



The Searcher

Published by Sea Shell Searchers of Brazoria County

March 2005

www.seashellsearchers.org

Volume 27 No. 5

2004-2005 Officers:

President	Steven Coker
Vice President	Craig & Karen Latimer
Recording Secretary	Patty Humbird
Corresponding Secretary	Wanda Coker
Treasurer	Wayne Humbird

President's Message:

During the past month it was my pleasure to travel to South Padre Island with Wanda, RL & Irene Norris where we met Al and Marilyn McCuiston for a few days of shelling. The temperature was great but the sky was overcast and foggy most of the time. We were able to wade the bays and turn rocks and found many of the "normal" shells to be found at SPI. New finds for me were a small *Cymatium parthenopeum* with periostracum and a *Tonna galea*.

There was a significant dredging operation in progress behind the Coast Guard Station which may have impacted the shelling. We hired a boat captain to take our little band to several areas in and around the SPI—Boca Chica area to look for shells but with only marginal success. The boat captain mentioned that there have been several regional waste water treatment plants which have started up the past few years which may also have impacted the marine life populations.

We visited with Mary Hartmann of the SPI Shell Club who made us aware of pending legislation designed to protect the marine life from over collecting. See page 3 for more information. I would encourage you to send an email to Texas Parks & Wildlife and request more information on this issue.

All in all it was a very enjoyable trip. I look forward to seeing you all at the club meeting.

Steven Coker

March Meeting

March 1, 2005
Tuesday, 7:00 P.M.

at

Brazosport Museum of
Natural Science
Center for the Arts and Sciences
400 College Blvd.
Clute, Texas

Snacks at 7:00 P.M.
Meeting 7:30 P.M.

Refreshments by:

Snacks: Petway, Latimer, Nill

Drinks: Nill, Norris

Program

Review of Family *Muricidae* (Murex)

Patty Humbird



The Searcher

Committee Chairpersons

Auction	Wayne Humbird
Exhibits	Dean Harris
Field Trips	Darwin Alder
Historian	Janey Nill
Hospitality/Hostess	Freida White
Membership	Steven Coker
Museum Study Project	Roe Davenport
Newsletter Editor	Wanda Coker
Program	Craig Latimer
Publicity	Wanda Coker
Shell Show	Patty Humbird & Wanda Coker

Directory Corrections & Additions

Lori Sipple Email—sipple@quik.com

Betty Bickham

1895 FM 3277, Livingston, TX 77351

Al & Marilyn McCuiston

331 CR 416, Brazoria, TX 77422

(979) 798-8599

Email—mcqball@excite.com

The Sea Shell Searchers of Brazoria County

Brazosport Museum of Natural Science

Center for the Arts and Sciences

400 College Blvd., Clute, Texas 77531

Club Meetings: 1st Tuesday each month
September – May

Brazosport Museum of
Natural Science

Membership: Individual \$8.00
Family \$10.00

Newsletter Editor: Wanda Coker
332 Banyan
Lake Jackson, Texas 77566

E-Mail address: sdcoker@brazosport.edu

The Searcher is issued monthly, September - May.
Articles, comments, and suggestions for publications
are solicited and should be sent to the editor.
Deadline for printing is the 15th of each month.

Minutes of the February 2005 Meeting

The February 1, 2005 meeting of the Sea Shell Searchers was called to order by President Steven Coker.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Motion by Cliff Harris, second by Dave Barziza to approve as mailed. Motion passed

TREASURER'S REPORT: Wayne Humbird reported a balance of \$9293.60

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: notify Wanda Coker if a club member is ill

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Steven Coker – everyone should have a membership directory, corrections are in the newsletter

Newsletter: Wanda Coker – no report

Field Trips: Darwin Alder – planning Panama field trip August 19-28; looking into Matagorda ferry times for future field trips; February 19 invited to Barziza's beach house. Motion by Dean Harris, second by Wanda Coker to split food costs with HCS. Motion passed. Map will make it to website.

Hospitality/Hostess: Freida White – needs food for March

Museum Study Project: Roe Davenport – 2 new record shells measured tonight

Historian: Janey Nill – no report

Exhibits: Dean Harris – no report

Publicity: Wanda Coker – no report

Auction: Wayne Humbird – taking donations; date is Sept. 17

Program: Karen & Craig Latimer – in planning

Shell Show: Wanda Coker – dates for Shell Show October 28-30. Motion by Betty Bickham, second by Dean Harris to set up Thursday night, Friday morning, show open Friday and Saturday. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Club Brochure: Janey Nill – having computer issues, coming soon

Club T-shirt: Tina Petway – Motion by Cliff Harris, second by Dave Barziza that the club pay the set up fee for silk screening and order T-shirts. Motion passed. Cost is \$9.20 for S-XL, \$11.20 for XXL.

Tsunami Relief: Steven Coker gave the results of the research into Tsunami relief by the appointed committee.

Recommendation by the committee was "Doctor's without Borders," however, this organization does not need money for relief in the disaster area. A request was made to withdraw the motion, which is not possible because the motion was voted upon. Steven reported the reactions of the club members taken after the vote. Motion by Steven Coker, second by Wayne Humbird to rescind the original motion to donate \$1000 to victims of the tsunami. Voting is by paper ballot. Motion to rescind passed. Motion is rescinded.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Motion by Dean Harris, second by Craig Latimer to send flowers to club members and cards to family members. Passed
- Need for live Apple Snails. C. Harris is leading collection trip.

(Continued on page 4)



Pending Legislation to Regulate Shelling in South Padre

The following is an excerpt from an email received from a representative of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department regarding an on-going study of the mollusk population of the bays of South Padre Island. There have been reports of individuals collecting significant numbers of various species for commercial enterprises and this study was conducted to determine if regulation was necessary to protect the future viability of this natural resource. Please contact the author below if you have any questions or if you would like to provide input.—SDC.

“The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department is making proposals to address concerns over the harvest of live shell bearing mollusks. These organisms are harvested for decorations, arts and crafts and personal consumption among other purposes. While harvest is predominantly recreational in nature, the numbers of organisms harvested are occasionally on the order of commercial operations. Of concern is the long term sustainability of this resource. Characteristics of the species harvested such as relatively long lives, slow movement, localized spawning and the formation of spawning aggregations make them vulnerable to overharvest.

TPWD survey data shows that significant harvest of these organisms occurs at several coastwide locations and is particularly heavy during the fall, winter and early spring on the bay side of South Padre Island near the Brazos Santiago Pass and the Queen Isabella Memorial Causeway. Previous research also suggests that this same area has the highest mollusk species diversity of any area in the lower Laguna Madre.

The Department held scoping meetings with area constituent groups and one-on-one with interested individuals to solicit input on the development of these management measures. Proposals for management measures were presented to the Parks & Wildlife Commission for consideration at the January 26-27, 2005 Commission meeting in Austin. The proposals will be sent out for public hearings after they are published in the Texas Register. A final decision will be made at the April 6-7, 2005 Commission meeting.

I am planning to send out the exact Texas Register language for the proposals, when it is available, to several constituents and can include you in that list if you wish. In the mean time, if I can answer any questions you have, please feel free to contact me.”

Randy Blankinship
Lower Laguna Madre Ecosystem Leader
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
Coastal Fisheries Division
95 Fish Hatchery Road
Brownsville, Texas 78520
956-350-4490 phone
956-350-3470 fax
randy.blankinship@tpwd.state.tx.us

Meeting Minutes (Continued from page 2)

Nomination Committee: Bill Howard, Cliff Harris and Janey Nill are the nominating committee to report at April meeting.

Museum Study Project Relocation: Wayne Humbird, museum president, reported that the current case housing the study project is no longer viable.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Shelling and Social at Barziza's
- Texas Sheller's Jamboree, last weekend in April in San Antonio
- Houston Shell Club auction March 5

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Leslie Crnkovic second by Roe Davenport to adjourn. Motion passed.

PROGRAM: Dave and Nancy Barziza gave a program on Chile.

Dates to Remember

March 1	Club Meeting
March 5	Houston Conchology Society Auction
April 5	Club Meeting
April 29-May 1	Texas Shellers Jamboree, San Antonio
May 3	Club Meeting

SEA SHELL SEARCHERS OF BRAZORIA COUNTY
Brazosport Museum of Natural Science
Center for the Arts and Sciences
400 College Blvd
Clute, Texas 77531