**North Carolina Shell Show, May 2-4, 2025**

**Crystal Coast Civic Center**

**Morehead City, NC**

The North Carolina Shell Club held its 47th shell show May 2-4, 2025 at the Crystal Coast Civic Center in Morehead City, NC. This was the fourth year to have the show at this location and once again it was a great success. The club will continue to have our shell show at this location, held the first weekend of May. Our 2026 Shell Show will be May 1-3, 2026. Maria Lloyd and members of the advertising committee worked very hard to get the word out about the show, utilizing Facebook, a local radio announcement about the show, placement of advertising signs in the community, information on the club website, distribution of rack cards at other shell shows, and having a club presence at the Earth Day Celebration at the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum. Many attendees heard of the shell show from friends, and others were repeat attendees. One young man attending the UNC-Wilmington who came to the show last year told us he is trying to organize a shell club on campus. He hopes to come to the September shell club meeting with friends from the college. Maria also worked to get the NC Shell Club membership in the Morehead City Chamber of Commerce. This enables the club to have more opportunities to alert local businesses and other organizations of club events such as the shell show. Maria spearheaded several new features/events added to this year’s show to help generate interest and excitement. These included a Show Preview on Thursday after the judging, open to business people, members of the Chamber of Commerce and exhibitors. Refreshments and gift bags were provided to the attendees; a ribbon cutting ceremony on opening day of the show Friday; programs/lectures for children and high school age students (presenters Dan Minior and Dora Zimmerman) on Friday with each student receiving a certificate of participation and shell gift bag. Older students also had the opportunity to tour the Marine Aquaculture Labs at Carteret County Community College; and there were programs given on Saturday during the show, given by Karlynn Morgan (The Magnificent Molluscan Photography of Charlotte Thorpe), Dan Minior (Marine Envenomations), and Ashley Oliphant (Building a Better Beachcombing Strategy).

Approximately 928 people attended this year’s show. The shell show had 325 feet of scientific exhibits and 57 feet of artistic exhibits. Exhibitors and dealers hailed from several states including North Carolina, South Carolina, Illinois, Florida, Kentucky, New Jersey, Virginia, and Washington. Scientific judges were Richard Goldberg and Kevan Sunderland (in place of Dr. José Leal who was unable to attend). The artistic judge was Nancy Timmerman. Kimberly Nealon was planning on being our second Artistic Judge but she was unable to attend. Dealers attending this year were Donald Dan (Specimen Shells), Charles Hames (Specimen Shells), Richard Goldberg (Worldwide Specimen Shells), Brian Hayes (Algoa Bay Specimen Shells), Kim Nelson (Your Island Treasure), James Tidmore (JTidmore Island Art), Sue Hobbs (Shells for Artists and Specimen Shells), Dr. Ashely Oliphant (Shark Tooth Hunting on the Carolina Coast), Ashley Collins (The Tooth Peddler), and a display from the Aurora Fossil Museum (including bins of fossil marl for show attendees to search for fossils). On Saturday from noon to 2 pm the club held a book signing for the revised and expanded edition of the book “Seashells of North Carolina”. This much anticipated new edition builds upon the original book authored by Honorary Lifetime NC Club Member, the late Dr. Hugh Porter, in conjunction with the North Carolina Sea Grant. In attendance for the book signing were members of Sea Grant (Editor Katie Mosher, Erika Young, Georgia Minnich, Carrie Clower) and NC Club members who made major contributions to the content and completion of this project: Dr. Art Bogen, Dr. Doug Wolfe, and Ed Shuller.

Our shell show owes its continued success to the many, many club members who volunteered their time, not only to produce the show, but also to help out each day at the club sales tables (money earned supports the marine science scholarships the club sponsors at UNC-Wilmington and Carteret Community College), club merchandise table, membership table, registration and raffles, scavenger hunt, shell giveaway, lunchroom, Children’s Activities tables, and the Selfie Photo Booth. Many thanks to John Timmerman and Karlynn Morgan (Shell Show Chairs), Mimi Dill (Floor layout/admin.) and to everyone who stepped up to make the show a success (committees and member names are included in the April-June 2025 Club Newsletter).

During the weekend, the club gained 31 new memberships. The “Shells in the Jar” guessing game earned $134 for the club ($1 per guess). The lucky winner was Scott Foxx.

There were several raffles held during the weekend which brought in a total of $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. These included our year-long raffle items of a beautiful sterling silver chain with hand-crafted pendant of mother-of-pearl, Australian opal, green enamel, lime-green jadeite stone, citrine center stone, with black coral branch, donated by Donald Dan and a Nautilus Decorator Bowl (anonymous donor) with tote bag and Chambered Nautilus shell donated by the NC Shell Club. Additional raffles available during the show included shell jewelry from Kim Nelson (Your Island Treasure), shell jewelry from Ocean Soul, a shelling excursion from Soundside Tours Emerald Isle, and a Florida shelling excursion from Everwater Charters and Tours in Marco Island, Florida.

Admissions brought in $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; Our club merchandise sales brought in $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Proceeds from these sales help to pay for club expenses, including the cost of holding the shell show. The Club Sales Tables brought in $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This money helps to fund the marine science scholarships the NC Shell Club sponsors at UNC-Wilmington and Carteret County Community College.

Scientific Trophy Awards:

* **Conchologists of America Award**: John Timmerman; “Introduction to the Shell Show”
* **DuPont Award**: Bill Bennight; “The Story of the Nautilus and The Argonaut”
* **Masters Award**: John Jacobs; “Fossil Molluscs of Hawaii”
* **Bosch Citizen Scientist Award**: Mark Johnson; “The Amazing Flats of SW Florida”
* **Alta VanLandingham Award**: Gene Everson; “My Favorite Bivalves Self-Collected”
* **Dean & Dottie Weber Environmental Awareness Award**: John Reaves; “What’s In Your Backyard?”
* **Best North Carolina Collection**: Tammy Zetka; “North Carolina’s State Shell”
* **Hugh Porter Award**: Vicky Wall; “Self-Collected Shells from NW Florida”
* **Best Novice Collection Adult**: Tammy Zetka; “Shell Collecting Will Take You Places”
* **Best Novice Collection Junior**: Benjamin Shuller; “Butterflies of the Sea”
* **Best Shell of the Show Any Source**: Dan Minior; *Conus primus*
* **Best Shell of the Show Self-Collected**: Mark Johnson; *Conus species* from Trujillo Bay, Honduras
* **Best Small Exhibit**: Dan Minior; “Rare and Exceptional Shells”
* **Best Junior Exhibit**: Benjamin Shuller; “Butterflies of the Sea”
* **Best Scientific Photography**: Alison Baron; “*Neohelix albolabris*”
* **Judge’s Special Award Ribbon**: Michael Tove; “Killer Snails”
* **Judge’s Special Award Ribbon**: Ed Shuller & Jeannette Tysor; “O Death Where is Thy Sting”
* **People’s Choice Science**: Bill Bennight; “The Story of the Nautilus and the Argonaut”

Artistic Trophy Awards:

* **Art Best in Show**: Charles Barr; “Inside Outside” abalone drawing
* **Best Arts & Crafts Using Actual Shells**: Sandy Powell; “Under the Sea” trinket box
* **Best Arts & Crafts Depicting Shells**: Charles Barr; “Inside Outside” abalone drawing
* **Best Artistic Photography**: Jennifer Geary; “All Eyes on You”
* **Best Traditional Sailor’s Valentine**: Sandy Powell; “Ever Ours”
* **Best Modern Sailor’s Valentine**: Sandy Powell; “Tropic Flight”
* **The Janet Durand Award**: Bea Baron; “Whales”
* **Judge’s Special Award Ribbon**: Jennifer Geary; “Baby….It’s Warm Outside”
* **People’s Choice Award Art**: Sandy Powell; “Calypso the Mermaid”

Scientific Ribbon Winners:

* **Regional Self-Collected**: 1st Mark Johnson; The Amazing Flats of SW Florida;

2nd Linda Zylman; Shells of the Vava’u Group Tonga; 2nd Vicky Wall; Self-Collected Shells from Fiji

* **Worldwide Self-Collected**: 1st Gene Everson; My Favorite Bivalves Self-Collected 2nd Tammy Zetka; Shell Collecting Will Take You Places
* **Worldwide Any Source:** 1st Dan Minior; Rare and Exceptional Shells
* **Land Snails:**1st John Reaves; What’s In Your Backyard?”
* **Fossil Mollusks:** 1st Karlynn Morgan; *Mercenaria permagna*
* **Specialized Collection:**1st Alison Baron; Albinistic Specimens; 2nd Jennifer Geary; “Extraordinary Queen”
* **Single Shell Self-Collected:** 1st Mark Johnson; *Conus species* from Honduras

2nd Shena Lee; A New Discovery (*Epitonium* species) Emerald Isle, NC

* **Single Shell Any Source:** 1st Mark Johnson; Sinistral *Liguus fasciatus*; 2nd Mark Johnson; A Remarkable *Fasciolaria tulipa*; 2nd Ann Buddenhagen: *Mercenaria* *permagna* fossil
* **One Large Family:** 1st Michael Tove; Killer Snails
* **One Small Family:**1st Gene Everson; Olividae
* **Educational Collection:**1st Bill Bennight; The Story of the Nautilus and the Argonaut; 2nd Vicky Wall; Self-Collected Shells from NW Florida; 2nd Mimi Dill; Sorting by Shell Shape
* **Mollusk Natural History:**1st Ed Shuller & Jeannette Tysor; O Death Where is Thy Sting
* **One Case Wonder:**1st Jan Reaves; Shelling in Papua, New Guinea via Postage Stamps
* **Beach Collected Shells:**1st Alison Baron; Sanibel Shells
* **Junior Collection:**1st Benjamin Shuller; Butterflies from the Sea
* **Scientific Shell Photography:**1st Alison Baron; *Neohelix albolabris*; 2nd Jennifer Geary; *Purpura*
* **Other, Scientific:**1st John Timmerman; Introduction to the Shell Show; 2nd Tammy Zetka; North Carolina’s State Shell

Artistic Ribbon Winners:

* **Art/Craft Using Actual Shells:** 1st Sandy Powell; Under the Sea-Trinket Box; 2nd James Tidmore; Spike
* **Art/Craft Depicting Shells:** 1st Charles Barr; Inside Outside; 2nd Alison Baron; Scallop Tufted Rug
* **Traditional Sailor’s Valentine:** 1st Sandy Powell; Ever Ours; 2nd Jane Santini; Old Barbados
* **Modern Sailor’s Valentine:** 1st Sandy Powell; Tropic Flight; 2nd Sandy Powell; Entwined
* **Artistic Shell Photography:** 1st Jennifer Geary; All Eyes on You; 2nd Jeannette Tysor; A View from Below
* **Art Other:** 1st Teala René Phillips; Ascending Glow; 2nd Charles Barr; Shark Hex
* **Art/Craft Not By Exhibitor:** 1st Charles Barr; Chess Pieces; 2nd Linda Zylman; Culion Shell Dolls

**Saturday, May 3, 2025 Banquet**

60 people attended tonight’s Awards Banquet. President Dan Minior welcomed everyone to the banquet and celebration of our 47th shell show, the 4th to be held at the Cape Carteret Civic Center. Dan thanked the staff of the Civic Center for their help in setting up the exhibits room, Carteret Community College for their partnership with the NC Shell Club’s Everett Long Marine Science Scholarship and for their staff who conducted tours of their marine aquaculture facility, Show Chairs John Timmerman and Karlynn Morgan, Mimi Dill (show set up), Diana Yeames (Kitchen/food coordinator), Ed Shuller and Jeannette Tysor (our contacts with the civic center and Banquet), Maria Lloyd (Shell Show Preview, Students’ Programs, Ribbon Cutting), exhibitors, Judges Rich Goldberg, Kevan Sunderland, and Nancy Timmerman, vendors and Dealers, and the countless NC Shell Club members who made the shell show possible. Dan presented a gift to each of our judges, a Barefoot Bubbas Carolina Shell Gang hat, designed many years ago by Everett Long. First Vice-President Scott Foxx introduced our speaker for the evening, Richard Goldberg. The title of Rich’s program was, “Henry Monroe and His Shell Collecting Legacy….It’s a Small Conchological World After All”. Rich recounted his experiences with the legacy collection of Henry and Isabelle Monroe. Their shell collection dated back to the 1940s and encompassed several decades of collecting around the world, including in Cuba before the Revolution. Rich purchased the collection after a chance discovery of its sale in a classified advertisement. When he did more research about the Monroes, he found out they had helped to start the shell collecting interest of a young Harry Lee, who would grow up to become a medical doctor, citizen scientist, owner of the largest private shell collection in the world, and a shell collector known to many, many people around the world. Over the years, Harry was a scientific judge for many of our shell shows (Harry died in 2024, age 83).

Dan introduced Shell Show Co-Chair John Timmerman, who announced the Major Award Winners. The winners of the People’s Choice Awards were announced: for Scientific, Bill Bennight, for his exhibit “The Nautilus and The Argonaut”, and Artistic, Sandy Powell, for her exhibit “Calypso the Mermaid”. Dora Zimmerman made a special presentation to Benjamin Shuller, Ed Shuller’s grandson, the Best Junior Exhibit Trophy for his self-collected coquinas exhibit, “Butterflies of the Sea”. Ben helped Dora to announce the winners of our two special raffles. The winner of the necklace donated by Donald Dan was Susan Gentry. The winner of the Nautilus Decorator Bowl, shell bag, and Chambered Nautilus shell was Robin Wilder.

To conclude the evening, we had a very special presentation introduced by President Dan Minior….the addition of three new Life Members. This is the highest honor in the North Carolina Shell Club. In the 68-year history of the club, this honor has been bestowed upon only 23 members. Candidates are researched and voted upon by the Board of Directors for their service and dedication to the NC Shell Club. Karlynn Morgan introduced our first recipient, Vicky Wall. Vicky joined the club in 1984. For over 35 years, she has been an officer of the club as Vice-President and currently as Secretary, a shell show participant every year since 1986, and supporter of Conchologists of America. Dan Minior introduced our next two Life Members, John and Nancy Timmerman. John joined the shell club in the early 1980s and over the years has served as Vice-President, President, Shell Show Chairman, and has exhibited in many shell shows. John has contributed his artistic skills to both the NC Shell Club and COA, creating the design for our club logo, and for COA, pins, current COA logo, and covers for the magazine *American Conchologist*. He is a recipient of one of the highest awards given by the Conchologists of America, the *Neptunea* Award. He and Nancy have served as auctioneers for many years for the club’s oral auctions. A beautiful framed certificate was given to Vicky, and John & Nancy.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicky Wall, Secretary