# NORTH CAROLINA SHELL CLUB WELCOME TO THE SHELL CLUB'S 41ST YEAR



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MEETING DATES: APRIL 25 & APRIL 26, 1997

LOCATION:

Ocracoke

**MEETING PLACE:** 

Ocracoke Recreation Center

SCHEDULE:

Friday April 25th

7:00 pm: Registration

8:00 pm: "Mostly for Beginners" by Nancy Wolfe on "Wentletraps"

8:15 pm: Our Program will be by Ruth Dixon on The North Carolina Shell Club: People,

Shells and Shelling.

### Saturday April 26th

7:00 pm: Registration

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

8:00 pm: Mostly for beginners...Tim Blades will talk about "Scallops".

8:15 pm: The topic will be "Shelling Expedition to the Goodland Mudflats & Sanibel" By

Mark Johnson.

You will need to take the Cedar Island Ferry to Ocracoke Island.

Schedule as follows:

9:30 C15

The ferry leaves Cedar Island at 7:00, 10:00 a.m and 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. The ferry leaves Ocracoke Island at 7:00 & 10.00 a.m. and 1:00 and 4:00 p.m.. The cost is \$10.00 per auto and it will hold 50 cars. A pedestrian may go over for \$1.00. Reservations recommended.

FOR RESERVATION CALL: 1-800-856-0343

or 1-919-225-3552 for Cedar Island

1-919-928-3841 for Ocracoke

DIRECTIONS: From Morehead City take Rt. 70 to end (Cedar Island)

There will be signs to the Ferry.

SATURDAY, April 26: FIELD TRIP TO Portsmouth Island [There is a cost for the Ferry ride {Approximately \$15.00}] Details will be made available at the meeting Friday evening.

PLACES TO STAY...Call as soon as possible...Also..tell them you are with the North Carolina Shell Club.

PONY ISLAND MOTEL: Rooms \$58.00 double occupancy -old part

1-919-928-3584 \$63.00 1st Floor -new section

\$73.00 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor -new section

ISLAND INN: Rooms \$54.00 per night (two beds)

1-919-928-4351

Propor 9 N.C.





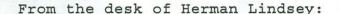
#### Hello everyone!

The first meeting of the year was held at Ocean Isle and was a blast. Many thanks to everyone who participated. Special thanks go to Dean and Dorothy Weber, Betsy Roberts, and John Timmerman for the excellent presentations.

Field trip guru Dean Weber and his unruly gangs have finished their assaults on some nifty South Carolina beaches as well as Cape Lookout. A good time was had by all and some nice shells were found. The Goodland, Florida trip was also a good time as well as some productive shelling. Expect more news on the makings of another southwest Florida trip soon.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in Ocracoke later this month!

Happy shelling,



The latest information on ferry transportation to Cape Lookout...There are presently three locations that will ferry personnel over to Cape Lookout. There are no others according to those I spoke with. The large ferry boat, The Pristine Mistress, was sunk during Hurricane Fran. There are only water taxies used to shuttle everyone over.

(1) Harkers Island Fishing Center

Cost: \$12.00 per person

6.00 Children under six

\$15.00 for Overnight Camping

Telephone: 1-800-423-8739

1-919-728-3907/3908

Transportation to Beach is \$3.00

(2) Sand Dollar Ferry Service

Leave: Barbers Harbor Marina

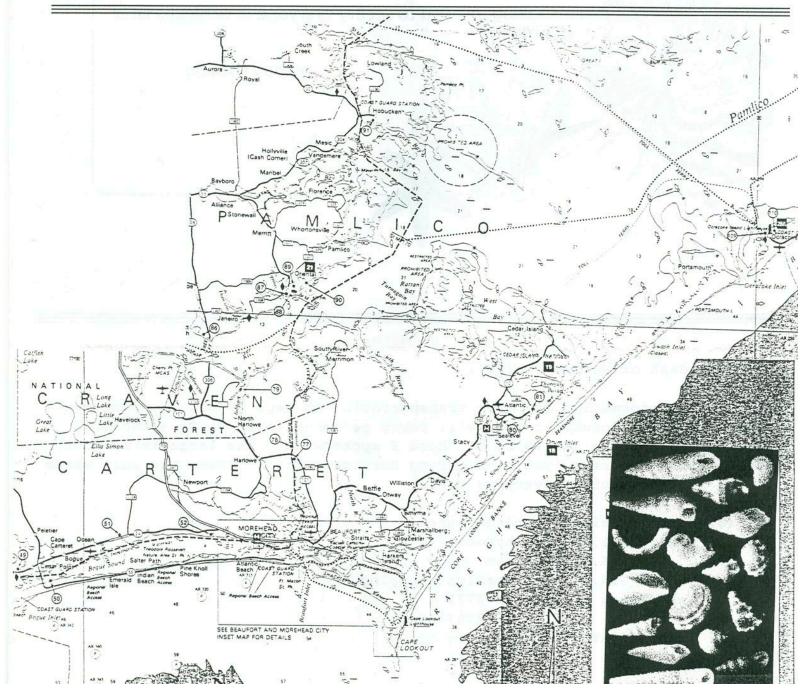
Cost: Same as Harkers Island Fishing Center

Telephone: 1-919-728-6181

(3) Calico Jacks Marina

Cost: Same as others Telephone #: Unknown

Hammocks Beach State Park will resume Ferry service in April, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM with Ferry departing every hour to Bear Island. In May, services are extended to Wednesday through Sunday Beginning Memorial Day Weekend, the park will operate ferry service on a daily two boat schedule with ferries departing every half hour from am to 5:30 PM.



This was sent by Bob & May Tomlinson, From The Herald-Sun (6/23/96)

Dr. Beach's (University of Maryland Prof. Stephen Leatherman) top twenty beaches:

Lanikai Beach, Hawaii

Kailua, Hawaii

- Caladeski Island State Park, Florida
- Kaunaoa, Hawaii
- Wailea, Hawaii

6. Hulopoe, Hawaii

7. Cape Florida State Recreation Area, Florida

Fort Desota Park, Florida

- Hanalei Beach, Hawaii
- 10. Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Recreation Area, Florida
- 11. St. Joseph Peninsula State Park, Florida
- 12. St. George Island State Park, Florida

13. Ocracoke Island, North Carolina

14. Perdido Key State Recreation Area, Florida

15. Sand Key Park, Florida

- 16. East Hampton Beach, New York
- 17, Westhamption Beach, New York
- 18. Bald Head Island, North Carolina
- 19. Coast Guard Beach, Massachusset
- 20. Clam Pass Park, Florida

#### Best Walking Beaches:

Gay Head, Martha's Vineyard, Mass. Hammocks Beach State Park, NC Crescent Beach, Siesta Key, Fla. Carmel Beach, Calif. Kailua Reach Oahu

#### Best Wild Beaches:

Jasper Beach, Maine Cumberland Island, Georgia Padre Island, Texas Shi Shi Beach, Washington Kalalua Reach State Park, Hawaii

# Proposal is made to protect mussel

From The Sunday SUN March 30, 1997

#### THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Charlotte, NC - State transportation officials have paved the way for an effort to protect a 2-inch long endangered freshwater mussel in Union County, NC.

The Department of Transportation will pay for a biologist to educate landowners about the need to maintain clean water in Goose Creek in order to protect the Carolina heelsplitter mussel.

John Fridell, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist, said remnant mussel populations in Goose Creek and Waxhaw Creek in Southwestern Union County face extinction from rapid development along the streams. vulnerable to pollution and runoff or discharges.

To protect the species, wildlife officials are working with DOT,

The filter-feeding mussels are which is building a highway loop in eastern Mecklenburg County, including an interchange at Mint Hill through northern Union County. To help offset damage, the highway department and the Federal Highway Administration will provide \$150,000.00 for three years to the biologist.

Goose and Waxhaw creeks may have fewer than 100 individual heelsplitters, with no recent sign of reproduction, Fridell said.

Last week, the wildlife agency completed a recovery pan to boost mussel numbers. The 10-year plan relies heavily on local planing and voluntary efforts by landowners to protect mussel habitat. No new land-use Fridell said.

Fridell said the agency can provide money to the landowners to fence cattle out of streams and to restore eroded

requirements will be imposed, banks with vegetation. Strategies such as setting aside buffer zones along the streams and building storm water retention ponds keep water clean, he added.

The greenish-brown to darkbrown mussels once are believed to have lived throughout the Catawba, Pee Dee and Savannah river systems in both North and South Carolina.

The two known S.C. populations fare better than their N.C. counterparts. Officials estimate that perhaps thousands of heelsplitter mussels live in Lynches River segments in Chesterfield, Lancaster and Kershaw counties and in other streams in Edgewood County, S.C.

In 1995, discovery of mussel populations in Sumter National Forest prompted S.C. environmental groups to challenge logging plans there.

#### GOODLAND, FLORIDA FIELD TRIP

Five of us (Tim Blades, Betty Muirhead, Everett Long and Tom & Ann Dodge), were fortunate enough to accompany Mark Johnson on a trip to S. Marco Island, Florida on February 4th.

Mark arraigned for some exciting and shelling opportunities on this trip. And we took advantage of them all.

The tides were low very early in the morning on each of the three days we were there, so flashlights were a necessary tool. Goodland flats are like long sandbars exposed by the tides. Some were mud, some sandy and some a mix of sand and crushed shells.

We saw live crown conchs, cones, (Fla., Jasper, And Stearns), and marginellas moving about in their natural habitat on a mud flat not far from our motel. On Thursday and Friday, we rode in an airboat out to several of the flats. That was an exhilarating experience in the dark chilly morning, and a real treat for those of us who had never ridden in one. Karlynn Morgan joined us for the trip out on Friday.

What a shell bonanza we found! True Tulips and Sunray Venuses that were almost black in color, apparently from something in the water: Pear Whelks, Fighting Conchs, Horse Conchs (Tim

one which he gallantly presented to Betty), Lace Murexes, Apple Murexes, Drills, Lightning Whelks, Banded Tulips, Ceriths, Carditas, Naticas, Bubble Shells, Slipper Shells, Prickly Cockles, Atlantic Cockles of a color unique to that area. We also found Chitons and pen shells (Mark showed us that when you lifted a pen shell from the water, we'd find Top Shells clinging to them ... Neat!), nine legged starfish, as well as some brilliantly colored ones, and lovely deep red sea urchins. Other shells were found, but I can't remember them all.

P.S. Forgive me for using only common names of the shell. I'm still learning.

Shared by ANN DODGE

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This next report comes from **BETTY MUIRHEAD** (She didn't miss any of the trips!)

#### SOUTH CAROLINA BEACHES.....

Thanks to Dean's planning and leadership I've had another four day trip to some of the South Carolina Beaches again this year. We were disappointed in not being able to go back to Otter Island, but the fog moved in and surrounded the island, the first group only got to stay a few minutes (they had a nice boat ride though)!!

Folly and Edisto beaches didn't produce many shells,

story. About twenty people joined the original fourteen for the day trip to Bull Island. Everyone found lots of shells, no one came home empty handed. Whelks, Sand Dollars, Moon Snails and Sand Collars, Tulips and Horse Conchs were some of the finds. John Timmerman found a nice Tun. Truly, it was a fun trip.

Betty



# CAPE LOOKOUT WEEKEND....

With our leader, Dean Weber, fourteen of us had a great weekend at Cape Lookout. We arrived Friday afternoon and were met by Program Director, Keith Rittmaster and naturalist Lynn Becams. The winds were going to pick up that evening and Saturday, so Keith thought it would be better to go to Shackleford Banks immediately. We spent about three hours there.

Saturday morning we were dropped off by boat at the spit, where we shelled and walked the beach to the jetty, had lunch at the shade area and Lynn picked us up with our main source of transportation, a flatbed, pulled by a desert storm four wheel drive vehicle. She took us to the point where we shelled some more. We went back to the

field house for a brief rest before we headed for the lighthouse and beach for more shelling. Sunday morning we shelled from 10-12 in the morning on the sound where we were to be picked up by the boat to return us to the mainland.

Friday evening Dean talked about Shell Classification and shell books after which, Keith spoke about his major interest, Dolphin identification and research. Saturday evening, Dean spoke on shell collecting, sharing that he thought the 'high tide line' seemed to be the most productive area, especially if you can manage to be the first one to walk it.

The shelling was not quite as good as last year, probably because of the decreased time at Shackleford Banks, but people were very pleased with their Scotch Bonnets, Wentletraps, Fighting Conchs and Helmets (Betty Muirhead found a nice whole one).

Sunday Morning, Doreen
Pragel, Virginia Loester and I
were given a tour of the solar
panels and wind generator
set up in the yard as the sole
source of electricity. We
were shown how the wind
and sun energy charges the
batteries kept in the basement of the field house.

The food as usual was excellent and plentiful.

Sunday on the return to Harkers Island, the boat which Doreen and I were on had motor problems and we had to be rescued. Two boats came out, we were transferred to one and the other towed the disabled boat in. People are already enthusiastic about next years trip.

Thanks to **ALTHEA** MURKO, a "snowbird" for this article.

**NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS?** 

CALL or WRITE:

Marguerite Thomas

910-326-4497

or

Ruth Dixon

919-682-1501

#### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

It is with deep regret that I must inform you that member Bert Cherry passed away April 4th. Our sympathy goes out to Hansi and family.

(Members since 1989)

#### **NEW MEMBERS:**

Joani & Al Hertzog 910 Wedge Ct. S W Calabash, NC 28467 910-579-5555 Debbie Marsoobian 630 Sloop Pt. Lane Kure Beach, NC 28449 910-458-3574

Judy Larrick 645 Settlers Lane Kure Beach, NC 28449 910-458-3574

Susan Helms 4922 Long Beach Rd. Southport, NC 28461

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

The club has purchased the very colorful...and useful book on Florida's Sea Shells and Seashore life, for sale to members.

Herman Lindsey has several "Gem" quality shells to sell. If interested, call him at 1-910-455-9685

# Field Trips

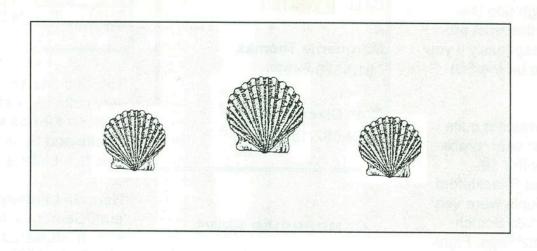
PLEASE TELL MARK
JOHNSON IF YOU HAVE
ANY NEW IDEAS FOR
SHELLING TRIPS,
PERHAPS A CLUB TRIP
COULD BE ARRANGED.



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER:

1997 Dues are now past due, please send them in or you may pay them at the next meeting. Janet Durand, our treasurer, collect the dues. This will insure that you continue to receive newsletters and to support our fine organization.
THANK YOU

INDIVIDUAL DUES: \$10.00 per year FAMILY DUES: \$12.00 per year



Virginia Loester (Editor) 211 Shoreline Drive E. Sunset Beach, NC 28468







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