



# The Epitonium

## February Meeting & Program

The next HCS meeting is **February 19, at 2:00 p.m. at the Immanuel Lutheran Church.** Dave Green will be presenting the program. This is what he says about it:

“This is a presentation I did several years ago after returning from my trip to the Philippines. I took just over 2,000 slide shots while in the Islands, both on the boat collecting and in Cebu and Manila, plus other locations. I have gone back and taken out some of the slides in the original presentation and replaced them with different, never shown before, pictures. There will be pictures of live shells, snorkeling for shells in Palawan, and buying shells from the Tupperware dealers in Mactan and Cebu. It will focus on the one week I spent in Cebu looking at shells and then two weeks of collecting on the West side of Palawan in the South China Sea. One of the main focus points will be on the people and their culture, and how they live on small, remote islands throughout the Philippines, which I think was the most important aspect of the entire trip. There will be pictures taken in flight, while driving around in Manila and Cebu, and other locations. The presentation should last about 30-45 minutes in duration.

Much of this you have seen previously but I have added some new stuff, along with some comments I left out of the first presentation. It has many beautiful shots of coral gardens and collecting areas that are truly wonderful.”

Come and join us while Dave talks about his adventures.

## President's Message

**Greetings HCS Members!**

Hard to believe it is already February!

It was good to see so many of you on the 4<sup>th</sup> at the SSSBC lunch and meeting.

In our February meeting we will discuss the draft version of the By-Laws changes. Please see the section in this newsletter from the committee.

The nominating committee will also be presenting the slate of officers for next year, and will be accepting nominations from the floor. If you would like to serve as an officer, please let me know.

Take care, stay warm, and see you at the February meeting!

Leslie

## HCS By-Laws Revision Committee Report

We are pleased to have a By-Laws draft ready for your review.

To Review please see the following documents on the HCS website.

The first document also has a summary of the approval process activities.

2023-02-04 HCS By-Laws Summary of Substantive Changes Letter. pdf

2023-02-04 HCS-By-Laws Revision Draft. pdf

And the current HCS By-Laws: Bylaws 201503.pdf

<https://www.houstonshellclub.com/PDFfiles/Bylaws%20201503.pdf>

Thank you,  
HCS By-Laws Revision Committee,  
*David and Linda Green, Lucy Clampit, Rusti Stover, and Leslie Crnkovic, chair.*

**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](http://www.houstonshellclub.com)

## CALENDAR

2/19/23	HCS Meeting
3/19/23	HCS Meeting
4/16/23	HCS Meeting
5/20/23	HCS Banquet
5/31/23	COA Convention
10/12-14	SSS Shell Show

## March 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Most of you know that HCS is not having our usual March auction. After working on 3 major events in 2022, we felt we needed a break, but that doesn't mean that we don't need to clean out our storage room. So, we are going to put out a lot of free stuff at the March meeting. If you would like to make a donation for the items that you select, please do so. More details in the March newsletter.

## January Minutes

Submitted by Rusti Stover

A quorum of officers (Leslie Crnkovic, Angie Haneiko, Rusti Stover) was present at the meeting, so President Leslie Crnkovic called the Sunday, January 15, 2023 meeting to order at 2:14 PM. Mary Harris made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 2022 meeting. Dave Green seconded, all approved, motion passed.

Treasurer Angie Haneiko gave a treasurer's report. Tina Petway announced that she and Lucy Clampit had been talking over the possibility of holding a half-hour silent auction at the March meeting, because the club still has a lot of things in the club storage room, and we are not holding a regular auction during March of this year. This would add an extra half-hour to the meeting time, and would be set up before the members arrived. She asked the assembled members about their opinion. Cathy Betley also spoke on the matter. Members present liked the idea. Lucy was not at the meeting, but Tina said she would confer with her and make sure they had time to get this ready and would announce the decision at the February meeting.

Allison McHenry mentioned a program she found online about the Rio Grande Valley Artificial Reef and said members might want to check it out

Leslie mentioned that according to our Bylaws, Terms of Officers in the same position can only be up to 3 consecutive years, except the Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary positions, which may serve an indefinite number of terms, and asked if members wanted to change that. The consensus was to leave it as it is.

Leslie said that February is the month that we need a Nominating Committee to announce members who want to run for offices, for the Annual Election in March. He asked for volunteers and wanted to know if the present officers would like to serve another year. Corresponding Secretary Rusti Stover mentioned that she would be willing to serve another year in that position if no one else volunteered, but would rather that someone else took over the position.

With no more business before the board, Tina Petway motioned to adjourn, Frank Petway seconded, all approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:26 PM.

# HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



## Sanibel Recovery

The Island seems to be recovering well after hurricane Ian caused so much destruction. The lighthouse is being rebuilt and several businesses and beaches have reopened. In fact, the Shell Museum reopened on a limited basis on February 1. The Museum has been cleaned and several exhibit areas are available for visitors to enjoy.

They have also completed the 2023 Live Mollusk Count. From the Shell Museum's Facebook page: "On Sunday, January 22, volunteers and staff from the National Shell Museum and the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation completed the 2023 Live Mollusk Count. The count took place along the Gulf side on the eastern end of Sanibel Island, at low tide, including 27 participants."

Sanibel Lighthouse posted on Museum Facebook page. Photo by Leigh Rees



Image of Lightning Whelk taken during the count by Sam Ankerson



**Sanibel from Page 3** National Shell Museum Science Director & Curator José H. Leal observed that ‘the 2023 Shell Count achieved very good results. The number of participants and area of the count lend themselves to comparisons with the January 2022 Live Mollusk Count; initial numbers hint that mollusk numbers seem to be near normal levels for many species.’ Contrasts with data gathered in 2022 will help provide insights on the general effect of Hurricane Ian on local populations of sand-inhabiting mollusks. The species more often sighted at the count were Giant Cockles, Florida Fighting Conchs, and Pear Whelks. (Giant Cockles and Florida Fighting Conchs were also the most abundantly observed in 2022.)”

Captiva Island did not sustain as much damage as Sanibel did. One of our favorite restaurants, the Mucky Duck, is back in business!!

## Shark’s Teeth in Texas

Last month, the editor asked if anyone knows where to find shark’s teeth on Texas beaches.

Darwin Alder gave this response: “If I remember correctly, I think I might have found some at the end of the Seawall at West Beach, in Galveston. One Christmas time a few years ago, I met a man who found a fossil shark tooth at Matagorda. It was about an inch long. He said it was his first after searching for many years”.

Ruth Hanssen reports that she found the pictured ones on West Galveston, marker 10, over the last 10 years or so.

Apparently, there aren’t many to be discovered along our stretch of the Gulf.



## Upcoming Seashell Events

The COA 2023 convention will be in Wilmington, NC, **May 31-June 4**. Field trips are scheduled for **May 29 & 30**. The trips are filling up quickly, so you need to register soon if you plan to participate. Registration forms were in the December issue of the *American Conchologist*. You can also find convention information at: <https://conchologistsofamerica.org/>.

Please mark your calendars for the next Sea Shell Searchers shell show, **October 12-14**.

## Reef Restoration

At the January meeting Allison McHenry told members about an interesting website she had discovered. Here is the link:

<https://texanbynature.org/projects/rio-grande-valley-reef-restoration/>

## Corrections for the January Newsletter

The editor apologizes to Nancy and John Mustachio for misidentifying them in the January newsletter. It has been corrected on the club’s website.

## Eye Candy for Shellers

Everyone needs some candy for Valentine’s Day!

“*Hirtomurex teramachii* (Kuroda, 1959),

MURICIDAE,  
Off Keelung,  
Northeast  
Taiwan,  
36mm”  
Posted on  
Facebook  
by Chong  
Chen.



## *Neverita duplicata* (Shark Eye): The Predatory Mollusk That Drills a Beveled Edge

By Colleen Costelloe

Shelling in the off-season can be particularly rewarding. In January and February of 2022 and 2023, I found four specimens of *Neverita duplicata* (Say, 1822), also known as Shark Eye, on the beaches at Sea Isle and Quintana, Texas. They belong to the family of Naticidae, the moon snails. Their range extends along the Atlantic coast from Massachusetts to Florida, including the Gulf of Mexico [1-2], the Bahamas [3] and south to Honduras [4]. In the Gulf they are found from the shoreline to a depth of approximately 158 ft [1], or in the shallow waters of bays and estuaries. Sources vary with respect to their maximum size, such as ranging from 63 mm [1] to 76 mm [2].

*Neverita duplicata* produces a smooth, globose shell that is short and wide in shape with fine radial growth lines. Color is light brown to grey, with or without orangish brown markings. The older whorls are darker, potentially resembling an eye at the apex (Figure 1). The spire is slightly elevated and pointed while the aperture is large and ovate with a thin outer lip. The base is typically white with a smooth, deep umbilicus without a spiral ridge. A thick callus partially obscures the umbilicus. While the callus is typically described as brown, it is white in the 2 smallest specimens (Figure 2).



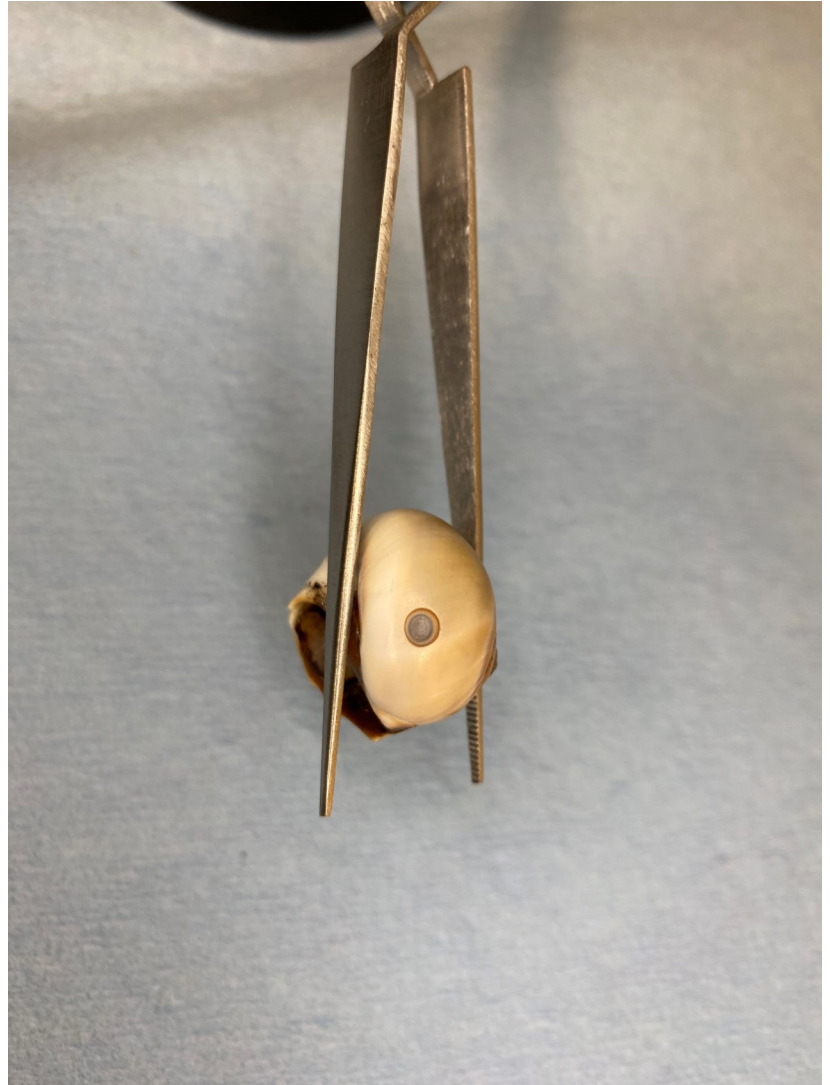
These predators live in superficial layers of sediment and feed primarily on bivalves. Locomotion is facilitated by means of a large mantle that covers and streamlines their shell, and a very large foot. Both the mantle and foot can swell through the inflow of salt water through pores. Having caught their prey, they use a combination of chemical secretions to soften its shell and their radula to ream an opening that is described as “countersunk” and “beveled” [1]. A partial drill hole in one of the specimens demonstrates a beveled edge and

may have been caused by another snail of the same species (Figure 3).

Their collar-shaped egg cases (sand collars) are made from a combination of sand and mucus that sandwiches the eggs. They measure 8-10 cm [1] and can occasionally be found as yet another treasure on the beach.

#### References:

- 1 Encyclopedia of Texas Seashells, Identification, Ecology, Distribution & History. Tunnell JW, Andrews J, Barrera NC, Moretzsohn F. 2018. College Station: Texas A&M Press.
- 2 Identification Guide to Marine Organisms of Texas, (<https://txmarspecies.tamug.edu>). Accessed 2/1/2023.
- 3 World Register of Marine Species (<https://www.marinespecies.org/aphia.php?p=taxdetails&id=160407>). Accessed 2/1/2023.
- 4 GulfBase (<https://www.gulfbase.org/species/neverita-duplicata#:~:text=duplicata%20Min%20Depth%20%20meters%20Max,Depth%2058%20meters%20Overall%20Geographic%20Range>). Accessed 2/1/2023.



# Astronaut Trail Shell Show

Posted on Facebook by Wanda Coker

“We had a great time in Florida at the Space Coast Shell Show in Melbourne. I got second place in Minor Family. Steven got second in Single Specimen, and first in One Species. We ate great food, visited with lots of friends, ate lots of good food, watched the cruise ships leave while eating really good seafood. Visited the Bucees in Alabama, St Augustine and Daytona.” (Pictures courtesy of Wanda.)



# Astronaut Trail Shell Show..... A Huge Success

By Dave Green

The Astronaut Trail Shell Club (ATSC) hosted the 42nd Space Coast Seashell Festival and Shell Show at the Eau Gallie Civic Center in Melbourne, Florida on January 21-22. Exhibitors started arriving early on Friday morning to start setting up their exhibits, both scientific and artistic categories. I have been exhibiting at the ATSC Shell Show for many years, and many of the regular exhibitors were present once again: Gene Everson from Louisville, KY, Vicky Wall and Karlynn Morgan from North Carolina, Ron Bopp from Bradenton, FL, and several local shellers from the Brevard County area. Texas was also well represented this year: Wanda and Steven Coker both had large exhibits, as did Dave Green from HCS. The judges for this year's show in the scientific categories were Kevin Sunderland from Pompano Beach, FL, and John Jacobs from Tampa, FL. John is also a member of HCS.

All exhibits had to be completely setup by 1:00pm on Friday so the judges could go to work. The exhibitors all headed out to different locations to pass the time. ATSC always seemed to have difficulty attracting people in the Brevard County area to attend the show. When I walked into the Civic Center about 9:00 am on Saturday, the Civic Center was packed with people and that attendance continued to grow throughout the day, and also into Sunday. Exhibi-

tors were asked many questions about shells and their exhibits, which was a really nice thing for us exhibitors. It kept us busy and gave us the opportunity to talk about our exhibit theme and the shells. In all my years of attending the show, I have never seen the huge crowds of people every day of the show. Their advertising plan in the city of Melbourne and Brevard County paid huge dividends this year. Exhibitors, club members, judges and attendees seemed to be having a great time. The club is going to sponsor an Open House later in the Spring to try and increase their club membership, an idea that would work for HCS.

Winning exhibits and exhibitors were as follows: Master's Award went to Gene Everson, COA Award went to Dave Green, and the DuPont Award went to Ron Bopp. Shell of the Show, and Shell of the Show Self-Collected went to Gene Everson, and the Tucker Abbott Award went to Vicky Wall. These were the major awards given at the show. Steven Coker placed Second in the Master's category, and Wanda Coker placed Second in the One Minor Family category behind the 36 ft. exhibit of Dave Green, entitled "Abalone of Western North America. Dave will be showing his exhibit on Abalone in the Sarasota Shell Club show on February 10-11 in hopes of winning the prestigious Mote Gold Award.

Alan Gettleman, also a member of HCS and a regular attendee at all Texas Jamborees, did an outstanding job of heading up the ATSC show, even though he had been hospitalized just a couple weeks prior to show. The show was a huge success both in attendance and money raised for the club. I have been attending and exhibiting at the ATSC Shell Show for many years, and I have never seen such a responsive turnout of people at the Civic Center on both days. It was just amazing and so appreciated for all the hard work. It was a fun show and everyone had a great time visiting and looking and talking about shells. (Picture by John Jacobs.)

