



The Epitonium

January Meeting and Program

The next meeting of the Houston Conchology Society is scheduled for **Sunday, January 15**. We will meet at 2:00 p.m. at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in the Heights area.

Come and join us to view “Saving the Queen of the Sea: Queen Conch Conservation Aquaculture” by Megan Davis Ph.D. from Florida Atlantic University Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute. The Queen Conch is a very important resource for many areas, so the Harbor Branch research is vital. You can read more about their important aquaculture work at: [Aquaculture Innovation and Global Food Security | Florida Atlantic University \(fau.edu\)](https://www.fau.edu/aquaculture-innovation-and-global-food-security/).

The program is part of the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum Lecture Series and is used with their permission.

Shark's Teeth

The editor has received an inquiry about where to find shark's teeth on TX beaches. I don't recall ever finding any locally, but the question aroused my curiosity. Have any of you found them in TX? If you have, please send me an email with the details.

lclampit@comcast.net



President's Message

New Year's Greetings HCS Members!

Hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year's Holidays!

It's time to make up a nominating committee for next year's officers, please let me know if you would like to participate.

Also, we hope to have a draft of the amended HCS Bylaws soon so that all revisions will be completed and ready to vote on by the April meeting.

We look forward to seeing you at the January meeting!

Leslie

HCS Christmas Tree Decorations

See article on Page 3



President:
Leslie Crnkovic

Vice President:
Angela Doucette

Treasurer:
Angie Haneiko

Recording Secretary:
Rusti Stover

Corresponding Secretary:
Jerry Clampit

Visit HCS online at
www.houstonshellclub.com

CALENDAR

1/15/23	HCS Meeting
2/19/23	HCS Meeting
3/19/23	HCS Meeting
4/16/23	HCS Meeting
5/20/23	HCS Banquet
5/31/23	COA Convention

HCS Christmas Tree
See article on Page 3



November Minutes

Submitted by Rusti Stover

President Leslie Crnkovic called the meeting to order at the Immanuel Lutheran Church, at 2:10 pm. All club officers were present. Leslie introduced two new members, Karen Dean and Vivian Latimer.

Dave Green made a motion and Frank Petway seconded, to approve the minutes of the September meeting. All approved, motion passed.

Treasurer Angie Haneiko reported that, thanks to the auctions at the October Jamboree, the club has a healthy balance in the bank. A discussion was undertaken about the possibility of resuming our grants program. Tina Petway responded that we should be able to start giving grants again. Tina also mentioned that past grant recipients have reported getting their PHDs. Cut-off date for receiving grant proposals will be April 1, 2023, and winners will be announced May 1, 2023.

Leslie mentioned upcoming events: the Museum Christmas Tree will be decorated on Wednesday November 30, starting at 9 a.m. The club Christmas Party will be held at the home of Nancy and John Mustachio, on Sunday December 6th at 2 p.m. Nancy will provide the meat dishes, and members are urged to call Nancy (telephone number in directory) and tell her what sides and/or dessert they are bringing. Leslie has obtained a reservation at the Monument Inn for the Annual Banquet for May 20th at noon. Cost for the banquet per individual is \$35.00.

Dave Green mentioned upcoming shell shows in Florida and North Carolina. Next year's COA convention will be the end of May, 2023 in Wilmington, NC.

Lucy mentioned the new updated member directory will be emailed to members in January.

Leslie also mentioned there will be no regular March auction, as we had a successful auction at the October Jamboree. Rusti reported she has 16 Margaret Furlong Seashell Christmas Ornaments that belong to the club, that she is putting up on her eBay auction page this week. Lucy will send a link to members.

Wanda Coker asked for a show of hands for interest in the Sea Shell Searchers having another shell show in October of 2023, possibly making it an annual event. There was a lot of interest. Wanda also mentioned there will be no December meeting of the Sea Shell Searchers, and that meetings will be moving to Saturday afternoon in January, to see if that works better for members. First meeting of 2023 will be Saturday January 7th, at 2:00 pm at the Museum.

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November Minutes from Page 2 Mary Harris spoke on a recent trip to Patton Center for Marine Education at UT Port Aransas. Tina Petway also mentioned places for field trips, including the offsite work area for the Houston Museum of Natural Science. The club could have a field trip there, on a weekday, set up in advance. Outdoor field trip ideas also include Sargent or Bryan Beach, on a winter low tide day.

There being no further business, Frank Petway made a motion to end the meeting, Tina Petway seconded, all approved, motion passed. The meeting closed at 2:45 pm.

HCS Christmas Tree

A big thank you to Darwin Alder and Tina Petway and their elves for the beautiful HCS tree at the HMNS. The theme was “Celebrating the Diversity of life. Elves Angela Doucette, Victoria Craig, Nancy Mustachio, and Linda Green made the lovely ornaments. Elves Gabby Truly, Angela Doucette, Leslie Crnkovic, Rachel Zelko, and Wanda and Steven Coker helped to decorate the tree. Thanks again for your hard work, so we could be represented at this event.

(pictures courtesy of Tina and Darwin)



HCS Christmas Party

Several HCS members enjoyed the lovely Christmas party hosted by Nancy and John Mustachio. Thanks to everyone who brought food to share, and thanks to Nancy and John.



Hosts Nancy and John Mustachio



Puzzlers Sandy Clark, Darwin Alder and Linda Green



Frank Petway and Wanda Coker



Sandy Clark and Mary Harris



Angela Doucet, Leslie Crnkovic and Tina Petway



David Green

Low Tide Report

By Mary Harris

On the 27th of December I drove to Quintana Beach to check out the low tide. It was a cold, windy but beautiful day. The tide was way out, but very little was on the beach. One crabbed, drilled *hastula salleana*,



probably the largest I have ever seen. There were many what I think were nutmegs(*cancelaria*), don't think I have seen so many in that area before. There were also many moon snails and one perfect juvenile Busycon.

One thing I found was that one cannot go into the Quintana Beach County Park area without a keycode. Unfortunate since there is better access and restrooms.



Patton Center-Marine Science Institute

On November 11 & December 16, 2022, Darwin Alder, Mary Harris & Dee Rubin traveled to Port Aransas to see the new Patton Center-Marine Science Education at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute. This is a new center with a focus on marine education. It has a few saltwater aquariums, an inside education area with informative displays, and a wonderful Wetlands Education Center. The Wetlands Exhibit alone is well worth the trip. It is an easy,

outside stroll on a boardwalk.

Funds for this facility come from Hurricane Harvey recovery and the Patton family. It is located at 855 East Cotter Avenue, Port Aransas, just about a mile from the ferry landing. More information and pictures are available on Facebook under Mission-Aransas Reserve.



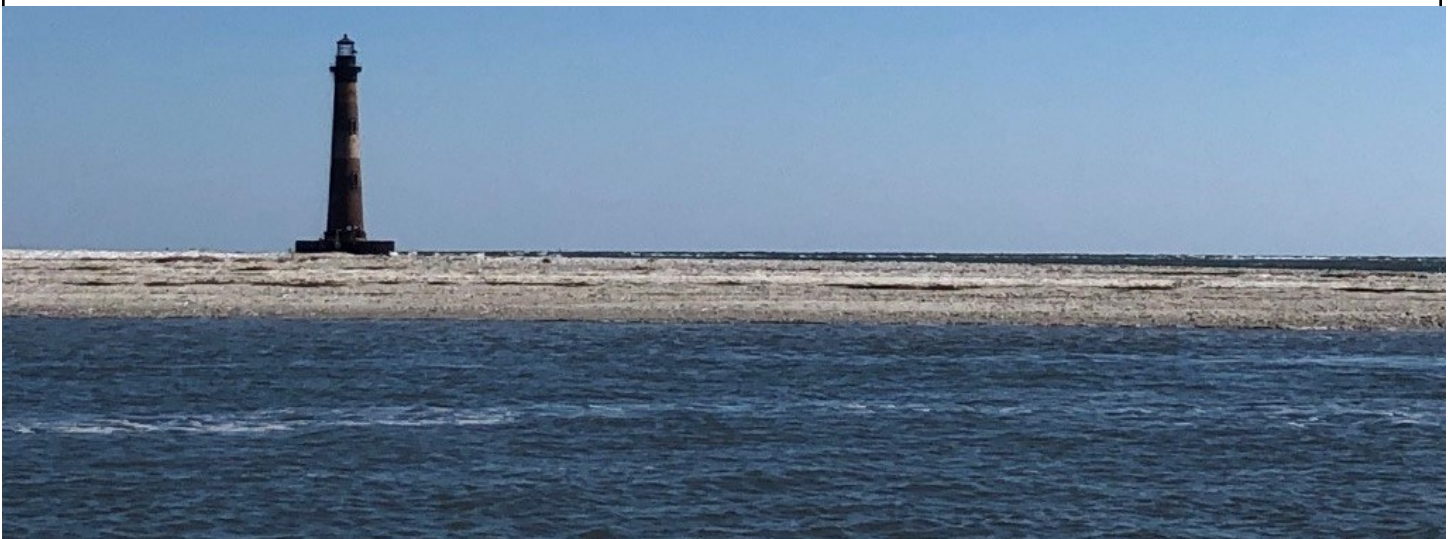
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Morris Island, South Carolina

By Lisa Alderman

In October (after a month delay due to Hurricane Ian) I had the opportunity to visit Morris Island, an uninhabited island off the coast of Charleston which is only accessible by boat. A friend had told me about a private boat company that offers “eco/shelling tours” to the island and that I should go there for the best beachcombing in the area. The morning was sunny and clear, but chilly as one of the first cold fronts had come through the night before. The ride out to the island took about 20 minutes and we spotted a variety of shore birds and dolphins along the way. The Morris Island Lighthouse (pictured above), constructed in 1876, now sits off in the distance due to erosion of the island.



What I didn't know was that fossil shark teeth are the thing to look for in the Carolinas! On the trip over to the island our boat captain told us

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Continued from Page 6 a new island “opened” the weekend before and that his client had found 40 fossil shark teeth, one measuring 5 inches long. The photos were incredible! Wouldn't it be fantastic to find a fossil shark's tooth!?! He showed us a couple samples of what they looked like and directed us to where in his experience was the more likely areas of the island.

After a couple hours we hadn't found any fossil shark's teeth but did find some nice large knobbed whelks. Our boat captain told us not to be too disappointed as a couple of professional fossil hunters had been right ahead of us on the beach. Later that day in the Blue Bicycle Books shop I found a book entitled “Shark Tooth Hunting on the Carolina Coast” by Ashley Olipant. In it I learned that the Carolina coast is home to some of the best fossil formations and that there is an active “beach renourishment” program along the coast to combat erosion of the barrier islands. When a beach is targeted for “renourishment” it's closed to the public then dredged material is brought in to fortify the beach. All of this work is made public and fossil shark tooth and shell collectors monitor the sites for progress. When the beach is going to “open” is published and collectors are there waiting when the sun comes up. That's how that person was able to easily find 40 fossil shark teeth that day. I need to find one of these sites so I can plan my next trip to Charleston!



Doctored Shells

Marcus Coltro recently posted this interesting tidbit on the Femorale Facebook page. With his permission, the editor is sharing it with you.

“It is amazing the quantity of doctored shells we find on old collections - and some dealers even took shells from all over the world to the Philippines so the "doctors" could repair them....



Whenever you see some weird color difference on shells most likely they were repaired.

They use some sort of resin so sometimes the only way to remove is using fire or a hot metal pick as I did here - even acetone won't remove it and UV light will not always show the repairs.

On this particular case they have covered the scar and painted it.”



The Eptonium 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 Eptonium*, 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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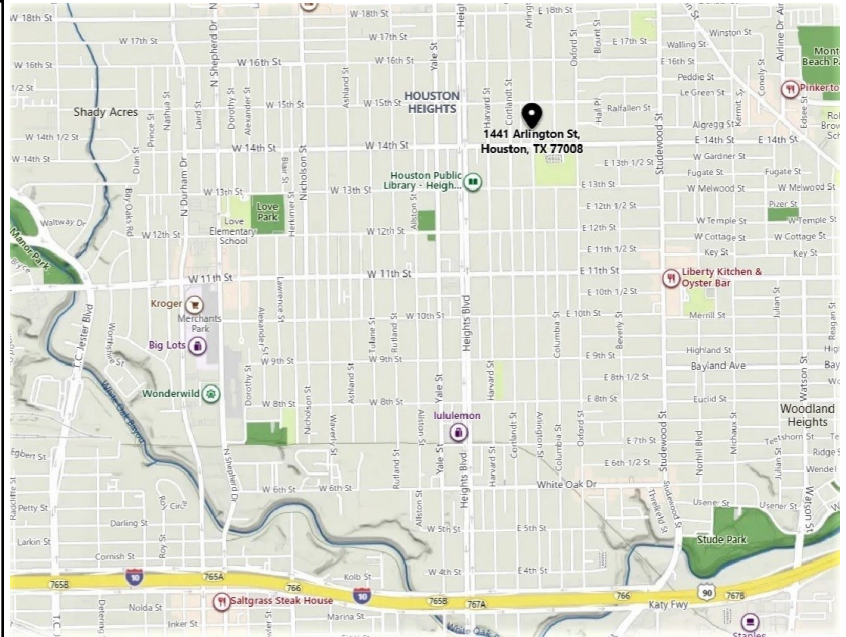
The Society holds regular meetings on the third Sunday of September, October, November, January, February and April. There are seasonal events and a yearly shell auction scheduled in the other months.

VISITORS WELCOME!!!

Membership year extends from June 1 through May 31.

Annual membership dues: Family \$20; Single \$15; Junior (under 18) \$6.

Make checks payable to Houston Conchology Society and send to Angie Haneiko, 11407 Blackhawk Blvd., Houston, TX 77089.



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