



Houston Conchology Society

The Epitonium

Volume XXV, Issue I

www.houstonshellclub.com

September, 2017

September Program



the Emperor's Slit Shell

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The Emperor's Shell - Part II: "Pop Culture & Concho-Philately"

By Leslie Crnkovic

In February I presented Part I as the History of the Slit Shell *Mikadotrochus hirasei* and how it came to be known as "The Emperor's Shell".

For our September meeting, I will present Part II, as we explore the shell's incursion into Pop Culture and its Postage Stamp. Leading to us explore Concho-Philately or Malacophilately ...that being, collecting Shells on Stamps, and the associated Philatelic Art.

The program promises to be Educational, Entertaining and if nothing else, Colorful! I will also bring a lot of Materials for Display and some Door Prizes. See you there!!!



President's Message

By Angela Doucette

On behalf of the Houston Conchology Society, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for your thoughts and prayers extended to members and their families affected by Hurricane Harvey. As south Texas rebuilds from this disastrous flood, whether from water in homes, leaks, lost power, or evacuation of homes, we ask for your continued support.

We look forward to seeing many members for the first meeting on **Tuesday, September 19,**

2017 at the **Houston Museum of Natural Science at 7:00 pm.** We enthusiastically await Leslie Crnkovic's continued program on shells in China.

Those attending COA in Key West thoroughly enjoyed the convention. Next year's convention will be held in San Diego, CA starting August 29, 2018 through September 2, 2018.



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www.houstonshellclub.com

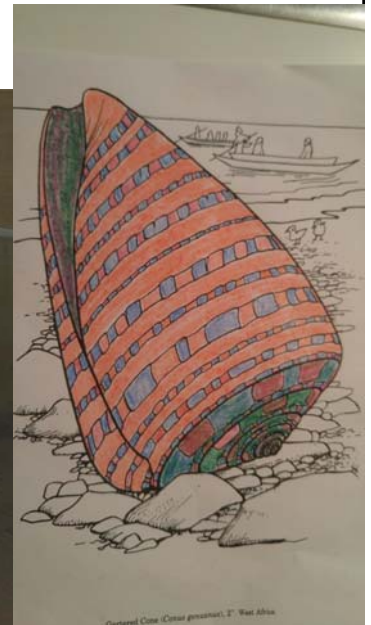
CALENDAR

9/19	HCS Meeting
10/17	HCS Meeting
11/28	HCS Meeting

No minutes this issue

HCS Banquet

Several members enjoyed socializing, coloring pictures of sea shells, and enjoying the wonderful food at Monument Inn. Humm.... A new species of cone shell might have been discovered!? Pictures are from Rusti Stover and Cathy Betley



COA

The week of August 14 found several HCS members in Key West enjoying the annual COA convention and the usual KW attractions: from the beaches, shopping, historical venues, and key lime pie to the sunset on Mallory Square. You will find a few pictures in this issue.



The convention opened with the blowing of a conch horn by Clint Curry, son of the convention co chair Greg Curry Jr. Clint is very good at playing music with it. Here is a YouTube link of his demonstration on how to play: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-Uk0sXw_wg.

The programs included: the history of KW, the status of the Queen Conch population around KW, restoring reefs, unusual Nerites, "Musical Mollusks," the tangle net industry, shipworms, fossils, and "The American Pearl Wars" (presented by HCS member Alan Gettleman). Author Wolfgang Grulke presented a program to go with his book *Nautilus: Beautiful Survivor*. His program was as interesting and beautiful as the book is. The banquet speaker was Richard Goldberg who reflected on the 1980 convention that was also in KW.

As usual, participants were busy acquiring new specimens for their collections. This year the bourse was overshadowed by the oral auction. The family of Fredric Weiss donated his fabulous collection to COA. Some of the specimens were very rare. A *Morum veleroae* sold for \$10,000! The oral auction alone raised **\$81,860** for COA's educational grants!



(COA continued) There is no shell club in KW, and Greg is the only COA member living there. His co-chair Ed Shuller is from North Carolina, so the convention was a collaborative effort by many people, primarily from FL and NC. We thank everyone involved for their hard work and another wonderful convention.



The 2018 convention will be **August 29-through September 2 in San Diego**. Mark your calendar. There will be more shells from the Weiss collection for sale!

Possible Meeting Change

During the summer, your HCS officers met to discuss issues the club is facing. One of the most pressing is attendance at meetings. As our members age, they become reluctant to drive at night. If you do not regularly attend meetings, would you attend if the meetings were held during the day, on a weekend? If we change to a weekend, parking at the museum will become expensive and difficult. The possibility of changing the day, time, and location of meetings will be discussed at the meeting on **September 19**. Please plan to attend if you can. If you cannot attend, let Lucy Clampit (lclampit@comcast.net or 713-468-0610) know if a weekend meeting would be better for you.

HCS Facebook Page

Cheryl Hood has created a great Facebook page for the club. We have invited members that we know use FB to join. If we missed you, please find the Houston Conchology Society on Facebook and ask to join. Meeting information will be posted on the site, as well as articles, links, pictures, etc. that will interest shell collectors.

Thank you, Cheryl.

2018 Auction

The auction committee is collecting donations for the 2018 auction. If you have shell or shell related items to donate, please bring them to a meeting or contact Lucy Clampit: 713-468-0610.

Field Trip

By Rusti Stover

At the board meeting in August, Rusti Stover suggested that the club might enjoy a field trip to the newly renovated Moody Gardens Aquarium Pyramid, in cooler weather, possibly a weekend in October. Saturday or Sunday dates were discussed, but nothing concrete was decided. Moody Gardens has spent 37 million dollars on this renovation and expansion.

Rusti contacted Moody Gardens about a group discount: regular individual pricing is pretty steep...adults, \$31.95, seniors, \$25.95. If we get a group of 20 people guaranteed to attend, we can all get in for only 12 dollars a person! We can also enjoy a low group rate if we also want to take the 45 to 55 minute ride on the Colonel Paddle wheel boat, which sails at 1 pm and 3 pm daily. Rusti will present more information at our first monthly meeting, September 19th, 2017. We might have a date for the field trip by that time.

After the Moody Gardens Aquarium visit, the club can also eat together somewhere on the island before heading home.

More COA Pictures



Strake Hall of Malacology at HMNS

If you missed the exhibit of the Poppe shells when it was in the museum Gem Vault, it has been moved to the Strake Hall of Malacology exhibit area. Admission is free for members and included in the museum admission price for nonmembers.

The shells are true Gems of the Sea!

Texas Jamboree

The Corpus Christi shell club still plans to host the 2018 Jamboree on the first weekend in May. Harvey dealt them a heavy blow also, but reports from members indicate that they did not suffer extensive damage to their homes. Look for newsletter and email updates when they get organized.

2017-18 Dues

If you have not paid your dues for 2017-18, and you receive a paper copy of the newsletter, you will find a renewal form in this newsletter. If you read the newsletter on the website, you will receive an email with a reminder.

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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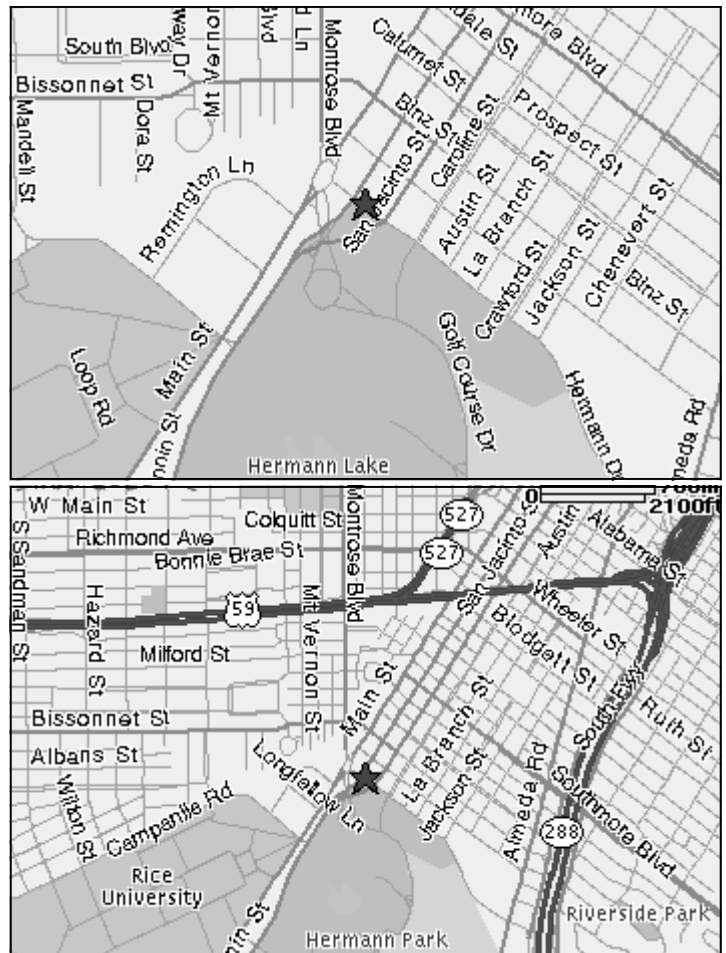
The Society holds regular meetings on the third Tuesday of September, October, November, January, February and April. There are seasonal events and a yearly shell auction scheduled in the other months. Meetings start at 7:30 PM at the Museum of Natural Science, 5555 Hermann Park Drive.

VISITORS WELCOME!!!

Membership year extends from June 1 through May 31.
Annual membership dues: Family \$12; Single \$10; Junior (under 18) \$6.

Make checks payable to Houston Conchology Society and send to Sandy Clark, 2475 Underwood St. #288, Houston, TX 77005.

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