



The Epitonium

President's Message



By: Darwin Alder

Thanks to all members who were able to attend the field trip at St Josephs Island, February 2nd and 3rd. We found some nice shells, and topped it off with an *Amaea mitchelli*.

Harry Sharp, Sandy Clark and Dave Barziza have graciously agreed to be on the nominating committee for next year's officers.

Great programs are in store for February and April, be sure to attend for a great time!

Our Auction will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in the Heights, Cortlandt at 16th St., on Saturday, March 1, 2008, beginning at 10:00 a. m. The Club will provide sandwiches, chips and drinks. Please bring something to share--cookies, cakes, dips, veggie plates, or whatever you think

would be fun. We have a spectacular array of shells, shell-related, sale table, raffle items and door prizes, for your enjoyment.

We will have our End of the Year Banquet on Saturday May 17th at the Monument Inn near the Lynchburg Ferry starting at 1:00. All tickets will be \$15.00 per person. There will be more information in the remaining newsletters. Make plans to attend this fun event!

Be sure to register for the Fabulous COA convention in San Antonio, July 5th to 10th, 2008. It will be a Texas sized event, at least that much fun, and one that we will remember forever! Please plan to attend and share the fun.

February 19th Program



By: Leslie Crnkovic

Special guest speaker "Jesse Cancelmo", will be presenting a program from parts of his new book "Texas Coral Reefs" to be released in April by Texas A&M University Press.

BIO AND INTRO TO TEXAS CORAL REEFS

Jesse Cancelmo is an accomplished underwater photographer and photojournalist. His articles and photos have appeared in diving and wildlife publications, and he is the author of two diving guides. Cancelmo, who lives in Houston, leads diving tour groups in the Caribbean and Pacific and is a contributing writer and photographer for Dive Training Magazine.

Just one hundred and ten miles south of the Texas-Louisiana border, beneath the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, lie two coral reefs, together called the Flower Garden Banks. This coral community, the northernmost reef system in the United States and a national marine sanctuary, is home to two hundred species of

fish and four hundred varieties of invertebrates. Manta rays and turtles visit regularly, as do whale sharks and schools of hammerhead sharks. Other wonders include the annual mass coral spawns and Gollum Lake, a briny depression on the flank of the East Flower Garden Bank.

Nearby are two other reefs. Stetson Bank, its top spotted with hard corals, mollusks, and sponges, is known for its diversity—from black sea hares to golden smooth trunkfish. At Geyer Bank, thousands of butterfly fish dominate a huge population of tropical fish whose density rivals that of the coral reefs in the South Pacific.

Jesse promises to include additional slides on Mollusks for us. Texas Coral Reefs will inspire adventurers—both the underwater and armchair varieties—to enjoy these spectacular, but little-known sites that lie so close to home.

President:

Darwin Alder
(713) 863-9652

Vice President:

Tina Petway
(713) 864-6683

Treasurer:

Mary Harris
(713) 772-3843

Recording Secretary:

Rusti Stover
(713) 660-6446

Corresponding Secretary:

Wanda Bermudez
(281) 437-1393

Program Chairman:

Leslie Crnkovic
(713) 784-7084

Visit HCS online at

www.houstonshellclub.com

CALENDAR

2/19	HCS meeting
3/1	HCS AUCTION
5/17	Year End Banquet
7/5	COA Convention
7/10	San Antonio, Texas

February 19th meeting

Refreshments 7:00 p.m.

Meeting 7:30 p.m.



Monthly Minutes



The January 15, 2008 meeting of the Houston Conchology Society was called to order by President Darwin Alder at 7:38 pm. There was no December regular meeting, so there were no minutes to approve.

Treasurer's report: Mary Harris reported we have a balance of \$8,697.75. The December/January expenses of \$808.49 covered a lot of things, including the Museum Christmas Tree, Christmas Party, flowers for Joyce Martin and printing and mailing the new directory.

Unfinished/old business: Darwin announced the upcoming field trip to Port Aransas for Friday, February 1st and Saturday, February 2nd. The Jetty Boat leaves out of Fisherman's Wharf now, for \$10.00 round trip.

Lucy Clampit reminded everyone that the COA convention will be in San Antonio on July 5th — 10th.

New business: Friends and guests at the meeting included Don Pisor, San Diego shell dealer who stopped at Lucy and Jerry Clampit's house for a few days on his way to the Florida shell shows. Leslie introduced his friend Michelle Robicheaux.

Harry Sharp agreed to be Nominations Committee chair. Dave Barziza and Sandy Clark volunteered to be committee members.

Wanda Coker and Tina Petway are looking for items to donate for the COA convention.

Announcements: Wanda Bermudez, who had done the newsletter for the past 2 seasons, sent word that after May of this year she will not be able to do that job anymore. A volunteer for that position is needed.

The next Texas Sheller's Jamboree is in need of a volunteer club to host it. Corpus Christi is next on the list, for 2009.

Leslie had a box full of new and years past Shell Desk diaries for sale to club members. He stated there are no more 2008 calendars available.

Mary and Dennis have reprints of the HCS cookbook for \$5.00 each

With no more business presented, Mary Harris made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Frank Petway seconded and Darwin adjourned the meeting at 7:52 pm.

Program: Leslie Crnkovic announced tonight's program: Judy Lewis and Ardeth Hardin of the North Texas Conchological Society journeyed to Houston to present Judy's program on Brachiopods, and Ardeth brought along her fine collection of antique seashell postcards to display.

HCS 2008 Auction



By Lucy Clampit

Want to add some great shells to your collection? Need some new serving dishes for your next party? How about jewelry? Redecorating? Craft shells? The annual HCS auction is Saturday, **March 1, 2008** and will feature a large selection of shells and shell related items. There will be something for everyone. A few items are pictured in this newsletter. In addition to the oral and silent auctions, there will be a great sale table. The auction will be at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in the Heights again. More pictures, directions, a map and an oral auction list will also be in the March issue.

