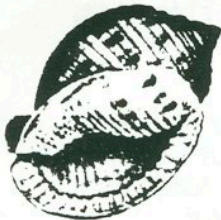


# NORTH CAROLINA SHELL CLUB



Scotch Bonnet



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===== WELCOME TO 1994 - SHELL CLUB'S 38th YEAR =====

Pine Knoll Shores NC & points north FALL MEETING September 30th/October 1st, 1994

Friday, 30 September 1994

Meeting place: NC State Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores, Salter Path Road (from Atlantic Beach, go west on NC Highway 58; after about six miles, turn right at Aquarium sign)

7:00pm Registration; refreshments; socializing; **delivering Auction items**; etc  
(We are starting one-half hour early to allow time to contribute to the Auction and to study the items to bring forth good bids)

8:00pm Review of the Saturday field trip and the Seafood Festival

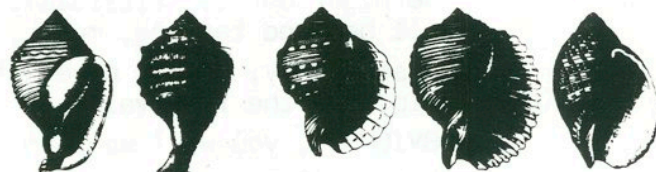
8:10pm The Auction, with Carl Truckner and a coterie of able assistants

Saturday, 1 October 1994

Meeting places: a. Hither  
b. Thither  
c. Yon

Daytime Field trip to Core Banks

Evening Seafood Festival



\*\*\*\*\*  
A Few Places to Stay (unless shown otherwise, all are on Salter Path Rd, NC Hwy 58, in Atlantic Beach [AB] or Pine Knoll Shores [PKS], both Zip 28512)

Atlantis Lodge, PO Box 310, PKS; tel 1-800/682-7057

Holiday Inn, Box 280, AB; tel 1-919/726-2544

Royal Pavilion Resort (formerly John Yancey), Box 790, AB; tel 1-800/782-3700

Ramada Inn, Box 846, AB; 1-919/247-4155

Seahawk Motor Lodge, Box 177, AB; Tel 1-919/726-4146

Whaler Inn Beach Club, Box 220, AB; tel 1-919/247-4169

Windjammer Inn, Box 2906, AB; tel 1-919/247-7123

Beaufort Inn, 101 Ann Street, Beaufort NC 28516; tel 1-919/728-2600

Buccaneer Motor Lodge, 2806 Arendell Street, Morehead City NC 28557; tel 1-800/682-4982

Comfort Inn, 3012 Arendell Street, Morehead City 28557; tel 1-919/247-3434

Crowds are expected this weekend for the Seafood Festival ! Reserve your room NOW !



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PAD

One prospector with a grubstake struck it rich on the May 14th field trip to Merrimon. Because of the eyewitness report in the newsletter that "nothing was there", only one grizzled old sourdough appeared, and that was Member-At-Large **Everett Long**.

It was true that no new material had arrived in a long time, but pay dirt was there all along, awaiting some cantankerous ol' cuss with grit and determination. The old forty-niner .... I mean ninety-fourer .... didn't stand there waiting for nuggets to jump into his poke. Instead he worked the mine for a couple hours with a steel garden rake.

The bonanza included two junonias, a large common sundial, both distorsios, a spindle, an apple murex, a Florida fighting conch, and Sozon's cone. Also obtained were double bivalves of imperial venus, eggcockle, Florida spiny jewelbox and crassatella beauties.

Everett was loading all this on his burro Desdemona in preparation for a trip to the assay office and a lunch of beans and fatback, when two women from outside our club saw what his claim had produced and asked his help in finding a glory hole. As I departed, the dusty and parched desert rat was trying to help them locate the mother lode.

There is an obvious lesson in this for those who failed to participate. Perhaps it is best expressed in the oft-quoted appraisal of baseball player Joaquin Andujar: "You can sum it all up in one word .... you never know". Or was it Yogi Berra ?

+++++

## PROGRAM NOTES

### **General:**

We've gone **BONKERS** and you may as well go **BONKERS** with us.

For the first time in the club's 38-year history, you get the night off to go out on the town. You deserve it after all those years of faithful attendance.

Inventing another way to look at it, there were four speakers at the summer meeting and we're balancing that by cutting back to zero this time.

What this all means is that we accidentally picked the weekend of the local Seafood Festival. On learning that, we decided to consider it an opportunity for an extra dimension of fun rather than a drawback. So, Saturday night has been set aside to join in the festival.

The night out is, literally, on the town .... everything is **free**. There will be food tasting, music, and special events.

Consequently, we now have a three-part weekend: the auction, the field trip, and the festival.

**OBVIOUSLY**, you will want to make your hotel/motel reservation **IMMEDIATELY**.

There will **not** be door prizes at this meeting and, alas, no award for the find of the day.

### **Friday evening:**

Except for a brief review of the plans for the Saturday field trip and the Seafood Festival, the entire night will be devoted to the auction.

Dues cover only a part of our annual expenses and your generosity does the rest. Bring some items to be sold and take with you cash or a check to buy some things that interest you.

Shells and shell-related items, such as books, pictures, lamps, clothing, stationery, etc are particularly welcome, but you can bring **anything**.

When it comes to purchasing, there are always some terrific bargains. In particular, shells often go at **low** prices. Sometimes the bargains are a bit too amazing. That is, a rare book, a valuable shell, or another precious donation could sell for far too little, because the group doesn't know its true value. To remedy that, we are giving you the privilege of marking your contribution with a minimum bid. you won't want to do that for everything but only occasionally for a particularly valuable offering.

continued next page



**Saturday:**

For the fourth time this year, we will try a new field trip, this time to the southern end of Portsmouth Island, which is also called **Core Banks**. Access is by regular ferry from the Morris Marina in the town of Atlantic.

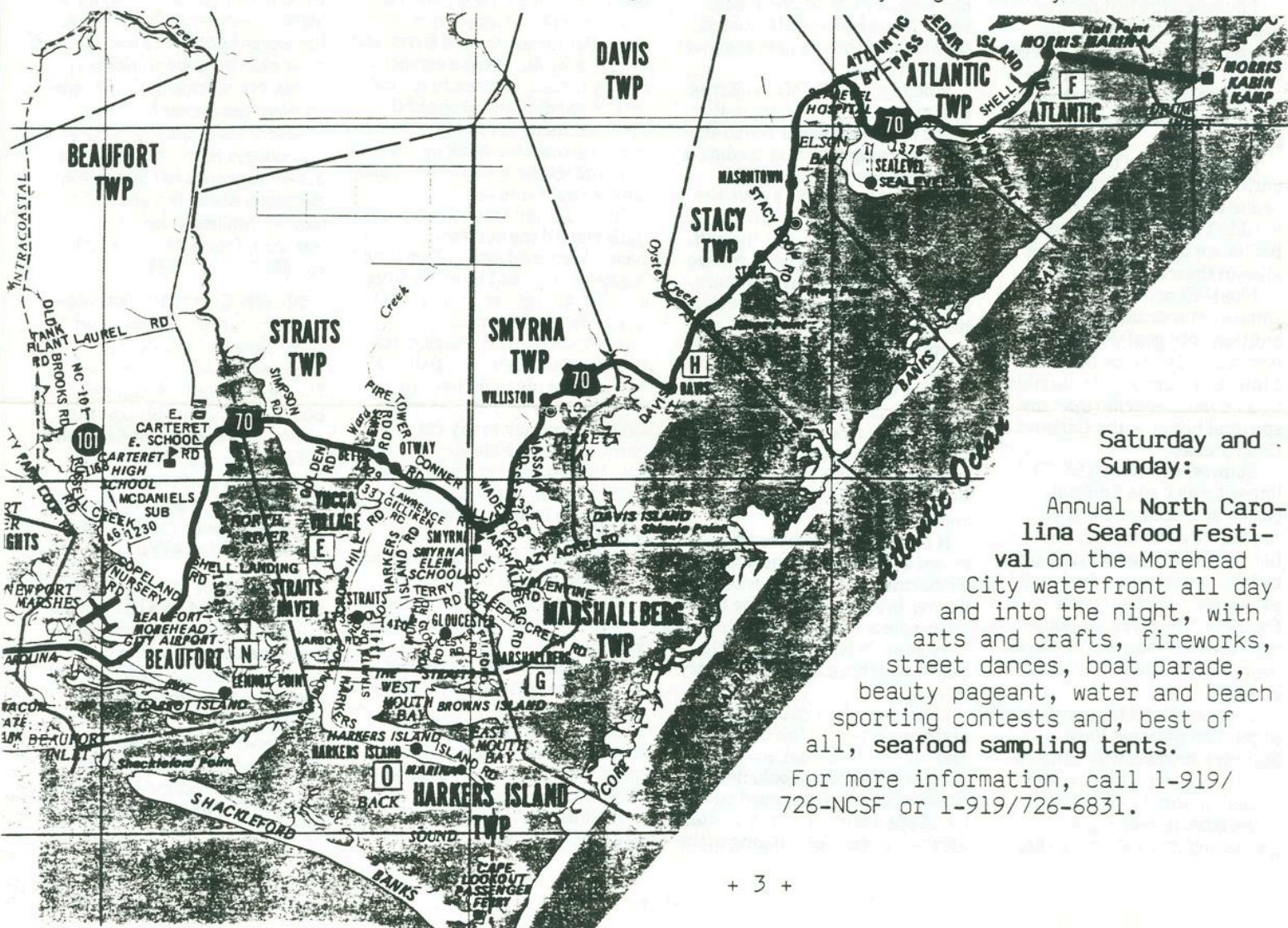
Departures are at 7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am, 1:00pm and 4:00pm. Returns are at 7:45am, 9:45am, 11:45am, 1:45pm and 4:45pm. The price is \$13.00 for the round trip. If you believe that the early bird catches the wormsnaill, select the first ferry. The ferry takes 4 vehicles (of the full 4-wheel drive type) and 49 people. If you do want to 4-wheel-it, there is an additional price, but the editor understands that (even before the end of July) the first two ferries on October 1st are already booked up with the 4 vehicles each . . . this is the time for good fishing and camping.

Make your ferry reservation as soon as possible, calling the Morris Marine and Ferry Service (1000 Morris Marina Rd, Atlantic NC 28511) 1-919/225-4261.

As with other trips to barrier islands, you will need to bring water, lunch, containers for shells, mosquito repellent, and other supplies. There are no bathrooms or facilities there. Mosquitoes can be bad but the walk to the ocean is only three minutes, and the winds there may eliminate the mosquitoes. However, they could get you as you wait for the ferry.

The sea will decide whether there will be shells there and what they are, so we are promised little. But the last time little was promised, much was reaped. A storm at the end of September should assure good shelling.

Atlantic is about 35 miles north of Beaufort on Route 70. Allow plenty of time for the drive, particularly if you are staying in Atlantic Beach or in Pine Knoll Shores; driving thru Morehead City might slow you down.



Saturday and Sunday:

Annual North Carolina Seafood Festival on the Morehead City waterfront all day and into the night, with arts and crafts, fireworks, street dances, boat parade, beauty pageant, water and beach sporting contests and, best of all, seafood sampling tents.

For more information, call 1-919/726-NCSF or 1-919/726-6831.



# One woman, a cabin and the sea

THE NEWS & OBSERVER  
SUNDAY, JULY 24, 1994

BY JULIE ANN POWERS  
STAFF WRITER

## CORE BANKS

**T**he bad thing about solitude is you have to be alone.

I know, that's the point. There is nothing so clarifying as being the only human in sight on Cape Lookout National Seashore's many miles of sunny oceanfront.

Being a woman by yourself on a remote island after nightfall, however, can give pause.

So went my dilemma. The sea, as always, won.

I boarded the last boat to Alger Willis Fishing Camps one Saturday afternoon. There was no way back to the mainland until morning. I was committed to the unknown for the night.

It turned out to be an enriching adventure filled with peace and free of fear. But I wouldn't know that till later. Brilliance and folly often look alike in their early stages.

I had left my Cary home somewhat spontaneously that morning. My goal was to temporarily dodge some burdensome decisions. My destination was no more specific than my spiritual home — the Carteret County coast.

Somewhere along U.S. 70, I knew it was Cape Lookout National Seashore I was craving. Its three untamed, uninhabited islands, accessible only by boat or ferry, are the loveliest and loneliest in North Carolina. The ferry schedule and my afternoon arrival, however, would mean a wait until Sunday.

Unless I dared to spend the night. The National Park Service contracts with concessionaires to run fishing camps, including rental cabins, on two of the islands, South Core Banks and North Core Banks.

When I stopped to call, a nice woman named Erma told me there was an empty cabin at the South Core camp. It had a gas stove, indoor plumbing and hot and cold running water, though no electricity. I had seen similar cabins at North Core. I knew them to be ... basic.

The lack of lights and luxury didn't vex me. It was being stranded alone if my fellow campers were weird. The camps are clearly the domain of men, as most customers are surf fishermen. I wasn't so worried over bodily harm as I was drunken obnoxiousness. I have witnessed outbreaks in other remote places. Erma assured me I'd have no problem.

As I approached the camp office and ferry dock at Davis, I almost lost my nerve. I considered a predictable, air-conditioned hotel room. Then I pictured the sand, the surf and the sea oats at sunset. I kept driving.

When I got to the office, Erma told me again I'd be fine, that there was a caretaker round-the-clock in camp. She was feeding a tiny baby boy his bottle. How could I not trust her? I gave her the money. I got on the ferry.

A couple minutes into the half-hour ride, the sweet salty breeze blew away all my qualms. Caretaker Kyle met me at the dock in a battered blue pickup to cart my supplies to my cabin. He, too, praised the camp's civility.

It is a windblown little world made up of a couple dozen weathered cabins (they look more like shanties than cabins), a few fish-cleaning stations and a vehicle wash station for rinsing off corroding salt.

It is no place for those who frown at vehicles on the beach. Fishermen rely on four-wheel-drives, brought over on the ferry, to trundle around all their necessary gear. It is, however, a big beach and there are many empty miles.

My clean, plain cabin offered eight bunk beds, a folding table and plastic deck chairs — all a gang of fishermen would need. From a pleasant screened porch, I could see a slice of ocean. I could also see large flies clinging to the

screens. I launched a massacre with a religious magazine that was on the table.

The guilt of using such stuff against even these least lovable of God's creatures stopped me after a few swats. The survivors didn't seem to want to budge from the screen anyway. They weren't interested in bothering me.

And neither were the fishermen. Guys in baggy shorts and goofy hats nodded politely whenever I encountered them, then turned back to study their lines arching into the Atlantic. A few minutes walk away from the camp, and I had the shore as far as I could see to myself.

I walked south until sunset, letting island marvels work their magic. In the second hour out, the surf presented me with the largest whelk shell I have ever found, flawlessly formed and colored.

After dark, I walked by moonlight that turned the sea silver and the sand white. When weariness finally forced me back to my cabin, I lit candles and propped them up in seashells to read by. Then I curled up on a top bunk by a window and let the sound of wind and waves sing me to sleep.

Sunshine and screeching sea gulls roused me at dawn, and the beach beckoned again. This time I walked north, and this time I discovered an inchlong auger shell, as perfect as the whelk.

I pondered the message of the two exquisite shells — islands always make me think like that. Beauty, I concluded, and grace. On the way back to my cabin, I came upon a stainless-steel hammer in the sand, no doubt dropped from a truck. Hmm, I thought, what's the island telling me now? Clobber somebody?

I decided to read it as a sign of strength; strength enough to come to this glorious place alone, strength enough not to let doubts stop me.

Kyle had another passenger when he came to fetch me and my stuff for the ferry an hour later, so I climbed into the back of the truck. I sat on a cooler full of somebody's fish and waved at the fishermen we passed.

I felt as if I was riding a float in my own little victory parade.

## WHERE TO STAY

**South Core Banks:** Alger Willis Fishing Camps Inc. operates ferry service and cabin

rental April-December. The mainland office and ferry dock are at Davis, on U.S. 70

## IF YOU'RE GOING

about 15 miles east of Beaufort.

Ferry ride is \$13 round trip for ages 12 and over; \$6 for ages 5-11; ages 4 and under free. Ferry vehicle fee is \$65; higher for larger vehicles or vehicles pulling trailers; \$30 for ATVs.

Cabins sleep four to 12 people and rent for \$22 to \$130 a night. Equipped with gas stove, hot water heater, shower, indoor plumbing; bring drinking water. No electricity. Some cabins have generator hookups.

Reservations usually required and always recommended. The busiest season is fall fishing run that starts about the end of September. Mailing address: P.O. Box 234, Davis, N.C., 28524; call (919) 729-2791.

## North Core Banks: Morris Marina, Kabin Kamps and Ferry Service operates ferry and cabin rental April-December.

The mainland office and ferry dock is at Atlantic, on U.S. 70 about 30 miles east of Beaufort.

Ferry ride is \$13 for ages 6 and over; 5 and under free. Ferry vehicle fee is \$65; higher for large vehicles or those pulling trailers; \$30 for ATVs.

Cabins sleep four to 12 people rent for \$44 to \$132 a night. Equipped with gas stove, hot water heater, shower, indoor plumbing, potable water. No electricity; newest cabins have gas lights.

Reservations required; fall is busy season. Mailing address: 1000 Morris Marina Road, Atlantic, N.C. 28511; call (919) 225-4261.



"I never dreamed that in retirement I would like nothing better than climbing up piles of marl, fighting bugs, and looking for old shells" says Sunset Beach resident Ruth Hood. Her reference is to the fossil shells of Brunswick County.

She has more species of fossil shells than present-day shells and searches for them also in Florida. In fact, her all-time-best result was on a day in March, 1993, when she collected 35 species of fossil shells in Sarasota, Florida.

Ruth hasn't neglected the beaches, however. She collects on our club trips and on those with the South Brunswick Beachcombers Shell Club, a club that had her as its leader in 1990. She says that she owes her love and knowledge of shells to Zida Altrip.

She began collecting shells in the period 1966-1968 when she lived on Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands. Her favorite shell is a tiger cowrie, Cypraea tigris, found at zero tide on Kwajalein Reef in 1967. A lot of her Marshall Islands shells were gifts from students at the school on Ebeye Island where she taught one year.

Ruth is a registered nurse who has worked at Charlotte Memorial Hospital, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Walter Reid Hospital and Riverside Hospital in New Jersey. She also had an eight-year stint at Bell Labs in Naperville, Illinois, in the computer center and technical library. Bill, her husband of 45 years whom she met in high school, is retired from A. T. & T. Bell Labs.

She played a large role in assembling the collection of 195 North Carolina shell species that resides in the fairly-new museum at Ocean Isle Beach. She got the assignment before the museum even opened and acquired the shells by donating some of her own, taking contributions from other members of the local club, purchasing a few, and soliciting shells from some members of our club.

Ruth is a regular exhibitor in our shell shows and last year in Florida entered the Ft. Myers Shell Show and the Sanibel Shell Fair. At Ft. Myers one of her fossil shells won a blue ribbon, her left-handed Busycon carica took a red ribbon, and her handicraft earned a red ribbon. At Sanibel her hooked picture called Kwajalein Remembered was the best of arts and crafts.

Proving that you can go home again, she and Bill recently bought a home in Rutherfordton, NC, a town in the foothills about 45 miles southeast of Asheville. This puts her in the county in which she was born and only a few blocks from the hospital where she trained and got her R. N. degree.

Early American Rug Hooking is one of her other hobbies; her rugs used to have flowers on them but for some reason now have shells. She also exchanges letters with a resident of a very small islet, Milli Atoll, in the Marshalls and with a 16-year-old girl in Charlotte.

MINI QUIZ (Answer below)

The president will award either a new cadillac or an old penny to anyone who has the correct answer. In an 1834 book on shells, what is the common name given to the spider conch, Lambis chiragra Linnaeus, 1758?

Savage



## WE WONDER IF YOU KNEW .....

- that **Life Member Charlotte Johnson** has moved to Hampton, Virginia.
- that the recovered **Life Member Ruth Dixon** made it to the June meeting and eschewed her cane (without getting splinters).
- that **Shell Show Chairman John Timmerman** has been made a permanent employee of the Cape Fear Museum in Wilmington, where he holds our shell shows.
- that **Hugh Porter** has plans for revising the Sea Grant book Sea Shells Common to North Carolina.
- that Herman Lindsey reports recovery after 19 months of struggling with the after-effects of spider bites, and hopes to exhibit in this year's show.
- that **Marguerite Thomas'** shell collection is headed for the University of Georgia's Museum of Natural History, UofG being her alma mater.
- that former club president **Doug Wolfe** has retired from the Washington DC traffic in favor of the more-subdued quasi-ancestral home in Beaufort and that he and Nancy will be with us once more.
- that there was excellent article in the Raleigh News & Observer of 29 May 1994 covering the natural assets of Masonboro Island; it was most of two pages and written by Julie Ann Powers, who also ventured a night on Core Banks (see page 4).
- that construction of the Shell Museum at Sanibel is well under way and scheduled to open in early 1995; the Museum and its contents will be worth more than \$1.5 million.

## CALLING ALL EXHIBITIONISTS

The Shell Show will be back in Wilmington this year at the same museum on November 18, 19 and 20. To save postage and thus create more money for the show, the Chairman has mailed the package for entrants only to those who have exhibited recently, are hot prospects, or have asked for an application.

But he eagerly awaits the delight of hearing that **you** want to be in the show and need a package. To lay this bliss on him, write to **John Timmerman**, 32 JEB Stuart Drive, Wilmington NC 28412; tel 1-910/452-0943.

## ONE MORE CHANCE FOR A CHANCE

At the fall meeting, raffle tickets will be on sale again for the Glory-of-the-Sea cone so generously donated by one of our members. It is quite large, just a millimeter short of four inches, and is in nice condition despite a small repaired area on the back side.

Grab a five-dollar ticket for the rare shell and help the club finance the November Shell Show. Who knows? You might even win the thing !

## ADDRESS LIST CHANGES

Add: Fay Reed, PO Box 97066, Raleigh NC 27624; tel 1-919/870-7423  
Add: Carolyn Owen, 5501 Branch Road, Summerfield NC 27358; tel 1-910/643-6428  
Add: Mary Kate Tarleton, 3419 Lewis Farm Rd, Raleigh NC 27607; tel 1-919/787-4164  
Add: Mike Tove, 303 Dunhagen Place, Cary NC 27511; tel 1-919/460-0338  
Add: Mrs Amy Edwards, The University of Georgia Museum of Natural History, Athens GA  
Change: Charlotte G Johnson, 30-104 Brough Lane, Hampton VA 23669; tel 1-840/725-4064  
Change: Leonard & Mary DeDuke (from BeDuke)  
Change: Eric & Nancy Fritz



"Would you care for a free sample as a get-acquainted offer?"