



# The Epitonium

## January Meeting/Program

The next HCS meeting is **Sunday, January 21 at the Immanuel Lutheran Church at 2:00.**

President Dave Green will be attending shell shows in Florida, so the meeting will be conducted by Vice President Tina Petway.

At the January meeting we select a Nominating Committee for our next year's officers. If you would like to serve on the committee or run for an office, please let one of the current officers know.

Are you tired of Houston's crazy weather?

Come to the meeting and escape to warm and lovely Hawaii. Several years ago, Charlotte Lloyd Thorpe presented a COA program about her Shelling Trip to Oahu. Come and see the pictures of the lovely shells that she collected.

## President's Message

Happy New Year to all our HCS members. I hope each of you had a wonderful Christmas Season with family and friends, and have survived the drama of New Year's Eve parties and fanfare. Now, we can turn our attention and focus on the year ahead.....2024. My, where does time fly!!!!!!

There have been some serious issues regarding the health and life of several members of the shelling community. Alan Gettleman, longtime friend and member of HCS, passed away shortly before Christmas, and Dr. Harry Lee in Jacksonville has suffered a serious stroke but is in a long recovery. (*Editor's note: Sadly, Harry passed away on January 8.*) In addition, our friend, Don Pisor, developed a serious leg infection in Indonesia and

had to be air lifted to Australia for treatment, and then air lifted to his home in San Diego, where he spent several days in the hospital fighting the infection. I am happy to report that Don is making good progress in his recovery and hopes to see everyone at COA in Melbourne in June.

So, we have had a couple of bad developments, but I truly believe we have a great year ahead. Let us stay positive and look down the road and witness the sunshine looking at us.



I would like to say "Thank You Very Much" to Mary Harris for being our hostess for the HCS Christmas Party at her house. It was just a wonderful time and oh such good dishes and platters of foods and desserts. I think it is one the best celebrations of Christmas I have been to over the years at HCS. Well done, Mary!!!! And, a SPECIAL Thank You to everyone who prepared and brought all the great food. It was truly a team effort and so well coordinated.

Let us focus on the year ahead now that the Holidays are past us. May we all stay in good health and out of Harm's Way as we journey into this year. See you in February.

Dave

**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

1/21/24	HCS Meeting
2/18/24	HCS Meeting
3/2/24	HCS Meeting (Auction?)
4/21/24	HCS Meeting
5/1/24	HCS Banquet



## November Minutes

Submitted by Rusti Stover

President Dave Green called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM on Sunday, November 19, 2023 at the Immanuel Lutheran Church meeting room. Since there was no October meeting due to the Shell Show, Dave asked for approval of the September minutes; Mary Harris made the motion, Frank Petway seconded, all approved, motion passed.

Angie Haneiko gave the Treasurer’s report, and Lucy Clampit reported on membership, that we have 58 members to date. Dave Green mentioned that the Monument Inn had been secured for the May 2024 end of season banquet.

Under Old Business, none was forthcoming. New Business: Dave mentioned there would not be a December newsletter, just an emailed invitation for the Christmas Party, so the November minutes would be published in the January newsletter. The Christmas Party will be at Mary Harris’s house on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Mary asked that people telephone her by the first few days of December and let her know what sides or desserts they are bringing. The club furnishes the meat, and Mary will have iced tea and water available. Lucy Clampit will send out the invitation the first week of December.

Cathy Betley announced this will be her last year to chair the Museum Christmas Tree. Cathy also mentioned that the museum has moved the trees from the lobby area to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, to be on display along with the returning toy train setup, and this will be a permanent change. Also changing is that the Museum will be using all artificial trees from now on instead of the large real trees that were used in the lobby. The Museum wants to feature dinosaurs in the lobby. Tina Petway will look into the continuation of our tree tradition.

Programs: Tina announced she is giving today’s program by John Haneiko, that he completed before he passed away. Tina will also be giving the January program, on the Gulf of Mexico.

Dave mentioned COA 2024 is in Melbourne, Florida, June 11<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. COA will be in Corpus Christi in the year 2025, and the Omni Hotel has been secured for that. Dave also mentioned Alan Gettleman had a heart attack, but he is OK now. Lucy Clampit mentioned the HCS regular March auction and election of officers will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

Continued on page 3



**Minutes from page 2** Wanda Coker thanked the club members for all their help and participation in the October shell show, and mentioned that Russell Renka told her the San Antonio Shell Club is taking their turn to host the next Jamboree, but it will be held at the Lake Jackson Civic Center in conjunction with another shell show, and the co-events will be held Friday through Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Under Miscellaneous, Rusti Stover asked that since our treasury is in good shape right now, we should start giving grants again soon. Rusti said if we only give one grant next year, we might consider bumping the amount up to 2K, due to the increasing costs of everything. Dave said we can discuss this more at the January Meeting.

There being no further business forthcoming, Mary Harris motioned to adjourn, Frank Petway seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:33 PM.

## Christmas Tree

Thanks to Cathy Betley and her elves Darwin Alder, Lisa Alderman, and Victoria Craig for the fabulous ornaments they made for the tree. Darwin gets a special thanks for the beautiful angel tree topper. And thanks to the elves who showed up at the museum to help decorate the tree: Darwin Alder, Rusti Stover, Angela Doucette, Leslie Crnkovic, Linda Green, Brian Walters, Wanda Coker, Cathy Betley, and Nancy Barziza. (Unfortunately, Nancy left before the group picture was taken.) Leslie, Brian, and Wanda were invaluable for climbing the ladders to work on the top of the tree. And thanks to those who helped remove the ornaments from the tree.

It was truly a magnificent tree! (Pictured on page 2.)

Detail of tree topping.



Detail of decorations



The fabulous decorating crew.





## In Memoriam

Sadly, long time HCS member Alan Gettleman passed away shortly before Christmas. He was a giving and kind person whom everyone liked. He was very active in the Conchologist of America. Through the years, he served in several offices and helped host a few conventions. He was also very active in his local shell club – the Astronaut Shell Club in Melbourne, FL.

Alan loved to come to the Texas Sheller's Jamboree. While he was here, he was always willing to help, especially by presenting programs. He was an avid shell collector of mostly land and fresh water shells, so while he was in TX, he would go collecting in the local streams. In his non-shell life, Alan worked at NASA in FL. He retired several years ago.

He will be missed by everyone who knew him. RIP, Alan.

Dressed in his most formal shell collecting clothes at TX Jamboree, 2014, in San Antonio. by Lucy Clampit



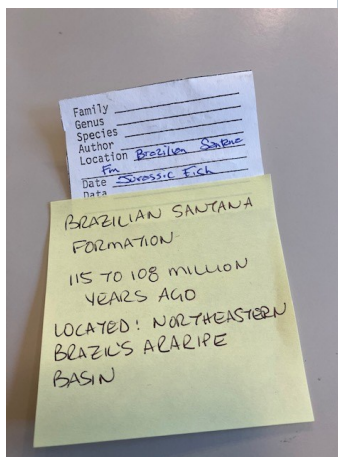
2023 Space Coast Shell Show picture by Bev Dolezal



## HCS Auction

We hope that you have your calendars marked for the Annual Auction that will take place on **March 2** at the Immanuel Lutheran Church. The first silent auction will start at 10:00 a.m., followed by the oral auction at 11:00.

Here are two more items that will be available. Rusti Stover donated a lovely Murex poster. It measures 34x25 inches. While we were digging through some older boxes in the storage room, we found this interesting fossil from Brazil. Sorry that we forgot to measure it, but it is several inches long and heavy. Not shell related, but still interesting.



# Field Trips to Galveston and Quintana

By Darwin Alder

On New Year's Day I went to Galveston. It was still dark when I arrived, so I took the ferry across to Boliver and took one of the loop roads around. I Think it was 108.

I drove down to Retillion Road. You have to have a permit to drive on the beach.

Next, I returned to the ferry and ended up on East Beach. Again, I just drove to the water's edge and looked for birds. I saw gulls, terns, pelicans, herons, and egrets.

I drove down 3005 towards San Luis Pass. I really looked for all the places I could easily park and use the crossovers to access the beach.

My first stop was Galveston Island State Park. I went to see what it looked like. There was a nice line of worm goop, which is a sign of possibly finding some Epitoniiums. Most of what I got from the state park was under an inch in length. I got over a dozen different species there.

My remaining time was spent walking along the beach starting at Sea Isle Beach Park, which is near a blue water tower. I found a lot more worm goop and more shells. I walked over 15000 steps and covered a lot of territory between Sea Isle Beach Park and near Flamingo Road in the San Luis Pointe subdivision. There are more than 8 good access points before you actually arrive at San Luis Pass. All in all, it was a very productive day!

I found tellins, 3 Epitonium angulatum, mercenarias, spoon clams, oysters, polinices, sinum perspectivum, Dosinia discus, Channeled duck clams, 3 species of arks, and a lot of interesting beach drift.



On Thursday afternoon, Jan 3, I went to Quintana Beach. The surf was much rougher. I went down a road and found some live Littorina irrorata in hibernation mode above the water level.

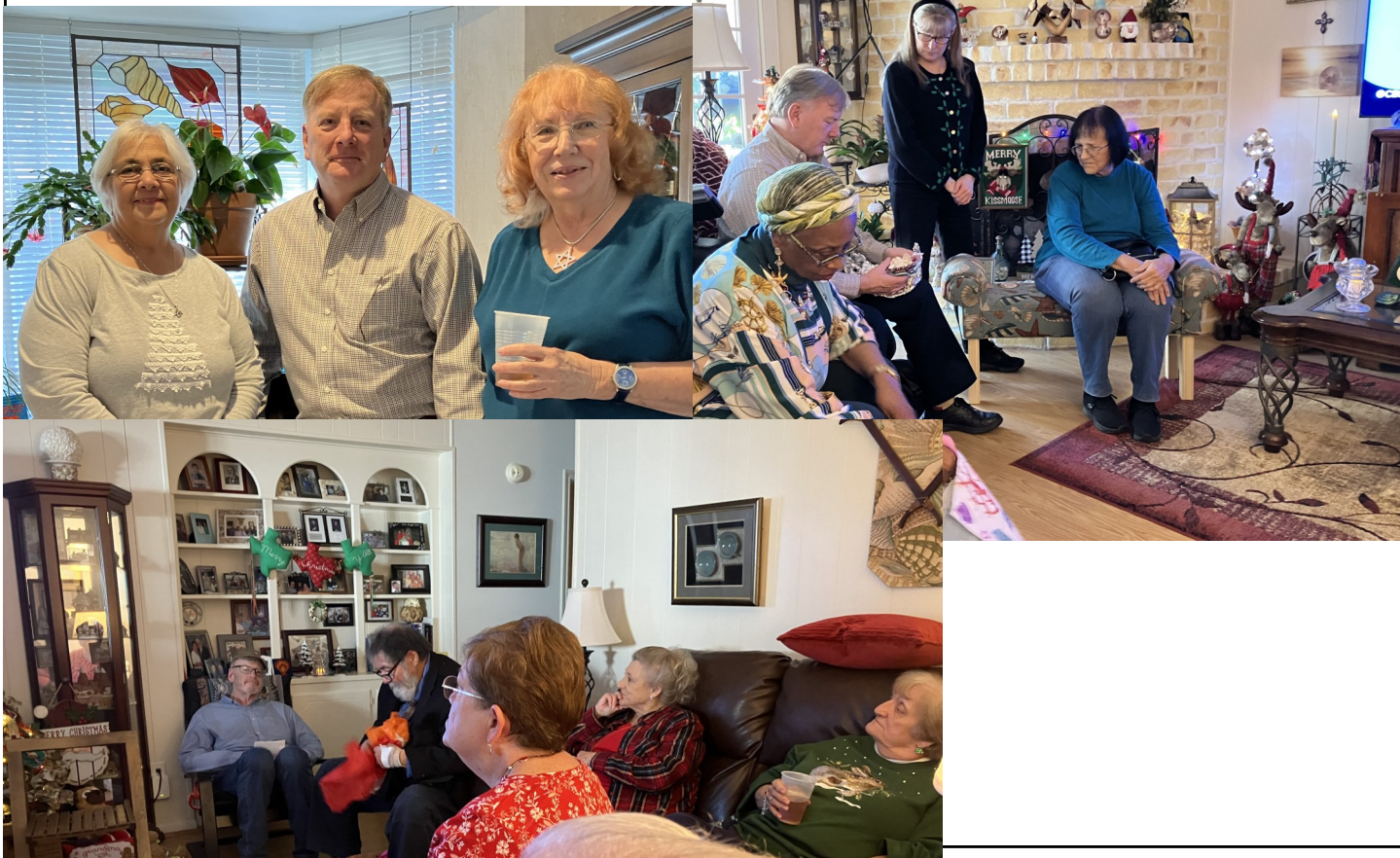


# Christmas Party

Eighteen plus members attended the HCS Christmas Party at the home of Mary Harris. The food and company were outstanding. Thanks to Mary, our hostess, and everyone who brought food.





**Christmas Party conynued:****COA 2025**

The 2025 COA convention will be held in Corpus Christi, TX, so, many HCS members will be helping with it. If you attended the 1994 convention in Corpus, you can start helping now. You know that box, in the back corner of a closet. The box that you haven't opened this century? Please check it and see if you have a shirt, pictures, a program, or any other memorabilia from that convention. It will also help you with that New Year's resolution to clean out things. (We have the 1994 issue of the *American Conchologist* with the convention story, so we don't need that.)

During the Opening Ceremony, we are going to honor 1994 convention chairs Jean and Charlie Roe along with Theresa Stelzig and other members of the Coastal Bend Shell Club.

We are also going to pay homage to the people of the Corpus Christi area who made many contributions to the world of Texas shells: Jean Andrews, Wes Tunnell, Fabio Moretzsohn, Noe Barrera, and Roe Davenport. If you have a good picture of Jean Andrews, Noe, or Roe, that we could use it would be great!

We would also like to have some of their books to use in auctions or as raffle items or door prizes. We can also use Texas shells with good data.

If you have any books or shells that you would like to donate, please contact Lucy.

[lclampit@comcast.net](mailto:lclampit@comcast.net).



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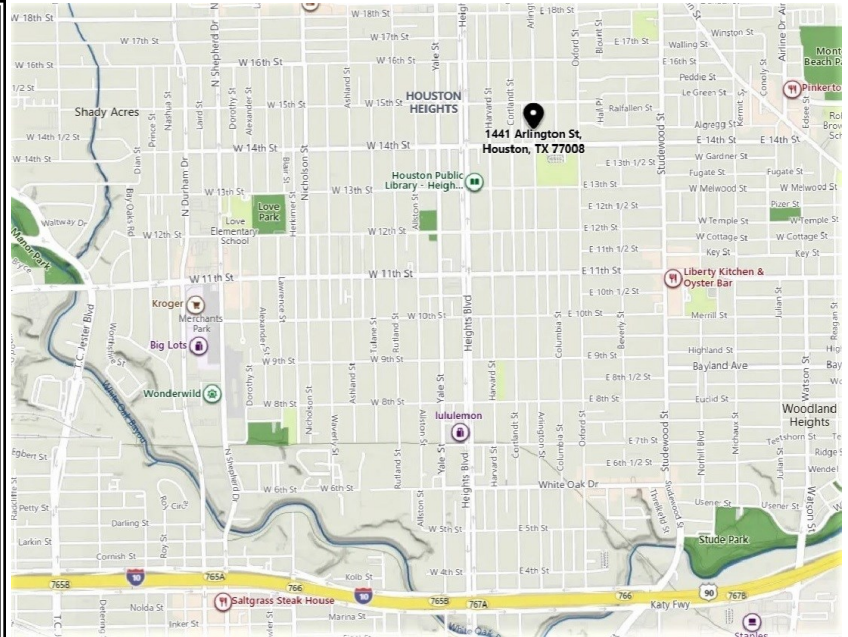
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The Society holds regular meetings on the third Sunday of September, October, November, January, February and April. There are seasonal events and a yearly shell auction scheduled in the other months.

**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

## HOUSTON CONCHOLOGY SOCIETY

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