



The Epitonium

January Program

The program on **Tuesday, January 16**, will be presented by life-long HCS member Raven Hood. She is a senior at the University of Houston and will be graduating in May with a BA in Music Performance (on bassoon) and a minor in Biology. She went to the Galapagos through UH's Study abroad program where she lived with a local family and participated in research projects for about 3 weeks.

This is what she says about her program, "The Galapagos archipelago is a place like no other. With endemic species on its land, beaches, and beyond. Learn about the species including blue footed boobies, marine iguanas, and several nudibranchs. Raven Hood will present information on field work, cultural experiences, and her travel to the island of San Cristobal."

Come and enjoy!

Seashell Open House

John and Angie Haneiko are hosting an open house for club members on **Saturday, January 13 from 1-4 p.m.** John will give a presentation at 1:15. So don't be late. The address is 11407 Blackhawk Blvd, Houston, TX 77089. Phone: 281-481-5155.



President's Message

By Angela Doucette

The Houston Conchology Society sends warm greetings and best wishes for a Happy New Year filled with joy, peace, and good health. Hope everyone had a safe and Happy Holiday. We are doing something extra special this year. John and Angie Haneiko have invited us to their home on **January 13, 2018** to look at their shells.

Also, we encourage all members attend our next meeting featuring Raven Hood with a program related to Galapagos. We are excited to have Darwin Alder to present "The More You Know" moment at the meeting. Our next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 16, 2018** at the Houston Museum of Natural Science at 7:00 pm.

Again, our special thanks to Cheryl Hood for adding the Houston Conchology Society on Facebook and Jerry and Lucy Clampit for producing our monthly newsletter.

2018 TX Seashell Jamboree

Dave Green is accepting donations of shells and shell related items for the Jamboree oral auction, and Rusti Stover is accepting other donations e.g. silent auction, door prizes, etc. If you have something you would like to donate, contact one of them ASAP or bring the items to the January meeting. Rusti will be taking donated material to Corpus on **January 23**. We need to get the items to the committee in Corpus soon, so they have time to prepare it for the Jamboree scheduled for the first weekend in May.

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Visit HCS online at
www.houstonshellclub.com

CALENDAR

1/13	Seashell Open House
1/16	HCS Meeting
2/19	HCS Meeting
3/3	HCS Auction
5/4-6	Texas Jamboree
8/29	Begin COA

HCS Auction

The auction committee is accepting donations for the **May 3** auction. Please bring donations to the January meeting or contact Lucy Clampit.



November Minutes

Respectfully submitted by Tina Petway in the absence of Rusti Stover

The meeting on November 14, 2017 was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Angela Doucette. Angela announced that a gift card would be awarded to the winner of tonight's "favorite shell" contest. The October minutes were approved as was the treasurer's report.

Old business began with discussion of the Christmas party to be held at the home of Mary and Dennis Harris on December 9th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Members are asked to bring a dip, salad or desert. The club will provide the main dish and all the paper, and silverware needed. Those who want to participate in the gift exchange are asked to bring an unwrapped gift.

Meeting venue changes were discussed, and research is ongoing for a place to meet during the day on a weekend.

Next year's annual auction will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church on March 3, 2018. There will be some wonderful shells and related items from the Patty and Wayne Humbird collection as well as from the Rick Roton collection from the HMNS.

A workshop will be held at Nancy Mustachio's home on November, 18th at 9:00 a.m. for this year's Christmas tree at the HMNS.

The purchase of a new digital projector for the club's use was presented by Jerry Clampit.

New business: There will be a field trip to the home of John and Angie Haneiko on January 13th, 2018 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. to view their shell collection.

Angela suggested looking into adding a president elect position to the officers in order to have someone ready to take the position when necessary. Discussion followed and concerns were raised about the conflict in the by-laws. No decision was reached.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51. Lucy and Jerry Clampit were introduced as tonight's program presenters. Their travels to two Scandinavian countries and Scotland were highlighted and enjoyed by all present.

Mary Harris won the "favorite shell" contest.

Annual New Year's Day Trip to the Beach

Two well bundled shellers and one driver, who stayed mostly in the vehicle, started off the New Year with a stop at Buc-ee's for breakfast and then a 10 a.m. stop at Dillard's in Lake Jackson to check out the 75% off Christmas ornaments. Plenty of beautiful bargain ornaments were found and purchased, and some may be offered as meeting door prizes later in the HCS year.

After a stop to wish Wayne and Patty Humbird a Happy New Year, the three headed south to the shore.

As Darwin Alder always says, all good trips include Roseate Spoon Bill sightings, and we saw about nine in two areas hunkered closely at the south edge of the grasses out of the north wind as much as possible.

Beach stops included the pier to the south of Quintana Beach, the jetty at Quintana Beach, the granite sea wall in Surfside, and the south jetty entrance to the Freeport Harbor. All showed broken and re-beached older shells but no indicators of possible *Epitoniums*. Darwin and Victoria Craig show their empty hands at the boardwalk entrance to the beach at the south jetty, but Darwin did manage to score four coquina doubles, but not enough for coquina stew.



Along the Blue Water Highway, Darwin showed us a beach access location just to the south of Treasure Island. It is a small parking lot with a boardwalk to the shore.

Only the most dedicated winter beach residents seemed to be at West Beach on Galveston Island, and that included two sightings of Sand Hill Cranes totaling about 60 birds.

Last year, Darwin and Tina had some luck finding *Epitoniums* at Galveston State Park (enter park at main entrance, left turn to day parking, boardwalk to shore), but he also said that their finds followed a previous red tide.

We tried the beach entrance just to the right of Woodie's, where you can drive close to the end of the Galveston sea wall, but only the same broken and older shells were on that beach.

East beach (Apffel Park) all the way to the jetty was fairly clean of everything except for a few really hardy beach goers - having the most fun despite the cold - one father, two kids, one dog, and two chased balls.

The staff at Nick's was pleased to see all customers, and the food was just delicious. There are many choices on the menu with prices to suit all diners.

Headed back to the vehicle, a large orange ball showed in the eastern sky that sort of looked like the sun in the wrong place. It was the super moon and the first of two full moons for January 2018.

What a treat and what a great way to start the New Year.



Christmas Tree

The HCS thanks Alex Chapman and Darwin Alder for co chairing the committee to decorate the club Christmas tree at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. As you can see from the pictures, the tree was spectacular! Thanks to Angela Doucette and Nancy Mustachio for helping make the ornaments, and thanks to the club members and HMNS employees who helped to decorate the tree. All of them except Nancy Mustachio and Nancy Barziza are in the picture. Great job! (pictures by Rusti Stover.)

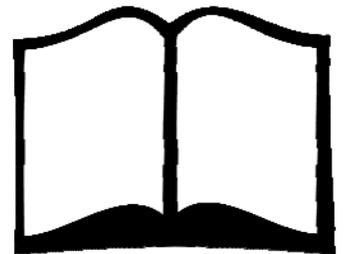


A new feature in The Epitonium will begin with this issue. Members' birthdates will be listed for the upcoming month. Since The Epitonium is published mid-month, the initial presentation will include January and February.

Happy January Birthday to:	Happy February Birthday to:
4 th Wanda Coker	2 nd Joe Inchaustegue
6 th Maria Carpenter	15 th Nikki Walker
7 th Nancy Barziza	25 th Ted Bailey Jr.
12 th Rose Inchaustegui	
18 th Frank Petway	
21 st Angie Marsland	
25 th John Jacobs	
28 th Brownie Sharp	
30 th Ted E. Bailey III	

New Membership Directory

Please check your new directory and make sure that your information is correct. If changes need to be made, contact Lucy Clampit.



In Memoriam

Members of the Houston Conchology Society extend their sympathy to Janey Cormier for the loss of her husband

Christmas Party



The HCS thanks Dennis and Mary Harris and their grandson Russell Martin for hosting a fun Christmas party. More than 20 people attended, and a good time was had by all!



The Epitonium is published monthly August through May and is an official publication of the Houston Conchology Society. Items of interest concerning shells and shelling are welcome for publication. Credit will be given to contributors when known unless anonymity is requested.

Permission is granted for reprinting articles, provided credit is given to *The Epitonium*, the writer, and the Houston Conchology Society and a copy of the reprint is sent to the editor of the newsletter.

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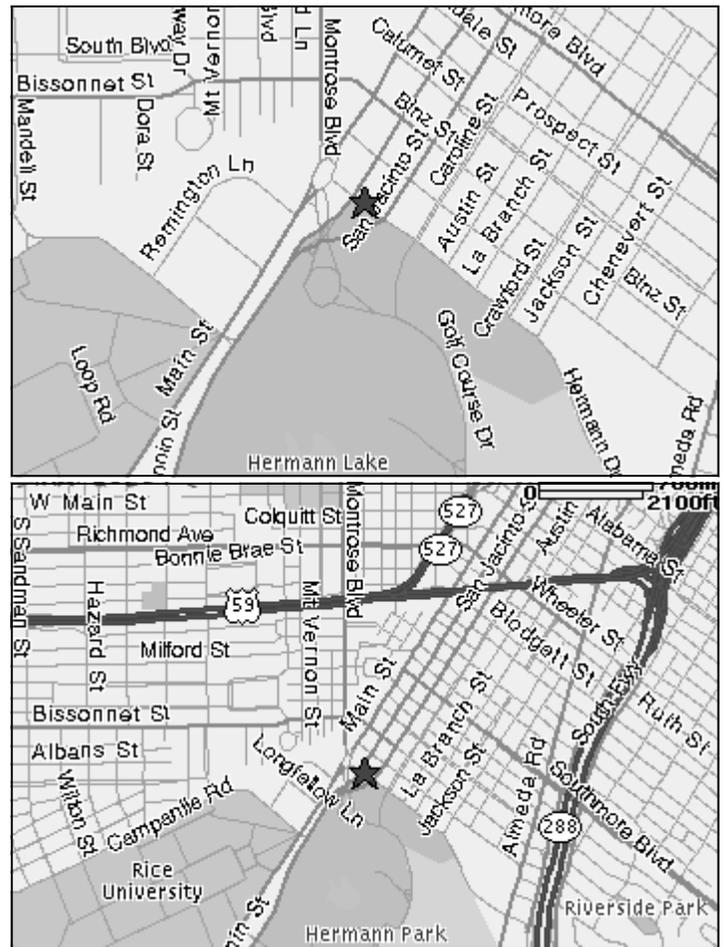
The Society holds regular meetings on the third Tuesday of September, October, November, January, February and April. There are seasonal events and a yearly shell auction scheduled in the other months. Meetings start at 7:30 PM at the Museum of Natural Science, 5555 Hermann Park Drive.

VISITORS WELCOME!!!

Membership year extends from June 1 through May 31.
Annual membership dues: Family \$12; Single \$10; Junior (under 18) \$6.

Make checks payable to Houston Conchology Society and send to Sandy Clark, 2475 Underwood St. #288, Houston, TX 77005.

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HOUSTON CONCHOLOGY SOCIETY

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