



# The Epitonium

## September Meeting and Program

**Sunday, September 17**, will be the first regular meeting on the Houston Conchology Society's new year. We hope you can join us at **2:00 at the Immanuel Lutheran Church**, 306 E. 15th Street, in The Heights area of Houston. Lucy and Jerry Clampit will share pictures of the Conchologists of America convention that was held in Wilmington, NC earlier this summer.

There will be a table of free shells and shell related items, and a mini silent auction of some recently donated snails, in case you need a snail to enter the "Sunny Sea Snail" category in the Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show. Come join the fun!

## President's Message

By Dave Green

A very warm welcome to all our HCS members as we begin another year in club history. I guess the word "WARM" has special meaning this year since it has been so hot in South-east Texas and around the state. I hope you have survived and made the most of the situation. It appears the hot weather is here to stay another month or so before we see Fall. Welcome to TEXAS in August and September.

I am so pleased with the number of members that attended our Summer Social at Cleburne Cafeteria. That was a huge success story with some 25+ members in attendance. The meals were terrific and the fellowship even better. It was good to see so many of our members at this new site for the event, and the response I

have received from many of our members has been nothing but positive. The private dining room we utilized was just perfect for our members and made dining a pleasure. I hope to utilize it again next year.

I hope each and every one of our members will make note on their calendars on the **third Sunday in each month** to attend our monthly club meetings. It would be terrific to see at least 25-30 of our members at each meeting. Tina Petway, our Vice President in charge of programs, has lined up a solid group of programs for 2023-2024, and you will not want to miss them. So, come join us and share in the fun.

Looking ahead, Mary Harris has agreed to host our annual Christmas Party at her house in December. You will be hearing much more about this event in future newsletters. During the HCS Board meeting at my house on Monday, August 21, the Board unanimously voted to return to Monument Inn for our May Year End banquet meeting. In addition, Lucy Clampit and her team of club volunteers are working hard to prepare another great shell auction in March, 2024, at the church.

Unfortunately, I have to end this message on a very sad note regarding the passing of our beloved club member, John Haneiko. It certainly took most of us as a shock and our hearts are filled with sadness for Angie and her family. Please join me in wishing condolences to Angie and her family during this difficult time. John will be remembered for bringing his love of shells and his light-hearted nature to our

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**President:**  
David Green

**Vice President:**  
Tina Pettway

**Treasurer:**  
Angie Haneiko

**Recording Secretary:**  
Rusti Stover

**Corresponding Secretary:**  
Jerry Clampit

**President’s Message from page 1** meetings. John loved everyone, and we loved him. He may not be with us, but John will certainly not be forgotten. Angie.....we offer our love and our prayers for you and your family. May the Almighty walk with you and comfort you in the days to come.

I hope to see all our members at the September meeting, as there are other news items that will be added to the agenda. See you in September.

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

## May Minutes

There were no minutes for May. The only business at the annual banquet was the installation of the officers for 2023-2024: President—David Green; Vice President—Tina Pettway; Treasurer—Angie Haneiko; Recording Secretary—Rusti Stover; Corresponding Secretary—Jerry Clampit.

## CALENDAR

9/17/23	HCS Meeting
10/12/23	SSS Shell Show
10/15/23	NO Meeting in Oct.
11/19/23	HCS Meeting
12/1/23	HCS Christmas Party
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

## HCS Auction

The Auction Committee considered having the next auction in conjunction with the Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show, similar to what we did with the Jamboree last year, but decided that it would be less complicated to have it at the church as we have done most years. Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 2**. The first silent auction will begin at **10:00 a.m. at the Immanuel Lutheran Church**. The committee is already hard at work, so start saving your money!



## 2023-24 Dues

A big thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership. If you receive a paper copy and have not renewed, a form is enclosed in this newsletter. You may pay at the September meeting with cash or check or mail your check to the address on the form.

## Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show

The deadline for entering the Shell Show is rapidly approaching. The chairs would like to have your entry form by **September 15**. Information and forms can be found at: <https://houstonshellclub.com/PDFfiles/SSSSS%202023.pdf>.

Even if you don’t enter an exhibit, come and join the fun at the Civic Center in Lake Jackson, TX on **October 13 & 14**. There will be lots of beautiful shells on display.

If you are interested in being a vendor to sell shells and shell related items, please contact Wanda Coker at: [emptybob-bin51@yahoo.com](mailto:emptybob-bin51@yahoo.com) or Patty Humbird at: [humbirdpatty@gmail.com](mailto:humbirdpatty@gmail.com).



## HCS Banquet

Approximately 20 members and guests enjoyed another yummy gathering at Monument Inn restaurant. It was a great ending for another successful year.

*(Pictures by Dave Green)*



## Summer Social

On August 7, twenty-seven HCS members and guests gathered at Cleburne Cafeteria to enjoy great food and share stories of summer adventures. Former member Lynn Blair joined us. We are looking forward to another exciting year beginning with the September meeting.





## In Memoriam

Sadly, HCS member John Haneiko passed away on July 16, 1923. He was born May 18, 1948 in East Aurora, New York, and was a graduate of Notre Dame University. After working for a few other companies, he retired from TransCanada in 2015.

John was devoted to his family and his church and had many interests. He could talk to anyone about anything. In his younger years, he was an avid runner, but he also loved nature, visiting national parks, music, baseball, and seashells.

John began collecting seashells seriously in 1978 after he purchased a nice *Murex ramosus* from a commercial dealer. He was recovering from an injury at the time and spent a lot of time staring at the shell and wondering about the shell world. Over the next several years, his collection gradually grew. A family vacation to South Padre Island in 2013 accelerated his collecting.

Eventually, he and his wife Angie found the Houston Conchology Society and became active members. John wrote articles for the newsletter, presented programs, and helped identify shells for auction.

In 2019, he attended his first COA Convention and Bourse, appropriately on Sanibel Island. The picture shows him at his first Bourse.

HCS members send their condolences to Angie and family.



## A Small Michigan Lake Unionid

By Rusti Stover

I spent a whole blissful week the end of August in 75-degree average temperatures, on a small lake in Michigan, Cooley Lake (White Lake Township), where my niece and Nephew in Law moved to last year. We (daughter and her guy, and me) went up there to visit and have a family reunion picnic with 18 of our relatives. They knew I was a sand collector, but

there was no beach sand around the edges of the small lake; just weeds, dirt and grass, and in the shallows, water lilies and mucky bottom. So, we took their pontoon boat out a lot, to fish, swim, and finally make a trip to the shallow sand bar area. My Nephew in Law Mark got out of the boat and dove down to the bottom, and brought me up a small plastic container of sand! We dried it on a paper plate in the sun for a few days, and then, when I was sifting pebbles out of it to bag it up, I found he had also brought up an empty small Unionid (Mussel) shell, so I got a bonus with the sand! The freshwater mussel is too young and small (about 1.5 inches across both valves) to perfectly identify which Michigan Unionid it is, but it is a cute little shell that I brought home with my new sand specimen! Great souvenir!



## Wilmington COA 2023 our first long road trip to Convention! (a LONG road trip! May 29<sup>th</sup> to June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023) by Paula and Greg Rutledge

This was our 2<sup>nd</sup> COA Convention! We were fortunate enough to have Galveston as our 1<sup>st</sup> convention...less than an hour drive from home. However, Wilmington COA 2023 was 1200 miles away. We rented a car and set off on the 1200-mile road trip to get to Wilmington! That's a lot of driving...through a lot of pretty country...lots of hours driving. (It is a minor miracle we didn't get lost in any of the large cities we had to travel through - Mobile, Montgomery, Atlanta, Augusta.) Ten hours of driving on Monday put us in Montgomery, Alabama to end our first day. We got up bright and early the next morning for our next 10-hour drive and arrived in Wilmington around 6pm that night (Tuesday). As we pulled up to the hotel, friends from Vermont and Hawaii greeted us as we stepped out of the car!! This was the beginning to a great convention!

Conventions are made up of presentations, auctions, live auction, a banquet, more silent auctions, field trips, buying opportunities (if you have never been to Bourse – you are missing a real treat), a welcoming party (did I mention the welcoming party had an auction?), and friends! A whole lot of shell friends! People you can talk to about your latest quest for a *Cypraea broderipii* or about the long searched for *Cypridium tigrinum* ...and they actually know what you are talking about and they won't look at you like are crazy.

In no particular order...things we enjoyed at Wilmington 2023 COA Convention...

Programs started Wednesday afternoon. The presentation “**The Algorithmic Beauty of Seashells**” by Dick Ott, MD was a visual treat. My husband was captivated by the detailed patterns and how they can be formed. I credit this program for getting my husband FINALLY hooked on shells. I don't know if it was the tenting on cones or the tenting on olives, but the patterns so intrigued him that he actually went and bid on a shell! (Up until then, I was the collector in the family...he just tolerated the shells.) He won *his first shell* -the glossiest 82mm *Oliva sericea* I have ever seen. And after that he was bidding on more auctions as well as buying at the bourse. He came home with lots of tented shells... *Conus textile*, half a dozen *Americoliva sayanas*, and more. And his first bourse purchase was a *Cypraea mappa* from Brian Hayes; I guess when he saw all the curves on the mappa pattern, he just had to have one of those, too. By the last day, my husband was having fun shopping at the club table, and he ended up with many nice shells. It is nice to have a husband who collects shells. (By the time the San Antonio Shell Club auction rolled around in August, he was bidding on *Cymbiola imperialis* and *Conus bengalensis*.)

There was a welcome party and a silent auction Wednesday evening. (I love auctions.)

Thursday morning's 1<sup>st</sup> presentation was “**Diving for Murex (Homalocantha) pele**” by Dave Watts of Hawaii. He showed how he collected these little gems, the steps he went through to clean them and prepare them. (Very valuable tips on how to get the organic matter out of delicate little shells. I would not have guessed you could microwave a seashell safely.) The hardest part is probably spotting the shells out on the reef – they blend in and are almost invisible unless you know what to look for. He had some great pictures of beautiful, exceptional colors of the final cleaned shells. [The bright orange Homal-



*Lyncina broderipii* (Gray in Sowerby, 1832) USNM 1186599  
ex Marjorie Hayes Collection

Photograph from the Department of Invertebrate Zoology  
Collection, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.

or the tenting on olives, but the patterns so intrigued him that he actually went and bid on a shell! (Up until then, I was the collector in the family...he just tolerated the shells.) He won



*Conus textile* 93.40mm East Java  
Beautiful tenting! Collection of Greg Rutledge

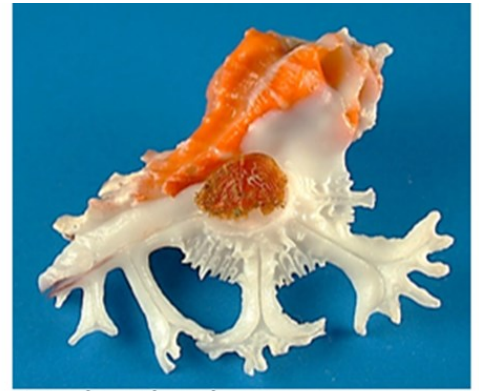


*Conus bengalensis* 65.13mm Indian Ocean  
Collection of Greg Rutledge



ocantha *pele* shell in the photograph here was purchased from Dave Watts in January 2021.]

The presentation “**Changes in the Land Snail Fauna of North Carolina**” by Amy Van Devender was a surprise. She made land snails interesting! I pretty much ignored land snails until her presentation. Did you know North Carolina has more land snails than Texas? (Texas is 5 times the size of North Carolina.) I spoke to her several times in the halls over the next few days. She always took time to patiently answer my questions. (Did you know there are people who actually keep land snails as pets? Reddit has a land snail group!) I will admit, the land snails around Houston are pretty boring compared to the snails of North Carolina.



*Homalocantha pele* 44.8mm F+++ Oahu, Hawaii  
Collection of Paula Rutledge

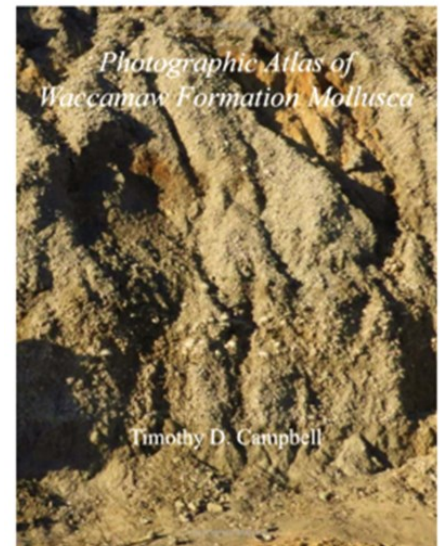
One of the strangest presentations was “**Further Adventures in Thing Theory: names and other names**” by Paul Callomon. It was captivating ...even if I am not sure I understood all of the concepts. It was sort of like.... are pearls valuable because we think they are valuable? Or do we think they are valuable because we perceive them to be valuable? Those are actually two different concepts (even I can't think how to present the concepts correctly.) Which is “better” – a real pearl or a cultured pearl? Why is there such a huge difference in value or price between the two? And is it a faux pas to ask someone if their pearls are real? Besides this presentation, he also served as one of the auctioneers Thursday evening. He was a great auctioneer – entertaining, and knowledgeable. I'm not sure where Paul Callomon is from, but he has a charming accent.

There were presentations on fossils, on Florida shells, on collecting shells. One of my favorite presentations was by a young man, Timothy D. Campbell - “**Curiouser and Curiouser”: The Unexpected Diversity of the Waccamaw Formation**”. I realize fossils may not interest everyone, especially when the presentation gets so detailed, so specific. What I am going to remember about this presentation is Timothy Campbell. He just finished high school (homeschooled) and has been accepted into university (by the time you read this, he probably will have started classes.) His depth of knowledge on fossil mollusks of the Waccamaw Formation is incredible. He has written book (a compendium) of fossils of the Waccamaw Formation. He had the pre-print copy on view at convention for us to get an early peek at. It is a HUGE book! And it is now in print! His book was published July 26, 2023 and is available on Amazon for \$40.00. It is paperback, 424 pages, and weighs 2.51 pounds. His work expands the number of molluscan species well documented from the Waccamaw Formation from ~650 species to ~1250 species! There are over 3000 black and white photographs. 16 identification keys, a glossary, an appendix of additional accurate records and another appendix of taxonomic notes. It is an incredible compilation of data.

[His father is Dr David Campbell Associate Professor of Paleontology, Chair of Department of Natural Sciences at Garner Webb University in (who led the fossil trip before convention started, as well as presented “**Fossil Mollusks of the Carolinas**” session).

All I can add to this is Timothy Campbell's parents must be terribly proud of him. I expect to see many discoveries and publications from him in the future.

The Friday night banquet was excellent! (The chicken I had was quite tender, quite tasty, and more than enough for a meal!) And the oral auction was truly an event to remember. An amazing selection of gem quality shells, many rare shells, even some books were presented! And the bidding was quite spirited! Knowing that the funds go towards educational grants, people did not mind bidding high. And it's a good thing we drove to the convention. Every-



**Photographic Atlas of Waccamaw Formation Mollusca**  
Timothy D. Campbell, July 26, 2023  
424 pages 2.51 pounds paperback  
Available from Amazon.com

thing we ended up winning and buying would not have fit in suitcases...and several large heavy books added even more weight. We probably need to rent a larger car for next year's convention...

Raffle shells and Door Prizes were quite nice – very very nice specimens! Kudos to the people in charge of raffles and door prizes (Steve & Toni Boldy – Raffles, and Amy Dick - Door Prizes, and Mark Johnson did great work in wrangling auction donations! And Mark did double duty – he was also Chairperson of the Bourse!

I cannot remember all the presentations. It was a busy few days that passed much too quickly. I remember on Friday, there was a presentation by Sharon Grimes “**New St. Croix Shell Museum**” associated with the St. Croix Botanical Garden. She was raising awareness of the museum and trying to raise support. (St Croix has lovely shells but does not allow collecting; you cannot take shells, coral, or sand; you CAN take sea glass.)

And there was a presentation on “**Bivalves as Ecosystem Engineers**” ...oysters do a lot more for ecology than most people realize.

Closing the presentations Friday was the COA Business meeting which featured a preview of the **2024 COA** convention. (**MELBOURNE HERE WE COME!!!** Hilton Melbourne, Melbourne Florida **June 11<sup>th</sup> fieldtrips June 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Programs Bourse Jun 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**)  
<https://conchologistsofamerica.org/conventions/>

Bourse is a big room full of incredible specimens of shells – all for sale! Any shell you could want was probably in that room. The bourse was set up well and all the dealers seemed quite happy with how things were handled. Spacious tables, set up with nice wide aisles allow ample room for customers, made it a pleasure to shop. In Bourse, I enjoyed getting to meet new (to me) dealers – The Coltro Brothers (Brazil/Italy/Miami), Don Pisor & his wife (California), Donald Dan. And I enjoyed seeing dealers I had met the year before, Brian Hayes (Algoa Bay Shells), Andres Bonard (Patagonian Shells), Dave Watts and Dave Woodman (Hawaii) along with their friend Merv Cooper from Australia, Charles Hames, and especially Kevan & Linda Sunderland (KL Shells, Florida) who brought me the *Macrocypraea mammoth* I had been hunting for! Here are a few photos taken with my iPhone to give you an idea of what you can find in COA Bourse.



A word about convention field trips...this convention had many great field trips - shell collecting trips, fossil collecting trips, dinner cruises, aquarium and garden tours. We missed out on these field trips because they filled up before we realized it. **If you are planning on going to Melbourne in 2024 book your hotel now and sign up for the field trips as soon as they are announced!**



We loved getting to be with friends we had met the year before (Galveston COA 2022) – many friends who we had only met online before. After the past several years of covid induced isolation, we truly enjoyed the opportunity to socialize in person instead of via computer or phone.

The members of the local club seemed like family by the time the week was over. They made us feel welcome and took care of every need. Their choice of the Hotel Ballast was inspirational. Everything was only a few steps from our hotel room door. The elevator, the restaurant, the auction room, the meeting room...just a few steps and there you were! (The older I get, the less mobile I get, the more I appreciate things being close together! Well done North Carolina Shell Club!) I look forward to seeing them all again in Melbourne next year. Everyone in the local club was so nice. They ran silent auctions, sold t-shirts, answered questions. I should have told them how much we enjoyed the convention and how much we appreciated the hard work they did to put the convention on. They are awesome people!

Monday morning, we climbed back into the rental car and headed home. This time we drove down the coast towards Jacksonville, Florida. We stopped at Port Royal (about an hour and a half past Charleston) in an effort to get to a beach. We made it to The Sands Beach...not quite all the way to the water though. It turns out, most states we drove through do not let you drive your cars on to the beach. I find that quite surprising. (The older I get, the less mobile I am... and I am no longer able to hike half a mile to get onto the beach.) In Texas, you can drive on most beaches. Heck, you can even park and camp on a lot of them. Another thing we learned... they don't want anyone taking any oyster shells home! We saw a huge pile of oyster shells at the entrance to the beach with a large sign posted reminding people it is against the law to take oyster shells! I understand how important it is to recycle oyster shells into bays to help grow more oysters. (But I sure would have liked a few oyster shells.) We drove on down to Jacksonville, Florida and turned right on to Interstate 10. Three hours later, we were at the Hampton Inn in Quincy, Florida for the evening.

The next morning, we hit the road for the 10-hour drive home. It had been years since I had driven along the Gulf Coast in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. I had forgotten how beautiful the scenery was. Lots of green trees! There were a lot of highway patrol cars on the freeway issuing tickets. On this trip, one of the great discoveries we made was **that our phones while navigating the way home would warn us of cops on the freeway!** It would show how far away, how many cop vehicles were involved, what time the traffic stop was reported. If I had had that available when I was a teenager, I would not have had so many speeding tickets.

As we crossed from Louisiana into Texas, we felt like we were almost home. It was less than 90 miles...we should have been home in no time at all... until the storms moved in. It was raining so hard...even the big semi-trucks were pulling over and stopping. We tried going slowly ... suddenly an alarm went off on my phone alerting me that a flood monitor station had just detected 5" of rain in 15 minutes and to expect flooding any minute. It was the flood monitor closest to our house! A few minutes later, the phone alerts me that the electricity is off at home. You really have to love Texas weather... We got home a lot later than expected; there was still no electricity; the house was starting to get warm and it was still raining. But no sign of flooding unless you count the 6" of water everywhere...but it wasn't rising, so we weren't too worried. We did get home just in time to rescue the tropical fish (who really need electricity to keep air pumps going.) The electricity came back on around 11pm so things cooled off nicely and we had a good night's sleep. And it wasn't until the next morning that we saw the damage in our back yard...it wasn't the 6" of standing water everywhere – we kind of expected that... but we didn't expect to see a 20ft tall crepe myrtle tree TWISTED and laid over on its side! It looked like a small twister must have come through and twisted it out of the ground and laid it down! But there was no other damage to anything else in the yard! And although the crepe myrtle was twisted and lying down it was not broken anywhere. We grabbed ropes and hauled the tree back up and tried to twist it back into place. (As of the end of August, it is still alive, and the ropes are still in place trying to get it straighter.)

It was quite an ending to quite a trip!

We are looking forward to next year's COA 2024 Shell – Olympics! See y'all there!

<https://conchologistsofamerica.org/conventions/>



## *Hardouinia mortonis*: Gift at the COA 2023

By Colleen Costelloe

The fossil in the welcome packet at the Conchologists of America's 2023 annual conference in Wilmington, NC was a welcome surprise. The sea urchins, *Hardouinia mortonis* (Michelin, 1850), were found on Holden Beach, NC. Two specimens are shown in Figure 1, measure 56 mm x 55 mm x 33 mm (A) and 48 mm x 47 mm x 25 mm (B). Morton's Sea Urchins date from Mesozoic-Cretaceous – Late-Maastrichtian (66 - 70 million years ago). They are from the Pee Dee formation (Late Cretaceous) which is named for the Great Pee Dee River and is located in the coastal plain of eastern North Carolina and South Carolina [1].

The body (test) of sea urchins is made of fused calcium plates. *Hardouinia* species are classified as irregular echinoids. They are pentaradial with bilateral symmetry and are not perfectly round in their widest horizontal circumference (ambitus). Each half is essentially the mirror image of the other. In contradistinction, regular echinoids are round in their widest horizontal circumference and demonstrate a regular, repeating pentaradial symmetry. The periproct of regular echinoids (the anal/genital opening) is always centered in the apical disc at the top of the animal while the peristome (mouth opening) is centered at its base so that one can look straight through the two aligned openings of the empty test. In irregular echinoids, the periproct is always outside of the apical disc so the two openings are never aligned directly opposite each other [2].

On the apical side of the test (aboral view – Figure 1A), five petals are embedded in ambulacral plates [2]. Ambulacra are sections of the test that are connected to arms of the animal's internal water vascular system and operate rows of external tube feet. The design is analogous to the arms of a starfish. The petals of this species are lanceolate and extend more than halfway to the ambitus [3]. The petals contain rows of zygopores. Each zygopore is composed of a pair of small openings in the test that consist of a circular inner pore with a slot-shaped outer pore, as shown in Figure 1A, [3]. The zygopores allow the animal's water vascular system to access its tube feet which perform functions such as respiration, locomotion and feeding. Four genital pores (gonopores) are located beyond the apical margin of the petals. Other small, dark "dots" of similar size near the gonopores in Figure 1A are artifacts. An apical madreporite allows inflow and outflow of water from the water vascular system. The sieve-like structure of the madreporite is not well preserved in this specimen. The periproct of this species is small, circular and located between then ends of the posterior petals [3].

On the oral side of the test (adoral view - Figure 1B), the peristome is central, circular and surrounded by 5 pointed, hollow bourrelets that are separated by deep pits. The bourrelets of living animals are covered with fine spines to help guide food into the mouth. The petal-like rows of pores around the peristome are called phyllodes and some of their associated tube feet perform

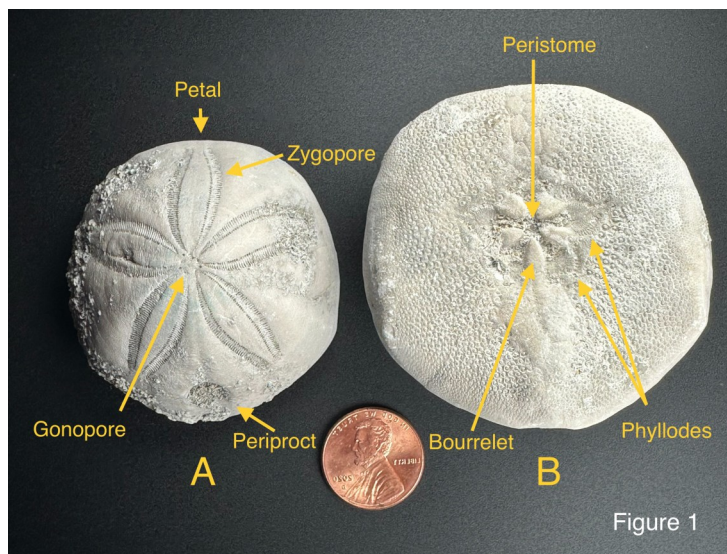
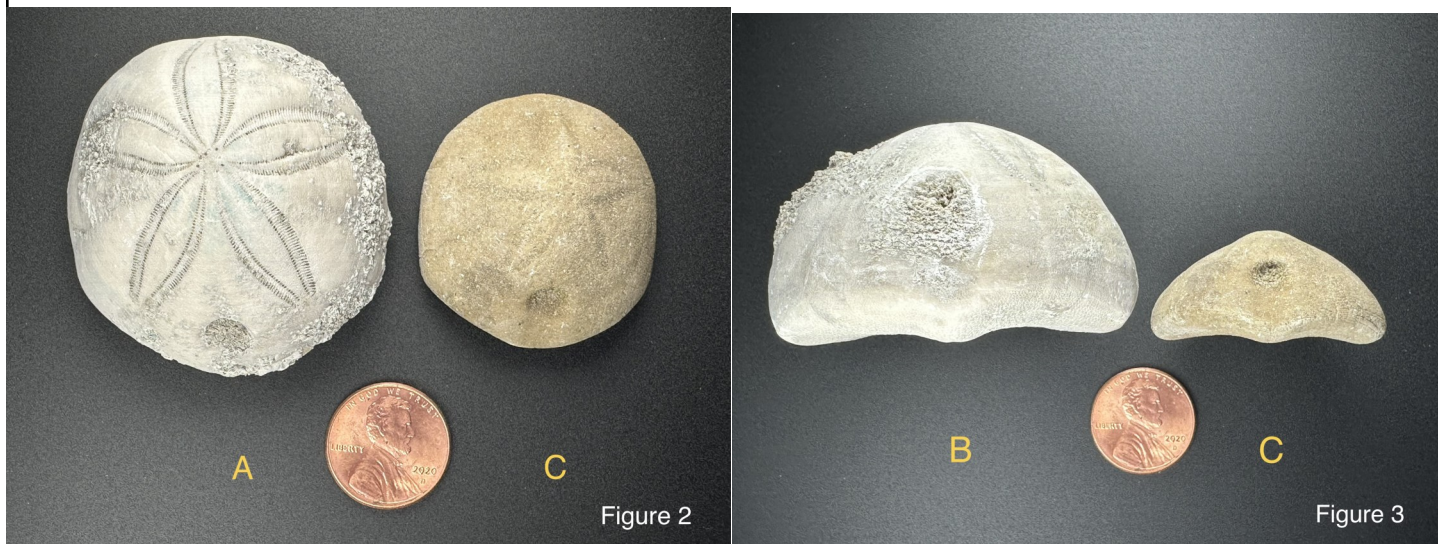


Figure 1

sensory functions [4]. Numerous rounded tubercles are attachment points for moveable spines.



The form that can be found in Texas is *Hardouinia mortonis emmonsii* (Stephenson 1927), [5]. Figures 2 and 3 compare *Hardouinia mortonis* (Figures 2A and 3B) with *Hardouinia mortonis emmonsii* (Figures 2C and 3C). The upper surface of the test of both animals is variably inflated while the lower surface is slightly concave. *Emmonsii* differs by virtue of a more pointed apical contour [6]. This specimen was found at Rocky Point, NC and measures 37 mm x 36 mm x 18 mm. The holotype *emmonsii* measures 40 mm x 38.5 mm x 19.7 mm [3]. Specimens from Texas may be smaller than those from the Carolinas, with an average specimen from Indio Ranch in Texas measuring 26 mm x 24 mm x 10.6 mm [3].

The generosity expressed by the gift of the fossils was evident throughout the meeting. Many thanks to the North Carolina Shell club for going out of their way to make the attendees feel welcome.

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## Publications covering Postage Stamps with Mollusks, and Of Sea and Shore Magazine

Les Crnkovic

My long-awaited articles about publications covering Postage Stamps with Mollusks on them has been published in American Conchologist. HCS has posted the articles as a single PDF on the club website for your download at: [https://houstonshellclub.com/PDFfiles/Stamps\\_pubs\\_on\\_Mollusks+OSS.pdf](https://houstonshellclub.com/PDFfiles/Stamps_pubs_on_Mollusks+OSS.pdf).

American Conchologist 51(2):28-32.

'Mollusks on Stamps' Publications.

Mollusks on Stamps in Of Sea and Shore Magazine (OS&S).

An Annotated Checklist of the Volumes & Issues of: Of Sea & Shore Magazine 1970-2007.  
[BONUS PAGE]

## Beach Report: Grant Beach Park, Wisconsin

By Lisa Alderman

Last month's race event took us to Road America via Milwaukee, Wisconsin. When I heard about a beach park on Lake Michigan located 4 miles from the Milwaukee airport, I had to check it out! Unfortunately for me, a couple of days before we arrived, the area experienced a "pneumonia front" weather phenomenon which dropped the temperature into the low 40s with winds gusting over 20 mph. But I wasn't going to let that stop me.

We had flown in the night before and I had about an hour and a half the next morning before we needed to head to the track. Armed with my sand pail, shovel and gloves, I took an Uber over to the park. It was incredible to see the waves knowing this was a lake (ok, a BIG lake, but still a lake). There are some freshwater mussel shells to be found on the beaches of Lake Michigan, but mostly I had read about it being a good glass, tile and rock beach.

Beginning around 1840, Lake Michigan was used as a dump with garbage thrown from the city bluffs or dumped from garbage barges into the lake. There's also a former railroad dump that sits adjacent to the lakeshore where debris has been swept into the lake by the waves. Glass found on a freshwater beach is called "beach glass" as opposed to "sea glass" which is found on saltwater beaches. Colors produced in the area range from clear, aqua, yellow, amber, green, brown and cobalt. Opaque white milk glass can also be found.



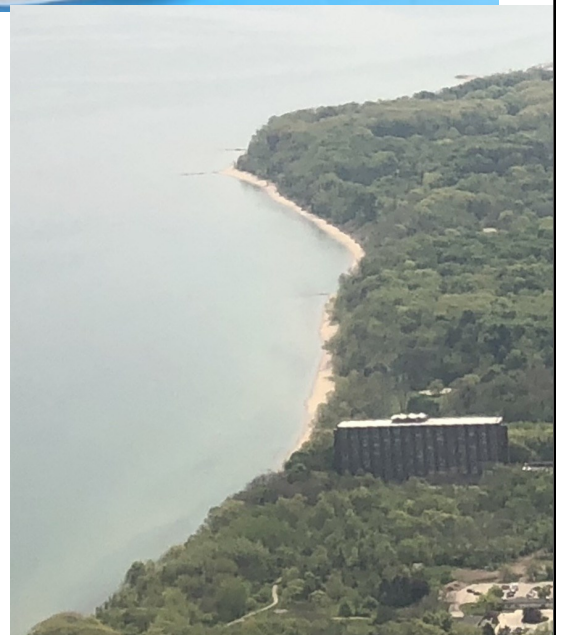
I



started at the southern end of the beach and walked north. At first, all I could see were rocks. Really cool, round, smooth rocks, but only rocks. The rocks were amazing! A variety of colors and patterns and super smooth. I picked up one that is a little smaller than a golf ball and perfectly round. Glass was hard to spot, but once I found a piece it was like my brain now knew what to look for and it became easier to find.

I found mostly clear, a few aqua, several green and one nice piece of cobalt. A couple of the clear ones appear to once have been part of glass insulators. There are also a couple pieces of milk glass. The most interesting piece found is a partial piece of a clear bottle bottom. With the help of the internet, I found that it is from a Duraglas bottle produced in the early 1940s.

On the flight home I was delighted to view the beach from the air as we flew right over it on takeoff. The photo below is oriented south (top) to north (bottom). My walk on the beach began about halfway along the top edge of the beach. I walked to about halfway to the large building and back. It took the entire drive to the racetrack for my hands to thaw out! I can't wait to go back!





## COA 2025 in Corpus Christi

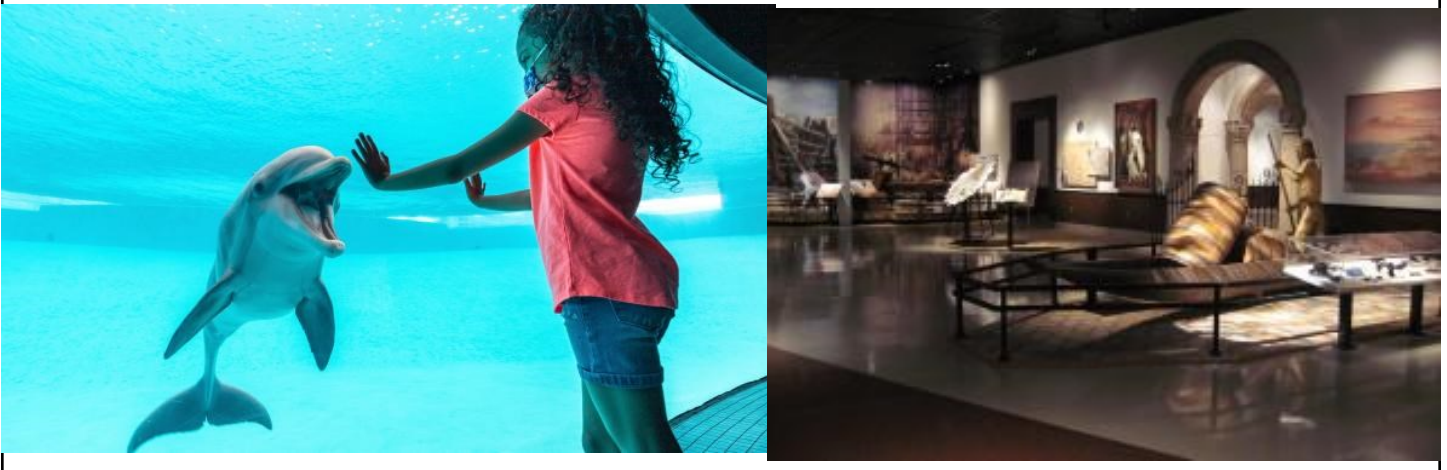
By Dave Green COA Convention Chairman

I am pleased to announce that the Conchologists of America (COA) 2025 Convention will be held at the Omni Hotel in Corpus Christi, Texas on **July 7-13, 2025**. Thanks to the diligent work and of Wand Coker, COA Convention Coordinator, the contract has been finalized and signed with COA approval. So, mark your calendars now and plan to attend this convention. My goal is to attract everyone in Texas who has an interest in shells to attend.

The Omni Hotel is the site of the 1994 COA convention which was hosted by the late Jean Roe, Convention Chairman, and it was a huge success story being the very first COA to be held in Texas. The hotel was operated in 1994 by the Marriott Corporation but it is operated and owned by Omni Hotels currently and has been remodeled, redecorated and is even more beautiful now than it was back in 1994. The hotel is located in downtown Corpus Christi on Shoreline Blvd, and I am glad to say, overnight parking for guests will be only \$5.00 per day instead of the \$25.00 normal price for parking. The room rates will be \$169.00 for single and double occupancy and the rates will increase \$10.00 per occupant for additional occupancy triple/quad. The Omni has complimentary service to/from the airport for those who prefer to fly directly into Corpus Christi.

As Convention Chairman, I have put together another very talented team to work with for the 2025 COA Convention. We are already busy at work getting our ducks in a row and we are making progress. I have elected to use a global team approach instead of a club sponsored approach, as our clubs in Texas are small and lack the manpower needed to accomplish this task. The format of the convention will be much the same as the one I utilized at Moody Gardens in Galveston in 2022. Basically, just the location has changed, but we will be adding field trips into the agenda on the day before the opening ceremonies of the convention. Patty Humbird will be in charge of registration and she is working on the registration forms as we speak. They should be out and available as soon as I decide upon the logo and convention theme, which should be completed shortly.

I will keep all our club members posted on the progress and agenda for the convention as things develop and become available. So, please mark your calendar for **COA 2025 in Corpus Christi on July 7-13**. I look forward to seeing everyone in Corpus Christi.



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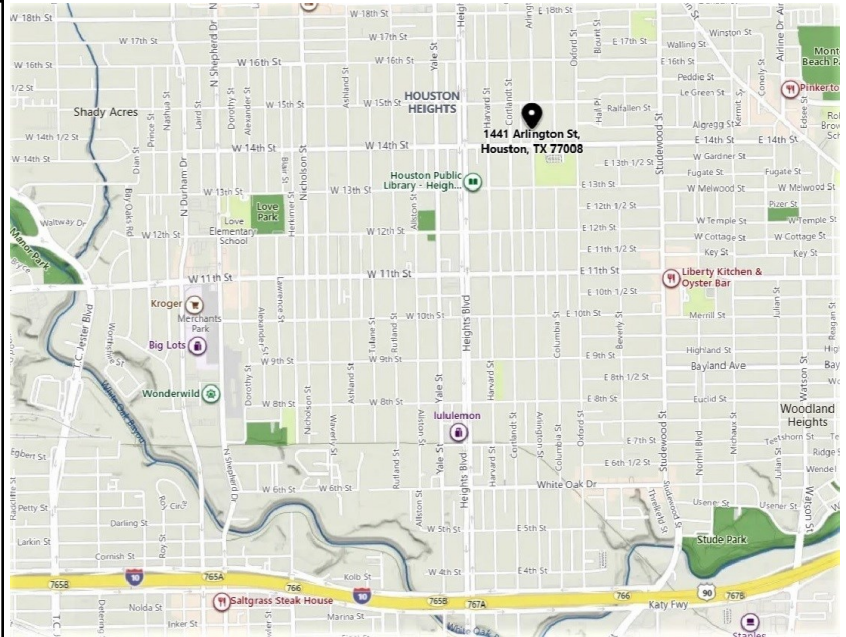
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The Society holds regular meetings on the third Sunday of September, October, November, January, February and April. There are seasonal events and a yearly shell auction scheduled in the other months.

**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.



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