

President's Notes

What a hectic summer! Everyone seems to be splitting their time between taking trips and having company. I am willing to bet that most of us will welcome the cooler Florida months and a little less running around.

Writing a shelling newsletter during 'off season' is somewhat of a challenge. When I asked a few of the members who live here year round what I should include in this issue of The Scoop, the general consensus was to mention how warm the water is, how nice and lazy these hot humid days can be, the restful sound of the sea breezes in the palms. and of course the sunsets are as beautiful as ever.

On the beach the Loggerhead Turtles are nesting, and I have had reports of the stingrays being around as well. (If stepped on, a stingray will use its tail spines as a defense. Being stung is painful, but rarely life threatening to humans.) Time to do the old sand shuffle when walking in the surf. All in all, another wonderful summer in Englewood.

I did want to mention how much I appreciate hearing from those of you who have kept in touch. It is always good to get an update on your busy goings on. It sounds to me like most of you could use a nap!

We are working hard to set up trips, crafts, speakers and so on for our upcoming ESC season. I hope to have at a least a partial calendar for you in the September newsletter. In the meantime, enjoy the rest of the summer!

Debbie Freeman

In Terms of Shelling

Frondose: Leaf like

Pyriform: pear-shaped

Acuminate: pointed

Conic or conoid: cone shaped

Cordate or cordiform: heart shaped

Arcuate: arched or curved

Truncated: finished or cut off abruptly

Interesting Web Sites

The Cephalopod Page by Dr. James B. Wood: <http://www.dal.ca/~ceph/TCP/about.html>

FL. Museum of Natural History: <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/education/BioProfile.htm>

For shells and related go to Femorale: <http://www.femorale.com.br/>

Coral Reef Creatures by Douglas & Elaine Segar: <http://www.reefimages.com/>

The ESC: <http://englewoodshellclub.org/>

Did You Know?

Crabs are 10-legged animals that walk sideways. There are nearly 5,000 species of crabs.

The largest crab is the Japanese Spider Crab (*Macrocheira kaempferi*) from the floor of the north Pacific. It has a 12 foot leg span.

Nerites was a handsome, young sea-god who was transformed into a cockle shell as punishment for offending the gods.



The main diet of most nerites is diatoms that grow as a film that coats rock surfaces in the intertidal zone.



The byssus of large pen shells was once used to make items of clothing, such as gloves and socks. (Byssus: threadlike filaments used by bivalves to anchor themselves to other objects)

Board Members for 2004-2005

President: Debbie Freeman

Vice President: Marilyn Price

Secretary: Audrey Grant

Treasurer: Joe Bao

Appointed board: Judy Curtin, Ethel Safigan, Marilyn Boyd, and Barb Myers

Shedding Light on Shell Names

by Debbie Freeman

Shell collectors have numerous reasons for liking shells. Many shell clubs have a division of members. Those interested in shell crafts and those who are more scientifically based. In either case, common names for shells tend to be used. Even those who enjoy a more scientific view of shelling often find Latin names and classification confusing.

There are those who feel common names should not be used at all. I disagree. Common names fit the purpose for many shellers who do not wish to return to school in order to enjoy the hobby. Be it Epitoniidae or Wentletrap, at least we are communicating about our love of shells.

For those who wish to broaden their horizons in terms of shells, we have taxonomy - classification. This is the arrangement of organisms into groups based on their natural relationships. Sound simple? Overall perhaps, but taking a closer look we find it can be a daunting chore, and even a debatable one. I will try to give you a simple, overview of a system that began in 1758, with the 10th edition of *Systems Naturae*, by naturalist Carl Linnæus.

The system of naming all living organisms is known as **Binomial Nomenclature**. The "binomial" name consists of a genus, and a species. Following each step in this system will eventually lead you to a proper name for your shell.

Nomenclature begins with placement of an organism in a Kingdom.

Kingdom: There are 5 kingdoms - Plant, Animal, Protista (one-celled organisms), Prokaryotae (bacteria and algae), and Fungi. Molluscs are of the animal kingdom.

Subkingdom: Are made up of vertebrates that have a backbone, and invertebrates, like our shells, that have no backbone.

Phylum: The invertebrate subkingdom is made up of many groups called phyla. The phylum Mollusca are animals that have no backbone, and do have internal organs.

Class: There are 7 classes of mollusc. Some classes are then divided into subclasses.

 1. **Gastropod** - Is the largest class of Molluscs. They have a head, and a foot. Most have spiral shells. This class includes marine, freshwater, and terrestrial. There are four subclasses of Gastropods.

 2. **Bivalve** - Have two valves or shells, with a connecting hinge. Marine and freshwater. There are five subclasses of Bivalves.

3. **Aplacophora** - Are worm-like. They have no shells. Aplacophora has two subclasses.



4. **Scaphopods** - Are tusk shells, They have no eyes, gills or tentacles. Exclusively marine.



5. **Polyplacophora** - Are chitons. They have eight overlapping plates. These are held together with a leather-like girdle. They have no eyes or tentacles. Exclusively marine.



6. **Monoplacophora** - Have one shell, like limpets. Exclusively marine.



7. **Cephalopods** - Include the octopus, cuttlefish, squid, and nautilus. They have no external shell, with the exception of the chambered nautilus. Exclusively marine. Cephalopods have two subclasses.

Order: Order identifies a common characteristic in all molluscs. Every class of shell contains one or more orders. Order names end in **oidea**.

Family: Consists of animals sharing all characteristics of their class, yet differ from each other in other ways. Family names end in **eae** or **ae**.

Genus: Smaller, more closely related groups. The genus is the first word of the two-part scientific name. The first letter is always capitalized.

Species: Species are individuals that are able to produce fertile offspring when breeding with their own species. The species is the second word that makes up the two-part scientific name. It is not capitalized. The whole name is italicized.

Subspecies: Belongs to an obvious species, but has developed characters that are different from the parent group.

Varieties & Forms: Two animals of the same species producing different shapes, colors, or patterns.

Want to know more? Listed below are a few sources.

www.manandmollusc.net/taxonomy.html
Taxonomy of the Phylum Mollusca
by Winston Barney, June 2002

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Conchology.Inc/cyberconchology  
*Seven Classes of Mollusca*  
by Richard L. Goldberg

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<http://coa.acnatsci.org/conchnet/C-101A2.html>
Conchology 101
Molluscan Classes
by Dr. Gary Rosenberg

