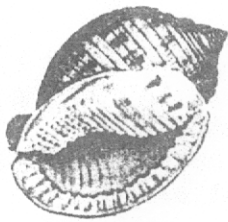
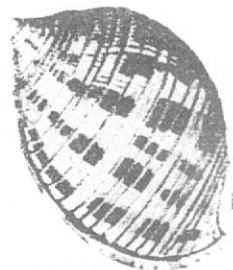


NORTH CAROLINA SHELL CLUB



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WELCOME TO 1992 - SHELL CLUB'S 36th YEAR

Pine Knoll Shores/Morehead City ANNUAL BANQUET MEETING November 13th/14th, 1992

Friday, 13 November 1992

Meeting place: Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall (from Atlantic Beach, go west on NC Hwy 58, after about 6 miles, turn right at brown Aquarium sign, pass by next brown Aquarium sign and take following left into the Town Hall property)

7:30pm Registration; refreshments; socializing; looking at European shells

8:00pm "Mostly for Beginners" with Marquerite Thomas on Dove Shells

"Portugal, Spain, England, Wales and Scotland" with Dorothy and Dean Weber

Business meeting including election of officers for 1993

Door prizes

Saturday, 14 November 1992

(low tide 4:44pm)

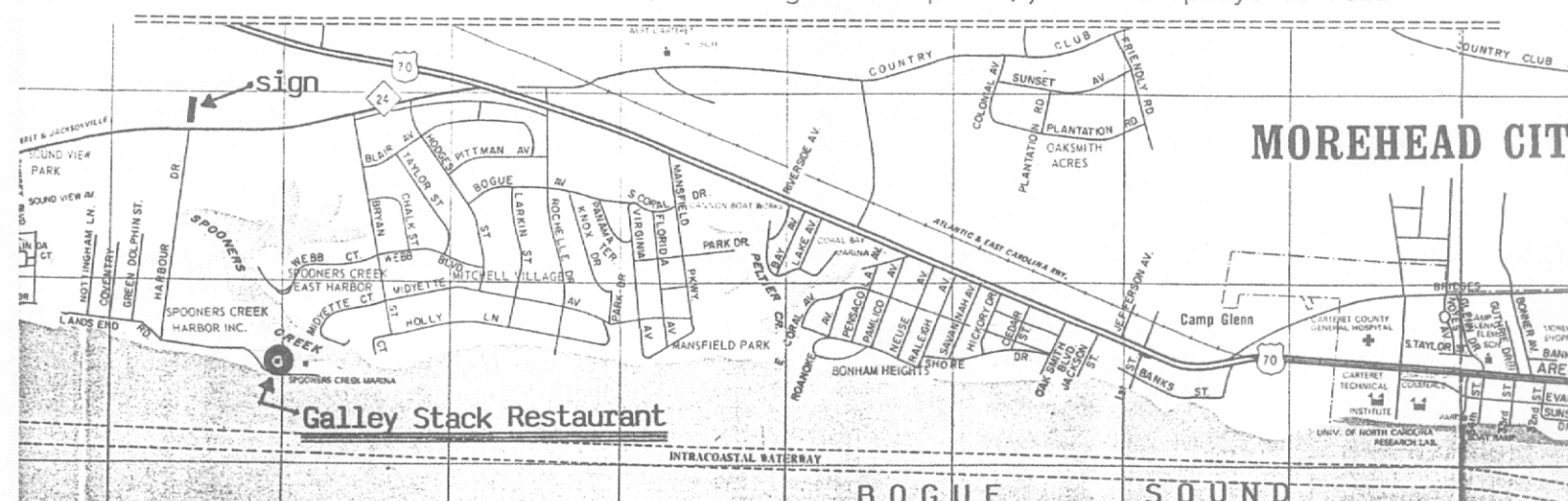
Daytime: Shell collecting; Maritime Museum; Aquarium; etc

Evening: Meeting place: Galley Stack Restaurant at Spooners Creek Marina, just off NC Hwy 24, west of Morehead City

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

7:30pm **Dinner:** Creamed chicken in puff pastry, creamed seafood over rice, broccoli, fruit plate, salad, cinnamon rolls, cheesecake and coffee

Afterward: Our speaker is **Keith Rittmaster** of the Maritime Museum in Beaufort; in a slide talk he will tell us about **"Whales in North Carolina"** (including the dolphins), with displays as well



PROGRAM NOTES

Motel prices have continued their sharp rise over the last two or three years, but in November they go in the opposite direction. The John Yancey Motor Hotel, for example, will be charging \$10 less per night than for our September meeting. The rates at your favorite place should be down commensurately. Consult the motel list in the last newsletter and make your selection. **Come and enjoy** the blessing of lower tariffs, good food and fellowship and fine programs.

Friday, November 13th Frequent fliers Dorothy and Dean Weber will talk about this year's trip to five countries in Europe and will have slides of the sometimes sandy, sometimes rocky and rugged European coast. They will bring with them some of the shells collected on that excursion and will also show you rather impressive piles of shells on some of the beaches. **Marguerite Thomas** will open the program with a brief treatment of **dove shells** as part of the "Mostly for Beginners" series.

Saturday, November 14th We sometimes include topics not about mollusks and such is the case at the evening banquet when **Keith Rittmaster** of Friends of the Museum gives a program about **whales in North Carolina**.

The activities during the day present a challenge because of the 4:44pm low tide. With almost everyone addicted to collecting at low tide, we can't schedule the kinds of field trips that we had in September. Nor will there be a "Find-Of-The-Day" Award at the banquet.

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Personal Notes: Charter and Life Member **Hugh Porter** has been very ill and is now in the Wake Medical Center, Room 4C51, PO Box 14465, Raleigh NC 27620. Pinky is with him and says they would be pleased to hear from any of you (1-919/250-3480).

Zida Kibler has also been very ill and in the hospital, but she is now at home with a caretaker. Her address is PO Box 548, Shallotte NC 28459.

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For Big Spenders Only: The 59th Annual Meeting of the **AMU** (American Malacological Union) will provide quite a departure (no pun intended) from the past and its alternatin Atlantic/Pacific Coast land-based meetings. This time the meeting will be held **on board the "Nordic Empress" ! En route on a cruise to the Bahamas !** With stops at Freeport, Nassau and CocoCay, after leaving from Miami on June 21st 1993, returning June 25th. AMU will actually have lots of company as the ship holds 1610 people; it's 692 feet long. Fare range from \$599-\$675 plus AMU registration cost. Gotta sign up by 15 December 1992.

Other Special Events: **THE WORLD'S GREATEST SHELL SHOW** at Independence Mall in Wilmington NC, 16-18 October 1992 ! That's like real quick now ! Hope you're there. The Philadelphia Shell Show in Philly, 7-8 November 1992. The San Diego Shell Club now has a pin for you pin-collectors, \$3.50pp from Margaret Mulliner, 5283 Vickie Drive, San Diego CA 92109. And, oh yes, the same weekend you're at the NC Shell Show, drop over to Shallotte for the **NC Oyster Festival !**

Saturday continued: If you didn't get to the Maritime Museum in Beaufort to see the worldwide **Watson Shell Collection**, that could be one of your daytime outings. Note that the Collection may be put away at the beginning of 1993.

For anyone not concerned about the tide, the ferry to the Cape Lookout National Seashore is still operating in November. The ferry leaves from Calico Jack's Inn & Marina on Harker's Island at 10am and 1pm, returning at 12noon and 4:30pm. The round trip fare is \$12; the telephone number for more information is 1-919/728-3575.

The ferry to Shackleford Banks leaves in November only by arrangement. A few of you might get together to go there and return at a time of your mutual choosing; the boat seats six. Start by calling 1-919/728-7036, which is The Cedars, a lodging place. The folks there can direct you to Ronnie, the Captain. The boat departs from Harpoon Wil- lies at Front St and Orange St in Beaufort. The round trip fare for this is also \$12.

If you think the tide situation doesn't justify a boat trip, the entire stretch of Route 58 to Fort Macon State Park is available to you. Wherever . . . good shelling !

But, most importantly ... Send in your re- servation for the Banquet, using the enclosed card. It's JUST \$10.50 pp, tax and grat- uity included ! Make check out to "Galley Stack" and mail to Walt Wenzel to arrive no later than Wednesday, 11 November. See ya !

All of my personal experience with the Channeled Whelk has been confined to Ocracoke NC between the years of 1970 and 1982. While I do have a few other places, I only know first hand the ones that were found by me there.

As with all shells, my first few years collecting the Channeled Whelk were frustrating. On the Atlantic side of the island, I found them in all sizes, all colors, and in all thicknesses. What books were available to me in 1970 said it was 4 to 6 inches long, and the color was buff to tan. So what is this 8-inch shell that is totally yellow, with a purple aperture, and a thick shell ??

By 1972, I had that pretty well straightened out --- both sizes and colors varied from book to book, as well as other descriptions of the shell.

And at that time, I had been finding live Lightning Whelks (Busycon sinistrum) and Knobbed Whelks (Busycon carica) in shallow water in Pamlico Sound, feeding on oysters, clams, etc. I wondered why I didn't find the Channeled Whelk in those places as well.

It took me another two years to learn why. Again, at that time, even the best shell books did not tell you the habitats and habits of the shell, such as what it ate, and how it did find its food.

In 1972, I began a study of the live shells, and began with one 20-gallon salt water aquarium, which I thought would be as large as I would ever need !! By 1976, I had 35 salt water aquariums, the largest being 350 gallons !!

Meanwhile, I had found several live Channeled Whelks; that is to say, I did not find them myself, but some of the local fishermen, mostly crabbers, brought them to me to go in the aquariums. I hatched out egg cases, and thus began really learning about the Channeled Whelk.

They are not capable of opening the clams and other bivalves as the other whelks are. They do not grasp the bivalve, and their lip is too thin to pry open the bivalves. In the aquariums, fairly large Channeled Whelks could not even pry open an easy Scallop, nor a much easier and smaller Coquina. They'd wait until someone else opened the bivalve, then move in and help eat it. They also ate fish, shrimp, and other things that did not have to be pried open.

That would explain why they were not found with the other whelks, and why so many were found in crab pots --- they crawled in the pots to eat the bait that was left there for the crabs !!

Their colors are very variable --- I have them in the usual buff to tan, in bright yellow, in grayish purple with deep purple apertures, and all shades in between.

My own PERSONAL opinion is that the coloring is genetic, and not environmental. We have collected as many as fifty in one place, where they all were in the same water temperature, ate the same things, buried in the same sandy bottom, etc, and found a variety of colors. On the other hand, each egg case that was hatched in my aquariums over a period of years produced shells of the exact same color and shape and markings.

As mentioned, this is only my own opinion, and I have seen no scientific papers that covered this in any way at all.

Also at Ocracoke, we found the Black Fossil specimens of Channeled Whelk, which indicates they have been in that area for a very long time. Again, in the beginning, we did not know exactly what the black shells were, and we soaked them in bleach, used muriatic acid on them, sectioned them, and they were still BLACK thru and thru !! I have tried for years to get a good answer for the black shells, and the best I have come up with, and the answer that is believable to me is that many millions of years ago the Outer Banks were heavily forested. That has been proven, as at certain times after a large winter storm and the usual low tide that follows it, we have seen on the beach stumps of many trees, all black. Even the sand would be black. Apparently the decaying vegetations over a period of years tends to totally blacken anything that happens to be in the area, including shells and the sand. So far, I have never been able to have the black shells dated and put into the correct era. I have taken them and sent them to many museums and have never gotten a good answer --- mostly I get vague answers.

The family containing the whelks has always been my favorite family and I have spent many hours and many years observing them as they grew in my aquariums, also many hours and hard hours, collecting them from crab pots and noting the surrounding sand, water

Do you remember this poem from your childhood days ?

Sea Shell by Amy Lowell

Sea Shell, Sea Shell,
Sing me a song, O please !
A song of ships, and sailor men,
And parrots, and tropical trees.
Of islands lost in the Spanish Main
Which no man ever may find again,
Of fishes and corals under the waves,
And seahorses stabled in great green caves.
Sea Shell, Sea Shell,
Sing of the things you know so well.

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Yesterday morning Dean and I left our motel in Atlantic Beach and headed home to Wilmington after the September NC Shell Club meeting ended. We were feeling pretty satisfied because we had enjoyed the weekend and so many Club members and visitors expressed the same sentiment as we packed up after the door prizes were given out.

Thanks to the auction crew for a job well done Truckners, Spains & Walt Wenzel, and to all who donated items to be auctioned. We raised \$436 to help keep the Club going for another year. This is a smaller

GETTING TO KNOW THE CHanneled WHELK (continued)

depths, available food, and so on. I have watched them mating, and that is the same as all others of the same family. Their egg cases are about the same size in diameter as others of that family, but slightly different in that they are more round and do not have the little spikes the others have. As for hatching, it seems that each little capsule on the egg string would have anywhere from 50 to 200 babies in each, depending on the size of the capsule. The first capsule laid by the female Whelk is the largest and they graduate in size until the very last

sum than previous years, but we only had 40 people in attendance, so we were pleased.

Thanks to John Timmerman for a most interesting and informative talk and slide presentation on "NC Fossil Collecting".

We had a special Aquarium treat Saturday evening as we watched a diver go into the large tank to feed the fish and turtles. We learned much about the habits, the feeding and the care of these tank inhabitants. We are sorry that so many of you were not able to be there. It was a friendly weekend and you who missed it would surely have enjoyed it !

At our May meeting, we did a November Banquet survey to see if there was any interest in having the Banquet in Raleigh and if we wanted to make that meeting a two-day affair. Only 19 ballots were turned in but the decision was overwhelming

1. To have a November meeting and Banquet in the Morehead area; and
2. To make it a two-day affair.

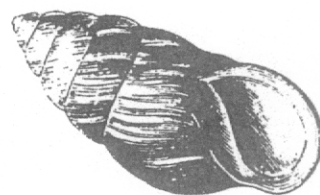
So Mark November 13th and 14th on your calendar ! Make your motel and Banquet reservations soon. For more information about the weekend, see "Program Notes" in this newsletter. **Door prizes are always welcome !**

may have few or no babies inside. The smaller end is buried in the sand and left to hatch. They are not guarded as some other shell families to guard their egg cases.

Should you find an egg case on the beach, do not feel guilt about taking it. Once it has been uprooted from the place it was buried, it seldom will survive. It will keep washing back up onto the beach. Take it home and hatch it in a bucket of salt water, or best yet, place it in an aquarium and watch the babies hatch and grow !!

New and Changed Member Addresses

Joe E and Betsy Johnston, 1022 Browning Road, Greensboro NC 27410
JoAnn Kistler, 2008 Tradd Ct, Raleigh NC 27607
Sandra Melvin, 3532-E Lawndale Drive, Greensboro NC 27408
Betty Muirhead, 30 Queens Grant Circle, Shallotte NC 28459
Jean Perry, 109 West Edgewood Drive, Durham NC 27704
Betsy Hood Proctor, 1007 Augusta Drive, Sun City Center FL 33573
Madlon Starbuck, 2301 Brisbayne Circle, Raleigh NC 27615



also please note that Payne/Shirley Daniels phone is 919/872-6028

COME to the NOVEMBER BANQUET MEETING ... the beach is GREAT that time of the year !