



# NORTH CAROLINA SHELL CLUB

<https://ncshellclub.com>

Jan-Mar 2026

1st Quarter Meeting and Auction

March 20-21 Ocracoke, NC

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## Thursday, March 19, 2026 (Optional)

6:00 pm- Beach campfire (Weather Permitting), s'mores provided, bring your own chair and drink. **\*RSVP required**

## Friday, March 20, 2026

6:00 pm Pizza Social (Optional) at the Ocracoke Community Center, 999 Irvin Garrish Hwy; \$8/per person, drinks provided; **\*RSVP required**

6:30 pm Registration and Social Greetings; Look at Silent Auction;

7:00 pm Club Updates

7:40 pm **Guest Speaker-Mr. Chester Lynn.** An Ocracoke native and resident, will share Ocracoke and Portsmouth stories (including Portsmouth scotch bonnet shelling). He is also an expert in the Ocracoke dialect and the fig trees that are common on Ocracoke and Portsmouth. The earliest record of Mr. Lynn's ancestors on Portsmouth was the 1790 census, and he can trace his lineage back to two of the men who sailed with Blackbeard.

8:15 pm Break, Silent Auction

8:30 pm Field Trip Logistics and permission slips; Silent Auction Ends

8:40 pm Meeting Adjourns; Silent Auction Ends, Check out, Clean up and Pay Up!

## Saturday, March 21, 2026

08:00 am-1:00 pm: Shelling trip to **Portsmouth Island** (Weather Permitting). Club Members and their guests only. Cost TBD. Boat departure from the Park Service dock next to Ferry Landing will be announced at the Friday meeting. Do not have to sign up, first come first served. Will collect fees at the dock when loading.

The shell club is blessed by the generosity of many friends who provide donations of shells and related material that make the auctions possible. This auction includes specimens donated by **Carnegie Mellon University, Mique Pinkerton** (deceased), **Doug Wolfe, Dave and Jody Watts**, and **Everett Long** (deceased).

4:30 – 6:30 pm Group Dinner (Optional); Howard's Pub, 1175 Irvin Garrish Hwy; no host, each guest responsible for their meal

6:30 pm Registration and Social at the Community Center

7:00 pm Club Updates and "Finds of the Day" announced

7:15 pm Oral Auction begins

9:00 pm Meeting Adjourns, Check out, Clean up and Pay Up!

**Viewing for  
oral auction at  
6:30 PM**

**\* RSVP (NLT March 12):** Maria Lloyd, [beachblessings108@gmail.com](mailto:beachblessings108@gmail.com)

Refreshment donations for Friday and Saturday nights are welcome.

Diana Yeames 603-828-5198 [dyeames@gmail.com](mailto:dyeames@gmail.com).

## Getting To Ocracoke—Recommend to reserve your ferry ride in advance

### Ocracoke Island

The Outer Banks' southernmost barrier island. Your Ocracoke adventure starts on the ferry!

**OCRACOKE EXPRESS PASSENGER FERRY SERVICE**  
Hatteras - Ocracoke, runs May - September

**HATTERAS-OCRACOKE FERRY**  
1 hour crossing, free & runs often

**CEDAR ISLAND-OCRACOKE FERRY**  
2 ¼ hour crossing, toll ferry

**SWAN QUARTER-OCRACOKE FERRY**  
2 ¾ hour crossing, toll ferry

Reservations are highly recommended for toll ferries.

For reservations, fares and schedules, please call 1-800-BY-FERRY or visit [www.ncdot.gov/divisions/ferry](http://www.ncdot.gov/divisions/ferry)

A map of Ocracoke Island showing the Atlantic Ocean to the east and Famlico Sound to the west. It highlights ferry routes: Ocracoke to Hatteras, Hatteras to Ocracoke, Cedar Island to Ocracoke, and Swan Quarter to Ocracoke. Landmarks include Ocracoke Village, NPS Pony Pen, and various ramps and parking areas.

Telephone:

**1-800-293-3779**

[www.ncdot.gov](http://www.ncdot.gov)

Ferry schedule:

<https://www.ncdot.gov/travel-maps/ferry-tickets-services/routes/Pages/default.aspx>

### Pony Island Motel Reservations—Spots fill up quickly!

If you want to secure an early reservation, the number is 252-928-4411 (the only way to receive discount). We have been given a 15% discount so be sure to tell them you are with the NC Shell Club. Prices are usually a little cheaper for the office-side rooms. There are no elevators.



- ◇ All venues and the recommended lodging (P) are along NC 12.
- ◇ Ocracoke Island is about 15 miles long (depending on where you get the answer) and only a few miles wide.
- ◇ More information about Ocracoke and Portsmouth Island: <https://www.nps.gov>
- ◇ Nice walking maps of Ocracoke can be downloaded at <https://www.visitocracokevillage.com>

- Friday and Saturday nights we have meetings at the Ocracoke Community Center (C)
- Saturday morning the shell trip leaves from the Park Service dock (D) near the ferry landing.
- Restaurants available for group events include Howard’s Pub (H) and Pony Island Restaurant (P)

This is why you want to schedule your ferry early...an oldy but a goody...

## Aging ferries causing cancellations

December 21, 2024



*On the Cedar Island ferry. Photo: C. Leinbach*

By Connie Leinbach

In the last several weeks, Ocracoke Islanders who get notices from the N.C. Ferry Division regarding route operations have received more than the typical number of texts noting the cancellation of Pamlico Sound runs due to “mechanical issues.” These unexpected cancellations can wreak havoc with islanders’ and visitors’ transportation plans.

Communications Officer for the NC Ferry Division Tim Hass said in an email that, simply, the ferry fleet is aging.

“And as a result, we are experiencing more frequent mechanical issues,” he said. “Due to the age of the vessels and the legacy equipment on board, sourcing and maintaining the appropriate replacement parts and inventory has become increasingly challenging.”

To help alleviate this, Hass said the division completed maintenance on a spare vessel, the “Swan Quarter,” which was expected to put back into service Dec. 19.

The “Swan Quarter” had sustained a bent propeller when it struck Big Foot Slough last week, he said, but the vessel that has primarily been impacted is the “Carteret,” which has had “various issues.”

Hass said the ages of the sound route ferries are as follows:

Silver Lake: 56 years  
Carteret: 36 years  
Cedar Island: 30 years  
Swan Quarter: 13 years  
Sea Level: 12 years

A new vessel to replace the “Silver Lake” is in the design phase, Hass said, but he did not have a date for when it would be finished because it is not fully funded. Depending on the design, this new boat will cost between \$30 to \$40 million, he said.

In September, the Ferry Division christened two new ferries at the Cherry Branch-Minnesott Beach route in Havelock.

The Motor Vessel “Avon” and Motor Vessel “Salvo” are both river-class ferries, larger than the two Hatteras-class ferries they’re replacing, which are both more than 30 years old.

Hass said the NCDOT paid \$12.1 million for the “Avon” and \$11.3 million for the “Salvo.” The two new ferries are part of an ongoing effort to upgrade and modernize the aging ferry fleet in order to reduce maintenance costs, according to a press release. It’s possible that they may be used at the Hatteras-Ocracoke route at some point in the future since river-class ferries are moved around as needed when other vessels go into required drydock periods.



*The aging M/V Carteret. Photo: P. Vankevich*

## ***President's Message:***



Scott

What a privilege it is to be writing this year's President's message. WoW! A new year and the Shell Club is getting ready to Amaze. Coming off a fantastic year of shell auctions and programs, the club has already held a Board Meeting and decided on goals and activities for 2026.

The NCSC will again have quarterly meetings, including the Shell Show, and will be supporting related gatherings such as Earth Day near Harker's Island. One of our key objectives this year is membership participation. There are so many great things going on with the club and we want to share them with all our members.

Members who participate in the club enjoy their experiences immensely and discover new knowledge and new friends on every outing. Make it a point to come to the next closest meeting and see friends who share your interest in shelling, travel, the outdoors, and sunshine.

I challenge everyone reading this to respond to the club's upcoming short survey so the club can better serve our membership. In keeping with our key objective reach out to a fellow member, send me an email describing a recent shell day to share, or invite a member to beachcomb with you, and note that as long as we are sharing, the club is improving. This goes to all the new members in the last year or two; come shake my hand at a meeting and let's talk about why you joined and what is needed to get your shell friends to join.

Our first club adventure for 2026 is an Ocracoke barrier island meeting, unique field trip to Portsmouth (home of the state shell) and a small oral auction. This will be followed by our shell show, which needs lots of member's assistance to really make a splash with the public. It would be miraculous if all club members in the state could make the show this year, the perfect preparation for next year's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary show. I have yet to meet most of our club's members and know that you are great folks, so come see me at the show (April 30-May 3) and take home a free shell as a memento of the show, personally collected-if you remember to ask me. The show has one-of-a-kind shells and exhibits, a shell related photo corner, kids table and guaranteed Fun! Club meetings continue quarterly, ending with an exciting oral auction at our last meeting, raising funds that go toward scholarships for persons studying subjects related to malacology.

Together we are preparing for another exciting year as the NCSC and looking forward to lively meetings with great member turnout, shells galore, and day trips that will become known as the Best Shell Day Ever. Join us for a 2026 with new friends and places where beachcombing never looked so good. I'm ready, let's go!

Scott Foxx

## CLUB NEWS

### November 7-8, 2025, Winter Meeting

Notes by Club Secretary, Vicky Wall

**Friday, Nov. 7:** 32 people attended tonight's meeting, including 3 guests. Registration, social time, refreshments, and silent auction bidding took place from 6:30 – 7 pm. President Dan Minior opened the meeting at 7 pm, welcoming everyone. Several door prizes were awarded. He announced that Club merchandise was available for purchase as well as raffle tickets for our two prizes, that will be awarded during the 2026 Shell Show Banquet: a beautiful hand-crocheted blanket made by member Erin Burch along with a shell-themed pillow, and a shell themed sun catcher hanging, including the shells and sea life featured in the hanging. Saturday's field trip will be to Shackleford Banks, with one boat heading to Wade Shores and the other to the Pony Pen area. This is the first time the club has switched the September and November locations for meetings. This was due to September storms which resulted in the cancellation of the Shackleford field trip the past 3 years. Participants need to be at the Park Service dock in Harkers Island by 8:45 and 9:00 depending on which boat one is on. The boats will return to Harkers Island between 2:00 and 2:20 pm. Dan mentioned that the large Annual Oral Auction held in September went very well, bringing in close to \$5,000. For the 2025 year, the total amount brought in with both oral auctions was \$6,443.00 and silent auctions \$486.55 (plus the total from this meeting). Thank you to all who buy items throughout the year at our oral and silent auctions. The money raised helps to fund our scholarships for marine science students at UNC-Wilmington and Cape Carteret Community College. Treasurer Karlynn Morgan gave the Treasurer's Report. The balance stands at \$32,689.90. The main expense for the club is our Annual Shell Show. There is usually a loss each year in running the show but with the income each year from memberships, auctions, donations, and now money growing in investment accounts, our club is financially very healthy. The announcement of elections for the 2026 year was announced, with this slate of officers presented to the club: President, Scott Foxx; Past President, Dan Minior; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Maria Lloyd; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Erin Burch; Secretary, Vicky Wall; Treasurer, Karlynn Morgan; and Members-At-Large, Jan Healy and Susan Gentry. This slate of officers was approved, seconded, and voted "Yes" by those club members present.

Mark Johnson recognized outgoing President, Dan Minior, for his work and dedication the past 2 years as our club President and congratulated him on his upcoming term as President of Conchologists of America, the national organization for shell enthusiasts. Under Dan's leadership, our club treasury is growing due to his investment knowledge and talent, our membership has grown to over 400 members, he helps with shell sorting for our auctions and shell show activities, has hosted the club when a meeting place was needed (during past storms!) and hosted several summertime shell sales/swaps in his and Grace's home, as well as helping with all the various go-to jobs required to run shell meetings and the shell show. Mark presented to Dan a thank-you gift of a beautiful painting of scotch bonnets, painted by club member Jan Healy (and the two actual shells she used as models for the painting). Dan thanked everyone for their support and said he continues to be inspired by the late Everett Long and everyone in our shell club.

**2026 Meetings:**

Board of Directors Planning Meeting, January 10

Spring meeting at Ocracoke, March 20-21

Annual Shell Show in Morehead City, May 1-3

Fall Meeting and Annual Oral Auction in Carolina Beach, September 18-19

Winter Meeting in Cedar Point, November 6-7

- Dan asked for any volunteers who would like to work with him to present programs and hands-on activities at the Core Sound Museum on April 29, to celebrate Earth Day. Please contact Dan if you are interested.
- More news will be forthcoming about the Shell Show in May, including information on where volunteers are needed. We need someone to head up the Kids' Activity Table. (UPDATE: Martha Hooper has volunteered! Thank you!)
- Dan also informed the club that the 2026 Conchologists of America Convention will be held in Bradenton/Sarasota, Florida, June 9-13, with optional field trips on June 7-8. The 2027 COA Convention is tentatively scheduled to be in the Orlando, Florida area.
- Plans are underway for the North Carolina Shell Club to host its 3<sup>rd</sup> COA Convention in Wilmington, in 2028. Previous conventions hosted by our club were held in 2014 and 2023.

Ed Shuller and Jeannette Tysor gave a presentation on Panama.



Perlas Island, Panama



John Timmerman and Bill Bennight looking over silent auction items.

More door prizes were awarded to conclude the meeting.

**Saturday, Nov. 8:** 24 people attended tonight's meeting, including 1 guest. President Dan Minior opened the meeting at 7 pm. He thanked Diana Yeames for providing wonderful refreshments for the meetings this past year. Today's field trip to Shackelford Banks was enjoyed by 18 members. It was a beautiful sunny and warm day (70s). Some of the wild Banker ponies made an appearance, showing great tolerance for us shell collectors! Vicky Wall noted that when she was at the Pony Pen location in the past, right-handed whelks, *Busycon carica*, were observed. This year she tried out the Wade Shores area for the first time, and in the sound, several left-handed whelks were observed, *Sinistrofulgur sinistrum*, including one large specimen in the process of eating a quahog clam. It's interesting that these two different populations are living in two separate locations along the sound side of the island. Mark Johnson judged the "Find of the Day" competition, and the winner was Jan Healy, for her live Eastern Chiton, attached to a small left-handed whelk.

### Find of the Day!

Jan Healy's Eastern Beaded Chiton



Tonight's program was given by Scott Foxx, titled, "NC Beachcombing End to End...A 300+ Mile Journey Along the Carolina Coast". Scott gave an interesting talk about his goal to visit all the beaches on the NC coast. He included slides of his journey and the variety of items he found, including shells, toys, sea beans, fishing lures, sunglasses and other surprises washed ashore.

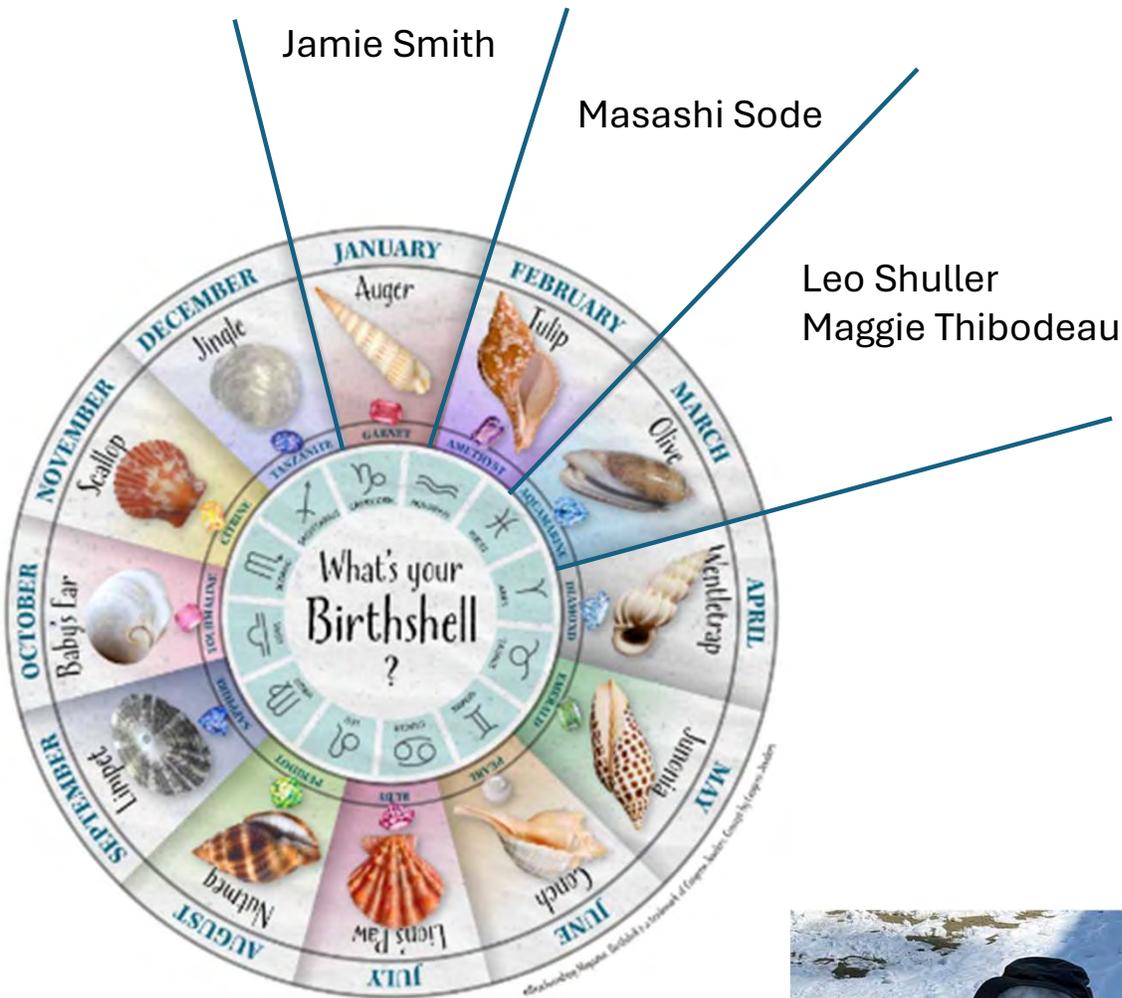
After the program, Mark Johnson announced that club member and avid SCUBA diver Joyce Steinmetz added 11 more NC State Size records to our growing list (featured on the Club Webpage). He said anyone interested in having their shells measured can contact him and he will measure them at future shell club meetings. The club keeps size records for both live and dead collected specimens. The meeting was concluded with last minute silent auction bidding and door prizes.



The meeting was concluded with last minute silent auction bidding and door prizes.

### Let's Wish our Members Happy Birthday!

Now, this is very new so if you'd like to get your name on the register, just send a note to Mimi Dill...Month only and they will be published each quarter the Newsletter comes out...



**Jeannette (Tysor)** and I recently picked up a substantial amount of material from **Sylvia Weaver** in Raleigh and moved it to the storage unit in Cape Carteret.

Sylvia was an avid sheller, particularly in the years the Calico Scallop industry was booming in North Carolina. Most of her material came from shell dumps. I don't believe she ever was a member of the North Carolina Shell Club, but she knew many members of the NC club.

Sylvia is now 91 but continues to be pretty active.

**Ed Shuller**



**Erin & Brandon Burch** didn't have sand, so they used what they had around.

## Please Welcome Our New Members:

**ADAM HETH**

11010 US 15-501N  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517  
919-444-0095  
adamcheth@gmail.com

**ELSIE A PHILLIP**

1530 Salter Path Rd, Box 31, Lot 60  
Atlantic Beach, NC 28512  
570-878-4583  
eap3573@gmail.com

**NANCY & KEN HOPKINS**

2220 1st Street SE  
Hickory, NC 28602  
828-312-0885  
drspamom4@yahoo.com

**KATHY RICHARDSON**

806 Lord Granville Dr  
Morehead City, NC 28557  
828-310-2740  
kmaddiella@gmail.com

**KERSTIN NYGARD**

Cornell Johnson  
5708 Cole Mill Road  
Durham, NC 27705  
Phone: Do Not Publish  
dragnk@gmail.com;  
johnsonharry8@icloud.com

**DAVID AND DIANE THOMAS**

2001 Trinity Avenue  
Wilmington, NC 28411  
910-520-0617  
dianenthomas@gmail.com

## Club Member Changes

**ISABEL H. BELLAMY**

1901 Melody Lane  
Wilmington, NC 28405  
910-833-4998  
isabelhbellamy@gmail.com

**EILEEN M. WOOD**

699 Sportsman Dr  
Salisbury, NC 28146  
C 717-433-5494, 336-764-0128  
emwood56@yahoo.com

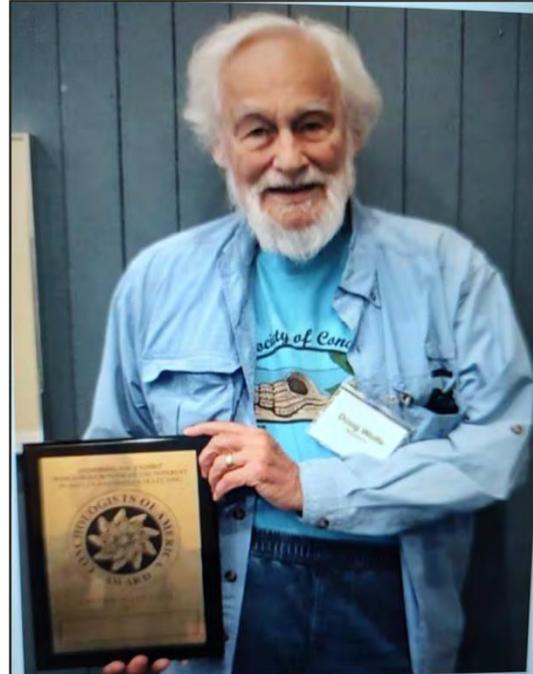
**BARRY & RHONDA GREGWARE**

1466 Deppe Loop Rd  
Maysville, NC 28555  
207-723-1352  
rgregware@hotmail.com

**DIANA P. YEAMES**

PO Box 422  
Newport, NC 28570  
603-828-5198  
dyeames@gmail.com

NC Shell Club Honorary Life Member **Doug Wolfe** won the COA Trophy at the 2025 Oregon Shell Show. He displayed an exhibit of carrier shells, Family Xenophoridae. Doug also won the Shell of the Show trophy for his *Stellaria solaris*. Congratulations Doug!



From **Wildlife in North Carolina** magazine and **Vicky Wall**

“Fairgoers all have their own traditions when visiting the North Carolina State Fair in Raleigh. For some, it’s beginning the day with an early-morning biscuit. Others seek out the latest deep-fried concoction, win their loved ones an oversized stuffed animal or go thrill seeking in the Carnival Midway. The experienced visitor to the Fair, however, knows to stop by Safety City and pick up the latest **Wildlife in North Carolina** button from wildlife law enforcement officers. The popular wildlife button has been distributed since 1981. This year’s button features a Magnificent Ramshorn Snail and marks the second time a mollusk has been displayed on the button (a brook floater mussel appeared on it in 2016).

The magnificent ramshorn is a fitting choice, as the NC Wildlife Resources Commission began reintroducing the federally endangered species to the wild in 2023 as part of a Safe Harbor Agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The magnificent ramshorn is endemic (found only in NC) to the lower Cape Fear River Basin in North Carolina. The species is believed to be extirpated from the wild and currently exists in only three captive populations in the state. The large, air breathing snail lives in fresh water and has lungs that allow it to extract oxygen from air and water. It has tan to brown shells with leopard-like spots”.

\*\*My husband Anthony and I visited the fair on October 16<sup>th</sup> to see the sights and for me to add this button to my collection. I told the officers it was so great to see a snail featured this year. I put in a plug for the NC Shell Club and for the scotch bonnet to be on a future button.....the officer said he would see what he could do!!

## The Gulf Coast Shell Show November 1-2, 2025 And the NCSC Member Winners Are...

Photos: Gulf Coast Facebook Page

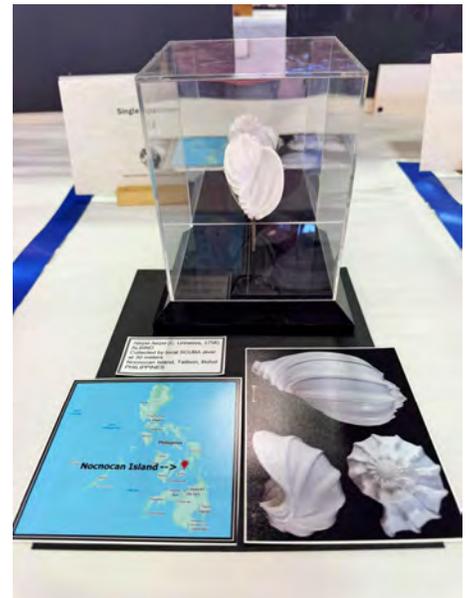
### Jim Brunner: "Tridacnidae - The Birth, Life, and Death of a Shell Family"



### Karlynn Morgan:

3rd Place Ribbon, Fossil *Mercenaria permagna*;  
Albino *Harpa harpa*

2nd Place Ribbon Various Color Forms  
of *Conus ammiralis*





**James Tidmore:** 1st Place  
Ribbon Art, Shell Face "Legacy"

**Linda Brunner:** Lace Murex Growth Series; 3rd Place Ribbon in Art, Shell and Coral Bracelet



**Vicky Wall:**

1st Place Ribbon and Frozen Dip Net Award for Self-Collected Shells from Northwest Florida

2nd Place Ribbon for Self-Collected Shells from Fiji

1st Place Ribbon and Best Self-Collected Shell Award for *Trophon geversianus*.

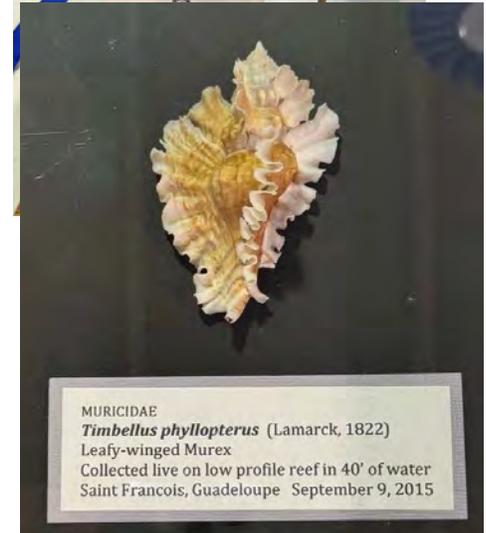


**Linda Zylman:**

1st Place Ribbon and Conchologists of America Award for Shells of the Vaval'u Group, Tonga, Self-Collected

1st Place Ribbon for *Timbellus phyllopterus*

Plaque for Member Self-Collected Shell of the Show for *Malleus anatinus*.



From the Astronaut Trail Shell Show Jan 17-18 :

And the NCSC Member Winners Are...



**Bill Bennight:** People's Choice Award for "The Story of the Nautilus & the Argonaut"

**Dora Zimmerman:**

1st Place Blue Ribbon for Educational Exhibit "*Cypraea broderipii*";  
1st Place Blue Ribbon for "*Janthina*";  
1st Place Blue Ribbon Photography "Australian Opalescent Pendant Land Snail"

**Vicky Wall:** 1st Place Blue Ribbon and R. Tucker Abbott Trophy Best Self-Collected Exhibit for "Shelling at the End of the World, Self-Collected Shells from Argentina".



## From the Broward Shell Show Jan 24-25:

### And the NCSC Member Winners Are...



“The Broward Shell Club is pleased to announce a new trophy for our 2026 Shell Show. **The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia Award** will be given to the most outstanding exhibit of mollusks at a shell show. This award is made to the amateur collector or group of such collectors responsible for the exhibit that, in the opinion of the judges, will be most inspiring and instructive for its accurate scientific data, educational value, and attractiveness, and that will contribute most to the success of the shell show. This award may be only awarded to a blue ribbon or first prize winner.”

**Ann Buddenhagen:** Neil Hepler Memorial – *What is this?* (fossil calcite crystal fossil mollusks).

**Carole Marshall:** Jim VunKannon Memorial Trophy for “It's Not Just a Shell, It's a Memory”

**Kevan Sunderland:** Best Shell of the Show trophy, any manner, for *Vasum capitellum*, sinistral specimen!

**Vicky Wall:**

Best Self-Collected Shell Trophy for *Trophon geversianus*

1st Place Blue Ribbon, American Museum of Natural History Award and COA Award for “Shelling at the End of the World, Self-Collected Shells from Argentina”

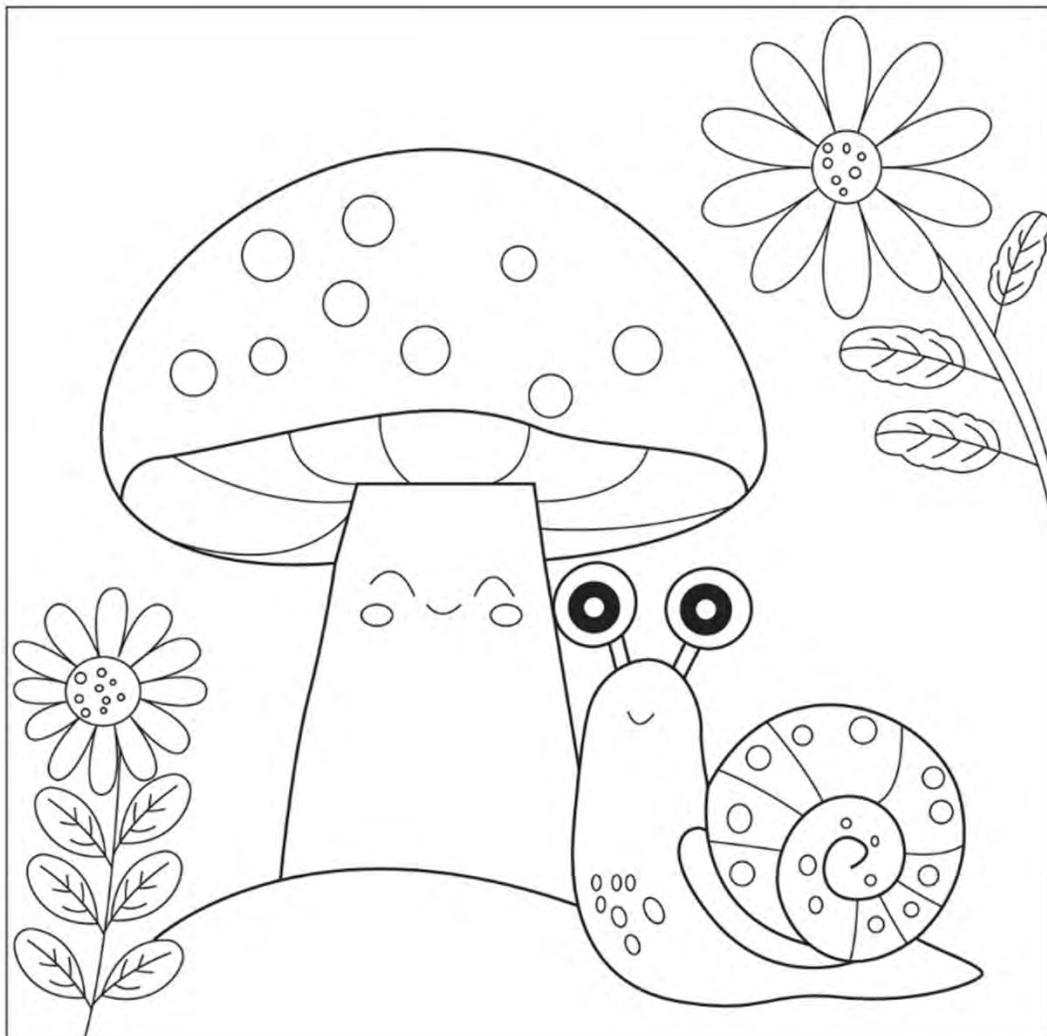
**Dora Zimmerman:**

Judge's Special Award Ribbon for “*Cypraea broderipii*”

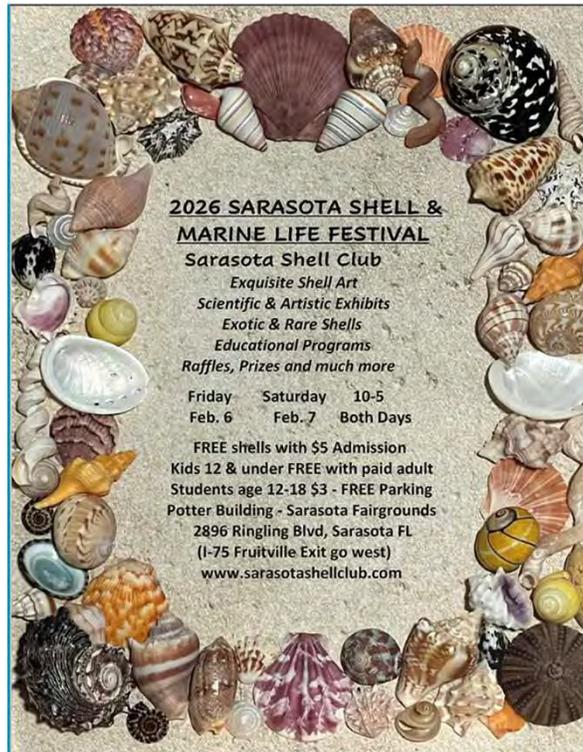
1st Place Blue Ribbon Photography “Australian Opalescent Pendant Land Snail”

1st Place Blue Ribbon and The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia Award (new major award replacing the retired DuPont Award) for “*Janthinias*”

**Linda Zylman:** 1st Place Blue Ribbon and Faye Mucha Memorial Collectibles Trophy for her exhibit of beautiful antique carved mother-of-pearl shell artifacts from The Holy Land – *The Holy Land Carvers*



**From the Sarasota Shell Show Feb 6-7:  
And the NCSC Member Winners Are...**



**Karlynn Morgan:**

1st Place Blue Ribbon for single shell *Mercenaria permagna* (fossil)  
Judge's Special Award Ribbon for "Color Forms of *Conus ammiralis*"

**Ed Shuller & Jeannette Tysor:** 1st Place Blue Ribbon for "O Death Where is Thy Sting: Self-Collected Cone Shells from Fiji & Vanuatu";

**Vicky Wall:**

1st Place Blue Ribbon for "*Macrostrombus costatus*"  
Shell of the Show Award Ribbon for "*Sinistrofulgur pulleyi*"  
1st Place Blue Ribbon and Best Self-Collected Exhibit Trophy for "Shelling at the End of the World, Self-Collected Shells from Argentina"  
1st Place Blue Ribbon and The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia Award for "Self-Collected Shells from Fiji".

**Linda Zylman:** 1st Place Blue Ribbon and MOTE Best of the Best Trophy for "Self-Collected Shells from Tonga"

## From the St. Petersburg Shell Show Feb 13-14

### And the NCSC Member Winners Are...



#### Karlynn Morgan:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Ribbon for One Species: "Color Forms of *Conus ammiralis*"
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Ribbon for single shell *Mercenaria permagna* (fossil)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Ribbon for single shell: *Harpa major* Fake Albino shell.

#### Vicky Wall:

- 1st Place Blue Ribbon and Florida Museum of Natural History Platinum Best of the Best Award for "Self-Collected Shells from Fiji".
- 1st Place Blue Ribbon for Self-Collected Shells from Argentina; Shell of the Show Self-Collected Trophy for *Trophon geversianus*
- 2nd Place Single Shell *Macrostrombus costatus*.

## Club Dues Increase

Due to the increased cost of printing and publishing our newsletters, membership booklets, educational and outreach materials and meeting expenses, the Shell Club board has decided to increase membership dues for the first time in many years.

NCSC Executive Board

In fact, the current dues were started in Jan 2015...taken from the 4Q 2014 Newsletter...

### New Dues Structure in 2015

January 1 begins a new year for the Shell Club and the new Dues structure goes into place.  
For 2015 the cost of membership will be:  
Individual memberships \$15 and Family memberships \$20.

**If you haven't paid your dues, notice the increase after May 1<sup>st</sup> of this year!**

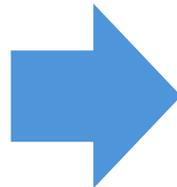
**If you purchase a life membership prior to May 1<sup>st</sup>, you get to save!!!**

### CURRENT DUES:



Individual \$15  
Family \$20

Life Membership:  
Individual \$225  
Family \$300



### AFTER MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> 2026



Individual \$20  
Family \$25

Life Membership:  
Individual \$300  
Family \$375



# 2026 North Carolina's 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Shell Show

May 1-3, 2026

Returning to the Crystal Coast Civic Center  
(3505 Arendell Street) in Morehead City for the 5<sup>th</sup> Year!



## SHOW HOURS:

**Dealer's Set-up: Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Exhibitor's Set-up: Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**Judging: Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00. p.m.**

**Open to the Public:**

**Friday, May 1, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, May 2, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, May 3, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**Banquet: Saturday, May 2, 6:30 p.m.**

**Show Strike: Sunday, May 3, 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

## SUGGESTED LODGING:

Hampton Inn Morehead City  
4035 Arendell St  
Morehead City, NC 28557  
866-238-4218 or 252-240-2300



- Time period of the offer is: Wednesday, April 29th through Sunday May 3rd (checkout Monday, May 4th).
- The rooms are either 1 king or 2 double beds.
- The price (\$169/night) is for occupancy of one or two guests. There is an addition charge of \$10 per guest and limit of 4 guests per room. For calculating the total cost of your stay, occupancy tax is 6% and sales tax is 6.75%. Add 12.75% to the Hampton rate
- Water or street view, the special rate is the same.
- **Cutoff date for reservations at the special shell show rate is March 29, 2026.**
- There is a 48-hour prior cancellation policy, to avoid being charged for the room.
- The Group code for the offer is: **CHH90F** Use this code when making the reservation. It works on the hotel website if you wish to make your reservation that way.



Design for the 2026 Shell Show shirts was made by John Timmerman

### Scientific Judges

José Leal (Bailey Matthews Shell Museum and Aquarium)

John Slapcinsky (Florida Museum of Natural History)

### Artistic Judges

Linda Sunderland (Sunrise, FL)

Linda Gustafson (Carolina Beach, NC)

### Banquet Speaker

**Saturday, May 2, 6:30 p.m.**

José Leal (Bailey Matthews Shell Museum and Aquarium)

### 2025-2026 Raffle Tickets are on Sale!

The drawing will be at the 2026 Shell Show Banquet, Saturday, May 2nd. Tickets are five dollars (\$5) each for either item. All items will be available for viewing and tickets may be purchased prior to the Banquet. There is no limit to the number of tickets that an individual may purchase, and you do not have to be present to win!

#### “SEA-GLASS”

Hand-knitted throw Afghan.  
Measures 70” long x 48” wide.  
Acrylic/wool blend. Machine washable.  
Scalloped décor pillow.



#### Windowpane Sun-Catcher AND matching shells.

Measures 16” long x 11.5” wide.



Purple sea urchin test (Unknown Species)  
Precious Wentletrap (*Epitonium scalare*)  
Nautilus shell (*Nautilus pompilius*)  
West Indian Turban shell (*Cittarium pica*)  
Scotch Bonnet (with operc.) (*Phalium granulatum*)  
Gray Starfish (*Asterias forbesi*)  
Kiener's Whelk (*Busycon carica eliceans*)  
Yoka Star Turban (*Guildfordia yoka*)  
Common Hairy Triton (*Monoplex pilearis*)  
Bay Scallop (*Argopecten irradians concentricus*)  
Notched Sand Dollar (*Encope emarginata*)  
Coral Stand - artificial

NOTE: Included is a nice combination of specimens AND self-collected shells and Echinoids. The scallop was collected by Dr. Doug Wolfe. The South Core Banks self-collected Scotch Bonnet was collected with its operculum.

### Club Table Donations Wanted!

If you have old shells you are wanting to clear out of your collection or are looking to free up space for new shells, the North Carolina Shell Club would happily accept donations from your collection for use on our club table. The donated shells are sold during the North Carolina Annual Shell Show to raise funds for our annual scholarship for research in a marine biology field.

## Did you know that the first Shell Show was in 1971?

**From Bulletin #6 Published in 1971...retyped so you can actually read it...**

### **NORTH CAROLINA SHELL CLUB'S FIRST SHELL SHOW by Dorothy Porter**

Thirty-one cases of mollusks were displayed by thirteen contributors at the first North Carolina Shell Club show held Saturday, October 2, 1971, in Coker Hall, UNC, Institute of Marine Sciences in Morehead City.

Most of the displays were shown in the recommended size cases with glass tops; however, one collection was shown in a World War II Japanese sea chest by Jim Wadsworth and another by Mrs. Lucy Piper was displayed in an antique glass-shelved cabinet.

Contributors by category entered were:

#### North Carolina, self collected:

Walter Lowry (3<sup>rd</sup> Place), Mrs. Elizabeth McKinley, Mrs. Lucy Piper (1<sup>st</sup> Place) and Mrs. Harriett Riggs (2<sup>nd</sup> Place) and Mrs. Mary Ladner.

#### World Wide, Self-Collected:

Mrs. Ruth Dixon (2<sup>nd</sup> Place), Walter Lowry, Jim Wadsworth (1<sup>st</sup> Place) and Doug Wolfe (3<sup>rd</sup> Place)

#### World Wide, General:

Mrs. Charlotte (Raleigh) Johnson (1<sup>st</sup> Place), Walter Lowry (2<sup>nd</sup> Place), Marguerite Thomas (3<sup>rd</sup> Place), Doug Wolfe and Jenny Worrall

#### Junior Member:

Jimmy Truckner

In addition, a "Best Shell of the Show" ribbon was given to Mrs. Riggs for a rare and unusual form of Sozon's Cone, which she had collected in North Carolina.

A golden cowry was shown in its own special case by Mrs. Johnson and three cases, not for judging, were displayed by Hugh J. Porter – one was Olividae, and two were North Carolina reef mollusks. Live Sozon's Cones, von Salis-Triton and an Emperor Helmet were shown in a saltwater aquarium.

Judges were Will Hon, director of the Carteret County Marine Science Program, and Hugh Porter, assistant Professor, UNC Institute of Marine Sciences. "Hurricane Ginger" delayed the services of a third judge, Dale Stingley, well known Florida collector from LaBelle, Florida.

After the judging, the show was opened to the public.

The Shell Show chairman was Mrs. Charlotte Johnson. Members of the committee were Wade Brown and Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Porter.

## 2026 Shell Show Committees

Dan Minior is Volunteer Coordinator  
([danminior@hotmail.com](mailto:danminior@hotmail.com))

**Shell Show Co-Chairs:** Write/proof the prospectus, receive applications, lay out table exhibits  
John Timmerman & Karlynn Morgan

**Facilities (Civic Center and Hotel):** Negotiate the contract for both the civic center and the hotel, ensuring the required space for all to enjoy! All Civic center requests/concerns are filtered through Jeannette.

**Admissions:** Receive the customers and accept payment thru square in order to count people and collect payment in all forms. Hours are Friday 9-5  
Sue Saunders. No volunteers necessary.

**Advertising/Marketing:** Make sure advertising is done through any and all venues necessary to ensure word has spread far and wide!  
Maria Lloyd

**Clerks:** Answer questions, take notes, ensure the judges have everything they need during the judging process. Betsy Bleuthenthal, Cheryl Manger and Diana Yeames (In-training)

**Club Sales Table:** These are the things that are donated to the club to help with increased revenue to support scholarships. Square will be used for credit card purchases only; checks and cash will be totaled at the end of each day and given to Karlynn. Volunteers can help with setup Thursday and pack up on Sunday as well as customer service Fri, Sat, and Sun.  
Susan O'Connor, Bill Bennight, Erin Burch

**Children's Table:** Get to play all day with the kids that come to the show including coloring and jewelry making.  
Martha Hooper: 4 volunteers per day are needed Fri, Sat & Sun.

**Judges:** The judges come from far and wide for this event; to ensure the judges are made to feel at home and oriented appropriately.  
Mark Johnson

**Lunchroom:** Who doesn't like to eat? Lunch for all the Volunteers and Vendors is served daily.  
Diana Yeames. 1 person is needed for each day Thur-Sun 10 a.m.-2p.m.

**Club Merchandise:** The T-shirts, pins, notebooks that have the NCSC logo. All purchases will be entered into square. No volunteers are necessary.  
Jeannette Tysor

**Raffle Tickets:** The sale of the raffle tickets at the quarterly meetings.  
Dora Zimmerman

**Raffle Tickets at Shell Show:** The sale of the raffle tickets during the shell show for the banquet.  
Club Merchandise: 2 volunteers are needed per day Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

**Banquet:** All things leading up to a night of fellowship on Saturday night.  
Jeannette Tysor, Diana Yeames and Ed Shuller  
Please send Banquet ticket purchase to Karlynn Morgan,

**Scavenger Hunt/People's Choice Award:** This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> spot folks come to when they come through the door that leads to the culmination of judging for the science and art entries.  
Karlynn Morgan, Vicky Wall. No volunteers needed. Relief comes from club merchandise.

**Membership:** This table helps to sign up anyone that want to join the club!  
Mimi Dill. Purchase can be done at admissions but primarily from club merchandising.  
Mimi will produce coupons for visitors that convert to members. Coupons will be put with new member application for accounting purposes.

**Shell Giveaway Table:** Everyone that comes to the shell show leaves with something!  
2 volunteers are needed per day.

**Ask the Expert:** This is a fun table to answer any questions that folks may have about the ocean world. 2 volunteers are needed per day.  
Ann Buddenhagen: 1 volunteers are needed per day Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

**Vendors Assistance:** The vendors that come also come from far and wide, so they need help with set up getting oriented. Volunteers are needed for setup Thursday and tear down Sunday afternoon. 1-2 volunteers are needed Thursday and Sunday.

**Trophies/Sponsors:** Behind the scenes help for the presentations/awards

**Scouts (Boys & Girls):** This table is specifically set up for the Scouts to receive a patch for their uniform.  
Scott Foxx

**Property storage:** As you can imagine, there's LOTS of stuff needed to support a 3-day event...  
Brady Semmel, Susan O'Connor, Mark Johnson

**Setup/Breakdown and Floaters:** Do whatever anyone needs.  
Mark Johnson. 2 volunteers are needed for Thursday and Sunday.

**Floaters to be used as needed:**  
Mark Johnson, John Timmerman, Betsy Bleuthenthal (provides breaks for the dealers)

**Accounting:**  
Mimi will do a daily rollup of square numbers to give to Karlynn for the cash and check information. No volunteers needed.



## IN MEMORIAM

### Sylvia Ann Curry

June 15, 1948-January 4, 2026

Anne passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by her husband and four adult children. She was born in Butler, Pennsylvania, the daughter of the late James Francis Tynan, Sr. and Edna Maxine Hilliard Tynan.



Annie grew up as a military child. Around 1960, her family settled in Key West, where Annie found her true home. She attended Key West High School (KWHS), graduating in 1966. She met her lifelong love Greg Curry during her freshman year at KWHS, and by her senior year they were engaged. They married just three days after her 18th birthday. June of this year would have marked their 60th wedding anniversary.

Together, Annie and her husband built a life and several businesses. Their first venture was Curry's Pet & Aquarium Supply. Afterwards, Annie worked at Winn-Dixie and later Tropical Shell & Gifts. She managed the fabric department at Zayre (later Ames) and then used that experience to open Annie's Fabric & Notions. Her final place of employment was Key West Handprint Fabrics & Fashions, where she served in every important role. From there, she moved into her favorite role of all: being Gram.

While working and building businesses, Annie and her husband raised four children who were the center of her universe. She was deeply involved in every aspect of their lives. If they were in sports, she was in the concession stand, behind the video camera getting film, working fundraisers, cooking meals for the teams, or washing, mending and altering uniforms. When her grandchildren arrived, they brought her out of retirement, and she did it all again.

When she wasn't on the sidelines of a sporting event, Annie could be found at a performing arts center. She lent her extraordinary sewing talents to countless dance recitals at Kari's Dance Factory. When her daughter Lynly later took over the studio, Annie became the beloved desk mom and dance mom to hundreds of dancers. She could bring any costume to life. For the past two seasons of Nutcracker Key West, Annie managed all costuming needs without ever wanting recognition. She was already planning for the upcoming season up until her passing. Her heart was always with her children, grandchildren, and all the children of the Florida Keys.

Annie was a long-time member of the North Carolina Shell Club and a wonderful, dear friend to many in the Club. She attended our shows in North Carolina and always brought a vibrant light of warmth and grace to our membership. In Key West, Annie and Greg routinely and graciously hosted our traveling members, offering strong collecting guidance, loving company, and entertaining meals. Her kind and warm disposition and extraordinary talents with shell and marine-themed clothing quickly and continuously led to many close friendships within our North Carolina Shell Club membership. She was truly an important part of our Club family and the relationships she formed extended far, far beyond shell collecting. We will miss her dearly.

Sylvia Ann is survived by her loving husband of 59 years, Gregory Allen Curry, Sr.; her children Gregory Allen Curry, Jr. (Amia), Clinton Allen Curry (Julie), Michael Allen Curry (Cherie), and Lynly Anne-Curry Hill (Josh); and her seven cherished grandchildren, Colbin, Parker, Annabel, Marcelina, Samuel, Sawyer, and Kaysel. She is also survived by her sisters Cynthia K. Couch and Edna Jane Tynan, both of Lakeland, Florida; her sister-in-law Lynn Curry of Grovetown, Georgia; and numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins. She was preceded in death by five brothers.

## News from Associated Museums:



## MOLLUSKS COLLECTION



**ARTHUR BOGAN**

Research Curator, Mollusks  
[arthur.bogan@naturalsciences.org](mailto:arthur.bogan@naturalsciences.org)

1671 Gold Star Drive, Raleigh, NC 27607  
 919-707-8863



**JAMIE SMITH**

Collections Manager, Mollusks  
[jamie.smith@naturalsciences.org](mailto:jamie.smith@naturalsciences.org)

1671 Gold Star Drive, Raleigh, NC 27607  
 919-707-8869

Did you know the North Carolina Shell Club and the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences has had a relationship since 1965?

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### THE NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM SHELL COLLECTION Mr. Harry Davis, Director N. C. State Museum

The idea of a North Carolina Collection or Museum seems to have originated with the mineral collection of the first state Geologist in 1823. Through the years this has grown to a creditable institution, with educational exhibits of natural history and educational natural resources. The subjects covered are from astronomy and geology through all native plants and animals. The exhibits occupy 30,000 square feet on three floors.

The Museum is entered from 101 Halifax Street, one-half block north of the Capitol Square. It is free and is open from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. on weekdays and from 1 P.M. to 5 P.M. on Sundays. This applies to all State Holidays except Christmas and New Years.

Through the years the Museum has accessioned a number of small collections of mollusk shells. These came from all parts of the world and were merely stored and much of the data was misplaced.

Up until the organization of the North Carolina Shell Club, the zoologist had not featured any mollusk exhibits

except for some commercial aspects of oysters, clams, etc. His aims were at more picturesque animals.

The Shell Club, and available space after 1954, prompted the present arrangement for shell exhibits. The effort was to show foundation exhibits based on scientific classifications. The hope was to fill these out as material and personnel should allow.

Since most of our visitors come from North Carolina, we reason that the major emphasis should be on shells from this area. We also realize that other shells can well be used to emphasize educational features for our visitors.

Thus we welcome assistance from the Shell Club, and deem it fitting and proper that this be in memory of the late Mrs. Lula Upchurch.

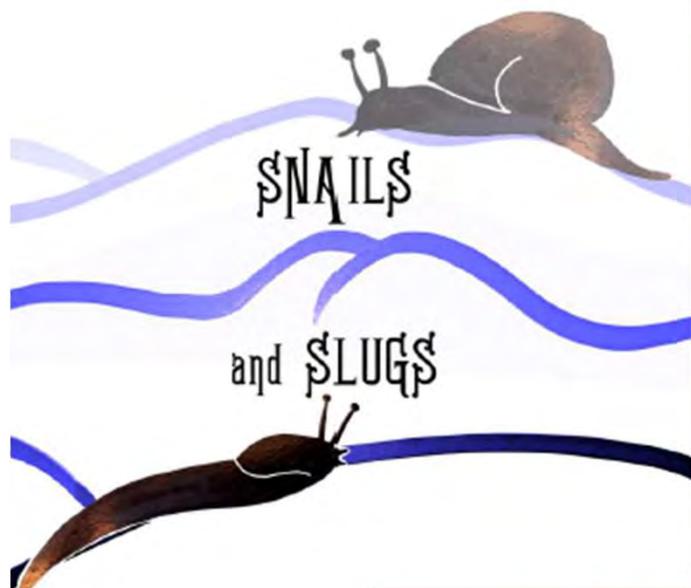
Taken from Bulletin #2, 1965, pages 3-4



Nature Exploration Center (NEC)  
11 West Jones Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
Phone: 919.707.9800

Nature Research Center (NRC)  
121 West Jones Street  
Raleigh, NC 27603  
Phone: 919.707.9800

Mollusk Lab  
1671 Gold Star Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27607  
919-707-8863/8869



## A Workshop on Land Mollusca

of Eastern North America with  
Emphasis on the Southern Blue  
Ridge Mountains

26–29 May 2026, CLEMSON, SC

The course will provide a general overview of land snail and slug biology, collection, preservation, and identification. Emphasis will be placed on taxa found in the southern Blue Ridge Mountains.

The main purpose of the course is to aid in identification of specimens. Students will gain experience using keys to identify families, genera, and even some species.

The workshop will consist of lectures, laboratories, and fieldwork. Students will be shown collecting techniques and have an opportunity to collect their own macro- and microsnails during a field trip.

### Instructors:

**Denise Furr**

Schiele Museum of Natural  
History

**Emily Phifer**

Schiele Museum of Natural  
History

### Organized by:

**Michael L. Ferro**

Clemson University  
Arthropod Collection

**Cost:** US\$450 per person. Includes four (4) nights accommodation, full meals, pick up and drop off at Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport (GSP), books, and supplies.



More information:  
[clemsonbugs.org/workshops.html](http://clemsonbugs.org/workshops.html)



**Conchologists of America Annual Convention****Sarasota-Bradenton Area, Florida**

Jun 9-13, 2026

Field Trips Jun 7-8



Courtyard by Marriott  
100 Riverfront Drive  
Bradenton, FL  
888-731-9096

**Hosted by the  
Sarasota Shell Club**

**Convention Co-Chairs:**

**Ron Bopp**

918-527-0589

rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com

**Duane Kauffmann**

574-238-4554

duanerk@goshen.edu

[conchologistsofAmerica.org](http://conchologistsofAmerica.org)

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 Mayodan, NC 27027  
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 vwallsheller@gmail.com

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 mimiadill@aol.com

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**Web Master:**  
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 571-214-4605  
 beachblessing108@gmail.com

**A Word About Merchandizing...**

To use the **PayPal** account that is now active, email: Shell-quest@earthlink.net. If you don't have a **PayPal** account, you can sign up for one at, <https://www.paypal.com>. All transactions are processed through your **PayPal**, instead of your bank.

To use the **Zelle** account that is now active, email: Shell-quest@earthlink.net from either your mobile banking app or with the **Zelle** app. If you don't have a **Zelle** account, you can sign up through you mobile banking app (first see if your bank uses **Zelle**) or with the **Zelle** app. More information at [www.zellepay.com](http://www.zellepay.com).

Please make check out to **NC Shell Club** and send to Mimi Dill, Membership Manager, 1240 Wilkins Road, Alton, VA 24520. You can also pay via PayPal and Zelle as well!

**MEMBERSHIP DUES  
 INCREASE  
 EFFECTIVE 1 MAY 2026**



**Individual \$20  
 Family \$25**

**Life Membership:  
 Individual \$300  
 Family \$375**

**Newsletter Publication Dates:**

Send articles to [mimiadill@aol.com](mailto:mimiadill@aol.com)

Clipart is from <https://clipart-library.com>

Please Note: The Below Dates are for planning purposes

Quarter:	Newsletter Publication Date	Article Submission Cutoff Date:	Subjects
1 <sup>st</sup>	Feb 15 <sup>th</sup>	Feb 7 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Q Meeting/ Shell Show
2 <sup>nd</sup>	April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mar 21 <sup>st</sup>	Shell Show
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Aug 15 <sup>th</sup>	Aug 7 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q Meeting
4 <sup>th</sup>	Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>	Sept 20 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> Q Meeting

## 2026 Events

<b>NCSC BOD/Planning Meeting 1st Saturday in January</b>	<b>Jan 10, 2026</b>	<b>Date Change!</b>
*Astronaut Trail Shell Club Festival Shell Show Eau Gallie, FL	Jan 17-18	
*59th Annual Broward Shell Show Pompano Beach, FL	Jan 24-25	
*62nd Annual Sarasota Shell Show Sarasota, FL	Feb 6-7	
*77th St. Petersburg Shell Show Seminole, FL	Feb 13-14	
*89th Annual Sanibel Shell Show Sanibel, FL	Mar 5-7	
*Marco Island Shell Club Spring Expo & Sale Marco Island, FL	Mar 13-14	
<b>The NCSC Established in Mar 1957</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>The Club's 69th Year!</b>
<b>NC Shell Club 1st Quarter Meeting Ocracoke Community Center Ocracoke, NC</b>	<b>Mar 20-21 Spring Auction</b>	
<b>Earth Day Core Sound Museum</b>	<b>Apr 29</b>	<b>Contact: Dan Minior</b>
*Florida United Malacologists Meeting Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum	Apr 11	
<b>48<sup>th</sup> Annual NC Shell Show Crystal Coast Civic Center Morehead City, NC</b>	<b>May 1-3</b>	<b>Set Up Apr 30</b>
<b>The Anniversary of the Scotch Bonnet Being named as the NC State Shell May 28, 1965</b>	<b>May 28</b>	<b>The NC Shell's 61th Anniversary!</b>
*Conchologists of America Annual Convention Sarasota-Bradén Area, FL	Jun 9-13	Field Trips Jun 7-8
*Gulf Coast Shell Show Panama, FL	Jul 18-19	
<b>The summer shell swap</b>	<b>TBP</b>	
<b>NC Shell Club 3rd Quarter Meeting Katie B. Hines Senior Center 308 Cape Fear Blvd Carolina Beach, NC</b>	<b>Sept 18-19 Fall Auction</b>	
<b>NC Shell Club 4th Quarter Meeting Western Park Community Center Cedar Point, NC</b>	<b>Nov 6-7</b>	

\*Information derived from Vicky Wall, COA Award Chairman, [conchologistsofamerica.org](http://conchologistsofamerica.org). Please go to their website for further information.