

NORTH CAROLINA SHELL CLUB

WELCOME TO THE SHELL CLUB'S 41ST YEAR



Scotch Bonnet

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AUCTION**AUCTION****AUCTION****AUCTION****AUCTION**

MEETING DATES: *September 12th & 13th, 1997*

LOCATION: Emerald Isle, NC

SCHEDULE: *Friday September 12th* Emerald Isle Town Hall

7:00 pm: Registration

7:45 pm: **AUCTION**

Bring your items to donate, (Remember this is our only fund-raiser) We usually have some very unique treasures to bid on. So plan on joining us for an excellent opportunity to purchase unique shell related items and have some fun too! **START SHOPPING EARLY THIS YEAR.**

Saturday September 13th Emerald Isle Rec Center

7:00 pm: Registration

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

8:00 pm: *Doug Wolf* will give a brief review of the recent COA meeting on Captiva Island, Florida.

8:15 pm: Our main speaker, *Hugh Porter*, will give a presentation on "History of Shells and Shelling in the Fort Macon Area".

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE BOTH NIGHTS

SATURDAY, September 13

SATURDAY FIELD TRIP to Cape Lookout or to Shackleford Banks

Meet at Harkers Island Fishing Center

Boats will leave from Harkers Island Fishing Center at 9:30 AM

They will take you to either Cape Lookout or Shackleford Banks

Return trips scheduled at 1:00 and 4:00

NO RESERVATION REQUIRED

COST: \$15.00 PER PERSON Round Trip

DIRECTIONS: From Morehead City take Rt. 70 to Harkers Island Road to end.

There will be signs to the boat landing.

**Remember facilities are limited so bring necessities
like water, food, sun screen, etc.**



**A Repeat of last year...Saturday 13th you can join other members at
McCalls Buffet. . . \$12.00 per or order from menu. We will meet at 5:30.
There is room for 30 persons. (Located on Route 58)**

PLACES TO STAY...tell them you are with the North Carolina Shell Club.

**Holiday Inn:
Atlantic Beach
1-800-733-7888**

\$79.00 - \$69.00
10% Senior Discount

**Island Motor Inn
Emerald Isle
1-800-354-3464**

\$43.00 + Tax

**Parker Inn:
Near Emerald Isle
1-800-393-9709**

\$52.00 + Tax
\$58.00 + Tax

**Ramada Inn
Atlantic Beach
1-800-358-1533**

\$71.00 + Tax



From the President:

Hello everyone,

I hope this message finds all of you well. The spring meeting in Ocracoke was a great time in a beautiful place. Altogether, club members collected well over a hundred nice Scotch Bonnets on the Portsmouth Island field trip. A hearty thanks to Doug and Nancy Wolf, Tim Blades and Ruth Dixon for their excellent presentations. Several club members have spent a good bit of time collecting this summer, and there are some good stories to be told when we see each other in September. This year's auction will feature a lot of quality shells, so be sure to make it out.

Looking forward to seeing you,

Mark

NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS?

CALL or WRITE:

Marguerite Thomas

910-326-4497

or

Ruth Dixon

919-682-1501

From Members:

HELP!...One of our members, Pat Day, from Raleigh had an unfortunate fire in her apartment and lost everything including her shell collection. If each of you could bring her a shell to this meeting I'm sure it would be appreciated. Also if you have any pictures from past trips, especially if she is

in it, how about getting it copied and help her start building memories again.

Another accident, while cleaning the shells at the Ocean Isle Museum, two shelves fell and some shells were broken and need to be replaced.

Ruth Hood has supplied this list of shells needed. If you are interested in helping call Ruth Hood or Kathy Kakos.

Immaculate Moon Shell
Polinicia immculata

Jujube Topshell
Callistoma

Reticulated Wentletrap
Anaea retifera

Humphreys Wentletrap
Epitonium humphreysi

Rose Murex
Murex rubidus

Bladed Wentletrap
Epitonium aldidum

Half-Naked Pen Shell
Atrina seminuda

Atlantic Geoduck
Panopea bitruncata

Eastern American Turritella
Turritella exoleta

Triton Trumpet
Charonia variegata

Campeche Angel Wing
Pholascampechiensis

Light Weight Ribbed Murex
Murexillea levicula

We were saddened by the loss of member Bert Cherry and send our sincere sympathy to Hansi Cherry.

GOOD NEWS...A special recognition for Dean and Dottie Weber, not for their interest in shells this time, but for their competing in the Senior Games at Wilmington. Dorothy Weber won five medals winning First in croquet, Table Tennis Singles, Table Tennis Mixed Doubles, and Table Tennis Doubles. She is the current state champion in the last of those.

Dean Weber has six medals in six events, with first-place finishes in Putt Putt Golf, Basketball Shooting, Football Throw, Spincasting, and Croquet.

Sounds like a lot of fun and a great way to keep active besides shelling of course!

The aquarium at Fort Fisher is re-structuring and redesigning the facilities. They are interested in doing a North Carolina shell collection. So if you have any or know of anyone who might want to contribute, Let them know.

NEW MEMBERS:

Ann & Larry Hooker
3905 Hazel Lane
Greensboro, NC 27408
910-282-8190



CHANGES

Mitchener, Sally

David Tanner
14 Lake Village Dr.
Durham, NC 27713

Bettye & Jerry Hamil
Rt Box 330 Hwy 561



Barbara McIntyre
3041 Sylvania Drive
Raleigh, NC 27607-3029

From a perspective member;

F. Fox Parry who now lives in New Bern sent a letter to the shell club expressing an interest in joining and knowledge of any avid shell collectors in her area. She is a former resident of Florida and has been a collector since 1955. She has been a member of the Broward Shell Club, Marco Island Shell Club, Sanibel Island Shell Club, Naples Shell club, and an absentee member of the Philadelphia Shell club for 12 years. Ms. Parry specializes in Florida Caribbean Mollusks. She has collected in Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and also West Indies and Central America. She has studied Pliocene, Miocene and Oligocene and Gastropoda.

Now that she is retired she collects whenever she can. Let's give F. Fox Parry a big welcome, it sounds like she

has a wealth of knowledge on shells, and will be a great asset to any shell club. You may call her at 919-635-6888.

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

The very colorful and useful book on **Florida's Sea Shells** and Seashore life, is available for sale, also selling the 1998 Shell calendars.

If you have access to the Internet, there are more sites being added, on all subjects, including shell, For example, The Conchologist of America have a web site, There is a whole catalog of information on Peters Web page. You will need to know the scientific name to find information on the shells. There are lots of shell pictures, including a portfolio of paintings of shells. The Georgia Shell Club has a web page.

Another interesting feature is the ability to find maps on or to most locations, like the one include in this newsletter.

If you are interested in running for an office in the upcoming year, or want to nominate someone, call Everett Long. He is chairman of the nominating committee .

Meeting Dates

November 21st - 23rd . Annual shell show at the Cape Fear Museum. Wilmington, NC. Its time to be thinking about what your entry is going to be. John Timmerman is the chairperson if you have any questions. Look for more information in the next Newsletter. Your exhibit does not have to be large and lavish, there are lots of categories in which you can enter just one shell or shell item, like shell art. If space is available you can do an exhibit just for display, this will not be considered in the judging. The public seems to enjoy just looking at shells, so lets make this a special year for the shell show, by showing off your treasures. Banquet and installation of new officers and recognition of shell show awards will be on the 23rd.

REMEMBER TO BRING ITEMS TO BE AUCTIONED AND BE PREPARED TO PURCHASE SOME OF THE FINE ARTICLES.

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

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

Space permitting, members can advertise shells for sale in this newsletter. Also if you see any interesting articles that you think the club would like to know about, send notices and articles to Virginia Loester.



From the Myrtle Beach Sun;

Fossil find in North Myrtle Beach, ships dredging up tons of sand unto the beach have also been throwing fossilized shells and castings unto the beach.

Myrtle beach resident, Richard E. Petit, an associate with the Smithsonian Institution, said the molds were formed inside *Cucullaea*, a mollusk that became extinct in this part of the world a little less than 50 million years ago. He said the rocklike forms people on the beach that look like miniature turtle heads were formed when empty *Cucullaea* shells

filled with fine silt, which hardened over the millennia. Eventually the shells broke off leaving only the rock-like casts. The casts have a spiny ridge on the rounded top-side, where an indent that looks like the place where a spine may attach with a line that looks like where the mouth would close, which is what makes them look like fossilized turtle heads.

The dredge has obviously cut into an offshore Upper Cretaceous deposit, resulting in any interesting fossils being pumped onto the beach. A few have been found that still have the shell intact.

There is a new unlikely spot to find fossils, this spring, North Myrtle Beach and Cherry Grove have been involved in the Grand Strand beach renourishment project. Tons of sand were pumped out of the ocean and onto the beaches. Many seashells, sand dollars and other sea goodies, including some fossils have been thrown up on the beach.

Even though we are well into the busy tourist season, you may still be able to find some of these little treasures lying on the surface. Most tourists probably have no idea that they are looking at fossilized casts of shells which may be fifty or sixty million years old. One that seems almost common has the appearance of a turtle head, probably a clam shell, others are very identifiable as clam shells casting being solid, black and perfectly shaped. Others, such as the one that at least has the shape of a nautilus, you may have to use your imagination for unless you have a very good fossil identification book.

Several local shell members have found wentle traps and lots of olives by digging around a little, especially pre season. The dredging has been halted for now but is scheduled to continue in the fall. This should make it an interesting beach to visit and poke around on. An impressive amount of beach has been added to Cherry Grove from this project.

STARS OF THE SEA

BY BILL FAVER

Printed in The Brunswick Beacon



Sea stars have unusual tube feet which help it move around and enable it to open shells of oysters and clams.

We know them as starfish, but many biologist feel that this is an unfortunate name, for they are not fish at all. Sea stars are a group of Echinoderms and are relatives of Sea urchins, sand dollars, sea cucumbers and other five parted creatures.

Sea stars are one of the true marine animals as they have no relatives on land or in fresh water. Forms of the sea star are essentially the same as they were some 400 million years ago as revealed in fossils. These animals were well known by Aristotle, but it was not until 1733 that Johannes Linck, a German scientist, first detailed their inner workings.

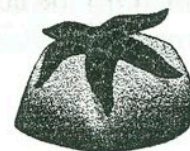
Sea stars have flattened bodies with five or more arms or rays extending from a central area. These arms have tough rough skin with limey plates. In stars these plates are movable, permitting the arms to be moved at will. A sieve plate is located on the top of the body and water is drawn through this into the body and then released through the tube feet on the underside of each arm. These tube feet also enable the star to move and to provide the suction necessary to open shells of its prey.

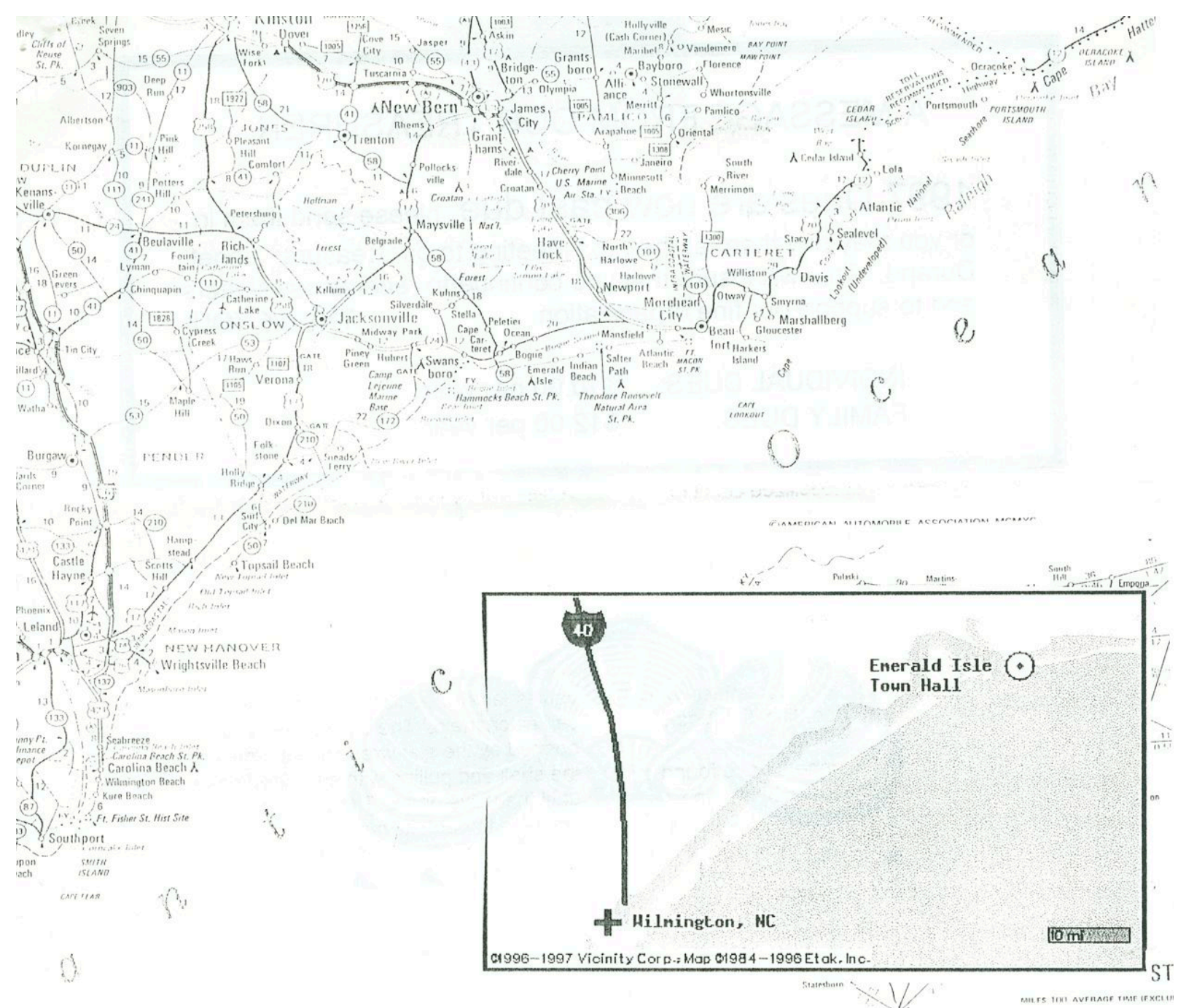
Stars feed on oysters, clams, and other bivalves, as well as fish and crabs when they can catch them. The clam and oyster is opened by the star wrapping its arms around the shell and pulling with sustained pressure until the valve open. Then the star extends its stomach through its mouth into the clam or oyster and digests the victim in its own shell.

Years ago fishermen used to tear stars into pieces in an attempt to kill them and keep oyster beds safe. This was a futile practice, because the sea stars can regenerate and each piece would become a new star.

Sea stars sometimes wash in on high tide and are left stranded on the beaches. Find one and examine it closely, feel the texture, and experience the tube feet working in your palm.

Put it in some sea water for a while and watch what it does. You may begin to understand how this complicated creature works and to appreciate another life form along this special place where land and sky and sea meet.





These are the Textual Directions to your destination (you can also try [Detailed Directions](#)):

	Directions	miles
1	Starting at Wilmington, NC , begin on WRIGHTSVILLE heading east for 1.0 miles	0.0
2	Turn left on HWY 132 heading northeast for 2.6 miles	1.0
3	Turn right on HWY 17 heading northeast for 30.1 miles	3.6
4	Bear right on HWY 172 heading northeast for 24.6 miles	33.7
5	Turn right on HWY 24 heading east for 9.8 miles	58.3
6	Turn right on HWY 58 heading east for 3.7 miles to Emerald Isle Town Hall	68.1

A MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER:

1997 Dues are now past due, please send them in or you may pay them at the next meeting to our treasurer Janet Durand,. 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

FAYETTEVILLE NC 283 #1 08/18/97 17:56



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