



**Conchologists of America Convention
Hosted by the Boston Malacological Club
Boston Park Plaza Hotel
August 27-31, 2010**

We invite you to join us in historic Boston for COA's 2010 convention. The Boston Malacological Club will also be celebrating its 100th Anniversary.

The convention hotel is the Boston Park Plaza, conveniently located in the heart of downtown Boston near many of the finest attractions, and is only six miles from Boston Logan International Airport. In addition to being the most affordable value in downtown Boston, hotel amenities include five in-house restaurants, in-room safes, high speed internet and cable TV, fitness center, fax and Fedex service, luggage storage, and children under 18 stay for free.

The convention will include all you normally expect. There will be field trips on Thursday August 26th and the morning of Friday August 27th, two mollusk-related and three geared to get you acquainted with some of Boston's more famous attractions. The convention opening will be Friday afternoon August 27th and the Welcoming Party and buffet that evening. Also expect excellent programs and see plenty of great shells to bid on in the silent auctions and COA's popular oral auction; the oral auction will be held Saturday evening August 28th. The convention opening, Welcome Party, all programs, and the oral auction will take place in the Stanbro Room on the hotel's mezzanine level. The 2010 International Dealers Bourse of shells and shell-related items will be held in the Boston Park Plaza Castle, a 14,500 S.F. facility located across the street from the hotel on Monday August 30th and Tuesday August 31st. The 2010 Convention Farewell Banquet will be held the evening of Tuesday August 31st.

So join us in 2010 by *reserving your room* at the convention hotel, the Boston Park Plaza; see the section below on detailed hotel information. Then *complete the Convention Registration Form* on the next page. *Come early for the interesting field trips* planned; details are also included in this document. We also encourage you to *show your support* by becoming a Convention Booster and donating specimen shells or shell-related items for the Silent and Oral Auctions, and by attending the Farewell Banquet. Information on donations is also provided in this document.

Dealers: to participate in the Bourse, go to www.conchologistsofamerica.org for your bourse guidelines and agreement form. Also, the hotel can receive packages; detailed information will be sent upon request from either of the convention contacts shown below.

COA 2010 Boston Convention Registration Form – August 27 – 31

Name _____ Spouse Name (if attending) _____

Note: All family members attending need to register Print Name on list of attendees? (yes or no) _____

Street Address _____ Phone Number _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Country _____

Email Address _____ Home Club _____

Registration Fee (includes Convention Welcome Party) \$100 per person \$ _____

Welcome Party Attire: Casual \$125 postmarked after July 24 \$ _____

The following non-registered guests will be attending the Welcome Party

Guests @ \$50 each _____ Name(s) of Guests _____ \$ _____

Daily Registration: \$25 per day Indicate Date(s) wanted _____ \$ _____

Field Trips (Please indicate number of people for each, then calculate total from per person cost)

____ Historic Concord, Mass. Thurs. August 26th, 9 a.m. \$44 \$ _____

____ Harvard Museum of Natural History Thursday Aug. 26th, 1:15 p.m. \$44 \$ _____

____ Shelling Trip Thursday August 26th, 11 a.m. \$44 \$ _____

____ Boston Duck Tour Friday August 27th, 10 a.m. \$25 \$ _____

____ U.S.S. Constitution Friday August 27th, 9 a.m. \$35 \$ _____

Farewell Banquet, Tuesday August 31st Attire: Dressy Please indicate your selection and associated price

____ Grilled Chicken \$60 \$ _____

____ Baked Scrod (fish) \$62 \$ _____

____ Braised Short ribs (of beef) \$64 \$ _____

____ Vegetarian \$60 \$ _____

____ Child's Meal ages 5 – 11 \$25 \$ _____

Are you serving as your Club's Representative to COA? (one person per club) yes ___ no ___

Club Name _____ Rep Name _____

We want a club table yes ___ no ___

I will attend the COA Club Rep meeting Sunday August 29th 3 -4 p.m. yes ___ no ___

Dealers' Bourse – Please attach Bourse forms; download from www.conchologistsofamerica.org

Total Dealers' Bourse Fees (tables, electricity*, lunches*, dealer assistants*, bagged meter parking*)\$ _____

*optional items – refer to Bourse Agreement form

Convention Boosters – Cash donations received by July 26th 2010 will be listed in the Convention Program booklet

____ Argentum \$10-\$99 ____ Aurantium \$100-\$199 ____ Diamantine \$200+ \$ _____

Payment for Convention & Bourse may be made through PayPal at billing@conchologistsofamerica.org

PayPal information at www.paypal.com If paying by PayPal, designate what the payment is for in the note field.

Mail registration & bourse forms to the address below by July 24th, 2010. My payment is by PayPal ___ yes ___ no

Checks must be drawn on U.S. banks. **No refunds after July 24th, 2010.** **TOTAL ENCLOSED** \$ _____

Make checks payable to COA 2010 and mail to COA 2010 P.O. Box 336 Merrimac, MA 01860 USA

Registration: Barbara & Warren Graff lowhurdler@gmail.com (978) 482-5619

Mail auction donations to Don Robak 6 John St. Chelsea, MA 02150 (617) 889-1841

Convention contacts Don Robak shellsnail@comcast.net and Warren Graff lowhurdler@gmail.com

We suggest that you make a copy of this registration form before mailing

2010 Boston Convention Schedule

Thursday August 26th

Three field trips will be conducted and Convention Early Registration will begin at 4 p.m.

Historic Concord, Mass.

Led by Kristina Joyce, Boston Mal Club member and native of Concord, tour the Old North Bridge, site of the start of the American Revolution and the Minuteman statue by Daniel Chester French, who also sculpted Abraham Lincoln for the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. The tour will also include visits to the Alcott House, once the residence of Louisa May Alcott, author of *Little Women*. At the Concord Library you will see a display of Shells of Concord, mostly fresh water mollusks collected by Kristina Joyce. After the tour, attendees will be given the opportunity to dine at any of the downtown restaurants in Concord, including the Colonial Inn, specializing in Early American fare. Lunch is not included in trip cost.

Harvard Museum of Natural History, Cambridge, Mass.

This tour will include the famous Glass Flowers exhibit, the newly renovated Hall of Mammals and Arthropod exhibit, and a world-class mineral display. It will also include a visit and tour of the Mollusk Department in Museum of Comparative Zoology, once home to Dr's William (Bill) Clench and Ruth Turner, who described many Atlantic marine mollusks as depicted in the periodic publication *Johnsonia*.

Shelling Trip

Three Boston Mal Club members who know local shells and shelling on Boston's North Shore will lead this trip. Since low tide will be 1 p.m., the trip will start at Revere Beach, where attendees can eat lunch at the landmark Kelly's Restaurant, famous for roast beef sandwiches, seafood, and other fare. The group will then check Revere Beach and nearby Nahant Beach for shells at low tide. Bring sunscreen and hats; collecting buckets or bags will be provided. Lunch is not included in trip cost.

Friday August 27th

CONVENTION REGISTRATION – Begins 8 a.m. on the mezzanine level outside the Stanbro room.

Club tables will be available at this time. There will also be two field trips in the a.m., then the convention opening at 1pm, followed by afternoon programs. The day ends with the Welcome Party/Bufferet – dress casual.

Boston Duck Tour

A great way to see many of Boston's famous sites and places, the Boston Duck Tour is in W.W.II style amphibious landing vehicles. The tour takes about 90 minutes and includes a tour guide and a short water excursion providing a wonderful skyline view of the city. You will drive by the Boston Public Garden, Massachusetts State House and Beacon Hill, the Old State House, Faneuil Hall and Quincy Market, Bunker Hill Memorial and the USS Constitution to name a few. The tour will leave from the hotel.

U.S.S. Constitution, Charlestown, Mass.

You will go aboard the oldest commissioned warship in the world. A veteran of the War of 1812, this maritime treasure has been restored to its original splendor. The tour also includes a visit to the USS Constitution Museum, which will be just as interesting as seeing the ship itself; both are located in the Charlestown Naval Yard, within Boston's city limits. Note: upper deck of the ship is handicap accessible, but not the lower decks. The tour will return leaving time for lunch and the convention opening at 1 p.m.

Saturday August 28th

Saturday's activities include late registration, a silent auction and morning programs. The COA Annual Business meeting will start at 2pm and will include a preview of the 2011 convention. The popular oral auction will be at 7p.m. with viewing time starting at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday August 29th

There will be morning and afternoon programs, silent auction, and the Club Rep Meeting, 3-4 p.m.

Monday August 30th

Set up for the International Dealers' Bourse in the a.m., with morning programs. Dealers' Bourse will open at 1pm into the evening, and there will be no afternoon programs.

Tuesday August 31st

International Dealers' Bourse continues in the morning until noon. Programs are planned for the afternoon. The convention Farewell Banquet will take place that evening in the elegant Plaza Ballroom. Dressy attire is recommended, and the winner of the raffle will be announced.

Convention Hotel – *The Boston Park Plaza and Towers*

A Starwood Hotel

50 Park Plaza at Arlington Street, Boston, MA 02116-3912

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: *The special Convention Rate at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel is \$169 + 14% tax for a stateroom with a king or 2 double beds; this lower rate was obtained in March.* Reservations at this rate can be made until July 27th, 2009 for up to 3 days prior and 3 days after the close of the convention. When making reservations, specify that you are with the 'COA' group. Reservations by phone can be made by calling (800) 225-2008, or directly by calling (617) 426-2000. For online reservations, use the website

<http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/cac0826>

Again, the standard guestroom (King, Queen, or 2 Double Beds 350 sq ft) is \$169. Suites and Towers rooms are also available at a higher rate; see the hotel's website or ask reservations for the details on these other room types. Room cancellations can be accepted without penalty 24 hours prior to the scheduled arrival.

Note: the Park Plaza does not have its own parking lot, but there are many private lots nearby, the closest one being the Motor Mart Garage. As in other large cities in the northeast corridor, parking is expensive in Boston so driving to the convention is not recommended; carpooling is encouraged. For assistance with parking, contact the hotel concierge or your convention contacts listed below.

DIRECTIONS TO THE HOTEL

BY AIR: Logan Airport is about six miles from the hotel and costs approximately \$25-\$35 by taxi. There is no hotel shuttle, but independent shuttles cost \$14 per person and are available by calling the hotel concierge service.

DRIVING: **From south of Boston**, take I-95 to I-84 to the Mass. Turnpike (I-90) eastbound into Boston. Exit at Copley Square (exit 22) and follow straight onto Stuart St. Follow to the 5th set of lights and turn left for the hotel. **From west of Boston**, take to the Mass. Turnpike (I-90) and exit at Copley Square as shown above. **From north of Boston**, take Rte. I-93 South into the city. Take the Storrow Drive exit (26) off of I-93. Follow Storrow Drive and exit left at the Back Bay/Copley Exit. At lights, take left onto Beacon St, and then take an immediate right onto Arlington St. The hotel is the 2nd building on the left after the park.

CONVENTION CONTACTS

Don Robak: shellsnail@comcast.net
(617) 889-1841

Warren Graff: lowhurdler@gmail.com
(978) 346-8977

MAIL DONATIONS TO

Don Robak
6 John St.
Chelsea, MA 02150

GENERAL INFORMATION
www.conchologistsofamerica.org