



Scotch Bonnet

NORTH CAROLINA SHELL CLUB



Scotch Bonnet

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WELCOME TO THE SHELL CLUB'S 39TH YEAR

The next meeting will be: May 19 - May 21, 1995,

Location: Pawleys Island, Georgetown, South Carolina.

Meeting Place: The Days Inn, Georgetown SC

Schedule: Friday, May 19th. Registration at 7:30 pm

8:00 pm "Mostly for Beginners" Janet Durand will talk about Nautilus shells.

"Life and shells in the Marshall Islands" Ruth Hood will present an interesting program about her experiences in the Marshall Islands.

Saturday, May 20th. Registration at 7:30 pm

8:00 pm "Mostly for Beginners" by Betsy Roberts will discuss Moon Snails.

"Show a Shell" by the members. Everyone is encouraged to bring a prized shell to the meeting and briefly tell the club about the circumstances under which it was found or obtained.

We will end with The Spring Quiz, and the Find of the Day award.

SATURDAY: Boat trip to Shell Island. Cost \$22.50 per person. The trip will mean two hours water travel with 4 hours shelling time. There will be a bath- room facility on the boat, but not on the island, the boat will stay with the group. You will need to bring your food and drink. Remember sunscreen and insect spray. Send check by the 13th to reserve seat. We need 30 people for the trip. Should be good shelling.

FOR BOAT RESERVATION SEND CHECK TO: Kathy Kakos, 616 Oyster Bay Dr.,
Sunset Beach, NC 28468.
(910-579-9842).

SOME PLACES TO STAY:

Days Inn, Georgetown, SC 1-800-850-0078 (ask for Darlene Grantham)

AARP rates \$40.50 - 1 bed 1 person
44.10 - 1 bed 2 people
50.40 - 2 beds 2 people

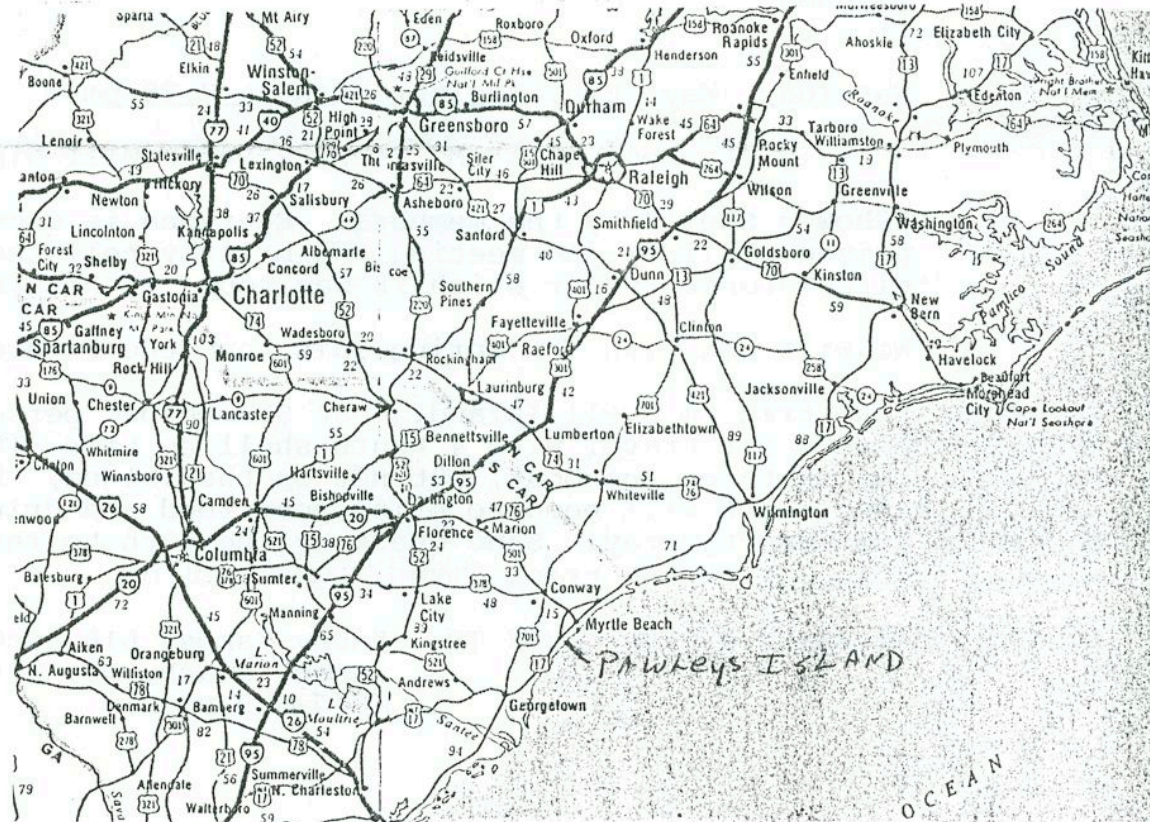
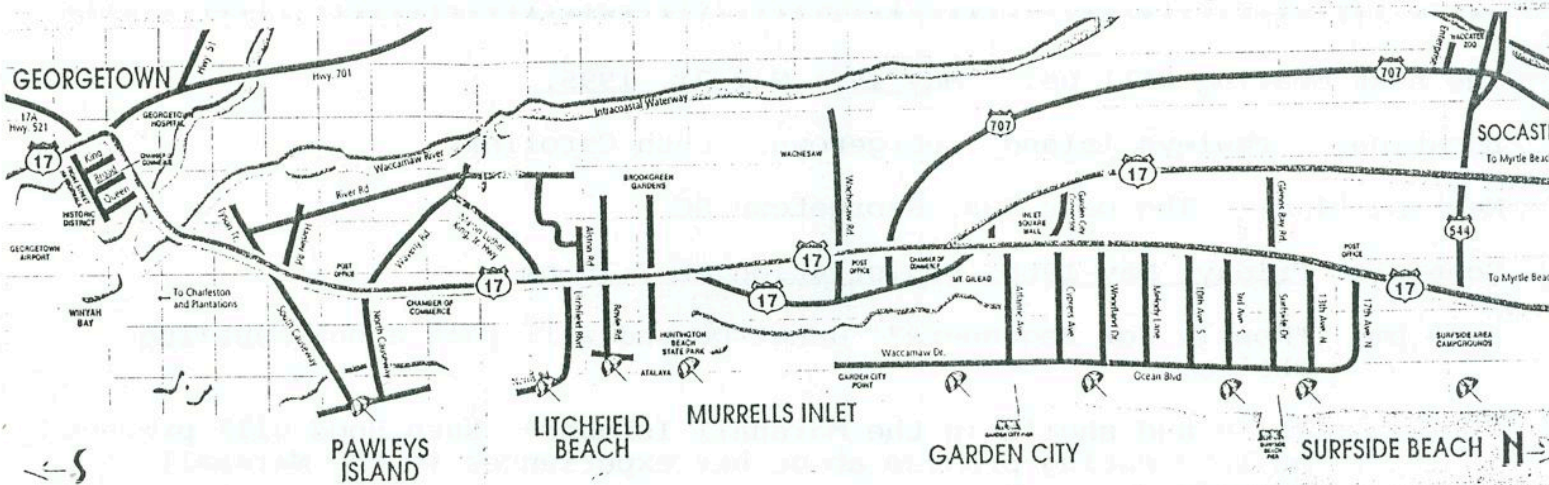
Add 7% tax for all rooms. \$6.00 for extra person in room.

10% discount at Shoney's and Land End Restaurant near by.

Ramada Inn, Pawley's Island, SC CALL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR RESERVATIONS

Double room \$67.00 plus tax

PS-It's bikers weekend in Myrtle Beach so this might be busy.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was great seeing so many of you at our March meeting. We all enjoyed hearing Shirley Schoelkopf, a local member, talk about the history and local tales of Okracoke. The programs were excellent, thanks to Vicky Wall and Fred Leonard. The shelling trip to Portsmouth was "memorable"-the guy said we'd have to wade in water an inch or so deep--he forgot to tell us that it was a quarter of a mile of solid water. The shelling was good (lots of Scotch Bonnets); Althea Murcko had the find of the day; and best of all was getting to know one another better.

Lillian and I were fortunate in going on the three-day "camping trip" to Core Banks with Janet and the Shell Belles. The weather was good, the food was delicious, and the shelling was great. The beach was covered with shells, many broken, but the fourteen of us found over 200 Scotch Bonnets, plus lots of other shells. The big coolers were filled with food going over, and shells coming back. It was truly a fun-filled trip.

I hope to see lots of you at the May meeting in Georgetown and on the trip to Shell Island.

Happy Shelling,

Betty

Betty Muirhead

If you have any news about our members, please notify:

Ruth Dixon
711 Parker Street
Durham, NC 27701
1-919-682-1501

or

Marguerite Thomas
P.O. Box 721
Swansboro, NC 28584
1-910-326-4497

We would like to keep the membership informed of activities, news, illnesses, etc., of our members, so please let us know what's happening out there.

Here's the gang
on the
Cedar Island Ferry



SHELLING ON SANIBEL

The shelling was great on Sanibel Island at the lighthouse (southern) end of the island on Feb. 10, 1995 - that is IF you were looking for small white shells! It was a beautiful warm day, so the beach was full of sun-bathers. There were lots of people strolling along upright. But there were very few practicing the Sanibel stoop. With such small shell, the only way to find anything was to get down on all fours. which I did. The most abundant shells that day were the slipper shells, Crepidula fernicata, and small ponderous arks, Noetia ponderosa. Within ten minutes I found 2 angulate wentletraps, Epitonium angulatum, and one other wentletrap, as yet unidentified. I thought "Boy this is SOME beach!" I did pick up many miniature bubble shells, Bulla Occidentalis, and some American modulus, Modulus modulus.

When I finally decided to get up and walk to see what else the beach might offer, I came up to a man carrying a very fresh looking whelk egg case. I stopped to admire it. He asked me what it was, so I told him. "Well what is that?" I told him a whelk was a shell, and that the eggs were laid in that case. "Well, is it a fish or what", he asked. So I told him again. When we squeezed on one of the disc, a jelly-like substance came out. Together we decided that it might still hatch out, so agreed with him to throw it back in the water. He did, but was still wondering if he threw it far enough out to stay out and off the beach.

We really did not look for another public beach access on Sanibel, but we drove the whole length of Captiva Island, and the only public access to the beach was at the northern end of the island. It was a very white and high beach, with few shells on it. We picked up a few auger, Terebra dislocata, and

some kitten's paws, Plicatula gibbosa. There were lots of the ponderous arks, and slipper shells too.

We visited the preview center for the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum. We talked to a sweet little old lady, Violet Mugridge. She had owned the shell shop on the site for years, and she was volunteering at the preview center. She told us that the Shell Museum should open the end of March or April.

Earlier, I had been advised to go shelling on Gasparilla Island, On the map it's the northern end of the chain with Sanibel being the southern end. We were quite impressed with the town of Boca Grande, but the shelling was even poorer than Sanibel. The only shells we found were rigid pen shells, Atrina rigida, and one valve of worn Florida spiny jewel boxes, Arcinella cornuta.

The worst part of the trip? It was listening to the native residents complaining how cold it was. I wore short sleeve shirts most of the time, and came home to a really cold spell. They should be so lucky!

We had scooped up a bag of shells to bring home. When the Shell Belles came to my house for our annual Seafood tasting, I put the shells in a box on the deck and invited the ladies to "go shelling on Sanibel and Captiva". After they left, I started looking through the Captiva Box, and much to my surprise found another angulated wentletrap! I wonder what else may be in that pile of shells.

BY: Janet Durand,
Atlantic Beach
& Jane Chestnut,
Salter Path

MARJ AND BOB TOMLINSON

Can a gal from Texas find happiness with a guy from New Joisey ? You betcha !

Marj started life on a farm in Hillsboro Texas, near Dallas, where she rode her pony to elementary school almost every day. She went on to North Texas University and the University of Texas, studying elementary education. After a few years of teaching in Corpus Christi, an ophthalmologist friend suggested that she might want to teach the visually impaired. So, Marj went back to "school" at Vanderbilt to obtain her Master's in that specialized field. Returning to Corpus Christi, she established a "resource center" for the CC public schools, where blind and partially-sighted students were "mainstreamed". It was in Corpus Christi where Marj and Bob met.

Bob grew up in Elizabeth NJ and went to Syracuse University to study architecture. From there, he worked in Washington DC for a few years until he decided to go "south-west". He landed in Corpus Christi and, after a few more years of "internship", he established his own architectural office. In 1968, he and Marj decided to move to the DC area where Marj had an offer to establish another "resource center" and Bob had an offer to become part-owner of a much larger architectural firm, specializing in the design and construction of educational facilities in the mid-Atlantic states.

Marj retired from teaching in the late-70s, when the mountains of government-induced paperwork took the joy out of teaching. In 1983 Bob, feeling the pinch of a huge downturn in post-baby-boom school construction, applied for and obtained the position of Director of Planning at Duke University. It didn't take them long to pack up and move to Durham, where both are thoroughly enjoying the life, the friends, the mountains and, of course, the beaches.

Bob and Marj have four great and congenial kids, girl-boy-girl-boy, par for the course. The oldest girl is a homemaker married to a freelance computer programmer. The oldest boy has a custom roofing firm, specializing in slate, tile, copper, etc. He and his wife, a neo-natal PA, have two children. A graphic arts business occupies the second daughter, living in Frederick MD (the others live in northwest Washington DC). Last but not least (he weighs 230 pounds) is the second son, managing a chain of movie theaters, while recording seemingly-endless family genealogical backgrounds.

Marj and Bob began shell collecting while on summer vacation with the kids in 1968 at Cherry Grove SC. There also occurred one of their largest finds, that of a few hundred Scotch Bonnets on Waties Island. Two other large finds occurred on Portsmouth Island with Lettered Olives and at dawn on the south end of Ocracoke with Alta VanLandingham, bagging countless Sanddollars. Being quite general shellers and amateurs, they have not been to exotic places, but have bought the "good stuff" for their collection. They have collected extensively on the east coast, from NJ south; on the entire Gulf coast; on the west coast of Mexico; and on Baja California. The two joined the National Capital Shell Club in 1970, AMU and COA in 1980 and the NC Shell Club in 1985.

Both have stayed quite busy in retirement. Marj has served in various capacities, thru being President, of the Duke University Campus Club, composed of 400-plus faculty and staff women and wives. She has also served on neighborhood improvement groups and serves as a volunteer worker at the Duke University Eye Center. In addition to shells, she collects cookbooks (now about 1200), collects glass butter dishes, and playing marbles. Bob still works 35-40 hours a week, but now at his mail-order business selling stamps to collectors. His other collecting interests are cocktail shakers (now about 100) and covered bridge postcards (now about 2000 different).

With the NC Shell Club, the two have handled the refreshments for two years in the past, have together been Newsletter Editors for a total of four years, and Bob has been VP and President one year each.

They cannot close without mentioning that Bob's mother will be 100 in July and that her sister (his aunt) just passed 102 ! Marj's mother died at 90 and her father at 97 ! We guess that, if nothing else, they got good genes ! God bless their forebears.

Information on places to visit!

Cape Lookout:

Herman Lindsay wrote to let us know how good the shelling has been on Cape Lookout. On Saturday, April 8th, he spent the entire day shelling there. He writes " I have never been one to collect shells on the ocean side, but have been made a believer to do so. One lady who came over on the ferry, started about a mile North and ran into a pile of shells. She wasn't kidding either. I counted 7 Helmet Shells, one was about 8" across and several nice sized conch's in very good shape. I did find several nice perfect Venus clams and one Cerithium".

"Bad news is that the ferry boat will shift to a new location in 2 weeks (mid-April). It will be located on the right side of Calico Jacks. Also the wagon & tractor no longer exists on Cape Lookout. A new 4-wheel drive truck will take you to the point for \$6.00 a round trip. Last year it was \$5.00. The year prior it was \$1.00. Also, at Calico Jacks there is a \$3.00 parking fee. I am not sure if this fee will apply to the new location. I will let you know". There's a limit of 2 buckets of shells per person. Positively the rangers object to live collecting. "I have over the past 4 years, obtained a Collection permit from the Department of the interior which limits only three live specimens per year. If you go this route, make sure you have it on you when you start collecting".

"I'm going to cheat this year and only enter 3 exhibits.

Hope to see you all at Pawleys Island".

Happy Shelling

Herman Lindsay

Hammock Beach State Park

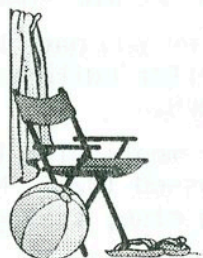
Starting March 31st, the Hammocks Beach State Park will expand its ferry service to Bear Island, an 892 acre barrier island. The passenger Ferry will transport visitors from the mainland portion of the park in Swansboro to Bear Island. No vehicles are permitted on the island and there is a limit of visitors per day.

The ferry will depart from park service headquarters, located outside Swansboro on state road 1511, off Highway 24. The gate is open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The ferry will be in operation from April thru October. Call for schedule. (910-326-4881) The fee for the 2.5 mile ferry ride is \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children 4 to 12. The trip takes about 25 minutes through the Intracoastal Waterway and Cow Channel.

The Island may be reached by private boat when the ferry is not operating.

Bear Island is a popular nesting site for loggerhead sea turtles, offers four miles of sandy beach and forest for swimming, hiking, fishing, picnicking, shelling and strolling. There is also a designated canoe trail. A bathhouse, picnic shelter and primitive family camping are available. The camping fee is \$5.00 per night and you will need to get a permit from the park office.



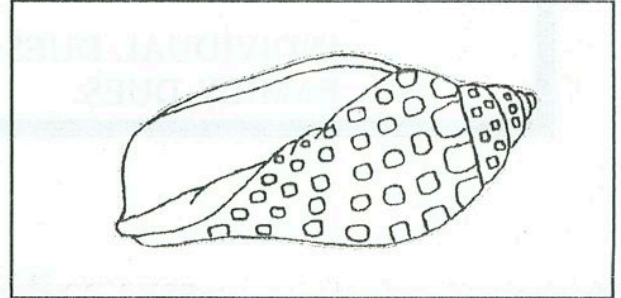
Bear Island is one of the few remaining unspoiled beaches on the Atlantic coast.

SHELL OF THE MONTH

JUNONIA

Scaphella junonia (Lamarck)

The colorful junonia is found mostly in the warmer waters of southeastern United States. This gastropod is a member of the Volute family. It is a relatively uncommon shell.



The shell is large, solid and smooth with purple-brown spots on its cream colored shell and on the similarly colored soft parts of the animal. It may be up to six inches long. There is no operculum. They are carnivorous, living on mollusk and other small organisms. The columella has four folds.

It is found off-shore on coarse bottoms in 6' to 180' of water. There are several rarer sub-species that have been dredged from deeper waters.

If you are lucky you may find one in the scallop dump, several have been found at Merriman in the past.

The next meeting will be in September at Pine Knoll Shores. Please plan to attend. You can help to support the club by both donating articles for the auction and bidding on articles. We usually have some fine shell items to be purchased by the highest bidder. It should be a lot of fun.

It's not too early to start planing an exhibit for the shell show in Wilmington. There are many categories, ranging from crafts to shell collections, amateur to professional, so plan to attend and plan to participate. If you need more detail, call John Timmerman.

Some more changes:

OLD

Morgan, Walter & Margie
N. Charleston, SC 29406-4008

Marge & Bob Haywood

Kathryn & Donald McCoy

NEW

Charleston, SC 29405-4008

Marge & Bob Hayward

Kathryn McCoy

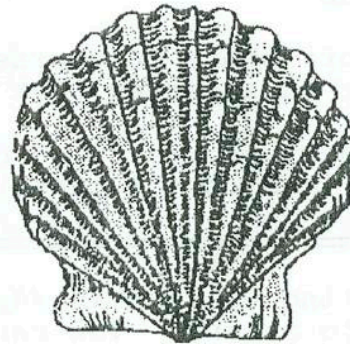
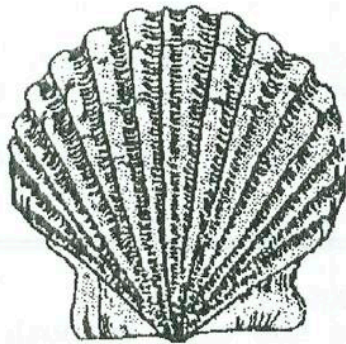
Randy & Teresa Klein
124 Circle Drive
Mount Holley, NC 28120
704-827-3745

A MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER:

Some members have NOT paid their 1995 dues. Please either send them in to Janet Durand or be prepared to pay them at your next meeting. This will insure that you continue to receive newsletters and to support our fine organization.

INDIVIDUAL DUES: \$10.00 per year

FAMILY DUES: \$12.00 per year



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30 Queens Grant Circle
Shallotte, NC 28459

FAYETTEVILLE NC 283 #2 04/19/95 17



Marguerite Thomas
P. O. Box 721
Swansboro, NC 28584

