

Exhibitors' guide to the
2011 PHILADELPHIA SHELL SHOW

Presented by
THE PHILADELPHIA SHELL CLUB
[Hwww.phillyshellclub.org](http://www.phillyshellclub.org)

October 1-2, 2011, 10 am to 5 pm

THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia PA 19103-1195

[Hwww.ansp.org](http://www.ansp.org)



Show rules and guide for exhibitors	2
Major awards	3
2011 Shell Show awards	4
Divisions and exhibit classes	5
Award rules and guidelines:	
Conrad Award	9
Pilsbry Award	10
Masters Award	11
Du Pont Trophy	12
COA Award	12
Exhibitor entry form	13

The guidelines used for judging exhibits in all categories are laid out in the separate publication "The Philadelphia Shell Show: Guide to Judging", obtainable free at [Hwww.phillyshellclub.org](http://www.phillyshellclub.org)

SETUP TIMES AND ENTRY DEADLINE

The deadline for all entries is September 1, 2011. Philadelphia Shell Club members may hand in their entries at the September club meeting. Setup for exhibitors begins at 9: 00 am on Friday, September 30 and must be completed by the start of judging at 4:00 pm. Exhibitors will be able to unload work and enter the exhibition hall via the Academy's off-street loading dock on Cherry Street.

For 2011, the Philadelphia Shell Club is proud to offer the COA Award, the DuPont Trophy, the Pilsbry Award, the Leonard Hill Award, the John Dyas Parker Award, the R. Tucker Abbott Award, the Robert B. Fish Award and the Conrad Award. A Judge's Special Rosette, Special Sailors' Valentines Awards and the Masters Award will also be offered. The rules and criteria for these awards are set forth in this brochure.

The Philadelphia Shell Club and the Academy of Natural Sciences welcome exhibitors and visitors from other clubs and regions to participate in the show. It is open to the public during regular museum hours, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday October 1 and Sunday, October 2. The major awards will be presented at a supper and awards ceremony on Saturday evening, for which a prior ticket must be purchased.

For general inquiries, contact the Show Chairman

Paul Callomon Hcallomon@ansp.org

For advice on exhibit classes and other exhibit-related matters,
contact the Exhibits Chairman

J. B. Sessoms

PO Box 306, Somers Point NJ 08244

Tel. 609-653-8017

RULES AND GUIDE FOR EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES

See also separate publication 'Guide to Judging'. There are no rule changes for 2011.

1. GENERAL RULES

1. All entry forms must be received by **September 1, 2011**. Philadelphia Shell Club members **only** may bring their forms to the meeting on September 15. Forms should be mailed to the address on page 14. Please indicate if acknowledgement of receipt is required.
2. Set-up at the Academy of Natural Sciences will be on Friday, September 30, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Exhibit space will be assigned by the exhibits chairman.
3. Exhibits not in place and set up by 4:00 pm on Friday evening, when judging begins, are not eligible for competition. Exhibitors will not be permitted to remain in the exhibit area during the judging.
4. Exhibitors and club members attending the show must sign in at the 19th Street guard's desk upon entering. The guard will have a list of expected attendees.
5. No exhibit or part of an exhibit may be offered for sale during the show. Exhibitors may leave cards by their work from Saturday morning onwards.
6. Exhibitors are requested not to enter the dealers' area during the set-up period. Bourse sales are restricted to the Friday evening Preview Party and Saturday and Sunday show hours.
7. Exhibits may not be removed from display before 5:00 pm Sunday, October 2, and must be removed by 8:00 pm on that date unless specific alternate arrangements have been made in advance.

2. SPECIFIC RULES FOR COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS

1. Only the exhibits chairman can change an exhibit's class assignment after the entry deadline. Questions concerning the appropriate class for an exhibit should be referred to the exhibits chairman prior to submitting the entry form.
2. All exhibits will be placed on tables 30 inches wide, unless they are free standing floor displays (easels, etc.). Vertical elements, such as backboards, may not extend more than 36" above the table top and must be self-supporting. Their backs must have a plain finish so as not to detract from adjoining exhibits.
3. Artistic exhibits that require support must have their own stands. Exhibits can be stood against the walls of the room but cannot be fixed to them in any way.
4. No exhibitor may submit more than one competitive entry per class. An exhibit may be entered in only one class.
5. Borrowed shells may be used in exhibits, provided the source of the specimens is acknowledged in the exhibit.
6. Exhibits in the Artistic classes must be solely the work of the exhibitor. Exceptions to this rule are Classes 53, 57, 87, 88, 95 & 96 (*Objets trouvée* Sailor's Valentines), 76 & 115 (Collectibles) and 77 (Commercial shell items).
7. All specimens in scientific exhibit classes should be labeled with scientific name of the species, author, date and locality, either individually or collectively.
8. The "self-collected" designation is restricted to specimens collected personally by the exhibitor. For the purpose of judging "Best Self-collected Shell of the Show", any self-collected specimen exhibited in a non-self-collected class should be indicated by some symbol whose meaning is noted in the exhibit.
9. A shell dealer may compete only in the self-collected or artistic classes. A professional malacologist may compete only in the artistic classes. Anyone may enter Division D (Non-competitive), in any class.
10. The name of the exhibitor must not be visible anywhere in a competitive exhibit until judging has been completed.
11. No exhibit that has won a first place ribbon in a previous Philadelphia Shell Show may compete again in the same class unless at least 50% of the exhibit, both specimens and graphics, is new.
12. Awards of any kind will be presented only if the judges deem entries to be of sufficient merit by the standards of previous shows. Ties are possible. All decisions of the judges are final.
13. A "professional" exhibitor is one who has sold **any** self-made products in the same or similar categories to those in which he or she is exhibiting, regardless of method or number of sales. Professionals in one artistic medium may exhibit as non-professionals in a substantially different medium in which they have never sold any products.
14. Only someone who has never entered **any** shell show may enter as a "novice". Novice scientific exhibits will compete in class 3, but may be based on the themes of classes 4 to 45, which will be considered sub-groups of class 3 (example: 3-9, Regional, self-collected). Exhibits in the same sub-group will compete against each other. Artistic novice exhibits will be entered in class 48, but may use the themes of classes 49 to 79 as sub-groups.
15. Student scientific exhibits will compete in either Class 1 or 2. They may use the themes of classes 4 to 45, which will be considered sub-groups of class 1 or 2 (example: 2-9, Regional, self-collected). Exhibits in the same sub-group will compete against each other. Similarly, artistic student exhibits can be entered in classes 46 or 47, using the themes of classes 49 to 79 as sub-groups.
16. The Masters Award is a separate category, number 118. See the Masters Award Guidelines below.
17. Where art work that is incorporated in an artistic exhibit (such as a painting in a valentine center) is a faithful copy or reproduction of an existing work, this must be made clear on a note with the exhibit.

MAJOR AWARDS

THE JOHN DYAS PARKER AWARD

This special award goes to the most creative or educational exhibit in the scientific division. It does not need to be entered in the educational class 27. It is dedicated to Jack Parker, co-founder and past president of our club. He was a wonderful storyteller and used his talent in his role of club historian and auctioneer. Jack was an amateur malacologist with several published articles and was the creator of many shell exhibits.

THE R. TUCKER ABBOTT AWARD

This special award goes to the best exhibit shown by a member of the Philadelphia Shell Club. It is dedicated to R. Tucker Abbott, co-founder, past-president, and life member of our club. He made many contributions to the scientific literature and was the founder of *Indo-Pacific Mollusca*, co-founder of *Johnsonia* and editor of the *Nautilus*. He is best known as the author of many popular books, including the famous *Compendium*. His commitment to drawing amateur biologists into the scientific sphere spawned a whole generation of amateur conchologists and professional malacologists.

THE ROBERT B. FISH AWARD

This special award goes to the best small exhibit, not to exceed 12 feet in length. It is dedicated to Bob Fish, past president of our club and enthusiastic field collector. He was well known for his travelogues about the exotic lands he visited in search of shells.

THE LEONARD HILL AWARD

Presented by the Philadelphia Shell Club

The Leonard Hill Award was presented for the first time in November 1998. This annual award honors the memory of marine biologist Leonard Hill, his love and knowledge of natural history, and his eye for beauty. It recognizes the most aesthetically pleasing scientific exhibit of the show. While there are a number of awards given for scientific and educational excellence, this is the first to take into primary account the creative and artistic aspects of exhibiting. The trophy is a unique, shell-themed art object, created each year by a recognized artist and kindly donated by Sue Hobbs.

THE CONRAD AWARD

This award is presented to the best paleontological exhibit of the show in any eligible class. It is sponsored by Mrs. Barbara Conrad Cauffman and presented by the Department of Invertebrate Paleontology at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.

JUDGES' SPECIAL ROSETTE

A special award available to each judge, to be awarded at his or her discretion.

2011 PHILADELPHIA SHELL SHOW SPECIAL AWARDS

SCIENTIFIC DIVISION

Best Shell of Show
Best Self-Collected Shell of Show
John Dyas Parker Award for Most Creative Scientific Exhibit
Robert B. Fish Award for Best Small Scientific Exhibit
R. Tucker Abbott Award for Best Scientific Exhibit by a Philadelphia Shell Club Member
The Leonard Hill Award for Most Aesthetic Scientific Award
The Conrad Award for Best Paleontological Exhibit.
Conchologists of America Award
DuPont Trophy
Pilsbry Award
Masters Award

ARTISTIC DIVISION

Best Single Sailor's Valentine, non-professional (Classes 50, 51, 52, 53)
Best Double Sailor's Valentine, non-professional (Classes 54, 55, 56, 57)
Best In Show: Traditional Sailor's Valentine (any size, single or double)
Best In Show: Traditionally styled Sailor's Valentine (any size, single or double)
Best In Show: Contemporary Single Sailor's Valentine (any size, single or double)
Best In Show: Double Sailor's Valentine (any size, any style)
Best In Show: *Objets Trouvée* Sailor's Valentine (any size, single or double)
Best Artistic Exhibit (excluding valentines), non-professional
Best Artistic Exhibit (excluding valentines), professional

DIVISIONS AND EXHIBIT CLASSES

DIVISIONS

- A. Scientific Division
- B. Artistic Division, non-professional
- C. Artistic Division, professional
- D. Non-Competitive: open to any non-competing exhibitor and to exhibits or individuals excluded by Specific Rules 9 & 11.

Paleontological classes

- † Denotes a class appropriate for fossil shells.
- ‡ Denotes a class appropriate for any paleontological exhibit.

CLASSES

SCIENTIFIC DIVISION

- † **1. Student Scientific Class, Grades 1-6**
May use any theme from classes 4 - 45
- † **2. Student Scientific Class, Grades 7-12**
May use any theme from classes 4 - 45
- † **3. Novice Scientific Class** A novice is some one who has never entered **any** Shell Show. Themes of any of the classes 4 – 45 may be used.
- † **4. General, Worldwide** General collection of worldwide shells.
- 5. Beach Shells**, self-collected. Single locality or regional. Lots of nice beach shells out there!
- † **6. Single locality, any source** All specimens from one locality (a single bay, estuary, creek, beach, town, etc.). See also class 6 below.
- † **7. Single locality, self collected** As above, all self-collected material.
- † **8. Regional, any source** All specimens from the same region: state, island group, faunal zone, major lake, river, gulf, etc. See also class 8 below.
- † **9. Regional, self-collected** As above, all self-collected material.
- † **10. Tri-State area, single locality, self-collected** All specimens from one locality (a single bay, estuary, creek, beach, town, etc.) in the Delaware Valley, in the Delaware Bay, or on the New Jersey or Delaware Coast; land, freshwater or marine.
- † **11. Tri-State area, regional, any source**
Specimens from all over the Delaware Valley, Delaware Bay, New Jersey Coast or Delaware Coast. A regional sampler. Land, freshwater and marine.
- † **12. Miniatures** Adult shells only, maximum size 1 inch. May be a general, regional, or specialized collection.
- † **13. One large family, worldwide** All exhibited specimens should belong to one of the following families: Cypraeidae, Volutidae, Pectinidae, Conidae, Strombidae or Muricidae. Exhibitors should attempt to represent all subfamilies and most genera.
- † **14. One large family, regional** As above, but from a single region.
- † **15. One large clade, worldwide** All exhibited specimens from a single clade (Family, subfamily, superfamily or other group of related mollusks) with 100 or more members. This category may include a subfamily of a family listed in Class 12.
- † **16. One large clade, regional** As above, but from a single region.
- † **17. One small clade, worldwide** All exhibited specimens from a single clade (Family, subfamily, superfamily, or other group of related mollusks) with 99 or fewer members. This category may include a subfamily of a family listed in class 12.
- † **18. One small clade, regional** As above, but from a single region.
- † **19. One Genus or Subgenus** All exhibited specimens must be from the same genus or subgenus.

- † **20. One Species** All exhibited specimens of the same species, showing variety in color, form, growth, etc.
- † **21. Land or Freshwater** May be a general, specialized, or localized collection. Land or fresh-water shells may also be entered in classes 1-19.
- † **22. Land or Freshwater, self-collected** As above, self-collected.
- † **23. Fossil shells** May be general, specialized, or localized. Fossil shells may also be entered in classes 1-22.
- † **24. Fossil shells, self-collected** As above, self-collected.
- † **25. Freak Shells** Includes abnormal structure, albinism/melanism, dwarf or giant. Freak shells may also be used in other classes where appropriate.
- † **26. Oh, My!** Show off your most exceptional shells. They may be rare, valuable, beautiful, or just bizarre. One case only.
- ‡ **27. Educational** An opportunity to pass on some of your esoteric knowledge to the rest of the world. Make them understand why we love shells so much.
- 28. Shells on Stamps or Coins** Specimens of the subject shells should be included with the stamps.
- ‡ **29. Non-molluscan Sea Life** Examples include corals, crustaceans, sponges, algae, echinoderms, and other sea life.
- ‡ **30. Themed Collection** Non-related shells displayed to convey a common theme, such as color, shape, texture, pattern, spines, etc. Theme should be explained by title, text, and/or graphics.

‡ **31. Miscellaneous** A multiple shell exhibit whose theme does not fit into categories 1-30

32. Live Mollusks Terrarium or Aquarium

† **33. Old Champions** Open to exhibits that have won blue ribbons at previous Philadelphia Shell shows. Recycle a great exhibit, try to get that major award you really deserve.

Single specimen categories

Exhibits must comprise one shell only. Freaks should be entered only in classes 40 & 41 and ,miniatures only in 44 & 45.

† **34.** Single Specimen, marine, any source

† **35.** Single Specimen, marine, self-collected

† **36.** Single Specimen, land, any source

† **37.** Single Specimen, land, self-collected

† **38.** Single Specimen, fresh water, any source

† **39.** Single Specimen, fresh water, self-collected

† **40.** Single Specimen, freak (see class 21 for included material)

† **41.** Single Specimen, freak, self-collected (see class 21 for included material)

‡ **42.** Single Specimen, fossil, any source

‡ **43.** Single Specimen, fossil, self-collected

‡ **44.** Single specimen, miniature- adult, maximum size 1", any source.

‡ **45.** Single specimen, miniature- adult, maximum size 1", self-collected

ARTISTIC DIVISION: NON-PROFESSIONAL CLASSES

46. Student Artistic Class, Grades 1-6 May use any of classes 49-79 as a theme.

47. Student Artistic Class, Grades 7-12 May use any of classes 49-79 as a theme.

48. Novice Artistic Class A Novice is someone who has never entered **any** Shell Show. Themes may be from any of classes 49-79.

49. Beautiful Arrangement Artistic arrangement of beautiful specimens in a flat case. No labeling required.

50. Traditional Single Sailor's Valentine Design utilizing a compass rose **and/or** heart motif, using shells available to original valentine artisans, who lived in Barbados.

- 51. Traditionally styled Single Sailor's Valentine** Design utilizing a compass rose **and/or** heart motif, using shells and other marine life from any source.
- 52. Contemporary Single Sailor's Valentine** Design incorporating modern themes and/or techniques that were not seen prior to 1900. May be made from shells and other sea life from any source.
- 53. Objets trouvée Single Sailor's Valentine A** traditional or contemporary design incorporating crafted elements such as cameos, scrimshaw, miniature paintings etc. that are not the work of the artist. The majority of the content nevertheless must be the work of the artist.
- 54. Traditional Double Sailor's Valentine** Design using a compass rose **and/or** heart motif, using shells available to original valentine artisans, who lived in Barbados.
- 55. Traditionally styled Double Sailor's Valentine** Design utilizing a compass rose **and/or** heart motif, using shells and other marine life from any source.
- 56. Contemporary Double Sailor's Valentine** Design incorporating modern themes and/or techniques that were not seen prior to 1900. May be made from shells and other sea life from any source.
- 57. Objets trouvée Double Sailor's Valentine** Rules as class 53.
- 58. Shell picture or mosaic** Realistic, abstract, or geometrical picture made of shells, not in the traditional Valentine format.
- 59. Shell craft Flower Arrangement** Three-dimensional.
- 60. Shell craft Single Flower** Three Dimensional.
- 61. Miniature Flower Arrangement** Shell craft flower arrangement, three dimensional, 6 inches maximum dimension.
- 62. Shell Mirror** Mirror decorated with shells.
- 63. Christmas Ornaments** Holiday ornaments made of shells; up to 10 individual ornaments.

Valentines

Sailor's Valentines in classes 50 to 52 and 54 to 56 must be entirely the work of the artist. Valentines that employ found, commissioned or otherwise outsourced elements may be entered in classes 53 and 57. The majority of the content nevertheless must be the work of the artist.

For purposes of the show, valentines are measured across parallel sides, not from corner to corner.

- 64. Christmas Decor** Holiday decor item made of shells or decorated with shells, wreaths trees, centerpieces, etc.
- 65. Seashell Jewelry** Single piece or matched set. Jewelry may be presented in a closed container for security.
- 66. Seashell Jewelry.** Collection of multiple unmatched pieces.
- 67. Shell Novelties** May include animals, figures, etc.
- 68. Shell-themed Needlework, Large** One large needlework item any size. No kits allowed.
- 69. Shell- themed Needlework, Small** Smaller needlework; up to ten projects, artfully displayed. No kits allowed.
- 70. Shell Photography** Exhibits of up to 2' by 4' in size overall; single or multiple photos. Photographs may be commercially processed and printed, but must have been taken by the competitor.
- 71. Shell Lamp** Lamp filled with or decorated with shells.
- 72. Models of living mollusks.** Real shells may be used, but the animal must be sculpted by the exhibitor.
- 73. Shell Sculpture.** Shell-themed sculpture. No real shells may be used.
- 74. Representation of shells: shell-themed artwork.** In any medium other than photography, modeling or sculpture.
- 75. Decorative Shell Item** Any decorative item made of shells not described in classes 37-48.
- 76. Collectibles** Collectible pieces, ephemera, fine art or other artifacts incorporating shells or shell motifs.
- 77. Commercial shell items** Fun commercial seashell related items. May or may not be further decorated by the exhibitor. Don't get too serious here!
- 78. Doll House/Shell Shop** A Doll House, Miniature Shell Shop, or similar structure decorated with real shells and miniatures made of shells.
- 79. Miscellaneous.** An artistic exhibit that does not fit any of classes 49 to 78.

ARTISTIC DIVISION: PROFESSIONAL CLASSES

A professional exhibitor is one who has sold **any** self-made products in the same or similar categories to those in which he or she is exhibiting, regardless of method or number of sales. Professionals in one medium may exhibit as non-professionals in any substantially different medium in which they have never sold any products.

80. Beautiful Arrangement Artistic arrangement of beautiful specimens in a flat case. No labeling required.

81. Traditional Single Sailor's Valentine, 12" or under. Design utilizing a compass rose **and/or** heart motif, using shells available to original valentine artisans, who lived in Barbados.

82. Traditional Single Sailor's Valentine, over 12". As class 81.

83. Traditionally styled Single Sailor's Valentine, 12" or under. Design utilizing a compass rose **and/or** heart motif, using shells and other marine life from any source.

84. Traditionally styled Single Sailor's Valentine, over 12". As class 83.

85. Contemporary Single Sailor's Valentine, 12" or under. Design incorporating modern themes and/or techniques that were not seen prior to 1900. May be made from shells and other sea life from any source.

86. Contemporary Single Sailor's Valentine, over 12". As class 85.

87. Objets Trouvée Single Sailor's Valentine, 12" or under. A traditional or contemporary design incorporating crafted elements such as cameos, scrimshaw, miniature paintings etc. that are not the work of the artist. The majority of the content nevertheless must be the work of the artist.

88. Objets Trouvée Single Sailor's Valentine, over 12". As class 87.

89. Traditional Double Sailor's Valentine, 12" or under per side. Design using a compass rose **and/or** heart motif, using shells available to original valentine artisans, who lived in Barbados.

90. Traditional Double Sailor's Valentine, over 12" per side. As class 89.

91. Traditionally styled Double Sailor's Valentine, 12" or under per side. Design utilizing a compass rose **and/or** heart motif, using shells **and** other marine life from any source.

92. Traditionally styled Double Sailor's Valentine, over 12" per side. As class 91.

93. Contemporary Double Sailor's Valentine, 12" or under per side. Design incorporating modern themes and/or techniques that were not seen prior to 1900. May be made from shells and other sea life from any source.

94. Contemporary Double Sailor's Valentine, over 12" per side. As class 93.

95. Objets Trouvée Double Sailor's Valentine, 12" or under per side. A traditional or contemporary design incorporating crafted elements such as cameos, scrimshaw, miniature paintings etc. that are not the work of the artist. The majority of the content nevertheless must be the work of the artist.

96. Objets Trouvée Double Sailor's Valentine, over 12" per side. As class 95.

97. Shell picture or mosaic Realistic, abstract, or geometrical picture made of shells not in the traditional Valentine format.

98. Shell craft Flower Arrangement Three-dimensional.

99. Shell craft Single Flower Three Dimensional.

100. Miniature Flower Arrangement Shell craft flower arrangement, three dimensional, 6 inches maximum dimension.

101. Shell Mirror Mirror decorated with shells.

Valentines

Sailor's Valentines in classes 81 to 86 and 89 to 94 must be entirely the work of the artist. Valentines that employ found, commissioned or otherwise outsourced components may be entered in classes 87, 88, 95 & 96. The majority of the content nevertheless must be the work of the artist.

For purposes of the show, valentines are measured across parallel sides, not from corner to corner.

- 102. Seasonal Ornaments** Holiday ornaments made of shells; up to 10 individual ornaments.
- 103. Seasonal Decor** Holiday decor item made of shells or decorated with shells, wreaths, trees, centerpieces, etc.
- 104. Shell Jewelry** Single piece or matched set (in closed container for security).
- 105. Shell Jewelry** Collection of unmatched pieces (in closed container for security).
- 106. Shell Novelties** May include animals, figures, etc.
- 107. Shell-themed Needlework-Large** One large needlework item any size. No kits allowed.
- 108. Shell-themed Needlework-Small** Smaller needlework up to ten projects, artfully displayed. No kits allowed.
- 109. Shell Lamp** Lamp filled with or decorated with shells.
- 110. Shell Photography** Exhibits of up to 2' by 4' in size overall; single or multiple photos.

Photographs may be commercially processed and printed, but must have been taken by the competitor.

- 111. Models of living mollusks.** Real shells may be used, but the animal must be sculpted by the exhibitor.
- 112. Shell Sculpture.** Shell-themed sculpture. No real shells may be used.
- 113. Representation of shells.** Shell-themed artwork in any medium other than photography, modeling or sculpture.
- 114. Decorative Shell Item** Any decorative item made of shells not described in classes 37-48.
- 115. Collectibles** Collectible pieces, fine art, or unusual artifacts incorporating shells or shell motifs.
- 116. Doll House/Shell Shop** A Doll House, Miniature Shell Shop, or similar structure decorated with real shells and miniatures made of shells.
- 117. Miscellaneous.** An artistic exhibit that does not fit any of classes 80 to 116.

SPECIAL CATEGORIES

- 118. Masters Award** for previous winners of major awards—see guidelines for Masters Award below.

THE CONRAD AWARD

for BEST PALEONTOLOGICAL EXHIBIT at the PHILADELPHIA SHELL SHOW

Sponsored by Mrs. Barbara Conrad Cauffman

The Conrad Award is given to an exhibit that in the judges' opinion most effectively develops and presents its theme, both within the context of its class rules and of the show as a whole. A winning exhibit should comprehensively educate viewers about its topic, which can be a group of organisms or an assemblage from a particular place or stratum.

Paleontological exhibits that win first place in any class other than single specimens may be considered for the Award, which consists of a trophy or plaque and a certificate.

The Award honors Timothy Abbott Conrad (1803-1877), pioneer American paleontologist, conchologist and poet. Conrad was Curator of Paleontology at the Academy of Natural Sciences in the 1830s and published some of the first papers on American fossil invertebrates. Although his most important work was on the fossils of the American Tertiary, he also published *American Marine Conchology* (1831), one of the first full accounts of the Recent mollusks of the Atlantic coast.

Conrad's lifelong involvement with both fossil and Recent mollusks was the inspiration for this award, which will be presented to the best eligible exhibit at the Philadelphia Shell Show.

Rules

1. Themed exhibits of fossil mollusks or other invertebrates that contain multiple specimens and that gain first place in any category are eligible for consideration.
2. To be eligible, an exhibit must consist of at least fifty per cent aquatic or marine invertebrate specimens and more than fifty per cent of the total content must be fossil material.
3. Exhibits of extinct non-molluscan marine invertebrates such as trilobites and brachiopods are eligible for consideration, but not terrestrial invertebrates such as insects.
4. The Award may be withheld in any year if the judges consider that none of the eligible exhibits has exceeded the general level of others in the show.

THE PILSBRY AWARD: RULES AND GUIDELINES

The Pilsbry Award recognizes exhibits at the Philadelphia Shell Show that present original discoveries and ideas about mollusks. It is sponsored by the Malacology Department at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. The award is named for Henry A. Pilsbry, curator of mollusks at the Academy from 1888 to 1957, who named more than 6,000 species and genera of marine, land, freshwater and fossil mollusks. Winners of the Pilsbry Award receive a crystal vase engraved with images of *Latiaxis pilsbryi*, provided through the generosity of Sue Hobbs of Cape May, New Jersey.

To qualify for the Pilsbry Award, an exhibitor must present significant new ideas, not merely summarize what is already known. Many shell exhibits are quite scholarly in synthesizing and presenting a lot of information, but the exhibitor was not the person who first discovered the information. The Pilsbry Award is intended to recognize collectors who make their own observations of and hypotheses, who provide new evidence supporting or contradicting accepted wisdom, thereby advancing knowledge about mollusks.

Rules and Guidelines

- 1) The show must be open to the public.
- 2) No restrictions may be placed on the club or regional affiliation of exhibitors.
- 3) The show should follow the recommendations for sound judging process issued by the Conchologists of America.
- 4) One or more of the judges for the show must have published at least three papers on mollusks in refereed scientific journals.
- 5) Judging is to an absolute standard. No award shall be given if the judges deem that no exhibit fulfills the standards of the award; multiple awards may be given if more than one exhibit meets the standards.
- 6) The Pilsbry Award emphasizes scientific merit, rather than beauty, scope, or educational value *per se*, so an exhibit need not win a blue ribbon in its class to be eligible.
- 7) An exhibit can win the Pilsbry Award only once.
- 8) An exhibit can win both the Pilsbry Award and another major award at the same show, subject to the other award's rules.
- 9) Borrowed shells may be used if the source of the specimens is acknowledged in the exhibit. (Note: this may prohibit entry in other classes in some shows.)
- 10) Professional malacologists are not eligible for the Pilsbry Award. Shell dealers are eligible.

Judging Standards

In addition to being well-organized, neat and visually appealing, exhibits should

- 1) contain significant new, unpublished knowledge about mollusks,
- 2) go beyond mere observation,
- 3) present well-reasoned arguments distinguishing facts from assumptions and assertions,
- 4) credit information derived from existing literature,
- 5) present enough descriptive, comparative, or graphic material to let viewers decide whether they agree with the conclusions,
- 6) follow the standard format described below.

Format

Exhibits competing for the Pilsbry Award should follow the same format normally used in science fair exhibits and in scientific publications:

- 1) *Abstract* (optional): Summary of the entire study, including the conclusions.
- 2) *Introduction*: Objectives of the study, with enough background information to put them in context.
- 3) *Materials and Methods*: How the study was performed, stated in sufficient detail that someone could replicate the study.
- 4) *Results*: Presentation of the factual results of the study, e.g., observations, measurements, graphs.
- 5) *Discussion*: Interpretation of the results and their significance, particularly in relation to previous studies by other workers.
- 6) *Conclusions*: Summary of important findings of the study. Note that negative conclusions can be just as important as positive ones.
- 7) *Acknowledgments* (optional): Names of those who helped, including photographic credits.
- 8) *Bibliography*: Published works cited in the exhibit's text.

Guidance

Since more than one Pilsbry Award can be given at a show, exhibitors are not competing against each other, but against an absolute standard. Therefore, it is reasonable for people to get comments on their ideas before putting a lot of effort into developing exhibits. Those aiming for the Pilsbry Award may contact me (or another professional malacologist) for advice. I can't guarantee that an exhibitor will win first time around, but I can help point people in the right direction.

Gary Rosenberg, Ph.D.

Department of Malacology
Academy of Natural Sciences
1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1195
215-299-1033
rosenberg@ansp.org

THE MASTERS AWARD: RULES AND GUIDELINES

Objective: The Masters Award is established to promote interest in shells and shell collecting by encouraging displays of high quality exhibits that have previously won any of the 'broad category' major awards at shell shows, specifically:

The American Museum of Natural History Award
The Conchologists of America Award
The DuPont Trophy
The Smithsonian Award
The R. T. Abbott Award

The winning exhibit is judged to be generally superior in the major aspects of a conchological display.

Award administration: This award is administered by the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum of Sanibel, Florida. The Shell Museum shall set up a committee responsible for the operation of this award, to be headed by a chairperson. The committee's responsibility should include managing the finance of the award, the design of the award, the proper promotion of the award, selection of shell shows to give out this award, the dispatch of the award trophy to recipient shell shows and making sure the award process and guidelines are being adhered to. The committee chairperson shall be answerable to the Museum Director.

Award frequency: The Award Committee Chairperson should determine the number of trophies to be given every year. Under current circumstances, it is expected that no more than three trophies will be given per year. No shell show may give out this award more than once a year.

Shell show eligibility: The following criteria should be used in the selection of shell shows to give out this award:

- A. Shell shows that promote open participation by all exhibitors without restrictions.
- B. Shell shows that have an established history of attracting a large audience. An average of 1,500 spectators per event should be considered a minimum requirement.
- C. Shell shows that subscribe to a sound judging process as per the guidelines adopted for the Conchologists of America Award.
- D. Shell shows that provide ample and suitable space for accepting numerous large exhibits. Minimum space should be 500 linear feet made available for scientific displays.
- E. The selected shell shows should set up a separate category for the Masters Award. Exhibits in this category should not be eligible for any other awards (except 'People's Choice'- type awards).

Exhibit eligibility: All exhibits that have received a major 'Broad Category' award are eligible. An eligible exhibit should retain its original format, and its contents cannot be changed by more than 10%. Exhibits that have won other top level awards similar to the Masters Award such as the 'Best of the Best' trophy given out by the Broward Shell Show, are not eligible. An exhibit can receive the Masters trophy only once. The Masters Award may be withdrawn from any event or any exhibit that has not complied with the above guidelines.

Donald Dan, Masters Award Committee Chairman

Revised January 24, 2009

THE DU PONT TROPHY

awarded by the

DELAWARE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

for the most outstanding exhibit of the Shell Show

This annual award is made to the amateur collector or group responsible for the exhibit that, in the opinion of the judges, will be most inspiring and instructive for its educational value, accurate scientific data and attractiveness, and that will contribute most to the success of the Shell Show.

This trophy may only be awarded to a blue ribbon or first prize winner. It may not be awarded to any exhibit that has previously won it in this or any other shell show, any commercial dealer or any professional malacologist.

The purpose of this award is to advance the cause of amateur Malacology by encouraging the entry of exhibits that will stimulate public interest and increase appreciation of the hobby and the scientific study of mollusks. The official judges of the shell show shall determine the winner.

The Delaware Museum of Natural History

PO Box 3937
4840 Kennett Pike
Wilmington, DE 19807
(302) 658-9111

www.delmnh.org

Guidelines for the

CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA AWARD

(COA Executive Board amended July 9, 1990)

The Conchologists of America Award, consisting of a trophy and a pin, has been established to encourage open participation by shell collectors at shell shows and to stimulate improvements in shell exhibits. This award, based on sound and impartial judging processes, is given at a shell show to a single scientific (as opposed to artistic) exhibit that best advances the interest in shells and shell collecting.

The COA Award may only be given to a blue ribbon or first prize winner, and may not be given to:

- an exhibit receiving another major award (i. e. Du Pont, Smithsonian, American Museum of Natural History etc.) at the same show (meaning on the same occasion)
- an exhibit that has previously won a COA award, at any show, unless fifty per cent or more of the contents and format have been changed or added
- a shell dealer, unless the exhibit is made entirely of self-collected shells
- a professional malacologist.

There is no limit to the number of times a person may win the COA Award.

The COA Award may be given only at shell shows open to the public and where no restrictions are placed on club or regional affiliation of the exhibitors.

This Award may be given to a shell club for its shell show no more than once a year. It is sent free of charge upon approval of a trophy request.

Sponsoring clubs are advised to incorporate the above guidelines in their respective shell show rules and have them communicated to all prospective exhibitors.

All clubs are encouraged to obtain membership in COA.

The COA Award Committee Chairman shall be responsible for receiving and processing trophy requests in a timely manner and for overseeing that the aforementioned guidelines are adhered to.

2011 PHILADELPHIA SHELL SHOW

EXHIBITOR ENTRY FORM

Every exhibitor must submit a copy of the entry form. Mailed entries must be **received** (not postmarked) by **September 1, 2011**. Club members only may hand their entries in at the September 15 meeting. Please print neatly or type. Use a separate line for each exhibit. There is no entry fee. Be sure to read the 2011 Philadelphia Shell Show rules before submitting the form. All information is confidential until the date of the show. If you want to attend the awards supper, please purchase a ticket in advance. Details will be available on the club web site in early summer.

Exhibits that are ineligible for competition because of previous awards may be entered in a new class, if appropriate, or in Division D – non-competitive. Please note whether the exhibit has previously won the COA or DuPont Award. If, after reading the specifications for the Pilsbry Award, you think that your exhibit or any part of it is eligible, check the “Pilsbry Candidate?” column. Enter the Masters Award only if you have previously won a major award as described under the heading Masters Award and wish to enter that exhibit in the Masters category (#101).

WHEN THE FORM IS COMPLETE, MAKE A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS.

BRING A COPY TO THE SHOW WHEN YOU SET UP.

**SETUP IS ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2011
FROM 9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM.**

Phone at the Guard's Desk at the 19th St Entrance: 215-299-1019

Exhibitor's Name _____

Phone _____ **E-mail** _____

Address _____

Age and Grade if Student _____

Additional Attendees (For security Purposes) _____
