

48th North Carolina Shell Show

May 1-3, 2026

Dealer Division Prospectus



*“In nature’s infinite book of secrecy,
a little I can read.”*

William Shakespeare
from “Anthony and Cleopatra”

2026 North Carolina Shell Show

“In nature’s infinite book of secrecy, a little I can read.” Shakespeare

Crystal Coast Civic Center

3505 Arendell St

Morehead City, North Carolina 28557

Welcome to the North Carolina Shell Show prospectus. I learn new things every year. In the following pages you will find new features for the show in 2026. Some are obvious. Others subtle.

The Shell Club has a great team working on the 48th Show. The show is arguably a highpoint of the North Carolina Shell Club year. Participation in the show whether by exhibiting, volunteering or simply viewing it is a rewarding part of the club’s enterprise for public outreach.

“In natures book of secrecy a little I can read.” is relevant to our pursuit of the mollusk kingdom. We do not know everything about shells, thus one of the inspirations that drive our interest. The show is our opportunity to expand on the 2026 theme for the show.

John Timmerman, Co-Chair North Carolina Shell Show

Dealer Division

Co-Chair Karlynn Morgan

3098 Shannon Dr

Winston-Salem NC 27106 3647

[karlynnmorgan@earthlink.net](mailto:karyllynnmorgan@earthlink.net)

Table of Contents Pages

Introduction: 2-3

Logistics: 4-7

Lodging & Banquet: 8

Applications: pages 10, 12, 14

Science & Art Divisions

Co-Chair John Timmerman

206 Quail Ridge Rd

Wilmington, NC 28409 2637

ncshellclub@gmail.com



North Carolina Shell Club

President: Scott Foxx

Vice President: Maria Lloyd

Second Vice President: Erin Burch

Treasurer: Karlynn Morgan

Secretary: Vicky Wall

Presented by:

North Carolina Shell Club

www.ncshellclub.com



Gold-mouthed Tun

Tonna luteostoma (Küster, 1857)

Trawled by fishermen, south China Sea, 2009

169mm

“In nature’s infinite book of secrecy, a little I can read.”

William Shakespeare, from “Anthony and Cleopatra

In the Shakespeare play “Anthony and Cleopatra” a prophet qualifies that his ability to foretell the future for Cleopatra is limited by the immensity of nature’s mysteries or secrets. In hundreds of years of study of shell and mollusks we have unlocked some of those secrets but there remains many more to be explained or discovered. The shell show is our opportunity to share those secrets and excite the imagination in those we have yet to answer.

The bold ribs of the tun shell please our eye and make it a prized find on the beach. The ribs yield a strong shell per amount of calcium carbonate the mollusk needed to make it. It’s an economy of material in creating a ridged shell. Recognizing the secret strength of ribbed shell is one aspect we unlocked. A would-be predator might have difficulty holding onto the shell while attempting to break it in order to make a meal of the mollusk within. Why are there color markings on the shell? The tun mollusk does not to our knowledge utilize visual display the way birds and insects do to communicate with one another and or warn other predators to not fool with them.





2026 North Carolina Shell Show

Important Data

Entry Deadline Dealers: March 20, 2026

Entries may be mailed, emailed or hand delivered to the Show Co-Chair, Karlynn Morgan. She must have all entries in hand by the deadline.

Show Location: Crystal Coast Civic Center
3505 Arendell St. Morehead City, NC 28557

Dealers Setup: Thursday April 30, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Exhibitors Setup: Thursday April 30, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Judging: Thursday April 30, 1:00 - 5:00 PM

Show Hours: Friday May 1, 9:00 AM—5:00 PM
Saturday May 2, 9:00AM – 5:00PM
Sunday May 3, 9:00 AM – 3:00PM

Banquet: Saturday May 2, 6:00 PM

Show Strike: Sunday May 3, 3:00PM – 7:00PM

Dealers will receive an instruction and orientation packet prior to the show including directions to Crystal Coast Civic Center and where/how to unload their exhibits.

No Shell Show exhibitor or associated person will be allowed entry to the exhibit hall before 9 AM on Thursday.

All exhibits must be set up by 1:00 PM, Thursday, April 30, 2026.

No exhibitor will be allowed to remain in the exhibit hall during judging.

Members of all shell clubs are encouraged to enter The North Carolina Shell Show. The show is open to the public during the hours listed above on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

All exhibits, club tables, and dealers displays must remain for the duration of the show. Strike begins no sooner than 3PM on Sunday.

Fragrance Free Shell Show

Recognizing that visitors and staff at our show may have a sensitivity and/or allergic reactions to various fragrant products, North Carolina Shell Show should be a fragrance-free event. While personal fragrant products are certainly allowed (fragrances, colognes, lotions, powders and other similar products) it should not be perceptible to show staff, our guests at the show and/or at the banquet.

Crystal Coast Civic Center
3505 Arendell St
Morehead City, North Carolina 28557





2026 North Carolina Shell Show

Dealer setup is Thursday, April 30, 2026 9 AM until 5 PM.

Judging for scientific and art exhibit entries will begin at 1:00 PM and be completed by 5 PM. Exhibits share the space with dealers. Dealers are welcome to work on their displays all day Thursday but are requested to not disturb the judges or judging team.

Preview shopping with the dealers is strongly discouraged before the Show opens to the public on Friday at 9 AM. This is for the safety of your displays as you do not have to be present at all times during set up and displays are vulnerable if non-dealer associated persons are allowed to browse early.

Space

Dealer layouts are approved by the Fire Marshall prior to the show. Do not rearrange your space without first consulting with Karlynn Morgan.

Table Rate = \$150 first / 8' table. \$125 = each, additional table(s). Tables are 30" wide.

Space behind the rented 8 foot tables is a minimum of 36 inches deep!

We cannot move the tables forward into the public aisles to create more space behind them. The Shell Show design is approved by the Fire Marshall. The Show will be inspected by the Fire Marshall on the day of set up and possibly additionally during the show to confirm adherence to the approved design.

Applications

Submit an Art/Craft or Shell Dealer Application, whichever is most relevant to your business.

Review

If you are new to the show we need photographs of what you will be selling. These are for review by the Dealer Division Committee. (Artisans or Arts & Crafts Dealers only)

Eligibility

It is policy of North Carolina Shell Show to provide first refusal to dealers who have exhibited at the Show in the previous year and will continue to be so for 2026.

The Dealer entry deadline is set to allow enough time that wait listed dealers have a chance to make plans to exhibit at the Show should an established dealer become unable to attend the Show and the lead required to have the show plans approved by the Fire Marshall.

Admission

North Carolina Shell Show charges an admission.

Dealers and their employees will be provided with complimentary admission for the duration of the Show.

Supplies

The show committee request that the dealer supplies attractive covers for their tables covering the tops and front to the floor. All boxes and/or supplies should be hidden from public view to maintain a clean and professional appearance during the show. **Dealer's tables will not be supplied already covered!**



2026 North Carolina Shell Show

Access

Dealers will receive a map showing the location of the Crystal Coast Civic Center, noting loading access, public parking lots and exhibitor parking approximately two weeks before the show.

Set up access to the exhibit hall is via a loading dock at the rear of the facility or the main, front entrance.

There is limited cover for your vehicle from the weather.

The walk in front of the exhibit hall is covered but there is no cover between this and the offloading area.

Setup

Dealers will be able to access their space Thursday starting at 9 AM. However no dealer will be allowed to begin their sales on Thursday.

Bring your own cart(s) if you need them. The Civic Center provides carts but there may not be enough.

Plan on offloading your exhibits and wares quickly at the loading dock so that other dealers and exhibitors may take advantage of this access. Alternate access to the hall is from the front which is a bit longer of a walk. There are no curbs or steps at either entrance!

Exhibit packing, carts, boxes etc.

All packing containers, related materials, carts, if kept in the exhibit hall for the duration of the show must be stowed under your tables out of the public view.

Parking

During the show Friday, Saturday and Sunday parking you may not park your cars or trucks in the loading dock at the Civic Center.

Lighting and Electricity

Electricity is provided at no extra charge. Bringing a couple good three prong extension cord(s) is a good idea as receptacles may not be within easy reach of where you need them. A 25 foot cord is very good. Code does not allow ganging of multiple power strips and/or cords. Pages 8 & 9 outline important facts and details concerning electrical use at the Civic Center.

Civic Center staff will adjust lighting for best viewing of displays by 9 AM on Friday. Only Civic Center employees are allowed to work with Civic Center lighting and/or other property.

Dealer's Application Deadline:

March 20, 2026

Shell Show Co-Chair Karlynn Morgan

3098 Shannon Dr.

Winston-Salem NC 27106

karyllynnmorgan@earthlink.net



Inspection

The inspection by the Fire Marshall is a critical step for safe operations of the show. Much of the safety planning is largely invisible. Egress, ADA guidelines and other regulations for the show are adhered to.

Exhibitors must not move tables or otherwise rearrange the gallery without first consulting with the show chairs. During set up, remain vigilant for safety such as not blocking fire escapes.

The rules will be enforced by the Shell Club prior to and after inspection by the Fire Marshall.

Lighting and Electricity

Electricity is an area all exhibitors can have a direct role in safe operation. Before the show opens to the public all electric application is subject to approval by the Carteret County Fire Marshall. The Fire Marshall can exercise the option to return to the show at a random time for additional and or follow up inspection(s). In 2024 several electrical violations were identified. It's very reasonable to conclude that for 2026 if the same problems are present the show risks a repeat in failing inspection. Aside from the serious risks for injury caused by incorrect application of electricity, the Fire Marshall has the option to close the show until violations are corrected.

If you need electricity be sure to indicate it by checking the appropriate box on your application. This will greatly aid us in ensuring minimal

complications or delay at set up. The Civic Center staff will install power feeds where we indicate the need ahead of the show set up date.

If you need an extension cord, bring one. The club may have a few to loan but we cannot guarantee there will be enough to fulfill all requests. Extension cords must be the type with a (grounded) three prong plug. Two pronged extension cords are not allowed. The casing (insulation) must be undamaged. Electric tape mended damage is not allowed. The male end must have all three prongs intact and undamaged. A replaced plug end, male or female is allowed. Heavy duty three pronged extension cords can be purchased inexpensively. Write your name on the cord. A minimum 25' cord length is recommended.

No Ganging of Extension Cords!

We most notably failed inspection in 2024 for plugging multiple extension cords into one another. This is against the law. If you want an explanation that might put you to sleep contact me, and I will share the why of it. In a nutshell, ganging cords can result in fire or electrocution.

A power strip, despite often including a breaker fuse, is classified as an extension cord. It is illegal to plug a power strip into another power strip much less multiple strips in a series, commonly termed “ganging.” The same dangers that render a combination of regular extension cords plugged into each other is true for power strips. A power strip must be plugged into a receptacle that is part of the

building. They cannot be plugged into an extension cord. Though LED lighting draws considerably less energy than incandescent lighting, the law accounts for a scenario whereby all available outlets in ganged extension cords/power strips will have something plugged in and running simultaneously, greatly elevating the risking an overload.

An extension cord with a factory installed splitter, it is to say you can plug more than one thing into it simultaneously, is allowed. An add-on block/splitter is not allowed. As with power strips which have multiple places to plug things in, adding another extension cord or power strip is not allowed.

Suggested Lodging

North Carolina Shell Club recommends Hampton Inn which, is nearby to the show. The price includes a complimentary hot continental breakfast.

Hampton Inn Morehead City

4035 Arendell St

Morehead City, NC 28557

PHONE: 1-866-238-4218 or Hotel direct #252-240-2300

Note

The club has arranged a special show discount rate at this location.

The rate is \$169/night for 1 king or two double beds.

The group code is: CHH90F

If you think you may be attending the show, consider making your reservations as soon as possible. The month of May in the Morehead City area is a busy with events.



The Hampton is not the official guest residence for the show but in past years many participants in the show stayed there, providing an added opportunity to share breakfast and or cross paths with friends during the weekend.

Banquet

A highlight of the shell show for exhibitors and club members is the banquet, held Saturday evening. The banquet is at the Civic Center. It is a great opportunity to share time together, especially with friends visiting from out of town. The scientific judge is the keynote speaker. Another anticipated event is the announcement of the winners of the two “People’s Choice” awards.

Bar Opens at 6:00 PM Beer \$3.00, Wine \$5.00

Dinner at 6:30 PM Tickets: \$45.00/ per person

**Banquet Reservation deadline:
Wednesday April 23, 2026**

Buffet Menu

Chicken Picata

Slice beef loin with light au jus

Vegetarian Entrée: Baked Ziti

Home Style Smashed Potatoes

Green Beans

Garden Salad

Yeast Rolls

Lemon pound Cake

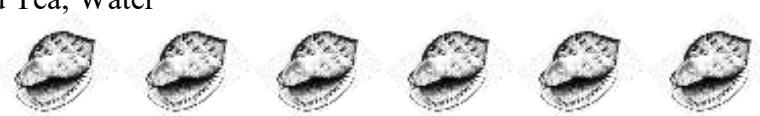
Iced Chocolate Cake

Sweet Tea, Unsweetened Tea, Water

Submit complete reservation and payment to:
Karlynn Morgan, North Carolina Shell Club Treasurer
3098 Shannon Dr.
Winston-Salem, NC 27106

The reservation form is at the end of this Prospectus

It's a buffet. You do not need to designate a preference for menu ahead of time.



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2026 North Carolina Shell Show

Application for Shell Dealers

**Please fill out
application neatly!**



Dealer's Name (Required) _____

Business Name (Required) _____

Business Address (Required) _____

Email (Required) _____

Telephone Number(s) (Required) _____

Rental Fee = \$150/first table; \$125 Each Additional Table; Tables are 8 feet (96") long by 2.5 feet (30" wide)

First Table → \$150

Addition Tables x \$125 →

Grand Total →

Do you require electricity? Yes No

Three Payment Options:

Check payable to: "North Carolina Shell Club"

Zelle: email- shell-quest@earthlink.net

PayPal: shell-quest@earthlink.net

Include an additional 3% on the total if paying with PayPal.

Deadline for Application: March 20, 2026

Submitting Application(s)

We must be able to print application pages at 8.5" x 11"(original size) and have it legible. Applications must be submitted by email in text body as an email attachment; or by US Postal Service.

Submit application and check to: Karlynn Morgan, Co-Chair North Carolina Shell Show

3098 Shannon Dr. Winston-Salem, NC 27106-3647

karlynnmorgan@earthlink.com

Hold Harmless Clause:

The undersigned, as a participant in the 2019 North Carolina Shell Show to be held at Crystal Coast Civic Center in Morehead City, North Carolina agrees to protect, indemnify and save harmless Crystal Coast Civic Center, its officials and employees, and North Carolina Shell Club and its members from and against all claims, demands and causes of action, in favor of Dealer's employees or third parties on account of personal injuries or death or on account of property loss or damages arising out of the Dealer's use of and resulting from the act or omissions of Dealer, its agents, employees, contractors and subcontractor. The provisions of this section shall include indemnification including attorney's fees.

Signature of Applicant(s) _____

(Required)

Date: _____



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2026 North Carolina Shell Show

Application for Art/Artisan Dealers

**Please fill out
application neatly!**



Dealer's Name (Required) _____

Business Name (Required) _____

Business Address (Required) _____

Email (Required) _____

Telephone Number(s) (Required) _____

Rental Fee = \$150 first table; \$125 Each Additional Table; Tables are 8 feet (96") long by 2.5 feet (30" wide)

First Table \$150

Addition Tables x \$125

Grand Total →

Do you require electricity? Yes No

Three Payment Options:

Check payable to: "North Carolina Shell Club"

Zelle: email- shell-quest@earthlink.net

PayPal: shell-quest@earthlink.net

Include an additional 3% on the total if paying with PayPal.

Required: Minimum 5 photographs of the works that you will be offering for sale at the show.

Submit to Karlynn Morgan for review by the show committee.

Submitting Application(s)

We must be able to print application pages at 8.5" x 11"(original size) and have it legible. Applications must be submitted by email in text body as an email attachment; or by US Postal Service.

Are any of your works for sale at other venues?

Yes No

Do you display these works at your own retail store?

Yes No

Deadline for Application: March 20, 2026

Submit application and check to: Karlynn Morgan, Co-Chair North Carolina Shell Show

3098 Shannon Dr. Winston-Salem, NC 27106-3647 karyllynnmorgan@earthlink.com

Hold Harmless Clause:

The undersigned, as a participant in the 2019 North Carolina Shell Show to be held at Crystal Coast Civic Center in Morehead City, North Carolina agrees to protect, indemnify and save harmless Crystal Coast Civic Center, its officials and employees, and North Carolina Shell Club and its members from and against all claims, demands and causes of action, in favor of Dealer's employees or third parties on account of personal injuries or death or on account of property loss or damages arising out of the Dealer's use of and resulting from the act or omissions of Dealer, its agents, employees, contractors and subcontractor. The provisions of this section shall include indemnification including attorney's fees.

Signature of Applicant(s) _____

(Required)

Date: _____



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North Carolina Shell Show Banquet

6 PM, Saturday May 2, 2026

Reservation(s)

Crystal Coast Civic Center
3505 Arendell St
Morehead City, North Carolina 28557

Bar Opens at 6:00 PM

Beer \$3.00, Wine \$5.00

Dinner at 6:30 PM

Tickets: \$45.00/ per person

**Banquet Reservation deadline:
Wednesday April 23, 2026**

Buffet Menu
Chicken Picata
Slice beef loin with light au jus
Vegetarian Entrée: Baked Ziti
Home Style Smashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Garden Salad
Yeast Rolls
Lemon pound Cake
Iced Chocolate Cake
Sweet Tea, Unsweetened Tea, Water

2026 North Carolina Shell Show Banquet Reservation

Name(s): _____

Number in party: _____

\$45 x _____ = \$ _____



Submit complete reservation and payment to:

Karlynn Morgan
North Carolina Shell Club Treasurer
3098 Shannon Dr.
Winston-Salem, NC 27106

Three Payment Options:

Check payable to: North Carolina Shell Club

Zelle: email- shell-quest@earthlink.net

PayPal: shell-quest@earthlink.net

Note: If using PayPal, pay by "Friends and Family." Use your bank account as the funding source. It saves the club from having to pay the service fee.

**Banquet Reservation deadline:
Wednesday April 23, 2026**

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2026 North Carolina Shell Show

“In nature’s infinite book of secrecy, a little I can read.”

May 1 – 3, 2026

Crystal Coast Civic Center

3505 Arendell St

Morehead City, North Carolina 28557

USA

Prospectus

Dealer Division

Entry Deadline:

20 March 2026

(All Divisions)

Applications must be in the hands of the Shell
Show Co-Chair by this date.

Submit Application to:
Co-Chair Karlynn Morgan

3098 Shannon Dr.
Winston-Salem NC 27106

karlynnmorgan@earthlink.net



Presented by:
North Carolina Shell Club
www.ncshellclub.com