North Carolina Shell Club Spring Meeting

March 22-23, 2024

Ocracoke/Swansboro, NC

\*The weather forecast of high seas and gale force winds precipitated the decision to move the meeting from Ocracoke to the home of President Dan Minior, in Swansboro, NC. The decision was made mid-morning Thursday, March 21 and disseminated by email to the club membership soon after. Several club members who were already on the island were able to leave, if they chose to, as ferry service was available on Thursday and Friday. Ferry service was cancelled on Saturday and Sunday, with power outages on the island on Saturday. Service resumed on Monday, March 25. The decision to move the meeting location was a difficult one, but proved to be prudent as the weather conditions did deteriorate during the weekend. Many thanks to the Pony Island Inn for making hotel cancellations with no penalty for club members. The NC Ferry Service also issued refunds for ferry cancellations. While the Saturday field trip to Portsmouth Island has been cancelled a few times over the years due to poor weather, this is the first time in over 25 years that we had to move the meeting from Ocracoke to another location due to poor weather and potential ferry cancellations.

Friday, March 22: 30 people attended tonight’s meeting, held at President Dan Minior’s home in Swansboro, NC. A huge thank you to Dan and Grace Minior, and club members who helped set up chairs and tables prior to the meeting; and to Diana Yeames for providing snacks, drinks, and coffee for the meeting. Maria Lloyd donated a glass jar filled with wentletraps that she had collected, for participants to try to guess the number of shells in the jar, the winner of the jar and shells being the one with the closest guess without going over. Dan reminded everyone that the silent auction shells were located upstairs and the proceeds from this weekend’s silent and oral auctions support the scholarships the club sponsors at UNC-Wilmington and Cape Carteret Community College. All the shells in the auctions were from the Everett Long Collection.

Business Items: The Board of Directors met in January to plan for upcoming events and meetings. The Shell Sale and Swap held after the meeting was well-received. Vice-President Mark Johnson suggested that the club try another Shell Sale and Swap this summer. Dan welcomed new Newsletter Editor, Mimi Dill, taking over from Ed Shuller, who was Newsletter Editor for the past 16 years. Mimi encouraged everyone to submit articles and photographs for the newsletter. A February Zoom meeting was held to discuss updating the club’s website. This will be a multi-year project, directed by Maria Lloyd. Direct any suggestions to Maria. In April, club members Dora Zimmerman, Diana Yeames, and Dan Minior will participate in an outreach event on Harker’s Island at the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum. This event is a two-day event to honor Earth Day and will be geared towards elementary school students. Dora, Diana and Dan will provide education about shells, following the theme of “Reuse and Recycle”. 800 children and adults are expected to attend so this will be a great chance to educate people about shells, our club, and the upcoming shell show in May, the club’s 46 th show. Chairmen John Timmerman and Karlynn Morgan announced that the show is full, with many scientific and artistic exhibits, and also several specimen shell and arts and crafts dealers. With the increased interest from exhibitors and dealers, we have expanded the show into an additional quad and into the lobby area! Karlynn asked everyone to provide feedback concerning the arts and crafts dealers. The show will be held on May 3-5, 2024, with exhibit set up on Thursday May 2. Vicky Wall and Karlynn Morgan distributed shell show information cards at 5 shell shows in Florida this past winter and Maria Lloyd posted our shell show flyer on several shell-related Facebook sites. Additional shell show information cards were provided at the meeting for anyone who would like them, to get the word out about the show. Shell show banquet forms were emailed to the club membership. Stephanie Howard is going to set up a selfie booth at the show and asked for donations of beach/shell-themed props for fun photographs at the booth. The annual Conchologists of America Convention will be held June 12-16, 2024 in Melbourne, Florida (more information on conchologistsofamerica.org). Upcoming meetings include a possible Shell Sale and Swap this summer; September Meeting with field trip to Shackleford Banks; and our November meeting with silent auctions, large annual oral auction, and possible fossil collecting field trip. Dora Zimmerman asked for donations to have multiple nice raffle items to celebrate our 50 th Annual Shell Show coming up in 2028. Before the evening’s program, we surprised Dan with a birthday cake to celebrate his 50 th birthday today. Tonight’s program was given by Dan, titled “Rare and Exceptional Cone Shells”. He gave a very interesting and fun program, with beautiful photographs of cone shells from his collection. His question-and- answer game was very popular; those correctly answering the questions first received a free shell. Door prizes were awarded and silent auction bidding was concluded to end the meeting.

Saturday, March 23: 24 people attended tonight’s meeting. President Dan Minior opened the meeting at 7 pm. Chandra Phillips had the closest guess and won the jar containing over 1000 wentletraps! Dan thanked everyone in attendance for their participation and help with this weekend’s meetings. Also huge thank yous to John Timmerman for all the work he does for the club, producing our oral auction catalogs, with full color photographs, several times a year; Vice-Presidents Scott Foxx and Mark Johnson for helping to set up for the meetings and oral auction; and to Grace and Elodie Minior, for selecting the items in tonight’s oral auction. John Timmerman judged the Finds of the Day. Winners were Brady Semmel, for his large Left-handed whelk and Stephanie Howard for her Southern Flatcoil land snail. Each received a $20 Gift Certificate for Club Merchandise. The total from the silent auction was $718; the total from the oral auction was $5154, for a grand total of $5872.00!....these funds will help fund the scholarships the NC Shell Club sponsors at UNC

Wilmington and Cape Carteret Community College for Marine Sciences students, and other club activities. Thanks to all who made this weekend a huge success.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicky Wall, Secretary