

Scotch Bonnet

## NORTH CAROLINA SHELL CLUB



### President:

Betty Muirhead  
30 Queens Grant Circle  
Shallotte, NC 28459  
1-910-754-5216

### Vice-President:

Vicky Wall  
303 Wall Road  
Mayodan, NC 27027  
1-910-427-3610

### Secretary:

Nell Uzzell  
296 Ervin Road  
Mooreville, NC 28115  
1-704-663-3624

### Treasurer:

Janet Durand  
119 Bayview Boulevard  
Atlantic Beach, NC 28512  
1-919-726-0660

### Editor:

Virginia Loester  
211 Shoreline Drive  
Sunset Beach, NC 28468  
1-910-579-8917

### Member-at-Large

Dean Weber  
510 Baytree Road  
Wilmington, NC 28409  
1-910-799-3125

### Member-at large

Everett Long  
10506 Wyndtree Drive  
Emerald Isle, NC 28594  
1-919-354-6043

### Historian

Hugh Porter  
3010 Fairway Road  
Morehead City, NC 28557  
1-919-726-4265

---

---

SHOW TIME!

SHOW TIME!

SHOW TIME!

---

---

Plan to attend the N C Shell Show and have a fun filled weekend!! Located at the Cape Fear Museum, 814 Market St., Wimington, NC. John Timmerman is the show co-ordinator.

DATES: November 17, 18, 19 in Wilmington, NC:

SCHEDULE: Thursday - Exhibit setup - 9:00 til 5:00

Friday - SHELL SHOW - 9:00 til 5:00

Saturday - BANQUET - 7:00pm

Sunday - BRUNCH - 10:30 SHELL SHOW 2:00 til 5:00

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE BANQUET, PLEASE SEND IN THE  
ENCLOSED FORM BY *NOVEMBER 9th.* See next page for details.

MEETING: Friday, November 17, 1995 Registration at 7:00 pm

LOCATION: Comfort Inn, 151 S. College Rd., Wilmington

7:00 - Social hour and registration.

8:00 - Lillian Roberts will open with a brief review of murex shells.

Our speaker is Sue Brady. a graduate student in Biology at UNC-Wilmington. Sue will speak about her recent discovery of a population of snails in Town Creek, called Helisoma eucosmium. These tiny mollusks had been thought to be extinct since 1908!

The business meeting will follow. Door prizes will be awarded.



Saturday, November 18th **BANQUET- BUFFET**

**LOCATION:** Holiday Inn - Sun Spree Resort, 1706 N. Lumina Ave,  
Wrightsville Beach.

6:30      **Social Hour**

7:00      **Banquet Buffet:** Menu as follows.....  
Beef Bourignonne, Seafood Newburg, crisp garden salad, fresh  
fruit salad, herbed rice pilaf, oven-roasted potatoes, California  
medley vegetables, broccoli au gratin, oreo cheesecake, warm  
rolls, coffee, iced tea.

8:10 pm    **Kevan and Linda Sunderland** will talk to us about their adventures  
collecting Caribbean shells. Kevan and Linda have traveled  
extensively in their quest for shells. They are regular  
contributors of articles for the Conchologist of America's  
magazine. Kevan is also this year's shell show principal judge.

We will end with announcements and door prizes.

Sunday, November 19th **BRUNCH** at Mary Mobley's home,  
2421 Middle Sound Loop Rd, Wilmington.

10:30 am **Brunch** - hosted by Mary Mobley and her sisters Emily Ezell and  
Charlotte Dexter. Directions will be given at the meeting.

2:00 - 5:00      The Shell Show at Cape Fear Museum.

SATURDAY: Field trip - The visit to the Cape Fear Museum at 814 Market  
Street will be considered the Saturday field trip. Here you can see the  
fine display of shells and see the winning entries in the annual North  
Carolina Shell Show. There will also be an opportunity to purchase some  
fine shells. The museum will be open from 9:00 to 5:00 pm. There are  
some other fine exhibits to be seen at the museum also.

**PLACES TO STAY IN WILMINGTON:**

**Comfort Inn**  
151 S. College Rd  
1-910-791-4841

\$51.00 1 or 2 persons

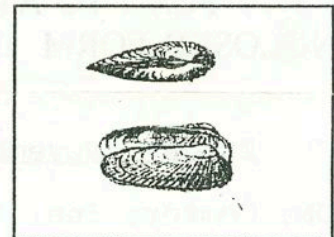
Recently renovated, Continental Breakfast,  
Mention NC Shell Club for room rate and possible  
discount on meeting room depending on number rooms reserved.  
Confirmation #40918.

**Days Inn**  
5040 Market Street  
1-910-799-6300

\$42.81 1 or 2 Persons

**Hampton Inn**  
5107 Market Street  
1-910-395-5045

\$55.00 1 Person  
\$63.00 2 People



False Angel Wing



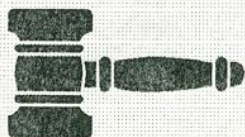
## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We're looking forward to this year's Shell Show and hope we have lots of visitors to see the excellent exhibits. I hope that you'll plan to attend the banquet and the brunch given by Mary, Charlotte and Emily. This is a special treat which we appreciate.

It's been a pleasure to serve as president this year, and just thanks for "putting up with me"! I truly appreciate your support and cooperation and hope it's been a good year for you too.

The auction was a huge success. Thanks to all who helped make it so, to those who donated such nice shells and other items; to those who bought things; to Everett for finding us such a perfect place to hold the auction and for all of his help; to Carl & Doug for being such super auctioneers; to Janet & Marguerite for listing the bids and collecting the money; to Dottie & Louise for organizing & supervising our first silent auction and to members of the Shell Belles for the delicious refreshments.

Too, I'd like to thank the following: Vicky for the many excellent programs; Nell for the minutes and her lovely handiwork; our faithful treasurer, Janet, for keeping us "in the black"; Virginia for her tireless work in preparing the interesting newsletter; John for the planning and success of the Shell Show and serving as the Shell Show chair; Doreen for greeting people and making them feel welcome; Ruth and Marguerite for keeping us informed of member news; Kathy for serving as field trip treasurer; Lillian and Betsy for always having refreshments for our meetings; Bob and Marge for continuing to supply articles for the newsletter; Scott, Ruth, & Pat for serving on the nominating committee; Maryann for arranging the banquet; Dean & Dottie for all their advice; and last but not least, each of you for attending the meetings, going on field trips, providing the door prizes & refreshments, sending articles, sharing knowledge and for making this a very special year for me, and I hope, for all members of the shell club.



Happy Shelling,

*Betty*

Betty Muirhead

PS: Several new members have asked about the source of door prizes and refreshments. If there is a local shell club, they provide cookies, etc., as do other members. Members usually bring door prizes, mostly selecting shell items, and these are always most appreciated. Our thanks to Lillian and Betsy Roberts for furnishing drinks at the meetings and "goodies" too.

Don't forget the raffle tickets, the cost is \$5.00 per ticket. We now have a second shell, (Morum Dennison), donated by Linda and Kevan Sunderland, which is a very nice specimen. The first, the Glory-of-the-Seas Cone, was kindly donated back by Mark Johnson. Now, purchasing a ticket will give you two chances to win a nice shell.

The shell club t-shirts are ready and will be available at the meeting.



## Member News:

Members were saddened to learn of the death of James Wadsworth, Sr., a long time member and a past president of the club.

Nell read an interesting letter from Dr. John Ferguson, now living in Ocala, Florida.

Our thoughts are with Augusta Mylorie, whose husband has been in the hospital and also member Zida Artrip who has been recently hospitalized. It has been learned that Wilbert Cherry, a member, is also in the hospital. Please keep them in your prayers.

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

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

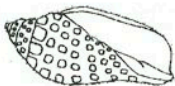
or

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.

There are only a few days left, until October 31, to send in your entry form. 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 at 910-452-0943.

Some more changes:



### CHANGE:

Elizabeth Fuller  
925 New Garden Rd. #1309  
Greensboro, NC 27410

Dr. John Ferguson  
10 Spring Lake Run  
Silver Spring Shores  
Ocala, FL 34472

Maggie White  
4812 Six Forks Rd. Apt 1117  
Raleigh, NC 27609

### NEW:

Margaret Noland  
1899 Norwood Street sw  
Shallotte, NC 28459  
910-579-1405

Margo VanKuren  
P.O. Box 358  
Salter Path, NC 28575  
910-247-0434

Anna Cook & Kim Cook  
1317 Rivermot Dr.  
Gastonia, NC 28054  
704-864-0446

Paula & Guy Wallace  
2341 Jegfferson Ave.  
Gastonia, NC 28056  
704-865-3754

Charles & Sylvia Sellers  
2605 Redbud Dr.  
Gastonia, NC 28056  
704-864-4865

*We Wecome our new members from  
Gastonia and other new members.*



## The Republic of South Africa

Dean Weber

Dorothy and I went in late fall and winter, hoping that rougher seas would force some shells ashore and that fewer shell collectors would be on the beaches. The eight-week period covered May and June of 1995.

The ocean on the west side of the country is the cold, rough Atlantic with a current from Antarctica pushing up the coast, while the ocean on the east side is the warmer and somewhat more tranquil Indian with a current from the equator pushing down the coast.

As planned, lodging was readily available at winter beaches and we stayed in what the South Africans call self-catering places -- apartments and cottages with kitchens, bedrooms, even living rooms -- which were not only more sumptuous but also cheaper than hotels and motels. Unfortunately, lodging places in that country lack heat. The most we ever had was a small electric heater, and three or four blankets instead were much more common.

This was primarily a shell-collecting trip and our intent was to cover the entire coast, which we nearly did. Our advisor in the Cape Town area pronounced the Transkei -- called the Wild Coast and renowned for shells -- unsafe for travel and insisted that we go around it.

We found gastropods, bivalves, squid, tusks, and chitons, and judged the stars of the South Africa coast to be the limpets. There were lots of limpet species, the specimens were sometimes very large, they were plentiful, and many were extremely attractive.

Perhaps our best find was the pteropod (sea butterfly) that Dorothy turned up: Cavolinia uncinata. Until then, in more than a quarter century of looking, pteropods had managed to elude us; or maybe we simply overlooked some in the past.

The nassas were of particular interest because the genera Bullia and Demoulia are unlike the nassas in any other part of the world. Spirula spirula and janthinas of two or more species were available.

Here are notes on some of the better beaches that we visited as we went from west to east (left to right) around the coast. We don't collect live shells, so all references are to what was found on beaches. The notes are more sketchy than I would like because the shells have not yet been catalogued.

BRITTANIA BAY. Astonishing for the number of shells, bivalves and gastropods, littering the beach. I could have carried off baskets. Bullias and a few of the larger bivalves were well represented, as was the red-and-black-striped triton Argobuccinum pustulosum.

LANGEBAAN ON SALDANHA BAY. Bivalves were plentiful, bubbles of the genus Philine were present, the bonnet Phalium labiatum zeylanicum washed in at my feet, and I wished I had more time there. An excellent large double surf clam Scissodesma spengleri.

QUEENS BEACH AT SEA POINT NEAR CAPE TOWN. Huge piles of shells, mostly mussels, but including Argobuccinum pustulosum; the rock shell Mucella cingulata, covered with one, two, three, or four ridges (belts); Burnupenas (the buccinum family); and other gastropods.



SIMON'S TOWN. True limpets, keyhole limpets, a variety of other shells, and a nice Marginella rosea. Memorable because we collected surrounded by penguins, maybe numbering 150.

BUFFELS BAY ON THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE NATURE RESERVE. A nice collection of small gastropods.

CAPE HANGKLIP. We were overwhelmed by the place, particularly by the enormous limpets and the enormous abalones. A wild-looking beach used for boat launching and probably not often visited by shell collectors.

KNYSNA LAGOON. Bubbles, moon shells, one large double surf clam Lutraria lutraria, other shells, some from the beach itself and some from the sand flats widely exposed at low tide. An excellent Venus verrucosa.

BRENTON-ON-SEA. About 5,000 excellent double Donax serra, a very attractive donax which exceeds two inches with no two colored the same. Also Bullias, plus a chance to see them live in the sand at the water's edge. And other shells.

CAPE ST. FRANCIS. Piles and piles of gastropods among the rocks and sand on the near side of the lighthouse. Patella limpets abound, and there are keyhole limpets as well. Turbos. One of the world's best places.

JEFFREY'S BAY. Often regarded as the world's number one shell-collecting location but described as declining by people who have been going there for years. Patrolled so heavily and regularly by collectors that results were mixed. Otherwise, the collecting might be very good. Trivias and other gastropods obtained. Nearly-whole volutes and other uncommon shells seen. Evidence but not fulfillment.

KEI MOUTH. Very good, perhaps because somewhat remote. Big piles of shells, mostly gastropods. Bonnet, turbos, murex, limpets. A very good wentletrap Epitonium coronatum. If you should have the time, go also to Gonubie and Glengariff nearby for similar excellent results. A superb cowrie Cypraea citrina at Gonubie and a nice cancellaria Trigonostoma foveolata at Glengariff.

FULLER'S BAY. Top notch, maybe even our best place. Many piles of shells to search through. The marginella Hyalina keenii, two very good Trivia aperta, seven Trigonostoma semidisjuncta, nine Demoullia ventricosa ventricosa, the keyhole limpet Diodora elevata, and many other shells. Again, if your schedule permits, visit nearby Shelly Beach.

INDIAN BEACH AT PARK RYNIE. Small gastropods and other shells, including several shells found nowhere else in the country.

MISSION ROCKS IN A RESERVE NORTH OF ST. LUCIA. At this point you have pretty much left the South African shell province and are getting into the Indo-Pacific province. Hence some cowries, a fine large triton Cymatium pileare, sundials, and others.

South Africa is very scenic in the interior as well as along the coast, parts of it resembling New Mexico and Utah with eroded rock formations springing up out of the plain.

We pursued other creatures as well as shells, running up a total of 37 mammals, 77 bird species, and a few reptiles in our visits to five national parks and in general travel.

Anyone heading for South Africa -- now is a good, relatively peaceful time -- will want to see us for additional information.



## GIANT CEMENT PLANT TRIP

Sunday, August 27, 4 am.

Seven adventurous Brunswick Beachcomber's headed for the Giant Cement Company near Holly Hill, SC. A friend of a friend initially suggested the excursion. Traveling in and out of the rain, in the wee hours of the morning, we were not sure just what to expect. Due to much recent rain in the area the ground was very wet, but fossil hunting was still a "go" according to the plant spokesman.

Our plant guide, who was very patient and helpful, told us how a whale skull had been found about a month ago and that people from the Smithsonian were now involved in excavating the rest of the whale. One of our lucky members (Virginia L.) became briefly stuck in the deep mucky white mud when she decided to go to see the progress being made by the excavators. *(She extracted herself after Kathy Kakos threw some big rocks at her...for a foothold, of course.)*

Two of our luckiest finds (by Louise Mason and Doreen Prigel), were large sharks' teeth, approximately 2 1/2" long, 30,000 years old is the guesstimate as to age

according to other finds in the area. We're hoping John Timmerman can help verify source and age. Louise also found a cannon ball.

Other fossil finds were smaller sharks teeth, some vertebrae, sand dollars, scallops and a few other shells or castings, etc. There were some interesting calcite crystals on some of the shells.

The plant guide explained that the workers purposely uncovered a new area prior to our visit. That was the area where the best finds were discovered.

If you are interested in this trip, they allow fossil hunters in every other month, on the last Sunday. CALL 1-803-496-5033 for reservations. Be prepared for climbing. We noticed some people had sifters and shovels.

On second thought, maybe an overnight trip would have been preferable to a 3 a.m. alarm!

Submitted by: Doreen Prigel



