



Scotch Bonnet

NORTH CAROLINA SHELL CLUB

WELCOME TO THE SHELL CLUB'S 41ST YEAR

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Member-at large

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296 Ervin Road
 Mooresville, NC 28115
1-704-663-3624

Historian

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

MEETING DATES: MARCH 14 & MARCH 15, 1997

LOCATION: Ocean Isle Beach

MEETING PLACE: Museum of Coastal Carolina, 48 Scotland Street,
Ocean Isle Beach

SCHEDULE: Friday [Please note...A trip is scheduled at 12.00]

7:00 pm: Registration

8:00 pm: "Mostly for Beginners" by John Timmerman (His choice)

8:15 pm: The 1996 Shell Show in Review by Vicky Wall.

Saturday

7:00 pm: Registration

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

8:00 pm: Mostly for beginners...Venus clams by Betsy Roberts.
All members are invited to bring one or more of your
favorite Venerid specimen(s) to show and share with the club.

8:15 pm: The topic will be "Both sides of Africa" with Dean & Dottie
Weber. This presentation will provide a composite view of
their trips to Kenya on the Indian ocean and to Sao Tome in
the Atlantic off West Africa.

FRIDAY, March 14: John Timmerman will be leading a trip to Castle Hayne at the Martin Marinetta Plant. This is a fossil trip. The terrain is hilly and can be treacherous. You will be required to wear a hard hat. *You can get an inexpensive one at a hardware store if you can't borrow one.* We will Meet at the plant at 12:00. Directions, from Ocean Isle, Route 17 North to Rt 421/133, (near Wilmington) to Rt 133/ 117 turn right on Holly Shelter Rd. (Texaco/Subway Station on corner) to plant. Should take about 1&1/2 hours drive. From Rt 40 Exit 414 Right on Holly Farm Rd to plant.

SATURDAY, March 15: No formal trip planned. It is suggested that you consider shelling in North Myrtle Beach, or Cherry Grove. They are dredging in that area, so more shells are showing up. A small rake may be helpful to uncover shells.

PLACES TO STAY:

Ocean Isle Inn
35 West Main Street
Ocean Isle Beach, NC
1-800-352-5988
[\$40.00 per night]

Cooke's Inn
12 Causeway Dr.
Ocean Isle Beach, NC
1-910-579-9001

Harbor Inn
Hwy 17, Little River SC
1-800-292-0404



Field Trips

March 1, BULL ISLAND, South Carolina. Departure by boat is from Moore's Landing in the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge above Charleston, South Carolina, promptly at 7:30 am. Be there 7:10 am for rest stop and early boarding. We are expecting to leave Bull Island at 1:30 pm. Boat Price \$20.00, limit 37 people. Details, trip description and motel information can be mailed if you call soon enough for this and Feb. 26-28 trip by calling Dean Weber at 910-799-3125. Time is getting short!!

February 26-28. OTHER SOUTH CAROLINA POINTS. This is a weekday companion trip to the Bull Island venture, with no limit on the number participating. Edisto Island is one destination, with a possible \$20.00 boat charge there. Call Dean Weber As per Above notice.

March 21-23 CAPE LOOKOUT, North Carolina. Cape Lookout studies program with Keith Rittmaster of Friends of the (Maritime) Museum. Limited to 15 people. Call Dean Weber at 910-799-3125 to reserve space. Usually good shells, but live collecting is not permitted on this Federal property. We stay on the island at the Coast Guard Station: take own linens, sleeping bag, and pillow: also carry out food preparation; dishwashing, building cleanup. The cost per person is \$80.00 for food, lodging, and staff support (a bit more if we don't get 15 people) and \$12.00 for ferry from Harkers Island. The ferry leaves from Harkers Island at 1:00 PM on Friday, March 23. Many more details will be provided to those who reserve.

From the President;

Greetings! I hope that everyone is off to a good start for the new year and that you are staying warm!

The 1996 Shell Show was one of the best shows we have had in a long time. My hat goes off to show chairman John Timmerman and to all of the exhibitors. Show judge Dr. Harry Lee remarked that our show was one of the most competitive he had ever judged, and that show exhibitors were to be commended on the quality of their exhibits.

The planning meeting for 1997 has produced some exciting new field/diving trips and some promising shelling spots for our quarterly meetings, including some fossil collecting. We hope to have something for everyone. Hope to see you at Ocean Isle in March!



Good shelling,

Mark

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE AT OKRACOKE APRIL 25 & 26.

MY one time Experience Collecting in a Scallop Dump. By John Timmerman

After hearing stories for years about the incredible treasures to be had in scallop dumps, (perfect Junonias by the handful!) , I had an opportunity to visit one. I moved to North Carolina too late to be a part of the "gold old days" of scallop dump foraging.

My wife Nancy accompanied me to a dump that had been there long enough for a strong ripeness to develop. It had an odor similar in intensity and stomach turning quality to road kill. Being an old hand at roadside scavenging and having heard the legends of scallop dump stench I came prepared with hand rakes, shovel, and closable buckets. Being my first time at one of these I could not believe other (more experienced) collectors were casually throwing aside the most amazing dark Strombus alatus I had ever seen. I Quickly gathered up several dozen of the least battered examples I could see. I carefully scanned the shell heaps and found even more on the piles. Also were numerous Fasciolaria, Busycon, Phalium and Distorsio.

After a half hour or so I started to calm down

and realized to find the rare treasures I had heard of, such as Junonias I would have to make use of the digging tools I brought along. I had never heard of anyone tossing those goodies aside because they were too common. I thought the odor was bad when I first arrived! Upon opening the pile, I had to position myself up-wind from the ever enlarging hole. Some Conus delesserti came to light much to my delight as well as more and better examples of common species. A few choice Murex pomum enriched my catch. A few smashed juvenile Cassia madagascariensis tumbled out of the pile but none of the huge specimens I had heard tales of.

After two hours of digging I finally had to call a break to get away from the stench. Nancy has no sense of smell so she could only imagine why I wanted to get away. she is the perfect partner for this activity for this reason. We retreated to a nearby Bay and washed our hands, boots and tools. We than had a peanut butter & jelly sandwich for lunch. We looked at the piles from afar and just imagined those big Junonias laying just under the pile where we had stopped digging moments before.

After lunch Nancy was ready to join me for

more digging but I could not face more of those rotting mollusks. I had quickly become jaded by the abundance of those incredible colored Strombus and discouraged by the lack of a choice Junonia. We packed up for the trip home. Fortunately the buckets we brought were the "pickle" variety with tight fitting lids. I hammered the lids on and was happy to discover the tight lids completely sealed in the odor, even after we took a detour and left the car parked in the sun for an hour.

After arriving home I took the catch to a remote part of the yard, poured out the contents and hosed them down before approaching the pile of shells. Most of the shells cleaned with high pressure water, their contents virtually liquified by decay. A portion that would not clean spent several months under a layer of pine straw where the little beasties of the forest floor finished the job that I was unwilling to do.

The following year the same dump contained no scallop boat shells and I have not heard of any since. I would still love to find that elusive Junonia or two dozen.

This Article condensed from Suncoast Shorelines, Suncoast Conchologists, Sept 1996

by Alice J. Monroe

Even Dead Shells Need Some Care & Feeding.

It is easy to assume that once shells are collected, cleaned, cataloged and cabinetted that they are safely tucked away for posterity. Unfortunately, this is not true.

One of the greatest problems that faces a curator of shells, in museums as well as in private collections, is Bynes disease. Bynes disease is characterized by the disintegration of a shell into a fine white powder. It results from acid in the environment reacting chemically with the calcium in the shell. The key to preventing Bynes disease is eliminating or at least minimizing, the amount of acid around the shells.

Acids are commonly used in the manufacture of various materials, and as these materials age, the acid is released into the surrounding environment. An example is cotton which

yellowes with age. This aging process releases acid into the air. You may be unknowingly contributing to Bynes disease by the selection of materials and the environment in which the shells are stored.

A humid environment is worse than a dry one because the acid dissolves in the water vapor in humid air to accelerate the deterioration process. For this reason, specimen shells should not be stored in attics, garages, or storage sheds in humid climates. The ideal environment would be air conditioned or with a fan to permit circulation so less acid comes in contact with the shells.

A primary source of acid is the wood of shell cabinets. Oak cabinets should be particularly avoided. Steel cabinets are best. Ones that allow air flow are most desirable. The best material to use are synthetics that do not deteriorate with age. Polyester, rather than cotton would be a better choice to line your cabinets and drawers, foam often crumbles with age and should be avoided. Plastic is better than cardboard, unless cardboard is "acid free". Polyester batting is preferable to cotton for mounting opercula.

Once shells have been placed in a cool dry place with adequate air flow on synthetic materials, periodically opening and even removing the shells and placing them in water (distilled best because it is acid free) will dissolve any acid that may be accumulating on them. It is also a good idea to place newly acquired shells in water for several hours, particularly if they have been acquired from an aging collection.

Acid free materials are more expensive than their acid-laden counterparts. so if it is not feasible to replace oak cabinets, and/or materials, at least try to circulate the air more and soak the shells periodically to dissolve away acid that may be present.

IF YOU HAVE ANY NEW IDEAS FOR SHELLING TRIPS, PLEASE TELL MARK JOHNSON, PERHAPS A CLUB TRIP COULD BE ARRANGED.

1996 North Carolina Shell Show

First Place Winners, by Category

Category	Subject	Won by:
Photography	<u>Cypraea cervus</u>	Vicky Wall
Art Using Shells	"Octi-Glo" (Docinia shell Octopus)	Judith Bryan
Art Depicting Shells	<u>Achitectonica nobilis</u> (cross-stitch)	Vicky Wall
<u>Scientific Catagories</u>		
Regional, Any Source	"Shells From Alaska"	Doug Wolfe
World Wide Self Col.	"Island !"	Dean & Dorothy Weber
NC - Self Collected	"North Carolina's Shackleford Banks, A One Day Adventure"	Vicky Wall
Fossil Mollusks	<u>Chesapecten madisonius</u>	Janet Durand
Specialized Collection	<u>Fasciolaria tulipa</u>	Ann Buddenhagen
Education Collection	"Queen of the Caribbean (<u>Strombus gigas</u>)"	Vicky Wall
Junior Collection	"Some of My Favorite Shells"	Joshua Wall
Novice Collection	"Trumpet Tritons"	Everett Long
Single Shell	sinistral <u>Busycontypis canaliculatis</u>	Bill Tilley
Genus Collection	<u>Umbilia Cypraea</u>	John Downing
Sea Life	"Sea Urchins"	Bill Tilley
Regional Self Collected (A Tie)	"Sea Shells of Australia" "Collecting in Two Provinces of Our South Eastern United States"	Gene Everson Mark Johnson



1996 North Carolina Shell Show Trophy Winners

North Carolina Shell Club Trophies:

Arts and Crafts	"Octi - Glo"	Judith Bryan
Self Collected Collection	"Island !"	Dean & Dorothy Weber
North Carolina Collection	"North Carolina's Shackleford Banks, A one day adventure"	Vicky Wall
Novice Collection	"Triton Trumpet"	Everett Long
Self Collected Shell	sinistral <u>Busycotypis canaliculatis</u>	Bill Tilley
Shell of Show	<u>Cassis tessellata</u>	Gene Everson
Hugh Porter Award	"Collecting in Two Provinces of our Southeastern United States"	Mark Johnson
<u>National Trophies</u>		
Chonchologists of America (COA)	"Sea Shells of Australia"	Gene Everson
duPont	"Queen of the Caribbean"	Vicky Wall

Dear Shell Show Participants,

1 December 1996

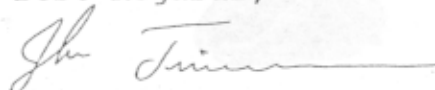
Thank you for helping make this years show the great success it was. This is the largest show since I took over the Chairmanship four years ago. I hear from friends around the country about the good reputation our show is gaining. This rosy report is in no small part due to the professional manner in which the club membership is conducting itself. I thank everyone who has helped make this a healthy and growing show. Scientific Judge, Harry Lee, was impressed with the show, high quality of exhibits, and gracious hospitality of the club. Harry writes:

"Your hospitality was lavish; I never had more amenities placed at my command! The Show, its setting and its conduct were superb."

I'm encouraged by the compliments this years show netted. Of course there is still room to grow and learn from this years short falls. I find myself hoping it does not grow much larger than this year however as Cape Fear Museum is doubtful that they can accommodate the show if it promises to grow larger. I do not want to have to come to limiting exhibit size as some other clubs have to do. Who would have though a couple years ago I would be worrying about the show growing too large?

Again thanks for making this years show the great success it was.

Best Regards,



John Timmerman

Membership News:

It was brought up at the planning meeting that there are several members of the club that have a fair amount of books on shells that could be used as reference materials if you are in need of help in identifying any of your shells. This could be extremely helpful for those trying to put together an exhibit for the show and not having the resources needed.

These are...**Mark Johnson, Hugh Porter, Doug Wolfe, Zida Artrip**. Zida has been recuperating, but she loves to help when she can.

There is a "club" shell collection that has been gathering dust. It consists of four cases and was used as a traveling collection. **Dean Weber** has it and if no one has volunteered, you may want to take up this project, the cases need sprucing up, the labels need to be corrected and changed and some new shells added. These are North Carolina shells, nothing fancy. they can be used in schools, a library, even at the shell show.

New Member, **Tim Blades**, will be co-ordinating some dive trips if any of you are interested in diving.

The club is considering purchasing the very colorful...and useful book on **Florida's Sea Shells** and Seashore life, and possible calendars for sale to members. Thanks to **Mary Mobley** for being such a gracious host to those who attended the planning meeting January 11th.

We hope **Doug & Nancy Wolfe** had a great trip to Trinidad.

Hugh Porter is working under Sea Grant on a new booklet. He seems to have recuperated

well from his eye surgery this past winter.

The Morning Star of Wilmington had a great article in the November 14th issue telling about the shell show. **Dean & Dottie Weber** were featured with a good picture of them with some shells. It was nicely written about Dean & Dottie's interest in shell collecting. Interesting reading. If I can find the whole article, it will be in a future newsletter.

Space permitting, we will allow notices to sell or trade shells from **club members**. Send notice to the editor if you are interested.

WE HAVE A TERRIFIC NEW SHELL TO RAFFLE OFF...A SLIT SHELL...Tickets \$5.00

We are looking to go Hi-tech, **Everett Long** is looking into setting up a Web Page for the club. Also we hope to have an E-Mail address in the near future.

HAVE ANY NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS?

CALL or WRITE:

Marguerite Thomas
910-326-4497
or
Ruth Dixon 919-682-1501

NEW MEMBERS:

Gail O'Donnell
5422 Marina Club Drive
Wilmington, NC 28409-4103
910-395-5061

Sherrill Thurston
PO. Box 358
Wilmington, NC 28460
910-392-7978

Mary Kay & C.A Marwitz 1068
Ocean Blvd. W #7B
Holden Beach, NC 28462
910-842-8993

Fay & Fred Trogden
Michael Tove

Camille & Dale Matzinger
JoAnn Kistler
Wesley & Margueite Ballenger
Patricia Bartell
Tim Blades
Judy Bryan
Meredith Herzog
Dave & Ruth Ann Keener
Helen Majette
C.E. & Micque Pinkerton
Dick & Denzel Dickerson
Mary Ann Adkins

These are new members or reinstated members. We are happy to have them join. Please give them a warm welcome. They are all listed in the new membership roster you just received.

You might want to check with **Janet Durand** to make sure your membership dues are paid.

Corrections [My typo's]...

Cherri, Wilbert & Hansi

Jane Chestnutt...919-247-2547

Brian & Ann Harper
919-490-3727

Meredith Herzog..Holden Beach

Gayle Hughes

Camille/Dale Matzinger

Pinkerton, C. E. /Micque
7078 Westmoreland Dr.

Tove, Michael
303 Dunhagen Place

White, Maggie
Raleigh, NC 27609

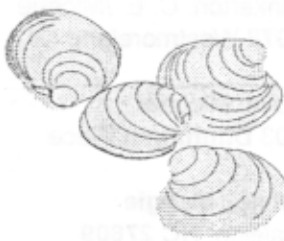




From RT 40 Exit 414 R-Holly Shelter

From Rt 17 421/133/117 R on
Holly Shelter Rd. To Plant
(Texico/Subway on corner)

Virginia Loester
211 Shoreline Dr. E
SunsetBeach, NC 28468



Janet Durand
119 Bayview Blvd.
Atlantic Bch, NC 28512

