



The Epitonium

January Program

By Darwin Alder

We are in for a special treat at this Meeting of the Houston Conchology Society! Join us one and all for a wonderful program about the Galveston Bay Foundation. Dr Bob Stokes, who is the director of the Foundation, will give us an overview of the current status and happenings in Galveston Bay and its environs. We will be amazed, entertained and inspired by the presentation. Galveston Bay and the surrounding area are of special interest to us as it is part of our enjoyment as shellers and conservationists seeking to maintain the environment for ourselves and the future.



Please tell all of your friends and neighbors of this event and prepare to join us at the Houston Museum of Natural Science on Tuesday, **January 17, 2012**. Social time begins at 7:00 and the pro-

gram begins at 7:30. We are planning to have a sale table and a mini-silent auction.

Join us for a future fabulous presentation. In February by Lucy Clampit will talk about culturing Queen Conch pearls. Dave Green will wow us in March. We will have an April SURPRISE! May is the Jamboree and Banquet. Happy Shelling!



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Rusti Stover

Hello, fellow shellers! Our November meeting at the Houston Museum of Natural Science was well attended, and we were treated to a great program on Peru by Dave and Nancy Barziza! The December Christmas Party at Leslie's was fun, well attended, and I think everyone had a good time! Lynn Blair-Huber came to the Christmas party, and we all enjoyed seeing her again! Hope she can attend

some more of our meetings!

The January meeting will be held at the Museum of Natural Science, as usual, and starts at **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17th, 2012**. Hope to see you there! We will be having another great silent auction at the meeting; you don't want to miss that! Darwin has a great program lined up; another fine program from the Galveston Bay Foundation.

Come join us on the 17th.

President:

Rusti Stover
(713) 660-6446

Vice President:

Rachel Zelko
(713) 988-7286

Treasurer:

Dennis Harris
(713) 772-3843

Recording Secretary:

Angela Doucette
(281) 987-7729

Corresponding Secretary:

Jerry Clampit
(713) 468-0610

Program Chairman

Darwin Alder
(713) 863-9652

November Minutes

Submitted by Angela Doucette

The Houston Conchology Society Meeting was called to order by President, Rusti Stover, at 7:30 p.m. on November 15, 2011. The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Dennis Harris presented the Treasurer's Report which included \$300 spent for Christmas tree decorations and \$1,000 for a Grant. The remaining balance in the checking account totals \$7,685.31.

Christmas Tree: Darwin Alder presented a progress report on the Christmas tree. He stated that the tree will have lots of shells and decorations. The tree will be decorated on Tuesday, November 29, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

Jamboree Report: In Lucy Clampit's absence, Cathy Betley reported that we have approximately 25 boxes of shells in preparation of the Jamboree. The next meeting will be held in January 2012. Volunteers for all committees are needed. A Mini-Shell Show with 6 categories is planned for the Jamboree. Tina Petway proposed that since the Pulley Award was not given at a shell show that we present the award at the Jamboree for self-collected Texas shells. A motion was made and passed.

Christmas/Holiday Party: The 2011 party will be held at the home of Leslie Crnkovic on Sunday, December 11, 2011 from 2-5p.m. There will also be an after party for adults who would like to linger. Please bring your favorite dish or dessert. Also, please bring a shell related gift valued at \$15 to exchange. If you have any questions, contact Leslie at 713-784-7084 (home) or 713-598-7084 (cell).

Field Trips: Cathy Betley may go to East Beach on Sunday in December 2011 or January 2012. Rusti Stover suggested a field-trip to the Brazos River. Lucy Clampit needs all address and phone changes for the membership directory. On January 17, 2012 the Galveston Bay Association will present the program. It was voted that we donate the same amount as last year to the association. It was moved and approved that the meeting be adjourned. Darwin Alder introduced Dave and Nancy Barziza as presenters for the evening's program about Peru.

Visit HCS online at
www.houstonshellclub.com

CALENDAR

1/17	HCS meeting
2/21	HCS Meeting
3/20	HCS Meeting
4/17	HCS Meeting
5/4-6	Texas Jamboree

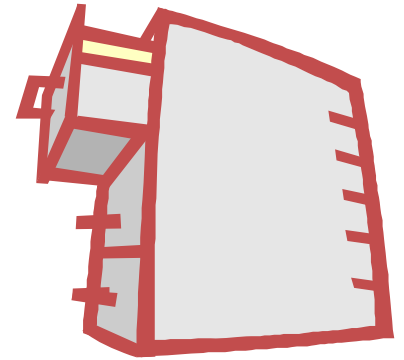
Membership Directory

The new directory is ready. When you receive your copy, please check to see if all of your information is correct. If changes need to be made, contact Lucy Clampit at: 713-468-0610 or lclampit@cpmcast.net.

HCS STORAGE ROOM

By Cathy Betley

Hi, Club Members, and Happy New Year. In order to make room for more auction material, the storage room is getting a minor make-over. Many years ago, we picked-up the extensive Leola Glass collection from her children and grandchildren. Along with many boxes of material, we received four chests-of-drawers from her attic. These are unfinished wood, four-drawer chests that measure 23-1/2" wide x 33" high and 13-1/2" deep. They are now ready to leave the HCS storage room and move to a new home.



Please contact Lucy Clampit (713-468-0610) or Cathy Betley (713-829-1087) if you are interested in acquiring these chests and are willing to haul them away. You may have them for a small donation to the club.

Christmas Tree Thanks

By Tina Petway

I would like to take this opportunity to brag on some of our very special club members. These folks happily gave their time to come all the way to Pearland, several times, to work on the shell ornaments for our HCS Tree at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. It was quite a challenge to find days when we could get together to work. I hope you all had an opportunity to see the Tree in person. It was truly "Fabulous" again this year. That is really saying something, since we had many "Fabulous" trees from past years to live up to. It was one of the public's favorites again this year. Our theme was "Preserving and Protecting the World's Ocean Habitats".



So a special, warm, THANK YOU to all who

so generously gave time and talent: Angela Doucette, Rusti Stover, Cathy Betley, Darwin Alder, Nancy Mustachio, Victoria Craig, Nancy Barziza, Rachael Zelco and Rusti's daughter Andrea Winans.

From all of us, we extend our best wishes to you all for a happy and safe New Year.

(Tree pictures were taken by Rusti Stover. A few are in the newsletter.

Others are available at:

<http://www.houstonshellclub.com/Photo%20Album.htm>.)

Christmas Party

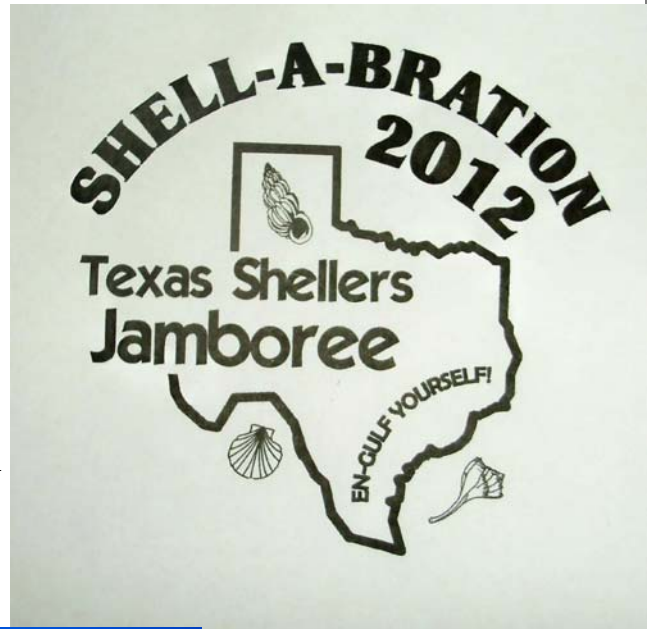
Thanks to Leslie Crnkovic for hosting the annual Christmas Party. And, thanks to Rusti Stover for her assistance. Everyone had a great time socializing, eating and exchanging gifts. There are a few pictures included in this issue of *The Epitonium*. Other pictures are available at: <http://www.houstonshellclub.com/Photo%20Album.htm>.



Shell-A-Bration 2012 - AKA Texas Jamboree

The Houston Conchology Society invites Texas shellers to attend Shell-A-Bration 2012, **May 4-6**, at the Four Points by Sheraton Memorial City. The hotel is located at 10655 Katy Freeway (I-10 west) near Memorial City Mall – one of Houston’s largest malls. Many other shopping areas, restaurants and entertainment venues are also nearby. Memorial City provides a free shuttle that stops at the hotel every 30 minutes and will take attendees to designated stops in the area.

Amenities for those staying at the hotel include: a free breakfast buffet, a free shuttle that will take you to businesses within a five mile radius, free bottled water and a refrigerator in each room. All rooms are non-smoking.



Jamboree participants have a variety of rooms from which to choose. A traditional king room is \$79 per night. A king suite is \$89 per night and a double suite is \$99 per night. These rates do not include tax which is 17% at this time. Each suite has a sleeper sofa. The hotel also has “Cabana Rooms” that have easy access to the pool. Four people can stay in a room for the same rates, and a limited number of rooms are

available for the same rates one day prior to the Jamboree and one day after – May 3-7. Pictures of the rooms can be viewed on the hotel’s web site: www.fourpoints.com/memorialcity.

In order to take advantage of the Jamboree rates, Room reservations must be made by April 3, 2012. Rooms may be booked at: [Houston Conchology Soc Tx Seas](http://www.houstonconchology.com) or <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1109014734&key=55CD7>. Reservations may also be made by calling 281-501-4600 and requesting the *Houston Conchology Society Texas Seashell* rate.

Jamboree registration, sale table cost and shell show information will be available soon.