



Business Name

The Epitonium

Volume XXIV, Issue 9

www.houstonshellclub.com

May, 2017

HCS Banquet

By Leslie Crnkovic

Dear Fellow HCS Sheller's,

In my last message as President, I want to say it has been a pleasure to serve you for these 3 years, and I will continue to serve working the AV equipment at meetings.

HCS Banquet May 20: it is not too late to purchase tickets, \$20 per person. Please RSVP by 5/12 to: Leslie@harf.org or 713-598-7084 Phone or Text. Hope to see you all there - noon at the Monument Inn!

COA 2017 Convention, Key West Florida - Aug 15-19: this year, and I will be able to attend after all. These conventions are amazing events and well worth attending. Over 150 people have already registered! As of last week there was still hotel space, and space on the 13th-14th field trips (except snorkeling). www.ConchologistsofAmerica.org/Conventions/

In Memoriam

Long time HCS member Helen Wheeler, 94, passed away on Tuesday, April 18, 2017. She was born and raised in Montana. Helen loved the outdoors, and while living in Houston, she discovered shell collecting. She collected along the Texas coast and participated in HCS collecting trips to the Caribbean. She was also an avid bridge player. Several years ago she moved to Tulsa, OK to be near family

Banquet Door Prize

If you haven't purchased a ticket, and you plan to attend, you need to contact Leslie by Friday, May 12. You can pay at the banquet.



A lucky banquet participant will go home with this beautiful roll up mat with detachable pillow. Come join the fun on May 20.



members, but she maintained her HCS membership. Club members extend their sympathies to the family.

(Editor's note: Thanks to Brownie and Harry Sharp for information about Helen.)



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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

5/20	HCS Banquet
8/15-19	COA in Key West
9/19	HCS Meeting

2017-18 Dues

Don't forget to pay your dues. You can find a form at: <http://houstonshellclub.com/PDFfiles/2017-18%20Web%20Membership.pdf>.



April Minutes

Respectfully Submitted by Tina Petway

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. on April 18, 2017 by President, Leslie Crnkovic. The minutes from the March meeting were approved, and the treasurer's report, given by Sandy Clark, was also approved.

Lucy Clampit reported that membership dues are now payable.

Rusti Stover reported on the upcoming end of year banquet which will be held on May 20, 2017 at Monument Inn restaurant. Tickets are available for \$20.00 each. Also Rusti reminded the members that the Sea Shell Searchers of Brazoria County will hold a shell show the weekend of May 5th thru 7th at the Brazosport Museum in Clute, Texas. Exhibitors will not be charged an admittance fee, but guests will have to pay for entry into the Center complex.

Tina Petway asked the members to allow the use of funds, in the amount of \$500.00, given by an anonymous donor, to purchase two specimens of *Pecten magnifica* for the HMNS permanent collection. The motion to accept the proposal was made by Tina and the second to the motion was made by Nancy Mustachio. It was approved and the funds paid to the original collector, Steve Dyer, who attended the meeting.

Cheryl Hood suggested that the club begin a Facebook page, and she will organize and operate it. After discussion, Nancy Mustachio made a motion that the club accept Cheryl's proposal. It was seconded by Rusti Stover and approved by members.

Lucy Clampit announced the recent passing of HCS member Helen Wheeler in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The meeting was adjourned when there was no other new or old business or announcements at 7:49 p.m.

Rusti introduced Lucy Clampit whose presentation of her and Jerry's recent travels was greatly enjoyed and appreciated. Darwin announced the winners of the door prized and raffle items.



HCS May 20th Banquet

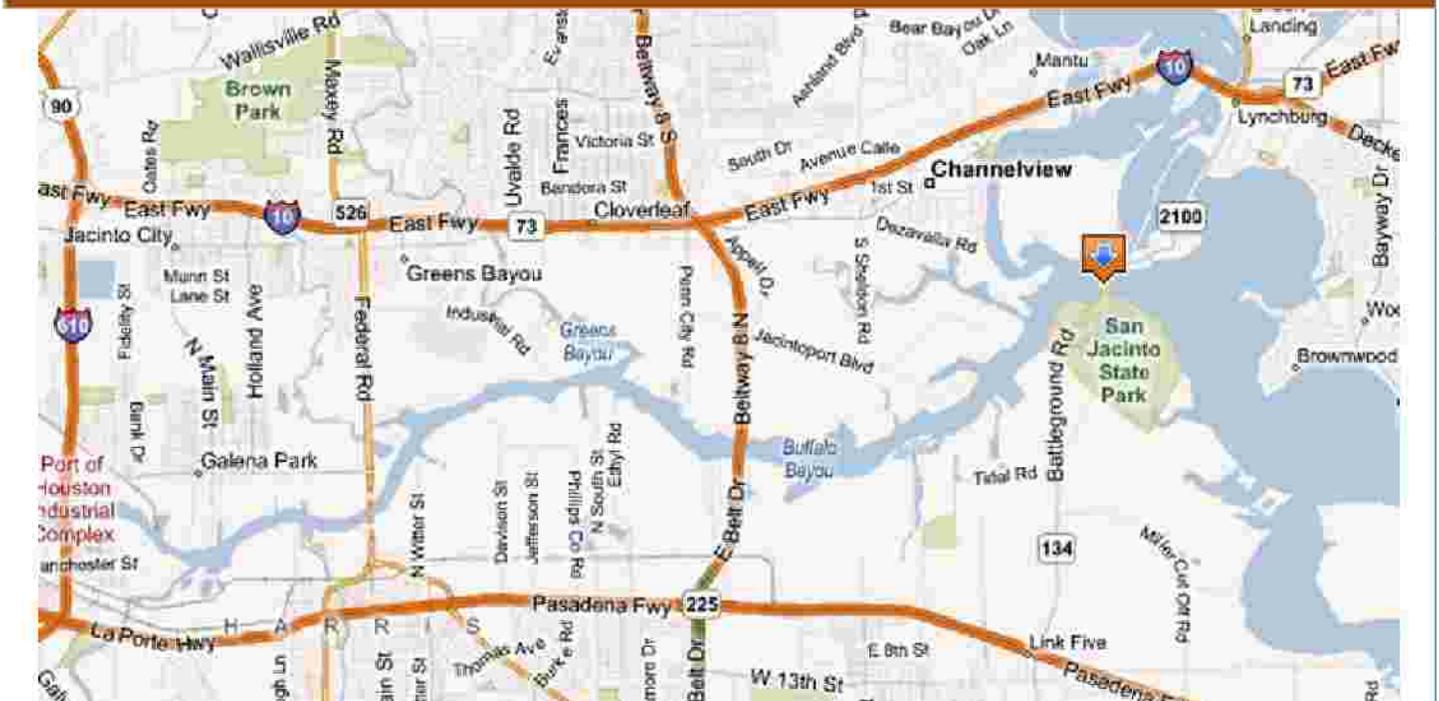
Tickets are \$20 per person. If you have not already purchased Tickets, Please RSVP by 5/12 to: Leslie@harf.org or 713-598-7084 Phone or Text

Gathering time is noon with a 12:30 Serving time

For those who wish to come earlier to socialize, the bar opens at 11 am

MENU: Fisherman's Platter, Shrimp Platter, and Ribeye Steak

**Address: 4406 Independence Parkway
La Porte, Texas 77571 (281) 479-1521**



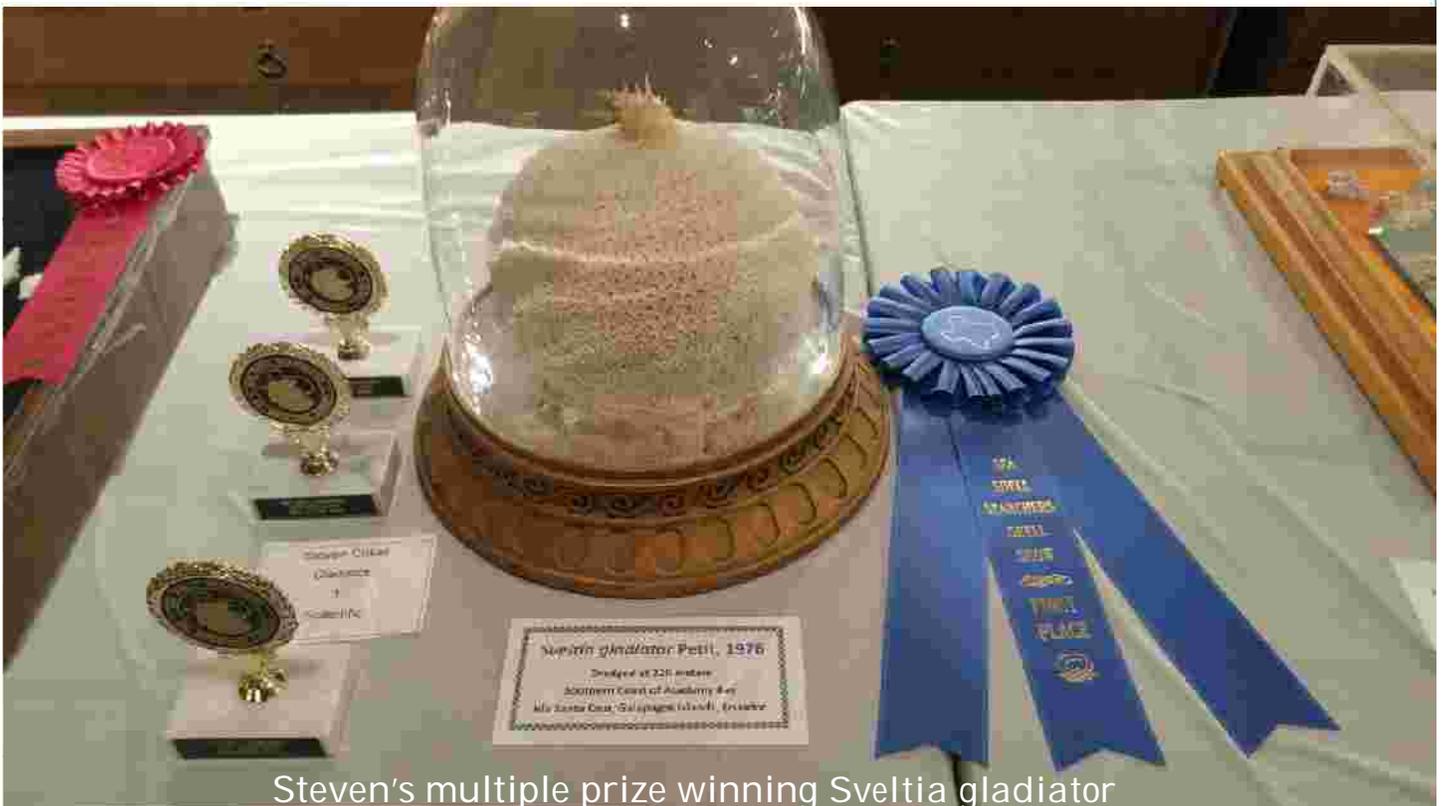
Seashell Searchers Shell Show

If you did not attend the Sea Shell Searcher's Shell Show, you missed a fun event! The SSS and The Center of the Arts and Sciences out-did themselves. The art exhibits and vendors inspired visitors to go home and do something creative, or buy something beautiful from them.

The shell show exhibits, scattered among the Museum's exhibits, were amazing! The following HCS members won awards: Darwin Alder, Cathy Betley, Steven and Wanda Coker, Janey Cormier, Leslie Crnkovic, Wayne and Patty Humbird, and Rusti Stover. Steven won several awards, including "Best of Show", for his rare *Sveltia gladiator* from the Galapagos Islands. You will find a few pictures of the winners in this newsletter.

Thanks to Rusti Stover and Cathy Betley for the pictures.

A big thank you goes to Patty and Wayne for another awesome job.



Steven's multiple prize winning *Sveltia gladiator*



People's Choice Award winner – Rusti's "Small Hall of Malacology"



Leslie – The Emperor Shells

Rollover Pass To Be Filled In

By Rusti Stover

A Houston Chronicle article on Saturday, April 29 reported that on Friday April 28, Galveston County judge Barbara Roberts lifted a stay claimed by the Gilchrist Community Association that they claimed was automatic, after it appealed Roberts' decision last week granting Galveston County the power to exercise eminent domain to seize Rollover Pass, clearing the way for the famed fishing spot to be demolished in the not-too-distant future. The judge's decision will allow the county to take possession of Rollover Pass for the Texas General Land Office, which would then hire a contractor to fill in the man-made channel that splits Bolivar Peninsula.

A little History: Rollover Pass, also known as Rollover Fish Pass, is a strait 200 feet wide, five feet deep, and more than 1,600 feet long across Bolivar Peninsula. The pass was opened in 1955 by the Texas Game and Fish Commission to perpetuate state fish and wildlife resources and improve local fishing conditions; it introduces sufficient quantities of seawater into East Bay to increase bay water salinity, promote growth of submerged vegetation, and help marine fish to and from spawning and feeding areas in the bay. The pass is



named for the practice of ship captains from the days of Spanish rule through prohibition, who, to avoid the Galveston customs station, rolled barrels of import or export merchandise over that part of the peninsula. Rollover Pass links Rollover Bay and East Bay with the Gulf of Mexico in extreme southeastern Galveston County.

The land office has been trying to close Rollover Pass since receiving permission from the Legislature in 2009 to do so. The Land Office argues that the pass accelerates beach erosion and dumps sand into the Gulf Intra-coastal Waterway, with removal costing an estimated \$1 million a year.

The Gilchrist Community Association and the owner of the Rollover Pass property, the Gulf Coast Rod, Reel and Gun Club Inc., fought the closure in state and federal courts, but only the association appealed Roberts' order. The price the county will have to pay the club for the Rollover Pass property is to be decided in a jury trial scheduled in June.

Why this is important to shellers: It's all about oyster populations and the health of East Bay. In articles online, I found this information: before Rollover was cut in 1955, East Bay was miles & miles of clear water, grass flats & oyster beds. Rollover dumped more silt into the bay, killing the grass beds and increasing the salinity, which allowed the proliferation of the oyster drill snail. That, combined with the over-harvesting of oysters, plus damage 9 years ago from Hurricane Ike, affected the bay so badly that there are now almost no active, living oyster beds left in East Bay. The Galveston Bay Foundation is applauding the action of closing the Pass, and hoping for a return to health for the bay, along with a future there for managed oyster farming. A 1000-foot long managed fishing pier is in the planning to replace Rollover pass so fishing can continue at that spot on the Texas coast.