



The Searcher

Published by Sea Shell Searchers of Brazoria County
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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:

The Brazoria County Fair is over for another year. I just unpacked my 2 boxes of Bailer Shells that I entered this year. Of course it is pretty easy to unpack when you enter a very limited number of very large shells! Look for the results of the judging of the Sea & Shore Division elsewhere in this newsletter.

Plans are coming together for the 2004 Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show. I would like to encourage each of you to take a look at the show categories and plan to enter this year's show. It doesn't matter if it is one case or a dozen cases. We hope all of you will want to be involved. There are several folks who have cases that would be willing to loan them to you and even offer suggestions for how to exhibit—all you have to do is let it be known that you have an interest in exhibiting.

Be sure to make plans to attend the field trips that have been arranged by our Field Trip Chairman, Darwin Alder. Some of them are to familiar locations; others to new locations. Look for Darwin's note about field trips for more information.

Steven Coker

November Meeting

November 2, 2004
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

Drinks: Barziza

Program

Dr. Sammy Ray
Texas A & M Galveston
"Biology and Ecology of Eastern
Oyster (*Ostrea virginica*)"



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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

Membership Fees Are Due

Some folks still need to pay their membership dues. They remain \$8 for an individual—\$10 for a family. The 2004 Membership Directory will be prepared for distribution at the December meeting so pay up soon so you will not be left out of this prestigious publication.

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:	sdcocker@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 May 2004 Meeting

CALL TO ORDER: The October 5, 2004 meeting of the Sea Shell Searchers was called to order by President Steven Coker. He welcomed everyone back and thanked outgoing president Wanda Coker for conducting the September meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Patty Humbird read September minutes. Motion made by Leslie Crnkovic, second by Dave Barziza to accept minutes as read. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Wayne Humbird reported a balance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership – Steven Coker – Dues are due. Steven showed a list of people who have not paid dues. Directory is coming. Let Steven know any new email addresses.

Newsletter – Wanda Coker – will try to better next time

Field Trips – Darwin Alder – October 23 trip from Houston to Cameron, LA. Leave from convenience store at 6:00 am Heights Blvd exit to 610. Darwin has a map. SSSBC field trip second weekend of November to local beaches. More information to follow in newsletter.

Hospitality/Hostess – Freida White – still needs people to bring food to future meetings. Previously had tables for eating rather than rows of chairs. Will continue discussion next month.

Museum Study Project – Roe Davenport was absent.

Historian – Janey Nill has agreed to be historian

Exhibits – Dean Harris & Lori Sipple – need to work on Quintana exhibit

Publicity – Wanda Coker – no report

Auction – Wayne Humbird – thanked all who donated items and everyone who bought items, he reported expenses, net and profit.

Program – Sammy Ray from Galveston, oyster expert, will speak at November meeting, more information in newsletter

Shell show – Wanda Coker – Brian's Barbecue is doing supper, Karen Latimer will do decorations. Currently do not plan to have member sales, but will take names of those interested and will let participants know before shell show.

OLD BUSINESS

Club brochure: Janey Nill is still waiting on museum to finish their brochure

COA committee report: no report

Brazoria County Fair: W. Humbird is still looking for exhibits

NEW BUSINESS

Budget was introduced by Steven Coker; estimated \$5000 income; estimated \$5000 expenses. Motion made by Dave Barziza, second by Wayne Humbird to approve budget. Motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Club shirts – see Rusti Stover if interested in a club shirt

R.L. Norris thanked the cooks, for the "good vittles."

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mary Harris, seconded by Dave Barziza to adjourn. Motion passed.



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MAKING SENSE OF THE USE OF LATIN NAMES FOR SHELLS

By Alice J. Monroe

The naming of organisms using a binomen, or genus and species, began in 1758 with Linnaeus. At that time, Latin was used to communicate all scientific work and Latin was used to deliver university lectures. Everyone in the scientific community used and understood Latin. The concern we have not for proper pronunciation did not exist because every educated person routinely heard and spoke Latin.

Today, Latin is a “dead” language, so proper pronunciation has become an issue. We have a subculture of Americanized Latin pronunciation, so pronunciation has become inconsistent. Consequently, there is no designated “right” or “wrong” pronunciation of Latin names.

Rules do exist for constructing binominal Latin names. The genus name is usually a Latin or Latinized noun; the species name is usually a Latin or Latinized adjective. The genus and species names must agree in gender, which usually means the Latin work endings must be the same. In Latin, sometimes gender is obvious; other times it is not. In English, words with gender are limited to words such as brother, aunt, hen, and bull. In English it is not necessary to change the ending of the adjective according to the gender of the noun.

In Latin, words ending in “us” are masculine, words ending in “a” are feminine, and words ending in “um” as neuter. Shell examples include:

Masculine: **Conus**, **Nassarius**, **Funinus**
Feminine: **Littorina**, **Cypraea**, **Crepidula**
Neuter: **Pallium**, **Buccinum**, **Umbraculum**

Gender agreement between genus and species must occur:

Buccinum undatum is correct
Buccinum undata is not correct
Buccinum undatus is not correct

One commonly used suffix that indicated position, connection, or possession by when added to the Latin base is **-anus** (masculine), **-ana** (feminine), or **-anum** (neuter). For example, **floridanus** is a masculine species meaning related to Florida.

Of course it is not always so simple; some exceptions exist. The suffix **-ensis** is used to indicate the country, place of origin or habitat when added to a Latinized stem word, regardless of the gender of the genus.

Examples:

Masculine: **Conus bengalensis**
Feminine: **Fissurella barbadensis**
Neuter: **Biffium vancouverensis**

For a species named after a person, the suffix of the species is determined by the gender of the genus name (the noun). The usual suffixes are “i” for a species names after a male and “ae” for a species names after a female.

Examples:

Shells named after males:

Conus boschi Masculine genus
Cypraea walkeri Feminine genus
Sinum grayi Neuter genus

Shells names after females:

Conus memiae Masculine genus
Ancilla edithae Feminine genus
Cerithium judithae Neuter genus



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Rules for naming and classifying of animals are outlined in the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) and authorized by the International Congresses of Zoology. The purpose of the Code is to promote stability and universality in the scientific names of animals and to ensure that each name is unique, distinct, and properly constructed.

Source: Suncoast Shorelines Vol. 14, No. 5

2004 Brazoria County Fair Sea & Shore Division Results		
Division Winners		
Division	Winner	Entry Name
DIVISION I -Texas Collections	Janey Nill	Sea Shells of Texas
DIVISION II - GENERAL COLLECTIONS	Wanda Coker	Gulf of Mexico
DIVISION III -SYSTEMATIC COLLECTIONS	Steven Coker	Bailer Shells
DIVISION IV -SINGLE SPECIES	Wayne Humbird	Nature's Shell Collector
DIVISION V -EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS	Freida & Harold White	State Shells
DIVISION VI -BEACHCOMBER	Patty Humbird	Sea Glass
Trophy Winners		
Best Texas-Mildred Tate Texas Award	Janey Nill	Sea Shells of Texas
Favorite Beachcomber Item	Janey Nill	<i>Martesia fragilis</i> wood piece
Chairman's Trophy	Steven Coker	Bailer Shells
Shell of the Show	Janey Nill	<i>Terebra taurinus</i>
Best Youth Exhibit of Show	Chris Corbett	My Favorite Shells
Best Educational Exhibit of Show	Freida & Harold White	State Shells
Best Exhibit of Show	Wanda Coker	Gulf of Mexico



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Brazoria County Fair—Some of the Sea & Shore Exhibits



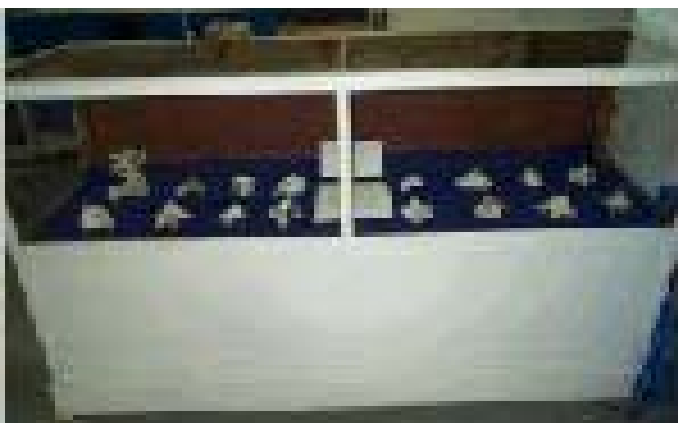
Common Texas Shells



Spider Conch Growth Series



Gulf Of Mexico Shells



Xenophora Pallidula



Genus Thais



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Field Trips—Darwin Alder

The field trip is still on for Saturday, November 13th. We will meet about 8:00 AM at the Surfside Jetty Park. I think what I will have everyone do is bring their own lunches and eat either at Stahlman Park or the Surfside Jetty Park, and then shell down the beach and end up at San Luis Pass. We will probably meet for supper at one of the area restaurants. Either the Zum Gasthaus Restaurant (German) or one of the seafood restaurants. More information at the meeting.

Thanks!

Wayne Humbird, Sea & Shore Chairman would like to thank all those folks who entered exhibits in the Brazoria County Fair as well as those who sat with the exhibits and provided information to the public about the exhibits and shells in general. A special thanks goes to the Sea Shell Searchers for sponsoring several of the trophies.

Future Programs

November: Dr. Sammy Ray of TAMUG's graduate biology college giving a presentation on the biology and ecology of *Ostrea virginica*.

December: Holiday Party

Programs Being Planned — Shelling in Chile; Underwater World of Jackie Reid; Shells of Australia; *Conus pennaceus* - Diverse and Disjunct Forms

If you know of a program that you would like to see or give, please contact Craig Latimer.

Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show Dates to Remember

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| November 2 | Shell Show entries due. Application on last page of this newsletter. |
| November 18 | Shell Show set-up, Judging and Awards dinner |
| November 19-20 | Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show open to public at Lake Jackson Festival of Lights Celebration at the Lake Jackson Civic Center
Saturday, 19th, Social to be announced |



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Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show 2004 Application for Entry

Name: (as you want it to appear on your exhibit(s)) _____

Address: _____ E-Mail: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Work or Other Phone: _____

Home Shell Club: _____

Please fill in the following information to the best of your ability

	Category Number	Category Name	Total exhibit length, ft.	Exhibit Title
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				

Scientific exhibitors only:

Are you eligible for the Conchologists of America Award? (Circle Exhibit Number(s) - 1 2 3 4 5 6)

Are you eligible for the Dupont Trophy? (Circle Exhibit Number(s) - 1 2 3 4 5 6)

I have read and understand the Shell Show Rules and agree to abide by them.

Signature of exhibitor _____ Date _____

Patron donation: \$ _____

All applications should be received by November 9, 2004

Mail Application(s) to: The Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show 2004 C/O: Brazosport Museum of Natural Science 400 College Drive Clute, Texas 77531	or E-mail to one of the addresses below: Wanda Coker: 979-297-0852 sdcocker@brazosport.edu Patty Humbird: 979-265-1320 Whumbird@csinternet.net
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Awards dinner will be \$10.00 per person.

I need _____ tickets at \$10.00 each = \$ _____ .00

Enclosed is (check one) _____ check _____ cash.

Dates to Remember

November 2,	Regular meeting at 7:30pm with light dinner at 7:00 pm Shell Show entries due.
November 13,	Field Trip—Shelling the Local Beaches
November 18,	Shell Show set-up, Judging and Awards dinner
November 19-20,	Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show open to public at Lake Jackson Festival of Lights Celebration at the Lake Jackson Civic Center
December 7,	Covered Dish Holiday Party beginning at 7:00 pm

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