



# The Epitonium

## Important Meeting

Members present at the **November 18, 2008** meeting will be voting on changes to the HCS By-Laws. Please make plans to attend. You can read the proposed changes in this newsletter. You can read the By-Laws in their entirety at: <http://www.houstonshellclub.com/Acrobat%20files/HCSByLaws.pdf>.

## November Program

by Leslie Crnkovic

Our **November 18<sup>th</sup>** meeting is "Shell & Tell". This is a chance for you to show and tell us of one of your favorite shells or shell related items, or perhaps tantalize us with an anecdote from a shelling trip or such! ... just a quick five minutes or so. So far we have a few words coming to us from: Frank & Tina Petway, Allison McHenry, Lucy Clampit, Angela Doucette, Darwin Alder, Nancy Mustachio, John & Rachel Zelko, Rusti Stover, and perhaps myself.

Please give me a call at (713)784-7084 H / (713)598-7084 C if you want to participate and we'll get you on the list.

Look forward to seeing you there!

### President's Message

By Darwin Alder

The next meeting of the Houston Conchology is **Tuesday November 18, 2008** at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Refreshments are at 7:00 p m and the meeting starts at 7:30 p m.

Lucy Clampit, Mary Harris and Darwin Alder will present recommended changes to the By-Laws.

Members will share shells, crafts, shell-related items or stories and anecdotes of their shelling experiences!

Join us in December for our Christmas Party and Shell Exchange at Barbara Child's house in the Spring Branch Area. Remember to bring a shell or shell related gift from \$15 to \$20 value if you

wish to participate in the gift exchange. Also bring something edible to share like a salad, cookies, cakes, chips, etc. The club will provide the meat and the utensils.

The Club's Christmas Tree will scintillate in the Grand Hall of the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Cathy and Darwin thank all who have participated!

The Board of Officers has asked Lucy Clampit to continue as Corresponding Secretary until the end of the HCS year. She has agreed to do so.

Tell your friends about the Club and let us try to increase membership and participation.

Have a safe Holiday Season and hope to see you all at the November meeting.

**President:**

Darwin Alder  
(713) 863-9652

**Vice President:**

Tina Petway  
(713) 864-6683

**Treasurer:**

Mary Harris  
(713) 772-3843

**Recording Secretary:**

Rusti Stover  
(713) 660-6446

**Corresponding Secretary:**

Lucy Clampit  
(713) 468-0610

**Program Vice President**

Leslie Crnkovic  
(713) 784-7084

Visit HCS online at

[www.houstonshellclub.com](http://www.houstonshellclub.com)

## CALENDAR

11/18	HCS meeting
12/7	Christmas Party
1/20	HCS meeting

### Future Programs & Meetings

**December** - Christmas Party

**January** - we have a program coming to us from one of our newest members Max Anton on the "Land Shells of Israel"

**February** - Lucy Clampit will do the *Strombus* of the Atlantic, Gulf and Caribbean

**March** - Auction

April - Tina Petway will give a program ... TBA.

**May** - Banquet

If you have an idea for a program or wish to volunteer to give one, you're always welcome. Contact Leslie Crnkovic at: (713)784-7084 H / (713)598-7084 C or [Leslie@harf.org](mailto:Leslie@harf.org).

## October Minutes

Submitted by Rusti Stover

The September 16, 2008 meeting of the Houston Conchology Society was canceled due to the hurricane that hit the Houston area 3 days earlier. The October 21, 2008 meeting was called to order by President Darwin Alder at 7:30 pm.

Leslie Crnkovic made a motion that the August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes be approved as read. Mary Harris seconded. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's report:** Mary Harris reported we have a balance of \$10,129.10 as of October 18, 2008. At the end of her report, Mary showed off a stained glass window hanging with a cut nautilus in it that she had made recently, and told the club she was making another just like it to donate to the March 2009 annual auction.

**Old Business:** Darwin, Mary and Lucy are working on changes for the bylaws that will be published in the next newsletter. Darwin reported that the Christmas tree committee is working hard on the ornaments for this year's tree, and will have another workshop on November 1<sup>st</sup> and possibly another one after that if needed. The tree will be set up in the museum lobby the first Monday in December.

Program chair Leslie Crnkovic reported on upcoming programs. The November program will be a "Show and Tell" by the members. December will be the Christmas Party, at Barbara Child's town home in the Spring Branch area, on Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup>; from 1 to 5 pm. Max Anton will be giving the January program on the land snails of Israel.

Leslie also mentioned he had a brochure from the Shell Desk Diary publishers about the 2009 edition, which will be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Desk Diary. There will also be a shell calendar for 2009. Anyone interested in these items can contact him for more information.

**New Business:** Rusti showed some slides of photos she had taken recently on Surfside Beach and the Blue Water Highway after the hurricane, which showed the highway to be wiped out and the devastation of the surfside area from the storm.

**Announcements:** Rusti told the group that Wanda Coker and Patty Humbird announced at the Sea Shell Searchers October meeting that the club will be hosting a shell show in October of 2009.

There being no further business, Leslie made a motion for adjournment, Mary Harris seconded, and President Darwin adjourned the meeting 7:52 PM.

**Program:** Program Chairperson Leslie Crnkovic announced tonight's program: Rusti Stover would be giving a Power Point slide show titled "Hidden in Plain Sight: Micro Shells; What You Can't See With the Naked Eye".

# Proposed Changes to HCS By-Laws

**Revision of the By-Laws will be discussed and voted upon at the November 18 meeting.** The By-Laws Committee (Darwin Alder, Mary Harris and Lucy Clampit) proposes the changes below:

*Currently the Houston Conchology Society By-Laws require that the annual election of Officers be conducted via U.S. mail. Most of the ballots that are returned are brought to the April meeting. Very few are mailed back. The rising costs for printing and postage are making this expensive.*

## **Current Voting By-Laws:**

### **Section 10. Voting by Mail.**

Officers are to be elected by members and such election shall be conducted by mail in such manner as the Board of Officers shall determine; as shall such other business at the Board of Officers may elect to conduct by mail.

### **Section 11. Election of Officers**

At the January meeting of the Society, the President shall appoint a Chairman of a 3 member Nominating Committee and the members present at that meeting shall elect two members to serve on that Committee. The Committee shall present its slate of nominees at the March meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor at that meeting providing the person nominated has consented to serve. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee shall prepare the ballots for mailing by the Membership Committee Chairman to every member entitled to vote as of April first. The ballots shall be mailed before April fifteenth. Family memberships are entitled to only two votes.

To insure authenticity of the ballot, each ballot shall be impressed with the corporate seal before mailing. The ballots shall be returned to the Recording Secretary by May fifteenth. They shall be opened and counted by the Recording Secretary and at least one other officer appointed by the president. In the event there is more than one nominee for a particular position, the nominee receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected. The election results shall be announced at the May meeting and those elected will be installed at that time, to take office June first following.

## **Proposed Changes:**

Eliminate **Section 10** entirely.

### **Section 11. Election of Officers (*change to Section 10*)**

At the January meeting of the Society, the President shall appoint a Chairman of a 3 member Nominating Committee, and the members present at that meeting shall elect two members to serve on that Committee. The Committee shall present its slate of nominees at the February meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor at that meeting providing the person nominated has consented to serve. The names of the nominees shall be published in the March newsletter. Members in attendance at the March meeting shall elect the officers. Those elected will be installed at the May meeting, to take office the following June.

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*The committee also recommends changing **Article VIII, Section 2**. This policy has not been followed for many years. It is difficult for the Officers to get together to sign checks in a timely manner, and the membership votes on all major expenditures.*

### **Current wording:**

#### **Section 2. Checks, Drafts, etc.**

All checks, drafts or orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the corporation, shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of the corporation and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board of Officers. In the absence of such determination by the Board of Officers, such instruments shall be signed by the Treasurer and counter-signed by the President or the Vice-President of the corporation. Any check, draft, etc. exceeding \$500.00, must have a second signature of a designated officer of the corporation. The designated officer shall be the President or the Recording Secretary.

### **Proposed Change:**

Omit the last 3 sentences and have the section read:

#### **Section 2. Checks, Drafts, etc.**

All checks, drafts or orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the corporation, shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of the corporation and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board of Officers.

**You may read the By-Laws in their entirety at:**

<http://www.houstonshellclub.com/Acrobat%20files/HCSByLaws.pdf>

### **Shell Desk Diary**



A special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the Shell Desk Diary is being published for 2009. A limited number are being printed, so you need to order quickly. The company also has a

shell wall calendar. Leslie Crnkovic has ordering information. He can be contacted at: (713)784-7084 H / (713)598-7084 C or [Leslie@harf.org](mailto:Leslie@harf.org). A few order forms will be available at the November meeting.

### **Christmas Tree**

*A scheduling conflict has caused the cancellation of the November 15 ornament making workshop. The use of vacation pictures on the ornaments has also been cancelled. The use of pictures will be considered for a future tree.*

Victoria Craig, Nancy Barziza, Angela Doucette, Rachel Zelko, Nancy Mustachio, Darwin Alder and Cathy Betley have been creating beautiful white, silver and pastel colored ornaments for the tree. The tree will be decorated on **Tuesday, December 2 at 9:00 a.m.** in the Grand Hall of the Museum of Natural Science. The HCS tree is always one of the most beautiful ones in the Hall, so be sure and see it during the holidays.

## Hurricane Damage Update

Due to the extensive damage caused by Hurricane Ike, HCS members who have visited the local shelling beaches recommend staying away from them for the next few months. There are no shells. The hurricane surge was so high that any shells washed ashore were carried far inland. There are only bits and pieces of shells that have been buried under the sand, but the snakes are plentiful. **(Pictures provided by Rusti Stover.)**



The Blue Water Highway between Surfside and San Luis Pass has been almost destroyed. Most of the driving has to be done on the beach, so a four wheel drive vehicle is needed, and some of the sand is very soft. There is also extensive damage to the west end of Galveston Island. The San Luis Pass bridge is open.



At this time, the editor does not know if the ferries are running from Galveston to Bolivar Peninsula. Almost everything on the peninsula was destroyed.

The good news is that the Monument Inn is open, so it will probably be the venue the May Banquet again.