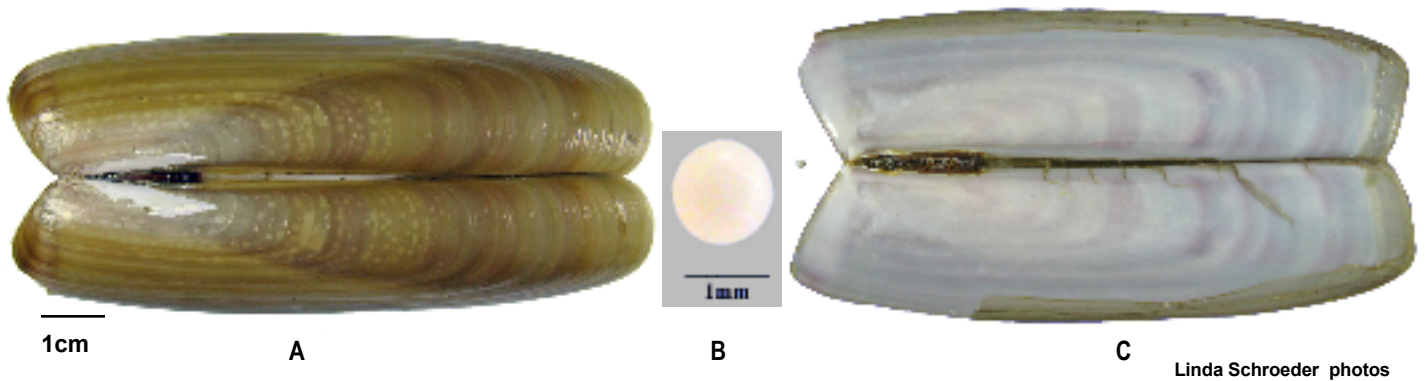


Pearl found in *Solen sicarius* by George P. Holm

All clams can produce pearls, it is just that some do so more frequently than others. Were we to do a list of local clams that produce pearls, the Sickle Jackknife-clam, *Solen (Ensisolen) sicarius* A. A. Gould, 1850, would probably be near the bottom of the list. But in May 1991, while Drew Skinner was cleaning a specimen that he had collected that day, the species definitely moved up the list of pearl-producing clams.

It was after he had boiled the shell to remove the animal that he noticed a small white speck that was embedded in the animal's tissue. The speck turned out to be a very small, but perfectly round pearl, that measures just a "hair" over one millimeter. It is amazing that he spotted it at all.

The specimen, along with the pearl, went to Steve Welty, and upon his death it became part of the Terry Frest Collection. It now resides in the author's collection.



Solen sicarius collected half buried in sand, junction of Bay Street and Beach Drive, near where Blackjack Creek empties into Sinclair Inlet, Port Orchard, Kitsap County, Washington. May 16, 1991. -3.5 foot tide. **A.** anterior view **B.** Pearl **C.** Interior view along with pearl