North Carolina Shell Club 3rd Quarter Meeting

September 13-14, 2024

Western Park Community Center

Cedar Point, NC

Friday, Sept. 13: 34 people attended tonight’s meeting. Registration and social time ran from 6:30 pm to 7 pm, with the silent auction, refreshments, and time to peruse the club merchandise tables. Along with our club pins, t-shirts, sweatshirts, journals and hats, the club also had available for sale, several copies of the newly revised and expanded book, Seashells of North Carolina. The original book was authored by Dr. Hugh Porter (one of our founding members). This revised edition was a group effort between the North Carolina Shell Club and North Carolina Sea Grant. Several club members worked on this project, including Dr. Doug Wolfe, Dr. Art Bogen, Ed Shuller, Mark Johnson, and Dora Zimmerman. We will continue to offer these books for sale at our club meetings.

President Dan Minior opened the meeting at 7 pm, welcoming everyone to Cedar Point. Door prizes were awarded, including shells from Everett Long’s collection. Dan announced that the silent auction tonight also featured shells from Everett Long’s collection, with bidding allowed until 8:30 pm. First Vice-President Scott Foxx introduced tonight’s speaker, club member Susan O’Connor. Susan started collecting shells at age 4. She is a veteran of the Marines and joined the club in 1989. Her program, titled “The Florida Trifecta” included slides of a winter trip to Sanibel Island and Kice Island, several months after Hurricane Ian. She included slides showing the damage to the island and causeway, and the shells that she and others in the group found on their trip. The highlight of Susan’s trip was her amazing find of three Junonia volutes from the shell piles on Kice Island.

New Business: The next club meeting will be November 15-16, 2024, featuring our annual Oral Auction. Included in the auction will be shells from Everett Long’s collection and many nice donations from shell dealers and other collectors. The catalog is on the club website, in two formats…one with the pictures and descriptions of the auction items and another of just print. Copies will not be available at the meeting so please print your own copy if desired. The 2025 Planning/Board of Directors meeting will be on January 4, 2025, along with the Winter Shell Swap/Sale…more details to follow in the newsletter. Saturday’s field trip to Shackleford Banks was cancelled at lunchtime today by the Park Service, due to rough seas/high winds from the remnants of Hurricane Francine. This is the 3 rd year in a row that the field trip has been cancelled due to poor weather. As a result, in September 2025, the club will meet in Carolina Beach for our annual Oral Auction (and possible fossil field trip). The Cedar Point meeting with the Shackleford Banks field trip will be held in November, with the hope for calmer weather.

Treasurer Karlynn Morgan presented the Treasurer’s Report. The club’s balance stands at $62,035.00. The major expense for the club is the annual shell show, with expenses of $12,154.34. The income from the 2024 shell show was $13,917.05, for a profit of $1762.71….good news for our shell show! Our club is fortunate to have the funds to be able to continue to hold an annual shell show and to sponsor our academic scholarships for Marine Science students at both UNC-Wilmington and Cape Carteret Community College. Vicky Wall received a correspondence from a mollusk researcher based in Great Britain, Dr. Andrew Johnson. He was directed to contact our club by Dr. Art Bogen. Dr. Johnson’s research involves present and past fauna of the US Eastern Seaboard, specifically the American Bittersweet clam, Glycymeris americana. He is interested in the shells collected through the commercial scallop dredgings that occurred in the 1970s to present. His research is looking into the abundance and size of the shells collected at that time. Vicky was able to send him data on three specimens she had in hand, including the new NC state size record shell collected by the late Olese Walton, now in the Karlynn Morgan Collection. He would be very interested in any data that collectors in our club could provide. Newsletter Editor Mimi Dill will include this information in the next newsletter. Should anyone have single or double valve specimens of this clam species, photos and measurements can be sent to Vicky Wall at vwallsheller@gmail.com and she will forward that information to Dr. Johnson. Vicky also presented to the club the planned production of more NC Shell Club vehicle vanity plates, to be available for purchase at future club meetings. Club member Everett Long had some vanity plates made several years ago. There have been many inquiries about the plates from people who have seen them on members’ cars. A picture of Everett’s plate, which was auctioned in 2023, can be seen on the club webpage. The new plates will be similar in style, starting with number 100. They will include our club logo, website address and a color photograph of a Scotch Bonnet. Jeannette Tysor gave an update on our oldest member, Mary Louise Spain, who is 103 years old. Her 104 th Birthday is in October. Mary Louise has recently been in the hospital. Dan thanked Maria Lloyd for her research into a new website host/company. He also thanked Ed Shuller for his many years as Newsletter Editor and new Editor Mimi Dill, for accepting the editorship position. The rest of the door prize shells were awarded to conclude the evening.

Saturday, Sept. 14: 33 people attended tonight’s meeting. Registration and social time ran from 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm, with a new silent auction, refreshments, and time to peruse the club merchandise tables. A huge thank you to Diana Yeames for providing the refreshments for this weekend’s meetings. Bill Bennight presented a gift shell to new members and visitors. President Dan Minior welcomed everyone to the meeting. Some door prizes were awarded by Dan and Elodie Minior, consisting of shells from Everett Long’s collection. Despite the cancellation of the Shackleford field trip, many people made it out to the local beaches to try their luck. Yulonda Roy offered to be the judge for the “Find of the Day” contest. The winner was Karen Husband, for her Lion’s Paw valve. She received her prize of a shell from the door prize table. Scott Foxx introduced tonight’s speaker: Katie Mosher, Editor of the newly revised and expanded edition of the book, Seashells of North Carolina. Katie has been a shell collector most of her life. She gave an informative program on how this new edition came to fruition over the past few years. The new edition includes improvements including the addition of more species, removal of some species not commonly found in NC, and updated scientific nomenclature and the use of taxonomic order of species. Most of the shell photographs are black and white, but there are several pages of full color photographs of shells found in NC. It is very exciting to finally have this much loved and useful identification book updated and available for purchase. Ed Shuller also presented information on the collaboration between Sea Grant and the NC Shell Club to complete this project. He thanked the many club members who helped with the project over the years, including Dr. Art Bogen, Dr. Doug Wolfe, Mark Johnson, and Dora Zimmerman.

Thank you to all who bid and purchased shells from the two silent auctions this weekend. The total received was $754.00.

President Dan Minior updated the news about Mary Louise Spain, with the sad announcement that Mary Louise died earlier today. She had been in failing health for some time and was recently hospitalized. She would have been 104 years old this October. Mary Louise, and her late husband Rusty, were longtime members of the NC Shell Club. We will try to determine what family may be remaining of Mary Louise’s that we may send our condolences to. We will be sure to make an appropriate memorial to her memory.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicky Wall, Secretary