



# Sea Shell Searchers Newsletter

November 2006

## President's Message

This month Jackie Reid will be giving the program featuring his underwater photography. Be looking for shells lurking in with the fish.

Jamboree is just around the corner and we need donations for the auction. Start spring cleaning your shell room early.

## Next meeting:

November 7, 2006, 7:00 pm

Program: Jackie Reid

Food provided by: Rusti Stover - dessert, Sherry Tesch - casserole.

If you can bring a dish or drink, please help Freida and bring something. Please sign up for food to bring later in the year.

Study Collection Update: Betty Bickham has put the club's Live Shell Record shells in the drawers and updated the list.

Editor's note: I am not including tide charts. For current charts see:

Tide

Sun

[www.saltwatertides.com](http://www.saltwatertides.com)

Moon

Tide

1



2



## Guess the family

Is shell number 1

- a. an olive
- b. an abalone
- c. a volute
- d. none of the above

Is shell number 2

- a. an turkey wing
- b. a turkey wing
- c. a turkey wing
- d. Happy Thanksgiving

I found this on the web. The article is from Jim Conrad's February 2006 Nature Newsletter. The non-sheller outlook is interesting.

### **TURKEY WING SEASHELLS**

Usually the most eye-catching items washed up on the beach are seashells. In places, wave action has piled 20-ft-long and longer heaps of them -- nothing but ten-inch-deep deposits of mostly small and white shells that crunch beneath one's feet.

Maybe the most distinctive and easy-to-identify shell is one a little over two inches long, oblong, with one side bulging out and the other side more or less straight. Low, narrow ridges radiate across the shell and, most strikingly, the whole shell is zebra-striped with white and rusty-red bands. You can see some shells I brought home for photographing at <http://www.backyardnature.net/yucatan/turkwing.jpg>.

Because the shells vaguely look like outstretched bird wings they're called Turkey Wings, ARCA ZEBRA.

Once you have the name of something, then you can look up the name in books and on the Internet to find out more about it. In Hotel Reef's computer room I did just that. I learned that living Turkey Wings attach themselves to coral rocks and wedge themselves into crevices. They occur from the low tide mark to as deep as 20 feet.

Also I found information that made my face burn with shame, for now it's finally sunk in that Turkey Wings are mollusks. Without thinking much about it I'd been assuming that each Turkey Wing shell was one of a pair -- that Turkey Wings were bivalves, like clams. However, mollusks, such as snails, produce just one shell, with an ample foot extending from the opening. This explains why whenever I try to fit two Turkey Wing shells together there's never a good fit. Turkey Wing shells are like snail shells, then, just with a much larger opening below for a very broad foot.

Turkey Wings are distributed from the shores of North Carolina south to Brazil and out to Bermuda. In Bermuda and Venezuela its flesh is often eaten.

A website with many identified pictures of seashells found on beaches from the Carolinas to Texas, therefore with many shells also found here, is at <http://www.seashells.org/seashells/sanibelseashellident.htm>.

## Classified Section

If you have a COA convention T-shirt which you do not wear and would like to give it to a good cause, Patty and Wanda are collecting them for a future project.

Remember:  
December is Shel-o.  
Start looking for the  
perfectly shell-y  
exchange gift.

As part of the single shell show at the Jamboree, we will have a "Shell and Friend" category. This will be one real or manufactured (but recognizable as a shell) shell with a friend attached as part of the piece. The friend can be a shell animal, another animal, a human figure or whatever your imagination finds. It is a single category and one entry is allowed.

Wayne Humbird still has a few spaces left in the Jamboree auction. Please help him fill those empty spaces.

CALL TO ORDER: The October 3, 2006 meeting of the Sea Shell Searchers was called to order by president Steven Coker.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes were approved as sent out in the newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Patty Humbird reported a balance. Motion made by Cliff Harris, second by Rusti Stover to approve the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Newsletter: Patty Humbird - let her know if you are not getting a newsletter
2. Field Trips: Darwin Alder - no report.
3. Hospitality: Freida White - Will pass around food list
4. Historian: Irene Norris - no report
5. Exhibits: Dean Harris - no report.
6. Auction: Wayne Humbird - The auction will not be held in September due to the Jamboree being held in May 4-5, 2007. Donations are being accepted for the Jamboree. Suggestion was made that the club rent a storage room for the auction items due to lack of space in members homes. President asked for a report on cost of storage space for next meeting.
7. Programs: Wanda Coker - Jackie Reid will give a program in November and Shel-o in December
8. Shell Show: Wanda Coker, Patty Humbird - no report.
9. Museum Project: Janey Nill - no report.
10. Membership: Steven Coker - please pay delinquent dues

OLD BUSINESS

1. The 2006- 07 budget presented by Steven Coker is as follows: Program committee \$200, Newsletter committee \$100, Historian \$100, Membership committee \$100, Corresponding Secretary \$100, Hospitality committee \$50. Budget was approved.
2. Jamboree budget: The committee requested seed money for the Jamboree. A motion was made by Freida White and seconded by Tina Petway to allot \$600 seed money to the Jamboree Committee. Motion passed. The Welcome Party will be at the Sea Center. We need to pay the \$300 rental fee. Motion made by Cliff Harris, second by Rusti Stover to pay \$300. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS none

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Brazoria County Fair in October; see Wayne Humbird if interested, he has a few cases left. Setup is October 7 and the Fair starts October 13-21.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Cliff Harris and seconded by Leslie Crnkovic to adjourn. Motion passed.

PROGRAM: Rusti Stover presented a program on sands of the world.

Submitted by Patty Humbird

Sea Shell Searchers of Brazoria County  
400 College Blvd.  
Clute, TX 77531