



The Epitonium

September Meeting

We hope you had a great summer and are ready to start our monthly meetings again. The next meeting will be at **2:00 on Sunday, September 18**. We will be meeting at the Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1441 Arlington Street, again.

Come and join us as we reflect on the fantastic COA convention that many of us helped make successful. Lucy Clampit will share pictures of the



event, and we will have show and tell from some who entered the Mini-Shell Show and/or the Texas Parade of Snails.

There will be no refreshments, so please bring your own drink and/or snack if you need it. Come join the fun!

2022-2023 Dues

If you have **NOT** heard from Lucy Clampit, your dues are paid for the 2022-2023 year.

San Antonio Auction

Several HCS members journeyed to San Antonio, last month, to add new shells to their collections and visit with friends.

Darwin Alder and Wanda Coker clowned around while they were helping with the oral auction.

President's Message

Hello HCS Members and welcome to the new Shell Club year!

It was great to see so many of you at the Katz's Social and the San Antonio Shell Club Auction.

The September Meeting will be the "Annual Meeting" as per the By-Laws section 3.1.

At the meeting we will:

- Receive summary reports from various officers for FY 2021-2022.
- Discuss the activities for the 2022-2023 FY. Including the Christmas Party: who will host it, when and where (volunteer?)
- And discuss the HCS By-Laws revision process (committee volunteers?) One part of the By-Laws we will address in the meeting is 3.1. We want to know how the members as a whole would like to interpret 3.1 and spell it out accurately in the revision.

The HCS By-Laws are at: <https://houstonshellclub.com/PDFfiles/Bylaws%20201503.pdf>

See you at the meeting,
Leslie



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

9/18/22	HCS Meeting
10/14/22	Jamboree-Shellshow
11/13/22	HCS Meeting
12/1/22	HCS Christmas Party



March Minutes

Submitted by Rusti Stover

The Houston Conchology Society held its election of officers during the noon lunch break at the annual auction, Saturday, March 19, 2022, at Immanuel Lutheran Church Hall.

President Leslie Crnkovic called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. Leslie thanked all for coming to the auction, and asked for a moment of remembrance for all the fellow shellers that recently passed. He then asked for approval for the February 20, 2022 meeting minutes. Russell Renka made the motion, Angela Doucette seconded, all approved.

Leslie then announced upcoming events: the HCS Banquet will be held at noon, Saturday April 23, 2022 at the Monument Inn. Tickets are available for 33 dollars apiece. HCS dues are due, and can be paid today; \$15 dollars individual, \$20 Family. The COA Convention will be held in Galveston TX from May 31st through June 4th, and there are brochures about this on the back table near checkout.

The Texas Sheller's Jamboree & Shell Show will be held in October at the Lake Jackson Civic Center; information will be forthcoming. The San Antonio Shell Club will be holding a shell auction on Saturday, August 6th, 2022. Check upcoming newsletters for more information.

Leslie announced the slate of officers up for election: Leslie Crnkovic, President; Angela Doucette, Vice President/Program Director; Rusti Stover, Secretary; Angie Haneiko, Treasurer, and Jerry Clampit, Corresponding Secretary. There were no other nominations from the floor. A motion was made by Lucy Clampit to elect the officers by acclamation; Mary Harris seconded. The motion carried, and all were elected.

Susan Griffin announced that the San Antonio Shell Club is renting a beach house in Galveston for the convention, and it sleeps 10 people. All would share in the cost, and they already have 6 people. Anyone who wishes to rent the space with them, please contact them.

There was no other business forthcoming, so Angela Doucette made a motion to adjourn, Lucy Clampit seconded, and Leslie Crnkovic adjourned the meeting at 12:13 p.m.

August Social

Sixteen HCS members enjoyed the annual August Social at Katz' s Deli.
(Pictures by Rusti Stover)



Jamboree/Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show

The event dates (October 14-16) are fast approaching! Have you registered for the Jamboree and started preparing your exhibit for the Shell Show? The Shell Show and Sunday auction are free, but you do need to register for the Jamboree.

Friday morning will begin with the Shell Show setup at 9:00 am. Jamboree registration starts at 1:00 pm, along with a silent auction, vendors and the HCS sale table. That will be followed by door prizes and two programs. The Jamboree Welcome Party and Shell Show Awards will begin at 6:00 pm that evening at the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science.

Saturday activities will begin at 9:00 am with another silent auction, vendors, sale table, and programs. The Banquet will be at 7:00 pm at the Civic Center.

On Sunday, the Oral Auction preview will begin at 9:00 am and the Auction will begin at 10:00. Come to the Lake Jackson Civic Center and join the fun!

COA 2022: A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM

By Dave Green

COA 2022 has come and gone, something I thought would never arrive. I approached Anne Joffe, COA Convention Representative and Board Member, back in 2018 about getting approval to hold a convention in Texas. When I was President of COA in 1997, I had asked Anne if she would host a convention on either Captiva or Sanibel Island while I was in office. So, my seeking approval was actually payback from me. Anne thought it was a wonderful idea and agreed to discuss my request with COA President Harry Lee. The voting members of the Board thought it was an excellent idea also and approval was granted.

Having been in senior management in large corporations most of my professional career, I knew my first and probably the most important task was to choose and develop a team of people to support the effort needed to put the convention in motion. I starting contacting potential candidates immediately and had a wonderful team together within two weeks. Next came the task of selecting the venue to hold this convention. My first, and really the only one I wanted,

was Moody Gardens Hotel and Spa on Galveston Island. Linda and I met with the Director of Sales and hammered out a contract that both parties could live with. I contacted Anne and gave her the name of the venue and the proposed dates. She ran this information by President Lee and the Board and they thought it was perfect. The date was set for May 31-June 4, 2021. Then COVID-19 hit the country and forced COA to cancel the upcoming convention in Melbourne and we had to move our dates out another year. I spent almost three complete years developing and planning this convention. Thanks to a terrific team of people, the convention started to take form and we rescheduled for 2022.

As most members of the Texas shell clubs and many members of COA are aware, I was diagnosed with cancer in late December 2021: Non-Hodgins Lymphoma in Stage 3. I started chemotherapy treatments in early January. I was not able to eat during the process. I just couldn't force any food into my stomach, so I lived on liquids from January to May. By early March, I had lost nearly 50 pounds and it was continuing to drop, not to mention that I felt terrible much of the time. By mid-March, my ability to work on the convention was more than I could handle. With only three months to go before the convention, I had to make a major change in my team to ensure we were ready. I decided to contact Wanda Coker and ask her to take over as Convention Chairman, replacing me. Wanda quickly agreed to accept my offer and told me that she and Patty Humbird had my back and they completely understood my situation and my deteriorating condition. So, the change in leadership was completed in mid-stream and Wanda took over and led us through the convention.

The real purpose of this article is to say "A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO WANDA COKER AND THE ENTIRE TEAM". I could not have done it without all of you that were so generous to help and to my replacement, Wanda Coker. She jumped right in and started making decisions and leading the entire team. Most of the readers of this article are probably not aware of what a difficult position she had walked into, but Wanda did and she accepted it with grace and a high level of energy, not to mention all the great ideas she brought to the table. It was Wanda driving the train into the station and she did it on time and on budget. Wanda was an absolute pleasure to work with during these last three months. I was so amazed just how much our thought process was so similar and on target with each other.

WANDA... you made it happen, and everyone who attended loved the convention, how it was organized, and the events that were planned. I am so proud to have been in your corner and supporting you in this absolutely terrific effort. You did it with little or no knowledge of what I had planned or expected. I think the highlight of the convention for me was the Awards Banquet where we publicly recognized each of the team members and thanked them for a job well done. That was a PROUD moment in my life and it was all due to the leadership and determination of our leader, Wanda Coker. Wanda... I salute you for all you did in Galveston at Moody Gardens. You are my HERO and I take great pride in calling you MY FRIEND and saying "A SPECIAL THANK YOU". Congratulations on a job well done. You were thrown into the river and you swam to the other side and told us to follow. That is a leader. We love you and appreciate you.



COA Reflections

The editor asked HCS members to share their Convention memories and pictures. More will be shared at the September meeting. Enjoy!

Darwin Alder: It was a magnificent Texas Sized Event with ALL the fixins! Would have a difficult time saying what was the best...So the whole experience!

Rusti Stover: What I loved most about COA was getting together with so many shell club friends from other places: Florida, North Carolina, other Texas places, and dealers I know from many other states! I made new friends, loved hanging with old friends, and just was on a wonderful shelling high the whole week! Loved all the activities, programs, and everything! Everyone worked together so well to make this a very memorable event!

Angie Haneiko: I think you all did a fabulous job organizing the COA convention this year! The location was great and offered extra activities for the participants, the food was fantastic, the speakers held your interest and were very informative. The Bourse was a good size. It was smaller than the 2019 convention, but because of that, you were able to move around easier and really look at the products offered by the vendors. Thanks for a great time!

John Haneiko: I thought it was an incredible experience! The food was spectacular, the programs interesting, the facilities outstanding, and the people a lot of fun as always. The bourse was wonderful and much easier to visit than the COA bourse on Captiva Island in 2019. It was a highlight of the year for me.

Angie Marsland: We thought the food was very good and I enjoyed the programs, especially Richard Goldberg's talk about the correct way to create data labels for shell collections. It was amusing and informative. The visit to the rainforest and aquarium pavilions was a hit with us also.

Paula and Greg Rutledge: This was our first shell convention! It was AWESOME!!! Everyone was so friendly and so welcoming. By the time the week was over, we felt like we had made great friends with people from all over! Everyone enjoyed talking shells! Everyone seemed to enjoy sharing information!

What was our favorite thing? (Just getting out of the house for a week – first time in 2 years was pretty exciting.)

I loved all the programs, especially Dave Watts' presentation on his collecting trips. The live auction, the silent auctions, the book sales, the raffle items... ALL INCREDIBLE!!!! All those shells and books in one location where we could see them in person – a real treat! And the Bourse...I have never seen so many shells for sale in one place! Everything from dozens of colored *Homalocatha pele*... to any color *Spondylus* you could ask for... to obscure brachiopods... to Golden Cowries by the dozen... to replica *Homalocantha anomalaie*... to 5 or 6 different species of *Scaphella* shells... any cone shell, any cowry your heart could desire seemed to be in Bourse and each and every one was calling my name.

But my absolute favorite thing was getting to meet people face to face. People we had only known from the internet, new people we were just meeting for the first time, and the amazing people who put on the convention – it's the people that made going to the convention magical.

We added some amazing, rare specimen shells to our collection and between the Bourse, the silent auction, and the books sales we added 50 books and magazines to our library. But what we will remember most will be the people we met, the new friends we made.



Next convention, I need to make more of an effort to take pictures. I think I will take photos of the shell dealers each time I buy from them. And, I wish I had taken photos of the speakers. And I wish I had taken photos of people I met on the internet and finally got to meet in person. And, I wish someone had taken photos of my husband and myself together having fun. I wonder if we could do a group photo of all the attendees....

It would be great if you could put up lots of photos on the website! Did you take any shots of the Bourse? Of the dealer's tables??

The people who put on this convention did an unbelievable job. Everything was perfect! So many things in such a small space of time – just incredible!

We are looking forward to next convention!

Lisa Alderman: COA Convention Door Prize Solves Mystery

Last December I took a day trip over to Sea Rim State Park and found two fossil shells of a type I'd never found on that beach before. I went through my limited library and couldn't seem to find a match. I brought them to the next Shell Club meeting to see if anyone had an idea and the consensus was "apple murex". I have apple murex from Sanibel and didn't think that was the answer. Besides, I'd never found apple murex at Sea Rim in all the years I'd been going there. So, I put them in a plastic box on the shelf to investigate later.

Fast forward to the COA Convention. After a fun-filled, interesting and entertaining time at Moody Gardens and the Convention, I spent an afternoon going through the treasures I had collected there. From the first Silent Auction, a couple of pretty Spondylidae *spondylus*. Not the ones I was originally after, but the ones I was standing closest to as the auction was ending. These auctions are a competitive sport! If you find something you really want, you need to stake out the area and have pen ready in case you need to make a last-minute bid.

Then there were the purchases from the Dealer Bourse. I'll admit, I spent more than I was planning to spend (I'm sure I'm not the only one!). The sight of all those beautiful shells was amazing and so tempting! I did manage to stay focused on the Families (Patellidae and Fissurellidae) that are of interest to me. Fortunately for me, John Haneiko was aware of a nice *Fissurella costata* in Phil Clover's booth and the first purchase was made. Wandering around the room I found a few others and a chance encounter with Wanda Coker sent me over to check the Sea Shell Searchers Club's table. Thanks to Wanda and Patty Humbird who sorted through the bags and found the one containing "Patellidae" shells for me. The look on John's face when I showed him the huge *Patella tabularis* it contained was priceless!

But, back to the mystery fossil shells. The last I sorted through were the two door prize bags. Contained in these bags were a variety of beautiful shells collected on the Texas Gulf Coast in the 1980s and 1990s. And there it was, *Murex fulvescens* collected November 5, 1994 at Port Aransas. The mystery was solved! (Thank you, Dave Green!) I went back through my Sea Rim shells and found a small fragment that appears to be this shell, but otherwise nothing resembling that shell.

Shelling – be it at the beach, Dealer Bourse or COA Convention Door Prize, you never know what treasure you might find!



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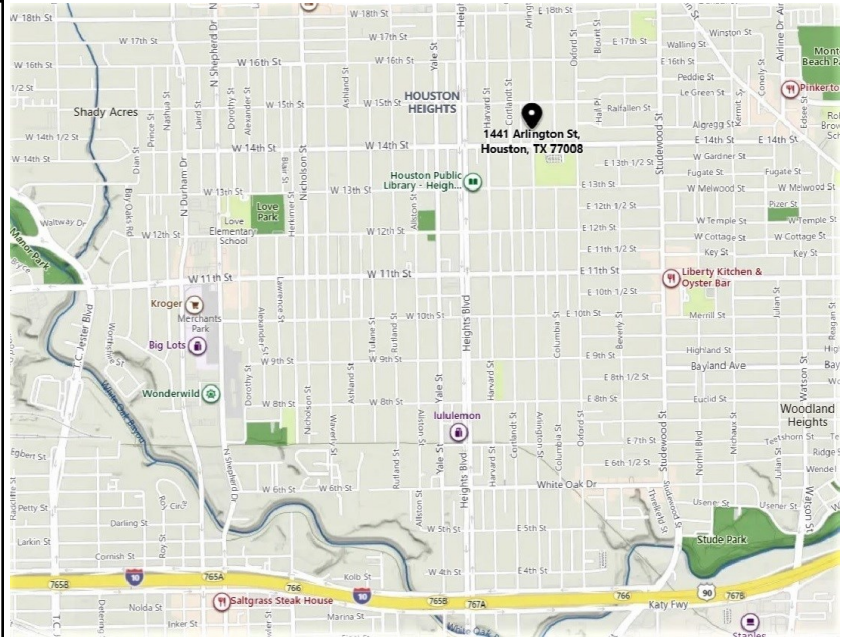
The Society holds regular meetings on the third Sunday of September, October, November, January, February and April. There are seasonal events and a yearly shell auction scheduled in the other months.

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.

[Www.houstonshellclub.com](http://www.houstonshellclub.com)



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