



The Epitonium

April Meeting/Program

The next HCS meeting is **Sunday, April 21, 2:00 p.m.**, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church.

From Program Chair Tina Petway: Gary Kidder, the Malacology Collections Manager at the HMNS, will give an update on what is being done in the Malacology Dept. More cataloging of the Guido Poppe Collection and data entry into the site (“Mobilizing Millions of Mollusks”) for the NSF Grant we are working on. This NSF Grant is a joint effort along with 19 other Museums and Research facilities in the US. This will make available to anyone all of the Northwest Gulf Survey material collected by Dr. Thomas Pulley and housed here in the HMNS Collections. Some of the Poppe collection was exhibited several years ago in the Gem Vault at the museum and was Titled “Gems of The Sea”. Many images of this important collection will enhance the presentation. Come join us for this interesting and informative program.

If you need a snack or something to drink, please bring enough for yourself. If you plan to buy Banquet tickets or pay dues, please pay with cash or check. We will have more tables of free items, so **bring a shopping bag.**

2024-2025 Dues

Thanks to those who paid their dues at the Auction. **May 31** is the end of the HCS year, so you may pay at the April meeting or the Banquet. **Reminder: HCS can only accept cash or checks.**

President’s Message

By Dave Green

I have been accused of being a wordy person by numerous people, especially my dear friend, Lucy Clampit. However, they are correct and I have to pony up and admit it because that is an accurate statement about me. Being wordy is important to me because I want to make sure everyone being addressed understands fully the message being communicated. So, please put up with me and try to understand where it comes from and also why I am a wordy individual. Regardless, you will just have to bear with me because I am too old and too stubborn to change my ways at this late date in life. If you stop and think about it, every one of us has certain behaviors that we carry through life, but that is OK and we just overlook that characteristic we do not necessarily appreciate or even want. Now you know more about Dave Green and what drives him at times. Look at it this way, you only have one more year to tolerate me and my strange behavior at times. So there, relief is in sight

We have had a good year overall. It is April and we have almost completed another year in the life of the Houston Conchology Society. If you have not purchased your tickets for the annual banquet at **Monument Inn on May 18**, tickets will be available at the club meeting on **April 21**. I sincerely hope each and every one of us will plan to attend and be a part of the celebration to close the year. After the banquet, you get a break for a couple of months until we meet for **Continued on page 3**

President:
David Green

Vice President:
Tina Pettway

Treasurer:
Angie Haneiko

Recording Secretary:
Rusti Stover

Corresponding Secretary:
Jerry Clampit

Visit HCS online at
www.houstonshellclub.com

CALENDAR

4/21/24	HCS Meeting
5/18/24	HCS Banquet
6/12/24	COA Melbourne, FL
8/?/24	HCS Social
9/15/24	HCS Meeting
7/13/25	COA Coupus Christi

Annual HCS Banquet

We hope you are planning to join us at the **Monument Inn at noon on May 18**. Tickets for the Banquet will be available at the April meeting. They are \$24 per person. **HCS can only accept cash or checks**, so come prepared.



March Minutes

Submitted by Rusti Stover

The March 2, 2024 meeting of the Houston Conchology Society was held during the lunch break of the Annual Auction at Immanuel Lutheran Church. President Dave Green called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM. Russell Renka made a motion, seconded by Mary Harris, to approve the minutes of the February meeting. Angie Haneiko gave a Treasurer's Report.

Tina Petway spoke on grants, and introduced member Ron Carter, who has pledged a new grant of two thousand dollars, and the grant application is already on the club website. This grant will be given annually. The grant will be for a student studying Texas Marine Mollusks at a Texas University.

Dave mentioned Tina was chairman of the nominating committee for the election, and asked her to speak on the candidates. Tina reported the slate of officers up for election: Dave Green, President; Tina Petway, VP/Program Chair; Angie Haneiko, Treasurer; Lisa Alderman, Recording Secretary, and Jerry Clampit, Corresponding Secretary. Mary Harris made a motion to accept the slate and elect the candidates, Tina Petway seconded, all approved. Motion passed.

Dave mentioned that tickets to the Annual Banquet, which will be held on Saturday May 18th at the Monument Inn, are available for purchase at the auction. The tickets are 24 dollars apiece, with the club covering the extra amount and tip. They can be purchased at the auction checkout. Dues are also due, and forms are on the checkout table.

With no further business, Mary Harris made a motion to adjourn, Dave Green seconded, and the meeting ended at 1:12 pm.

COA 2024

The field trips have been canceled, but there are many interesting things to do on your own in the area. Also, there will be interesting and informative programs presented by a wide variety of speakers. And we can't forget the Bourse where shell dealers from around the world sell shells that will take your breath away. Registration forms can be found here: [2024-COA-Registration-Forms.pdf \(conchologistsociety.org\)](https://www.conchologistsociety.org/2024-COA-Registration-Forms.pdf). For hotel reservations call: 321-768-0200. Use Group Code COA24.

Continued from page 1 our Summer Social in August. I will announce the time and date either at the April meeting or at the Monument Inn. I just have to finalize the arrangements. I plan to utilize Cleburne Cafeteria once again. It seems everyone who attended last August had a great evening renewing our friendships and enjoying the wonderful food at the cafeteria.

As most of you know, COA 2024 will be held at the Hilton Rialto Hotel in Melbourne, Florida on **June 12-16**. I hope you will be able to join us in Melbourne and add a few new shells to your collection. Wanda Coker is the Convention Chairman and also the head of the Dealer Bourse this year. She has informed me that we now have almost 20-25 dealers that will be attending the Bourse, several of these individuals we have not seen in several years due to the COVID outbreak. So, the dealer selection of shells this year should contain new and exciting specimens we have not seen in several years. If you plan to attend, please make your hotel reservation ASAP and get your registration paperwork to Patty Humbird quickly. I hope to see several of our club members in Melbourne. I am the Program Chairman for this convention and I have 14 very interesting programs that will be presented during the three days of meetings, and then comes the two-day Bourse. It will be a fun time.

Beach Report

By Darwin Alder

Mary Harris and I took a trip on Friday March 22. We saw some of the painted herons in Dickinson and had lunch in San Leon at Salt Water Grill on April Fool Point. We stopped at Surfside and I found one *Tellina alternata* with a drill hole and one *Polinices duplicatus* at the jetty at Surfside. The beach was beautiful but the shelling almost nil. Here are some pictures we took. (Pictures from Darwin and Mary.)



HCS Annual Auction

The HCS Auction Committee thanks everyone who helped make our auction a success. Darwin Alder, Lisa Alderman, Cathy Betley, Sandy Clark and Lucy Clampit spent many hours sorting shells and working on the silent auctions. Mary Harris, Tina Petway and Angela Doucette helped organize the oral auction. Mary, Tina, Lisa and Wanda Coker also helped with the oral auction at the church. Thanks to Dave Green for his great job as auctioneer. Angie Haneiko and Jerry Clampit were the cashiers. Thanks to everyone who helped with the silent auctions at the church, who brought snacks, and helped with the arranging of tables and chairs. We thank those who donated items and, especially those who spent their hard-earned money. It was a team effort!

Angie should have all of the bills by now and be able to give us a profit total at the meeting.

Sandy is retiring from the Auction Committee, and we would like to thank her for her many years of work. She was great at helping with Cypraea identification.

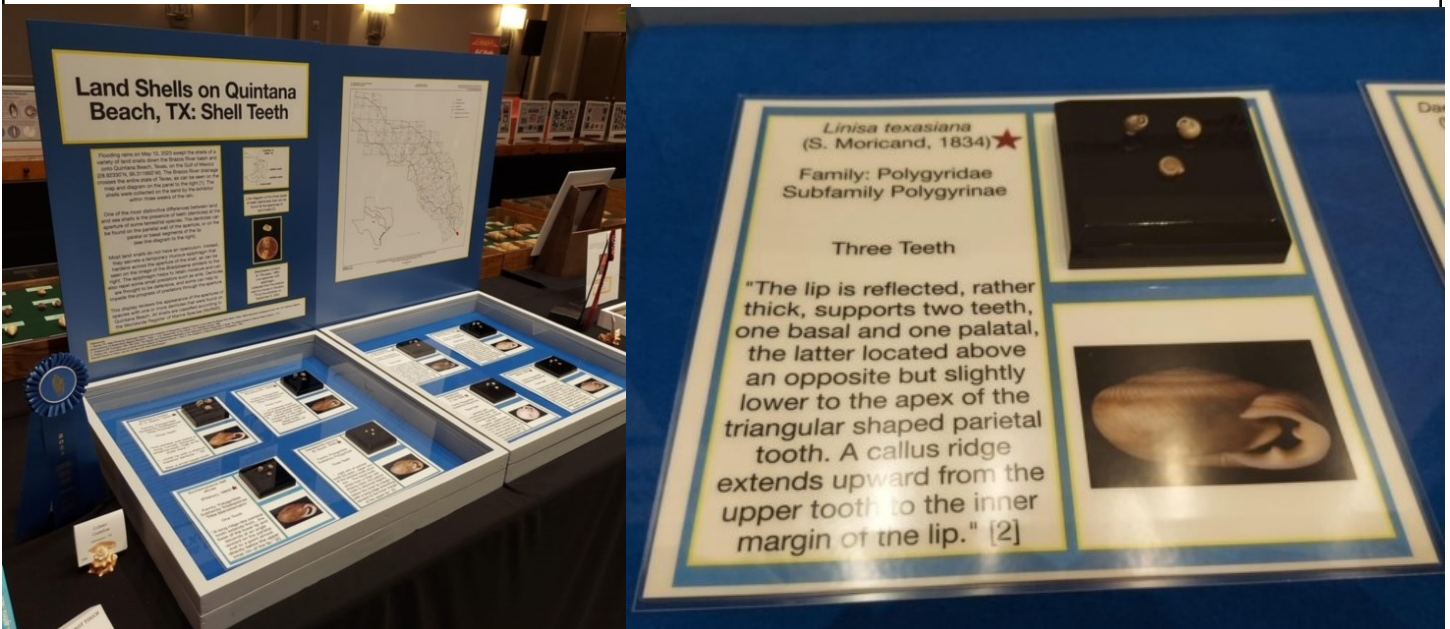
Trivia: For many years Cathy has prepared a jar of shells for our "Guess How Many" contests. Sandy donated the jar for this auction. Sandy is the only person who has ever guessed the exact number of shells in the jar. At the 2013 Auction, she guessed 1,012!



Sanibel Shell Show

Congratulations to the three HCS members who won awards at last month's Sanibel Shell Show.

Colleen Costelloe earned a blue ribbon for her "Land Snails on Quintana Beach, TX: Shell Teeth." At the Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show last October, the exhibit won the HCS T.E. Pulley Award. A great beginning for a new exhibitor! (Pictures by Richard Goldberg.)



Angie Marsland won a special trophy for the Georgian Tea Caddy that she entered in the "Collectables" category. And, she won second place for her exhibit "A Fascinating Little Murex – Chicoreus dunni." (Pictures of her exhibits, and general Shell Show pictures from Angie.)



John Jacobs won a special trophy for his exhibit “Fossil Molluscs of Hawai’i.” From John, “The Sanibel Shell Show was a great show. It was the fifth show I’ve entered this year so far. I’ve been awarded 3 best fossil exhibit awards (including Sanibel) and a DuPont. I’ll be bringing my exhibit to Texas in October. It’s called “Fossil Molluscs of Hawai’i”. Currently, my exhibit is 16 feet but will probably grow as I add more species to it.” We look forward to seeing his exhibit.



Shell Show/Jamboree

The Sea Shell Searchers will be hosting their Shell Show in conjunction with the San Antonio Shell Club’s Texas Shellers Jamboree **October 17-19**, at the Civic Center in Lake Jackson, so please mark your calendars.

Shell Show setup and activities will begin on **Thursday, October 17**. The Jamboree will begin on **Friday, October 18**. Both events will end on the **19th**.

The Shell Show is free, but you will need to pay a registration fee to participate in the Jamboree activities. More information will be available soon, so stay tuned.



HCS Grants

Thanks to the generosity of Ron and Beverly Carter, HCS has two \$2,000 grants available this year. If you know undergraduate or graduate students who might be interested, please encourage them to apply.

Applicants for the Boone/McHenry grant must be citizens of the United States or its territories who are enrolled in undergraduate or graduate studies at a United States college or university. Subject of study must be marine, but may be worldwide.

Applicants for the Ronald and Beverly Carter Grant must be US citizens enrolled in a Texas college or university. Subject of study must be Texas marine molluscan species.

This is the link to the forms on the HCS website: <https://houstonshellclub.com/grants.htm>.

Coral Reefs

Over the past several years, scientists around the world have become very concerned about the health of the ocean's coral reefs. Many reefs are sick or dying, so numerous studies and experiments are being made to stop or at least slow the process. Humans would have a difficult time existing without the reefs which, among other things, help provide a lot of our food and our seashells.



The editor has recently read interesting articles about two new experiments that are being tried:

From ABC: Scientists are using underwater speakers to help restore degraded coral reefs. Researchers have discovered a new method that could encourage the restoration of degraded coral reef populations, which have been declining around the world. - <https://abcnews.go.com/International/scientists-underwater-speakers-restore-degraded-coral-reefs-study/story?id=108007057>

From NPR: <https://www.knau.org/npr-news/2024-03-13/this-often-overlooked-sea-creature-may-be-quietly-protecting-the-planets-coral-reefs>.

More Sanibel Shell Show Pictures



Jerry Walls Publications Article

HCS has uploaded a PDF of my 2008 COA article covering the works of Jerry Walls. Most of you probably have some of his books in your library.

In the article there is a backstory and details about Jerry's journal "The Pariah". Several species were named therein. That article section is missing color Holotype photographs supplied by the Delaware Museum (whereas the editor who forgot to include them).

bonne amir lecture!

Les Crnkovic

A History of the Journal The Pariah and Shell-Related Books by Jerry G. Walls (with Annotated Bibliographies and Indices). American Conchologist 36(2):24-30. June 2008.

The *Epitonium* is published prior to each meeting 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.

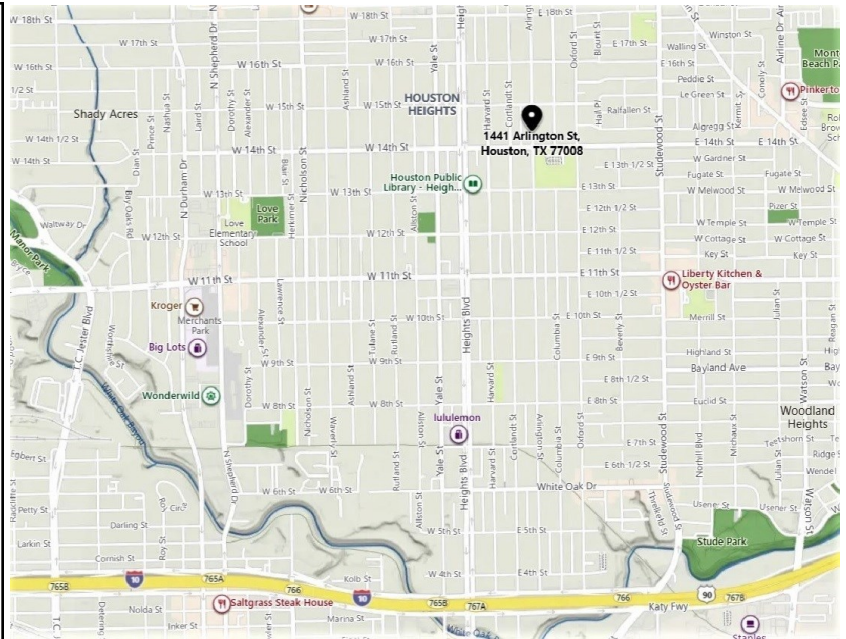
Editor: Lucy Clampit
10532 Hammerly Blvd., Houston, TX 77043
E-mail: lclampit@comcast.net

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 HCS Treasurer, 11407 Blackhawk Blvd., Houston, TX 77089.



Immanuel Lutheran Church

306 E. 15th Street

HOUSTON CONCHOLOGY SOCIETY

Lucy Clampit, Corresponding Secretary
10532 Hammerly Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77043