



# The Epitonium

## President's Message

By Darwin Alder

I have had a great deal of pleasure serving as your President for the past 3 years! I am looking forward to more wonderful times with you all! The club has been fantastic and very supportive, and I am happy to call you all friends! Thanks to all of you for your assistance and efforts. We had marvelous programs, great food and fun! We partici-

pated in the COA conventions and enjoyed ourselves thoroughly!

**Our Banquet is at the Monument Inn on Saturday, May 15.** I hope to go out with a spectacular finish, with lots of fun for all. Be sure to order your tickets from Dennis and Mary Harris, at \$15.00/person, and we will see you at **12:30** for our **1:00** lunch at the Inn.

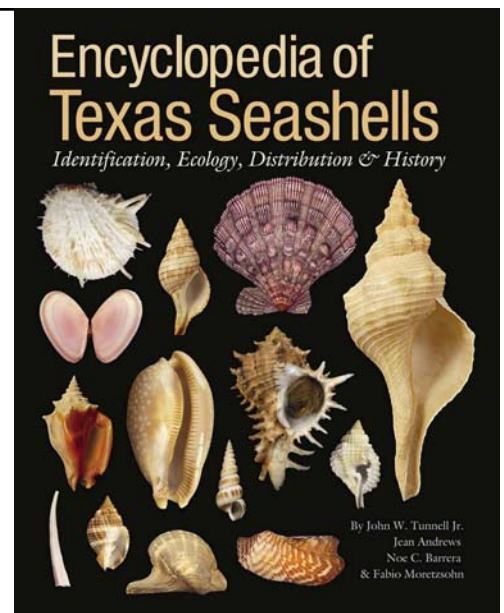
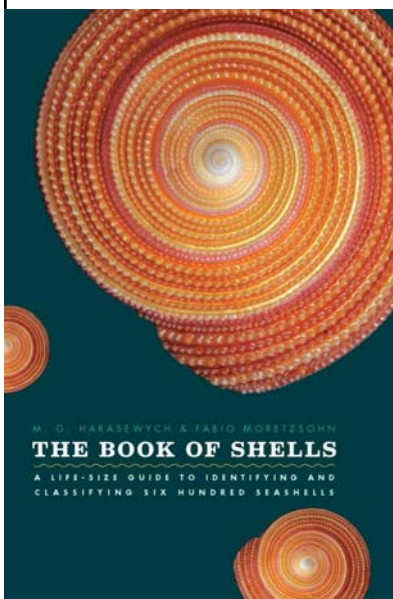
## New Shell Books

The long awaited *Encyclopedia of Texas Seashells*, published by TAMU Press, should finally be available in early July.

Co-author Fabio Moretzsohn has also co-authored *The Book of Shells* with Dr. Jerry Harasewych, curator of mollusks at the Smithsonian. Fabio wrote most of the species descriptions.

Jerry took the photos, wrote the introductory text and wrote some of the species descriptions. He also revised the text. It is being published by the University of Chicago Press and should also be available in early July. More information about the book can be found at: <http://www.press.uchicago.edu/presssite/metadata.epl?mode=synopsis&bookkey=8748568>.

Both books can be preordered from Amazon or Barnes & Noble. If you preorder the books, the price is reduced. These pictures are the final book covers. Pictures that you see on the Internet may be earlier versions of the covers.



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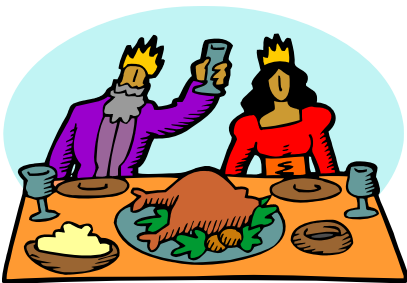
Visit HCS online at

[www.houstonshellclub.com](http://www.houstonshellclub.com)

## CALENDAR

5-15	HCS Banquet
8-17	HCS Social
8-27	COA Begins
9-21	HCS Meeting

## Banquet



# April Minutes

Submitted by Rusti Stover

The Tuesday, April 20, 2010 meeting of the Houston Conchology Society was called to order by President Darwin Alder at 7:35 p.m. at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Dave Barziza made a motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting as printed in the newsletter; Dennis Harris seconded, all approved. Motion passed. Mary Harris gave the Treasurer's Report: the Balance as of April 20, 2010 was \$13,746.79. The total inflow from the Annual Auction was \$4,707.19. Darwin mentioned that the tables in the back had a nice silent auction and a final sale table up front to peruse.

Under New Business, Pat Hough brought fliers for the San Antonio Shell Club auction, which will be held on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be silent auctions as well as oral auctions. Pat stated they have over 400 items so far for the silent auctions, and more coming in.

The Annual end of season banquet will be held once again at the Monument Inn, starting at noon. Dinner will be served at 1:00 p.m. Darwin is planning a great 'give-away' for the banquet. Contact Dennis or Mary Harris for tickets.

Tina Petway spoke on the grants program. She said two students have inquired about the grants and the guidelines for their papers have been sent out.

COA 2010 will be held the last week of August in Boston.

Tina is looking for a home for 2 calico kittens, one orange tiger kitten and 3 black and white striped ones.

With no further business forthcoming, Tina made a motion to close the meeting, Mary Harris seconded, all approved. The meeting closed at 7:46 p.m.

Tina Petway manned the computer for a slide show set to music of Jackie and Mary Lou Reid's spectacular underwater photography. There were 3 different programs and the assembled crowd enjoyed almost an hour of the close-up photography of many different fish, nudibranch and mollusk species in the three programs. Jackie and Mary Lou are Lake Jackson residents and accomplished divers and photographers who travel extensively to dive the reefs of the world.

## 2010-2011 Dues!

Thanks to everyone who has already paid their dues. If you have not paid, you will receive an e-mail notification or you will find a form enclosed in this newsletter.

### San Antonio Shell Club Auction

By Darwin Alder

On Saturday, May 1, 2010 we started a fabulous journey. At about 7:00 am Cathy Betley, accompanied by Angela Doucette and Darwin Alder, headed west along Interstate 10 to San Antonio to participate in the auction sponsored by the San Antonio Shell Club. We joined with the members of the San Antonio Shell Club, other members of the Houston Conchology Society, the Seashell Searchers of Brazoria County, and the Coastal Bend Shell Clubs. It was to be a fantastic event!

The treasures were already set up for our perusal. The 1st silent auction was ready for bids. There were wonderful shells, magnificent books and shell-related items. The auction started and we made our bids. Gary Griffin was our auctioneer. He presented shells in inimitable style for our bidding and viewing pleasure. In addition to the oral and

silent auctions, there were raffle items, guess how many shells and fun in store for all who attended!

After the first oral and silent sessions we had a large array of superb sandwich fixings, chips, and desserts to delight and satiate us.

More fabulous shells and shell-related delights were available during the second session of the silent and oral auctions. Everyone who wanted anything had great opportunities to procure them.

The auction netted more than \$2500.00. It was a marvelous success!

Our thanks to Sybil Berger and the other members of the San Antonio Shell Club for an incredible time!

To top off the day, Cathy, Angela, and Darwin enjoyed the wildflowers all the way from Houston to San Antonio, on to Corpus Christi and Port Aransas, for a beach and shopping excursion and back to Houston!

### Shellebration Boston!

The annual Conchologists of America convention will be **August 27-31** in Boston at the Park Plaza Hotel. Pre-convention **field trips will be on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>**. Details, along with registration information, are available at: <http://conchologistsofamerica.org/conventions/2010/brochure.pdf>. Hope to see you there.



## MOVIE REVIEW: *OCEANS*

By Rusti Stover

*Oceans*, an 84-minute long documentary-type movie by the Disney folks, opened at theaters everywhere on Earth Day 2010 (Thursday April 22<sup>nd</sup>). The movie is a visually stunning exploration of the creatures that inhabit the 72 percent of our earth's surface that is covered with our life source, water.



The movie, narrated expertly by Pierce Brosnan's smooth Irish accent, follows the behemoths of the whale and whale shark families on their journeys, exults with both underwater and aerial photography a feeding frenzy on a huge school of sardines by both marine and avian predators, and quietly sneaks up on the reef-dwellers we love to watch in our monthly programs at the museum, among other undertakings. There are some grab-the-tissues moments as hatchling sea turtles struggle to make it across the sand to the water before Frigate birds snatch them up for lunch, be warned; this is nature at its most honest. Most of the scenes,

however, have a good dose of the Disney 'cute' factor.

Two of many mollusks shown in the movie are a live Lambis and a Spanish Dancer Nudi-branch. A gathering of spider crabs numbering in the millions is fascinating, along with the antics of many other invertebrates. A blue-and-yellow ribbon eel seems to uncoil and undulate endlessly, and an octopus I have never heard of, the Blanket Octopus, glides along looking very much like a red masked-and-caped underwater superhero.

The transitions from calm underwater scenes to storm surge waves breaking against ships or shores are done with precision, and filming takes place all over the globe, from both ice caps to all tropical regions of the earth. Hard to think of what they missed, if anything.

Many species of dolphins in large pods race along, breaking through waves with ever higher and fancier triple-and quadruple 'axel' turns, as if they were all in pursuit of a medal for their acrobatics. Who knows, maybe they are!

Anyone who is remotely interested in underwater creatures or the ecology of our planet should not miss this aqueous feast for the eyes while it is playing on the big screen. Go! Now! Be amazed! The movie's web site is: <http://disney.go.com/disneynature/>



# HCS Banquet

The year-end Banquet will be held on **Saturday May 15th** at the Monument Inn, near the Lynchburg Ferry, starting at 12:30 p.m. The Address is 4406 Battleground Road, La Porte, Texas. All tickets will be \$15.00 per person. If you have not purchased your ticket and plan to attend, Please contact Mary or Dennis Harris (713-772-3843) ASAP.

## Driving Directions:

**From the 610 North Loop East or the Beltway 8 N.** Go North to 225. Turn East (Right turn) on 225. Go to 134 (Battleground Road) . Go North on Battleground Road (Left Turn) to the San Jacinto State Park. Continue through park to the Monument Inn near the Lynchburg Ferry landing.

**From I-10 East:** Go east on I10 to the Lynchburg Ferry, take the ferry to the San Jacinto side and the Inn.

