



The Epitonium

President's Message

By Leslie Crnkovic

February Greetings! Thanks to all who came out for the January HCS Meeting. Although I was there, I was a bit under the weather. In February we will get a reboot of Lucy and Jerry's program.

Why did we have the Slate-of-Officer nominees presented in January this year? Timing! Each year we hold elections in a Business meeting at our March Auction, and we need the time for proper notification via the newsletter.

See you at the meeting!

February Program/Meeting

The February meeting will be **Tuesday, February 16**, at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. The meeting will begin at 7:30 but come early to enjoy refreshments and shop at the sale table.



An equipment issue prevented Lucy and Jerry Clampit from presenting their program about their fall trip to Alaska and Canada. Come and enjoy their pictures of colorful fall foliage, majestic mountains, gorgeous lakes, and a few fossils they found in museums and gift shops.

Auction 2016

The auction committee hopes that you are saving money for the annual auction on **Saturday, March 5**. Auction items will include display cases appropriate for entering exhibits at the Texas Jamboree in April. There are a few pictures of items in this newsletter. The March newsletter will contain more pictures and a list of the oral auction material along with other details and maps.

Cypraea tigris
f. pardalis



Texas Sheller's Jamboree

Details about the Jamboree, scheduled for **April 22-23**, are available on the Sea Shell Searchers website: <http://bcfas.org/museum2/SSSBC/SSSBC.html>. Click on the Texas Sheller's Jamboree link. In the menu on the left, you will find links to the cover letter, registration form, exhibits categories, and maps along with links to hotels and restaurants in the area. **If you are planning to attend, don't delay in making room reservations.** There are some other events around that time, and the weather will be warming up, so people will be heading for the beach. Jamboree registration needs to be received by **April 10**.

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Treasurer:
Nancy Mustachio
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Recording Secretary:
Rachel Zelko
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Corresponding Secretary:
Lucy Clampit
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Visit HCS online at
www.houstonshellclub.com

CALENDAR

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

In Memoriam

Long time HCS member Lucille Green lost her battle with cancer on January 16. HCS members send their thoughts and prayers to the family.

January Minutes

Submitted by Rachel Zelko

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the Houston Conchology Society was held on January 19, 2016 at Houston Museum of Natural Science. It began at 7:30 pm and was presided over by President Leslie Crnkovic. Guests and returning members Bob and Kathleen Puddu were introduced and welcomed.

Approval of Minutes: Motion: A motion to approve the minutes of the previous November meeting was made by Lucy Clampit and seconded by Sandy Clark. Vote: All in favor Resolved: Motion carried

Officers' Reports: Treasurer Report was presented by Nancy Mustachio and approved.

Main Motions: Motion from Jerry Clampit: To pay two years, approximately \$400 for the Web hosting server used for the club's website. Vote: All in favor Resolved: Motion carried

Motion from Leslie Crnkovic: To accept the new slate of officers for 2016 – 2017 as follows: President – Leslie Crnkovic; Vice-President – Rusti Stover ; Treasurer – Sandy Clark; Corresponding Secretary – Jerry Clampit; Recording Secretary – Tina Petway; Vote: All in favor Resolved: Motion carried; the slate of officers will be presented to members in March for final approval/vote.

Motion from Leslie Crnkovic: To have a permanent address to be used by the club for important documents i.e. tax, banking, etc... Vote: All in favor Resolved: Motion carried; the Clampits' address will be the permanent address

Announcements: A moment of silence was observed in honor of shell member Lucille Green that lost her battle with cancer this past weekend.

A joint field trip with the Sea Shell Searchers is set for January 23 with low tides starting at around 9:00 am for San Luis Pass. We will meet up for fellowship around lunchtime at San Luis Pass County Park in the Tarpon Room. Everyone provides his or her own lunch.

Annual Auction is set for March 5 at the Immanuel Lutheran Church. Check February's newsletter for some photos and a list of items to be auctioned.

Our 501(C)(3) is currently being worked on and should be reinstated by the end of the year.

Adjournment: Tina Petway moved that the meeting be adjourned, and this was agreed upon at 7:58 pm.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

By Rusti Stover

The lowest low tide day for 2016 fell on a Saturday this year, January 23rd. It is normally in January sometime, and also right around a full moon, which had been the night before. Low tide was from about 7:30 am to around noon, so I headed out in the dark, cold pre-dawn hour of 6:15 a.m. to drive to San Luis Pass County Park for the event. The club had secured the Tarpon Room at the county park there, to have lunch together and get out of the cold.

The further I drove down 288 toward Surfside, and eventually San Luis Pass, the more frost I saw on the roadside vegetation...so the temperature was hovering around the freezing point. Coldest day of this winter so far in our area. Nevertheless, it was very bright and sunny after the sun rose, so I figured the day would eventually warm up. I arrived at the park about 8:15 am due to some traffic problems and construction around the Surfside Bridge which stalled me for about 10 minutes. I stowed my lunch and extra stuff in the room and started my cold, solitary walk to the edge of the water. No one else had arrived yet.



The tide was tremendously far out, so it took some effort in the chilly morning wind to reach the edge, and there were not many things to collect. I did find a very large coiled end of what was once a pretty big lightning whelk, and saved it just because it was so big. A few more small things made it into my bucket, and I was getting pretty cold; my toes in my rubber boots, despite 2 thick pairs of socks, were beginning to feel a little frozen. When I reached the walkway over the dunes, one more club member was heading to the beach, Ruth Hanssen of Seabrook. I told her about the beaches being pretty bare, so we went back to the warm room and chatted, and the park staff brought us coffee.

After waiting until 10 am for anyone else to show up, we decided to take the San Luis Pass Bridge over to Galveston and investigate a few beaches that Ruth told me she usually walks; she comes to the island a lot, as Seabrook is only about a 20 minute drive. We went to beach access #25, and found a few nice things, including a large piece of a pen shell that glinted with bright blue iridescence in the sun, see photo. We then drove toward beach access road #10, with Galveston Island State Park in-between the two roads. Ruth had told me the State Park headquarters building had some shell displays, so we stopped there and perused the displays and chatted with the ranger in charge. They also have many shell books, including our new Encyclopedia of Texas Shells, and a binder full of identification photos and captions for what one might find on the beach.



There were a couple picnic tables in the sun outside the HQ, and the wind had stopped and the sun warmed the day up enough for us to have our picnic lunch outside, and it was very nice. Then we proceeded to the next beach access, where we found numerous broken large pieces of sand dollars and a few more interesting things in both the high tide line from the night before, and along the splash zone where the tide was now creeping back in, around noon. Then we drove a couple miles east to 8 mile road, where I showed Ruth one of my favorite places to look for birds, Sportsman road, because she is interested in that also. The tide was still out in the saltwater marsh ponds, but some nice birds posed for my camera.

After that, we went our separate ways, and I drove home through Galveston and Interstate 45, ending the first club field trip of 2016.



Beach Trip

By Cathy Betley (accompanied by Darwin Alder & Victoria Craig)

January 24 – East Beach was mostly clean of shells, and the high tide line left a lot more water lily debris similar to early January but no *Epitonium* indicators.



The ferry ride was fun with lots of ship traffic in the channel. On the east side of the ship channel was a stop at The Fort Travis Seashore Park which is now a day-use park with parking, picnic tables, some shelters, access to the channel beach, and a playground. You can Google “Ft. Travis Bolivar” and read a bit of 1816 – 1942 Texas history and also can stop at the three-flag entrance and pick up a brochure about Jane Long who is often called “The Mother of Texas”.

A drive to Rettilion Road (used to be called the dump road – first right after the small Bolivar settlement and just before the curve) and on to the mostly deserted beach revealed an extremely low tide – lots of exposed sand bars but not many shells. A few photographers were taking pictures of the anchored and passing ships, but there didn’t seem to be many birds of interest in the Audubon Bird Park.

Bolívar does seem to be slowly building and re-building from past hurricane damage, and it’s always very delightful to find bits of Texas history along the Texas Gulf Coast shore line.

Items for HCS Auction on March 5

Case – 5”x7”x 5” high (clear glass on all sides)



Tabletop fountain

