



# The Epitonium

## November Meeting/Program

The next HCS meeting will be **Sunday, November 19, 2023, 2:00 at the Immanuel Lutheran Church.**

The presentation for the November meeting will be one by John Haneiko who had it finished before he passed – Storing and Organizing Seashells. Tina Petway will be giving the program in his stead.

As a special treat, Paula and Greg have put together a PowerPoint presentation about the recent Shell Show held by our friends from the Sea Shell Searchers of Brazoria County last month. This treat will be shown before and after our meeting, so come enjoy the hard work done by many of our friends and fellow members.

## President's Message

From Dave Green

Where has 2023 gone. My, how time passes so quickly. It is November and we are approaching the end of another year. Fall is here and Winter is coming very soon, and so is the Holiday Season. November is the start of the Holiday Season with Thanksgiving and then the Christmas holidays in December, followed by the start of a New Year on January 1.

Let me start with November. What does it really mean to you? Have you stopped long enough to really think about the true meaning of the events that cross our paths in life during this time of year. Yes, Thanksgiving dinner is probably the first thing you think

about, then maybe football games, and of course, Christmas shopping. But, is this what November is all about? The leaves are turning colors and dropping from the trees, it is getting cooler and there is a chill in the air early in the mornings. You might even need a light jacket to keep warm early in the morning going to work or school, and of course, shopping. But what sets November apart from all the other months of the year, and makes this month so special in so many ways.

November is truly a time of Thanksgiving. I am not talking about turkey and dressing and all the trimmings on the dinner table, the pumpkin pie with Blue Bell, or the after-dinner drinks while you are sitting around watching football games after the big meal, and of course, taking a short nap during the game to aid the digestion of all that stuff you just consumed. How am I doing.....pretty close so far, correct?

When this great Nation was founded, the early settlers wanted to give thanks for their survival in this strange new land. They even invited the Native Americans to join them. I don't know what was on the menu but I have to think it was the best they could offer. Of course, the real purpose of this event was to give thanks for their survival, and renew their hopes and desires for a better tomorrow.

Are we any different today when it comes to Thanksgiving and the month of November? I have to believe we are still much like these early Americans in many ways. Times have changed and so have people and their priorities, and how we go about **Continued on Page 3**

**President:**  
David Green

**Vice President:**  
Tina Pettway

**Treasurer:**  
Angie Haneiko

**Recording Secretary:**  
Rusti Stover

**Corresponding Secretary:**  
Jerry Clampit

Visit HCS online at  
[www.houstonshellclub.com](http://www.houstonshellclub.com)

### CALENDAR

11/19/23	HCS Meeting
12/10/23	HCS Holiday party
1/21/24	HCS Meeting
2/18/24	HCS Meeting
3/2/24	HCS Auction (Meeting)
4/21/24	HCS Meeting
5/7/24	HCS Banquet

### Holiday Party

Please mark your calendars for the HCS Holiday Party. It will be **December 10, 2:00-4:00** at Mary Harris' home. There will not be a newsletter in December, but an invitation with more details will be sent out early in the month.



### Meeting Minutes

Since there was no October meeting, we will need to approve the minutes from the September meeting. You can read them at: [2023-10.pdf \(houstonshellclub.com\)](http://2023-10.pdf(houstonshellclub.com)).

### HCS' Annual Holiday Tree at HMNS

The HCS has been decorating a tree annually for several decades, so it's time to clean out the excess supplies from our storage room.

In past years, the Tree Committee has used "shell tree centers" for their decorations to match each year's tree theme. This year some of those excess tree centers will be featured on two artificial holiday wreaths that will be available on a mini-silent auction at the November meeting. (See photos.) For a donation to the club, the rest of the shell centers will be available for your decorating and holiday wreath making. (Purchase your preferred wreath at a craft store). Other available items will include shell angel ornaments (purchased years ago at Pier One), other refreshed ornaments used on past trees, some stretch ribbon, plus packages of Gary Olson's small shell ornaments with hangers that show well on small table top trees.



Because the November meeting is still slightly ahead of the Christmas rush, all items not collected by members at the meeting will go to Goodwill. They will still have time to make good use of all leftover materials. **Reminder: HCS can only accept cash or checks.**

**President's Message from Page 1** our daily lives. The pace of our days is much different today than it was back in Plymouth. We have so much today that the people back then never even dreamed about, or had any concept of what life in America would be like in 300 years or more.

Let me get to my main point. November is a SPECIAL month on our calendars for many reasons. It is a time of Thanksgiving: giving thanks for our families and their health, thanks for our friends and associates in our life, for the homes we live in and the car we drive, and all the material things we have in our lives, including our financial wealth, and of course for our health, and the freedoms we have in the United States of America as set in the Constitution and Bill of Rights. But, in today's world, we have a tendency to take these things for granted and not stop long enough to remember what our lives would be like if we didn't have all these things. Even here in the United States, many people will not have a turkey and dressing on their table this season, in fact, they may not even have a home to live in or a table to eat on, or not even have anything to eat in some cases. Many of our citizens in this Great Country do not have a job to earn an income and support their families, or live in a warm home, or be able to watch football games on television. Many of our fellow citizens are ill and in poor health, and fighting for their lives, and let us not forget those men and women that stand guard over our country here at home and around the world that will not be with their families at Thanksgiving. These are the people that ensure our freedoms and liberties are safe from harm by those who don't believe as we do.

STOP. Take a moment to think about the real message in this short message and the real message that I am putting on the table. Stop and take a close look at yourself and the world around you. Can you and I do a better job appreciating our freedoms and the real meaning of Thanksgiving? Probably so. Stop and give Thanks to Almighty God in Heaven for all the blessings you have received this year, and all the years in the past. As the early American were doing in that First Thanksgiving, stop and give thanks and show appreciation for the life style you have to live in every day, knowing that so many others, will not have what you have this Thanksgiving, and know November is a month to stop and show and remember those things that make up our lives in this Great Country, I could go on but I think you catch my drift here, and I hope you will stop long enough to appreciate and cherish what you have and who you are. Above all, let the true meaning of November and Thanksgiving be a real part of your lives this year and for years to come. Remember, November is not just Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas shopping. Those things are only side events that occur in the month of November.

Linda and I hope, and wish, each one of you have a blessed and happy November filled with the joys of Thanksgiving, football games, Christmas shopping, and being with your families. Please remember the true value of this month.....November, a very SPECIAL month.

Dave



**Happy Thanksgiving!**  
Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum



## Beach Report: Sea Rim State Park – October 2, 2023

By Lisa Alderman

I always check the time of the low tide at Sea Rim before making that 110-mile journey. When I arrived on the morning of October 2, I had a moment of panic when the Ranger told me that the East Beach was closed due to an extreme high tide the night before. If you go to hunt for shells at Sea Rim, you know the East Beach is where you want to be, not the West Beach. If it was closed, this was going to be a wasted trip. What she meant was that the East Beach was closed to cars. Whew, no problem! I don't drive on the beach.

Walking out onto the beach, I was amazed to see that the beach was essentially washed clean except for a narrow trash line up where the rubbish bins are lined up. Yes, the tide had reached the line of rubbish bins. In my mind I knew it had to happen occasionally as there are shells that high on the beach but looking at the width of the beach it was hard to imagine.



There were very few shark eye, very few angel wings, very few of anything. Instead of filling my bucket with shells, I was picking up rubbish and dumping it in the bins. But, I kept walking thinking that an extreme high tide had surely brought in something big. And it did! About 2 miles down the beach I found the nicest, largest (169.7mm) whelk shell I've ever found on that beach! You just never know what treasures await, one more step down the beach.





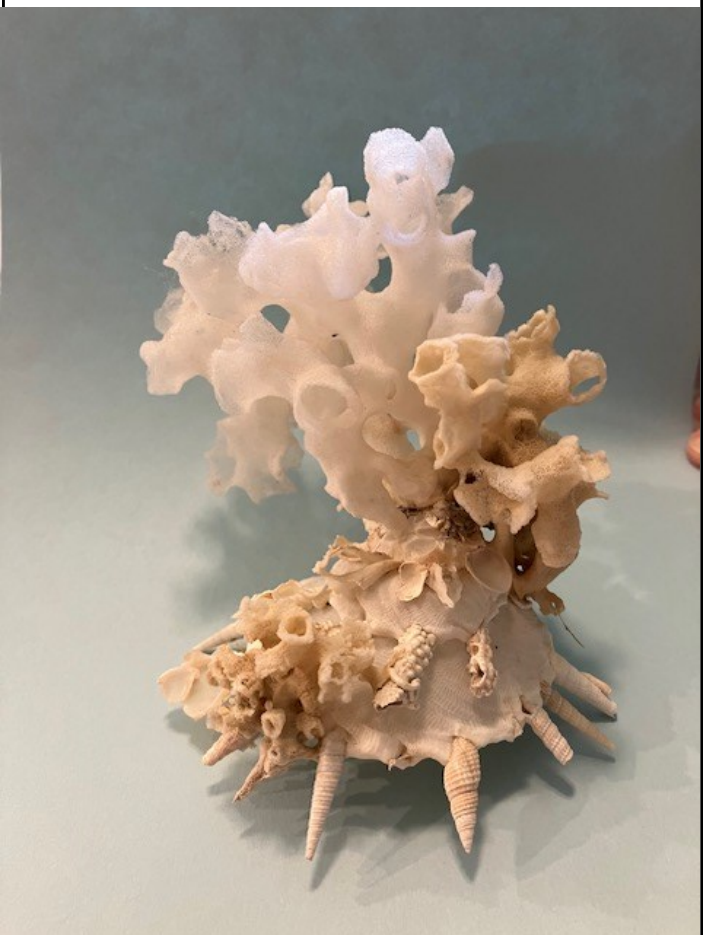
## Gulf Coast Shell Club Shell Show

HCS members Wanda and Steven Coker, along with John and Cheryl Jacobs attended the Gulf Coast SS in late October. Wanda won a blue ribbon for her exhibit and was given the Judge's Choice Award by judge Linda Sunderland. Congratulations, Wanda!



## Annual HCS Auction

The Auction on **March 2<sup>nd</sup>** is going to feature some really beautiful shells including a nice collection of Xenophora. Here are 4 of the shells in the lot, plus a gorgeous Lyropecten.



*Lyropecten subnodosus*



## New Snail Named After Jimmy Buffet's Song!

Very fittingly, a new marine snail was named this week after Jimmy Buffet's best-known song, *Margaritaville*. *Cayo margarita* is a new species of worm snail from the Florida Keys reported by [Rüdiger Bieler](#) and collaborators that made the national news, including a nice article on [CNN "Space + Science" online news](#). The bright lemon-yellow color of the snail's "skin" provided the initial inspiration for the scientific name of the species. (And the genus name *Cayo*—low island, or key, in Spanish—honors the localities where the species were originally found.) *Cayo margarita* lives attached to pieces and blocks of dead corals and catches its prey using a mucus net that ensnares zooplankton. Read the original scientific report [here](#).



*Cayo margarita*'s shell opening (diameter: 3.5 mm) and "face" with foot disk and extended tentacles. From the original report in PeerJ.

(Editor's note: From the National Shell Museum newsletter and other sources.)

## Shark's Teeth



Earlier this year, an HCS member asked the editor about finding shark's teeth on Texas beaches, so I posed the question in the January newsletter. There was very little response, but, apparently, there are lots of shark's teeth to be found near Sherman, TX, about 400 miles from the Gulf Coast! Another member shared an article from the September issue of *Texas Monthly* magazine.

### In Sherman, It's Always Shark Week

In a recent issue of *Texas Monthly*, this article was featured in the Travel & Outdoors Section. About a hundred million years ago most of Texas was covered by a shallow sea. For more information click on: [In This North Texas Town, It's Always Shark Week \(texasmonthly.com\)](#) to enjoy a Texas geological journey.



## Mollusca on Stamps

by John Jacobs

Many stamps have been issued depicting fossils in general and fossil molluscs in particular. The very first stamp to show a fossil was issued by Algeria in 1952 for the 19th Geologic Convention held in that country. The stamp depicts the middle Jurassic ammonite *Berbericeras sekikense* Roman, 1933 from the Lower Bathonian, Zigzag Zone, Gebel Sekika, Algeria.

Check out the Mollusks on Postage Stamps facebook page.



The companion stamp to the set.



Maximum postcard issued for the event.



# Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show

October 12-14 found many HCS members at the Lake Jackson Civic Center participating in and enjoying the Shell Show. Dave and Linda Green won the most awards, but several other HCS members also won awards for their exhibits. Colleen Costello won the T.E. Pulley Award presented by the HCS in John Haneiko's name. Pictures of some of the winners are in this newsletter. Paula and Greg Rutledge are preparing a PowerPoint program of other Shell Show pictures for the November meeting.



A big thanks to Wanda Coker and Patty Humbird for organizing the event. Also, thanks to Scientific Judges Patty Humbird and Tina Petway and Arts and Crafts Judges Paula and Greg Rutledge.



Lisa Fitzgerald won the Judge's Choice Award from Patty Humbird for "Genus Distorsio".



Lucy Clampit won the Judge's Choice award from Tina Petway for "The Colorful Pacific Calico Scallop".



Leslie Crnkovic won the Jo Terrill Memorial Trophy for "Shell Club and Related Pins" along with the Scientific Exhibit Under 10 feet Award for "The Journey's End".



Dave and Linda Green won Shell of the Show – Any Source for "Conus ermineus", Shell of the Show – Self Collected for "Conus magus", the Clara Lucille Green Memorial Award for "Abalone of Western North America", Mildred Tate Gulf of Mexico Award "Conus ermineus", and the DuPont Award for "Conus magus".

Linda Green also won first place in "Single Specimen" for her *Harpa Goodwini*.





Cathy Betley won the Dean Harris Beachcomber Award for "Xenotgckarii".



Rusti Stover won the Educational Scientific Exhibit for "Mollusk Egg Cases".

Colleen Costelloe won the T.E. Pulley Award – in Memory of John Haneiko for "Land Snails on Quintana Beach, TX: Shell Teeth".



Wanda Coker won the People's Choice on Friday for The "Cymatiidae Family" and the COA Trophy for "The Cymatiidae Family".



Steven Coker won the Wayne Humbird Memorial Award for "A dash of Nutmeg... Cancellariidae".



Angela Doucette won first place in the Worldwide category for "Silver and the Real Deal," and the People's Choice Award on Saturday. She also won the Sunny Sea Snail contest for her snail exhibit called "Run".

Several members won first place in various art categories, including Patty Humbird for her shell quilt, Darwin Alder for his Christmas items, Rusti Stover for her shell grotto, mirror and jewelry, Linda Green for her needlework pictures, Leslie Crnkovic for his Magnificent Pecten, and Lisa Fitzgerald for her photograph of a live Cassis shell.

Congratulations to everyone!



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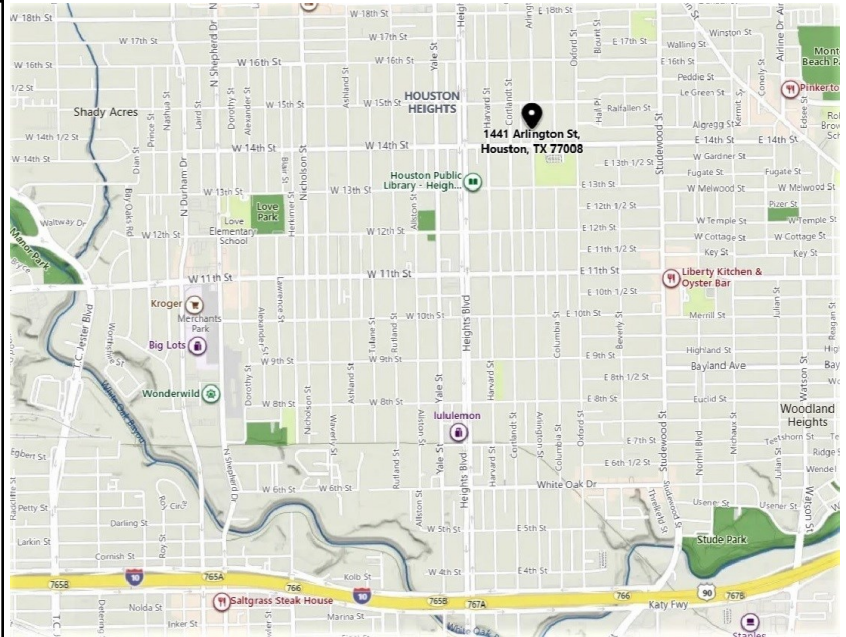
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The Society holds regular meetings on the third Sunday of September, October, November, January, February and April. There are seasonal events and a yearly shell auction scheduled in the other months.

**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 HCS Treasurer, 11407 Blackhawk Blvd., Houston, TX 77089.



**Immanuel Lutheran Church**

**306 E. 15<sup>th</sup> Street**

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