



The Epitonium

January Program

How Native Americans Use Seashells

By Rusti Stover

Greetings, Group! Here we are at 2017...how did that happen? Our first program of the new year will be given on **Tuesday January 17th, at 7:00 p.m.** ...hmmm...that's neat...1/17/17 @ 7:00....might be lucky!...anyway, long time club member Allison McHenry will give us a slide show and have artifacts to show us from one of her many collecting hobbies, that of shells as they relate to Native Americans. "How Native Americans Use Seashells" is the name of her program, and it is general, not specific to any tribe.

Allison joined the club in the late 1980's but doesn't remember the exact year. She was inspired by her late father, also a long-time club member, and she had this to say about the collection and program topic:

"I am a native Houstonian, as was my father, Dr. John McHenry. He spent a lifetime collecting butterflies, insects, fossils, gems and minerals, Native American artifacts, pre-Columbian art, and shells. So, it is due to his collections that I developed an interest in those things, but it was many years ago, when I participated in the HCS's displays in the Houston library, that I combined Native Americans and their use of shells. My father left behind a large collection of arrowheads,

axes and other stone artifacts, mostly self collected in Texas on private property, and of course lots of shells from all over the world. I also have a big collection of books regarding Native Americans. I have a corporate job, but I love to travel whenever I can, and I always look for information on natives and shells wherever I go."

Allison's program sounds fascinating, and she is an excellent speaker; I hope you can join us on the 17th, in our regular meeting room at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, to be regaled about another aspect of seashells in the world around us! Please think about bringing a finger food for the refreshment and conversation portion of our meeting night!

President's Message

By Leslie Crnkovic

Hope all of you had a Wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year!

HCS Officers: It is that time of year for HCS to select new officer candidates. Please consider serving on the nominating committee and/or serving as an officer.

Positions are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary. Immediately vacated positions (ineligible to serve another term) will be President and Vice President.

Please volunteer - we thank you for your support in serving the club! **Continued on pg.2**

President:
Leslie Crnkovic
713-784-7084

Vice President:
Rusti Stover
713-614-4882

Treasurer:
Sandy Clark
713-926-6797

Recording Secretary:
Tina Petway
713-436-4052

Corresponding Secretary:
Jerry Clampit
713-468-0610

Visit HCS online at
www.houstonshellclub.com

CALENDAR

1-17	HCS Meeting
1-28	Sailor's Valentine Class (SSS)
2-21	HCS Meeting
3-18	HCS Auction
4-18	HCS Meeting
5-6	HCS Banquet

President's Message continued from pg1

Mark your calendar - **May 6th, 2017, HCS Banquet:** By popular request the Monument Inn has been selected as the site for our Banquet. Gather at 11:30 am for socializing with seating starting at noon. Tickets are \$20 per person.

The annual auction will be **Saturday, March 18.**

November Minutes

Respectfully Submitted by Tina Petway

The meeting was called to order by President Leslie Crnkovic at 7:31 pm. The treasurer's report was given by Sandy Clark and approved. The minutes from October were reviewed and approved as written.

Old business was opened for discussion about where to have the annual May banquet, and suggestions were asked for by Leslie and Rusti Stover. A poll will be taken at the Christmas party and a decision will be made at that time.

Rusti gave a report on upcoming programs for January, February, and April. These include Alison McHenry on the use of mollusks by Native Americans.

Field trips were discussed, and the trip to the Sargent area had some good times to report but no shells were found that were of interest. Members were reminded about the apple snail collecting trip to the home of Joe and Rose Inchaustegui on Saturday, November 19.

The annual Christmas party will be held at the home of Nancy and John Mustachio, co-hosted by Sandy Clark, on Dec. 11, at noon. The club will provide the main course and all are asked to bring side dishes or desserts. If you want to participate in the gift exchange, bring a gift in the \$20.00 price range.

A report on the HCS Christmas tree at the Houston Museum of Natural Science was given by Tina Petway, and the dates for workshops were announced, as well as the setup date of December 1st at 9:00. Anyone interested in helping to decorate is welcome.

In new business, Tina Petway asked that a donation be made to the HMNS in order to purchase special shells from the Don Pisor collection. The motion was made and seconded to give \$1,000.00 for that project. Tina will present photos of some specimens for the club to decide on in January.

There will be a shell show in 2017 held by the Sea Shell Searchers of Brazoria County in April. No dates have been confirmed as of now but notice will be given on their website. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58.

Christmas Tree

The HCS thanks Tina Petway and her elves for another outstanding tree at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Those who helped make ornaments include: Darwin Alder, Cathy Betley, Sandy Clark, Victoria Craig, Angela Doucette, Nancy Mustachio, Marilyn Rawls, Rusti Stover, Andrea Winans, and Rachel Zelko.

Darwin, Angela, Marilyn, Rusti, Andrea, Melanie Yochum, and Rachel, along with Sabrina Dahlgren, Gary Kidder, Emmalee Miller, and Kathleen Terris from the museum, helped Tina decorate the tree.

Tina, thank you for your continued dedication to this task.

(Pictures by Rusti and Tina)



2016 Christmas Party

Thanks to our wonderful hostesses, Nancy Mustachio and Sandy Clark, along with our host John Mustachio, for a fun, festive party. Twenty plus people enjoyed the delicious food, gift exchange, Christmas themed jigsaw puzzle, and socializing.

(pictures by Rusti and Lucy)



In Memoriam

HCS members extend their condolences to the family of long time member Barbara Hudson. She was an active member during most of her years in Houston. Many of us treasure shells that she gave us or that we purchased from her generous donations to HCS auctions. During her travels, she would buy bags of tiny shells from dealers. In her later years, she would meticulously clean and oil the shells and donate them to the club. Several of us purchased her beautiful crocheted and knitted baby afghans for babies of our friends and relatives. She will be missed.

The obituary below is from the Tulsa, OK funeral home website:

“Barbara Jean Hudson died peacefully on Thursday, December 1, 2016. She was born December 27, 1923 in Rock Island, Illinois. She attended Western Illinois University.

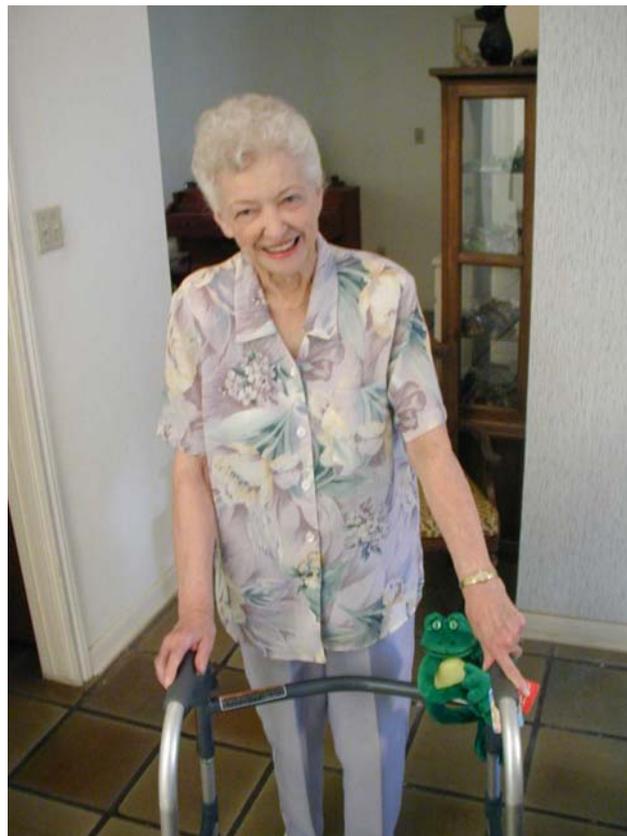
She lived in Houston, Texas for 35 years before moving to Tulsa to be close to family 10 years ago.

She was preceded in death by two daughters: Peggy Lee Hudson and Kathleen Diane Berry, and by her brother Russell Summerhayes.

Barbara is survived by a son, Jerry Hudson and his wife Nancy of Tulsa, a granddaughter Jill Ridener and her husband Brian of Tulsa; a grandson David Hudson and his wife Sara of Edmond, great grandchildren Jackson and Andrew Hudson and Annabella and Lucy Ridener.

Joys in her life besides family were seashell collecting, knitting, and watching her favorite sports teams including the Houston Astros, the Houston Rockets, and all the Oklahoma State University teams.

She had an amazing adventuresome spirit, and a laugh that brought happiness to all who got to know her.”



Spring Shell Show

At newsletter deadline, there was still no date or details for the shell show. Stay tuned.

Sailor's Valentine Workshop

Reminder: If you plan to attend the workshop on **Saturday, January 28**, you need to **register by January 10**. Call Patty Humbird at 979-373-8602 or the Brazosport Museum at 979-265-7831.

Apple Snail Field Trip

By Cathy Betley

The HCS apple snail field trip to Rose and Joe Inchaustegui's home on Saturday, November 19th, started with a chilly morning. Tina and Frank Petway, Rusti Stover, Leslie Crnkovic, Darwin Alder and Cathy Betley dredged and dredged but found only hundreds of baby apple snails. They are very prolific in this lake.

Rose and Joe were gracious hosts and Joe even ventured into the chilly lake on the perimeter concrete ledge at the edge of the lake to try and dredge as deeply as possible. Darwin kept trying and found some tiny "rams horn" babies along with one of his "scoops" of apple snails.

Many thanks go to Rose and Joe for this exciting opportunity and a promise for another dredging try in the spring of 2017.

(Pictures by Cathy)



Annual New Year's Day Beach Trip

By Cathy Betley

New Year's Day – Sunday, January 1, 2017

Victoria Craig and Cathy Betley were on the road early and stopped first at the fishing pier east of Quintana Beach. No shells for collecting but a contemplative moment for Victoria – maybe she was wishing for the Bahamas.

Freeport NRG must be thriving – they are building a third large storage tank with lots of construction activity on both sides of the road to Quintana. A large container ship slowly made its way to port and arrived with its pilot boat near the NRG property.



The water was rough enough for the surfers to catch some decent rides at Surfside Beach where Beach Road runs between the beach and the last row of habitable homes.



On to East Beach & Apffel Park – where the entrance to the East Beach fishing jetty is mostly destroyed. In older times, the fishermen wheeled their wagons with all their equipment and lunch out to the far points of the jetty to enjoy excellent fishing. The pipe on the right side of the picture is probably for the beach sand projects along the seawall in Galveston for more tourist beach benefits. The pipe comes out of the water and up the beach to a plugged point where a connection can be made so the dump trucks can transport the sand. It sad to see this jetty decay but at least in January, you can drive to the jetty without worrying about the beach patrol.

The Apffel Beach Bath House has been reconstructed with picnic tables, beach volleyball courts and play grounds. And even a couple who carry their home with them on the road enjoyed a warm New Year's Day at the beach.

(Pictures by Cathy)

