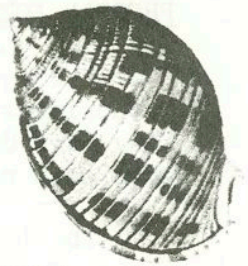


# NORTH CAROLINA SHELL CLUB



Scotch Bonnet



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Swansboro, N. C. 28584

## FALL MEETING

September 9-10, 1988

North Carolina Maritime Museum  
315 Front Street, Beaufort, N.C. 28516 (919) 728-7317



### Friday, September 9

7:00 p.m. Registration, refreshments, shell displays (if any).

8:00 p.m. The Shells of Oman by Dr. Donald T. Bosch.  
Announcements.  
Preview of field trip to Cape Lookout.  
Annual Auction, with our favorite auctioneer "Van" Van  
Landingham, assisted by Carl Truckner.

### Saturday, September 10

7:00 p.m. Registration, refreshments, shell identification, selling,  
trading, entries for find of the day.

8:00 p.m. Intertidal Collecting in Brittany, France, During the  
Aftermath of the Amoco Cadiz Oil Spill by Dr. Douglas A. Wolfe.  
Business meeting, announcements.  
Preview of the October Shell Show.  
Find of the Day announcement.  
Drawing for door prizes.

### LODGING

Beaufort Inn, 101 Ann Street, Beaufort, N. C. 28516, (919) 728-2600,  
\$59-\$69/double

Windjammer Inn, P.O. Box 4006, Salter Path Road, Atlantic Beach, N. C.  
28512, (919) 427-7123, \$55/double

Bogue Shores Motel, P.O. Box 776, Salter Path Road, Atlantic Beach, N.C.  
28512, (800) 682-2804, \$45/double



## PROGRAM NOTES

Friday's speaker, Don Bosch, comes with his wife Eloise. They are the authorities on the shells of Oman and authors of the book Seashells of Oman. They have discovered ten previously unknown mollusc species, several of which have been named for them.

The Boschs are a remarkable missionary family which has given thirty years of dedicated service to the people of Oman, Don as a surgeon and Eloise as a teacher. Their complete story would fill several books and can only be hinted at here.

Until his retirement in 1984, Don was Medical Officer-in-Charge of Khoula Hospital, a 370-bed surgical center. Eloise taught in the mission schools. Don, who was born in China as a United States citizen, has had a lifetime of achievements and honors and was the first American to receive the Order of Oman from the Sultan of Oman.

The Bosch retirement plan has many facets. One is to tour the United States to educate people about the Middle East. Another is to lecture to churches and religious organizations to provide understanding between Christians and Muslims. Another is to talk to museums, conchologists, and shell clubs and to produce a second edition of the book. Complicating all this is Don's return to Oman as a consultant a year after he retired. In between, Eloise tries to do some sewing and photography and Don gets in as much tennis as he can.

Only rarely do they visit their home in Lake Wylie, South Carolina, or their lakeside cottage in northern New York State.

Saturday's speaker, Doug Wolfe, first became interested in shells at the age of 5 in Jacksonville Beach, Florida. He began to collect while growing up in Ohio, where his broad interests in nature and the outdoors first introduced him to freshwater mussels (Unionidae), which remain a strong interest today. He attended Ohio State University where he earned a B. Sc. in zoology, followed by the M. Sc. and Ph. D. in physiological chemistry.

Although he started his federal career in Beaufort, North Carolina, Doug now lives in Rockville, Maryland, and works with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on programs related to marine pollution and environmental quality. This profession has afforded a number of informal opportunities for shell collecting in interesting parts of the world. Examples include temporary assignments in Puerto Rico and California and several trips to France.

Doug has just finished a two-year term as president of the National Capitol Shell Club. He was our club president in 1972 and 1973 and remains a member of the North Carolina Shell Club. He also collects shells on postage stamps, is an enthusiastic birder, and enjoys backpacking and carving in his spare time. He reports that the Dracaena plant, given to him and his wife Nancy by our club in 1979, still resides in the Wolfe home.



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Outer Banks meeting in May was most enjoyable and our club received a real treat from Dean and Dorothy Weber's slide marration of their recent trip to Mexico. Again, we can look froward to two evenings of great programs, including our annual shell auction, at our Fall Meeting at Beaufort. Last year's meeting at Beaufort and the ever-popular field trip to Cape Lookout received rave reviews, so we all anticipate a repeat this year, Come join us for all the fun and the latest on preparations for our October Shell Show!

### THE SCOTCH BONNET, NORTH CAROLINA'S "STATE SHELL"

by Alta Van Landingham

All shell collectors in North Carolina wish to find our "State Shell", the Scotch Bonnet, or for more advanced collectors, Phalium granulatum. This molluscan species has been round for a number of years, and was given it's scientific classification by Born, in 1778. Can't help but wonder whether he found them as hard to collect as we do in this present time!!

But, shells are where you find them, and I have been a priviledged collector in that I lived on the Outer Banks of North Carolina for many years. Actually, I lived at Ocracoke, which is one of the best shell collecting areas on the entire East Coast. The Gulf Stream Current touches in very close at Ocracoke, whereas, islands just South and just North of Ocracoke do not benefit nearly as much in the marine life sustained at Ocracoke just because of this warm current.

The Scotch Bonnet is thought to live in much warmer climates, but it has been my experience that Ocracoke and Portsmouth Islands are the epitome of the habitat for this shell. Thanks to that Gulf Stream Current.

During the 13 years that I lived at Ocracoke, I would say, conservatively, that I collected more than 9,000 of these shells. Most of them were freshly dead, but at times, there were hundreds of them alive, or, with animal still intact. This happened during the months of December, January, and February. During these months the Outer Banks are subjected to heavy shifting winds and high tides, which tend to throw the shells up on the beaches.

Most times, live shells are able to bury in the wet sand and survive until they are able to get back to deep water. But on occasion, during the colder months, they are thrown up on the beach and the temperature is so cold they are frozen before they can make their survival efforts.

January 1977 was such a time. There had been the fierce winds, and then a fast drop in temperature, down to about 13 degrees. About the 10th of the month was the very worst weather, and the very best shell collecting. The rule seems to be that it is the third day after such a storm that collecting is good, and of course, I had been on the beach EVERY day. And it was the third day that things were there. I would



say I found about 100 different species of shells, some live, some freshly dead. Among the more common were the Whelks, Busycon contrarium, B. carica, B. canaliculatum, B. pyrum, Strombus alatus, Tonna galea, many, many species of Bi-valves, but the very most common was the Scotch Bonnet, Phalium granulatum.

Of course I was happy to find so many of our State Shell on the beach, but on the other hand, I was rather upset to find so many live ones, or rather, shells with the animal still intact. Most of them appeared frozen solid, and my thought was that, here we will have a depletion of the species for many years to come.

I gathered up as many of the live ones as I could find and took them home to my saltwater aquariums and tried to revive them. Out of hundreds of shells with the animal still intact, I believe than not more than two dozen revived. I kept them in my aquariums for about two months, or until the weather was better, then we took most of them back out to deep water and dropped them off. I kept four in my aquariums for observation.

At this point, I had 35 salt water aquariums from 20 gallons up to 350 gallons, and had been studying live shells for quite a few years. I knew that the Scotch Bonnet fed on Echinoderms, mainly the Sand Dollars. Sand Dollars were no problem to obtain, so I had plenty of them for food for the Scotch Bonnets.

But here comes the shocker--we have all known about shells that drill holes in other shells, and we mostly think of the Oyster Drills, the Moon Snails, and so on. But nowhere in any literature that we had access to did it ever mention that the Scotch Bonnet, or any of the Cassis or Phalium family drilled holes in it's prey.

Well, the Scotch Bonnets in my aquariums drilled holes in the Sand Dollars. They would drill, feed, then the Sand Dollar would regenerate. We know some Echinoderms, such as the Star Fish are capable of this, but again, we had never heard that the Sand Dollar would also do this. But the Sand Dollars in the aquariums that the Scotch Bonnets were feeding on certainly did do this. I have many of the empty tests with scars on them.

The Scotch Bonnet drilled a perfectly round hole, same as the Moon Snails or the Oyster Drills do. And apparently fed long enough to be satisfied before actually killing the Sand Dollar. The Sand Dollar, being a scavenger fed on other things in the aquariums, algae as well as scavenge, and all thrived for quite a long time.

This is only one of the many amazing things we learned by observing live shells in a saltwater aquarium over a period of time.

But back to collecting this elusive shell, if you haven't found them, and seriously want to find them, go to Ocracoke or Portsmouth Islands during December, January, or February. This little corner of the world is unique--the weather may be anywhere from 75 degrees to 0 degrees during these three months. It can change quickly, within an hour. But if you are a serious collector, and up to surprises, then this is an excellent place to collect up to 500 different species of shells!!!



MEMBER PROFILE: MARGUERITE THOMAS

by Dean Weber

In 1957, Marguerite saw in a newspaper article that a shell club was being organized in North Carolina. With that, she and her friend and business partner, Phoebe Meadows, became charter members of our club.

Before retirement, Marguerite had at least four careers. After graduation from the University of Georgia, she taught school in her home town of Athens, Georgia, for many years. Then she joined the navy in 1942, becoming a Lt. U.S.N.R. WAVE.

After World War II, she spent a few years in the dry cleaning business with Phoebe in Swansboro, North Carolina. Then she went back to college at the University of North Carolina and became a medical-scientific librarian. For twelve years she was librarian at the Naval Hospital at Camp Lejeune Marine Base; she retired from the Naval Research Laboratory in 1976.

Marguerite's shells come from many sources. She has been lucky enough to collect many on her own from places that include the east coast from Florida into Canada, the Gulf of Mexico, California, Costa Rica, the Bahamas, Guam, Palau, the Philippines, the Red Sea, Italy, Greece, and England. She has also purchased shells and has traded with people all over the world.

She receives about two boxes of shells a year from Illuminado Iway, a leper at Cullion Leper Colony, Palawan, Philippines. They are beautiful shells, sometimes with opercula, not fully cleaned and not identified. The money that she sends in return helps to support the man and his family.

Like many of us, Marguerite reports that her shells are not well organized, with most packed away in boxes. Thus she doesn't have a good idea of how many species she has. At present, she is trying to weed them out and may just keep some of her favorites, which include scallops and murexes.

Another favorite is wentletraps, of which she has collected a great many in the Bogue Sound waters near her Swansboro home. Her best collecting place, however, was the Red Sea. As a wader there, she was able to find in shallow water many things that the snorkelers were gathering in deeper water.

Marguerite was also a charter member of Conchologists of America and belonged to the American Malacological Union for a long time. She served as secretary of our club for many years and is now our corresponding secretary. She has exhibited in our shell show six or seven times. Her other interests include stamps, books and reading, flowers, traveling, and amateur photography.

SHELL SHOW WORKSHOP

Alta VanLandingham has graciously offered to conduct a workshop on the fine points of participating in a shell show. Alta brings to this workshop her experience as shell show chairman, judge, and exhibitor so she will certainly be a wonderful resource person for any of us. Details of the workshop which will be held during the weekend of our September meeting at Beaufort will be announced at Friday night's meeting.



BAHAMA HOLIDAY

by Payne Daniel

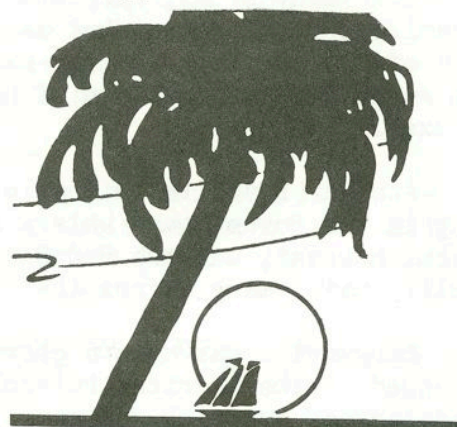
The Bahamian archipelago encompasses hundreds of islands and islets. About 20 islands are inhabited year-round but Rose Island is only frequented by tour parties and occasional sightseers. The island is about one mile long and one-eighth mile wide and is covered with wind-stunted trees. There is a sandy beach and natural harbor where small boats can anchor.

On a sunny day in February, Shirley and I stood over a tidal rock pool on Rose Island and watched hundreds of nerites feeding on the algae growth. Small brown gobies darted in and out of crevices and tiny hermit crabs moved with swift precision across the rocks. We soon filled our collecting bags with specimens such as the Four-toothed Nerite, the Zebra Nerite, and the Tessellate Nerite. There were also the Beaded Periwinkle and the Tinted Cantharus (very tiny and hard to identify). After observing this area for an hour, we returned to the picnic grounds to feast on a lunch of pig cooked over coals, hotdogs, salad, fruit, and soft drinks. Beer on tap and white wine were also available.

After a rest period, Shirley retired to the boat deck to sun and I went down to the dock area to watch a few brave souls snorkel over the coral reef. The water was only 65 degrees and not to my liking. In and around the reef darted the myriads of blue gar-like fish, and in the canal itself live the damsels, angel fish, tube worms and green morays. Abundant in the sand were large short spined sea urchins. Tightly anchored to the rock cliffs nearby were hundreds of rough-girdled chitons. A member of our group from St. Louis was planning to take a few urchins back to eat. Oh well, to each his own.

The blast of the boat horn signaled 2:30 p.m. and time to return for the two-hour trip back to Nassau. The emerald green water lapped the bow of the boat as we sailed past the schooners and power yachts anchored around the coral reef. A cool breeze chased the sunburned nature lovers into the cabin, but Shirley and I sat on the back of the boat and discussed our reservation for the Paradise Island Show and Banquet which was later in the evening.

Later, after overeating at a native club, cheering a limbo boy, trying to outsmart the ladies in the straw market, buying the usual T-shirts, cigars, and perfume, two tired wanderers were ready to fly back to winter-time in Raleigh. Tightly packed into 35 MM film cases were numerous nerites, crabs, and periwinkles, which would eventually graze over the excess algae in my home aquariums. As I told our van driver and friendly porter, "Hey-mon, we'll be back!"

SHELLING IN ELEUTHERA, BAHAMAS

by Vicky Wall

In June I attended a shelling trip to Eleuthera organized by Alta Van Landingham. Eleuthera is one of the 700 Bahama Out Islands, one and one half hours flying time from Miami. This island is very accessible by car, being only 110 miles long and approximately five miles wide.



### SHELLING IN ELEUTHERA, cont.

During our week on the island, we were able to shell many different habitats, including forests, open beaches, rocky pools, and both the sound and the Atlantic sides of the island. Collecting was very successful by wading and snorkeling in water from three to twelve feet in depth. One of the fun aspects of this trip was our being able to explore the island and pull our cars off the road and park whenever we saw what looked like a "good" spot to shell.

Overall I was able to collect 102 different species, including twelve different species of land snails. Some of the species found by members of the group included: carrier shells, West Indian Chank, Atlantic Triton, West Indian Top Shells, large Lace Murex, Apple Murex, Atlantic Woodlouse, several species of Nerites, True Tulips, Milk Conchs, Pearl Oysters, and Wing Oysters.

Along with the excellent shelling, the people of Eleuthera helped to make our trip memorable. They were all so helpful, whether we needed more towels for our cottage or a lift to a store to get some transmission fluid when our car ran out 35 miles from home! We all had a great time and I can't wait to go on another of Alta's trips!

## **LOOKOUT**

Once again our club will take the popular field trip to Cape Lookout. The ferry leaves Carteret Boat Tours at Harkers Island at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 10 and will return from Cape Lookout at 4:00 p.m. Low tide is 2:30 p.m. so we will have time to do some beachcombing before the tide falls. Be sure to prepare to deal with the elements since there is no food or shelter on the island. Cost of the trip is \$8 per person. If we have fewer than twenty-five going, we will each owe another \$2 before departure. Please be at the ferry by 8:30 a.m. to get organized. The drive from Beaufort is about 45 minutes. The boat dock has been moved to the very end of Harker's Island since last year (at the end of the same road).

Make your reservations before August 27 by mailing the reservation slip and your check payable to Carteret Boat Tours, Inc., c/o Debbie Russell, Rt.1, Box 467, Beaufort, N.C. 28516. Phone: 728-3908

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N. C. Shell Club Field Trip to Cape Lookout, September 10, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Number in party \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

North Carolina Shell Club  
5300 Fair Oaks Road  
Durham, North Carolina 27712

FIRST CLASS



Miss Marguerite T. Thomas  
P. O. Box 721  
Swansboro, NC 28584