



The Epitonium

President's Message

Hello HCS Members!

Our March meeting is going to pack a lot of things in:

Free Shells Tables, a Program, Elections, By-Laws Vote, and Grants discussion.

That said, please see the By-Laws revision as posted on the HCS website and the Slate of Candidates here in the newsletter.

Thank you again to those who served on one or both the By-Laws and Nominating committees: Dave & Linda Green, Rusti Stover, Lucy Clampit, and Allison McHenry.

See you at the meeting on March 19th!

Leslie

Slate of 2023-2024 HCS Officers for Vote

President:	Dave Green
Vice President:	Tina Petway
Treasurer:	Angie Haneiko
Recording Secretary:	Rusti Stover
Corresponding Secretary:	Jerry Clampit

March Meeting/Program

The next HCS meeting will be at **2:00 pm on Sunday, March 19** at the Immanuel Lutheran Church 306 E. 15th Street.

In March 2022, the Sanibel Shell Club celebrated its 85th birthday at their shell Show. Unfortunately, the destruction that Hurricane Ian caused will prevent them from having a shell show this month.

When the pandemic prevented them from having the show in 2021, they made several shell related videos that were posted on their YouTube channel. We are going to watch two of them at our meeting: a history of the shell show and "Live Mollusks and Their Shells" by Joyce Matthys.

The club's storage room needs some cleaning out, so there will be **FREE** shells, books and shell related items for members **after** the meeting. If you would like to make a donation to the club for the items you select, please bring small bills or your check book. No change will be made. Also, please bring a shopping bag.

Come join the fun!

(A few pictures taken by the Clampits at the 2008 Shell Show)



President:

Leslie Crnkovic

Vice President:

Angela Doucette

Treasurer:

Angie Haneiko

Recording Secretary:

Rusti Stover

Corresponding Secretary:

Jerry Clampit

Visit HCS online at
www.houstonshellclub.com

CALENDAR

3/19/23	HCS Meeting
4/16/23	HCS Meeting
5/20/23	HCS Banquet
5/31/23	COA Convention
10/12-14	SSS Shell Show

2008 Shell Show



February Minutes

Submitted by Rusti Stover

President Leslie Crnkovic called the meeting to order at 2:17 PM. All Board members were present. Les asked for approval of the January Minutes as published in the newsletter. Sandy Clark moved, Steven Coker seconded, all approved, motion passed. Treasurer Angie Haneiko gave the Treasurer's report. Lucy Clampit stated that there would be free shells, books and shell related items at the March meeting. Members are welcome to make a donation for the items they take.

Dave Green mentioned upcoming shell shows in Florida and shows for early next year. Dave also mentioned he had spoken to Anne Joffe, and the 2024 Sanibel Shell Show may be moved to Fort Myers because of Hurricane Ian damage to the island. Under Old Business, Les presented a short slide show about the club By-law changes and revisions to bring them up to date. Les stated the new version of the Bylaws will be published and sent to members before the March meeting, where they will be voted on for approval.

Under New Business, a one-time hurricane Ian recovery donation to the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum on Sanibel Island was discussed. Tina Petway made a motion that the club donate one thousand dollars. Linda Green seconded, all approved, motion passed.

Les noted the Nominating Committee has a slate of officers for the 2023/24 meetings season. For President, Dave Green; VP/ Program Chair, Tina Petway; Treasurer, Angie Haneiko; Recording Secretary, Rusti Stover, and Corresponding Secretary, Jerry Clampit. Sandy Clark made a motion to accept the slate, Mary Harris seconded, all approved, motion passed. The Election of Officers will be held at the March 19th meeting.

Under Announcements, Tina Petway mentioned that Noe Barreira, research specialist formerly of the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, has passed away. Noe was one of the 3 authors of the Texas Encyclopedia of Seashells, along with Dr. Wes Tunnel and Fabio Moretzsohn, who have also passed. All 3 authors were well known to a lot of the club members, who were involved with the Texas Encyclopedia of Shells project. It is not known what caused Noe's death.

With no other business forthcoming, Les adjourned the meeting at 2:35 PM.

Angela Doucette introduced Dave Green, who gave a wonderful program of his travels to the Philippines on a shell buying trip.

Neverita duplicata (Shark Eye): The Predatory Mollusk That Drills a Beveled Edge Revisited

By Colleen Costelloe

Erratum: The second and fourth shells from the left in Figures 1 and 2 of the article *Neverita duplicata* (Shark Eye): The Predatory Mollusk That Drills a Beveled Edge", published in the February, 2023 issue of the *The Epitonium* (Volume XXX, Issue 6, Figures reproduced below), are *Neverita delessertiana* (Récluz, 1843), rather than *Neverita duplicata* (Say, 1822). The following article discusses the differences between the species and uses new photographs of the largest shells for comparison.



Figure 1

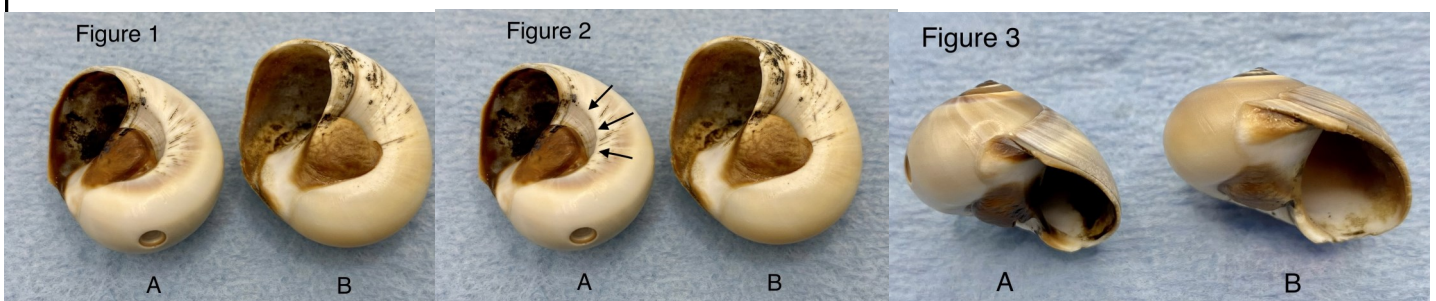


Figure 2

Neverita delessertiana (Récluz, 1843), False Shark Eye, Versus *Neverita duplicata* (Say, 1822), Shark Eye: Subtle Yet Distinct Differences in Shell Morphology and Genetic Divergence

By Colleen Costelloe

The primary morphological difference between the shells of the two species is a deeply excavated umbilical channel that is found in *N. delessertiana* (Récluz, 1843) but not in *N. duplicata* (Say, 1822), (Figure 1). This concave, spirally striated, keel-shaped channel disrupts the transition from the body whorl to the umbilicus which is otherwise smooth and convex in *N. duplicata* (Figure 2).



Additionally, the callus of *N. delessertiana* may be more triangular in shape and cover less of the umbilicus than *N. duplicata*. This can be seen in Figures 2 and 3. It is best demonstrated in the second figure from last month's article (the third shell from the left is *N. duplicata* and the fourth is *N. delessertiana*). The shape of the shells differs such that *N. delessertiana* is semi-globular with a more elevated spire while *N. duplicata* is globose [1] (Figure 3) and less tightly coiled. The overall size of *N. delessertiana* is typically smaller than *N. duplicata* [2]. While morphologic differences such as these are generally so distinct that they were previously thought to

represent different genders of *N. duplicata* [2], only the excavated umbilical channel is found consistently enough to differentiate between the species.

There is also a difference in the range of distribution between the two animals. *N. delessertiana* is found from the east coast of Florida through Texas while *N. duplicata* ranges from Massachusetts to Honduras [2].

Several previous references have indicated a difference between this form of *Neverita* with the excavated umbilical channel and other naticids (Chenu, 1843; Gould, 1847; Philippi, 1849; Poland, 1998), but it is members of the Jacksonville Shell Club who are credited with the proposal that lead to *Neverita delessertiana* being accepted by the scientific community as a distinct taxon (see < <http://www.jaxshells.org/neverita.htm>> and other [jaxshells.org](http://www.jaxshells.org) *Neverita delessertiana* entries for the story) [3]. Their observations of differences in shell morphology prompted the molecular research, published by Hülsken et al. in 2006 [2], that discovered distinct genetic differences germane to *Neverita delessertiana*. The genes studied include a mitochondrial ribosomal RNA (16S rRNA), a nuclear ribosomal RNA (18S rRNA), a small intron of nuclear calmodulin (Cal), and the mitochondrial cytochrome oxidase subunit I (COI). The molecular differences between this form with the excavated umbilical channel and *N. duplicata* are similar in magnitude to the differences among other tested species including *N. didyma* (Röding, 1798), *N. josephina* (Risso, 1826) and *N. [now Glossaulax] reclusiana* (Deshayes, 1839). The COI showed the greatest divergence from *N. duplicata* with a value of 9.9% (8%-16% is typical between species). These differences are also significantly larger than between the same species collected from different locations, which was shown to be 1.3% (typical is < 1 to 2%). These findings justify the separation of *N. delessertiana* into its own species. It is encouraging to see how shell club members can directly influence scientific thought and practice.

References:

Encyclopedia of Texas Seashells, Identification, Ecology, Distribution & History. Tunnell JW, Andrews J, Barrera NC, Moretzsohn F. 2018. College Station: Texas A&M Press.

Hülsken T, Clemmensen M, Hollmann M. *Neverita delessertiana* (Récluz in Chenu, 1843): a naticid species (Gastropoda: Caenogastropoda) distinct from *Neverita duplicata* (Say, 1822) based on molecular data, morphological characters, and geographical distribution. *Zootaxa* 1257: 1-25 (2006).

(www.jaxshells.org). Accessed 3/6/2023. Since the death of founding webmaster, Bill Frank in September, 2022, the site is now operated by the Conchologists of America (COA).



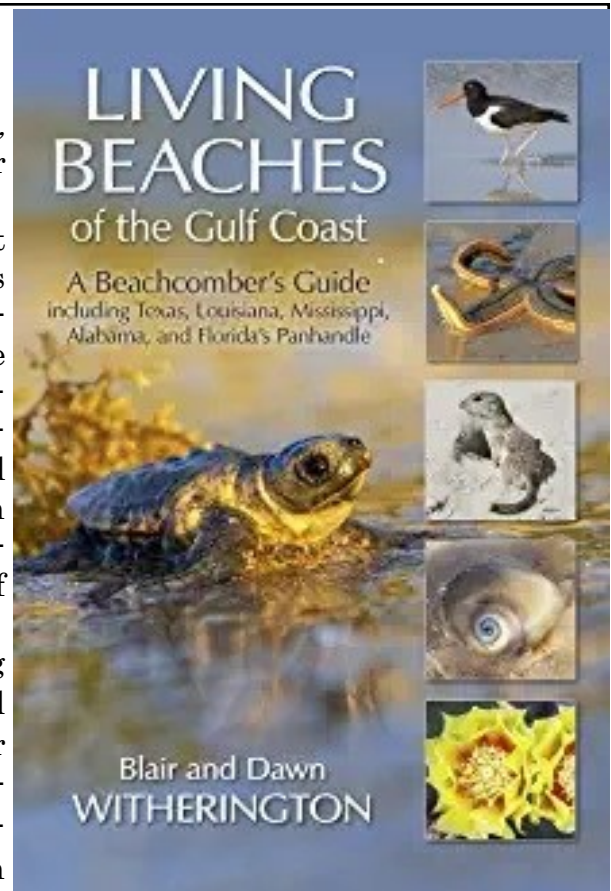
New Book Review

By Tina Petway

Living Beaches of the Gulf Coast – Including Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida by Blair and Dawn Witherington

If you walk on beaches anywhere along the Gulf Coast of the U. S., this beautifully illustrated hand book is the most complete reference book available. All illustrations are color photographs of most anything one might find on a southern beach. Among the most common items you might find are large sections on mollusks (seashells), birds, fishes, crustaceans (crabs and shrimps) and mammals. Less seldom seen groups such as sea beans, bones, fossils, reptiles such as turtles, lizards and snakes, along with rocks, and even types of sand are included and explained.

Even if you are well acquainted with most everything you can find on a beach, there are items we might find that we don't usually associate with a walk along your favorite beach. Some items that can be harmful to humans as well as to wildlife are photographed and explained. And there are many other topics covered with images and explanations. At a price of \$29.95 it is affordable to most everyone and I highly recommend adding this new reference book to your library. This is 2 Thumbs Up for certain! Enjoy! (Editor's note: The book is available on Amazon in both paperback and Kindle forms.)



Sanibel Shell Museum Lecture Series

Tina Petway recently participated in the Lecture Series that Sanibel's National Shell Museum has organized. She shared the story of the renovation of the Strake Hall of Malacology at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. If you did not get to see her presentation, here is the link to it: www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKnjgFQFsMQ.

Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show

Please mark your calendars for the next Sea Shell Searchers shell show, **October 12-14, 2023**. And, start working on those exhibits!

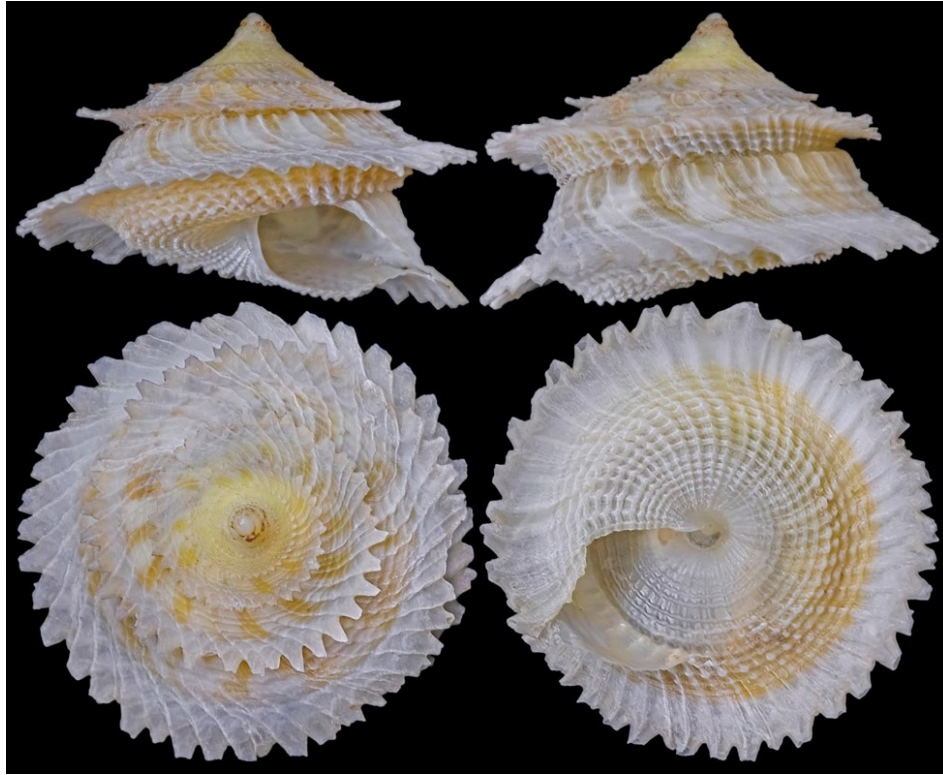
COA Convention

If you plan to attend the 2023 COA convention in Wilmington, NC, **May 31-June 4**, please make your hotel reservation ASAP. Most, if not all of the rooms set aside for the convention are booked. Field trips are scheduled for **May 29 & 30**. The editor has not heard if the field trips are full, but they probably are by now.

Convention registration forms were in the December issue of the American Conchologist. You can also find convention information at: <https://conchologistsofamerica.org/>.

Eye Candy for Shellers

This was posted on the Femorale Facebook page in January. Photo by Chong Chen and used with his permission.



Priotrochatella constellata (Morelet, 1847)

HELICINIDAE

On limestone, Sierra de Casas, Isla de la Juventud (Isle of Pines), Cuba, 1994/ix, 12.6 mm

Endemic to Sierra de Casas, a mountain range on Isla de la Juventud (also known as Isle of Pines) of Cuba, *Priotrochatella constellata* is among the world's most eye-catching landsnails characterised by numerous delicate blade-like varices on a strongly carinated shell with an offset coiling in the last two whorls. The base shell colouration is white to very light yellow, overlaid by patches of darker colour that can range from yellow to strawberry red. These patches are distributed rather regularly on earlier whorls, but become increasingly sparse and irregular on the later ones. The shell is otherwise little-varied among individuals; in fully mature individuals the lip is thickened. Typical shell width around 10 mm, very large specimens may approach 15 mm. As is typical in heliciniids it possesses a kidney-shaped operculum, which is thinly calcified with a papillose surface.

A herbivorous grazer, it lives on limestone and feeds on the algae and lichens that grow on the same rocks. Though supposedly common in its local habitat, due to its restricted range in a politically difficult area it is a rarely collected species. In the recent years, it has become increasingly threatened by quarrying activities in and near its habitat. The genus *Priotrochatella* itself is restricted to Isla de la Juventud, Cuba and Jamaica; among all three known species *P. constellata* exhibits the most elaborately ornamented shell. The coiling offset seen in the penultimate and final whorl in *P. constellata* is unique in *Priotrochatella*, and hence it cannot be confused with other species.

Sarasota Shell Show

HCS members Dave Green and John Jacobs recently participated in the Sarasota Shell Show. Dave won the Mote Gold “Best of the Best” trophy and John won the Hertweck Best fossil award. Congratulations! (Photos by John and Dave.)



Picture taken by Alice Pace at the 2022 Sanibel Shell Fair.



The Eptonium 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 Eptonium*, 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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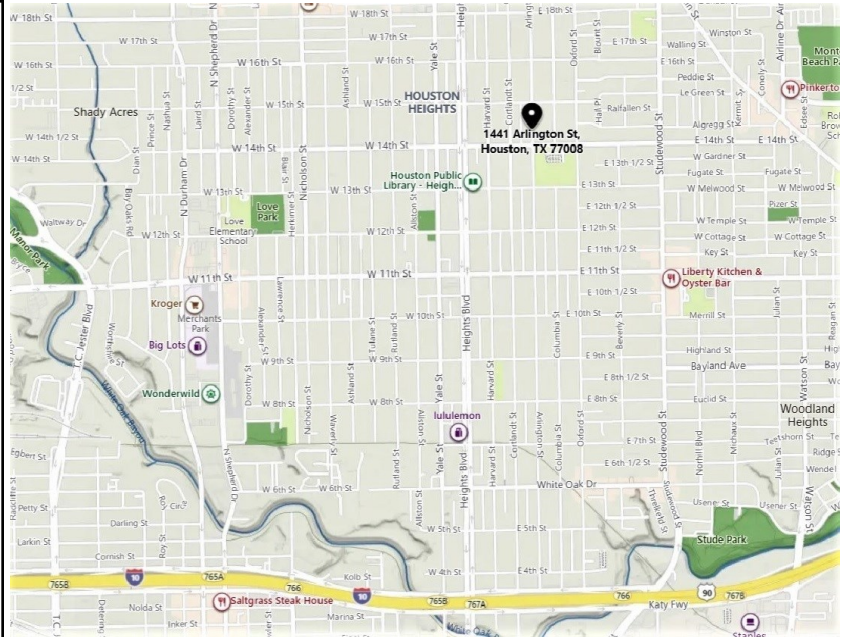
The Society holds regular meetings on the third Sunday of September, October, November, January, February and April. There are seasonal events and a yearly shell auction scheduled in the other months.

VISITORS WELCOME!!!

Membership year extends from June 1 through May 31.

Annual membership dues: Family \$20; Single \$15; Junior (under 18) \$6.

Make checks payable to Houston Conchology Society and send to Angie Haneiko, 11407 Blackhawk Blvd., Houston, TX 77089.



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