

October 4, 2014 donations to Robinson Nature Center by Saki. E-mail: sakiRex@gmail.com

Large coral from Flag Pond State Park, Maryland, ~1997.

Knobbed whelk egg case from Cape Henlopen State Park, Delaware, ~2008.

Various large and impression fossils found September 1, 2012 on the Potomac River at Westmoreland State Park in Virginia. These include

- Scapula, possibly from a dolphin
- Other old bones
- Petrified wood
- Coprolite, possibly from alligator

Duck skull found June 5, 2013 at Rose Haven Memorial Park in southern Anne Arundel County on the Chesapeake Bay.

Assorted items found June 21, 2014 at Purse State Park, Maryland. See printout.

Assorted items found August 10, 2014 between Breezy Point and Calvert Beach in Calvert County, Maryland. See printout.

Assorted items found August 16, 2014 between Flag Ponds State Park and Cove Point (south of Calvert Cliffs State Park) in Calvert County, Maryland. See printout.

Big shells obtained September 19, 2014 at Toms Cove Hook on Assateague Island, south of Chincoteague Island.

- [Knobbed whelk](#): This is the New Jersey and Georgia state shell.
- [Lightning whelk](#): This is the Texas state shell. It was unusual finding these because normally, they are not found north of North Carolina.
- Channeled whelk

It took me awhile to be able to distinguish the knobbed from the lightning whelk. Dr. Paul F. of the [Smithsonian Environmental Research Center \(SERC\)](#) helped me with that. The knobbed whelk are almost always right handed which means if the spiral is faced upward, it fits in your right hand. In contrast the lightning whelk are almost always left handed. How do you distinguish the rare exceptions of a left handed knobbed whelk or a right handed lightning whelk? Just look at the spire. The lightning whelk has a much lower spire. I checked and that was certainly the case for all mine.

Both the Knobbed Whelk and Lightning Whelk are extremely variable species. The shells of each individual species differ considerably in shape, spire height, siphonal canal length, coloration, weight, size and number of knobs/spines, etc. Fortunately, species identification 99.9% of the time is assured owing to the fact that the Knobbed Whelk is dextral (right handed - opening to the right when held with the spire up) while the Lightning Whelk is sinistral (left handed - opening to the left when held with the spire up). However, both species on rare occasions are known to produce reverse coiled specimens (a shell eagerly sought by collectors and both known from northeast Florida) which can complicate easy identification in some instances.

- from [Jacksonville Shell Club](#)

*This species [the lightning whelk] shares many characteristics with another species, the knobbed whelk (*Busycon carica*), but there are some important differences:*

- *Lightning whelks are sinistral in coiling, whereas knobbed whelks are dextral.*
- *Lightning whelks have a lower spire than the knobbed whelk.*
- *The knobs of the lightning whelk are usually less well-developed than those of the knobbed whelk.*
- *Lightning whelks prefer to stay in deeper waters than the knobbed whelks when feeding on mud flats [so they would be less common for the recreational shell hunter].*

- from [Wikipedia - Lightning Whelk](#)

Two fossils(?) found September 27, 2014 on island on the upstream (far west) section of the Severn River in Anne Arundel County.

Possible fulgurite found September 27, 2014 on island on the upstream (far west) section of the Severn River in Anne Arundel County. Available on request in late October 2014.