

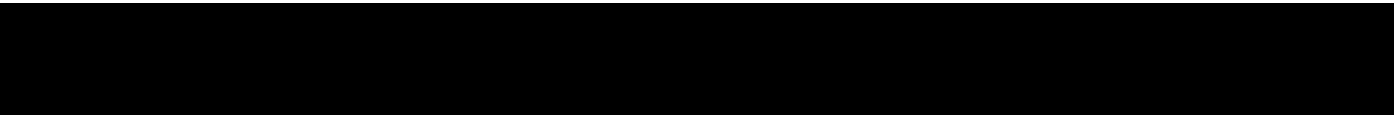


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**ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PRESENTATION OF
HAWAIIAN SHELL NEWS AND INTERNET HAWAIIAN SHELL NEWS
ON THE INTERNET**

Wesley (Wes) M. Thorsson
March 18, 2004



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Wesley (Wes) M. Thorsson

Email: wthorsson@hits.net

The Hawaiian Shell News has had a long and interesting history. It all began when Charles (Chuck) Allen started a series of papers that came to be known



Thousand Yard View
Sunset

as “The Allen Papers” in 1941 for the new Hawaiian Conchological Society. Those papers treated various mollusc families, one each month with pictures and descriptions of the shells. World War II interrupted that organization till 1947 when the Hawaiian Malacological Society was formed, continuing to this day. Various “Allen Papers”, usually titled “Hawaiian Malacological Society”, were published in various printing methods with photo prints pasted in by hand. The papers were distributed to members attending meetings.

In March 1952 the publication became more formal in mimeographed format still titled “The Hawaiian Malacological Society”. There was no named editor, but Evelyn Gage was listed as the person to address articles to in Volume 1, No.4. In 1953 Volume 2, No. 1 was first titled Hawaiian Shell News with an Editorial Committee of Evelyn Gage, Chairman, and Dr. C. M. Burgess, Albert Kekoa, Jr., and Harold Baker as members. Karl W. Green and E. H. Bryant became prominent in the publication committee starting with Volume II. This mimeographed publication continued till December, 1960.

During the above period, the Hawaiian Malacological Society kept increasing in size with more contributors to the Hawaiian Shell News (HSN). Many new people moved to Hawaii, resided there for a period and returned to the mainland U. S. or elsewhere. There is always a feeling of nostalgia when you leave Hawaii, and many continued to receive HSN after they left Hawaii for that reason, and to keep in touch with friends in Hawaii and I was one of them. Other shelling people around the world saw the HSN and became Hawaiian Malacological Society (HMS) members receiving HSN by mail.

The HSN after January, 1960 had reached enough members to make changing to commercial printing a necessity, and the format became more formal. E. R. Cross took over when Karl Greene had to retire in December, 1961 and was the first named “editor”. Editors from then to the last issue in December, 1996 were E. R. Cross, Clifton Weaver, Stewart Lillico, Dwayne Minton, and Dr. Thomas Burch, a number of them serving several periods. In May, 1962 the printing shifted to glossy paper and that continued till the end of 1996. Color was introduced to the HSN with color insert pages in September, 1997, and after that some issues had color on many pages.



Diamond Head
From Point Panic

HMS membership reached a peak of 1696 in 1980, but readers were much more numerous as the members included many schools in Hawaii, University and Museum libraries particularly in the U.S. but scattered around the world. Also, shell clubs circulated the HSN among its members. Most authors of popular shell books were members of HMS and frequent contributors to the HSN, including Abbott, Burgess, Cernohorsky, Hinton, Kay, Kohn, Morrison, Rehder, Schilders, and Walls, Weaver, and Weil to name some that come readily to memory. Articles of significance written for popular reading, but scientifically as accurate as possible as well as articles of great interest by collectors contributed to the popularity of HSN. HSN became widely known for the information of all kinds about molluscs that it contained. If a shell did it or had it, it was probably mentioned by someone. You will find reference to HSN articles in a great number of scientific books and journals. Authors of novels were known to use the information from HSN in their books. The content of HSN will be of interest for many years to come.

In 1997, costs of printing exceeded income from HMS membership dues and HSN ads. Printing had to cease with the November/December, 1996 issue. This left a reading vacuum for many HSN people, so the Internet Hawaiian Shell News (IHSN) was started to fill the void. When Acrobat became available, an Acrobat version was put on line with the HTML version also available for ease in downloading graphics. IHSN grew from one section to four sections over the years, with sections limited to about 1 megabyte of memory to make downloading time more acceptable to users with a telephone Internet connection. Content of sections, and section names varied. Today, the sections are named Feature-1 usually containing a continuing series of Living Mitridae articles; Feature-2 containing a continuing series of Small Mollusks of Lutaotaiwan articles; Feature-3 containing a continuing series of Living Columbelloid articles; and Month containing HMS and worldwide meeting activity, articles on recent shell finds, general shell articles on collecting and shelling trips, and reprints of articles from HSN.

During 2003, I suggested that it might be a good idea to produce a CD set containing HSN issues from January 1960 to December 1996 in Acrobat form (Prior issues were difficult to scan to text due to print quality).



Thorsson Yard View
Morning Rainbow

Watts converted two color issues to Acrobat as a test that was very successful. All that remained was to convert the remaining issues to Acrobat and put them on CDs. The volunteer for this task was Sid Sneider, the President of HMS. The first set of CDs was obviously of great potential so about 20 sets were distributed to Libraries and Museums that were most active in HMS membership over the golden years of HSN. Finally the CD sets were made available to the public and were enthusiastically received. Great thanks is due Sid Sneider.

Guido Poppe, a long time member of HMS suggested that he could put the CD issues of HSN and IHSN on his Internet server to make them more available. In a mere 3 months, Guido's people, including Philippe Poppe and a very talented group of computer experts and artists based in the Philippines, accomplished that task, improving on the CD set by making the issues available in both Acrobat and HTML versions and providing great search capabilities for subject matter. Each issue has a listing of major articles and links to those pages, no small amount of work. We are very satisfied and impressed with the result and recommend it highly. Many thanks to the Conchology, Inc. team.

It has been a great pleasure to be actively associated with HSN and IHSN since 1954 and to be able to see its continuing progress as technology grew.

COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

PRESIDENT Philippe Poppe
DIRECTOR Guido T. Poppe

ADDRESS Conchology, Inc.
Cebu Light Industrial Park
Basak, Lapu-Lapu City
Cebu 6015
Philippines

**DESIGN &
GRAPHICS** Dulce Rose P. Lada

TELEPHONE NO. +63 32 495 9990
FAX NO. +63 32 495 9991

SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES

All Authors Are Invited

All conchological/malacological authors are invited to place their articles here. The net is a very visual medium, and numerous digital (scanned) photographs are welcome. We have the space and technology to serve thousands of viewers. When our article is online, we will instantly inform our 3,000 registered members. No paper journal today can match this number of readers. We propose our help for photography of specimens if needed. For details you may email dulce@conchology.be



Conchology, Inc.
Cebu Light Industrial Park,
Basak, Lapu-Lapu City
Cebu 6015, Philippines
website: www.conchology.be
email: philippe@conchology.be
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