



The Epitonium

November Meeting and Program

We hope you can join us at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1441 Arlington St, Houston, TX 77008, for the HCS meeting on **Sunday, November 21**. The meeting will begin at 2:00 pm. Bruce Neville from College Station will be presenting an interesting program about brachiopods.

Bruce's description of his program, "Once much more abundant, brachiopods now number only a few hundred species. Most shellers never encounter one of these 'other bivalves.' We'll explore this interesting group, with show-and-tell from Bruce's collection."

(Editor's note: The pictures were provided by Bruce.)



Lingula sp., James St. John, cc-by-2.0

President's Message

By Leslie Crnkovic

Hello Shellers,

Hope you are enjoying this cold weather. The team is having fun putting together the Christmas Party; we hope to have some surprises for you. (I am still negotiating with the restaurant for an additional hour so we can play SHELLLO).

Looking forward to seeing you all at the HCS meeting!

Hope you all have a very Warm and Blessed Thanksgiving.



Frenulina sanguinolenta, Dwergenpaartje, cc-by-sa-3.0 both from Wikimedia Commons

President:
Leslie Crnkovic

Vice President:
Angela Doucette

Treasurer:
Angie Haneiko

Recording Secretary:
Rusti Stover

Corresponding Secretary:
Lucy Clampit

Visit HCS online at
www.houstonshellclub.com

CALENDAR

11/21/21	HCS Meeting
12/12/21	HCS Christmas Party
1/16/22	HCS Meeting
2/20/22	HCS Meeting
3/19/22	HCS Auction
5/31-6/4	2022 COA in Galveston
10/14-10/16	2022 Texas Jamboree & Shell Show

Museum Christmas Tree

Thanks to Darwin Alder, Cathy Betley and their elves for making ornaments for the HMNS tree. It will be decorated on **Wednesday, December 1 at 9:00 am.** The tree is always beautiful, so be sure to go by the museum to see it during the holidays.



October Minutes

Submitted by Rusti Stover

President Leslie Crnkovic called the meeting to order at the new meeting venue, Immanuel Lutheran Church in the Heights, at 2:15 pm. All club officers were present.

There were no minutes to approve from past meetings. Angie Haneiko gave the treasurer’s report.

The Immanuel Church meeting room is secured for the 3rd Sunday of each month that we need it, thanks to negotiations by Tina Petway.

Leslie asked for discussion for a venue to hold the Christmas party. Several places were discussed, and some of the board members were going to check out one, Corner Bakery on I-10 at Echo Lane after the meeting.

Lucy Clampit mentioned that all changes need to be sent to her soon for the new directory, which should be out in an emailed PDF during November.

Cathy Betley reported on the Christmas Tree. One meeting for making decorations has already been held, another one will be on October 30th at Nancy Mustachio’s house at 10 AM. Date for setup and decorating the Museum tree is Wednesday December 1st.

It was reported that the club will be holding the regular Annual auction on Saturday March 19, 2022 at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Dave Green gave a report on COA 2022 in Galveston. Registration will be \$150.00. There will also be a mini shell show with 6 categories, and anyone can enter up to 2 categories. A COA award will be given. There will also be a Snail Parade.

Wanda Coker reported on the 2022 Jamboree & Shell Show, which will be held together on October 14, 15 & 16 at the Lake Jackson Civic Center.

Under miscellaneous, Linda Green had 5 of her Halloween-themed quilts on display, and mentioned the upcoming Quilt Show.

Lisa Alderman gave a Beach Report about her recent trip to Sanibel Island, Florida.

Lucy introduced new club members Cindy Beck and David Ward.

There being no further business, Leslie asked

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Continued from Pg 2 for a motion to adjourn. Mary Harris made the motion, Frank Petway seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

VP/Program Chair Angela Doucette then introduced John Haneiko, who gave an excellent slide show and talk about his Favorite Shells.

to their menu: <https://cornerbakerycafe.com/menu>.

If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a shell or shell related gift of \$20 value.



We will be joined by members of the Sea Shell Searchers.

Come join the fun!

HCS Christmas Party

Members decided to have this year's Christmas party at a restaurant rather than a member's home. Mark your calendars! The party will be **December 12, 2:00 – 4:00 pm**. We will gather at the Corner Bakery, 9311 Katy Freeway Houston, TX 77024. When you arrive, order your food at the counter, get a number and go to into the meeting room. The staff will bring your order to you. Here is the link

How I Started Collecting Shells

By Alex Chapman

Many people often wonder how I got into shell collecting. Was it a trip to the beach; Galveston maybe? Or was it a visit to one of the few specialty shell shops in Houston? In my youth, some of the local malls had specialty shell shops such as the one under the stairs in the Galleria. It was called Seashell Concepts. There was also a fabulous shop in Greenspoint Mall called the Sea Castle. And another in Sharpstown Mall called Tinki's, which was my favorite one. No, none of those got me into collecting shells.

In the early 1970s, my dad became fascinated with shells. Cebu was the center of the shell trade in the Philippines and he would take frequent trips there when I was a small child. During his visits, he became friends with shell dealers and local fishermen. Because the Philippines had fallen under martial law, in 1973 my dad moved to the United States in search for a better life for us. He left with the clothes on his back and giant suitcases full of shells. As a young child, I didn't understand why he had to leave and I missed him.

Dad arrived in San Francisco where his older siblings lived. With the help of my Uncle Bill and his buddy Skip, my dad sold specimen seashells up and down the California coast. His sole purpose was to buy 5 one-way tickets for my mom, me, and three older siblings to move to America. His tenacity and efforts paid off and within a year he saved enough money to buy those tickets. It was in 1974 that my family arrived in America. Then a month later we moved to in Houston. It was then when my interest in shells began to grow.

You probably have already concluded that it was my dad who cultivated my interest in shells.

Out of his eight children, I was the only who became passionate about shell collecting. Dad would always buy me shells during his travels. Over the years, he collected various specimens. What seemed special to me at the time was his *Conus gloriamaris*. He took special care of them having encased in Styrofoam blocks that he carved himself, two of which I still have. Also, he and mom set for hours together to create magnificent shell art and shell themed mirrors to decorate our home.

Today, thanks to my dad, and of course, my own collecting activities, my shell collection has grown with specimens from all over the world.

(Editor's note: This is a picture of a few specimens from Alex's favorite family.)



Beach Report: Sanibel

By Lisa Alderman

After missing out on a trip to Sanibel in 2020, I was super excited to get there this year! We (my friend Ellen accompanied me on the trip) arrived on October 4 to find a lot more people on the island than were there at the same time in 2019.

We arrived late afternoon and I immediately headed to the beach. We stayed at the West Wind Inn located on West Gulf Drive. It's the last hotel to the north (or is it west?) on the gulf side of the island. There were several trash lines on the beach but with all the people on the beach, I knew they would be picked over. I walked north (or west) a bit until I found a spot where I could shell in the surf. That's always fun as you have to recognize the shell and catch it before the surf takes it away. I found a few nice conch shells and a couple of small whelks before the no see 'ems drove me off the beach.



Those bites are the worst!! They itch like crazy for days! I've tried all sorts of anti-itch creams. Ellen is a nurse and recommended witch hazel. The itching stopped immediately! I'll be sure to keep some on hand in the future.

The shelling the next morning was lacking. There were several trash lines, but if you weren't looking for scallop and bi-valve shells, you were out of luck. The only other shells I found over the next couple days were in the surf. I found one alphabet cone and a cou-

ple more conch shells that way. There were a lot of disappointed people on the beach.

There is always something interesting to see. One afternoon taking a break from shelling in the surf, I saw a shadow at the break of the waves. I kept following it along the shore until I got a good look...it was a stingray (about the size of a large pizza)! There were birds a plenty including ibis and pelicans. And a little lost turtle who found itself on the beach. I flagged down the SCCF (Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation) patrol who identified it as a mud turtle, not typically found on the beach and would relocate it to regular environment.



We visited the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum which had been closed for renovation in 2019. The new exhibits include aquariums with live mollusks, some of which you are allowed to touch. The museum also has the best gift shop on the island (in my opinion). We frequented Doc Ford's for dinner which offers fresh local seafood. All and all, it was a great trip and I'm looking forward to the next visit!

Eye Candy for Shellers

JP Barbier recently posted this gorgeous picture on Facebook.

"This 24.1 mm specimen of *babelomurex spinosus* is exceptional by its digitations, can we say that it is the form *jeanneae*, D 'Attilio & Myers 1984? Philippines, Bohol Island, around 250 meters deep." He gave the editor permission to share it with you.



Membership Directory

The new directory will be finished later this month. If you read the newsletter on the website, it will be sent to you in a PDF format. You can save it to your computer or print out a copy for yourself. If you paid to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, a paper copy of the directory will be mailed to you. It **will not** be posted on the website and will only go to HCS members.

Harp Shell Sculpture on UT Campus

Next time you are in Austin, stop by the University of Texas campus and take a selfie with the giant, bronze Harp shell called “Spiral of the Galaxy.” Here is a link to information about it: <https://landmarks.utexas.edu/artwork/spiral-galaxy>.

Thanks, Rusti Stover for sharing this.



Angie's Shell Painting: Life Imitating Art

By Angie Marsland

Nearly a decade ago, whilst living in the UK, the British Shell Collector's Club was holding its annual competition at their Shell Show. I had only submitted entries twice before in the "single species" and "shell art" categories. This time I decided to enter the photography category – with a twist.

I'd been browsing online through shell still-life paintings by Balthasar van der Ast (1593-1657), an artist who produced many works during the Dutch Golden Age (circa 1588-1672). He was considered a pioneer in the genre of shell painting and he often included small lizards and insects. Other notable Dutch shell artists were Adrian Coorte, Antoine Berjon and Wenceslaus Hollar. In those days, the use of shells in paintings was to depict purity, birth, fertility and wealth. Only the wealthy could afford to have ownership of shells from distant lands.

An idea came to mind to reproduce one of his paintings with shells from my collection, plus a couple of props. My first challenge was to find a painting with shells that I already had in my possession. Secondly, they had to be the right size, relative to one another. Finally, I had to be able to source the other features of the painting (flowers, vases, fruits, etc.).

After reviewing all of his known works, I chose the painting with the simple title of "Seashells" dated 1630-1650. It fitted my criteria, as I have no aptitude for floral arrangements, nor ownership of antique vases and preserved lizards and insects! The following shell species were used:

Achatina achatina, *Aliger gigas*, *Amphidromus* species, *Cassis tuberosa*, *Charonia tritonis* x 2, *Chicoreus ramosus*, *Cittarium pica*, *Conus ebraeus*, *Conus textilis* (darkened the tents to simulate *Conus episcopatus*), *Mitra mitra* and *Nautilus pompilius*.

The dimensions of the van der Ast painting photograph is 4 x 5.5 inches and my own arrangement photograph is 8 x 10 inches. I had fun doing this project – the photography isn't great but not bad for an "aim and shoot" camera used ten years ago. I might try another one if I can improve on arranging flowers and sourcing some creepy crawlies!

ART IMITATING LIFE

LIFE IMITATING ART



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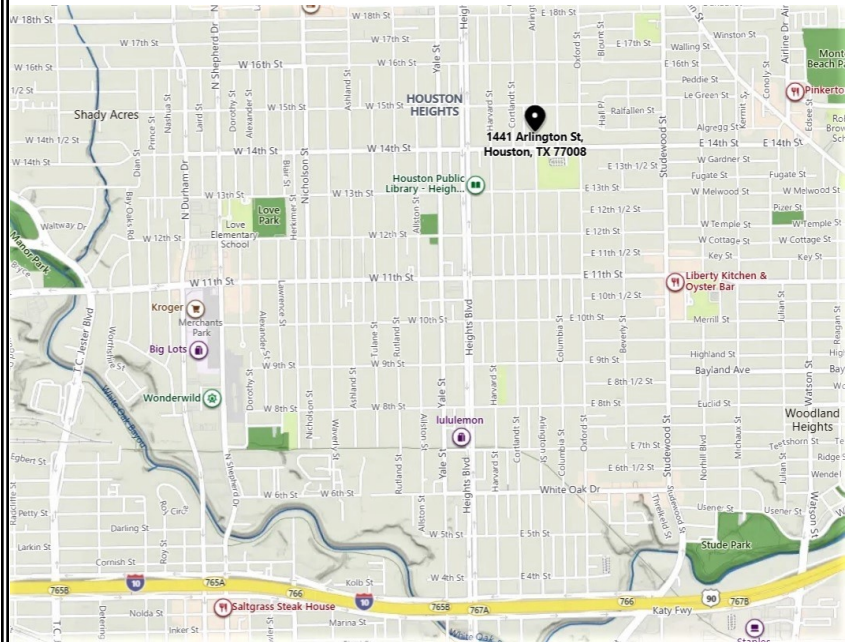
The Society holds regular meetings on the third Sunday of September, October, November, January, February and April. There are seasonal events and a yearly shell auction scheduled in the other months.

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.

Immanuel Lutheran Church 1441 Arlington St., Houston, TX



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