

President's Message

As 2004 comes to a close I would like to thank the membership for a truly memorable year as the first President of the Pacific Conchological Club. Officers for 2005 include: **Terry Rutkas**, President, **Dave Bridgnell**, Vice-President, **Phil Liff-Grieff**, Secretary, and **Kathy Kalohi**, Treasurer. However, on a very sad note, PCC members **Yvonne Albi** and **Alberta Jones** passed away in October. Both were long-time members of the CCSC and PSC respectively (see page 7 for details about Yvonne and see the Summer issue of *Las Conchas* (v. 35, no. 8, p. 35, 37) for a biography of Alberta). Their generosity and friendliness will be missed by all.

The ninth annual gathering of **SCUM** (Southern California Unified Malacologists) will take place at the city of San Diego's Environmental Monitoring & Technical Services Laboratory on Saturday, January 22nd from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM. SCUM is an informal gathering of professional, student, and amateur molluscan researchers and enthusiasts who meet yearly to exchange ideas and present overviews of their current mollusk research projects, both Recent and fossil. As an extra bonus SCUM IX host Kelvin Barwick will conduct a tour of the lab facilities. All who are interested are encouraged to attend and we hope to see a large number of PCC members participate in this highly informative event. For additional information and details see page 3 in this newsletter or contact me via phone (213-763-3376) or e-mail (lgroves@nhm.org).

Many thanks ahead of time to members **Dave** and **Barbara Bridgnell** for hosting the annual Holiday gathering on Sunday, December 12th at their beautiful home in Palos Verdes (see directions on page 8). As always this event is potluck and attendees should bring their favorite appetizer, side dish, vegetable, dessert, etc., whatever your culinary prowess. The PCC will provide several varieties of

chicken as a main dish. The main event is the shell exchange which can be a highly spirited (and cut throat) affair indeed. Those who wish to participate (if you dare) bring a wrapped shell specimen or shell related item of at least \$10.00 – \$15.00 value and stand back! Members should also feel free to bring specimens for exhibit as well.

I will close with a few final noteworthy items. Your 2005 dues become due at the end of the month and you may pay by sending \$10.00

(individual) or \$12.00 (family) to PCC Treasurer **Kathy Kalohi**, 13901 Wilkie Ave., Gardena, CA 90249 or pay at the next meeting. Also, we would still like to hear from the PCC membership regarding biographies. Everyone in the club has a story to tell of why they enjoy shells, how they began their collection, what they collect, etc. Good and/or bad photos are encouraged but not absolutely necessary. *Las*

Conchas editor **Phil Liff-Grieff** is in need of short papers for the newsletter. Topics may include any aspect of shells and/or shelling in southern California within all environmental realms (terrestrial, freshwater, marine) and fossil.

Aloha, happy shelling, and hope to see everyone in December.

Lindsey Groves



Calliostoma gloriosum Dall, 1871
For a picture of a live animal, turn to page 6.

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Las Conchas is a publication of the Pacific Conchological Club

Pacific Conchological Club Officers:

President: *Lindsey Groves*
 Vice-President: *Terry Rutkas*
 Secretary: *Phil Liff-Grieff*
 Treasurer: *Kathy Kalohi*

Membership Chairperson: Vacant
 Field Trip Chairperson: Vacant
 Librarian: *Janice Abdulian*
 Raffle Chairperson: *Janice Abdulian*
 Las Conchas Editor: *Phil Liff-Grieff*

The Pacific Conchological Club was organized in 2003 as a result of the merger between the Pacific Shell Club and the Conchological Club of Southern California. Its mission is to further the interest in shell collecting and malacology and to provide a forum for individuals who love shells and other marine life. The Club meets on the second Sunday of each month from October through June at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History (900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles).

November Minutes

Review of the Literature

Dr. Jim McLean reviewed the journals that had been received by the Natural History Museum in the previous month.

2005 Officers

The nominated slate (Terry Rutkas, President; Dave Bridgnell, Vice-President; Kathy Kalohi, Treasurer; Phil Liff-Grieff, Secretary) was distributed to those present at the meeting and was approved unanimously as submitted.

By-Laws

The following revisions to the draft By-Laws were proposed:

Article II: "...sharing information, collection and appreciation of shelled *all* mollusks..."

Article IV, Section 3 "the term of...all elected officers shall be for one *calendar* year."

Article IV, Section 3, c add "4. shall assign note-taking responsibility to others if unable to attend a meeting."

Article V, Section 1 "Membership meetings shall take place monthly from October until June *except during the summer months*."

Presentation(s)

Dr. Hank Chaney (Santa Barbara Natural History Museum) presented his experience in collecting Volutes. He got interested in Volutidae as a result of regularly reading Hawaiian Shell News in the 1970's.

He reviewed the basic biology of the Volutes (direct developers, sexually dimorphic). Due to the direct development of larvae, they tend to be very isolated and site specific.

The genus *Cymbiola* was reviewed in light of the morphological diversity found in the Solomon Sea area.

Collecting on the coast of Western Australia was described. Extreme low tides there aid in collecting. At the moment when the tide turns, mollusks start "popping" out of the sand. Ashmore Reef was another locality that was described with

specific attention paid to the Volutes found there.

Cymbiola perplicata was discussed-it had once been seen as extremely rare. In the Diamond Island area, it is actually one of the most common larger gastropods found there.

Questions were asked about sexual dimorphism in gastropods.

Mike Smith presented slides that showed some of the more frustrating side of collecting. Pictures of collecting experiences brought out some of the feelings of frustration, despair, and jealousy that can arise while collecting with others.

A break was taken for snack and raffle. *Cypraea aurantium* (donated by Paul Kanner), *Scaphella junonia* and *Biplex microstoma* specimens were raffled off.

Other business

Lindsay reported that, this past month, we lost Yvonne Albi and Alberta Jones, both long-time members of the shell clubs. They will both be missed. Alberta's family asked that donations be made to the World Wildlife Federation or the Junior Blind.

SCUM will be in San Diego on January 22.

The Holiday party was discussed. Dave and Barbara Bridgnell volunteered their home for the party but they needed the day to be moved to Saturday, December 11. Kathy Kalohi will be asked to bring the chicken.

Field trips were discussed. Fossils in Silverado Canyon and collecting on the Cabrillo Beach breakwater were both suggested.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Liff-Grieff, secretary

SCUM IX

January 22, 2005

8:00 am— 3:30 pm

City of San Diego Environmental Monitoring
& Technical Services Laboratory

The 9th annual meeting of the **Southern California Unified Malacologists** will be held this year at the City of San Diego's new Environmental Monitoring & Technical Services Laboratory (see map below). The cosponsor for this year's event will be the Southern California Association of Marine Invertebrate Taxonomists (SCAMIT).

SCUM is an informal association of Southern California professional, amateur and student malacologists and paleontologists who are active or interested in molluscan research. The purpose of the annual gatherings is to facilitate contact and to keep one another informed of research, current activities and opportunities. There are no dues, no officers and no publications.

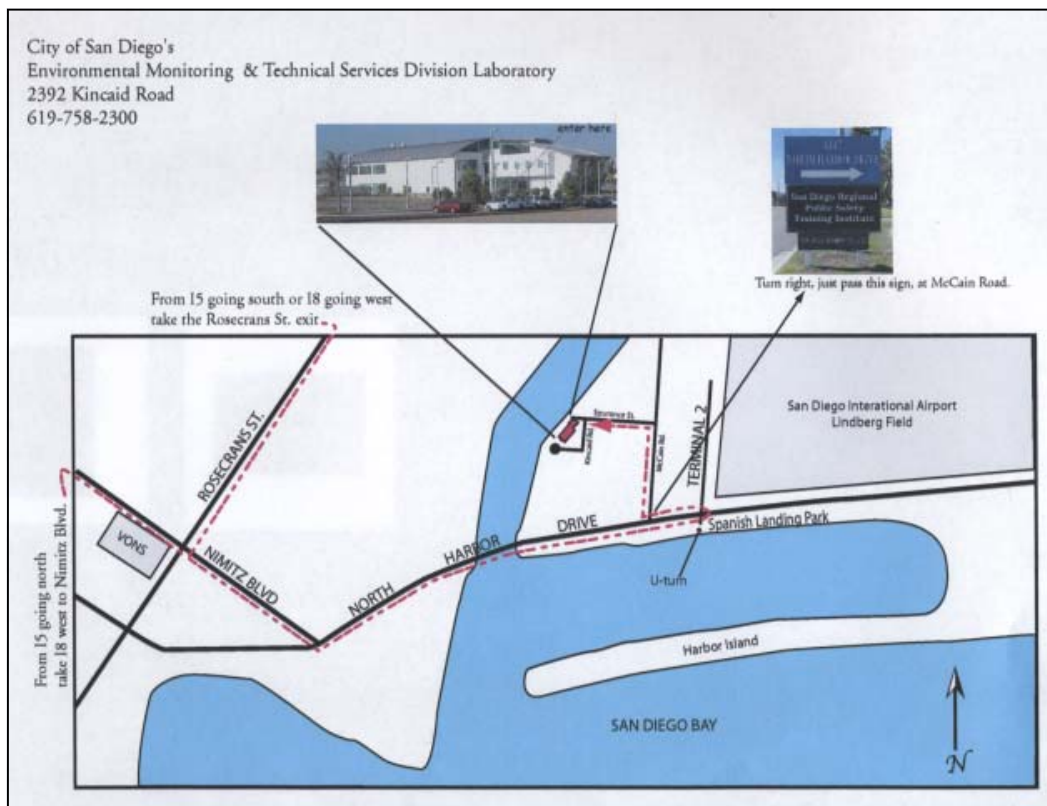
The doors will open at 8:00 am for donuts and coffee. The meeting will begin at 9:00 am. Lunch can be delivered to the meeting venue at a small cost to participants (*there is nothing within walking distance and there is limited refrigerator space if you wish to bring your own*).

The agenda is as follows: (subject to change)

8:00 am— 9:00	meet and greet
9:00 am— 11:30	introductions and short informal presentations
11:30 — 12:00 noon	Ocean Monitoring Program presentation and tour of the facility
12:00 — 1:30 pm	lunch and prize drawings (prizes provided by SCAMIT)
1:30 pm	group picture
1:30 — 3:30 pm	additional presentations

Video projector and PC laptop are available for those wishing to do PowerPoint presentations. A 35 mm slide projector, VHS video player and overhead projector are also available. For information and to RSVP, contact:

Ron Velarde- (619) 758-2331 velarde@sandiego.gov
Kelvin Barwick- (619) 758-2337 kbarwick@sandiego.gov



California Shells: A California Collection — Part II

Terry Rutkas

We continue looking at Lillian Johnson's collection of Southern California Shells, collected over 60 years ago. Last Month I mentioned that there was no locality information with the shells, this month I stand corrected; the information was on the backside of the labels. Mrs. Johnson's daughter also let us know that these specimens were taken along the coast from Palos Verdes to Dana Point.

Mrs. Johnson was a prolific collector; I don't think she missed many species. Others may not have bothered with some of these, but I think she wanted examples of every shell in the whole faunal province. I'll be hard pressed to fit everything into the next few issues!

Once again, I present the shells as she identified them and leave it to the reader to determine the current names.





Green Bubble-shell,
Haminoea virecens
Sowerby R



Gould's Bubble-shell,
Verica gouldiana
Pilsbry T



Olive Ear-shell,
Melampus oliveaceus
Carpenter



Purple Olive,
Olivella biplicata
Sowerby S



Angelina Olive,
Olivella biplicata angelina
T.S. Oldroyd S



Baetic Olive,
Olivella baetica
Carpenter S



Channeled Dog-whelk,
Nassarius fossatus
Gould S



Fat Dog-whelk,
Nassarius perpinguis
Hinds S



Tile-roof Dog-whelk,
Nassarius tegula
Reeve T



Rock-dwelling Thair,
Thais emarginata
Deshayes R



Cup-and-saucer Shell,
Crucibulum spinorum
Sowerby T



Ancient Hoof-shell,
Hipponix antiquatus
Linnaeus R



Snake-skinned Tower-shell,
Mentleopsis incisa ophiocarpa
Dall R



Livid Macron,
Macron lividus
A. Adams S



Joseph's-coat Amphissa,
Amphissa verrucolor
Dall R

Live from Paul Kanner's Tank: Photos of Living Southern California Mollusks

These *Calliostomas* seem perfectly happy devouring a yellow sponge, *Tethya aurantia*. According to Paul, this seems to be their preferred food source in the aquarium. Interestingly, there are no yellow sponges found in the locality where these critters were collected.

This species is found from San Francisco south to the Coronado Islands, Northern Baja California in depths of 50 feet or more.

For an additional photograph of the shell, turn back to page 1.



Calliostoma gloriosum Dall, 1871
Originally collected off of El Segundo, Los Angeles Co., California

Low tides provide great conditions for observing mollusks and other marine life on Southern Californian shores. Listed below are some extremely low tides that occur during daylight hours:

(Please be sure that you are familiar with the CA Dept. of Fish and Game regulations regarding the collecting of live mollusks.)

December, 2004			January, 2005		
Date	Time	Ht.	Date	Time	Ht.
Thursday, December 9	01:35 pm	-0.5	Thursday, January 6	12:42 pm	-0.2
Friday, December 10	02:18 pm	-1.1	Friday, January 07	01:28 pm	-0.9
Saturday, December 11	03:04 pm	-1.5	Saturday, January 08	02:14 pm	-1.5
Sunday, December 12	03:52 pm	-1.7	Sunday, January 09	02:58 pm	-1.9
Monday, December 13	04:42 pm	-1.6	Monday, January 10	03:42 pm	-2.0
Wednesday, December 22	01:25 pm	-0.1	Tuesday, January 11	04:26 pm	-1.8
Thursday, December 23	02:03 pm	-0.4	Wednesday, January 12	05:09 pm	-1.4
Friday, December 24	02:37 pm	-0.6	Thursday, January 20	01:20 pm	-0.2
Saturday, December 25	03:10 pm	-0.7	Friday, January 21	01:57 pm	-0.4
Sunday, December 26	03:43 pm	-0.7	Saturday, January 22	02:29 pm	-0.6
Monday, December 27	04:16 pm	-0.6	Sunday, January 23	02:59 pm	-0.7
Tuesday, December 28	04:50 pm	-0.5	Monday, January 24	03:27 pm	-0.8
			Tuesday, January 25	03:54 pm	-0.7
			Wednesday, January 26	04:20 pm	-0.6
			Thursday, January 27	04:45 pm	-0.3

In Memorium: Yvonne Albi 1925-2004

Lindsey T. Groves, LACM Malacology

Longtime CCSC/PCC member Yvonne Albi passed away at age 79 on October 9, 2004 from complications due to post-Polio Syndrome. She was born on February 12th 1925 to Basil and Lois Zeran. Yvonne married Michael C. Albi in 1952 and was widowed after 49 loving years in 2001.

Yvonne's interest in shells, both Recent and fossil, started at an early age prompted by walks on local beaches with her grandfather. Her special conchological interests were the gastropod families Ranellidae and Bursidae and the extinct rudist bivalves. She also had a keen interest in fossil and Recent echinoids (sea urchins and sand dollars). Unbeknownst to some was her talent for playing the piano, creating mosaics, writing poetry, and her cooking prowess. Yvonne's artistic penchant was demonstrated each year with the creation of a new Christmas card that featured her beloved shells, echinoids, cats, tropical scenery, and religious icons and scenes. Those of us fortunate to have received them each holiday season will sorely miss them, indeed. A world traveler, she visited Moorea, Tahiti, Maui, Aruba, Vanuatu, Antigua, Sicily, England, Australia, Fiji, New Caledonia, Solomon Ids., American Samoa, and Bora-Bora and the US Virgin Ids. as well as many of the US states always bringing back mollusks and/or fossils that were generously donated to the Malacology and Invertebrate Paleontology sections of LACM. Her extensive fossil and shell collections will also be donated to LACM. She also made monetary donations to both sections for book and supply purchases. Yvonne also donated her time to both sections by expertly sorting and identifying specimens. She was also adept at writing about her fossils and shells (see her list of publications below) and illustrating them with her marvelous artwork. Yvonne was junior author of *Farrea rugosa*, a new species of fossil sponge, with Dr. J. Keith Rigby of Brigham Young University in 1996, which is the first of its kind from the Miocene of California and one of the few Miocene sponges reported from North America. Yvonne was a long-time member of the Conchological Club of Southern California (now the Pacific Conchological Club), the Southern California Paleontological Society, the San Diego Shell Club, the Western Society of Malacologists, Conchologists of America, and SCUM (Southern California Unified Malacologists).

Yvonne is survived by her sister Francine Arrangoiz, daughters Michelle (Shell) and Gina, sons Keith and Kurt, eight grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Although shells and fossils were beloved treasures ... her dearest loves were her family and friends and I feel fortunate to be amongst them. She will indeed be missed by all.



Some of the malacological and paleontological publications by Yvonne Albi

- Albi, Y. 1985. A survey of the clypeaster echinoids of southern California. *Bulletin of the SCPS* 17(5-6):50.
- Albi, Y. 1990. Pleistocene varieties of the southern California gastropod *Forreria belcheri*. *Bulletin of the SCPS* 22(5-6):66-70, 10 unnumbered figs.
- Albi, Y. 1990. A Miocene *Glycymeris* from the Topanga Canyon Formation, Los Angeles. *Bulletin of the SCPS* 22(11-12):131-132, figs. 1-3.
- Albi, Y. 1991. Comments on *Clementia (Ergesta) pertenuis* (Gabb), a Miocene bivalve from California. *Bulletin of the SCPS* 23(5-6):50-54, figs. 1-7.
- Albi, Y. & Maxwell, J. 1991. Analyzing *Astrodapsis* sand dollars from the California Miocene. *Bulletin of the SCPS* 23(7-8):64-67, 6 unnumbered figs. [reprinted in *Bulletin of the SCPS* 36(9-10):57-59 (2004)].
- Albi, Y. 1994. A review of *Dendraster gibbsii*: A fossil sand dollar in the Pliocene of Central California. *Bulletin of the SCPS* 26(5-6):25-27, figs. 1-7.
- Albi, Y. 1996. The multiformity of *Astrodapsis tumidus*. *Bulletin of the SCPS* 28(7-8):56-65, figs. 1-9.
- Rigby, J.K. & Albi, Y. 1996. An upper Miocene hexactinellid sponge from the Puente Shale, Orange County, California. *Journal of Paleontology* 70(6):908-913, figs. 1-4.
- Albi, Y. 2002. Does the morphology of Pleistocene specimens of *Crossota californica* (Hinds, 1843) elucidate evolutionary patterns? *The Festivus* 34(3):31-42, figs. 1-10. [reprinted in *Bulletin of the SCPS* 36(5-6):27-40, 2004].
- Albi, Y. In press. *Coralliochama orcuti* White, 1885 Plagioprychidae) a rudist bivalve. *The Festivus*.

Hold the Date

2004 –2005
PCC meeting dates

December 12, 2004

January 9, 2005

February 13

March 13

April 10

May 15

June 12

Unless otherwise noted, all
meetings begin at 1:30 pm

December Meeting: SUNDAY, December 12, 2004

12:30 pm — 4:00 pm *(please note the earlier start time)*

PROGRAM: Holiday Party

LOCATION: Home of David and Barbara Bridgnell
26963 Bolan Lane, Palos Verdes

Bridgnell's Phone: (310) 377-9710

DIRECTIONS:

From the **San Diego Freeway** in the South Bay– exit on **Crenshaw Boulevard** and head south about 7 miles, past Pacific Coast Highway, up the hill to **Palos Verdes Drive North**. Make a left turn onto Palos Verdes Drive North and make an immediate right turn onto **Eastvale**. Proceed up the hill on Eastvale to **Bolan Lane** on your right. Turn onto Bolan; The Bridgnell home is at the end of the cul de sac.

Bring a wrapped shell related gift of approximately \$10-\$15 in value for the annual gift “exchange”. If you bring a shell, be sure that it is fully labeled. *(The ensuing gift exchange activity is a lot of fun but, be warned, it can get ugly!!)*

Please bring a display of some of your favorite shells or shells with a story to tell.

Refreshments are potluck (the club will provide chicken).

RSVP to Janice Abdulian at (818) 981-8533 or jab56@earthlink.net

Articles of interest to shell collectors are solicited for publication in this newsletter. Contents may be reprinted with credit being given to the Pacific Conchological Club.

Pacific
Conchological
Club

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