



# NORTH CAROLINA SHELL CLUB



Welcome to our 41<sup>st</sup> Year

November, 1999

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**Meeting Dates:** November 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

233 E. First

**Meeting Place:** Ocean Isle Beach, NC

**Friday, November 5, 1999** Museum of Coastal Carolina, 21 E 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Ocean Isle Beach

**Registration 7:00**

**7:30** ANNUAL AUCTION . . . of special note . . . Leonard DeDuke, a retired dentist from New York area, now residing in Beaufort, has donated part of his shell collection, accumulated years ago mainly through New York Shell Club auctions and exchanges, to the NCSC auction. It will be a nice addition to the auction this year, so come and see, and bid, bid, bid!

**Saturday, November 6, 1999** Museum of Coastal Coastal Carolina

**Registration 7:00**

**Program: 8:00** Mostly for Beginners: by Doug Wolfe, on some books for shellers in the Caribbean

Followed by the main program, entitled: "My shelling adventures in Grenada"  
by Vicky Wall

*Refreshments will be available*



**SATURDAY FIELD TRIP** (Your own transportation, or car pool)

**North Carolina Fossil Expo**

**Place;** Cape Fear Museum, 814 Market St., Wilmington NC 28401

**Date:** Saturday, November 6, 1999

**Times:** 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**What it is:**

1. *Fossil Displays* by North Carolina Fossil Club members. Exhibits are informal - non competitive. Exhibitors attend to their displays to interact with the public about the display and fossils.
2. *Fossil ID* by the professionals including: Vince Schneider - North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences. Robert Purdy (sharks), Fred Grady (Pleistocene mammals), Dave Bohaska (fossil whales) - National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian). NC State Museum displays specimens from the museums collection. Both groups offer a wealth of knowledge on fossils and can usually ID your fossils, at least within their specialties. \* plus lots of amateurs that know their stuff so chances are if the professionals can't help some body can.
3. *Fossil dig.* dig for fossil shark teeth and other marine fossils in the reject pile in the museum court yard imported from the PCS phosphates operation at Aurora. Lots of tiny shark teeth, small shells and coral pieces and maybe a large shark tooth (it has happened before).

**Museum Admission:**

Museum charges to see the show following rates:

Adult - \$4.00

Children 5-17 - \$1.00

college student with ID - \$3.00

senior citizen (65+) - \$3.00

children under 5 - free

associates members - free

NC State Museum and Smithsonian groups; and the fossil dig pile are accessible without paying the entry fee.

NC fossil guide books on sale at the museum shop. Both authors, John Timmerman and Richard Chandler will be at the Expo and happy to autograph your copy.

Raffle of Giant shark teeth (megalodon). Hourly. one tooth each hour until collection is gone ( approx. 6 teeth). Free to enter, must be present to win.

Note to shell club members from John Timmerman.

If you have questions about the fossil expo you may contact me. (910) 42 0943 or Email [jntrosey@aol.com](mailto:jntrosey@aol.com). I will return your inquiry as soon as possible. I will not be at either the Friday or Saturday meetings of the shell club. I have too many responsibilities to the Fossil Expo and Cape Fear Museum to be present. I hope to see you on Saturday. If you do not see me, ask. I will undoubtedly be running around tending to minor crises or just "hanging out", talking fossils with people.

If you have fossils that need ID, I encourage you to bring them. Even if you know what they are but they are a prize, we enjoy seeing them. It may even turn out to be something more impressive than you thought.

*John Timmerman*



Hello Fellow Shellers:

Hope everyone weathered Hurricane Floyd as best as they could. This was the very first hurricane I had ever witnessed (I was in Florida at a shell show during Hurricane Fran), and I can tell you that even in Raleigh the winds were pretty bad. But the rain was unbelievable.

A very special thank-you to all club members that participated in the 1999 Shell Show -- exhibitors, volunteers, and visitors. Both I and the Shell Show Chairman (a very close personal friend of mine) were very pleased. As always, the quality of the exhibits was excellent. Both of the scientific judges commented on that. And I can't thank those who volunteered their services, time and effort enough for their help. Without them, the show would probably still be just getting off the ground. The staff at the Aquarium were very pleased with the show when they saw it. Most of them had never seen a shell show before and had no idea what to expect. We impressed them very much. In this newsletter is a complete list of all winners at the show, and they are all to be congratulated as they did a very fine job indeed.

Let me remind everyone of our annual auction on Friday night at the November meeting. Please bring auction donations with you, and come prepared to spend money. This is our only fundraiser for the year, and I encourage everyone to come, have fun, and BID, BID, BID!

See y'all soon!

*Ann Buddenhagen*

President

**PLACES TO STAY:**     Ocean Isle Beach

Ocean Isle Inn,

35 W 1<sup>st</sup> Street

\$59.00 + \*10% Tax Ocean Front

\$49.00 + \* Street side

800-352-5988

The Winds

310 E 1<sup>st</sup> Street

\$72.00 Deluxe

\$92.00 Suite (1bd)

800-334-3581

The Islander Inn

57 West First Street

\$89.00 + tax     ( Front)

\$79.00 + tax     (Sound)

888-325-4753

The Island Motel

Ocean isle Beach

\$49.50 tax included

910-579-6019

The Causeway Motel

12 Causeway Drive

\$49.50 +

888-263-5683

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS**     We are sorry to report that Lillian Roberts has been ill. We wish her well. You may send cards to her temporary residence.     Brighton Manor #27, 413 Sunset Drive, Fuquay, NC 27626

**PLEASE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:**

David & Mary Ann Shapiro

2129 Church Road

Bethlehem, PA 18015

610-791-1794

Willis Underwood

1200 E Mulberry St.

Goldsboro, NC 27530

919-735-2336

**CHANGES**

JoAnn Kistler

1317 Canfield Ct.

Raleigh, NC

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## 1999 North Carolina Shell Show Winners

### Regional Self-Collected:

First Place -- Vicky Wall, Western Atlantic Self-Collected Shells

### Freshwater Collection:

First Place -- Vicky Wall, Invasion of the Exotic European -- The Zebra Mussel

### Land Snails:

Second Place -- Marie Bailey, Snell

### Fossil Mollusks:

First Place -- Peggy Wilkerson, Anadora ovalis

### Specialized Collection:

First Place -- Mark Johnson, Western Atlantic Self-Collected Cones

### Single Shell (Self-Collected):

First Place -- Ruth Hood

Second Place -- Mark Johnson

Third Place -- Herman Lindsey

### Single Shell (Any Source):

First Place -- Lilian Shin

Second Place -- Doug Wolfe

Third Place -- Doug Wolfe

### Family or Genus Collection:

First Place -- Herman Lindsey, Systematics of the Cassidae

### Educational Collection:

First Place -- Dean and Dorothy Weber, Offspring

Second Place -- Doug Wolfe, Cones: An Introductory Overview

### Shell Photography:

First Place -- Ann Buddenhagen, Caught in the Act!

### Art & Craft Using Actual Shells:

First Place -- Janet Durand, Jewelry Box

Second Place -- Sandy Melvin, Say Cheese

Third Place -- Emily Jordan, Circle of Jewels

Bev Ross, A Beary Good Day at the Beach

### Art & Craft depicting Shells:

First Place -- Janet Durand, Sand Casting of a Lion's Paw

Second Place -- Marie Bailey, Candlewicking

Other: First Place -- Marie Bailey, Pebble Beach



Hugh Porter Trophy -- Vicky Wall, Western Atlantic Self-Collected Shells

Conchologists of America Trophy -- Vicky Wall, Invasion of the Exotic European --  
The Zebra Mussel

Dupont Trophy -- Dean and Dorothy Weber, Offspring

Best Self Collected Shell Trophy -- Mark Johnson, *Conus arangoi*

Best Shell in Show Trophy -- Doug Wolfe, *Conus granulatus*

Best Self-Collected Exhibit -- Dean and Dorothy Weber, Offspring

Best Craft Using Shells Trophy -- Janet Durand, Jewelry Box

Best Art Depicting Shells Trophy -- Janet Durand, Sand Casting of a Lion's Paw

Best Photography Trophy -- Marie Bailey, Pebble Beach

Judges' Special Award (Scientific) -- Mark Johnson, Western Atlantic Self-Collected  
Cones

Judges' Special Award (Arts & Crafts) -- Ann Buddenhagen, Caught in the Act!



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Hi Gang,

Just a quick note to hopefully solicit some ideas for club field trips. This winter will be a good time to do some beach and flats collecting near and far. Every month from November through the spring will have decent, if not great, minus tides. My area near Charleston has really nice collectibles including *Busycon carica eliciens* (Kiener's Whelks) and several species of wentletraps. Additionally, there are folks "in the know" down in Florida who will give us great tips for good locality. Goodland, Florida is almost always fun and profitable, albeit a little more expensive and well-known these days. If you are interested in some of these ideas, or if you have an idea of your own, please write, call, or email me with your ideas and I will try and help coordinate a few quality trips.

There are plenty of folks in the club who have a couple of good spots-anyone want to share this "secret" info and maybe lead a few of us out there? Let me know your interests, and I will coordinate.

Always a pleasure, and looking forward to hearing from you.

*Mark Johnson*

[markwilliamsjohnson@hotmail.com](mailto:markwilliamsjohnson@hotmail.com)

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## News of the Pacific Northwest Shell Club

Joan Rutherford of Tacoma, WA has written to her pen pal Ruth Hood about visiting the Pacific Northwest Shell Club meeting in Port Gamble WA. The club has members in Idaho, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia, Canada.

They met in Port Gamble WA to accommodate the speaker, a palaeontologist, who spoke about fossil sites and their contents on the Pacific Coast. Port Gamble is a small town about 60 miles north of Seattle. It has a great shell museum that has a complete collection of Northwest shells and a shop with shells for sale. The club has 60 members but only 20 or so gather for any particular meeting.

Joan enjoyed meeting with the Beachcombers Club on Ocean Isle Beach, while visiting Ruth for the first time in May. So when she got a notice of the meeting she decided to attend.

In 1993 Ruth saw a request from Joan, who was living on Mili Atoll in the Marshall Islands, wanting to correspond with someone who knew something about shells. Ruth responded because she had helped put a collection of shells in the Ocean Isle Museum and had also lived in the Marshall Islands from 1966-1968.

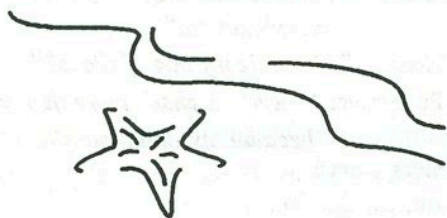
Typhoon Axel had washed thousands of shells up on the Islands in near perfect condition and Joan wished to put them in a museum for the Marshallese people. Ruth told the Beachcombers Shell Club about Joan, and the club bought shell label holders for the display. Joan and Ruth continued to write each other during the remainder of her five years on the island, and later after she returned to the states.

The two met in May, when Joan visited Ruth in Rutherfordton and also Sunset Beach. She spoke to the local shell club members and told of her experiences while there, and showed pictures of the Islands and the Alele Shell Museum in Majuro, MH where she put 600 species. Ruth shared the pictures of the shells in the museum and also of Joan's home on the Narrows of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA to members of the NC Shell Club at the NC Shell Show in September.

Early Sept. Ruth visited Joan in her home on Puget Sound. It is one of 104 homes on the Historical Register. They are located at the bottom of a 200 foot cliff. At high tide the water comes completely under the home. She saw great sunrises and sunsets. They spent many hours talking about shells, and especially the Marshallese people. Ruth had taught school on a native Island while she lived there.

A highlight of Ruth's trip was driving up near Mt. Ranier on a sunny day, and seeing the Mountain again from the Seattle Space Needle at sunset. It has been a rewarding experience for both and the Northwest Pacific Shell club may have a new member.

.....by Ruth Hood





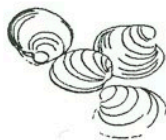
## Whelk Endangered?

There is a move afoot in Texas to afford protected status to the state shell, *Busycon pulleyi* Hollister, 1958 (See centerfold pp. 16-17). So, far the bill seems only to be directed at shrimp fishermen; it seems that people believe that the shells are being wiped out by fishermen who trap them in their nets and trawls and then sell them as food. Sponsor of the Bill Sen. J.E. "Buster" Brown, R-Lake Jackson (Texas) says, "My bill goes along the line with not picking bluebonnets and not killing mockingbirds," referring to the official state flower and bird. There does seem to be some evidence that *Busycon pulleyi* is declining in numbers in the western Gulf of Mexico, but it is likely that the decline is due more to changing environment than to overfishing. Fishermen deny the food rumor, and keeping the shells. They say they throw such mollusks back immediately due to the pressures of environmental regulations already in place. Interestingly, the bill fails even to mention the scientific name of the shell in question, perhaps because figuring out what it is could be tricky. *B. perversum pulleyi* was chosen as the state shell of Texas, but it appears to be more closely related to *Busycon sinistrum* Hollister 1958, formerly known as *B. contrarium* Conrad, 1840, and many consider *B. pulleyi* to be a good species in its own right.

## SMUGGLING SHELLS

On November 12, 1998, a federal grand jury in Tampa, Florida, returned a six-count indictment charging a gift shop owner and importer in Tarpon Springs, Florida and a Cebu, Philippines exporter, in a scheme using false declarations, invoices and other shipping documents to smuggle protected corals and shells into the country. Federal inspectors became suspicious when a shipment of 400 packages of the unusual goods arrived in Tampa. The shipment sparked an investigation and uncovered an illegal arrangement to bring internationally protected coral and seashells into Florida. They could face up to 5 years in prison and \$250,000 in fines on each count.

THANKS TO HERMAN LINDSEY  
for these articles.



## ENDANGERED CLAMS

All species of the bivalve family Tridacnidae are on the international endangered species list and thus are illegal to import into the United States. There is an exception made for specimens grown in aquaculture. There are a number of places (some in the Solomon Islands) which commercially grow specimens for food, with a portion set aside to restock the reefs. While some species can be seen in "normal" quantity in some places, there are many areas where the species have been reduced to near extinction - caused by collection locally for food and for export as food. Palau is an example of where this has occurred.



**POISON BLACK OLIVES?** No, not the sort you find on Greek salads, but the shelly sort; *Oliva vidua*, popularly known as the Black Olive, is poisonous to eat, whether raw or cooked. Another species, *Oliva bulbosa*, is known to inject its victims with a paralyzing neurotoxin, much like a cone shell. This same venom on human skin can cause a numbing and burning sensation, as well as internal poisoning. So the North Alabama Shell Club Nautiloid tells us (August 1993). And another thing you may not know: the Nautiloid makes fascinating reading because it is filled, each issue, with shelly tidbits like this.

## Shellers Are:

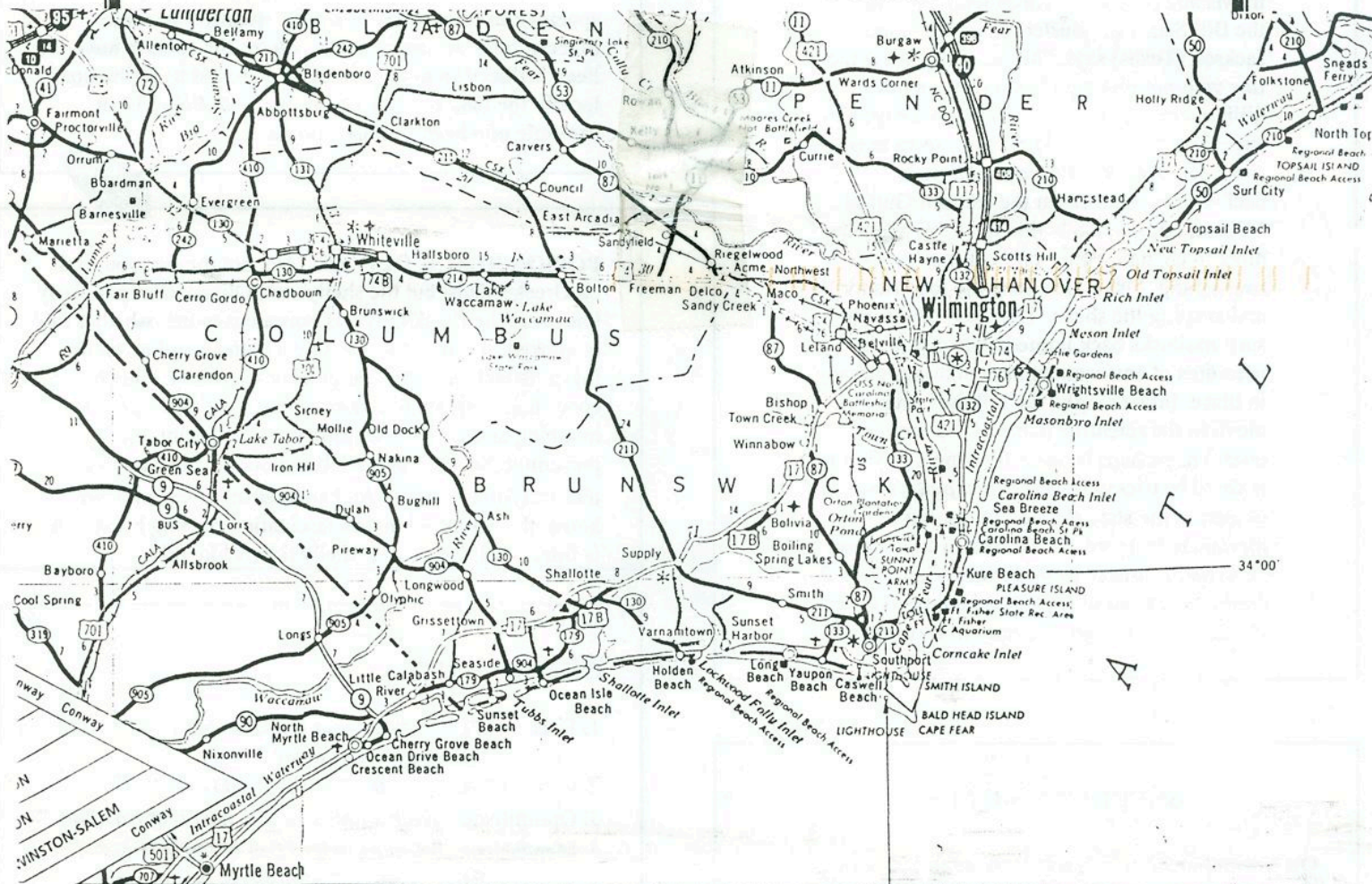
1. Friendly: "I recognize your backside but I've forgotten your name."
2. Competitive: "Are you sure you found that shell?"
3. Optimistic: "Keep swimming. The next reef isn't fair."
4. Mendacious: "I lost one twice that big in deep water."
5. Swappy: "I'll give you six of these for that one."
6. Generous: "Here, take this one. I have hundreds more much better than yours."
7. Sharing: "You can have my bucket with no handle."
8. Studious: "Just copy what he wrote on his label."
9. Far-sighted: "That's my shell your foot is on."
10. Punctual: "They can all swim back."
11. Caring: "I'll hold your shell while Henry puts your tourniquet on."
12. Honest: "Who stole my bag of shells?"
13. Protective: "I need the shade more than you do, because my skin is sensitive."
14. Modest: "I have 73 shells named after me."
15. Observant: "Your bathing suit sure shrank."
- \* 16. Dedicated: "It's about time those dumb judges gave me a trophy after 25 years."



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER:

Thank you for keeping your dues paid up. The year 2000 dues are due in April.

**Janet Durand**



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