



The Epitonium

January Program

The next HCS meeting will be **Tuesday, January 19**, at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. The meeting will begin at 7:30 but come early to enjoy refreshments, pick up your new membership directory, and bid on several silent auction items.

Lucy and Jerry Clampit will present a travelogue of their fall trip to Alaska and Canada. Most of you know that one of their retirement goals was to visit all 50 states. They completed that goal in 2014, so they are now visiting Canadian provinces. In September they toured the Alaska Highway and the Canadian

Rockies. The program will be filled with colorful fall foliage, majestic mountains, gorgeous lakes, and a few fossils they found in museums and gift shops.

Come and enjoy more Clampit adventures.



President's Message

By Leslie Crnkovic

Happy 2016!

In 2015, as is every year, we may have been met with Joy and Success mixed with Tragedy and Loss. We grieve with those who mourn and rejoice with others. As it is a fresh on our hearts, we need to especially remember the Mustachios, John and Nancy, in the loss of their son.

As we move forward in the Hope and Promise a New Year brings, we look forward to enjoying the company of each of you at our meetings and endeavor to make the most of the time together.

The New Year marks time to begin selecting a new slate of HCS officers.

Please consider service as an officer, or as a volunteer within the club. Your help in little things helps make the club function, the officers cannot do it alone. Voting is at the March 5th Auction.

We have some great programs and events lined up for Spring, including a program I have in the works for April.

Upcoming events – HCS Field Trip: **January 23rd** at San Luis Pass County Park . HCS Program Meetings: **January 19th, February 16th, and April 19th** . HCS Auction: **March 5th** at Immanuel Lutheran Church . HCS Spring Banquet: **May 21st** at Brady's Landing

See you at the meeting!

President:
Leslie Crnkovic
713-784-7084 / 713-598-7084

Vice President:
Rusti Stover
713-614-4882

Treasurer:
Nancy Mustachio
713-526-7733

Recording Secretary:
Rachel Zelko
713-988-7286

Corresponding Secretary:
Lucy Clampit
713-468-0610

Visit HCS online at
www.houstonshellclub.com

CALENDAR

1-19	HCS meeting
1-23	HCS fieldtrip
2-16	HCS meeting
3-5	HCS AUCTION
4-19	HCS meeting
4-22-23	Texas Jamboree
5-21	HCS BANQUET
7-27	COA in Chicago

COA Convention 2016

The Annual Conchologist of America convention will be **July 27-31** in Chicago at the Crowne Plaza Hotel near O'Hare Airport. Information will be available at: <http://www.conchologistsofamerica.org/conventions/default.asp>.

November Minutes

Submitted by Rachel Zelko

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Houston Conchology Society was held on November 17, 2015 at Houston Museum of Natural Science. It began at 8:32 pm and was presided over by President Leslie Crnkovic.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: A motion to approve the minutes of the previous October meeting was made by Tina Petway and seconded by Rusti Stover

Vote: All in favor

Resolved: Motion carried

Officers' Reports

Treasurer Report was presented by Angela Doucette and approved.

Main Motions

None were made.

Announcements

The HCS Christmas party will be held at Nancy and John Mustachio home on December 13 from Noon to 2:00 pm. More details to come.

The Seashell Searchers of Brazoria County Christmas party will be December 1st.

The HCS Christmas tree will be decorated at the Houston Museum of Natural Science on Wednesday, December 2nd.

Leslie Crnkovic announced a day trip is in the works to St Luis Pass for January's low tides. Not in connection to the overnight weekend at Crystal Beach. More information to come.

Rusti Stover is still looking for someone to do a presentation and/or an idea for a program for January's meeting. All suggestions are welcomed.

Adjournment

Tina Petway moved that the meeting be adjourned, and this was agreed upon at 8:53 pm.

Intrepid Shellers Encounter an Extraordinary Find Near the Beach

By Darwin Alder

On New Year's Day two intrepid members of the Houston Conchology Society took their annual shelling expedition to East Beach on Galveston Island. Cathy Betley drove her art car with Darwin Alder in tow. It was a cold January morning, the wind was blowing, and it was very overcast.

Our shellers had a nice ride to the Beach along IH 45 South. It was punctuated with the delightful sounds and tastes of breakfast at Buc-ees. They finally arrived at East Beach. The wind had been buffeting them all the way. Access to the beach had to be along the ship channel, as there was too much water and soft sand.

On the way to the ship channel, Darwin spotted what he thought was a large hunting bird looking for prey. At first he thought it was a hawk or an eagle. It was large and tawny in color...very odd for a typical hunting bird. Cathy and Darwin turned along the main road and got a much closer look at the bird. It was a great omen for a new year and turned out not to be a usual sighting. It was an OWL! (From subsequent studies, it appears to be a Texas Barn Owl.) He flapped, soared, and dove and ended up with a great snack! If an owl could smile, he certainly did!

They finally arrived at East Beach near the jetty. Cathy decided to stay in the car and shell from the comfort of the front seat, while Darwin bundled up with two shirts, a hooded jacket, and an all weather coat. There were lots and lots of barnacles, channeled duck clams, *Dosinia discus*, and assorted arks. Twenty minutes of the outdoors were sufficient for Darwin! He found two *Polinices*, and a small *Dinocardium robustum*. The *Polinices* still had the operculum and the animal inside, but it was definitely dead. Our shellers had had enough of the cold and headed back for more sustenance at Dawn Donuts.

They took the scenic route back to Houston via Surfside, Dillard's in Lake Jackson, Alvin, South Houston, MacGregor Drive, past the East End by the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe, (Merida Restaurant was closed), and finally ended up at Monument Inn for a well deserved and extraordinary repast, while watching the ships go by.

January Field Trip/Picnic

By Rusti Stover

We have obtained permission for the two area clubs, ours and the Sea Shell Searchers, to use the Tarpon Room at San Luis Pass County Park headquarters for a lunch get-together and shelling, on the lowest low tide day of 2016 - which is **Saturday, January 23, 2016**. The low tide at the Pass is close to a minus-one-foot low tide, from 7:14 am until between 10 and 11 am. The room should be open by 8 am or so, and we can use it and the facilities inside (chairs, tables, sink, etc) to enjoy eating lunch together, whatever the weather brings...since it is January, it may be cold and frosty, or it may be pretty nice! Bring your own lunch items and drinks, and you can leave your things in the Tarpon Room while shelling and enjoying the minus tide! Hopefully we will find some nice things! Restrooms are also available.

Here is a link to the park amenities: http://www.brazoria-county.com/parks/san_luis_pass/pavilion.html.

Directions: Take highway 288 south to Surfside, turn left on Bluewater Highway going toward Galveston. The park is on the northeast end, left side, of the Bluewater Highway at Treasure Island, just before the toll bridge to Galveston Island. If you want to shell the West End of Galveston Island too, take the toll bridge across. It will cost you \$2 each way.

Christmas Tree

Did you have a chance to go by the museum and see the club's tree? Thanks to Tina and her hard working elves the Christmas tree was resplendent as usual. It was decorated with sunset pictures contributed by numerous club members. Angela Doucette, Nancy Mustachio, and Rusti Stover helped Tina with the pictures and ornaments. HCS members Dave and Nancy Barziza, Diana Briney, Nancy M., Gary Olson, Tina, and Rusti decorated the tree with the help of Gary Kidder, Max Kolesnikov, Emmalee Miller, and Kathleen Terris from the museum.

Thanks, everyone. You did a great job! There are a few of Rusti's pictures in this newsletter.



2016 Auction

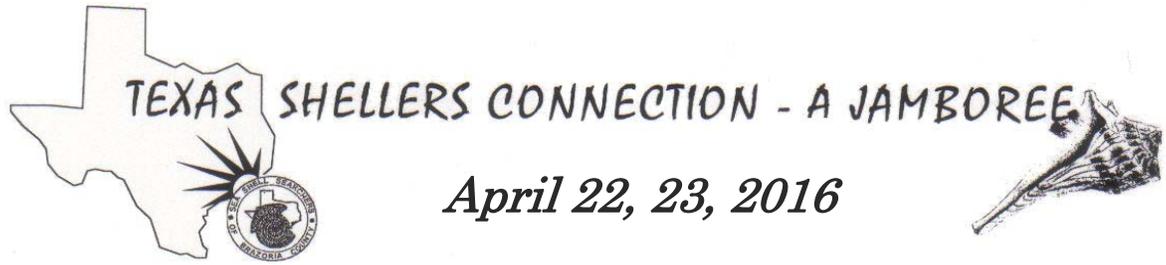
The auction committee hopes that you have your calendar marked for the annual auction on Saturday, **March 5, 2016**. To whet your appetite, here is a picture of a nice shell cabinet donated by Cheryl Hood. It has some water damage from one of Houston's floods, but most of it is on the back where it can't be seen. The glass on top of the cabinet and on one of the drawers needs to be replaced, but it is a nice piece of furniture.



Galveston Bay Foundation

At the November meeting, Anja Borski from the Galveston Bay Foundation presented a very interesting program about the condition of Galveston Bay. The GBF is dedicated to protecting Texas' largest estuary that provides habitat for wildlife, and commercial and recreational activities that are economic drivers for our region. They have purchased and continue to purchase thousands of acres of coastal wetland and prairie for preservation. More information about the Foundation is available at: www.galvbay.org.

They need us to help them by being "the Eyes on your Bay" and report water quality concerns to:
www.galvbay.org/gban.



Dear Sheller,

The Sea Shell Searchers announce that we will be hosting the 2016 Texas Shellers' Jamboree. The Jamboree will be held in The Center for the Arts and Sciences, located at 400 College Blvd, Clute, Texas, near Brazosport College. The Brazosport Museum of Natural Science is part of The Center for the Arts and Sciences. This is the same location as the Jamboree the Sea Shell Searchers previously hosted.

There will be programs to increase your shell knowledge, auctions to increase your shell collections and lighten your wallet, and social events to renew acquaintances and make new shell friends. We hope you will come and join the fun.

Our schedule for Jamboree is:

Send registration forms to the Sea Shell Searchers, Brazosport Museum of Natural Science, 400 College Boulevard, Clute, TX 77531, by April 10, 2016. You may register at the door, but advance notice will help us to better plan for meals. Cost of registration is \$50 before April 10 and \$55 after April 10. A map and directions are on the website. For oral directions, call 9793738602. If no one answers, please leave a message and we will call you back.

We will not have a host hotel. A list of hotels will accompany this letter.

Registration will begin at 12:00 noon Friday afternoon at The Center, followed by a silent auction and programs.

"Dealer/Seller" table cost is \$25 and set up will be from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. on Friday and from 9:00 to 10:00 on Saturday. Tables are 6' and must be pre-paid because we have limited table space available.

The Welcome Dinner will be held at 6:00 p.m. in the Museum.

Set up single shell exhibits in the Museum, Saturday, April 23 from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. judging to begin at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 23. The Museum opens to the public at 10:00. Exhibits must remain in place until after the dinner Saturday and must be removed after the dinner.

Silent auctions and programs will begin Saturday at 10:00 at the Center. Lunch will be provided.

Oral auction set up will begin after lunch, followed by a preview. The auction will begin at 2:00.

The Saturday Dinner will be held at 6:30 p.m. at The Center.

On Sunday, brunch and shelling are planned for Quintana beach.

Some decisions are still in planning. Keep watching the website for more information.

For more information, please write to Wanda Coker, email emptybobbin51@yahoo.com or Patty Humbird, email phumbird@earthlink.net or check the website www.seashellsearchers.org