



The Epitonium

President's Message

by Darwin Alder

Dear Members,

Our next meeting is **Tuesday, October 20, 2009**, at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Social time begins at 7:00 p.m., and the meeting starts at 7:30. We look forward to a good program. At the last meeting members brought some of their recent and favorite finds. We all had a great time seeing many personal treasures!

Sessions to create the decorations for our fabulous Christmas tree will be **October 17 and 24th** at Cathy Betley's house. Our theme will be Heavenly Stars, Heavenly Shells. Cathy is doing her usual wonderful job of getting things ready for the tree and for those who will help in the decorating.

HCS members are invited to join the Seashell Searchers of Brazoria for their shell show on the **30th and 31st of October**. All people who can participate are invited to

submit entry forms! These events have always been fantastic!

Our Christmas party will be hosted by Nancy and Dave Barziza in December. The time will be announced and a map provided. There will be a gift exchange for those who would like to participate. We will have a \$15.00 price limit.

The annual auction is scheduled for the **2nd weekend in March** at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in the Heights. I would like to thank all of the committee members who make this incredible event possible!

The banquet and the installation of the new officers will be in May. It is tentatively scheduled to be held at the Monument Inn near the Lynchburg Ferry and the San Jacinto Monument.

Happy Shelling wherever life takes you!

October Program

Mark your calendar for the meeting on **October 20**. Our speaker will be Luis Octavio Vela from Yucatan, Mexico. Luis is going to be in Houston on business and has agreed to tell us about his shelling experiences along beaches on the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean sides of the Yucatan.

Luis was born in Yucatan. When he was only a few months old, his family moved to California, but after five years in the U.S. they moved back to Mexico. After graduating from college, he married and now has two teenage children.

The family spends most vacations at the beach. During a vacation, about three years ago, a lady, who has a house full of shells, loaned him the Audubon guide to North American shells. He was hooked! Since then he spends his free time beachcombing. He has also opened a shell museum. The Web site is: www.museodelmar.mex.tl.

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Rusti Stover
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Corresponding Secretary:

Lucy Clampit
(713) 468-0610

Program Committee

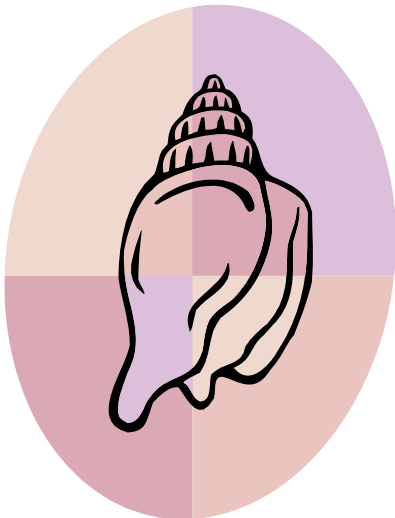
Vice President
Leslie Crnkovic

Visit HCS online at

www.houstonshellclub.com

CALENDAR

10-17	X-Mas tree workshop
10-20	HCS meeting
10-24	X-Mas tree workshop
10-30	SSS Shell Show
11-17	HCS meeting
3-13	HCS Auction



September Minutes

by Rusti Stover

The Tuesday, September 15, 2009, meeting of the Houston Conchology Society was called to order by President Darwin Alder at 7:30 pm.

Approval of minutes from April, 2009 meeting: Motion - Darwin; 2nd: Tina Petway. All approved, motion passed. No minutes to approve from the August dinner meeting.

Treasurer's report: Mary Harris reported we have a balance of \$12,224.26 to date.

Unfinished/old business: Darwin reported that the board approved \$300.00 for the Christmas tree committee and, also, for the auction committee, at its meeting. A formal motion was made by Darwin and seconded by Mary Harris, all approved, motion passed.

New business: Tina Petway reported that there were 2 applicants for the Connie Boone Fund and the Harold W. Harry grants. There are 3 committee members who discussed the applications: Frank Petway, Harry Sharp and Barbara McClintock. Both applicants are young women in the USA who are studying malacology. Both were awarded \$1,000.00 grants. Frank Petway asked about follow-up by the last grant winners, according to club rules. Frank said he will look into it.

Tina reported that COA will be held in Boston in 2010.

The auction will be held on Saturday March 13, 2010, at Immanuel church on Courtlandt Street in the Heights area.

Wayne Humbird announced the upcoming Brazoria County Fair Sea and Shore Shell Show. Exhibits will set on Saturday October 3rd, 2009. Fair opens on October 10th and closes on October 17th, with exhibits removed on Sunday, October 18th.

Patty Humbird talked about the Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show, which will set at the Lake Jackson Civic Center on Thursday night October 29th and Friday morning October 30, 2009. Judging will begin after Friday morning setup. The show will run Friday October 30th and Saturday October 31st. Awards banquet will be at the museum Friday night and cost \$10.00 per person. Entry forms are on the web site. Dealers will be \$50.00 for anyone who wants to sell shells and shell-related items. There will be a special "trick" and "treat" category in honor

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Minutes from page 2 of Halloween. Bob and Betty Lipe are coming from Florida for the show, and Bob Lipe will be the judge. He will also give a program for the SSS meeting the following Tuesday.

Janey Nill announced the program at the October SSS meeting will be about "Project 24", which is how the Houston Museum of Natural Science acquired its early Gulf of Mexico shell collection, with the NW Gulf Survey. Dive Master Jack Rudder will be present for the event.

Guests/new members: Tina introduced Barbara McClintock, who talked about shell donations being needed for an ongoing program about oceans at Horn Elementary School in Bellaire.

There was a small silent auction at the meeting, and in lieu of a raffle, Darwin had all attendees reach into a bag and take a shell packet.

Darwin presented Mary Harris with a present for her 60th birthday. Everyone sang happy birthday to her.

Call for adjournment: Darwin made a motion, Mary Harris seconded, to end the meeting at 8 pm. All approved, motion passed.

Program: The "show and tell" program began with Janey Nill and her Butleri; second was Rusti Stover with a tale of visiting Pacific beaches on Washington's Olympic Peninsula in August. Third was Joe Inchaustigeau with shells he wanted identified. Darwin was last with a beautiful little chocolate-colored *Murex Lattipenne* that was dredged out of muck while on a trip to Panama.

Newspaper Articles

The *Houston Chronicle* recently reported that scientists, who are studying the diets of sperm whales living in the Gulf of Mexico, netted a 20 foot giant squid off of the Louisiana coast. This is only the second giant squid found in the Gulf. The pictures are from KHOU TV.

On October 8 the *Chronicle* printed a story about "oyster gardening". Several families who live on Galveston Bay are participating in the experiment. They suspend mesh bags full of old oyster shells from their fishing piers. The shells provide a hard surface for oyster larvae to attach and grow.

The articles are too long to be reprinted in the newsletter, but they are on the HCS Web site. If you would like to read them, go to the **Publications** page and click on "Articles of Interest:" <http://www.houstonshellclub.com/Publications.htm#Articles>



SSS Shell Show

Since the Sea Shell Searchers will host their shell show on Halloween weekend, **October 30-31**, there will be some special “trophy” awarded:

Monster trophy – biggest shell in the show

Spider trophy – smallest shell in the show

Costume trophy – best naturally disguised shell in the show

Bat trophy – winged shell

Pumpkin trophy – orange shell

Ghost trophy – white shell

Cat trophy – black shell

Dracula trophy – most bloodthirsty shell

Any shell in the show is eligible for these trophies. Decision of the judges is final. Wonderful trophies will be awarded.

A “Trick” and a “Treat” trophy will be given instead of a Best of Class ribbon.

****Remember that a “trick” looks like a shell, but is not a REAL shell. A “treat” is a REAL shell.**

The Scientific Trophies will be: COA, DuPont, Mildred Tate Gulf of Mexico, Thomas Pulley Texas, Shell of the Show – self collected and Shell of the Show – any source.

Additional Trophies will be: Beachcomber, Junior, People’s Choice Friday and Saturday.

This show will be lots of fun, so please let Wanda Coker or Patty Humbird know what category you plan to enter and the approximate space needed **as soon as possible**. They have to make sure they have enough tables. They also need to know if you wish to have a sale table for \$50.

Contact information:

Patty at: whumbird@earthlink.net or 979-265-1320

Wanda at: shellman7000@sbcglobal.net or 979-297-0852

Rules and entry forms are available on the club’s Web site:

<http://bcfas.org/museum/SSSBC/SSSBC.html>.



Christmas Tree Decorations

by Cathy Betley

Decoration making workshops will be held on **Saturday, October 17** and again on **Saturday, October 24 from 10 a.m. until 3 or 4 p.m.** All the materials and lunch will be provided but **please bring scissors** for cutting paper and ribbon.

This year's tree title is "Starry Nights, Starry Shells", and we are going for a little more "black" than usual to try and give a night time appearance. The colors will also include some blues & dark blues, silver and some white. If a third workshop is needed we'll meet on November 14th.



Houston Gem and Mineral Society

(www.hgms.org)

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Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, and Fossil Show

November 13 - 15, 2009

Fri 9-6 / Sat 9-6 / Sun 10-5

HUMBLE CIVIC CENTER

8233 Will Clayton Parkway, Humble, Texas

2009 Show Flyer:www.hgms.org/client_show/2009ShowFlyer_Complete.pdf



LEFT: Darwin and Joe identify shells at Sept. meeting.



RIGHT: Janey Nill presents an interesting shell during the Sept. program.

Photos by Rusti Stover.

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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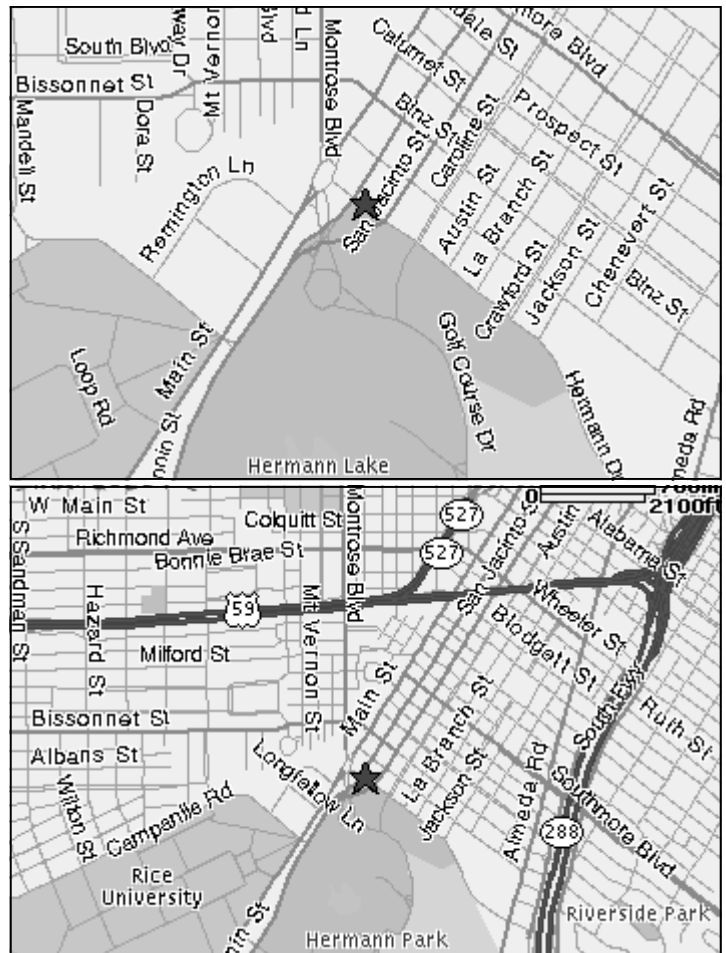
The Society holds regular meetings on the third Tuesday of August, September, October, November, January, February and April. There are seasonal events and a yearly shell auction scheduled in the other months. Meetings start at 7:30 PM at the Museum of Natural Science, 1 Hermann Circle Drive.

VISITORS WELCOME!!!

Membership year extends from June 1 through May 31.
Annual membership dues: Family \$12; Single \$10; Junior (under 18) \$6; Subscriptions only (Museums, Corporations) \$12; Foreign postage add \$8.

Make checks payable to Houston Conchology Society and send to Mary Harris, 8826 Concho, Houston, TX 77036.

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