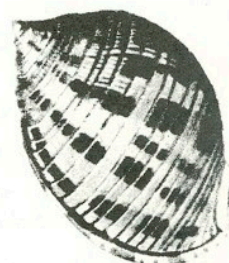


# NORTH CAROLINA SHELL CLUB



Scotch Bonnet



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## WELCOME TO 1991 - SHELL CLUB'S 35th YEAR

Galley Stack Restaurant  
at Spooners Creek Marina

### 1991 ANNUAL BANQUET MEETING

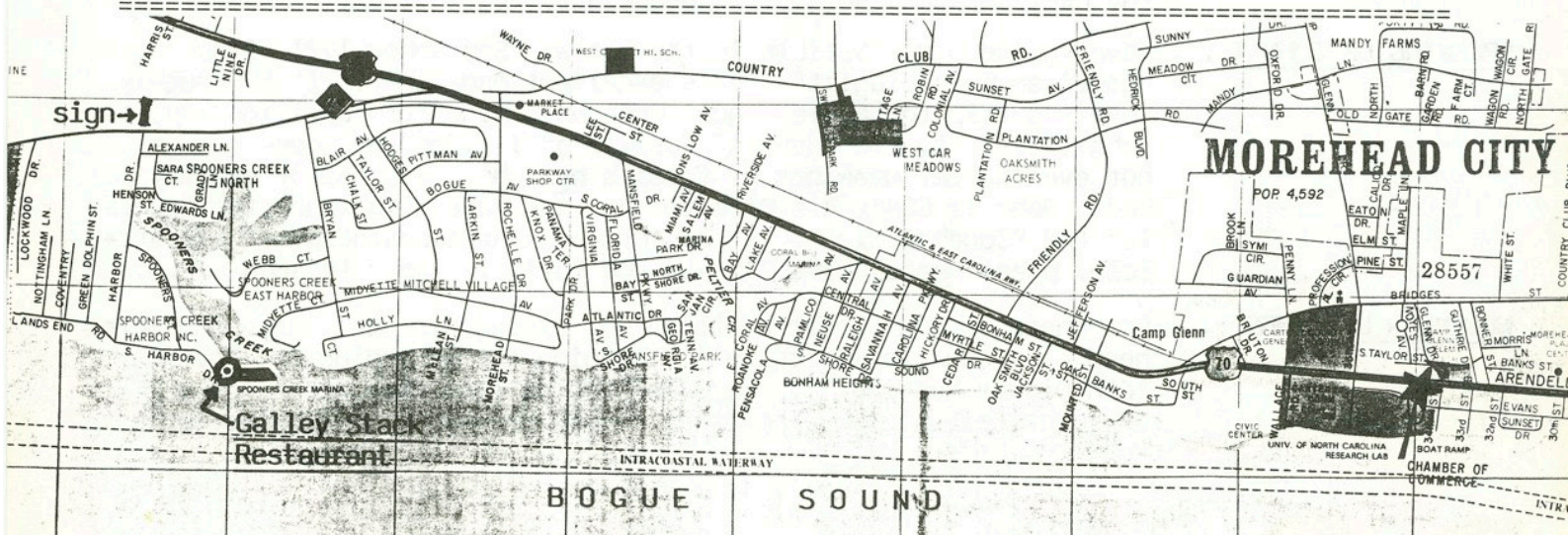
Saturday, 16 November 1991  
(Ft Macon low tide 8:35am)

6:30 pm Social Hour . . . There will be a cash bar for wine and beer (only) and for set-ups; you are welcome to BYOB if you wish, but punch will be provided, with cheese balls and crackers.

7:30 pm Dinner . . . . . Pasta salad, tossed salad, creamed seafood (shrimp, lobster and flounder) over rice, chicken over puff pastry, roast beef au jus, glazed carrots, corn pudding, fresh fruit plate, sticky buns, pumpkin cheesecake and coffee or tea !! All of this for just \$10.00, including tax and gratuity !! But, you must make out your check to "The Galley Stack" and send to Walt Wenzel by Monday, 11 November 1991. **Must !!** Please use the form included with this newsletter.

After dinner . . . . . A unique program from someone who actually goes out to get the calico scallops off the North Carolina coast. Our speaker is **Roger Jones**, owner of the R W Jones Fish Co, who sends out one or two boats during the season and then processes the scallops at his own plant. His title is "**North Carolina Scallop Fishing from the Inside**", telling us how it all works and he will answer questions about the work.

Followed by . . . . . A little Club business and election of officers for 1992.



THE 1991 AUCTION . . . The President first wants to thank a bunch of people for pitching in and working **hard** at making a success of the Auction, held on Friday night of the Fall Meeting at the Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium. Van VanLandingham (our frequent "caller") was not able to make the meeting and, on last minute notice, **Carl Truckner**, assisted by **Rusty Spain**, **Walt Wenzel** and **Doug Wolfe**, stepped forward and took over the not-easy duties. As many times in the past, **Janet Truckner** and **Mary Louise Spain** handled the "scorekeeping" beautifully ! The Club's proceeds turned out to be **\$573.00**, down a bit from 1990's \$625.50, but a very respectable amount. On behalf of the Club, the President also wants to **thank all those who donated shells and other goodies** to the Auction ! And, of course, to those who brought their checkbooks ! Having the Auction on a Friday night of the weekend meeting, rather than the usual Saturday night, met with hearty approval and would seem to be the pattern for the future. Also, it is apparent that we must start the Auction right at meeting time to avoid a very late finish; this is particularly true at a place like the PKS Aquarium where staff **volunteers** must stay until after we leave, to "close up the place". But, the Auction **was** a **SUCCESS** !

SPEAKING OF THE AQUARIUM . . . . . The President was delighted and honored, on behalf of the Club, to receive from **Bob Patton** of the North Carolina Aquarium Society, a plaque honoring the Club as a "Patron" and "For outstanding support to the North Carolina Aquariums". In accepting the plaque, the President commented to Mr Patton that, instead, it should be the Club recognizing the Society for providing us the unlimited and free use of the Aquariums for our meetings. Mr Patton noted that they were happy to be able to do this for us. In his prefacing remarks, he had reviewed a **long** list of plans for improving the Aquarium's facilities and programs. It would seem that, with this mutual respect, we will be making a yearly meeting stop at Pine Knoll Shores. Any objections ?

CAPE LOOKOUT TRIP . . The Cape Lookout boat trip on the Saturday of the Fall Meeting was not a smashing success, but was certainly enjoyed by all who partook. A bare minimum of 15 persons, necessary to obtain the group boat rate of \$10.00 each, was finally achieved at the Friday night meeting. An off-the-cuff informal survey of those not making the trip revealed, as expected, that the uncooperative low tide times of 5:30am and 5:30pm caused many to decide to skip the trip this year. Also, the recent reduction in availability of shells in shallow waters was another reason for decreased interest, although some very nice specimens were found and entered in the usual Saturday night "Find-of-the-Day" competition. It should be noted that our new-but-very-experienced member/sheller **John Timmerman** walked from the ferry landing all the way around to the "tip of the fishhook" that forms the Cape Lookout land ! No wonder he is so enviably slender !

SPEAKING OF JOHN T . . Have you seen his article in the latest (September 1991) issue of "American Conchologist", COA's **excellent** magazine ? It **thoroughly** covers a trip to the Texasgulf Phosphate Mine for fossiling and, as John titles it, the "Joys of Fossiling" ! Some very good photos, but even better **drawings of fossils by John**. As most of you may know, John is COA's Art Director and has done some wonderful covers for the "Conchologist". If any of you want a photocopy of the article, please send a 29¢ SASE to the Editor. Happy to send one.

NOVEMBER LODGINGS . . For those of you (unfortunately) not living near the beach and Morehead City and wanting overnight lodging for attending the November 16th Dinner Meeting, please refer to the last newsletter for a list of suggested motels. The rates should be much lower, being winter.

INITIATION FEE /  
REINSTATEMENT FEE

. . . At the last meeting, there was a continuation of the discussion over the **official** enactment of a previously-agreed amount of \$2.00 as an initiation fee for new members and as a reinstatement fee for former members. This "one time" fee is authorized by Article Two of the Club's Constitution but its application has not been enforced. The President, at the recommendation of the Treasurer, decided to poll the Executive Committee (present officers and former Presidents) by mail to determine the feelings of the Committee members in this regard. Responses have now been received and the Committee has, without objections from any Committee member, responded favorably to this action. (One former President opined that it was hoped that this \$2.00 did not deter any new member from joining, on which we all agree and hope the "positives" of joining outweigh the \$2.00 "negative".) Therefore . . . **\$2.00 will be added to the first dues payment** (of \$10.00 for an individual member or \$12.00 for a family member) **as an initiation fee for a new member or as a reinstatement fee for a former member.**

OUR BELOVED GREETER

. . . After years of hard working, dedicated, prompt and faithful service, our "greeter, registrar, door-prize-ticket handler, etc, etc, **etc**", **Neal Schey** announced at the last meeting that she would be retiring after this year from these duties. NOT retiring as a member, but giving up these many duties. Neal has more than earned her "retirement" as our Jill-of-many-trades. It must also be noted that Neal also unselfishly enhanced the Club in teaching shellcraft and -arts classes and in helping out with many Shell Show activities. The Club offers Neal our heartfelt thanks for being such a hard worker for the Club and we look forward to her being able to relax and enjoy meetings more as just a "spectator" !

SEASHORE SURVEY

. . . . By now, many of you have seen notices, if not the results, of a survey prepared by Dr Stephen P Leatherman and others at the University of Maryland on "**America's Best Beaches**". The Editor has received a "short version" of the survey and wanted to note a few points of local interest. In rating beaches, the survey took into account: esthetic beauty, swimming conditions, weather conditions, pollution levels, amount of crime(!), and other criteria. Of the "Ten Best Beaches" in the nation, 3 were in Hawaii and 7 in Florida. For applying regional ratings, the country was divided into 5 "sections": northwest, southwest, northeast, southeast and Gulf coast; NC is in the southeast. The southeast group of "top ten" included 9 from Florida and .... **Ocracoke**, the only beach from the Carolinas in the regional top ten. The best beach for the southeast was listed as Bahia Honda FL and, for the other four sections: northwest, Little River CA; southwest, Santa Barbara City CA; northeast, East Hampton NY; and Gulf coast, Grayton FL (about 25 miles east of Fort Walton). The ten "worst" beaches ? Pretty well scattered: five in New York State, two in New Jersey, one in Massachusetts, one in Louisiana (Holly Beach, near Port Arthur TX) and even one in Hawaii (Kaka'ako Park). Other comments of interest: When all the beaches in each state were considered, North Carolina ranked **third** overall, behind Florida and Hawaii. The survey also commented that Ocracoke has ... "probably the loveliest stretch of natural beach on the eastern seaboard" and that Portsmouth Island (one of two along with Silver Strand Beach CA) has one of the widest beaches in the nation. All in all, a very comprehensive survey and ... one to generate strong opinions as to its findings among us beach lovers. No mention was made of the shelling/beachcombing factors, however. In this case, to each his own ! Right ?

## The Museum of Coastal Carolina, Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina

(This article was prepared for our newsletter by member Ruth Hood, who is also President of the Beachcombers Shell Study Group)

Stuart Ingram, a retired real estate developer from Charlotte who has a home on Ocean Isle Beach, became intrigued with the idea of a marine museum on Ocean Isle Beach shortly after he gave his collection of North American game to Discovery Place in Charlotte.

His idea has become a reality with a 5,000 square foot building which houses a reef room, where you walk through a recreation of the waters off Ocean Isle, seeing life-like fish and marine life that live in the local waters, displayed in their natural habitat. The museum also has stuffed animals, as well as many other interesting exhibits relating to the coast. A room for a cypress swamp and one for birds of the Carolinas is in the planning stages. A private non-profit group oversees the museum. It is staffed by volunteers, several of them are our shell club members.

And of course the Museum features a shell collection! In September of 1989, Mr. Ingram visited our Beachcombers Shell Study Group and asked if our club would donate the shells and set up the exhibit. We told him that we were only a loosely knit group (no officers, no dues) that liked shells and loved to walk on the beach and smell the fresh air. But, we told him, we would be pleased to do it. We didn't realize then what a big job we amateurs were tackling. We have learned a lot!!!

A year and one half later we have filled seven large cabinets with shells native to the Carolina waters; one cabinet with fossil shells, one cabinet with fossil bones and other fossilized sea life and one cabinet of Echinoderms and other life cast on our beaches. We started collecting dues from our shell club members, and were then able to buy some needed shells. We had Duane Schilz, a local artist who molds shell bodies for museums, mold three bodies for our display.

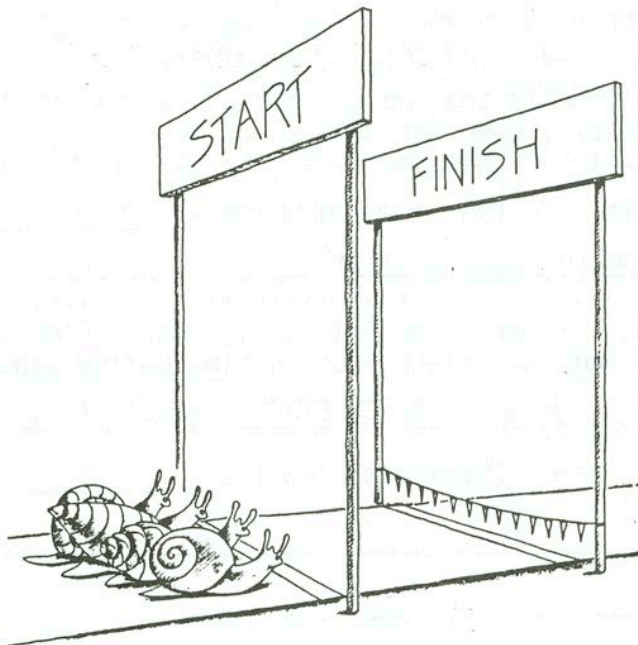
We have on display 172 specimens, most of them listed in Hugh Porters book of Sea Shells common to North Carolina. A big Thank You to Hugh. We asked members of our club to begin bringing shells to our meetings that they would be willing to contribute. We selected the best of these. Many thanks to Kathy Hill Peed and Zida Kibler for many hard to find shells. Zida kept giving us encouragement when we were discouraged. Ruth Athey also gave us shells as well as help in identification. Alta Van Landingham was an excellent source of advice and help.

We are indebted to Dean and Dorothy Weber who visited the museum the week before our opening and verified our work. We had to pull only a few that were mislabeled and a few misspellings were corrected. Dean also gave us shells.

We are thrilled and excited with the results. We thank all of you for your help and moral support. Both were needed. If you are near Ocean Isle Beach please stop in and see the Museum of Coastal Carolina. In less than three months more than 10,000 people have visted the museum.

## VARIETY OF THOUGHTS

- If this newsletter does not reach you too late to remind you .... **please attend our Shell Show** anytime from Friday, October 18th, thru Sunday afternoon, October 20th, at the Independence Mall in Wilmington NC. Chairman **Dean Weber** tells us that there are a goodly number of interesting shell exhibits entered. Another **great** effort by Dean and his co-workers !
- Wasn't that a captivating talk on "Freshwater Collecting" by **Doug Wolfe** at the last meeting ! Interesting and informative for us amateurs due to Doug's exceptional knowledge and his great slides ! It was good to have longtime members Doug and Nancy with us the entire weekend, visiting from their present Maryland home. And, as noted elsewhere in the newsletter, we thank Doug for working at the Auction and, particularly, adding his considerable shell knowledge to the grouping of "lots" and in increasing interest during the bidding process. Come back soon !
- Thanks to **Walt Wenzel** for submitting notice to the Morehead City-Beaufort "NEWS-TIMES" of our meetings ! The notice was inserted by the newspaper in two different editions. Publicity for the Club and its activities is always appreciated, specially meeting notices. And, **again**, you are reminded to submit to the Editor **anything** of possible Club interest for insertion in the newsletter.
- Thanks **again** (going on two years now) to **Nell and Scott Uzzell** for providing the refreshments at the meetings. Thanks also to anyone else who added to these refreshments ! The donors are frequently anonymous, but be assured .... you **are** appreciated !
- Also, many thanks to all who donated door prizes ! These really are enjoyed by the membership ! The Editor guesses that, if a poll were taken to determine the most popular part of a Club meeting .... programs or speakers or field trips or refreshments or auctions or socializing .... the winner would be the **door prizes** ! It is great fun ! But, it is also hard work and thoughtfulness on the part of the crafters and donors. For this, the Editor thinks it is high time to give special thanks to **Nell Uzzell** for all the beautiful things she makes and donates as door prizes; on these she obviously spends many many hours. Thanks, Nell, and to all the others who add to the pleasure of others in the Club ! Particularly those with lucky numbers !



"Where do you want me to wait?"

THE ANSWERS TO: Alta VanLandingham's Famous "Shell Club Trivia Quiz" (1991 5th Edition)

1. Name at least 3 Whelks found in NC Busycon carica, B contrarium, B canaliculatum, B pyrum, B eliceans, etc
2. Which North Carolina Whelk is left-handed Busycon contrarium or Lightning Whelk
3. What does the Scotch Bonnet (our state shell) feed on Mostly Sand Dollars
4. What is the only common Strombus or Conch found in NC Strombus alatus or Fighting Conch
5. What is the largest shell found in NC Pleuroploca gigantea or Horse Conch
6. There are several Scallop Shells found in NC; name two of them Pecten irradians, P gibbus, P magellanicus, P raveneli, P nodosa, etc
7. What color eyes do Scallops have Blue
8. What is the largest Murex found in NC Hexaplex fulvescens or Giant Atlantic Murex
9. What large Olive is commonly found in NC Oliva sayana or Lettered Olive
10. What animal does the Ram's Horn or Spirula spirula come from Squid
11. What one feature identifies a "real" Conch or Strombus Stromboid notch
12. Who was our Club President last year (1990) Walt Wenzel
13. In what year was our Club started 1957
14. Name three shells (common names) that are named for animals Lion's Paw, Kitten's Paw, Frog Shell, Ram's Horn, Horse Conch
15. Name three shells named for food Apple Murex, Pear Whelk, Ram's Horn, Cherrystone Clam, Wing Oyster, Pheasant Shell, Turkey Wing, etc
16. Do Quahog Clams or Mercenaria Clams ever produce a pearl Doggone right they do !
17. Who is our receptionist, who has been on the job for a long long time, giving us our door prize tickets and name tags, checking us in, etc Neal Schey
18. What industry has brought many many shells to NC that would not have been found in this state otherwise The scallop industry
19. What very common shell is sometimes found stacked up, on top of each other, each of them taking the shape of the dead shell or whatever they're upon Crepidula fornicata and each taking a different sex role, as needed, to reproduce Common Slipper Shell or/
20. What NC Shell Club member wrote "Seashells Common to NC" Dr Hugh Porter (charter member
21. What is the very rare shell pictured on that book's cover Phalium coronadoi
22. What shells do we find that provide us with an "inner" shell instead of an outer shell; name one Sea Hare or Aplysia dactylomela and Ram's Horn or Spirula spirula
23. What are those small but beautiful shells that we can dig out of the sand with our toes, are used to make a great chowder, used for much shellcraft work and are found in larger sizes in NC than the same ones in Fla Coquinas or Donax Clams or Donax varia bilis
24. What common NC shell sounds like it came from a Dutch nursery Tulip
25. Does NC have a poisonous shell None recorded to date

+++++  
please cut off and mail to **Walt Wenzel**, 148 Hawthorne Drive, Pine Knoll Shores NC 28512, to arrive by Monday, 11 November 1991, **but** make checks out to **"The Galley Stack"**; **thanks !**

RESERVATION FORM FOR ANNUAL BANQUET TO BE HELD AT GALLEY STACK RESTAURANT, 16 NOVEMBER:

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$10.00 each. Check enclosed for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

name \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_