



# The Epitonium

## HCS Auction Invitation

The Houston Conchology Society invites you to participate in their annual auction. The profits allow the club to award educational grants and make occasional donations to the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

The auction will be **March 2** at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in The Heights area (see attached map). The first silent auction will begin at 10:00 a.m. The first oral auction will begin at 11:00. That will be followed by a pizza lunch around noon. (Other snacks will also be available.) Another silent and oral auction will follow lunch.

Bottled water will be provided. If you prefer a soft drink, tea, etc., please bring it. Cups and ice will **not** be provided.

You will find pictures of several of the oral auction items in this newsletter. Most major shell families will be represented. There are several beautiful pieces of coral, books, and home décor items. In addition to the auctions, there will be a sale table, a guess-how-many jar, and door prizes. You will receive the oral auction list in an email attachment, or if you paid to receive a paper newsletter, a copy will be included in it.

While you are at the auction, you may also pay your dues for 2024-25. And purchase tickets for the **May 18 banquet** at Monument Inn.

**HCS can only accept payments in cash or by check.**

Please bring a shopping bag and/or box for your purchases. Come and join us for the fun!

## President's Message

By Dave Green

For those HCS members who plan to join us in Melbourne, Florida for COA 2024, I would suggest you make your hotel reservations as soon as possible. The sooner you can do this, the better chance you have of getting reservations at our convention hotel at a special group rate of \$139. Linda and I made our reservations this morning. The hotel is the Melbourne Hilton on Rialto Way, Melbourne, FL. This is the same hotel we used for COA 2021 and it is very nice. If possible, I would encourage to utilize the Hilton, as your room nights go toward the total number of room nights COA has agreed to in the contract with the Hilton. Rest assured, it will be a fun filled five days of programs, silent auctions, oral auction and a very large bourse on the final two days. What a great opportunity to pick up some of those rare specimens you have been looking for.

Closer to home, the 2024 HCS Auction will be held at the church on **Saturday, May 2**. As always, it will be a fun day with an oral auction, silent bid auctions, and of course.....PIZZA...what a deal. Our auction committee has been working hard to get ready for this event, so be sure to be there to support them and the HCS. The first silent auction begins at 10:00 AM and the first item of the oral auction will be auctioned off starting at 11:00 AM. If my memory is not failing me, I think we have 70 oral auction items in this year's auction. A list of those auction items is in this newsletter. **Continued on page 3**

**President:**  
David Green

**Vice President:**  
Tina Pettway

**Treasurer:**  
Angie Haneiko

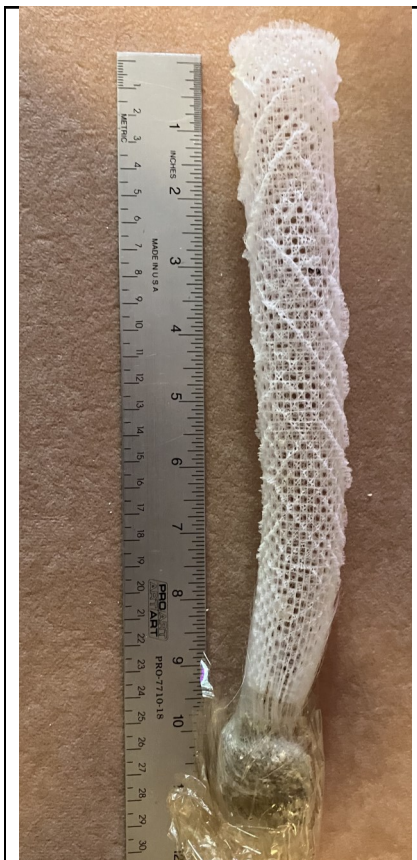
**Recording Secretary:**  
Rusti Stover

**Corresponding Secretary:**  
Jerry Clampit

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

### CALENDAR

3/2/24	HCS AUCTION
4/21/24	HCS Meeting
5/18/24	HCS Banquet
6/12/24	COA Melbourne, FL
7/13/25	COA Coupus Christi



## February Minutes

Submitted by Rusti Stover

President Dave Green called the February 18, 2024 meeting to order at 2:00 pm. All officers were present. Mary Harris made a motion, and Tina Petway seconded, to approve the minutes of the January meeting as published in the newsletter. Angie Haneiko gave the treasurer’s report.

Lucy Clampit introduced visitors Kathy and Bob Puddu and new member Michael Taevs.

Jerry Clampit then talked about the new PA system which the club purchased. Paula Rutledge took on the task of finding a light-weight and affordable system, and found one with 2 directional microphones, one for use by the president and one to pass around so all speakers could be heard. Dave will be transporting the small Karaoke system to club meetings.

Dave mentioned the nominating committee for the annual election, which will be held during the business break at the March 2<sup>nd</sup> auction, has come up with a slate of candidates; all officers except the Recording Secretary position agreed to serve another year. The slate is: Dave Green, President; Tina Petway, VP/ Program Chair; Treasurer, Angie Haneiko; Recording Secretary, Lisa Alderman; Corresponding Secretary, Jerry Clampit. Outgoing secretary Rusti Stover mentioned she was happy to have served in almost every office of the club, over her 31 years as a member.

Program Chair Tina Petway mentioned that the April program would be given by her colleague Gary Kidder, Collections Manager at the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

Dave Green said the Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet would once again be at the Monument Inn, and asked Leslie Crnkovic if he could print up the tickets for it, and bring them to the March 2<sup>nd</sup> auction, where they would be available for sale. Leslie agreed. Dave said the tickets would be 24 dollars apiece, and the club would pay the rest, plus the tip. Dave would also bring a celebration cake dessert to the event. Dave also mentioned there would be 5 menu choices this year, which are a little different than in the past, but with the old favorites also: a seafood platter, fried shrimp platter, the ribeye steak, a chicken plate and a Tilapia plate. More info on the choices will be published in the next newsletter.

Dave talked about the upcoming October Jamboree & Shell Show in Lake Jackson TX, and mentioned he was

**Continued on page 3**

**President from page 1** So, mark the items you want to bid on and we will see you on **March 2**, on or before 10:00 AM. The money we raise goes to the operation of the HCS, so join us and support our shell club.

**Minutes from page 2** going to contact and invite all COA members from in-state and Florida, who might be interested in exhibiting at the show and coming to the Jamboree. The San Antonio club is hosting the Jamboree and auction, and Chair Susan Griffin is asking for donations for the Oral part of the auction. Susan and Gary are planning on coming to our auction on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, and if anyone wanted to donate shells or shell-related items for the oral part, they could bring them to our auction for them to take home and get ready.

For the Shell Show part, Wanda Coker mentioned the T. E. Pulley award, which was given at last year's shell show in honor of recently deceased member John Haneiko. The award is given to an exhibitor of a Texas shell. She recommended that this year's honoree for the award be Tina Petway, for all her work in support of the club. Lucy Clampit made the motion, Mary Harris seconded, all approved.

Wanda also said the Sea Shell Searchers are still considering if the dates for the Shell Show/Jamboree would include a Thursday October 17<sup>th</sup> setup time, or just keep everything on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> and Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup>. More information will be forthcoming when a decision is made. They are also looking to have space for member vendors at the events.

Lucy asked for a show of hands for the types of pizzas that will be lunch at the March 2<sup>nd</sup> auction. The club will also provide bottled water. Members can bring their own drink choices, and are also encouraged to bring packaged snack items and to text or email Lucy what they will be contributing, before the event.

Mary Harris mentioned that she and Darwin Alder recently traveled to Dickinson and no-

ticed there are a large number of Great Blue Heron statues in the area, and there is a YouTube program about them online.

There being no further business before the board, Les Crnkovic made a motion, Sandy Clark seconded, and the president adjourned the meeting at 2:43 PM.

## COA 2024

Here is information about the Conchologist of America convention to be held in Melbourne, FL **June 12-16**. The field trips have been canceled, but there are many interesting things to do on your own in the area. Also, there will be interesting and informative programs presented by a wide variety of speakers. And we can't forget the Bourse where shell dealers from around the world sell shells that will take your breath away.

Registration forms can be found here: <https://conchologistsofamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024-COA-Registration-Forms.pdf>.



# New Years Day Field Trip

By Cathy Betley

On January first, I made a trip to Galveston (61<sup>st</sup> Street) and drove west along the coast road in search of birds.

At the large cattle pasture where the road runner sculpture guards the entrance to the property, there were sand hill cranes grazing with Ibis (photo 1). Some roseate spoonbills were resting on a small grass island at the east base of the Surfside bridge over the Intercostal Waterway (photo 2).



I made a second trip but did not find any birds grazing in any of the pastures along the coast road. That day the winds were fierce and I'm guessing most birds were hunkered down. I did see a pelican cross my path low and close to the 288 Tollway entrance just

south of downtown and back on January 1 at the San Luis Pass toll booth, another pelican challenged the north winds and cleared my vehicle headed north by only about 10 feet.

On Saturday February 3, I checked out my usual path (Galveston to Surfside) and spotted two circles of about 100 Ibis. (photo 3). They grazed in two circle groups and joined together later in



another field towards the west. I also spotted some small groups of sand hill cranes. One very noticeable item after the recent major rains was the ponding of rain water everywhere. Ditches are full and pastures look like small lakes. Photo 4 shows a lone heron in a ditch full of rain water but suspiciously looking at a fire hydrant and a trash bin that no doubt had floated away



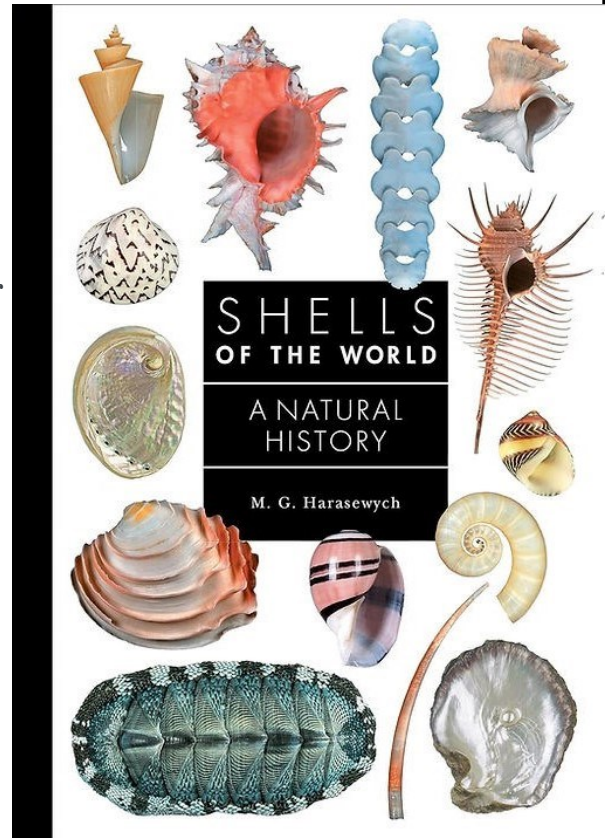
from its home location during one of the storms. Some of the access roadways to the beach along the coast road had full puddles and others were operating as drainage pathways for the rain water to get to lower ground. I did not try the beach entrance opposite at the San Luis water tower since the rains had washed some sand on to the short section of the concrete

# Book Review

The following book review was published by Dr. José Leal in one of his recent Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum and Aquarium blog posts (see <https://www.shellmuseum.org/blog>). (Used with his permission.)

This is not just another book on pretty shells. R. Tucker Abbott's compact "Seashells of the World" first published in 1962, had as its subtitle "A Guide to the Better-known Species." Unlike Tucker's best-selling book, Harasewych's "Shells of the World: A Natural History" covers both well-known and not so well-known species, including rare deep-sea mollusks and those associated with unusual habitats such as hydrothermal vents, sponges, and driftwood, to name just a few. (Local color: Some of illustrations in the book were reproduced, with permission, from the Museum's own blog "Curator's Corner" and the "Southwest Florida Shells" guide.)

Shells of the World encompasses 240 pages, hundreds of illustrations, is published by Princeton Nature, and is scheduled to launch on April 9 through Amazon, ThriftBooks, and other online retailers.



Pictures of auction items are scattered throughout this newsletter beginning with pages 2 & 3..



# Congratulations!

Three HCS members won awards for their displays at the recent Sarasota, FL Shell Show.



Wanda Coker won the COA Award for her exhibit “Collecting Shells”. Steven Coker won Shell of the Show for his *Harpa goodwini* and a Judges Merit Award for his “Family Harpidae, a Symphony of Variation”. John Jacobs won the Hertweck Fossil Award for his “Molluscs of Ha-wai’i”.



Thank you, John for sharing the information and pictures.

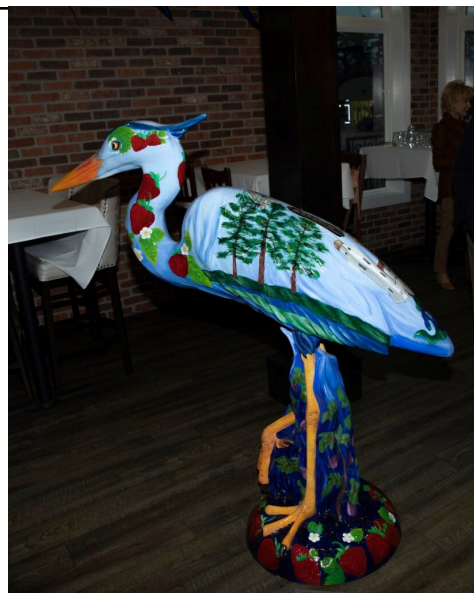


## Great Blue Herons

By Darwin Alder

On Friday, February 16, Mary Harris and I went to eat at Tookies in Kemah. On our way home, we decided to take a little longer way back. We stayed on 146 until we could take FM 517, to Dickinson and catch 45 North. It turned out to be a very good choice! Recently there has been a new project of painted heron statues set up by local artists in Dickinson. We were treated to a plethora of these fabulously painted birds. BRILLIANTLY Painted Herons delight the heart and mind all along FM 517. We saw at least 10 and there may be as many as 15. So, take some time to see the Herons of Dickinson!

Here is the website: [Great Blue Heron Statues | Dickinson, TX - Official Website.](#)



## Beach Report: Sea Rim State Park – January 28, 2024

By Lisa Alderman

This was a great day for beachcombing! The extreme low tide exposed a couple of the sand bars as well as lots of beach treasures.



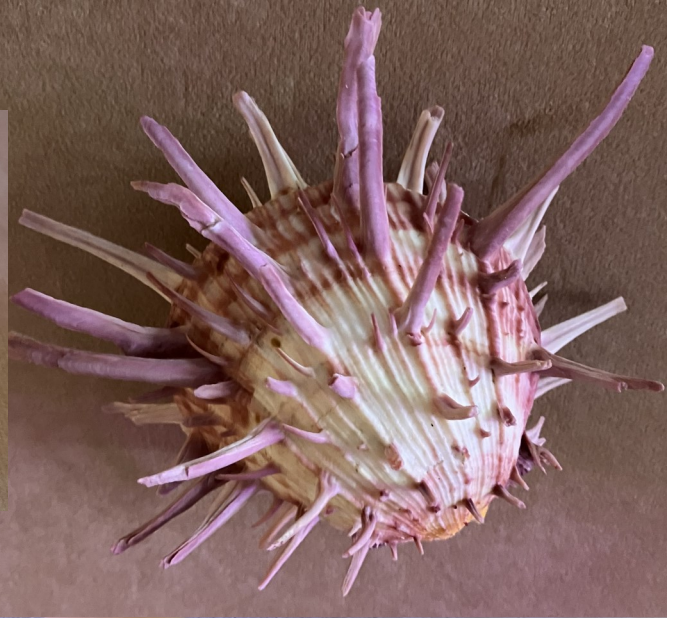
Shells found that day include two nice large whelk's (175mm and 182mm), the first complete murex I've found (96mm), and the largest moon snail yet (73mm). Other interesting things found were two pieces of vitrolite glass, a "no deposit – no return" brown beer bottle dated 1947 and the lower jaw of a black drum fish with the pharyngeal teeth.

## Beach Report – St. Josephs Island

"On February 8, Cynthia Beck and David Ward took a trip to St. Josephs Island at Port Aransas. Unfortunately, the shelling was disappointing in spite of the low tides."



More auction items!

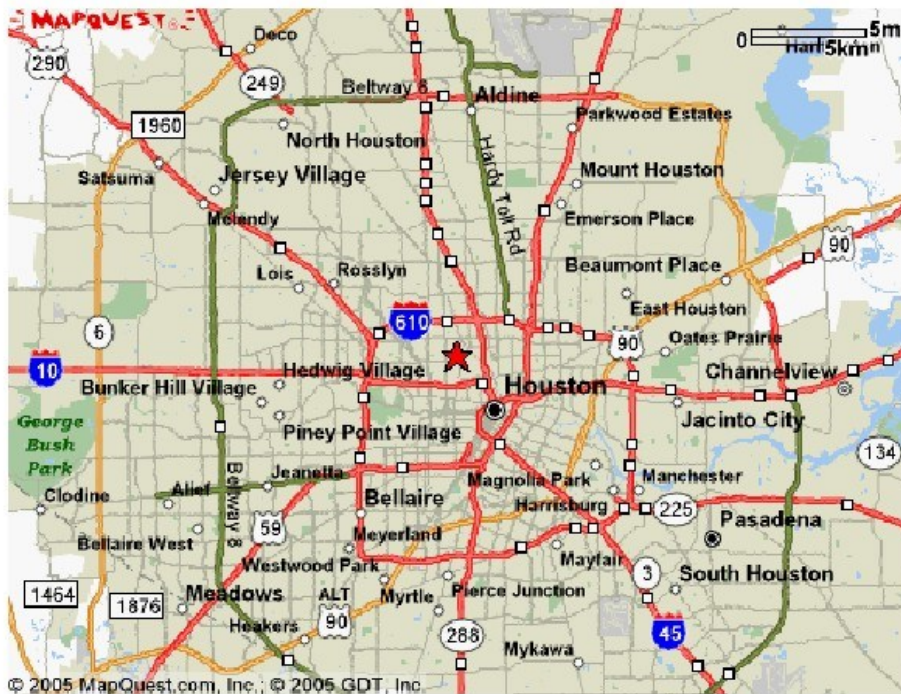


**J.R. Roton Collection**  
*Cypraea (Leporicypraea) Mappa*  
 Linnaeus, C., 1758  
 F+++/GEM – Melanjistic, Red All Over  
 Collected by SCUBA @ 10 – 15 meters  
 Mayon Volcano, Albay Gulf, Philippines  
 Cyp15                      89mm





## Map to HCS Auction



The Immanuel Lutheran Church is located at 306 East 15th Street between Cortlandt & Arlington Streets.

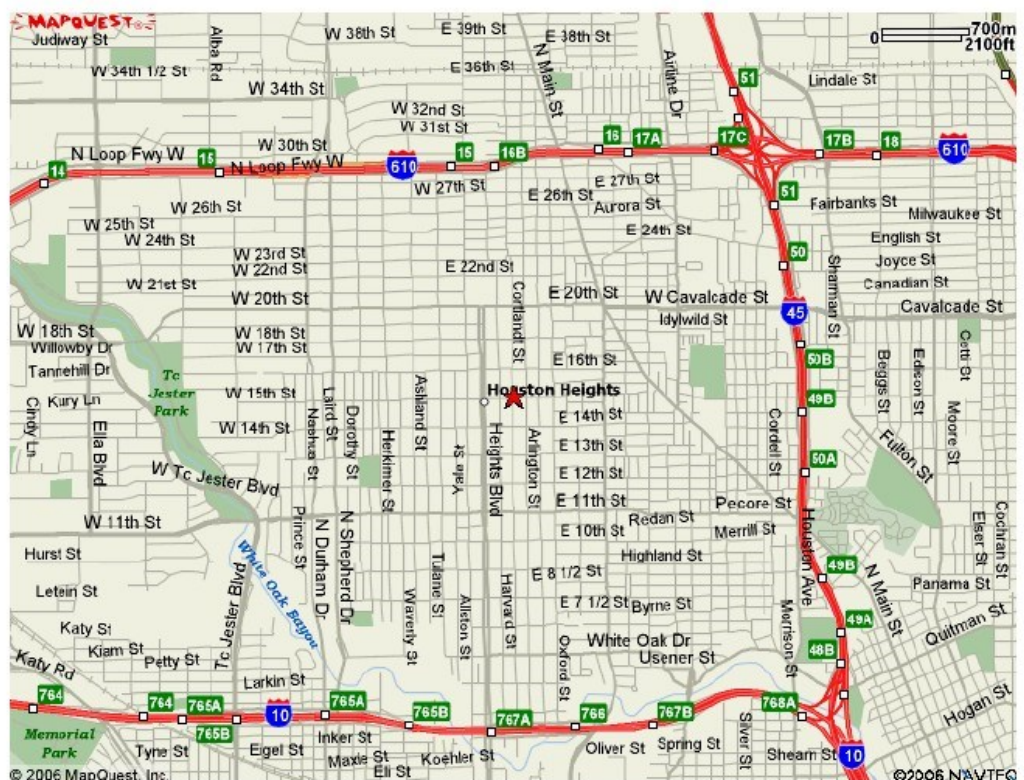
**Whether going East or West on I-10, exit at Heights Blvd. (exit 766):**

**Turn North on Heights Blvd.**

**Go North on Heights Blvd. to the signal light at 14th Street.**

**Turn East (right) on 14th. Go 3 blocks.**

**Turn left on Arlington. Parking lot is on the left.**



The *Epitonium* is published prior to each meeting 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.

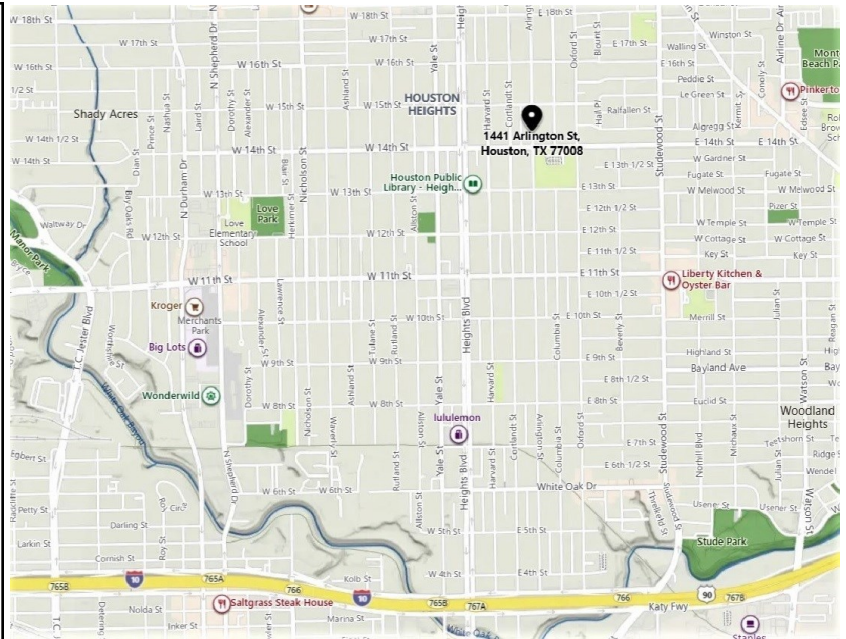
Editor: Lucy Clampit  
10532 Hammerly Blvd., Houston, TX 77043  
E-mail: [lclampit@comcast.net](mailto:lclampit@comcast.net)

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

## HOUSTON CONCHOLOGY SOCIETY

**Lucy Clampit**, Corresponding Secretary  
10532 Hammerly Blvd.  
Houston, Texas 77043