

# NORTH CAROLINA SHELL CLUB



Scotch Bonnet



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## WELCOME TO THE SHELL CLUB'S 39TH YEAR

The next meeting will be: September 22-September 23, 1995

Location: EMERALD ISLE, NC

Meeting Place: Friday - Emerald Isle Town Hall (on Highway 24)  
Saturday - Emerald Isle Recreation Center (Next door)

Schedule: Friday, Sept. 22, 1995 Registration at 7:00 pm  
This will allow time for delivering auction items and socializing.

7:30 pm Review of the Saturday field trip.

7:40 pm ANNUAL AUCTION: with Carl Truckner and Doug Wolfe

8:30-8:50 Silent Auction: (New this year)

Saturday, Sept. 23rd Registration at 7:30 pm

7:30 pm Social Time, Find of the day judging.

8:00 pm "Mostly for Beginners" Nancy Wolfe will talk about Trivias.

8:10 pm Dr. Doug Wolfe will talk about his recent travels to Costa Rica.

## Program Notes

Friday - Except for a brief review of the plans for the Saturday field trip, the entire night will be devoted to the auction. Dues cover only a part of our annual expenses, so your generosity with the auction does the rest. Bring shells and other items to be sold, and also money to buy items! Shells, shellbooks, and shell related items are particularly welcome, but you can bring anything. Please feel free to list a minimum bid on any items that may be valuable.

Also please note that we are going to have a silent auction after the regular auction, this should speed things up considerably and be fun too.

We appreciate your support.



SATURDAY: Field trip to Cape Lookout. [1-800-423-8739] The boat will leave Harkers Island at 10:00. Cost \$12.00 per person.

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

Low tide is about 1:30 that day so the timing should be good.

#### SOME PLACES TO STAY:

Islander Motor Inn & Restaurant - Emerald Isle 1-800-354-3464  
1 dbl bed \$36.00  
2 dbl beds \$43.00  
Ocean Front 2 Dbl beds \$52.00

Rusty Pelican Motel - 8104 Emerald Dr. 1-919-354-3450  
1 dbl bed \$47.00 - \$5.00 extra per person.

Ramada Inn - Salter Path Rd., Pine Knoll Shores 1-800-338-1533  
\$67.00 for 2 dbl. beds or 1 queen or 1 king

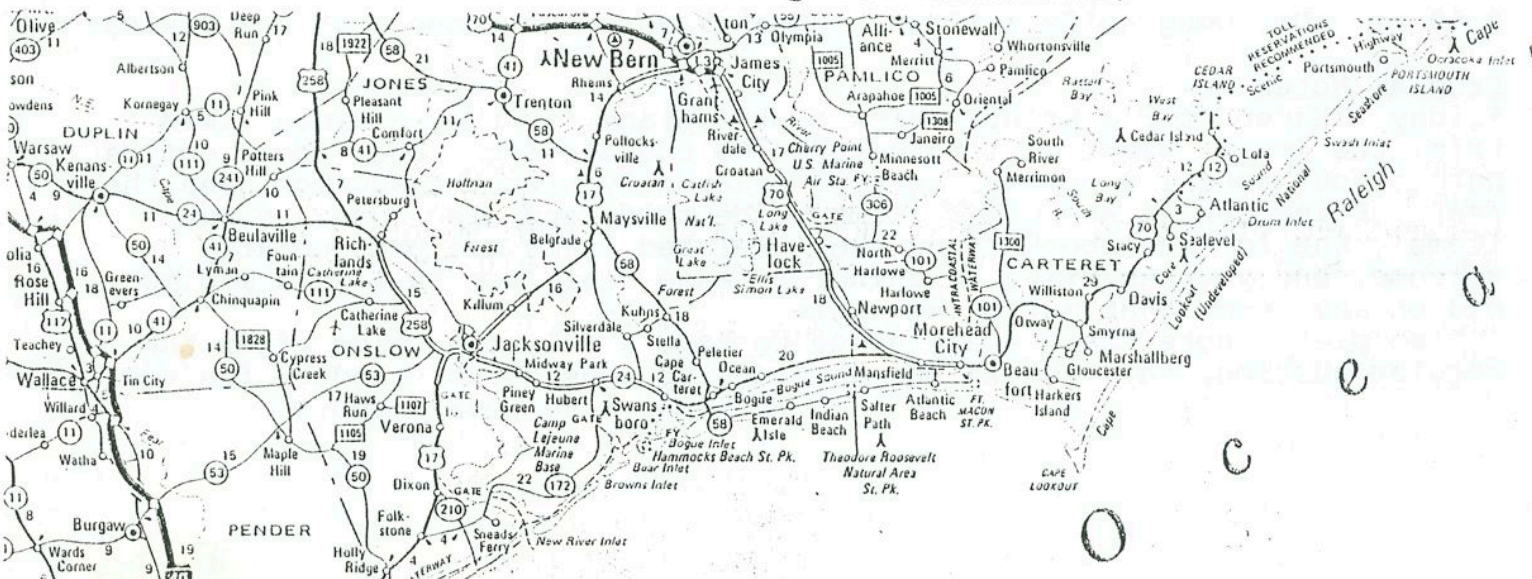
Budget Inn - Atlantic Beach 1-800-636-3780  
1 dbl bed \$45.00  
2 dbl beds \$55.00

Parkerton Inn - 1184 NC 58 (on the mainland) 1-919-393-7637  
2 People \$45.00

Bogue Inlet Motel - 120 Bogue Inlet Dr., Emerald isle 1-919-354-2755  
2 dbl beds \$40.00

Sandra Dee Motel - 122 Fairview Dr. Emerald Isle 1-919-354-2755  
1 dbl bed \$35.00  
2 dbl beds \$40.00

Holiday Inn - Atlantic Beach 1-800-733-7888  
Comfort Inn - Morehead City 1-800-221-2222  
Royal Pavilion Resort - Atlantic Beach 1-800-7882-3700  
(others listed in the Fall Meeting 1994 newsletter)





## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

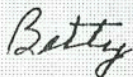
It has been, and still is, a hot humid summer and very few shells on our beach. Maybe it'll be better in the fall.

I hope each of you has had a good year so far and that you will plan to be on Emerald Isle for the September meeting. It's our annual auction on Friday night and this year there will be a silent auction, too. So---please bring your "goodies" for both and your checkbook, of course!

We had such a nice trip to Shell Island in May, with 40+ persons on the boat. The shelling was fair, lots of angel-wings, though not many pairs. The tide was high at the time, but a good time was had by all.

The tide will be low between 1:30 & 2:00 at Cape Lookout for our Saturday field trip, so we should find some neat shells. See you there!

Happy Shelling,



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.

The next meeting will be November 17 - 19 at Wilmington. Please plan to attend. You should have your entries well planned by now if you are going to enter an exhibit in 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 details, call John Timmerman.

Some more changes: Carolyn Owen, 5501 Bunch Rd.



### CHANGE:

Nancy Gilfian  
13605 Crusader Way  
Germantown, MD 20874  
301-515-9224

### NEW:

Ann Coughlin  
203 Shotts Ct.  
Cary, NC 27511  
919-481-4543

Judy Larrick  
4927 Seabrook Ct.  
Wilmington, NC 28403  
910-799-3905

Ann Hill  
102 Beachwood - Brandywine  
Morehead City, NC 28557  
919-726-6579

Dr. Cary & A.D. Suter  
833 Arlington Circle  
Richmond, VA 23229  
804-242-5526

Marie Savage  
Palmetto Shell Club  
240 Jamil Rd. Unit 27  
Columbia, SC 29210



From Herman Linsey:

New Location of the Cape Lookout Ferry: The "Pristine Mistress" now sails from Harkers Island Fishing Center. This new location is roughly 1 mile this side of Calico Jack's marina. The Schedule remains as before.

For Reservations Call:  
919-728-3907  
919-728-3908  
1-800-423-8739

Beach transportation on Cape Lookout is by truck now. To the beach from the dock \$3.00, to Cape Point \$8.00. Increase of \$3.00 from Harkers Island, Calico Jack. There is also a three dollar parking fee. Adults \$12.00, children under 6, \$6.00, overnight campers \$15.00. Group Charter Rate 15 or more, \$10.00 per Person. Reservations ad Deposit Required. Harkers Island fishing Center Inc. P.O. Box 400, Harkers Island, NC 28531. 919-728-3907 Motel-Marina.

HERE IS A VERY IMPORTANT MESSAGE

*Don't get caught with any live shells from Cape Lookout.*

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Yes, this means that you may be stopped and your shells checked if you bring back shells from Cape Lookout on the Ferry. (Note from Mr. Linsey... There seems to be some misunderstanding as to orders on collecting live shells and there also appears to be more leniency with those collectors who go out in private boats. I have written for a copy of the regulations if any on collecting live shells.)

*I'm sure we all appreciate the articles and concerns of Herman Linsey and hope he will share the response to his inquiry with us.*

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There seems to be a trend being set when it comes to the collection of live specimens. From Florida to Mexico, there are new laws being implemented that will impose serious fines and whatever other punishment spelled out in the locale where the laws are in effect. The really bad news is that this ban is spilling over to shells and sea creatures in general, alive or dead. Please obey the laws, if you think they are unfair, perhaps you could write in to voice your opinion to the powers that be. If enough people are heard from, it just might make some difference.  
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Some articles on the subject:

"Outlawed Shell Collecting"

There's bad news on shell collecting from Mexico. As of June 1, 1991 the Mexican government prohibits all collecting of shells and other vertebrates, such as sand dollars, sea biscuits, sea urchins, starfish, etc.. Also prohibited are all birds, sea and shore plants, including wildflowers and weeds. Clams, oysters and scallops can only be taken by licensed government cooperatives. Also in that category are crabs, lobsters, and shrimp. No one may take a turtle or tortoise. This comes from a reliable source.

Submitted by: *Herman Linsey*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
From the Jacksonville, Florida  
Shell-O-Gram:

Sanibel's live shelling ban took affect January 1st. Police will start out giving warnings but \$500.00 fines can be given out. Some feel that this ban is unnecessary, and especially unwarranted for those half-alive or half-dead mollusks that have washed up on the beaches. The argument is that they most likely will not survive once they have been left onshore by the receding tides. But for now, they are still off limits to collectors!



ANOTHER ARTICLE:

From the Shell-O-Gram.

**Queen Conch Still in Trouble  
Despite Ban.**

Key West (AP) Protection of poachers seeking the chewy meat and pink shells of the queen Conch is not enough to bring the animals back in large numbers to the Florida keys, a study concludes.

Harvesting conch in Florida was banned nine years ago. Since then, the mollusk has survived but not prospered, the study by the Florida Marine Conservation Center shows.

"Since 1985, there's been really no change in the population," said state biologist Bob Glazer, who researches the Keys conch population and co-authored the report.

Surveys of conch larvae in similar areas of the Keys and the Bahamas found 500 times as many larvae in the Bahamas. Conch in the Keys just haven't bounced back and show no signs of doing so without help.

"The natural stock is depleted to the level at which recovery would be very, very slow at best," said Allan Stoner, a biologist with the Caribbean Marine Conservation Center. "The local reproductive stock is so small that we depend upon the arrival of larvae from upstream nations."

And those nations - like Cuba and Mexico - have been allowing various levels of conch harvesting. The conch population in Mexico, for instance, is going through the same kind of collapse as Florida's. In 1973, 350 metric tons of conch were harvested in Mexico; by 1989, the haul had dropped to 25 metric tons, Glazier said.

Some Caribbean nations such as Venezuela, have closed conch fisheries to save the species. But official proclamations do not stop people from harvesting conch, and there is not enough enforcement to stop the poaching, Glazier said.

If the Keys conch was going to come back on its own, it should have done it by now, the scientist said. Conch start breeding at about 3 years old, so three generations have matured since the ban. But the adult population remains the same.

One remedy could be to restock the keys with lab-grown conch. Glazier is experimenting with different breeding techniques and trying to find out whether domestic conch could live in the wild.

"Our goal is not to restock the Keys," Glazier said. "Our goal is to determine whether it is feasible to restock the Keys."

From the Orlando Sentinel,  
June 6, 1994.

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THE SHELL OF THE MONTH: Polinices duplicatus (Say, 1822)  
Common Names: Atlantic Moon Snail  
or Shark's Eye

Bill Faver, A writer who often has articles in the local paper has graciously allowed us to reprint his essay on the moon Snail. As you can see, Mr Faver does his homework. We can learn a great deal from his very interesting and readable studies of the natural world.

A special thanks to Bill Faver for the article on the next page.



# One Of The Gifts From The Sea

BY BILL FAVER

Most children enjoy finding some unusual shells on our beaches and are eager to collect some of the gifts from the sea. One of my earliest coastal memories was finding a moon snail, or shark's eye shell, in almost perfect condition. Moon snails are round, globe-shaped, smooth, and highly polished. Color is usually gray to tan, with the base sometimes lighter.



FAVER

Moon snails are among the most active predators and feed on many bivalves, consuming three or four small clams in a day. They dig in the sand and uproot their victims, then hold them by the strong foot, and use their long, tubular proboscis to pierce the shell. The drill radular ribbon of closely-set teeth

begins to act and a gland-produced acid aids the rasping until a hole is made.

Once the hole is pierced, the radular scrapes the soft tissues into fragments which are passed back to the gizzard for digestion. Sometimes we find shells on the beach with a small round hole left by the moon snail

who ate the meat inside.

Since moon snails burrow in the sand, they have no eyes or the eyes are undeveloped. The foot of the animal is large—about three times the size of the shell. The foot allows it to glide under the sand without surfacing. By contracting the foot and squeezing out the water, the moon snail can fit the entire mass of the foot in its shell.

About the only predators of moon snails are starfish and other cannibalistic moon snails. Some caught at low tide are lost to the heat of the sun and the probing of birds.

A walk along our beaches at low tide may reveal a broad, meandering trail over sand bars similar to that of a mole on land. The hump at the end may turn out to be a live moon snail. Or you may find an empty shell along the high tide line. Look also for the round "sand collar" which holds eggs for the moon snail.

Anne Morrow Lindbergh, in *Gifts from the Sea*, writes:

*This is a snail shell, round, full, and glossy... Comfortable and compact it sits curled up like a cat in the hollow of my hand... it has the pinkish bloom of the sky on a summer evening....It stares at me, this mysterious single eye, and I stare back. Now it is the moon, solitary in the sky, full and round....Now it is the eye of a cat that brushes noiselessly through long grass at night....Now it is an island, set in ever-widening circles of waves, alone, self-contained, and serene.*



PHOTO BY BILL FAVER

*THE MOON SNAIL can sometimes be found on our beaches.*



Our news Editor, Virginia, contacted me this morning wondering if I wanted to write about this year's shell show. Of course I did. I've been swamped with other distractions this year.

First, Cape Fear Museum, where I work, had a big new exhibit open at the end of June. We built much of it in-house, meaning, I worked overtime every week starting December 1994. The final month before opening I did virtually nothing but work on this project. The new gallery is the Michael Jordan Discovery Gallery. The exhibit is for children and features natural history of the Cape Fear region. There is a maritime section with a small collection of local shells planned. I hope to have said collection installed in time for our show. Any members wishing to donate shells for this exhibit will be welcomed. I think I can supply most everything needed from my own collection but there are things such as Scotch Bonnet that may be needed. It has been years since I have collected fresh examples so the ones I have are sort of faded.

After the opening in June, Nancy and I began the task of shopping for a house. We have been renting since moving to Wilmington. I was made permanent at Cape Fear Museum earlier this year enabling us to start thinking about buying a house. At this writing we have not purchased a house but are in negotiations for one so my free time has vanished again.

I've completely reworked a large portion of the Shell Show application. I added many illustrations to dress it up. I hope to have it out in the next couple of weeks. Postcards announcing the show will be sent to shell collectors in other clubs throughout North and South Carolina. If you were in last year's shell show you will automatically receive an application. If you were not but are interested this year, let me know.

This will be the "Year of the Helmet". I will have a noncompetitive exhibit featuring helmets. Of course I encourage exhibitors to enter a large spectrum of shells. This is a new idea for this year. We'll see how it goes. If other members want to exhibit their prizes from this genus and are not using them in a competitive exhibit let me know. The museum often has extra display cases at the time of our show. Perhaps we can have helmets everywhere.

We are bringing back the ever popular "Grab Box of shells". I've been squirreling away shells for this all year. I have many, but we need more!

The Glory-of-the-Seas Cone offered by raffle last year will be offered again this year. Mark Johnson, last year's winner, generously donated the shell back to the club to raffle this year. Tickets will remain at the price of \$5.00.

John Timmerman  
32 J.E.B. Stuart Dr.  
Wilmington, NC 28412-1700  
(910) 452-0943

We are very proud of John for this next achievement! His design (as shown) was selected by popular vote by the COA Board of Directors and membership at the convention held in San Diego, California in June. It will appear on the September cover of "American Conchologist", and on all COA stationary and publications of the COA after that.

CONCHOLOGISTS



OF AMERICA, INC.

New Conchologists of America logo by NC Shell Club member John Timmerman: The design features 9 specimens of the official shell of the COA, the *Neptunia decomcostata*. It is common to the Boreal seas of the East and West Coasts of North America so makes a good choice to represent a national organization.

Information on COA membership is available from John Timmerman and/or the Shell Show.



### A MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER:

Some members have been dropped from the 1995 membership list for non-payment of dues. It may be that they are no longer interested in being a member, but if anyone says that they did not receive a newsletter, ask them to make sure that dues are current, otherwise they should bring them up to date at this next meeting. See Janet Durand, she collects the dues. 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



Betty Muirhead  
30 Queens Grant Circle  
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Marguerite Thomas  
P. O. Box 721  
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