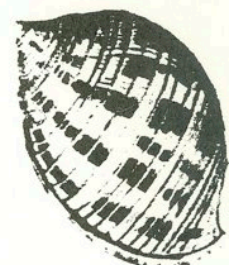


NORTH CAROLINA SHELL CLUB



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WELCOME TO 1992 - SHELL CLUB'S 36th YEAR

Topsail Beach / Surf City NC

SUMMER MEETING

May 15th/16th, 1992

Meeting place: Surf City Town Hall, 210 North New River Drive, Surf City NC
(turn left at stop light in town after crossing bridge on NC Hwy 50)

Friday, 15 May 1992

7:30pm Registration; refreshments; socializing; viewing Malaysian & Madagascar shells

8:00pm Comments by the Prez

"Mostly for Beginners" with Betsy Roberts on Olives, particularly the lettered variety

"Preparing a Shell Show Exhibit" with Vicky Wall and Carl Truckner; Vicky provides the tips and Carl illustrates with some slides from last year's show

Preview of Hammocks Beach State Park field trip

Door prizes

Saturday, 16 May 1992

(low tide about 9:57am at Hammocks Beach State Park)

7:30pm Registration; refreshments; socializing; viewing Malaysian & Madagascar shells; submitting entries for "Find Of The Day"

8:00pm "Mostly for Beginners" with Bob Tomlinson on AMU, the American Malacologists' Union !

"How to Identify a Shell, Part I" with Ann Buddenhagen; recommended for every member, old and new !

Business meeting

Award for "Find Of The Day"

Door prizes

Notes from the President's Pad: "Hello" to everyone from Dottie and Dean !

"We are looking forward to this meeting at Surf City when we can see you all again after our long shelling trip to Sao Tome', Portugal, Spain, England, Wales and Scotland !"

"We have good programs, a field trip, beaches to shell and fellowship planned for the weekend, so Y'all come !!!"

If you haven't already paid your dues, PLEASE mail NOW to Janet Durand (address above)
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PROGRAM NOTES

On **Friday**, we have a joint program about **shell shows** from **Vicky Wall** and **Carl Truckner**. It has been seven years since anyone talked to Club about how to prepare an exhibit for the Show. Vicky will do just that advising you about what kinds of cases to use, signs, how to make attractive and scientifically correct labels, what the judges are looking for, and what colors are favored ! Carl will contribute selected slides of the 1991 Show, some of which illustrate the points made by Vicky.

We don't see this program as being useful **only** to the few people who have entered our Shows in the past. The information should be particularly beneficial to those thinking about entering our Show for the first time. For members who will never enter the Show, it is an opportunity to learn how to evaluate and appreciate an exhibit and, of course, to see in Carl's slides portions of the fine exhibits from last year.

Dean and Dorothy Weber will have on display both nights a collection of marine shells from Malaysia and two land shells from Madagascar.

On **Saturday** begins a **major event** for the Club. **Ann Buddenhagen** will start a two-part series called "**How to Identify a Shell**", which **every** member should profit from. This program has been given already to two other groups and has been very well received. We think that it is comparable to the learned talks that we have had in the past from one of our most esteemed members, Dr John Ferguson.

Beginning with the names of the major parts of a shell, Ann will take us through the steps needed to separate one species from the others that may resemble it. She will use actual shells shown on slides as examples. We believe that it is just this kind of program that shell clubs need in order to fully serve their members. **Come prepared to learn !** Ann will be back in the fall with the concluding part of the series.

PLACES TO STAY

Topsail Motel, 1195 N Anderson Blvd (PO Box 3064), Topsail Beach 28445; oceanfront; singles about \$37; doubles about \$47; also has efficiencies \$37-54; all rates here and elsewhere plus NC tax; 1-919/328-3381.

The Jolly Roger Motel, Ocean Blvd (PO Box 3008), Topsail Beach 28445; all oceanfront rooms; \$61 weekend, \$51 Sunday/Thursday; 3-story (ask for upper floor for better views); 1-919/328-4616; 7 mi S Surf City.

Breezeway Motel, Channel Blvd & Davis Rd, Topsail Beach 28445; on the Sound; 2 dble beds about \$44; also has kitchenettes; 1-919/328-7751; also about 7 miles south of Surf City.

Sea Scape Motel, New River Drive (about 1/4-mile N of Town Hall), Surf City 28445; singles \$35; doubles \$39; 1-919/328-5881

Sea Star Motel, Hwy 210 North (PO Box 2508), Surf City 28445; about 2-1/2 miles north of Town Hall on Hwy 210 (New River Dr leads into Hwy 210); singles \$39; Doubles \$43; kitchenettes \$45; 1-919/328-5191.

Sea Vista Motel, 1521 Ocean Blvd, Topsail Beach 28445; oceanfront; doubles \$39; efficiencies \$47; 1-919/328-2171.

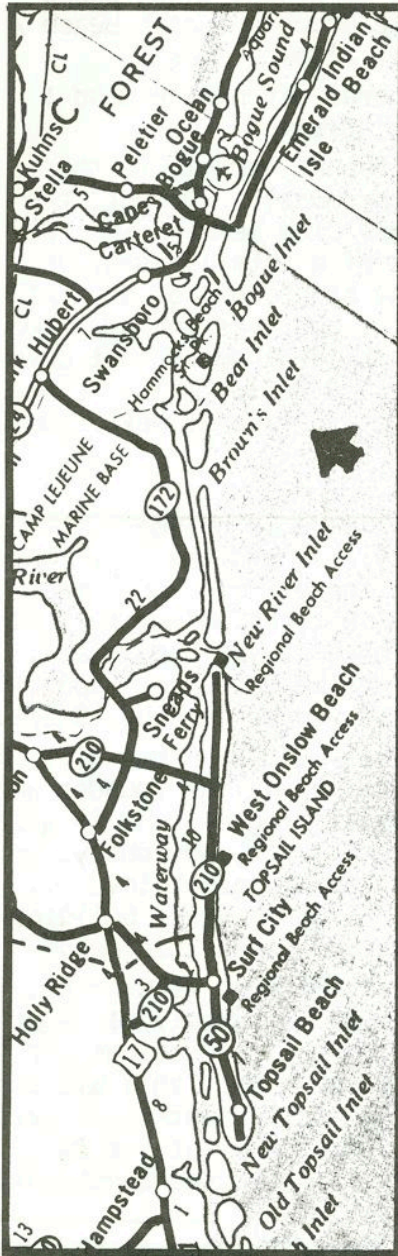
PLACES TO EAT

Lots ! Three new ones, all close to Town Hall: one on the oceanfront, one steak house (behind Max's Pizza), and the Soundside Market Restaurant has moved from Topsail into Surf City. Plus a good variety of others offering good food at reasonable prices, according to a long-time friend of the Club and native, Diane Geary; "Dining no problem!" There are also the waterfront restaurants at Snead's Ferry, if you want to make a short drive over there.

SHELLING

More about this Friday night ! Diane has mentioned a favorite spot of hers being about 3 miles south of center of Surf City and that shelling has been "good" this past winter. Note the favorable tide time !

HAMMOCKS BEACH STATE PARK



The May meeting is built around a Saturday trip to Hammocks Beach State Park, which the Club hasn't visited in many a year. The State Park is coterminous with, uh, conterminous with, uh, synonymous with, uh, well, like, you know, exactly the same as Bear Island

There are almost four miles of ocean front, along with inlet water at the ends and back of the island. Although tide information for a particular place is hard to come by, our best guess for **low tide** will be about 9:57am Saturday.

Ferries for the island depart every hour from 9:30am to 4:30pm and return every hour from 10am to 5:00pm. The round trip cost is \$2.00 for adults and children 13 and above, \$1 for children 4-12, and nothing for children 3 and under.

The trip is very popular and the number of visitors usually reaches capacity every day. We get no special treatment for being a "club" and we are on equal footing with the general public. This means that you should be there **early** to get a reservation, especially if low tide is of great importance to you. The ferry carries 36 people.

To get there from Surf City, take Route 50 to Holly Ridge and turn right on Route 17. At Folkestone, turn right on Route 172 and go thru Camp Lejeune. Turn right on Route 24 and drive east toward Swansboro. Just before Swansboro, look for a prominent brown sign announcing a right turn toward the State Park. If you reach Swansboro, you have gone too far ! But, you have put yourself in position to get breakfast ! Hardee's is at a traffic light about two miles beyond the brown sign and McDonald's is at the next traffic light.

The island has been nominated as a National Natural Landmark. There are deer, raccoons, an occasional bobcat, egrets, herons and several species of nesting terns and shorebirds. Beginning in May, female loggerhead turtles come ashore at night to bury their eggs at one of the most important nesting sites in the state. Shell collecting is allowed and has, generally, been good.

The ferry ride takes 25 minutes and there is an additional 15-minute walk (a half mile) to reach the beach. Shoes are advised because of the possibility of hot sand ! Also bring water and lunch if you're going to stay a while !

More New Members (as of the end of March 1992)

Susan Hagg, 198-6 Swains Loop Road, Jacksonville NC 28546; 1-919/353-6829
 Virginia Loester ("low-ster"), 211 Shoreline Dr, Sunset Beach NC 28468; 1-919/579-8917
 Gail McCown, Box 473, Darlington SC 29532; 1-803/332-0319
 Esther McCreedy, Box 2019, North Topsail Shores, Sneads Ferry NC 28460
 Augusta Mylroie ("mill-roy"), 404 North Shore Drive, Sunset Beach NC 28468; 579-9410
 Lillian Owens, 3439 Oscar Fletcher Road, McColl SC 29570
 Doreen Prigel, 545 Great Oak Circle SW, Sunset Beach NC 28468; 1-919/579-8177
 Joyce Rose, 21 Concord Street, Ocean Isle Beach NC 28469; 1-919/579-3664

And a few who, we are very SORRY to have to report, have left us

Margaret H ("Maggie") Blades passed away on March 14th, survived by a daughter, two sons, her mother and a brother; she was just 63.
 Eleanor H ("Ellie") Buttner passed away on January 27th, leaving her husband, R. E.
 Jenny F Worrall passed away on November 17th as the result of an accidental fall.

**THE SPRING MEETING
IN MARCH**

Far too many of you missed a darned good weekend !

Largely due, again, to the wonderful work of the **Beachcombers Shell Club !** They're the very energetic congenial group based (mostly) in the Holden Beach / Ocean Isle Beach / Sunset Beach / Shallotte / Southport area (if you didn't already know).

The programs were interesting ! The general attendance good ! And, the food (courtesy the Beachcombers) **great !**

Yes, the "general" attendance was **good**, thanks largely to the "build-up" and participation by the Beachcombers. However, the attendance by our own North Carolina Shell Club members was, at best, **disappointing !** Friday night, out of a total present of 59, only 26 were NCSC members ! Saturday night, out of a total of 66 there, only 31 were **our members** and this includes two visitors who "joined up" that night. The Editor heard that several members had made plans to attend but had fallen ill. We are certainly sorry they couldn't have made it. Probably next time. But where were the rest of you ?

The **Museum of Coastal Carolina** at Ocean Isle Beach is really a **jewel !** Everything done so far, and much more is being planned and being funded, is **pure quality !** There are many other museums and aquariums elsewhere that are larger, many much much larger, but **this Museum** has exhibits and features **unique** to Ocean Isle Beach **and** North Carolina ! If you haven't yet been there, you must at the first opportunity. Summertime hours are (apparently) daily, fall and winter weekends and winter closed. Check.

Friday night, we were welcomed by the **Mayor** of OIB, Betty Williamson, and then treated to a tour and Q&A period by the **founder** and chief funder/fundraiser of the Museum, Stuart Ingram. He is still active in commercial real estate in Charlotte but, **obviously**, he spends a huge portion of his time devoted to his great love the **Museum of Coastal Carolina**. It is a handsome white building just a block or so northeast of the center of Ocean Isle Beach.

Saturday afternoon, more than 60 persons spent many minutes and hours seeing **Zida Kibler's** home and "museum" (veritably) ! What a treat ! There was too much of many enormous collections and interests to go into in our little newsletter. And, amid all the seeing and studying and exchanges of exclamatory remarks, an extra treat was in having **Zida** circulating all afternoon for justly proud guided tours and in answering so many interested questions. She must have been exhausted when we left !

How good it was to hear that the Kibler home will, henceforth, be open to the public on a regular basis, although the actual hours are still being decided; inquire at Zida's adjoining shop. That, too, you must visit !

Then, **Saturday night**, we have to thank Ruth Dixon and Betty Muirhead, as well as Dorothy Watkins on Friday night, for interesting show-and-tell programs. For those of us who are reluctant to provide such programs, we have to appreciate members such as these spending time to make the rest of us better informed. **Our thanks** to Ruth, Betty and Dorothy, and others who have gone before them ! Unfortunately, time ran short Saturday night as there was a deadline for vacating the Community Building. If not, we might still be there enjoying the evening !

Thanks again to the Beachcombers ! And, to the Almighty for the gorgeous weather ! Like we said, **too many of you missed a darned good weekend !** You can make amends join us May 15th & 16th !

Herman was the backbone of last year's shell show, with a number of fine exhibits including a world-wide collection with some spectacular shells. At every show he works unselfishly carrying, setting up, and covering the tables before he gets to work on his own exhibits. At the 1991 show, he didn't finish preparing his displays until 3:30 in the morning. After the show, he helped disassemble and put away the tables and was the last person to leave the building.

Born in Montgomery, Alabama, he moved on to a 20-year career in the Marine Corps, with tours of duty in Okinawa, Japan, Korea, and Viet-Nam. He has been a loan officer in Department of Defense credit unions at the Pentagon and on Okinawa. On retirement, he settled in Jacksonville, North Carolina, where he still works for the military as a warehouseman at Camp Lejeune.

His shell collecting began on Okinawa in 1970 and has continued into Ocracoke, Cape Lookout, and other shores in both North and South Carolina. The best day of collecting he ever had was at the north end of Onslow Beach ten years ago when he found a 16-inch Florida horse conch, many excellent lettered olives, and some other fine shells.

Herman now has about 2,000 species stored in a special 16' by 24' shell building containing both floor model glass cases and wooden display cases. He exchanges shells all over the world, even including Poland, and also purchases some shells. He says that he doesn't lean toward any particular shell -- that they are all favorites to him.

It was in 1975 that he joined the North Carolina Shell Club. Besides displaying regularly at our shell shows, he has also had exhibits at the Show Place in Jacksonville, North Carolina. He is working on opening a shell museum at his home this summer.

Shells are not the only things that Herman collects, for he also acquires 1st-day stamps, foreign coins, and collector's plates. He sings in the church choir and says that he has three wonderful sons whom he raised by himself, with God's help.

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Other Forthcoming Coastal Events

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| April 24-26 | Beaufort-By-The-Sea Festival, Beaufort; more info 1-919/726-8148 |
| April 23-26 | Blues Festival, Rodanthe; 1-919/987-2911 |
| May 1-3 | Traditional Wooden Boat Show, NC Maritime Museum, Beaufort; 728-7317 |
| May 15-16 | North Carolina Shell Club, Surf City/Topsail Beach BE THERE !!! |
| May 15-7 | Pleasure Island Spring Festival, Carolina Beach; 1-800/228-8434 |
| May 16 | Beach Music Festival, Emerald Isle; 1-919/354-2872 |
| May 23-24 | Carteret County Arts & Crafts Show, Beaufort; 1-919/729-2541 |
| June 26-27 | Old Homes Tour, Beaufort; 1-919/728-5225 |
| May 27 | Seafood Festival & Fleet Blessing, Wanchese; 1-919/473-2138 |
| September 25-26 | NCSC Meeting, Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium; Friday night AUCTION and Saturday (possible) trip to Aurora Fossil Pits does Dean Weber have your postcard reserving a place ? |

SEXUALITY

Although the sexes are separate in a great number of mollusks, hermaphroditism and sex reversal occur in many snails and clams. There are various degrees of hermaphroditism. In some scallops the gonads produce both sperm and eggs at the same time, and self-fertilization may take place. In oysters, some individuals may first be males, then become females for a few months, and finally return to a sperm-producing phase. In the hard-shelled clam *Mercenaria*, all individuals are male the first year, but the following season about half of a local population will turn female and remain so for the rest of their lives. Many factors influence the sex cycle of bivalves, including nutrition, climate, salinity of the water, and the presence or absence of hormones given off in the water by the opposite sex.

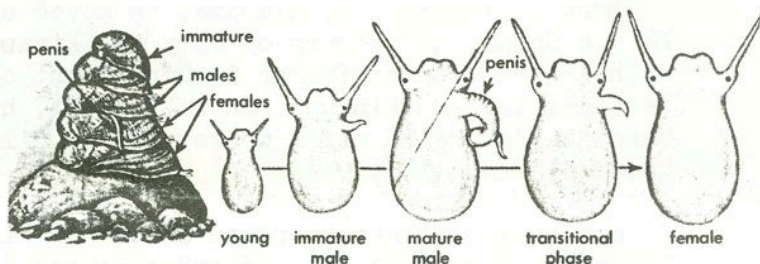
Among gastropods, sex change takes place in a number of species. Limpets, such as *Acmaea* and *Patella*, are male when they first mature and change to female at the age of 12 to 18 months. Most inch-long limpets are males, and those over two inches are all females. Occasionally, medium-sized limpets are hermaphrodites.

The *Crepidula* slipper shells are normally protandrous hermaphrodites—that is, the younger and smaller specimens are males but later change to females. These snails, as illustrated below, live one upon the other in clumps or chains of up to 12 animals, each clinging to the shell of the one beneath. As long as the larger female snails at the bottom of the clump give off hormones, the top snails remain male. Removal of the female starts the male changing its sex. Sperm is no longer produced, and the penis is gradually absorbed. Finally,

an oviduct is formed and the gonads produce eggs.

Sexual dimorphism is sometimes expressed in the shape or sculpturing of the shell. Female clam shells are apt to be more obese in order to accommodate the swollen gonads or the numerous young brooded in the mantle cavity. Female snails are usually much larger than males. The shells of male conchs and helmets are more likely to have longer but fewer knobs on the last whorl. These differences are termed sexual dimorphism. They may also be expressed in the size, shape, and number of radular teeth in certain marine snails.

Sex Reversal in the Slipper Shell, *Crepidula* (shell removed)



U.S. coral reef may be doomed by the year 2000, study reports

12-29-91

KEY WEST, Fla. — A five-year study on the Florida Keys coral reef comes to an alarming and controversial conclusion: The continent's only living barrier reef could be doomed by the year 2000.

The 200-mile-long reef — imperiled by water pollution and mysterious marine diseases — is dying faster than it was five years ago, according to the study presented at a meeting of the American Society of Zoologists in Atlanta.

In 1986, James Porter, a University of Georgia marine researcher, concluded the reef was dying at the rate of 4 percent a year. His new study finds that parts of the reef are dying at the rate of 10 percent a year.

At that speed, the reef could be irreversibly endangered by the end of the decade.

John Ogden, director of the Florida Institute of Oceanography, a research consortium that cooperated in the new study, said Friday that facts are clear.

"There is a precipitous decline in rocky corals," he said. "It's something we're seeing generally in coral reefs around the world. The reason Jim can make that statement, he has five years of work. That's a long time for scientific data."

The study, however, does not end the debate over the reef, one of the most diverse and complicated ecosystems in the world.

Animals from prowling sharks and glittering angelfish to tube-shaped sea cucumbers and

starfish surround the reef's rock-like core, made up of the skeletons of millions of dime-sized animals.

The Keys reef, which annually draws over a million visitors and provides the backbone for \$500 million commercial fishing and tourism industries, became the country's largest national marine sanctuary a year ago.

While scientists agree that threats to the reef must be investigated, not all the researchers accept the new study's gloomy conclusion.

"To say something's going to be dead in 10 years, that's going pretty far out on a limb," said Walter Jaap, one of the state's top reef researchers. He has been studying the reef since the early 1970s with the Marine Research Institute, part of the state Department of Natural Resources.

While some parts die off, he said, other parts thrive, and still others stay the same.

The new study's five research stations sampled an area of the reef about the size of two tennis courts. Jaap said that is not enough to judge the fate of the reef, which runs 200 miles — from Biscayne Bay to the Dry Tortugas. Also, he said, reefs grow and die over cycles that take thousands of years, so a five-year study is inadequate.

Two big questions remain unanswered: Are humans causing the coral reef's decline, and can that decline be reversed.

"My feeling is the changes we see are independent of human activity," Jaap said.

By contrast, Ogden said man is the culprit. "It is tied to human behavior, mainly on land,"

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HEY ! HEY !

Did you folks see the latest issue of "AMERICAN CONCHOLOGIST" (March 1992) and the picture of our own Karlynn Morgan accepting the COA Trophy at our Shell Show ???

And, the very interesting & illustrated article on "Shelling The Ghost Fleet of Atlantic" ??? 101 different species found in the sunken hulks off the Outer Banks !! And, 21 of 101 not normally found this far north, per RTA. (you know, Uncle Tucker)

See you in May !