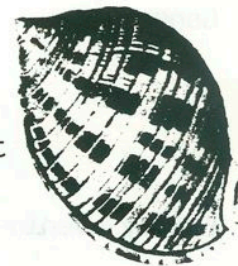


NORTH CAROLINA SHELL CLUB



Scotch Bonnet



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WELCOME TO 1994 - SHELL CLUB'S 38th YEAR

Raleigh NC

SUMMER MEETING

June 10th/11th 1994

Meeting place: Museum of Natural Sciences, second floor classroom
102 N Salisbury St, betw Edenton & Jones Sts. just north of Capitol

Friday, 10 June 1994

7:30pm Registration; refreshments; chances on Glory-Of-The-Sea Cone; socializing, etc

8:00pm "Mostly for Beginners" with Betsy Roberts on scallops

"Picking Up More Than Shells at the Beach: A Closer Look at Marine Debris"
with Lundie Spence

Awards for the Shell Clothing Contest

Door prizes

Saturday, 11 June 1994

11:00am Luncheon Meeting of the Scotch Bonnet Club in the Scotch Bonnet Room of the Marriott Hotel at Crabtree Valley (see below for address); dutch treat

7:30pm Registration; refreshments; chances on Glory-Of-The-Sea Cone; socializing, etc

"Mostly for Beginners" with Sandy Melvin on Life and Times of the Horse Conch

The Mussels Is Coming ! The Mussels Is Coming ! with Barbara Doll

Business meeting

Door Prizes

A Few Places to Stay

for your shopping pleasure, all are within a short distance from Crabtree Valley Mall, on US70 at Beltline Exit 7; all rates exclude State and local taxes; all Zips are 27612; all Area Codes are 1-919/; all rates, with exceptions noted, are for two persons and one or two double beds or one king-sized bed

Best Western Hotel

6209 Glenwood Ave (across Beltline from US70), 782-1112; \$47.00

Comfort Suites Hotel

3908 Arrow Dr (off US70 at Beltline exit); 782-6868; \$55.00

Days Inn

6329 Glenwood Ave; 781-7904; \$55.00

Marriott Hotel

4500 Marriott Drive (across from Crabtree Mall); 781-7000; \$52.00 or \$57.00 with full breakfasts for two in restaurant or in bed !

Motel 6

3921 Arrow Dr; 782-7071; \$32.99

Ramada Inn

3920 Arrow Dr; 782-7525; \$48.00

PROGRAM NOTES

General:

We're meeting WHERE ?! RALEIGH ?! REALLY ?! RALLY around !!!
Yes, it is Raleigh ! After a multi-year absence, we return to the area where about one-fifth of our members live. The idea is to come to them for a change instead of having them travel to the coast every time. Also, the shell collecting on the coast is worst in summer with lodging prices at their highest.

Friday evening:

Lundie Spence, who has been with the Sea Grant program at North Carolina State University for fifteen years, has a Master's degree in Oceanography and a Doctorate in Education. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Oceanography. Her talk will include a variety of sources of pollution, the effects as the material sinks and the unique and sometimes unexpected results.

Betsy Roberts begins with a discussion of scallops.

The special "Shell Clothes Contest" is a major happening, with a prize to be awarded to the man and to the woman with the shelliest and the most attractive clothing. The room will be a colorful and entertaining place. Go ahead and dazzle us with your outfit !

Saturday daytime:

Set your sights on lunch with Scotch Bonnet Club in the shell-decorated Scotch Bonnet Room of the Marriott Hotel, located across from the main entrance to Crabtree Valley Mall. This will be very near most of the motels we think you will be staying.

The meeting beginning at 11:00 will include lunch and a program which we expect to be over by 1:00. There is a soup-and-salad bar and olde people will get a 25% discount.

Before or after the meeting, you may want to consider shopping at one of the largest malls in the South, that at Crabtree Valley. There is also a variety of Museums in and around Raleigh. A new History Museum has just opened, the Art Museum on Blue Ridge Road is "top notch" and a new Museum of Science and Technology, 25 miles away in Durham, can occupy an entire afternoon.

Saturday evening:

Barbara Doll, a coastal water quality specialist with Sea Grant, provides information to the public and to local governments about water quality status, research and regulations. She holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Civil Engineering.

Her subject is the zebra mussel, the nuisance exotic freshwater mussel approaching North Carolina, that has cost millions of dollars in the Great Lakes area. She will discuss how we can monitor for zebra mussels and avoid spreading them to North Carolina and other places.

Sandy Melvin opens with a look at horse conchs.

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ADDRESS LIST CHANGES

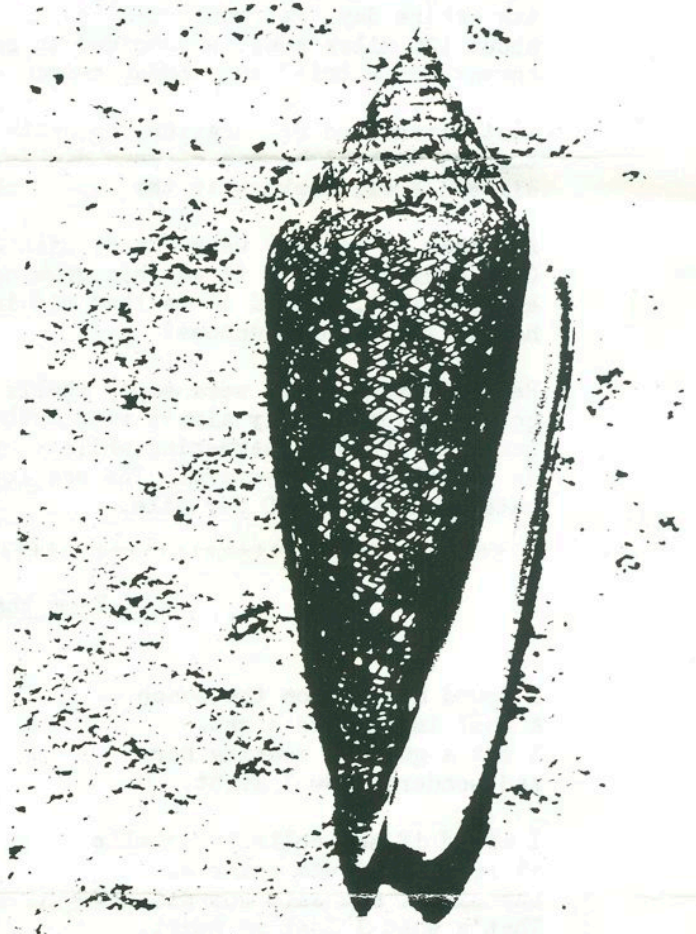
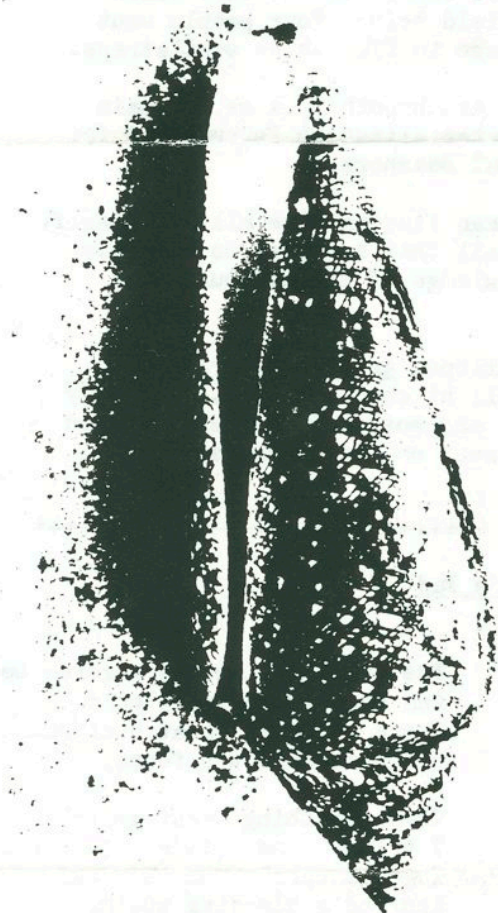
Add: Beth & Henry Player, 1908 Winterlochen Rd, Fayetteville NC 28305; 1-910/485-1469
Add: Esther McCreedy, 4415 Van Emberg Rd, Brighton MI 48116
Add: Althea Murcko, 5676 Homestead Rd, Hamburg NY 14075; 1-716/649-7531
Add: Susi & Rusty Clontz, POBox 171, Kure Beach NC 28449; 1-910/485-8425
Add: Fred & Irene Leonard, 3441 Kirklees Rd, Winston-Salem NC 27104
Add: Bob & Marge Hayward, 500 Shorewood Dr, International Falls MN 56649, and
POBox 4842, Calabash NC 28467; 1-910/579-8037
Add: Leonard & Mary BeDuke, 206 Fairview Dr, Beaufort NC 28516; 1-919/728-7178
Add: Willis Slane, 8544 Brook Meadow Ln, Lewisville NC 27023; 1-910/945-6766
Change: Lonnie Werdel, 41 Genesis, 301 Salter Path Rd, Pine Knoll Shores NC 28512
Change: Joyce Rose, 16 Fairway Dr, Shallotte NC 28459; 1-910/579-3414
Change: Virginia Harmon, 4100 Well-Spring Dr, Apt 1104E, Greensboro NC 27410-8800
Delete: the Piechs

PUT GLORY IN YOUR COLLECTION !

"During the past 225 years of shell collecting, there have been approximately a half-dozen rare shells that have come to be legendary, but only two shells, the glory-of-the-sea cone and the golden cowry, have achieved this stature on such a universal and timeless basis. Even the golden cowry, while certainly legendary, does not seem to stir the excitement generated by the glory-of-the-sea cone."

So begins an article by June Huie of the North Texas Conchological Society on this shell, Conus gloriamaris. Pictured below, this shell will be used to raise money for this year's shell show. Chances are being sold at \$5.00 thruout the year with the shell awarded to the winner of a drawing at the November banquet.

The shell was displayed at the January planning meeting in Wilmington, the mini-meeting in South Carolina, and the spring meeting in Ocean Isle, so a lot of people can already say "mine eyes have seen the glory". Your chance will come. And **your** chance may win !



WE WONDER IF YOU KNEW

- that **Marquerite Thomas** turned 81 at our Spring Meeting in Ocean Isle ?
- that **Ruth Dixon** is almost back in full stride ? Following physical therapy treatment for her broken leg, she has progresed from wheel chair to walker to crutches and, now, to a cane. She has gone back to work (at 79!) and to teaching her Sunday School class. Great lady ! She asked the Editor to convey thanks to all for their cards & good wishes.
- that the **Piech family**, with its four junior collectors, has moved to Delaware ?
- that 78 different people attended the Spring Meeting with its two excellent programs ?
- that **Karlynn Morgan**, dba/**Shell Quest**, POBox 7606, Naples FL 33941, tel 1-813/649-8105, has scheduled shelling trips to Eleuthera in May and to Egypt in July and September ?
- that dues for 1994 are overdue but can still be sent to our Treasurer, **Janet Durand**, at the address on the letterhead; \$10 for an individual and \$12 for a family ?
- that we will be grateful if you bring a door prize to the Summer Meeting ? Please.

WINTER FIELD TRIPS AND MINI-MEETING

On January 28 and 29 in South Carolina, it was another meld of that renowned duo ridiculous and sublime.

Two guest speakers made the meeting at Pawleys Island superb. Bud Lanning of the Grand Strand Shell Club began with a talk on local and worldwide shells, passing them throughout the audience for first-hand study.

John Turner of the Palmetto Shell Club displayed and spoke about true conchs and, amazingly, had every conch species in the world, along with subspecies and forms, on one table for viewing. (Note: There is often confusion about conchs. They are not found on our North Carolina beaches, although there may be a rare exception. The large shells that you encounter there are whelks. And the shells called horse conchs are not true conchs.)

Rain began early in the morning on collecting day, never stopped once throughout the entire day, and continued to fall for two more days. With Edisto Beach about 120 miles away, we decided to cancel the field trip. Four people went anyway for a brief and sodden search and did manage to find three wentletraps.

Heat stroke and dehydration supplanted frostbite and hypothermia as the main threats to health when a sunny day in the 60's materialized on February 19 for sixteen shell seekers at the Cape Lookout National Seashore.

A number of helmets were found, with John Timmerman finding five all by himself. Only equitable, for it was his drawing of the shell that appeared on the trip announcement. Could it be that his intimate knowledge of the contours of a helmet led to his success?

Remarkably abundant were empty shells of bay scallops, Argopecten irradians concentricus, nearly always with both valves still hitched together. How they survived the surf hammering while scotch bonnets and most helmets were smashed is somewhat of a mystery. The scallops were present on the ocean beach at a rate of about 1,500 per mile.

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From the President's Pad

I found a venus on the beach --
A most impressive sight.
I set a goal of meeting her
And wondered how I might.

I asked if she collected shells.
At least that was astarte.
She smiled and said she did indeed.
That's when I lost my heart.

Her ears were smooth, like baby's ears,
That smile broke all the rules,
Her lips came from a jewel box,
Her eyes were limpet pools.

I found her volutopsius --
The spelling may be wrong.
I showed her all my mussels
And began to walk along.

I said that I was somewhat shy
And shaky in the knees,
But she said "Abalone" and
That put me right at ease.

I asked if we should look for shells.
"Let's caecum!", she replied.
I fell into a wentletrap
That came in with the tide.

The shell collecting augered well
And she had me spellbound.
There was some great excitement when
A boring clam was found.

Then something burst my bubble fast:
I tripped and that's the truth.
I got a conch upon the head
And had a bleeding tooth.

There is no tellin how I felt,
But her response was grand:
"You've got to hold your nerite when
You're walking on the sand."

A sundial showed it rather late
So we made our way back.
The whole adventure was to me
An aphrodisiac.

We had a cup-and-saucer and
We got on very well.
Donax me what she saw in me
For that I cannot tell.

When I gave her a jingle and
We met on the next night,
We found a nice Atlantic moon
And things turned out all right.

A SHELLING TRIP TO EGYPT'S RED SEA WITH KARLYNN MORGAN

We began our first full day in Egypt with a tour of the Cairo Antiquities Museum where our guide pointed out and explained the most interesting and historical aspects of the displays. It would take days to see everything which is on exhibit there. After finishing up with the magnificent display of the treasures of King Tut, we left the museum to visit Old Cairo where we toured several Christian Churches and the oldest Synagogue in Egypt. Our next stop was The Pyramids. They are truly awesome to view. While we were there, we all had to pose for photographs atop a camel, but no one wanted to actually go for a ride. As we left the grounds of the pyramids, we were able to see several new areas of excavations and wondered what they would reveal. The Sphinx guards the approach to the pyramids and we stopped there for another photo opportunity. The last time I saw The Sphinx was in 1990 when it was surrounded by scaffolding and undergoing a major "face-lift" in an attempt to offset the damages of time and wind and sand. If nothing else, the monument certainly looks far more impressive without the scaffolding.

We decided to skip lunch since our stomachs were still confused as to when it was time to eat. We all were looking forward to our visit to The International Papyrus Center. While there, we were given a demonstration of how the papyrus reed is grown and harvested, how the reed is split into long thin strips and then pounded flat and woven into paper. The naturally-occurring sugars in the plant hold the paper together, and it can withstand a great deal of physical abuse. After this interesting lecture, we spent some time admiring the beautiful painted papyrus on sale at the shop--several relatives and friends will get papyrus Christmas presents this year! Our next stop was at an oriental bazaar where we watched children weaving silk rugs. We were able to shop for jewelry, gallabayahs, copper, and other tourist souvenirs, along with the inevitable Tee-shirts. That evening after a wonderful dinner in one of the many restaurants at our hotel, we attended the spectacular Sound and Light show. This is a very interesting and intrigue-filled historical narrative with background music performed at an outdoor arena where the "stage" is The Pyramids and The Sphinx which are lit up by multi-colored lights at appropriate times throughout the script. Impressive!

The next morning (we finally had 8 hours of uninterrupted sleep), we left Cairo for Hurghada on the Red Sea. We flew straight across the Gulf of Suez, down the Sinai peninsula where we could see Sharm-el-Sheik and Ras Mohammed from the air, and across to Hurghada. We could preview most of our next week's shelling sites from the air: Big and Small Giftun Islands, Big and Small Magawish Islands, Abu Ramada Island and Reef, and Abu Hashish island. We were met at the airport by our boat captain, who took us to the Hurghada Sheraton.

After we checked into our rooms and unpacked "just a little", we were on the boat--a brand new Suez-built 55-ft. wooden boat--and headed for Big Giftun Island where we wasted no time diving overboard! As soon as I opened my eyes, I saw a perfect fresh-dead Murex tribulus--and the operculum was beside the shell!

The next day was spent on both sides of Big Magawish Island where we found many Terebra maculata and Lambis truncata sebae, along with a large assortment of other Terebridae--consorbrina, crenulata, babylonia, and amanda. There are a lot of common cones in this area and we found our share of them; particularly musicus parvatus, tessulatus, vexillum, namocanus, and nigropunctatus. We also collected a few Conus textile,

the "extremely dangerous", but common, poisonous cone of the Red Sea. By the end of the week, we felt like every sand trail we followed led to another Conus arenatus! Lambis truncata sebae is a food source for the people who live along the Red Sea, so everyone brought in their (many) Lambis and the poorer specimens went into the "cookpot" for the crew!

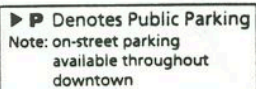
Our third day in Hurghada was spent at Small Giftun Island and at "Half-two" reef (located between Big and Small Giftun, naturally!) At Half-two reef, one of my group found a spectacular Charonia tritonis on a small isolated coral head in about six feet of water right behind the boat--everyone else had been up in the reef! When she came in with her find, the entire crew jumped overboard to inspect this coral head! She and I had quite a laugh at all the heads bobbing around in back of the boat looking for another Triton!

The next day found us motoring to a very beautiful and secluded inlet, Sharm-el-Arab--the perfect "Hurricane Hole". We had extra crew and extra supplies with us as we planned to stay overnight. I do believe that we all would have had a perfect stay even if there had been no shells. However, we did find another Triton, two Cypraea talpa, several C. carnea, grayana, erythraeensis, isabella, nebrites (very common), and nucleus, and Turbo petholatus. We also went snorkeling that night and found many Terebra and a new species for me--Vexillum rugosum intermediatum, and also Mitra bovei. The next morning, we had a visit from the local "Shore Patrol", a soldier who actually came over the sand dune on a camel! We had permission to be where we were, so we offered him a glass of tea in exchange for a photo session with him and the camel! Upon leaving Sharm-el-Arab, we headed for Abu Hashish Island where we collected many more Lambis and also Strombus tricornis in the lush grass beds surrounding the island.

Returning to Small Giftun Island the next day, we found Bursa lamarcki and Tutufa bubo, Cellana eucosmia, Sanhaliotis pustulata and varia, Modulus tectum, Cronia martensi, and Muricodrupa fiscellum. Of course, there were many other common shells which were found almost every day--especially Tectus dentatus, Trochus erythreus and maculatus, Clanculus pharaonius, and a multitude of Cerithium--erythraeonense, caeruleum, and Rhinoclavis fasciatus. The Strombus family was well-represented with fasciatus, decorus persicus, mutabilis, gibberulus gibberulus, and gibberulus albus. Common Murex were ramosus and Chicoreus virgineus. We also found Drupa lobata, ricinus hadari, and morum morum, along with Pleuroploca trapezium, Nassa francolina, Vasum turbinellus, and perhaps twenty or so bi-valve species. The bi-valves are not nearly so common as the gastropods, with the possible exception of Pinctada margaritifera. There were so many species found that it is impossible to name them all in such a brief amount of space. The Red Sea is truly a treasure-trove of shells for the old or the new collector! By the end of their stay, my group members were having to decide which shells to pack and which to give to the boat crew for sale in the local shops!

Throughout our stay in Egypt, we never saw any suggestion of violence or of any other danger to tourists. Everywhere we went we were treated with kindness and respect. Whenever we entered our hotel in Cairo, our handbags and packages were visually inspected--as they were at the Sound and Light Show. We did note that there were police on almost every corner, but that is not too unusual for Cairo, as they also direct traffic at all major intersections. We decided that the biggest danger in all of Egypt is trying to cross the street in Cairo as a pedestrian. As Alta VanLandingham has said for years, "Traffic lights in Cairo are only 'suggestions'"!

Greater Raleigh Convention
and Visitors Bureau



SCALLOP PILES TRIP ON MAY 14th

Shells brought back by the scallop fleet are piled at Merrimon above Beaufort. Visiting there can be extremely rewarding (how can you beat junonias?) or a quite disappointing experience, for the contents of the piles and shell arrival times are unpredictable.

The meeting time is 10:00am, but you can come earlier or later. Start when you get there and quit when you want to. Return home the same day or stay overnight.

About five or six miles north of Beaufort, Route 70 takes a 90-degree turn to the right at the traffic light. Go straight instead, directly north. Along the way bear right at every fork in the road. Go to the end of the road and look for the shell piles and cars on the right along a narrow dirt road.

Although we use the name Merrimon, your North Carolina map may call the location South River. We are really intruders there, so we want to park along the side of the road well out of the way of any trucks that may be entering or leaving.

Bring your own drinks and food. Gloves, rakes and other tools have been found helpful.

Veterans of this endeavor warn that you will encounter bad-smelling shells that are a threat to you and your vehicle. Some people bring rubber gloves. Some bring old rubber boots. Other have brought old tennis shoes and thrown them away afterward.

One possibility is to bring plenty of plastic bags. Another is to bring 5-gallon buckets with lids. Bringing water for washing hands is recommended.

Because this is a speculative enterprise, you would be better off not expecting too much, except **plenty** of calico scallops, with the chance of a pleasant surprise. This beats having high expectations crushed.

Call Dean Weber at 1-910/799-3125 if you have any questions about the trip.

Press-time bulletin from eyewitness at end of April: "Nothing there". Be ye not hopeful.

