Partulid Conservation**

For the Partulidae, scientists decided to attempt a last ditch effort to capture as many island partulids as possible for captive breeding programs—with the thought of eventually repatriating the snails back to their home islands or other similar island habitats. Partulid conservation breeding programs to date have involved 41 species, in 15 zoos and institutions across Europe and the U.S., with most attempts begun in the early 1990s (Fig. 17). A snapshot look at the 2015 numbers shows that only 13 of the 41 species are still viable (Gerlach, 2016). The reasons for the failed attempts are varied and suppositional, including: disease, bacterial and parasitical infections, climate problems, unknown feeding requirements, etc. What is known is that various populations at various zoos and breeding centers had decreasing egg fecundity and high rates of adult and neonatal mortality that could not be overcome in a number of partulid species (Gerlach, 2016).

Of the eight *Partula* species once found on Moorea Island, French Polynesia, all but one are gone from the wild (Gerlach, 2014). Four have flourished in captive breeding programs, four perished in these programs. As some indication of the difficulties faced in maintaining *Partula* in captivity, one of the snails was carnivorous (now extinct, it was one of only two carnivorous partulids), other island partulids were omnivores, still others were specialized detritivores and fungal grazers, and others were herbivores (Gerlach, 2014). The single remaining partulid on Moorea is *Partula taeniata*, which is a detritivore and herbivore and was once spread throughout the island with the greatest range of any of the partulids. It is now known only from a few small relic populations in restricted habitats (Gerlach, 2014).

Attempts to reintroduce those few successfully captive bred populations have been, for the most part, unsuccessful. And we thus come to reason number four to be concerned about the extinction of this small brown snail. Even when we tried, we did not know enough about these snails to keep them alive. We have lost many of them forever, before ever learning much more about them than a label attached to a dry empty shell. As a final note, there has been some work done freezing snail samples to preserve the DNA for possible future use.

**The End Game**

Ironically and in a case of adding insult to injury, *Euglandina rosea* is now falling prey to a predator itself. The New Guinea flatworm, *Platydemus manokwari* De Beauchamp, 1963, is a voracious predator of land snails...
and other invertebrates (Fig. 18). The flatworm has been introduced to many of the islands where partulid snails once flourished. Most of these introductions were accidental, but at least a couple were again an ill-thought-out attempt at biological control. The flatworm does indeed prey upon the wolfsnail, Euglandina rosea, the giant African snail Lissachatina fulica, and Gonaxis spp. Platydemus manokwari was introduced on the Mariana Islands in 1978 and by 1992 had reduced the population of Lissachatina fulica by 95% (Hopper & Smith, 1992). Two decades later it appeared to have eliminated both Euglandina and Gonaxis spp. (Keer, 2013). At the same time this rapacious predator may finally push the few remaining partulids into extinction.

It has been stated that “all species go extinct”. This is a dry truism that is often incorrectly interpreted, causing many to miss the point. “All species go extinct” does not mean we should shrug off the extinction of an ‘unimportant’ invertebrate species. It does mean that for 4.55+ billion years, life on earth has been evolving and new species have supplanted the old – natural selection. For the first time however, there is a species (Homo sapiens) that can cause localized extinctions as well as widespread extinctions. Admittedly (and hopefully) we can also maybe prevent them. We have done both, but surely we excel at the former rather than the latter.

Partula faba, the first described of its family is extinct – a notable event (reason one). This extinction was human caused – a notable event (reason two). This human driven extinction has to date caused the extinction of almost 50% of the species in the family Partulidae – a notable event (reason three). As we watched this extinction taking place, we were not smart enough, we did not know enough about the entities involved, to reverse it – notable event (and reason four). For most of us this information probably pales in comparison to global warming, the decimation of African mammal species, and the bleaching of coral reefs – but it is all part and parcel of the same. We can do better; we have to do better.

References:


[The image contains a reference to "Natural Enemies of Terrestrial Molluscs"]


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Martyn, T. 1784-87. *The universal conchologist, exhibiting the figure of every known shell accurately drawn and painted after nature: with a new systematic arrangement*. 4 vols. Martyn, London. 27 pp., 161 pls. [A French-English edition with all 80 plates of the original volumes 1 and 2 (1784) is posted on-line at: http://lib.s.kaiyodai.ac.jp/library/digital/Martyn.htm, *Limax faba* (now *Partula faba*) is figured on scan 193, plate caption on scan 017.].


### Table-2. Partulidae status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species (bold IUCN Red List)</th>
<th>Status (date last assessed)</th>
<th>Locality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eua expansa</strong> (Pease, 1872)</td>
<td>endangered (2016)</td>
<td>Samoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eua globosa</strong> Pilsbry &amp; Cook, 1934</td>
<td>possibly extinct (2011)</td>
<td>Eua Is, Tonga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eua montana</strong> (Cooke &amp; Crampton, 1930)</td>
<td>endangered (2016)</td>
<td>Samoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eua zebrina</strong> (Gould, 1847)</td>
<td>endangered (1996)</td>
<td>American Samoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Palaopartula calypso</strong> (Semper, 1865)</td>
<td>critically endangered (2011)</td>
<td>Palau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Palaopartula leucothoe</strong> (Semper, 1865)</td>
<td>possibly extinct (2011)</td>
<td>Palau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Palaopartula thetis</strong> (Semper, 1865)</td>
<td>endangered (2011)</td>
<td>Palau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Partula affinis</strong> Pease, 1868</td>
<td>critically endangered (2007)</td>
<td>Tahiti</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Partula assimilis</strong> Pease, 1868</td>
<td>vulnerable (2016)</td>
<td>Cook Is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Partula atilis</strong> Crampton, 1956</td>
<td>extinct (2007)</td>
<td>Society Is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Partula aurantia</strong> Crampton, 1932</td>
<td>extinct (2016)</td>
<td>Moorea Is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Partula callifera</strong> L. Pfeiffer, 1856</td>
<td>(as Partula dentifera callifera) extinct (2016)</td>
<td>Society Is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Partula candida</strong> Crampton, 1956</td>
<td>(as Partula dentifera candida) extinct (2016)</td>
<td>Society Is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Partula cedista</strong> Crampton, 1956</td>
<td>(as Partula dentifera cedista) extinct (2016)</td>
<td>Society Is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Partula citrina</strong> Pease, 1866</td>
<td>(as Partula dentifera citrina) extinct (2016)</td>
<td>Society Is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Partula cromptoni</strong> Clench, 1941</td>
<td>vulnerable (2016)</td>
<td>Solomon Is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Partula cytherea</strong> Cooke &amp; Crampton, 1930</td>
<td>extinct (2007)</td>
<td>Society Is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Partula emersoni</strong> Pilsbry, 1913</td>
<td>critically endangered (2016)</td>
<td>Micronesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Partula faba</strong> (Gmelin, 1791)</td>
<td>extinct (2016)</td>
<td>Society Is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Partula flexuosa</strong> Hartman, 1885</td>
<td>least concern (2016)</td>
<td>Solomon Is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Partula formosa</strong> (Garrett, 1884)</td>
<td>(as Partula dentifera formosa) extinct (2016)</td>
<td>Society Is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Partula garretti</strong> Pease, 1864</td>
<td>extinct in the wild (2016)</td>
<td>Society Is.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Partula gibba** Férussac, 1821 critically endangered  
(2007) Guam

**Partula grisea** Lesson, 1831 least concern  
(2016) New Guinea

**Partula guamensis** L. Pfeiffer, 1846 extinct  
(2007) Micronesia

**Partula hebe** L. Pfeiffer, 1846 extinct in the wild  

**Partula hyalina** Broderip, 1832 vulnerable  

**Partula imperforata** Pease, 1884 (as **Partula dentifera imperforata**) extinct  

**Partula incrassa** Crampton, 1916 extinct  

**Partula jackieburchi** (Kondo, 1980) extinct  

**Partula labrusca** Crampton & Cooke, 1953 extinct  

**Partula laevistriata** Crampton, 1956 extinct  

**Partula lirata** Mousson, 1865 vulnerable  
(2016) Fiji

**Partula lugubris** Pease, 1864 extinct  

**Partula lutea** (Lesson, 1831) extinct  

**Partula magistri** Gerlach, 2016 extinct  

**Partula makatea** Gerlach, 2016 prehistoric extinct  

**Partula meyeri** (Burch, 2007) critically endangered  

**Partula micans** L. Pfeiffer, 1853 least concern  

**Partula mirabilis** Crampton, 1924 extinct in the wild  

**Partula mooreana** Hartman, 1880 extinct in the wild  

**Partula navigatoria** (L. Pfeiffer, 1849) extinct  

**Partula nodosa** L. Pfeiffer, 1851 extinct in the wild  

**Partula obesa** Pease, 1868 critically endangered  

**Partula otahaitana** Bruguière, 1792 critically endangered  

**Partula pacifica** L. Pfeiffer, 1854 critically endangered  
(2016) Vanuatu

**Partula pearcekellyi** Gerlach, 2016 extinct  

**Partula planilabrum** Pease, 1864 extinct  

**Partula producta** Pease, 1864 extinct  

**Partula protracta** Crampton, 1956 extinct  

**Partula pyramis** Hartman, 1886 critically endangered  
(2016) Vanuatu

**Partula radiola** (L. Pfeiffer, 1846) critically endangered  
(1996) Guam

**Partula radios** (L. Pfeiffer, 1854) vulnerable  
(2016) Vanuatu

**Partula raiatensis** Garrett, 1884 (as **Partula dentifera imperforata**) extinct  

**Partula remota** Crampton, 1956 extinct  

**Partula rosea** Broderip, 1832 extinct in the wild  

**Partula rufa** Lesson, 1831 extinct (?)  

**Partula sagitta** Crampton & Cooke, 1953 extinct  

**Partula salifana** Crampton, 1925 extinct  
(1996) Guam

**Partula similaris** Hartman, 1886 least concern  
(2016) Papua New Guinea

**Partula suturalis** L. Pfeiffer, 1855 extinct in the wild  

**Partula taeniata** (Moerch, 1850) critically endangered  

**Partula tohiveana** Crampton, 1924 extinct in the wild  

**Partula tristis** Crampton & Cooke, 1953 extinct  

**Partula turgida** Pease, 1864 extinct  

**Partula umblicata** Pease, 1866 extinct  
Table-2. Partulidae status according to the IUCN Red List, WoRMS (2017) & Gerlach (2016). Species in **bold type** are those listed by the IUCN. This list was then corrected using Gerlach (2016) and WoRMS (2017). The date in parentheses after the species status is the date this species was last assessed. If the date is 2016, this means that either the species was not listed by the IUCN (the name is in regular type rather than bold type) or the listing was incorrect and was corrected from data in Gerlach (2016). Note that the vast majority of IUCN listed species were last assessed in 2007. Thus a decade has passed since the last species assessment and the status has very likely changed. The most current and complete data about Partulidae is found in Gerlach (2016).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Partula vanirensis</em></td>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
<td>Solomon Is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Partula varia</em></td>
<td>Extinct</td>
<td>Society Is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Samoana attenuata</em></td>
<td>Critically Endan.</td>
<td>American Samoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Samoana bellula</em></td>
<td>Critically Endan.</td>
<td>Marquesas Is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Samoana burchi</em></td>
<td>Critically Endan.</td>
<td>Society Is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Samoana conica</em></td>
<td>Endangered</td>
<td>American Samoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Samoana dryas</em></td>
<td>Critically Endan.</td>
<td>Raivavae, Austral Is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Samoana fragilis</em></td>
<td>Critically Endan.</td>
<td>Guam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Samoana granumedes</em></td>
<td>Critically Endan.</td>
<td>Marquesas Is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Samoana gonochila</em></td>
<td>Critically Endan.</td>
<td>Marquesas Is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Samoana inflata</em></td>
<td>Extinct</td>
<td>Marquesas Is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Samoana margaritae</em></td>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
<td>Rapa, Austral Is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Samoana medana</em></td>
<td>Endangered</td>
<td>Marquesas Is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Samoana minuta</em></td>
<td>Extinct (?)</td>
<td>Marquesas Is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Samoana pilshryi</em></td>
<td>Extinct (?)</td>
<td>Marquesas Is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Samoana stevensoniana</em></td>
<td>Critically Endan.</td>
<td>Samoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Samoana thurstoni</em></td>
<td>Endangered</td>
<td>American Samoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Sphendone insolita</em></td>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
<td>Palau</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**In Memoriam error (last issue)**

In the last issue, the “In Memoriam” listing for Debbie Freeman had an incorrect photograph. The photo shown as Debbie was actually Linda Foreman, who was probably not all that thrilled to be listed by mistake as we tried to say goodbye to Debbie. *Mea culpa.* The text that accompanied the listing was apparently correct. So here is the real Debbie, who volunteered for the less-than-enjoyable job of COA Membership Chair, even though she was dealing with serious health issues. Thank you Debbie, I’ll miss your emails and your ever present humor about the often silly issues involved with our COA duties. God bless.

**In Memoriam:**

- Dotty DeVasure (p. 34)
- Bet Hamilton (p. 34)
- Betty Lipe (p. 35)
- Edith M. Singleton (p. 35)
- Wesley Thorsson (p. 36)
- Cy Totten (p. 36)
- Helen Wheeler (p. 37)
- Peggy Williams (p. 37)
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Quarterly Journal of the Conchologists of America, Inc.
Broward Shell Club: a success story
Nancy Galdo

In the last issue (American Conchologist (45-1) 1 March 2017: 28-29), I reported on the Broward Shell Club annual Shell Show, 14-15 January 2017. I had lots of images, including Doug Thompson with his COA Award, as well as plenty of dry facts, such as 332 feet of exhibit space and 28 different scientific entries. I listed most of the winning entries in the scientific division, as well as the scientific judges: José Leal and Rich Kirk, plus the Show Chairperson: Alice Pace. This information and the images were all kindly provided by club member Nancy Galdo (co-publicity person with Richard Kent). I usually crowd shell show results into a single page, but Nancy sent so much material that I expanded it to two pages (as I did for the Sarasota Shell Club Show in the same issue). Thank you to both clubs, but that is not why I am writing this.

Shell collecting is not a growing hobby. This should come as no surprise to any COA member, but I thought it should be said as it is human nature to assume present conditions are stable and will remain in effect. There are a number of reasons for the downturn in the participation in and enjoyment of conchology. At every COA convention I hear about declining shell club membership (“Our shell club has only lost members the last few years.”), the lack of young members (“Kids are into electronic pastimes rather than the natural world around them.”), and increasing pressures against shell collecting (“COA Supplement 1 shows a scary and limited future for shell collecting.”). Yes, there are serious problems in the shell collecting world, so I thought it prudent and timely to share a success story to bolster us all up. Broward Shell Club is certainly a bright light in the present environment.

As I was working on the March issue, COA member and shell dealer Sue Hobbs (whose display tables are a shell show in and of themselves) wrote to Nancy Galdo to thank her for a well run, well attended shell show and asking that they might share with the rest of COA just what they are doing right at Broward. Nancy wrote back and laid out what Broward has done the last decade or so to maybe turn things around. Make no mistake. This is an important story. Broward increased membership from 75 to 310 in 8 years. This is better than a four-fold increase at a time when many club have memberships are headed the other direction. Not all clubs can emulate Broward: different areas, different club dynamics, etc., but here is how one club is succeeding and there may be a lesson or two or at least a couple of hints at how you can spark up your shell club. In any case it is a good story and deserves to be told. Here is the Broward success story as told by Nancy Galdo.

Tom Eichhorst

This is the scientific room for the shell show, with displays in the central portion and dealer tables around the edges. It is a spacious well lit area that easily handles our many visitors.
Thank you, Sue Hobbs, for your kind words recently about our Broward Shell Show. You requested we share publicity/success ideas and we will gladly do so. First of all, many thanks to Joyce Matthys for her very thorough response outlining methods the Sanibel Club has utilized to achieve their high level of success year after year. Their inspirational Artistic Division has long set the standard among all shell clubs. Their advertising is amazing as well, and they have the full backing of the entire community. And yes, the location makes a huge difference in the success of the Sanibel show. Joyce runs a magnificent show, in so many ways!

It’s hard to follow that, but I appreciate the opportunity to tell the Broward Shell Club story. While the Broward club has been around successfully for decades, we have experienced enormous growth during the past seven years. We have grown from 75 members in 2009, to 310 members in 2017. It’s difficult to separate our show’s success from the overall success of the club but here is what we have done.

1) PUBLICITY: We started paying for show advertising and focused on drawing locals to the show to increase our membership. We currently advertise in two major newspapers, the Sun Sentinel and the Palm Beach Post, and list in additional newspaper, magazine, and on-line travel calendars. Fortunately, our club membership includes two excellent graphic artists who have been essential in branding our club’s identity by creating colorful flyers, posters, and newsletters. We also run an active website and Facebook page.

One very important shell show publicity partner has been the local Pompano Beach Pelican, a Friday newspaper publication. I spoke with the Pelican owner who agreed to support our club. Each year, we advertise on two Fridays before the show. Alternately, the Pelican runs two feature articles for us on the Fridays between the ads, giving us an entire month of local exposure. Our Pompano Pelican ad includes a unique clip-off DISCOUNT MEMBERSHIP COUPON, “Bring this coupon with you to the show and receive a 50% discount on annual club membership.” So at the half price membership fee of $9, the first year we signed up 25 new members. Each year, the show coupon has brought increased membership enrollment. During our recent 2017 show we signed up an amazing 45 members! This has been our most effective way of increasing membership. The new members have brought vitality and excitement to our club. Many are currently on our board of directors!

Each year, I submit two articles, with photos, to all South Florida newspapers. One of our first feature articles was about how Broward Shell Club member Sonny Ogden collected her giant clam in Kwajalein and brought it back to Miami. Sonny brings her clam to each show and it is a favorite photo op for our guests. Sonny was our club president for many years.

Broward Shell Show ad and flyer, art work by Richard Kent. Not every club has this kind of talent to draw upon, but you might be surprised what some of your members can do with a computer.
2) ARTISTIC DIVISION EXPANDED: In 2009, we opened a second room at the shell show for artistic exhibits. During the following years, as artistic participation increased, our club membership increased. An important consequence of this action is we now have a strong Broward artistic/shell craft club that meets monthly. We have more artistic exhibits and the overall quality of the show’s artistic entries is much higher. Additionally, the artistic club sells their beautiful creations at the shell show.

3) ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF REVENUE: Admission to the Broward Shell Show is FREE and because of this we needed to create new ways to fund the show. We now receive over $400 in membership revenue at each show. Because of our added publicity and advertising, we have received many shell and shell craft collection donations from strangers who found us on the web. This allowed us to sell higher quality seashells and shell craft items at our club sales tables at the show.

FOUR EXCITING CLUB FEATURES: These keep the club healthy and members coming back for more.

1) CLUB MEETINGS. We present an interesting, high-quality program related to shells, shell craft, or related subjects at each club meeting.

2) MINI-MARKET. We hold a mini-market one-half hour before each meeting begins for members to sell their shells and shell-related items.

3) END-OF-MEETING RAFFLE. Our raffle table creates a great deal of excitement as a meeting finale.

4) FIELD TRIPS. We plan regular field trips and activities throughout the year: a spring Bar-B Q, a visit to the Sanibel Shell Show, shelling trips, Lunch and a Movie, museum visits, etc. Our annual auction, a major funding source, is held every March and features many beautiful shells and shell related items. All are cordially invited to attend and we take outside bids if you cannot make it. An auction list can be downloaded on our website: www.browardshellclub.org or on our Broward Shell Club Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/BrowardShellClub/

We have had a great deal of fun along the way and really enjoy working together. The Broward Shell Club even hosted the 2015 COA Convention! A special thanks goes to Alice Pace, Shell Show Chair, and her trusty companion, Bob Pace, who have continued to produce excellent shows year after year, and to Sonny Ogden whose work as club president has been a major reason we have had this success. Please email me directly and I will be happy to share examples of our publicity with you.

Nancy Galdo
publicity chairperson, Broward Shell Club
nancygaldo@gmail.com
Let’s face it....winter, even in Florida, can get to you! Christmas and New Year celebrations are over and you are waiting for warmer temperatures and new adventures. Jim and I decided to start our adventures early. We opted for a February trip to Panama with Peggy Williams. We gathered our passports, shelling gear, and we were off on February 8th for Tampa, Houston, and, finally, The Republic of Panama.

The first leg of the trip was not without incident, when we collided with a traffic cone on I-75 while passing through a construction site around midnight. We stopped and checked and all seemed okay until we left the interstate in Tampa. Apparently the wheel well had been rearranged and was rubbing against the tire, but we had a plane to catch! We parked the car at the airport parking venue, told the owners what had happened, and said we would be back in a week. On to the plane!

We boarded the plane at 6:17 am and were soon in the air. Changing planes in Houston, and landing in Panama City, Panama, at 2:11 MST. Three time zones and no sleep for over 24 hours. We were tired but ready to collect shells! It was only mid afternoon.

We were met by the owner of our Panama residence, Silvard Kool, who drove us (with a short shopping trip to a grocery and a stop at McDonalds) to our lodging, Casa Caracol on Playa Corona.

There were two tides the first day and we took advantage of both. We also did some night shelling and found the species different than during the day. In the morning we found Conus princeps, Cypraea cervinetta, Naticarius chemnitzii, Chama sp., Vasula melones, Acanthina brevidenta, Gemophos sanguinolenta, Leucozonia cerata (huge, dead) and Nerita funiculata. For you bivalve people we also found two arcid species and freshly dead Protothaca grata. In the evening we found some repetitions, but also Conus purpurascens and two new cowrie species, C. arabicula and C. robertsi.

The next day we were up very early (I learned how to set my phone alarm, thanks Peggy) and off to Hicaco. The drive was long, about 255 kilometers from our base, and we missed the super low tide. We did get to do some shelling as the tide was coming in. We found Conus patricius, Conus purpurascens, and 2 small unidentified cones. There were Naticidae and large Acanthina brevidentata on the rocks. No night shelling as we were too tired after the long trip.

The alarm sounded early the next morning for our trip to Punta Este. We shelled two locations, each different with different specimens. The first was a broad beach with dunes and turtle nests that were protected by stakes. On the way from the car to the beach I managed to catch my foot in a very strong vine, which afforded me a close view of the...
Through the entrance and down the steps to Casa Caracol on Playa Corona.

Out the back door (our room is the middle on the ground floor) and down the steps to the beach.

The receding tide to the left of our back patio. What looks like gravel are actually fairly large rocks.

A scenic view when the tide was in and wonderful for collecting when it was out.

The receding tide to the right of our back patio. Lots of rocks begging to be turned.

Shells graciously provided by our host, Jim Ernst, collected on Ensenada Beach.
sand. Jim’s laughter would come back to haunt him about an hour and a half later. The young life guards/beach patrol were very interested in what we were finding. When I showed them the Olivellas I had located they were mystified. I think their puzzlement was as to why I would come to their country to collect these tiny shells. Along with the *Olivella semistriata*, we also found *Donax panamensis*, a *Ficus ventricosa*, and a *Tonna ringens*. The fig and tun were dead collected, but in nice shape.

On to nearby site two, Bahia de Chame. While this site also had a sandy bottom, the shore was lined with large rocks where we found *Thais kiosquiformis*, *Cerithium stercusmuscarum*, *Rhincoryne humboldti*, *Vitta luteofasciata*, *Larkinia grandis*, *Martesia striata* (in wood, on a rotting boat), *Mactra vanatae*, more *Donax*, periwinkles, *Protothaca gratis*, and *Nassarius* spp.

It was about this time that Jim made an error in judgment. As he was leaving the rocky area to check out an exposed sand bar, he stepped in sand and went up to his knee. Thinking his next step looked firm, he tried it and now had both legs in deep, wet sand. My advice to lie down was finally taken and he crawled out. Needless to say he found a different route back to the car. All he lost were his dive gloves and collecting container. He labeled the afternoon the “Muck March”.

Arriving back at Casa Caracol, our host presented us with some of his finds of the day from Ensenada Beach. This was a new site for him and he was gracious to share. He presented us with a large *Cypraea cervinetta*, *Bursa corrugata*, *Cypraea robertsi*, *Cypraea arabicula*, *Turbo fluctuosus*, *Neorapana muricata*, *Vitularia salebrosa* and an unidentified cone. We never found a *Neorapana* nor a *Vitularia* on our own. Jim noted that the point of this gift proved that people in their fifties can turn over much larger rocks than people in their seventies.

We left at 8AM the next morning for Venado Beach, made famous by all the data slips from Al Johnson. This beach is west of Panama City and about 80 kilometers away. There is a small domelike island about 1/4 mile offshore that is accessible by a rock sand causeway at low tide. The advice we received was to walk all the way out and shell on the way back.

Here we found *Bursa corrugata*, *Cypraea robertsi*, *Parametria* species, *Protothaca gratis*, *Cypraea arabicula*, *Linatella wiegmanni*, live worm shells, and dove shells. The tide started coming in and we were not sure how fast it would move, so we headed back. An exuberant golden retriever bypassed Jim in favor of greeting me with a jump. We had an appointment in Panama City, after this and I was trying to stay neat, forget that! Had I known that I would have this encounter I would have brought a change of clothes.

A good night’s sleep and we were up at 7:30 and out shelling on the rocks by 8:45. We had to wait a few minutes for the tide to go out. Not many images can compare to the moon over an ocean.
We had lunch at a very nice restaurant nearby. When we were entering the restaurant there was a waiter exiting with a beautiful array of fruit cut into bite size pieces. Yum! We asked our waitress about getting the same and were told that it was for the animals. Actually it was for their toucan. After lunch it was time to continue on to Panama City. I rushed to take a picture of Venado, with the tide in, while Peggy talked with our host, Jim Ernst. The pathways were underwater and we were off to do some box shelling.

We snapped a few pictures of Panama City, which is a sprawling modern city. I was fascinated by some of the unusual (to me) palms. When we arrived at our destination we were greeted by Jim’s canine buddy who was very glad to see him and was accepting of us. We grabbed a pizza on the way home and slept well, after a very long and tiring day.

The next day was our last chance to shell. We spent it in front of our lodging. While the rocks may look like gravel in the previous pictures, I can assure that they are not gravel. My loving husband managed to get some shots of me doing what I love.

I could go on and on, show more pictures and tell about more adventures, but, all good things must end, and this was a good thing. We found over a hundred species of marine shells, some we have been unable to identify, and some we had not previously collected. We worked diligently every day and came home tired and happy. So on February 15th we were up at 3am to leave for the airport. We said goodbye to the moon and Casa Caracol, vowing to return next year? Interested?

The car saga continued when we landed in Tampa. We had made a tool to use in turning rocks. It came in handy to use to pry the wheel well away from the tire. We changed our hotel reservation to a hotel that was closer to the airport, got their last room, had dinner, and went to the car dealership the next morning. The dealer took the wheel well apart, gave me a plastic bag with the parts, and assured us we could drive home safely. My local dealer has ordered new parts to repair the damage, so, instead of a new tire for hundreds, we get a new wheel well for less than one hundred. Beware of cones, traffic and marine.

Sadly, soon after this trip, Peggy Williams passed away. She was returning from a shelling trip of course. Peggy was a solid fixture in COA for many years, a friend to many. We will miss her.

Linda Brunner
jili1043@comcast.net
If you read, “There was a minor event last year” on page 4 of this issue, you may have noticed that I quoted and referenced *Icons of Evolution* by Justin Gerlach quite a bit. The reason is that his marvelous book on the tree-snail family Partulidae is a thoroughly researched in-depth coverage presented in a clear and concise manner. An important, perhaps seminal, work that captures vital aspects of this tree-snail family and much more. The importance of this work does not lie in its use as an identification tool (although it is certainly the very best reference available), but rather in the detailed account of the discovery of Partulidae, the taxonomic history of this family and its importance in our understanding of evolution, the key participants in the Partulidae story, and perhaps most amazingly, the completion and closure of scientific work begun 100 years ago. My article on page 4 stresses that this family has suffered more than decimation (which after all originally meant destroying 10% of a subject population, rather than the 50% loss of Partulidae), but while Justin Gerlach certainly covers these facts, his work melds a tale of discovery and research with the complex natural history of these snails.

Over 200 years ago (1728-1779), Partulidae were “discovered” and samples brought back to Europe on the *HMS Endeavour*, captained by James Cook. The first species in the family was named (1784), then renamed (1791 - read the article), and then over 100 years ago (1906) Henry Crampton began a ground breaking study of Partulidae that began with population descriptions and ended with his attempt to demonstrate Darwinian evolution -- specifically speciation. While largely accepted today, his use of statistics and indeed his subject matter were ground breaking at the time. Crampton completed his work on the Tahitian population in 1916, then the Moorean population in 1932, but he died in 1956 with his work on the remaining islands inhabited by Partulidae incomplete and unpublished. This volume completes Crampton’s work as well as covering the work accomplished by other researchers through the years. It is a fascinating read and is important scientifically, especially as we face the loss of this tree-snail family.

This book can be viewed as a textbook on Partulidae, a compendium of the living and extinct species, and a documented history of the actions and activities centered around and involved with this family of tree-snails. For the scientifically minded or those who enjoy digging into taxonomy, Justin Gerlach provides plenty of material. For those interested in tree-snails, but not looking for the science involved, there is still plenty of material. It is well presented, easy to read and understand. This is an important book, a solid reference; well worth the price.
In Memoriam
by Anne Joffe

Self-published, 2017, 189 pages, numerous color illustrations throughout, $19.95 plus shipping from the author at: sanibelshells@aol.com A portion of the proceeds will be donated to COA.

Our resident COA redhead has dropped a nice little gem into our midst. On the inside front cover Anne writes, “This book is a work of love, for I have loved being a part of the shell world for the past 40ish years. It has been my joy and privilege to have known all these wonderful people who have come into “my shelling life,” and left the memories with me.” What follows are written “snapshots” of 186 people who have passed away who were involved in the shell world and who Anne called friends. There is a picture of almost every person, a shell Anne associates with that person, and a short paragraph or two – in more or less a word association aspect. You will find shellers, both amateur and professional as well as famous and little-known, all of whom touched Anne’s life and “shared a love for mollusks.” These are people dear to Anne’s heart; people she remembers, and memories she wants to share with her sheller friends. I found entries that were interesting, and others that caused a chuckle as Anne’s words brought up my own memories. If you are into shells, you will know some of these folks and hopefully get your memory bumped a bit by Anne’s recollections. This book is not all inclusive, it is more like an evening sitting with Anne at a COA convention and reminiscing. Each of us would have a slightly different list of the people we remembered. This is Anne’s list and I, for one, am grateful she took the effort to publish this trove of memories. Anne’s cutoff date for the book was 31 December 2016, so there are already a few folks who have only recently passed away that would have been included. Still, this is a wonderful tribute and like having a wall with old family photographs, it is of value for its own sake and for what it means to both Anne and her readers. Thank you Anne, I am proud to add this to my shell book library.

Reviewed by Tom Eichhorst
The Petrikin display, “Colors of Worldwide Molluscs” was truly a hit at the 2017 Astronaut Trail Shell Club Shell Show. Shells attract a crowd and colorful shells really attract a crowd – that is what Carolyn and Earl provided. About shell color, Carolyn says (adapted with slight editing from the display write up):

Shells with beautiful colors have always been somewhat of a mystery to both shell collectors and beach walkers alike. “What did you do to get that color in your shells? Have they been painted?” Questions commonly asked at shell shows everywhere. Then there are mollusks with a natural, almost pure white shell or the unusual albino specimen. Bright colors or white, shells are often beautiful and always intriguing. Color is found in mollusks living in the depths of the oceans, while others display their vivid colors in shallow water, indicating that environment is not the only determining factor in molluscan color. Tropical sea waters are home to a majority of the colorful shells found in the world, while frigid water mollusks are most often white or have only pale shades of color.

Colors can come from organic pigments found in the mollusk’s food, which are then are distributed through its blood system. These pigments are found in both the hard calcium shell and the animal’s soft body parts. In the shell, the colors are laid down by the fleshy mantle as it grows new shell by secreting calcite and aragonite with imbedded pigments. Four pigments: yellow to orange carotenoids, green porphyrins, brown to black melanins, blue and red indigoids, and combinations of these are the source of the many beautiful colors admired in mollusks. The living animal inside the shell is sometimes more colorful than the shell! Red to violet specimens are frequently seen, while bright green and vivid blue shells are more rarely found.

Colors vary in shells even within the same species and the same habitat. *Chama macerophylla* Gmelin, 1791, the jewel box, is a common Atlantic coast bivalve that lives attached to rocks or seawalls. It is often found with yellow,
Turbo castanea Gmelin, 1791, the chestnut turban, is a common Caribbean shell that varies from its typical light brown mottled shell to a bright orange shell. Some molluscan species have colors that remain consistent regardless of habitat; thus Lyncina aurantium (Gmelin, 1791), the golden cowrie, varies in color only slightly within the species. Diet, genetics, and environment or habitat all seem to play differing roles in the color differences in mollusks around the world.

If the pigment is secreted continuously from one area, a spiral or radial band is created. Patterns or spots or flecks are present when secretions are made periodically. The alphabet cone, Conus spurius (Gmelin, 1791) and the Florida volute, the Junonia, Scaphella junonia (Lamarck, 1804) are among the numerous shells with dotted surface patterns. Mollusks with lines include the banded tulip, Cinctura hunteria (Perry, 1811), with fairly straight lines after pigment has been continuously deposited in one point from the mantle and the bleeding tooth nerite. Nerita peloronta Linnaeus, 1758, has wavy lines caused by a continuous but moving point of pigmentation.

Much of the science of molluscan shell pigmentation is known, but there are still unresolved issues and questions. In the meantime, people at shell shows and on the beach will appreciate and wonder at the beautiful colors found on seashells – like they have for thousands of years.

Lyncina aurantium, the golden cowrie, has long been appreciated, even coveted, for its orange color. Once rare, it is now fairly common and still very popular with collectors. There is only minor color variation within this species. Photo from Wikipedia.com.

Nemocardium bechei (Reeve, 1847) is a favorite because of its bright color, with little variation. Photograph by the Petrikins.

Nerita peloronta, the bleeding-tooth nerite, has an extremely variable color pattern: solid white, almost solid black, red and black wavy bands, red only bands, black only bands, and combinations of these patterns.

Scaphella junonia, known as “the junonia” is pigment-ed with regular squarish spots that differ only slightly between specimens. Photo on Wikipedia.com of a display at the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum, Sanibel, FL.
The 70th annual St. Pete Shell Show was a huge success. There were lots of quality displays and plenty of people to enjoy them. Doug Thompson was awarded the COA award for his display, “Self-Collected Florida Lion’s Paws.” His display took up 25 feet with 25 cases of various sizes showcasing color and structural variation of the shells as well as details of shell morphology. Shell Show Chairman was John Jacobs. The Scientific Judges were Dave Green & Alan Gettleman; the Artistic Judges were Lynn Gaulin & Mary Ellen Akers. There were over 300 feet of displays. Other awards presented include:

- The DuPont Award to Vicki Wall for “You’re Going Where?”
- The Florida Museum of Natural History Award to Ron & Mary Jo Bopp for “Shells of the Caloosahatchee Formation in Florida.”
- The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History Award to Martin Tremor Jr. & Conrad Forler for “For The Love of those Cockles.”

Shell of the Show (self-collected) was *Spondylus americanus* Hermann, 1781, by Doug Thompson.

Shell of the Show (any means) was *Homalocantha anatomica* (Perry, 1811) by Wayne & Patty Humbird.

Doug Thompson from Lynn Haven, Florida, with his COA Award for a display titled, “Self-Collected Florida Lion’s Paws.” Doug also won a shell of the show award with two *Spondylus americanus*, one trapped within the other.

Doug’s self-collected shell of show, a double *Spondylus americanus*.

Some of Doug’s lion’s paws.
The 80th annual Sanibel Shell Show began with a ribbon cutting to mark the festivities. COA member Joyce Matthys (Shell Show Co-Chair) and Mayor Kevin Ruane cut the ribbon, aided by COA members Donald Dan and Irene Longley (Shell Show Co-Chairs), Vice Mayor Mick Denham, and Councilman Jim Jennings. With the club’s shell show and other activities they were able to add over 35 new members during this same period. Congratulations.

Shell Show Chairs were Bruce Schulz and Tom Annesley. The Judges for the 80th Annual Sanibel Shell Show were Dr. José Leal and Robert Janowsky for the Scientific Division and Sharlene Totten for the Artistic Division. The show had a total of 408 feet of display and over 3,000 paid attendees.

Pat & Bob Linn won the COA Award for their cassid display titled “The Bonnets of the World.” Other winners include:

- The DuPont Trophy & People’s Choice Award to Joyce Matthys for “Rediscovering Sea-silk.”
- Anne Joffe Sanibel Superstar Award to Doug Thompson for “Self-collected Northwest Florida Deepwater Specimens.”
- Shell of Show (self-collected) was Sinistrofulgur perversum (Linnaeus, 1758) by Doug Thompson.
- Shell of Show (any means) was Livonia mammilla (G. B. Sowerby I, 1844) by Greg Curry.
- Shell of Show (fossil) was Vermicularia recta Olsson & Harbinson, 1953 by Irene Longley.
- Best Sanibel-Captiva Shell (self collected) was Oliva fulgurator (Röding, 1798) by Mary Giambruno.
- Best Florida-Caribbean Shell was Spondylus americanus Hermann, 1781, by Doug Thompson.

Sanibel continues to be a thriving club with a scientific grant program second only to COA.
Long-time club member and supporter Dotty DeVasure passed away in February 2017, at the age of 83. Dotty & Lowell DeVasure retired to Sanibel in 1976. They were enthusiastic shellers, traveling around the world collecting sea-shells. They also entered the Scientific Division of our Shell Show every year. From 1976 until Lowell passed away in 2010, they won countless blue ribbons and special judge’s ribbons, the Sanibel Community Association Trophy, the San-Cap Shell Club Trophy, the Masters Trophy, the City of Sanibel Trophy twice, and the prestigious Conchologists of America Award three times.

In 1995, when the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum opened, Dotty became a volunteer docent in the Great Hall of Shells. Beginning in 2011 Dotty also volunteered as the museum’s official beach guide, leading tours of Algiers Beach once or twice a week. At their 20th silver anniversary celebration, the museum honored Dotty as one of five volunteers who had worked tirelessly for them since they opened.

For our club, Dotty volunteered each year for all three days of the Shell Show in the Scientific Room ensuring the safety of the exhibits. More recently, she frequently sold our craft shells there as well. For many of us, Dotty will best be remembered for her ever-present smile and her sunny disposition. She epitomized the saying “great things come in small packages.”

Bet Hamilton’s many shelling friends were saddened to learn of her death in September 2016. After moving to Venice, Florida, from her home state of Massachusetts, where she had been a pastry cook and horsewoman, as well as raising two children, she became involved in all aspects of shelling. She took trips all over the world: to shelling spots in Florida, the Bahamas, Venezuela, Panama, San Blas, the Dominican Republic, and the Philippines.

One of her specialties was the Florida horse conch, *Triplofusus papillosus*. Her special exhibit of these was displayed publicly in the Venice area. She won numerous awards as an exhibitor at Florida shell shows and was an active member of the Sarasota and Englewood Shell Clubs.

As a certified scuba diver, Bet was able to plumb the depths of many of the spots to which she travelled. She continued diving well into her 80s. She frequently dove off the Venice coast and came back with both sharks’ teeth and shells.

Bet was known for her dry wit, her courage, her generosity, and her sense of humor. She broke her arm on one of her trips, but that didn’t stop her from finishing out her day of shelling. She and her good friend June Bailey entertained COA conference attendees by dressing in an engaging mermaid costume. Admire one of Bet’s shells, or if she found something and you didn’t, and it would end up being yours. A memorial sea burial was held June 12, 2017, off the Sarasota coast.
Betty Lipe

passed away on February 26, 2017; she was 80 years old. Betty and her husband Bob were St Pete Shell Club members for over 50 years. She served the club in various capacities throughout the years, including president, treasurer, editor, recording secretary, and shell show chair. She was past president of the Conchologists of America, as well as a Neptunia recipient in 2006. In 2001 when she learned that the Advertising Director for American Conchologist quit, she asked who the new director was in order to pay for the ad for the Shell Store (Betty and Bob’s shell shop in St. Pete). When told no one had stepped up for the job, she immediately volunteered, even though quite busy with other activities. Her home was always open to visitors from the shell world, especially at shell show time. We will miss her tremendously and will never forget her...

From Marcus & Jose Coltro:

Back in 1980s Jose and I risked everything on an uncertain way of life. Most of the people we knew thought we were crazy, but in spite of this we started a shell business in Brazil with a handful of collectors. In February 1988, my first trip to the USA, we went to participate in a shell show in St. Petersburg, Florida. We thought we had reservations for a space to display our collection at the show, but back then communication was not like it is today, neither was our English... When we arrived in St. Pete we found out that we did not have a confirmed table, so no space was reserved for our new business. Betty and Bob noticed that those two “kids” (I was 24 and Jose 28) looked devastated and after hearing of our problem they managed to squeeze in a extra table so we could display our shells. We even won a prize for our display!

This was just the start of more than a long friendship. On the same trip they also invited us to stay at their home. We barely spoke any English, but they managed to communicate and took us in as if we were their own kids. After that we spent a lot of precious time with them during many shell shows and trips. Betty and Bob Lipe are very important in our lives, so much so that we have always considered them our American parents.

So, Betty, we would like to thank you very much for being our American mom and say we love you!
Wesley Thorsson had a lifelong interest in nature, starting with insects and birds, making frequent trips to the Natural History Museum in New York City, when in high school. He was also always interested in the sea and became a graduate of the U. S. Coast Guard Academy in 1944, and received a MS in Electronics from the U.S. Naval Academy Graduate School in Annapolis, Maryland.

As a ship’s officer and as an electronic specialist in Electronic Navigation systems, he had opportunity to visit many parts of the world and first became a mollusk enthusiast in the Philippines. Returning to Hawaii after a tour in Guam, he became a dedicated diver. Time spent in the arctic balanced his tropical duty. Wesley retired from the Coast Guard as a Captain in 1968 and started an electronics operation in Dillingham’s Hawaiian Tug & Barge Co. That position also allowed for trips to Guam providing opportunities for diving and shellfishing.

Retirement allowed more concentration on diving and mollusks. Weekly trips dredging with Dr. Thomas Burch introduced dredging into the collection of mollusks. Dredging produced a large number of microshells and their identification led to photography of shells. Beatrice Burch was a great help in identification procedures. After producing photo albums of Hawaiian shells for the Bishop Museum for Turridae, Mitridae, Costellaridae, Conidae, Terebridae and Cypraeidae, it became obvious that identification of all the dredged shells would not be possible in this lifetime. The shells were donated to the Bishop Museum and Los Angeles Natural History Museum. This was partially caused by lack of time after becoming, by default, the creator and editor of Internet Hawaiian Shell News when it replaced the printed Hawaiian Shell News as printing costs exceeded dues.

Usually Wesley made two diving trips a year to different Pacific Islands or Mexico with 45 year diving buddy Ray McKinsey or Bob Purtyman. These gave way to photo trips to a different Pacific islands each year with wife, Elizabeth Thorsson, who collected near-shore mollusks and recorded all photo data. A heart bypass in 1997 changed these dive trips to snorkeling in shallow water. On trips, about 10 to 15 species were collected each day and photographed in a photo aquarium. This was about the limit of the number of species that could be photographed in a day with details recorded of the animals.

The energy, expertise, humor, and graciousness of Wesley Thorsson added greatly to the world of malacology. He will be missed. Adapted from Internet Hawaiian Shell News.

Cy Totten, husband of Sharlene for 53 years, passed away December 30, 2016. Cy and Sharlene have been members of Suncoast Conchologists since 1988. And – beginner’s luck – on his first field trip shellfishing with the club, he found a golden olive! Many of you will remember Cy as Santa Claus at the 2015 Holiday Shellabration and he also appeared as the enthroned King Neptune at one of our past Shellers’ Jamborees. Suncoast Conchologists has made a donation in Cy’s memory to the Lion’s Eye Institute of Tampa.

Cy Totten was a man of wisdom and many words, always looking to make everyone laugh and smile. He was always eager to learn and share experiences which allowed him to be a great teacher and mentor. After graduating from high school, Cy served his country in the Navy as a Aviation Electronics Technician (Radar) Petty Officer 2nd Class and was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He received a degree in computer science and worked as a computer technician for IBM, Techforce, and going on to retire from Paradyne/AT&T in Pinellas County.

After retiring Cy went back to work for several years driving a bus for the Pinellas County school system where he developed great empathy for the children and became a protector of many. He had a great passion for sailing and won several trophies for racing, serving as a sailing instructor for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

He loved camping, sailing, golfing, riding his scooter around town, going on cruises and visiting family in California, New Orleans, and Michigan. He was involved in the Suncoast Conchologists Club attending shelling trips, the jamborees where he was King Neptune and played Santa at the annual Shellabration.

We will always remember his bright smile, the twinkle in his eyes, and his great spirit. He will forever sail the seas, golf endless holes, eat homemade apple pie, McDonald’s hamburgers, and chicken sandwiches with a smile on his face that will light up the world. Yes, his fun-loving spirit and sense of humor will be greatly missed by all of us who knew him.

Xenillum thorssonii
Poppe, Guillot de Suduiraut & Tagaro, 2006

Americoliva sayana (Ravenel, 1834) form citrina (golden olive)
Long time Houston Conchology Society (HCS) member Helen Wheeler, 94, passed away April 18, 2017. She was born and raised in Laurel, Montana, the middle child of three daughters. About a year after high school graduation, Helen married her high school sweet-heart, Homer Wheeler, on November 30, 1941. (At the age of 18, Helen was legally able to accept Homer’s proposal; however at 20 years of age, Homer still legally required his parents’ permission to wed.) With the war in the Pacific starting almost immediately following their marriage, Helen soon found herself a lone “war bride” living with her mother in Billings, while Homer served a tour of duty with the Navy in the Pacific. In March 1943, Helen and Homer were blessed with their first child, Glenn, with Helen having to do the parenting until Homer’s return from the war. With the outbreak of the Korean War, Homer was again enlisted in service to the Navy, with the couple being stationed in Astoria, Oregon. Helen gave birth to their second son, Dan, in April 1951 while living on the coast. After their return to Billings Montana, Helen and Homer had two more sons, Steve born in December 1952 and Brian born in June 1956.

In 1952, Homer changed his career path from the railroad industry to the oil business hiring on with Carter Oil which ultimately was incorporated into Exxon today. While with Exxon, Helen and Homer moved from Billings to Tulsa, Oklahoma, to Naperville, Illinois, and ultimately to Houston, Texas, in 1967. It was in Houston, that the couple spent the remainder of their years together. Sadly, after 51 years of marriage, Homer died at the age of 71. Helen continued in Houston for thirteen more years following Homers death, ultimately moving to Tulsa, Oklahoma, for the remainder of her time.

Helen loved the outdoors and while living in Houston, she discovered shell collecting. She collected along the Texas coast and participated in HCS collecting trips to the Caribbean as well as along the coast. She was also an avid bridge player. Several years ago she moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, to be near family, but she maintained her HCS membership. Helen had an easy laugh and a real appreciation of life. She will be missed.

Margaret (Peggy) Williams passed away on March 16, 2017. A lifelong Floridian, she collected shells for over 45 years by wading, snorkeling and diving. She won many awards at shell shows, judged too many shows to count, wrote articles for shelling magazines, travelled worldwide to collect shells, and after extensive research wrote Shallow-Water Turridae of Florida and the Caribbean. Peggy conducted guided shelling tours for well over 35 years, to locales around the world. She was a popular tour guide because she did her homework and knew about the area in question, but more importantly because she could rapidly change and adapt her tours to account for changing conditions and unforeseen events. After such trips she would recount the excursion with funny stories and laughter, over what could have been disastrous for many people. Peggy did not suffer fools, but she was always willing to help and guide folks new to the shell world.

Gene Everson recounts how he first met Peggy and husband Tom in the 1970s. They were reroofing their house and he volunteered to help (we were all much younger then). He arrived at the house and before climbing up on the roof he saw the bundles of wood shakes that would have to be carried up the ladder. They were heavy and cumbersome. At the time he remembers thinking, “I hope I don’t have to lug one of those up this ladder.” After Gene had worked a while on the roof, Peggy came up the ladder to ask if they would care for some cold orange juice. That was readily accepted, but before she went back in the house, she showed up at the top of the ladder again, this time with a bundle of shakes, asking, “Are you about ready for more of these up here?”

In later years Peggy had a more difficult time getting around, but she conducted her shelling tours right up to the end. Peggy, we will miss you.

Miraclathurella peggywilliamsae
Fallon, 2010
Conchologists of America

GIFTS-IN-KIND POLICY & PROCEDURES

Approved by the COA Board of Directors on 2 June 2017

While there is a well-established tradition of cash donations to the COA, only recently have we been fortunate in receiving substantial non-cash donations, specifically the shell collections of Walter Paine and the late Frederic Weiss, which have already had a major impact on the annual convention auctions and organization’s treasury. It should become evident from the discussion below that COA must clarify how it manages such assets as these if we are going to move forward and prosper in a way that involves best practices and transparency.

COA certainly can continue to accept gifts-in-kind; in ideal cases these can ultimately be of significant benefit to the organization in fulfillment of its mission. Such gifts are extremely welcome. Since we maintain no collection or library, almost all non-cash such items must be liquidated. An exception is items of archival value, of which materials we have historically maintained oversight and conservation.

Every donor intent on making a gift-in-kind should be prepared to sign a Deed-of-Gift attesting to full ownership and compliance with any collecting/transportation/trade regulations, briefly describing the gift, and agreeing to the COA’s intended use of their donation. If the gift is accepted, the COA (the donee) will also sign the document. Typically such a document will occupy less than one full page.

Although it is widely understood that the proceeds from the sale of gifts-in-kind inure to an endowment dedicated to funding the Academic Grants Program, this disposition is also clearly expressed in the Deed-of-Gift. If a donor wishes to restrict such a gift to any other COA asset or program, such a request will be considered by the COA Board, but it is likely the gift will be deemed unacceptable.

COA has learned from recent experience that liquidation of such gifts can be a lengthy, complicated, and labor-intensive, and potentially costly process which might exceed our resources. Consequently some tendered gifts-in-kind may be too burdensome to process and may be declined. Examples of unsuitable collections may include those lacking scientific value, e.g., those in which many lots lack metadata, or, in the case of larger collections, those lacking a catalogue, preferably in digital electronic format.

Optimally all the donated items will be auctioned (silent and/or oral) at one or more of COA’s annual conventions. Liquidation by other means such as direct sale (wholesale or retail) produces a greater drain on resources, is less profitable, and can incur conflict-of-interest issues as addressed in the COA Code of Ethics.

To oversee the processing of gifts-in-kind, at the time a gift is tendered the President will appoint a committee comprised of seven COA members, chaired by him and including the Treasurer, a member of the museum community, and three (3) individuals self-identified as commercial dealers in shells and/or malacological books. Aside from the President and Treasurer, no more or less than two (2) Board members will serve on the committee. The COA Gifts-in-Kind Committee will oversee the liquidation process from initial acceptance/rejection of any/all donations until all the merchandise has been sold. Coordination with COA Convention leadership will be a paramount responsibility in this oversight. The term of service concludes when the gift is liquidated. The committee is specifically charged with maximizing monetary yield to COA, while considering available human and other resources and maintaining the highest ethical standards as set forth in the COA Code of Ethics. A new committee will be formed ad hoc at the time any gift-in-kind is offered.

Since COA is a tax-exempt educational organization under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code, the donor may choose to declare a federal income tax deduction. Pursuant to current IRS guidelines, an independent appraisal must be performed on behalf of the donor for any gift-in-kind totaling over $5,000.00 in value during one year. The donee (COA) is explicitly forbidden to perform this service, and that proscription is interpreted to include members of COA Board of Directors and those of the COA Gifts-in-Kind Committee.

For in-kind donations involving a tax deduction by the donor, the COA will cooperate by executing the donee portion of IRS Form 8283 and will submit annual Forms 8282 as required by IRS. For in-kind donations claimed by the donor as tax-deductible, particularly those valued in excess of $5,000.00, the COA will probably need to retain the collection in escrow for three years before liquidation begins. A secure, climate-controlled, yet easily-accessible repository will likely be required and can be costly. Such considerations will depend in turn on geographical location among other factors, and must be weighed by the COA Gifts-in-Kind Committee in determining whether to accept or decline, and how to dispose of, any tendered gift.

Let it be known hereby that COA encourages individuals, organizations, and scientific institutions to volunteer their labor and other resources to assist the organization with the complex process of managing and liquidating any gift-in-kind it might be tendered.
Conchologists of America

CODE OF ETHICS

Approved by the COA Board of Directors on 2 June 2017

PREAMBLE
Conchologists of America (COA) is a tax-exempt, educational, non-profit organization under the provisions of Article 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Service Code (Tax ID 112541695).

PURPOSES OF COA
“The purposes of this organization are to disseminate knowledge about mollusks, to encourage research on mollusks, and to increase the awareness of the need for preserving habitats and the health of molluscan populations through meetings, lectures, publications, grants, and exhibits.”

DEVELOPMENT OF COA’S CODE OF ETHICS
In 2017, a committee consisting of José H. Leal (chair), Tom Eichhorst, Tom Grace, Richard Kirk, President Harry G. Lee (ex officio), and Treasurer Steven Coker (ex officio) was tasked by COA President Harry G. Lee to draft a Code of Ethics for the organization. This Code was revised and approved by COA Board of Directors (BOD) on the date indicated above.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CODE OF ETHICS
• The Code identifies core values on which COA’s Purposes are based;
• The Code summarizes broad ethical principles that (1) reflect the core values stated in COA Purposes above and (2) establishes a set of specific ethical standards that should be used to guide the BOD, employees, volunteers, and, to some extent, the COA Membership and shell collectors at large;
• The Code provides ethical standards to which the general public can hold COA and its BOD accountable.

GOVERNANCE
The BOD holds the ultimate fiduciary responsibility for the institution. The COA Constitution and Bylaws explain this and other attributions of the BOD in detail.

Additionally, the BOD will foster and monitor the financial structure of COA, such that COA continues to exist in perpetuity as a vital, dynamic, relevant, and first-class organization that represents the interests and needs of shell collectors, students, researchers, citizen scientists, and society in general.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ETHICS
Elements of this document that are directly relevant to the ethical behavior of the BOD, as a whole or as it applies to its individual members, include, but are not exclusive to: molluscan conservation, conflict of interest, intellectual property, equal employment opportunity, and discrimination and harassment policy.

MOLLUSCAN CONSERVATION
COA strongly supports informed management and conservation policies for mollusks, and formally adopted the following Resolution for Responsible Scientific Collecting on June 26, 1995. Wording for the Resolution was composed by Dr. Gary Rosenberg (Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University). The Resolution was first published on the back cover of the September 1995 issue of the American Conchologist:
“Whereas there are an estimated 100,000 species of living mollusks, many of great economic, ecological and cultural importance to humans, and Whereas habitat destruction and commercial fisheries have had serious effects on mollusk populations worldwide, and Whereas modern conchology continues the tradition of amateur naturalists exploring and documenting the natural world, be it resolved that the Conchologists of America endorses responsible scientific collecting as a means of monitoring the status of mollusk species and populations and promoting informed decision making in regulatory processes intended to safeguard mollusks and their habitats.” This resolution has appeared on page 2 of every issue of American Conchologist since September 1996.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST
Conflict of Interest is a situation in which someone in a position of trust has a competing professional or personal interest. Such competing interests can make it difficult to fulfill his or her duties impartially. A conflict of interest exists even if no unethical or improper act results. For management and governance purposes, there is no difference between conflict of interest and the appearance of conflict of interest, as the latter condition may easily develop into the actual conflict.

No individual may use his or her COA director position or property for his or her personal gain or to benefit another, or act in a way that hints at the appearance of conflict of interest.

No more than one member of a family (spouse, life partner, sibling, parent, or child) may serve as a director simultaneously. It is understood that certain ad hoc committees, not exclusively comprised of Directors, may include more than one family
member under special conditions and considerations, e.g., that six *Neptunea* Awards were given to couples for their service to COA, but in voting matters only a single ballot may be cast by them.

Furthermore, no director is to have a financial interest in, or to receive any compensation from any agency, vendor, or supplier when performing business transaction on behalf of COA. It is the policy of this organization that all directors undertake their respective responsibilities with an unbending duty of loyalty and fidelity consistent with a fiduciary relationship. This means that directors must administer the affairs of this organization honestly and economically, exercising their best care, skill, and judgment for the benefit of COA.

Whenever a matter arises for action by a BOD member, employee, or volunteer engaging in an activity where there is a possible conflict of interest or the appearance of conflicts between the interests of COA and an outside or personal interest of the individual, the outside interest of this BOD member, employee, or volunteer should be made a matter of record. In such cases where a BOD member is present in a BOD meeting when a vote is taken in connection with such a question, he or she should abstain. Sometimes neither disclosure nor abstention is sufficient for a BOD member and the only appropriate solution is resignation from the BOD.

**Intellectual Property**
COA will in principle hold the rights to all work products, inventions, discoveries, copyrightable works, and other developments conceived or performed by BOD members on behalf of the organization.

**Equal Opportunity Employment**
Despite the fact that COA daily chores are performed mostly by members of its BOD and other volunteers, COA may eventually hire employees to perform specific tasks. COA Directors will treat all colleagues, volunteers, and employees and applicants for employment equally, without regard to race, color, religion, gender, pregnancy, age, physical or mental disability, national origin, or any other characteristic protected by state or federal law. COA bases all employment decisions on the candidates’ qualifications. This applies to other employee actions such as compensation, benefits, discipline, terminations, lay-offs, and training.

**Discrimination and Harassment**
Any form of harassment is a violation of COA policy. The institution recognizes a broad definition of that term.

**Statement of Collecting Ethics**
The sensible and ethical collecting of shells and mollusks brings value to the scientific and educational programs that advance the stated COA Purposes. COA therefore adopts the following standards for collection of specimens: (1) Prior notification was made and permission or appropriate permits were secured from landowners, managers of private or public lands and parks and other appropriate authorities and agencies where applicable. (2) All collecting was in compliance with federal, state, and municipal laws and regulations applied to fossil, mollusk, and shell collecting.

**Code of Ethics − Appendix 1**

**DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION AND RETENTION POLICY**

**Introduction**
COA records are important assets. COA records essentially include all documents, whether paper or electronic, produced by the Board of Directors (BOD), staff, and/or volunteers while in the performance of their assignments and responsibilities.

**Document Destruction and the Law**
The Sarbanes-Oxley Act addresses the destruction of business records and documents and turns intentional document destruction into a process that must be carefully monitored. The law requires COA to maintain certain types of records, usually for a specified period of time. Failure to retain those records for those minimum periods could subject the BOD to penalties and fines, cause the loss of rights, obstruct justice, spoil potential evidence in a lawsuit, place COA in contempt of court, or seriously disadvantage COA in litigation.

**Exceptions**
COA expects all Directors, employees, and volunteers to fully comply with any published records retention or destruction policies and schedules. Directors, employees, and volunteers should note the following general exception to any stated destruction schedule: If you believe, or COA informs you, that those records are relevant to litigation, or potential litigation (i.e., a dispute that could result in litigation), then you must preserve those records until the President, or COA’s legal counsel, determines the records are no longer needed. That exception supersedes any previously or subsequently established
destruction schedule for those records. If you believe that the exception may apply, or have any questions regarding the possible applicability of that exception, please contact the President.

POLICY REVISION AND ADDITIONAL RECORDS

COA may establish revised retention or destruction policies or schedules for specific categories of records in order to ensure legal compliance, and also to accomplish other objectives, such as to preserve intellectual property and cost management. Several categories of documents that bear special consideration are identified in the COA’s Records Retention Schedule, a copy of which is attached below. While minimum retention periods are suggested in the Records Retention Schedule, the retention of the documents identified therein and of documents not included in the Records Retention Schedule should be determined primarily by application of the general guidelines affecting document retention identified above, as well as any other pertinent factors.

COMPLIANCE

Failure to comply with this Document Retention Policy may result in punitive action against the Director, employee, or volunteer, including suspension, termination, or litigation. Questions about this policy should be referred to the BOD, who is in charge of administering, enforcing, and updating this policy.

RECORD RETENTION SCHEDULE

The following table provides the minimum requirements for record retention at Conchologists of America.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Document</th>
<th>Minimum Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable ledgers and schedules</td>
<td>7 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit reports (external)</td>
<td>Permanently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Reconciliations</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank statements</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checks (for important payments and purchases)</td>
<td>Permanently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracts, mortgages, notes and leases (expired)</td>
<td>7 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracts (still in effect)</td>
<td>Permanently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence (general)</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence (legal and important matters)</td>
<td>Permanently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence (with customers and vendors)</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deeds, mortgages, and bills of sale</td>
<td>Permanently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation Schedules</td>
<td>Permanently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duplicate deposit slips</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment applications</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expense Analyses/expense distribution schedules</td>
<td>7 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year End Financial Statements</td>
<td>Permanently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance Policies (expired)</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance records, current accident reports, claims, policies, etc.</td>
<td>Permanently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal audit reports</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventories of products, materials, and supplies</td>
<td>7 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invoices (to customers, from vendors)</td>
<td>7 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minute books, bylaws and charter</td>
<td>Permanently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patents and related Papers</td>
<td>Permanently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll records and summaries</td>
<td>7 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel files (terminated employees)</td>
<td>7 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement and pension records</td>
<td>Permanently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax returns and worksheets</td>
<td>Permanently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timesheets</td>
<td>7 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trademark registrations and copyrights</td>
<td>Permanently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withholding tax statements</td>
<td>7 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The 2017 COA Convention is fast approaching. There are many special reasons to attend this year’s convention, so if you have not yet registered, do it today - it is not too late.

Schedule

Tue. Aug. 15
Registration
Silent Auction 1  8:00 to 9:30 am
Opening Session  10:30 am
Opening Speaker  11:00 to noon
Lunch           Noon to 1:30 pm
Silent Auction 2 in afternoon
Programs       1:30 to 4:30 pm
Welcome Party  6:00 to 9:00 pm
Welcome Party Silent Auction bidding 6:00 to 8:00 pm
Welcome Party Silent Auction pickup 8:00 pm

Wed. Aug. 16
Registration
Silent Auction 3  8:00 to 9:00 am
Programs       9:00 to noon
Lunch           Noon to 1:30 pm
Silent Auction 4 in afternoon
Programs       1:30 to 4:30 pm
Oral Auction preview 6:00 to 7:00 pm
Oral Auction  7:00 pm until

Thu. Aug. 17
Registration
Silent Auction 5  8:00 to 9:00 am
Programs       9:00 to noon
Lunch           Noon to 1:30 pm
Programs       1:30 to 2:45 pm
Business Meeting 3:15 to 4:30 pm
Social - Banquet 6:00 to 10:00 pm

Fri. Aug. 18
Club Rep Breakfast 8:00 to 10:00 am
Bourse           1:00 to 8:00 pm

Sat. Aug. 19
Bourse           9:00 to 3:00 pm

Three silent auction pickups on Wednesday and Thursday. The final on Friday morning.

We are very fortunate to have Wolfgang Gruelke as our opening speaker. Mr. Gruelke is an author and businessman with an unbridled passion for the natural world. For the past decade he has applied his sense of wonder to the distant past, especially our fossil history. He has recently released a book on the Nautilidae entitled Nautilus: Beautiful Survivor. The chambered nautilus is one of the oldest living things on our planet. Since the dawn of civilization its form has inspired artists, designers, and architects. Nautilus has survived whatever the world has thrown at it for more than 500 million years, persisting even as dinosaurs and many other life forms vanished. This talk and Wolfgang’s new book celebrate the long history of Nautilus, its role in human culture and the realities of its life today.

Following his presentation, Mr. Gruelke will be available to autograph books. Since its publication all proceeds from the sale of this book have gone toward Nautilus research.

Following lunch on Tuesday, Clint Curry will speak on Key West. As one of the latest in a long line of “Conchs” he has much information on the town and its people to share with us.

Other speakers and topics not to miss:

Eugene Coan, author of many books and papers on mollusks and co-author with Paul Valentich-Scott on the two volume Bivalve Seashells of Western North America will speak on Peruvian bivalves, the subject of a new book to be released by both authors.
For fossil enthusiasts, **Gary Schmelz** will share his knowledge of “Fossil Wonders.” Gary is the former Director of the Big Cypress Nature Center and Director of Education for the Conservancy of S.W. Florida.

For lovers of aquatic life in the Keys, **Nicole Uibel** from the Florida Marine Sanctuary will give us an update on the success of the Sanctuary since its formation.

Sanibel is heaven for many shellers. **Dr. José Leal**, Science Director and Curator for the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum, will describe some new species from Sanibel.

How many shells have musical names? In his presentation on “Musical Molluscs,” **Tom Ball** will give us an overview of the musical instruments, musicians, bands and musical terms that are represented in the world of molluscs.

**Phil Fallon**, independent researcher with an interest in turrids, recently published a *Taxonomic review of tropical western Atlantic shallow water Drilliidae including descriptions of 100 new species*.

Most of us are aware of the prominence of the Philippine Islands in shelling. **Jim and Linda Brunner** will speak about “The Rise and Fall of the Tangle Net Industry.” These are a few of the speakers you will hear. There are 19 presentations in all, scheduled during the convention.

**Welcome Party Silent Auction**

A new feature this year will be a special silent auction during the Welcome Party Tuesday evening. This auction will feature a limited offering of items, many of oral auction quality. A minimum bid will be noted on the bid sheet. At 8:00 pm time will be called on bids. Winning bidders will pick up the items they have won and take them to the checkout table for payment.

**Oral Auction**

Wednesday night will be the most anticipated COA auction in memory. The donation by the Weiss family to COA of a very large collection of specimens of unusual size, quality, and rarity has drawn much attention. A full color catalog for the auction will be given to each person registered for the convention. The production of the catalog involved Donald Dan personally driving from Ft. Myers to Wilmington, NC, to deliver the specimens to John Timmerman to photograph.

**Raffle**

Several very nice items will be offered on the raffle. Among them will be a “species themed” shell lamp by NC Shell Club lamp creator Harold Brown. You may remember his pair of *Scaphella dohrni* lamps offered at the 2014 COA Convention. This time the lamp is filled with only Sozon’s cone (*Conus delessertii*.)

From Anne Joffe is a 15 inch wedding valentine done with all white shells.

Donald Dan has made available to the raffle a set of nine *Swiftopecten swiftii* from the Weiss collection, each with a different color pattern and all of specimen quality and similar in size.

**Banquet**

The Thursday evening banquet will feature a buffet with a wide selection of regional favorites. The highlight of the evening will be a presentation by Rich Goldberg of pictures and anecdotes recalling the 1980 COA Convention in Key West. The banquet concludes with drawing for the raffle prizes.

See You in Key West!
To our Key West 2017 Conchologists of America (COA) Convention bourse vendors,

On behalf of COA I welcome you to Key West and the bourse. Your concessions are the highlight of this long-awaited event for many of us, and the organization is greatly appreciative of the contribution you make to the success of the event and COA as a whole.

You are probably aware that COA is on record as supporting efforts to conserve mollusks on a global basis, and, more recently to publicize, clarify, and interpret governmental regulation affecting the importation and trade of shells (Wolfe and Lee, 2017).

The Convention leadership, COA Board, and I urge you to be familiar with any governmental regulation, US or overseas, that may impact your bourse activities. If any species you possess falls under such legal jurisdiction, I urge you to have any permit or other pertinent documentation on hand. COA is not an agency of law enforcement, but we have the responsibility to ensure that our membership is aware of the law.

Now, set up, sell, exchange, and enjoy the world’s largest and oldest shell bazaar!

Harry G. Lee
President, COA
May 2017