



Scotch Bonnet

# NORTH CAROLINA SHELL CLUB

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## BANQUET MEETING

November 11, 1989

At: THE BEAUFORT HOUSE RESTAURANT  
On the Boardwalk,  
Beaufort, NC

- 7:PM Registration and Social Hour
- 8:PM Dinner Buffet: Salad Bar, Including Fruit, Soup, Breads, Rolls, Fresh Roasted Turkey with Dressing, Sea Trout, Baked Ham, Clam strips, Roast Beef au Jus, Fried Chicken, Broccoli with Cheese Sauce, Corn, String Beans, Mississippi Mud Cake, Tea or Coffee
- 8:45PM Door Prizes followed by Brief Business Meeting and Election of New Officers

Our PROGRAM will be by Dr. Joseph S. Ramus, Acting Director of Duke Marine Lab at Beaufort.

Cost of this really great Buffet is \$15.00 per person, including tax and gratuity. Please make check out to "North Carolina Shell Club" and mail, along with form to Walter Wenzel, 148 Hawthorne Drive, Rt. 3PKs, Morehead City, NC 28557. Checks for the banquet must reach Walter by November 3 to secure your reservation.

## RESERVATION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER IN YOUR PARTY AT \$15.00 EACH \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER PROFILE: RUSTY AND MARY LOUISE SPAIN

by Dean Weber

Rusty says "Both of us are shell collectors, but to be perfectly honest we don't work at it. We have more fun enjoying the excellent programs and the many friends we have made in the N. C. Shell Club."

He has had his opportunities to find shells, for there were two long periods of sea duty in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The first was as an electrician on the battleship U. S. S. New Mexico from 1936-1940. The second was as the engineering officer on the destroyer tender U. S. S. Sierra in the period 1942-1945. Unfortunately, Rusty was not a collector at that time and now looks back with regret when thinking about the abundance of South Pacific and Philippine species.

After the military stint, he remained with the U. S. Navy in a civilian capacity, serving as Chief Instrumentation Engineer for the Strategic Systems Project Office working in the research and development phases of missile and aerospace programs. That was in the District of Columbia area. He retired in 1974, and the pair moved to Raleigh in 1976.

Before all that, however, Rusty was born in Norlina, North Carolina, and was brought up in Littleton, North Carolina. His father died when Rusty was only six. Rusty attended many military, government, and industrial schools. He received a degree in electrical engineering at North Carolina State University and also took graduate courses there in nuclear physics and mathematics.

Although born in West Virginia, Mary Louise attended grade school and high school in Charlottesville, Virginia, and then graduated from Meredith College in Raleigh, North Carolina. She taught high school English for two years in Walstonburg, North Carolina, and during the summer months she worked as a medical secretary in Raleigh which eventually led to a full-time position. This was followed by two years with the Department of Agriculture in Raleigh. In the Washington area, she did some occasional substitute teaching and also taught piano.

Mary Louise recently served three years as our recording secretary; her accurate, thorough, humorous, and literate minutes are memorable. Along with Rusty, she likes reading, travel and theater. She also enjoys cross stitching. She was outstanding member of the year in 1987 in Quail Unlimited, an organization in which Rusty is also active.

Rusty and Mary Louise started gathering shells in May of 1980 and joined the North Carolina Shell Club that same month. Their collecting has so far been confined to the North and South Carolina coasts, including the Texas Gulf pit at Aurora, the pit at Myrtle Beach, and scallop piles. Their best collecting day was on the scallop pile at Snead's Ferry in the early 1980's.

Apart from some gifts, all of their shells are self-collected. Except for a few special shells in the china cabinet, the collection resides in boxes in the basement. Both Mary Louise and Rusty have wentletraps as their favorite shells.

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