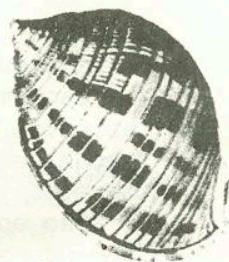


Scotch Bonnet

## NORTH CAROLINA SHELL CLUB

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Durham, N. C. 27712  
Phone: (919) 477-8853



Dean Weber, Vice President  
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Mayodan, N. C. 27027

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P.O. Box 721  
Swansboro, N. C. 28584

Alta Van Landingham, Treas.  
P.O. Box 542  
Hampstead, N. C. 28443

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### BANQUET MEETING

Beaufort, N. C.

November 12, 1988

### *The Beaufort House Restaurant*

ON THE BOARDWALK  
BEAUFORT, NC

6:30 p.m. Registration

7:00 p.m. Buffet: Roast beef, fried fish, oysters, clam strips, crab casserole, baked ham, broccoli casserole, creamed potatoes, slaw, pickled beets, hush puppies, rolls, beverage, sherbert  
(See reservation form on last page)

8:00 p.m. Program: Tree Snails, Gems of the Everglades by Renate Skinner  
Shell Show '88 Review  
Business meeting--election of 1989 officers  
Door prizes

### LODGING

Beaufort Inn, 101 Ann Street, Beaufort, N. C. 28516, (919)7282600, \$54/double  
Windjammer Inn, P.O. Box 4006, Salter Path Road Atlantic Beach, N. C. 28512,  
(919)427-7123, \$45/double  
Buccaneer Motor Lodge, Morehead City, N. C., (919)726-3115, \$39/double

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Since our meetings at Beaufort have proven to be our most well-attended, the Executive Committee has chosen Beaufort as the site of our banquet this year. Make your dinner and lodging reservations right away and join us for the fun and excitement of this important meeting.

It has been a pleasure serving as your president for the past two years. My only regret is that with the busy-ness of the office, the president doesn't



have enough time to get to know all the new members and to renew old acquaintances at each meeting. However, it has been great fun communicating with each of you as editor of the newsletter. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have contributed to the newsletter during the past two years and to encourage more of you to share with your fellow club members in forthcoming newsletters. I also encourage you to become an active member of our club. It takes much behind-the-scenes work to keep our club interesting and growing. Sincere thanks go to the officers, Executive Committee members and the many other committee members who have given our club the vitality and efficiency needed to provide fascinating programs, well-run meetings, and successful shell shows. When your new officers call on you for help with next year's plans, be ready to say "yes." Better yet, volunteer to help make next year the best year yet for the N. C. Shell Club. It's your club!

MEMBER PROFILE: Payne and Shirley Daniel

by Dean Weber

Payne's shell collecting career began in 1973 with a dollar purchase of five ordinary shells. Now he has about 1200 species which include 250 cones and 200 cowries. When displayed, the collection takes up a 12' by 12' room.

While most of his shells have been purchased, he has done a lot of Carolina collecting at Bogue Sound, Bear Inlet, Cape Lookout, Myrtle Beach, various fossil pits, Lake Waccamaw, and White Oak River. He has also been to the Bahamas and is considering a trip to Mexico next year. His best collecting day was in the old barrow pit at Calabash many years ago when he found a large fossil horse conch intact. His favorite shell is our scotch bonnet, Phalium granulatum.

Payne is Administrative Officer of the Secondary Roads Department in the North Carolina Department of Transportation. He has attended North Carolina State University, Abilene Christian College, and various Military Service schools while in the National Guard. He has lived mainly in Raleigh, with stints in Texas and Virginia.

A member of our club for about twelve years, he has served two terms as Corresponding Secretary and has exhibited often in our shell shows.

Payne has actively maintained up to 20 saltwater aquariums and two large freshwater tanks. Presently he has four saltwater and two freshwater tanks which contain Murex, Nerites, Cowries, Top Shells, a Pink Conch, bivalves, Periwinkles, and other shells. He specializes in raising difficult species of saltwater fish from juvenile to adult size and trading them for something else. He also collects baseball caps, patches, and T-shirts of places he has been.

Although Payne does the shell collecting, Shirley, also a club member, goes along on the trips. She is a successful business woman with a very demanding job as Vice President for Administration at SC Data, Inc. in Raleigh. She finds relaxation in decorating and re-decorating the condo in Raleigh and the beach-house in Swansboro, for which she designs and makes her own window treatments, bedspreads, and other furnishings.

Her main interest, however, is the five grandchildren, who are the beneficiaries of a collection of limited edition dolls, vacations at Disney World, ice skating lessons, and other treats.



NORTH CAROLINA SHELL CLUB  
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SEPTEMBER, 1988

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Donald Young  
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The following are other Shell Clubs that we exchange Newsletters and Ideas with:

Georgia Shell Club  
Mrs. B. Fulton  
3878 Grange Drive  
Chamblee, GA 30341

ATSC Capsule  
M. H. Chanley  
1175 Craftsland Lane NE  
Palm Bay, FL 32905

Palmetto Shell Club  
Carol Boswell  
155 Dorset Drive  
Columbia, SC 29210

American Conchologist  
Lynn Scheu  
1222 Holsworth Lane  
Louisville, KY 40222

Treasure Coast Shell News  
Ruth Wischmann  
5370 Ebbitide Ave.  
Stuart, FL 34997

#### New Members:

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Barbara Boyd  
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Alice J. Weston  
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#### ADDRESS CORRECTION

Betsy Hood Procter  
P. O. Box 988 212 Moore Ave.  
Atlantic Beach, NC 28512

Thanks to Alta Van Landingham for providing us with a new membership list!



## COLLECTING IN BAJA AND SONORA, MEXICO

by Dean and Dorothy Weber

In the first three months of 1988, we toured the entire thousand-mile-long Baja peninsula and visited a portion of the state of Sonora. Entry and exit were through Arizona. The one main road through Baja winds back and forth between the Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Cortez.

We drove all the way from North Carolina and back in a four-wheel-drive truck which burned unleaded gasoline. The four-wheel-drive system was used only about eight times, but having it gave us the confidence to use roads that we would have shunned with an ordinary car. On about twelve occasions, we could not get unleaded gasoline (which the Mexicans call Extra), but we either found it at another place or waited a couple of days for it to arrive.

Baja is a region which differs from the rest of Mexico. The food and water are generally pure, the people friendly, travel safe, and the desert most attractive.

Most of the area we covered is in the Californian shell province, but the Panamic province begins near the southern tip of Baja. Because we don't collect live shells at all, this account concerns only what we found washed up on beaches or rocks.

Here are the seven best collecting areas, in our opinion, ranked in order of importance:

1. The barrier islands of BAHIA MAGDALENA, Baja California Sur
2. PUNTA CHIVATO, Baja California Sur
3. BAHIA DE LOS ANGELES, Baja California Norte
4. BAHIA KINO, Sonora
5. SAN FELIPE, Baja California Norte
6. GUAYMAS, Sonora
7. PUNTA ABREOJOS, Baja California Sur

Some of the impressive species included Pitar lupanaria, the venus with long spines coming out the back, which was at the top of the list of shells we were seeking; the fig shell Ficus ventricosa; the large, heavy, white cone Comus fergusonii; the cowry Cypraea annettae; the huge Dosinia ponderosa; the attractive trivia Jenneria pustulata; the large, wide olive Oliva incrassata; and the unusually designed Purpura (or Thais) planospira.

The greatest surprise came when we found three perfect paper nautilus shells at a beach above La Paz in Baja California Sur. This shell had not been in our thinking.

Some species were abundant at certain beaches. Examples are turritellas at Bahia Kino in Sonora; cup-and-saucer shells at Bahia de Los Angeles in Baja California Norte; wavy turbans at El Tomatal in Baja California Norte; scallops in scallop piles near Guerrero Negro in Baja California Sur; black-and-white murex north of San Felipe in Baja California Norte; pink-mouthed murex in fishermen's piles south of Guaymas in Sonora; and white Pacific venus near Punta Abreojos in Baja California Sur.

Other shells included strombs, moon shells, abalones, donax, augers, arks, wentletraps, turrids, nutmegs, cockles, macomas, bubbles, dove shells, carditas, turbans, cassis, and spindles. While we were pleased with the shells we found, our impression is that we did not find a great number of species. You might be able to find twice as many on one of Alta Van Landingham's trips to Egypt.

Anyone planning a visit to this part of Mexico may want to seek from us where-to-go information that is more detailed than we can include in this newsletter. We could also provide travel hints. Call 919-799-3125 or write to us at 510 Baytree Road, Wilmington, NC 28403.



## 12 DEGREES NORTH, OR SHELLING IN GRENADA

by Alta Van Landingham

Grenada has long been known as "The Spice Island", and now it may well be known as "The Shelling Island" of the Carribbean. In August of 1988, nine members of the North Carolina Shell Club, along with seven members of the Gulf Coast Shell Club, a couple of people who didn't belong to a shell club (!!) decided to give it a try.

Grenada is 12 degrees North of the Equator, with lots of coral reefs, grassy areas, and stones and rocks to turn. This sounds like the ideal shelling habitat for lots of different species. We were all hopeful, and had done our homework about what to expect to find there. I think we were all surprised at how MUCH we did find there.

Miami International Airport was our meeting place, and most of us arrived several hours before our flight from Miami to Grenada. This is a classy airport, but alas! our departing area was lacking in all the comforts, so the 18 of us spread out on the floor and while waiting we played games, such as Rummy Cube, and others. We had a good time while waiting, and eventually got settled on our flight to Grenada.

We were travelling BWIA--British West Indies Airlines, and had a couple of stops en-route to Grenada. We stopped at Antigua and St. Lucia. Some of the group got off the plane at those stops and went shopping at the international gift shops.

We arrived quite late in Grenada, after 10PM, and were met by a very efficient guide who helped us with customs, immigration, and luggage, and escorted us to our abode for the duration. Only one person got lost--somehow, Sandy Melvin did not get on the bus and when we arrived at our cottages, we missed her. It took me the rest of the trip to convince her that we were not trying to get rid of her--it was just an honest mistake. After about ten minutes, she actually did believe me, but in the meantime she had had some adventures!!

I had chosen our cottages based on an aerial photograph that I had been sent, which showed coral, grass, and rocks and stones. And, it was a very good choice. Right in front of our cottages, we had some of the best shelling that we had anywhere. One up for Alta. And our cottages were efficiencies, fully equipped, and we had refrigerators and stoves, all the best for taking care of our shells.

We had rented four cars for our shelling trips around the island, and after our first day of driving around the island we decided the cars were not the best way for US to do it. Besides driving on the wrong side of the road, as is done in some parts of the world, the cars were of British make, and the steering gear and drivers seat were on the right side of the car. Well, if you think that is no problem, there is more to come. The roads in Grenada are very narrow, most places there is NOT ROOM for two cars to meet or pass, or whatever. So here you are, an American tourist, driving on the wrong side of the road, with no room to negotiate. FUN, FUN.

But with some other arrangements, we did make it, through the trip. We did find wonderful places to shell, and wonderful shells. We lucked into meeting a local family who were actually tour guides for the rich yachts that come into the island. It was slightly off season for the yachts, and they were available to help us. They took us to many good shelling places. Some that we would not have been able to find on our own. And also, took us on a trip around the island that we would not have dared try on our own. Keep in mind the very narrow roads, up and down mountains, around hair pin curves, and so on. Also keep in mind that part of the Grenada population is still Communist. So the things that we saw on our sight-seeing day were only possible because we did have a local guide.



We bought and found more spices than any of us can possibly use in the next 10 years. Imagine picking your own nutmegs, coffee beans, vanilla beans, and so on. Orchids in the rain forest, land snails galore, here and there. It was a good time.

And on to the shells, well, we found most of what we had expected to find, plus a few that we didn't expect to find. Linda Brunner of the Gulf coast Shell Club, who is a shallow water snorkler found a very rare *Conus cedonulli*, which is usually found at 60 ft. or deeper. However, Linda found her Cone in three feet of water, very live, on the back of a sea urchin. From then on we called Linda "Ms. Cedonulli" and she did not object at all.

We found loads of *Voluta musica*, *Murex brevifrons*, *Murex pomum*, *Murex florifer*, *Murex messorius*, and on and on. The *Murex pomum* and *M. florifer* are very different in form and color from what is found in N. C., Fla., and other parts of the Caribbean. The *Voluta musica* is found there in many forms, colors, patterns, etc. There were very large *Melongena melongena*, *Pugilina morio*, and so on. All in all, I believe we found about 250 different species, which is a grand record for a first time trip.

We had a day at our cottages when we were rewarded by local men with some fresh lobster--it was "Men's Day" at the island, and they were in front of our cottages and were catching the lobster and were into sharing it with us, as well as some of their "fish soup" which had everything in it from soup to nuts!!

The final decision was that Grenada should be added to our yearly shelling itinerary! I would rate it as the third best in line of the places we shell. First place being Egypt and the Red Sea, Second place being Palau, and now Grenada takes Third!! My rating is entirely based on the variety, number, and quality of shells found in these places.




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#### BANQUET RESERVATIONS

Cost: \$12 per person (includes tax and gratuity)

Mail: Your check payable to N. C. Shell Club and this reservation form to Janet Truckner, 1409 Ruffin Street, Durham, N. C. 27701, by October 29.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of reservations \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_



D.A. Wolfe - Natl. Cap. Shell Club  
9101 Rosemont Drive  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877



FIRST CLASS

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

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#### ELECTION TIME

At our November 12 banquet the Nominating Committee will recommend a slate of officers for 1989. Please be present for nominations and voting.

#### SHELL AUCTION

The annual fund raiser for our club was held at our fall meeting in Beaufort. Thanks to all those who contributed items to the auction and to Van and Alta Van Landingham and Carl Truckner for their usual efficiency in making the auction profitable and fun for our club!

#### MASONBORO ISLAND

Masonboro is a narrow, eight-mile-long island -- with shells -- which runs from Wrightsville Beach to Carolina Beach, near Wilmington. A local group wants it preserved in its present uninhabited and natural condition and has been trying to get it acquired by the state and the Federal Government as a component of the North Carolina Research Reserve System.

A setback occurred during this summer's legislative session when the one million dollars sought for land purchase was not appropriated. The million would have been matched by Federal funds. The token \$100,000 which was provided falls far short of what is needed.