



The Searcher

Published by Sea Shell Searchers of Brazoria County
September 2004
Volume 27 No. 1

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:

Welcome back Sea Shell Searchers!

We have had a great summer. I trust you did as well. We look forward seeing you all and catching up on your summer.

Several of us attended the Conchologists of America convention this summer in Tampa, Florida. It was well attended and there were many interesting programs as well as several new shell dealers at the bourse. Plans for next year's convention are already underway. We will be returning to the Sanibel area of Florida. We will have more information on this later.

I have communicated several times with Craig Latimer and he has several ideas for shell programs this year. I will let him share these at the club meeting. If you have any ideas about meeting programs please share them with Craig.

Darwin Alder has agreed to serve as our Field Trip Chairman this year. We will likely be joining the Houston club on several field trips this coming year. If you have any ideas for field trips please share them with Darwin.

I received an email from the shell club in Port Isabel this summer. I was surprised to learn that there was a shell club in that area that has been active since the 1960's. We will likely see if the club can meet them on our annual field trip to South Padre Island.

Other events that you will hear about at the first few meetings include our auction (Sept 18), exhibiting at the

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September Meeting

September 7, 2004
Tuesday, 7:00 P.M.

at

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

Covered Dish at 7:00 P.M.
Meeting 7:30 P.M.

Memberships are due

Refreshments by:

Paper goods, bottled water, tea and ice will be provided by the club. Each member is to bring a covered dish. Please bring your recipe for publication in the October newsletter.

Program

Covered dish
Short business meeting (see page 3)
Installation of officers



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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

Annual Auction

September 18, 2004
Club Auction
In the Studio at the
Center for the Arts and Sciences
Beginning at 12:00 noon
1st oral at 1:00PM
Donations to be made to
Wayne Humbird
Bring a snack for all to enjoy

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 May 4, 2004 meeting of the Sea Shell Searchers was called to order by vice president Steven Coker.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes stand approved as mailed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Steven Coker - Directories are still available. Membership dues are due at first meeting in September. Steven Coker will take money now.

Field trips: Dean Harris has scheduled annual picnic at Quintana August 28, meet at 4, clean up beach and cook out.

Hospitality: Harold White had surgery, but is doing well.

Auction: September 18, contact Wayne Humbird if you have donations.

Program: Wayne Humbird 's photos taken of events during the year was shown.

OLD BUSINESS

Brochure: Janey Nill is waiting on approval for brochures.

COA committee report they are still thinking.

Club T-shirt committee will have samples ready for September meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of officers: Steven Coker entertained nominations from floor. There were none.

Rusti Stover put the following names in nomination: President - Steven Coker, Vice President - Craig and Karen Latimer, Recording Secretary - Patty Humbird, Corresponding Secretary - Wanda Coker, Treasurer - Wayne Humbird

Motion by Frank, second by Dave Barziza to approve by acclamation. Passed

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SeaSpace travel and diving convention - we have been invited to have a table for exhibit, June 4, 5, 6 at Reliant Center. Tina Petway will coordinate.

Donna Whitchurch let us know that Linda Horton has been ill. Wishes for a quick recovery are sent to Linda.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Dave Barziza, second by Frank Petway to adjourn. Passed.



Future Programs

- October The textile and tented Conus—Craig Latimer's favorite group of shells.
- November Dr. Sammy Ray of TAMUG's graduate biology college giving a presentation on the biology and ecology of *Ostrea virginica*.
- December Holiday Party

President's Message continued:

Brazoria County Fair (October), and exhibiting at our Shell Show (November). I had hoped to see you at the meeting but unfortunately I will be out of town on business.

Best regards,
Steven Coker

Membership Fees Are Due

It's time for us to pay our membership fees. They remain unchanged at \$10 for a family and \$8 for an individual. Please come to the meeting prepared to renew your memberships.

Club Meeting September 7, 2004

Memberships are due!

Following the covered dish dinner we will have a short business meeting to cover the topic of a Club shirt.

The shirt committee consisting of Rusti Stover, Tina Petway and Janey Nill have been very busy this summer creating artwork to be used by club members.

Tina has created the artwork and Rusti has secured the shirts and an embroidery person.

Rusti will make a short presentation concerning the shirts. Basically if you are interested, you need to be prepared to pay for your shirt up-front at the September meeting if you want to wear it at the November Shell Show. There is a six week completion time.

These are very nice, classy looking shirts. Not T-shirts! The total cost per shirt will be around \$30.00.

Following this discussion, we will have installation of officers.

Wanda Coker



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Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show
Friday, Saturday and Sunday
November 18, 19, 20, 2004
Lake Jackson Civic Center

Dear Sheller,

The Sea Shell Searchers announce our 2004 Shell Show. Our show this year will once again be held at the Lake Jackson Civic Center located at 333 HWY 332, Lake Jackson, Texas. The center is conveniently located near the freeway as well as hotels and restaurants.

This year we have been invited to participate in the City of Lake Jackson's annual Festival of Lights. Craft booths, food booths, carnival rides and entertainment are open Saturday as part of the festival. During the festival last year, the club held a shell exhibition. We had several hundred people view the show and are looking forward to having many visitors this year.

As in previous years, we will have dealers to tempt you to add new shells to your collection. There will be social events to renew acquaintances and make new shell friends. The Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show has proven to be a major event in shelling and we invite you to come and join us.

LaQuinta Inn in Clute has agreed to give our participants a discount. Their phone number is 979-265-7461 and you will need to mention that you are with the shell show to get the discount.

Please read the categories and rules that are included with this letter.

Our schedule for the show is:

1. Send entry forms to the Sea Shell Searchers, Brazosport Museum of Natural Science, 400 College Drive, Clute, TX 77531, by November 9, 2004. Space is limited this year; late applications will be accepted only if space is available.
2. Set up exhibits at the Civic Center, Friday, November 18 beginning at 8:00 a.m.
3. Judging to begin at 3:00 p.m.
4. The Awards Dinner will be held Friday at 6:30 p.m. We are still planning the dinner and more information will follow.
5. Show opens to the public Saturday, November 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
6. The Show Committee will host a social time Saturday evening beginning at 6:30 p.m.
7. Show opens to the public Sunday, November 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
8. Exhibit removal at 3:00 p.m. Sunday.

We look forward to your participation in the show. If you would like to support our show, please let us know. Patron donations \$25.00 and greater will be acknowledged at the Awards Banquet.

For more information, please write to Patty Humbird, email whumbird@csinternet.net or Wanda Coker, email sdcocker@brazosport.edu or check the website www.seashellsearchers.org

Sincerely,

Wanda Coker and Patty Humbird
Co-chairpersons Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show



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Sea Shell Searcher Shell Show 2004 Rules

1. Exhibitors may enter no more than 6 scientific exhibits (categories 1 - 14).
2. Exhibitors may enter more than one category, but only one entry per category, except for categories 16, 17 and 19 in which 1 exhibit may be entered in each sub-category.
3. Any exhibit that won a blue ribbon in the 2003 Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show is ineligible for competition unless a 50% visible change is made in the exhibit.
4. In order for a self-collected shell to be considered for Shell of the Show self-collected, a small red star should be placed or printed on the label of self-collected shells. If the entire exhibit is self-collected a statement to that effect will take the place of individually marked labels.
5. Contents of exhibits must belong to the exhibitor.
6. Exhibitors must pre-register before November 9 to reserve a place. Space is limited and late entries will be accepted if space allows.
7. Exhibitors must check in and set up exhibit between 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Friday, November 19. All exhibitors must leave the exhibit room at 2:30 p.m.
8. Exhibits must remain for the duration of the show. No part of any exhibit may be removed for any reason.
9. Exhibits must be removed between 3:00 and 5:00 Sunday, November 21. Show committee will remove any exhibits not removed by 5:00 and exhibitor is responsible for retrieving his/her exhibit from the committee.
10. As judging is to be done anonymously, no name or identifying information is to be put with the exhibit. After judging, cards will be placed with exhibits identifying exhibitor.
11. Judging will be based on attractiveness of arrangement, quality and choice of shells, accuracy of labeling, apparent amount of work on the exhibit and educational value. Decisions of the judges are final. Awards will be given if judges determine exhibits are of sufficient merit.
12. The committee may add or subdivide categories if deemed necessary.
13. No live exhibits.
14. Tables are 30" wide x 6' long. Long exhibits may be exhibited in 2 parts depending on available running length.
15. The height of an exhibit (including backboard) may not exceed 36" from tabletop and the backside of any exhibit must be plain and finished so as not to detract from exhibit on other side of back-to-back tables.
16. All exhibits except for Categories 16, 17, 18 and 19 must be enclosed in cases, which should be secured during the show. Exhibitors must provide their own cases. It is recommended that exhibits in categories 16, 17, 18 and 19 be enclosed if possible.
17. In artistic exhibits, categories 16 and 17, entries must be the work of the exhibitor.
18. Exhibitors in categories 16, 17 and 18 must provide any needed easel, stand, etc. for display.
19. To enter the "Under the Sea Beanie" categories, bring your favorite sea "beanie" or other plush sea creature. To celebrate our inclusion in the Festival of Lights, the theme of "Under the Sea Beanie" will be Festival of Lights. One entry per sub-category (natural or disguised) is permitted. A display case is recommended.
20. The Shell Show committee, Sea Shell Searchers and Lake Jackson Civic Center will not be responsible for exhibits, however, security will be provided.



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Exhibit Categories

1. One major family (Muricidae, Cypraeidae, Conidae, Volutidae, Pectinidae)
 - A. Regional
 - B. Worldwide
2. One minor family (any family not listed above)
 - A. Regional
 - B. Worldwide
3. One genus (if the family consists of only one genus, it must be entered as a family)
 - A. Regional
 - B. Worldwide
4. One species (growth series, color or other variations)
5. Single specimen (one shell only)
6. Texas (up to 500 yards offshore)
7. Gulf of Mexico
8. Regional
9. World wide
- 10 Texas State Shell [exhibit of lightning whelk(s)]
11. Educational
12. Fossils (shells and/ or marine life)
13. Land and/or Fresh Water mollusks
14. Marine Life
15. Beachcomber
16. Shell art (anything with shell motif, must be work of the exhibitor)
 - a. Photography
 - b. Needlework
 - c. Painting
 - d. Drawings or sketches
 - e. Stained glass
 - f. Other
17. Shell craft (craft items made with shells, must be the work of the exhibitor)
 - a. Pictures
 - b. Floral arrangements
 - c. Non-floral arrangements
 - d. Sailor's Valentines
 - e. Personal accessories
 - f. Mirrors/frames
 - g. Other
18. Shell collectibles (any item in category 16 or 17 owned, but not made by the exhibitor)
19. Under the Sea Beans Theme: Festival of Lights
 - A. In natural state
 - B. Cleverly disguised
20. Junior (16 years and under)

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Annual Auction for the Sea Shell Searchers of Brazoria County September 18th, 2004

This year's auction will be held Saturday, September 18th at the studio building located in the Brazosport Center for the Arts & Sciences. It is located at 400 College Blvd. in Clute, Texas.

This year's auction will include specimen shells; handcrafts and other shell related items. The day will consist of 2 silent auction sessions and 2 oral segments. Starting time is 12:00 PM for snacks and socializing. The first silent auction will run from 12:15 PM to 12:55 PM. The first oral auction will start around 1:00 PM. At the end of the 1st oral session a second silent auction will be held during the intermission. At the end of second silent auction the last oral session will begin. We hope to be finished around 4:00 PM.

The public is invited. All of our shelling friends are welcome and we look forward to seeing you there. Donations of auction items are welcome. See Wayne Humbird to donate.

To date, we have a large shell case, many nice Spondylus, a slit shell and much, much more. There should be something for everyone. Y'all come.

Wayne Humbird
Auction Chairperson

Shell Show Categories continued:

Awards:

Ribbons given for 1st, 2nd, 3rd places

Best of Class ribbons given in categories 16 and 17

Trophies include: Conchologists of America and the Dupont,

Mildred Tate Gulf of Mexico sponsored by the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science,

Thomas E. Pulley Award sponsored by the Houston Conchological Society,

Shell of the Show (any source), Shell of the Show (self-collected)



Future Field Trips

(a note from the editor)

Darwin Alder is the new field trip chairman. I know he has several suggestions for weekend trips including traveling east to Louisiana and south to South Padre Island. Please support him in his work with the Club and if you have a suggestion for a trip just let him know.

Brazoria County Fair October 15-23, 2004

Contact Wayne Humbird about exhibiting your shells at the Fair. All members of the Sea Shell Searchers are eligible to participate regardless of where you live.

Clean-up date to be announced.

Set up date is Saturday, October 9th, 9:00 am—4:00 pm

Judging is Sunday, October 10th.

Exhibit Hall is open to the public October 15th thru 23rd. Sitters are needed. Contact Wayne Humbird if you are able to help .

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.

September 7, Covered Dish at 7:00pm Meeting to follow at 7:30pm with Installation of Officers. Memberships are due.
 September 18, Annual Club Auction beginning at 12:00 noon (see page 7)
 October 5, Regular meeting at 7:30pm Chow time at 7:00 pm
 October 9th, Set-up exhibits at the Brazoria Co. Fair (see page 8)
 October 15-23, Brazoria County Fair Sitters need!!
 November 2, Regular meeting at 7:30pm with light dinner at 7:00 pm
 Shell Show entries due.
 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

Dates to Remember

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