NORTH CAROLINA SHELL CLUB

https://ncshellclub.com

Jul-Sep 2026

Katie B. Hines Senior Center
308 Cape Fear Blvd.
Carolina Beach, NC

Friday, September 18, 2026

6:30 pm Registration and Social Greetings; Look at Silent Auction;
7:00 pm Club Updates
7:40 pm **Guest Speaker**
8:15 pm Break, Silent Auction
9:00 pm Meeting Adjourns; Silent Auction Ends, Check out, Clean up and Pay Up!

Viewing for oral auction at 6:30 PM!

Books, Shells, and Cabinets!



And one of these too!

Saturday, September 19, 2026

6:30pm Registration and Social Greetings; Viewing for Oral Auction begins
6:50pm Door Prizes; Find of the Day Judging
7:00pm Oral Auction begins
7:45pm Intermission
8:00pm Oral Auction continues
9:00pm Auction Ends, Check out, Clean up and Pay Up!

Auctioneers

Bill Bennight
Erin Burch
Mark Johnson
Dr. Daniel Minior

Catalog has been loaded to website
Bring a copy since there will be no prints at the auction

Refreshment donations for Friday and Saturday nights are welcome.
Diana Yeames 603-828-5198 dyeames@gmail.

President's Message:



The Club is having an amazing year and members are taking part in shelling events left and right. The NCSC Shell Show was a huge success with dealers from all over and happy attendees every day. There were shell giveaways, raffles, scavenger hunts, presentations, vendor sales, shell art, and so many educational displays that many attendees came back a second day to get it all in. There was a tour of the aquatics center and much more for everyone.

Many NCSC members also attended the COA convention in Sarasota Florida and represented the club well by assisting in many aspects of the week's events. There were shelling adventures in Sarasota bay(see photo), Banquets, silent auctions, oral auctions, and speakers from around the world. Vendors were selling shells from ever corner of the bourse(sales room) and related materials including coral, jewelry, apparel, books, and anything you could want as a sheller.

The club is holding its Shell Swap this August and members are gathering to trade and barter with one another for interesting shell material and a lot of good friendship. Every person who can make it will have an enjoyable experience and often see some really interesting items.

Our next NCSC meeting is coming up in September (Carolina Beach, NC, Sept 18-19, 2026) and every member is invited to attend. There will be the normal silent auction, as well as our Fall Oral Auction! John has been working non-stop on the catalog which has been published on our website if you haven't received it via email. There will be door prizes, raffles and the Shell of the day. Club members will share snacks and hear an interesting speaker that everyone will like. If you have not made a meeting in a while, let this be your return to the club gatherings and see the good times. For the new members, you're more than welcome!

Together we will continue with this exciting year as the NCSC draws closer and closer to the upcoming 2028 COA in Wilmington NC which will be hosted by OUR club. If you'd like to volunteer to support for this event, or frankly, any event, just let any club member know, and we'll help you get signed up. And thanks for the countless hours folks spend to ensure our Club's success…thanks so much for all you'll do!

Scott Foxx

Shell Show Minutes by Vicky Wall

The North Carolina Shell Club held its 48th Shell Show May 1-3, 2026, at the Crystal Coast Civic Center in Morehead City. This was the fifth year to have the show at this location and once again it was a great success. The club will continue to have our Shell Show at this location the first weekend of May. The 49th Shell Show will be April 30-May 2, 2027. Club members worked very hard to get the word out about the show, utilizing Facebook, a local radio announcement about the show, placement of advertising signs in the community, information on the club website, distribution of rack cards at other shell shows, and having a club presence at the Earth Day Celebration at the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum. A news reporter from local television station WNCT-TV filmed a news spot Friday afternoon for the evening news. He had time to join in with the fun, completing the Scavenger Hunt and buying a helmet shell from the club table! Many attendees heard of the shell show from friends, and others were repeat attendees. One young man attending UNC-Wilmington who came to the show last year told us he was trying to organize a shell club on campus. This year, he came to the show with the Club President and told us they now have 250 members of their campus shell club! Despite being exam week, several of the students were able to attend the show.

The many activities at the show this year that everyone enjoyed could not have occurred without the work of so many club member volunteers (at least 50 people but most likely more!). Planning the shell show is a year-long endeavor. We encourage anyone interested in learning more about the show and/or wanting to help next year to reach out to other members, anyone on the Board of Directors or the Chairmen of the Shell Show. The success of our show depends on active participation and energy! This year's activities included scientific and artistic exhibits, a display from the **Aurora Fossil Museum** with bins of fossil marl for show attendees to search for their own fossils, shell giveaway, activities for children including drawing shell pictures, making shell jewelry, and painting rocks, Scavenger Hunt (with shell prizes), Ask the Experts' Table, and awesome items for sale at our Club Merchandise Tables and Club Sales Tables. The money raised from the Club Sales Tables helps to fund the scholarships the club sponsors for marine biology students at UNC-Wilmington and Cape Carteret Community College.



Fun at the Children's Table with Chandra Phillips





Nancy Timmerman helping at the Children's Table



Searching for fossils with Aurora

Special Programs this year offered to attendees were "Artistry With Shells", lead by club member **Stephanie Howard**. Stephanie provided the materials for participants to make their own decorative shell creations. She held a one-hour session each day of the show. Several of the newly minted shell artists stopped by the club tables to show us what they had made! Scientific exhibitor Gene Everson gave a program about his 2024 shelling trip to Tierra del Fuego, Argentina. **Dr. Ashley Oliphant** returned to the show this year to give her wonderful program "On the Beach with Dr. Ashley Oliphant, a Better, Beach-Combing Strategy". The final program for the weekend was "Beachcombing Shells and Fossils". Several club members and show participants enjoyed a mini field trip to the research labs next door to the Civic Center, at Cape Carteret Community College. The students and professors are producing cutting-edge research on marine mariculture of oysters, clams, and fish. The college also conducts research on mitigating shoreline erosion, experimenting with various hard structures (that can encourage oyster colony growth) and replanting of marsh grasses.



Mini field trip do the Cape Carteret Community College's Marine research labs



Mariculture of quahog clams



The Clamheads: Scott Foxx, Ed Shuller, Dan DeRemer, and Jan Healy





Longtime member and Honorary Member Pinky Porter and her son, Weston, attended the show again this year. Pinky enjoys seeing who won the Hugh Porter Award, honoring her late husband, Hugh. This year's winner was Mark Johnson with his exhibit, The Amazing Flats of Southwest Florida Part I, Gastropods. Pictured are: John Timmerman, Vicky Wall, Dan Minior, Linda Sunderland, Mark Johnson, Karlynn Morgan, Weston Porter and Pinky Porter.



The "Ask Me I Know Stuff" Experts' Table with Artistic Judge Linda Sunderland, Scientific Judges Dr. John Slapcinsky and Dr. José Leal, Kevan Sunderland, and Ron Bopp

Attendance to the show this year was 712 people (including adult paid attendance, 67 free admittance children, club members and volunteers) attended this year's show. The shell show had 405 feet of scientific exhibits (an increase of 80 feet from last year) and 90 feet of artistic exhibits (an increase of 33 feet from last year) making our show one of the largest of the 10 shell shows still taking place in the United States. The club was able to rent the entire Civic Center floor this year, allowing more room for show exhibits, dealers, vendors, and club activities. Exhibitors and dealers hailed from several states including North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Kentucky, New Jersey, Virginia, West Virginia, Texas, Georgia, Massachusetts, and Washington. Scientific judges were **Dr. José Leal** and **John Slapcinsky**. The artistic judges were **Linda Sunderland** and **Linda Gustafson**. *A major change this year to the show was the division of artistic exhibits into two main categories, Hobbyist and Professional.

Dealers and Vendors attending this year were **Donald Dan** (Donald Dan Specimen Shells), **Charles Hames** (Charles Hames Specimen Shells), **Richard Goldberg** (Worldwide Specimen Shells), **Brian Hayes** (Algoa Bay Shells), **Kim Nelson** (Your Island Treasure), **James Tidmore** (JTidmore Island Art), **Sue Hobbs** (Sue Hobbs Specimen Shells and Shells for Artists), **Dr. Ashely Oliphant** (Shark Tooth Hunting on the Carolina Coast), **Randy Allamand** (Randy Allamand Shells and Stuff), **Scott and Angie Turner** (Scott's Shell Crafts), **Jay Cordeiro** (Northeast Natural History and Supply), **Sound Side Tours LLC**, and **William Corbett** (Wentletrap William).



Club Member "Wentletrap William" Corbett enjoying the show. for his generosity, donating the proceeds from his sales table to the club, $1100! Thank you William!!



Shell Give away table with Susan Rotman, Ed Shuller (wearing the Clam Hat!), and Dan DeRemer

And the 2026 Winners (Alphabetically) Are…

Alison Baron

Best Artistic Photography: New Beginnings
1st Place Scientific Ribbon My Favorite North Carolina Shell, Self-Collected: *Cassis madagascariensis*-The Queen Helmet
1st Place Scientific Ribbon Beach Collected Shells: Shells of Hawaii
1st Place Artistic Ribbon (Hobbyist) Arts & Crafts Depicting Shells (Artistic Mollusk Photography): New Beginnings
2nd Place Scientific Ribbon North Carolina Collection: Uncommon Shells of North Carolina

Beatrice Baron

The Janet Durand Award: Manatees

Ellie Benicio

2nd Place Artistic Ribbon (Professional) Arts & Crafts Using Actual Shells (Animals, Mermaids, Human Busts or Statues): Eagle Nest Building 101
2nd Place Artistic Ribbon (Professional) Arts & Crafts Using Actual Shells (Avante-garde Shellwork (Unlimited)): Alexander the Salamander

Bill Bennight

1st Place Scientific Ribbon One Case Wonder: *Conus gloriamaris* with Radula

Ron Bopp

Dean & Dottie Weber Environmental Awareness Award: World-Wide Terrestrial Mollusks
Judge's Special Award Ribbon: The Wonderful World of Sea Urchins
1st Place Scientific Ribbon Land Snails: Worldwide Terrestrial Mollusks
1st Place Scientific Ribbon Marine Life Exhibit: The Wonderful World of Sea Urchins

Ann Buddenhagen

Best Fossil Exhibit: *Mercenaria permagna*
1st Place Scientific Ribbon Fossil Mollusks: *Mercenaria permagna*

Winners (Continued)



Wanda Coker

Masters Award: Abalones From The Family Haliotidae
Judge's Special Award Ribbon: Shell Collecting
2nd Place Scientific Ribbon Educational Collection: Shell Collecting

Lynn Miller Dean

Judge's Special Award Ribbon: Bountiful Gift from the Sea
2nd Place Artistic Ribbon (Professional) Arts & Crafts Depicting Shells (Wall Hangings): Shells in Bloom
2nd Place Artistic Ribbon (Professional) Arts & Crafts Using Actual Shells (Flower Arrangement): Bountiful Gift from the Sea

Angie Doleman

2nd Place Artistic Ribbon (Hobbyist) Arts & Crafts Using Actual Shells (Animals, Mermaids, Human Busts or Statues): Shellborn Siren

Gene Everson

Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia Award: Fasciolariidae
1st Place Scientific Ribbon Single Shell Any Source: *Chicoreus Bouchet*
1st Place Scientific Ribbon One Small Family: Fasciolariidae



Winners (Continued)

Jennifer Geary

People's Choice Award, Art: April Showers…Bring May Flowers
1st Place Artistic Ribbon (Hobbyist) Arts & Crafts Using Actual Shells (Flower Arrangement): April Showers…Bring May Flowers
1st Place Artistic Ribbon (Hobbyist) Arts & Crafts Using Actual Shells (Animals, Mermaids, Human Busts or Statues): The Lure of the Abyss
1st Place Artistic Ribbon (Hobbyist) Arts & Crafts Using Actual Shells (Miscellaneous): Every Seashell has a Story
1st Place Artistic Ribbon (Hobbyist) Arts & Crafts Depicting Shells, Wall Hangings: The Graceful Devil
2nd Place Artistic Ribbon (Hobbyist) Arts & Crafts Depicting Shells, Artistic Mollusk Photography: Eye of the Tide
2nd Place Scientific Ribbon Specialized Collection: Extraordinary Queen

Kacie Goldberg

Best Novice: Deep Sea Girl

Arbie Goodfellow

Best Novice Collection Adult: Worldwide Self-Collected
2nd Place Scientific Ribbon Worldwide Self-Collected: Worldwide Self Collected



Winners (Continued)

Kathy Hofstad

Best Arts & Crafts Using Actual Shells: Odyssey of Sand and Sea
Best Contemporary Sailor's Valentine: With this Ring
1st Place Scientific Ribbon Specialized Collection: Wentletrap Growth Series
1st Place Artistic Ribbon (Hobbyist) Revitalized Double Barbadian Sailor's Valentine: With Love
1st Place Artistic Ribbon (Hobbyist) Contemporary Sailor's Valentine: The Hummingbird
1st Place Artistic Ribbon (Hobbyist) Contemporary Double Sailor's Valentine: With This Ring
1st Place Artistic Ribbon (Hobbyist) Contemporary Miniature Sailor's Valentine: Sail Away
1st Place Artistic Ribbon (Hobbyist) Miniature Art & Crafts Using Actual Shells (Flower Arrangement): Miniature Bridal Bouquet
1st Place Artistic Ribbon (Hobbyist) Arts & Crafts Using Actual Shells (Jewelry): Pocket Watch Collection
1st Place Artistic Ribbon (Hobbyist) Arts & Crafts Using Actual Shells (Avante-garde Shellwork): Odyssey of Sand and Sea
2nd Place Scientific Ribbon My Favorite North Carolina Shell, Self-Collected: Beach Finds from the Outer Banks
2nd Place Scientific Ribbon Marine Life Exhibit: Miscellaneous Echinoderms
2nd Place Artistic Ribbon (Hobbyist) Revitalized Single Barbadian Sailor's Valentine: Follow Me Across the Sea
2nd Place Artistic Ribbon (Hobbyist) Revitalized Double Barbadian Sailor's Valentine: Summer Colors
2nd Place Artistic Ribbon (Hobbyist) Contemporary Sailor's Valentine: Enchanted Elegance
2nd Place Artistic Ribbon (Hobbyist) Contemporary Double Sailor's Valentine: Victorian Enchantment
2nd Place Artistic Ribbon (Hobbyist) Contemporary Miniature Sailor's Valentine: Summer Song
2nd Place Artistic Ribbon (Hobbyist) Miniature Art & Crafts Using Actual Shells (Flower Arrangement): Bouquet of Roses
2nd Place Artistic Ribbon (Hobbyist) Arts & Crafts Using Actual Shells (Jewelry): Pocket Watch Pendant
2nd Place Artistic Ribbon (Hobbyist) Arts & Crafts Using Actual Shells (Avante-garde Shellwork): Miniature picture-Bouquet of Roses
2nd Place Artistic Ribbon (Hobbyist) Arts & Crafts Using Actual Shells (Miscellaneous): Shell Covered Egg

Winners (Continued)

Mark Johnson

Hugh Porter Award: The Amazing Flats of Southwest Florida Part I, Gastropods

Best Shell of the Show Self-Collected: *Voluta garciai*

1st Place Scientific Ribbon Single Shell Self-Collected: *Voluta garciai*

1st Place Scientific Ribbon Mollusk Natural History: The Amazing Flats of Southwest Florida Part I, Gastropods



Shell of the Show, Self-Collected, *Voluta garciai*, collected by Mark Johnson

Cynthia M. Lee

2nd Place Artistic Ribbon (Hobbyist) Arts & Crafts Using Actual Shells (Flower Arrangement):

Dan Minior

Best Shell of the Show Any Source: *Fulgurofusus xenismatis*

Best Small Exhibit: Columbariidae of the World

1st Place Scientific Ribbon Worldwide Any Source: Rare Cones

1st Place Scientific Ribbon One Genus/Subgenus: Family Ficidae

2nd Place Scientific Ribbon One Small Family: Columbariidae of the World



Shell of the Show, Any Source, *Fulgurofusus xenismatis*, exhibited by Dan Minior

Chandra Phillips

Best Arts & Crafts Depicting Shells: Surprise!! We're Mollusks Too

1st Place Artistic Ribbon (Hobbyist) Arts & Crafts Depicting Shells (Two-Dimensional Art Depicting Mollusks and/or their Shells): Surprise!! We're Mollusks Too

Winners (Continued)

Sandy Powell

Best Arts & Crafts Using Actual Shells: Nixie

1st Place Artistic Ribbon (Professional) Arts & Crafts Using Actual Shells (Flower Arrangement): Sprigs of Happiness

1st Place Artistic Ribbon (Professional) Arts & Crafts Using Actual Shells (Jewelry): Deadly Obsessions

1st Place Artistic Ribbon (Professional) Arts & Crafts Using Actual Shells (Miscellaneous): No Two Alike

1st Place Artistic Ribbon (Professional) Arts & Crafts Using Actual Shells (Avante-garde Shellwork (Unlimited)): Star of Eagle

1st Place Artistic Ribbon (Professional) Arts & Crafts Using Actual Shells (Animals, Mermaids, Human Busts or Statues): Nixie

1st Place Artistic Ribbon (Professional) Arts & Crafts Depicting Shells (Wall Hangings): Coastal Reflections

2nd 1st Place Artistic Ribbon (Professional) Arts & Crafts Using Actual Shells (Miscellaneous): Forever in Bloom

Susan Saunders

Arts Best in Show: Nani Ioa

Best Contemporary Sailor's Valentine: Nani Ioa

1st Place Artistic Ribbon (Hobbyist) Collectibles not by the Entrant: Goddess Panacaea

1st Place Artistic Ribbon (Professional) Contemporary Sailor's Valentine: Nani Ioa

2nd Place Artistic Ribbon (Professional) Contemporary Sailor's Valentine: To My Love Claire



Sue Saunders' Best in Show Professional Award for her Sailor's Valentine, Nani Ioa

Winners (Continued)

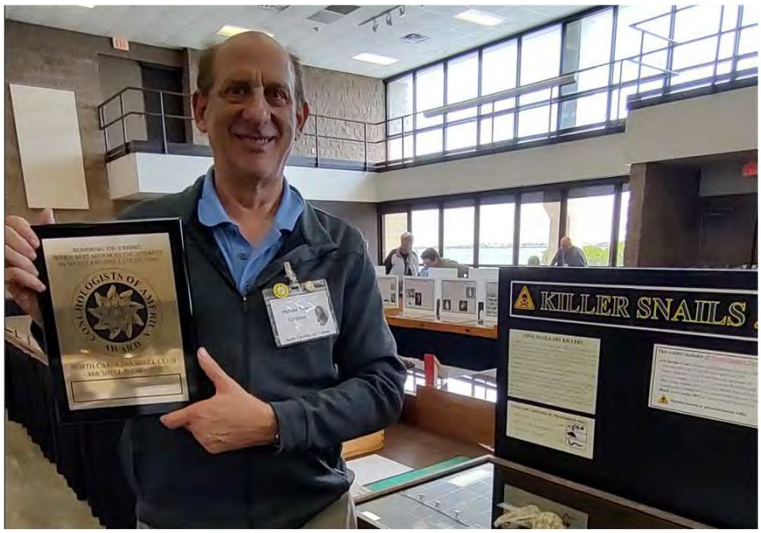
John Timmerman

Arts Best in Show: Concholomania and Sailor's Valentines
Best Revitalized Sailor's Valentine: Concholomania and Sailor's Valentines
1st Place Artistic Ribbon (Hobbyist) Revitalized Single Barbadian Sailor's Valentine: Concholomania and Sailor's Valentines



Michael Tove

Conchologists of America Award: Killer Snails
1st Place Scientific Ribbon Other, Scientific: Killer Snails



Vicky Wall

Alta VanLandingham Award: Shelling at the End of the World-Tierra Del Fuego, Argentina Self-Collected
1st Place Scientific Ribbon Regional Self-Collected: Shelling at the End of the World-Tierra Del Fuego, Argentina

Winners (Continued)

Tammy Zetka

Best North Carolina Collection: The North Carolina State Shell
Best Scientific Photography: Ruffly Bubble (*Hydatina physis*)
1st Place Scientific Ribbon Worldwide Self-Collected: For The Love of Shell Collecting
1st Place Scientific Ribbon North Carolina Collection: The North Carolina State Shell
1st Place Scientific Ribbon Scientific Shell Photography: Ruffly Bubble
2nd Place Scientific Ribbon Single Shell Self-Collected: A Gem Below 80' of Ocean: *Conus dominicanus*
2nd Place Scientific Ribbon Single Shell Any Source: A Treasured Gift: *Afrivasum zanzibaricum*
2nd Place Scientific Ribbon One Case Wonder: Do You See the Music? (self-collected *Voluta musica*)
2nd Place Scientific Ribbon Beach Collected Shells: Surfer's Beach, Eleuthera, Bahamas
2nd Place Scientific Ribbon Scientific Shell Photography: Silky Mollusk

Linda Zylman

Bosch Citizen Scientist Award: The Holy Land Carvers
People's Choice Science: The Holy Land Carvers
1st Place Scientific Ribbon Educational Collection: The Holy Land Carvers



Tammy Zetka and Linda Zylman



Linda Zylman receiving her People's Choice Science Award from Co-chairman John Timmerman and President Scott Foxx during the banquet



Shell show attendees enjoying searching for their shell prize at the Scavenger Hunt Table



Ed Shuller with his grandson, Leo Shuller who was the show's Youth Shell Ambassador!

Seventy people attended the Awards Banquet. President **Scott Foxx** welcomed everyone to the banquet and celebration of our 48th Shell Show. Scott asked for a moment of silence to remember two of our members who died this past year, **David Bunn** and **Annie Curry**. **Bill Bennight** gave the blessing. Scott thanked the staff of the Civic Center for their help in setting up the exhibits room, Cape Carteret Community College for their partnership with the NC Shell Club's Everett Long Marine Science Scholarship, and for their staff who conducted tours of their marine aquaculture facility. Many thanks to **Jeannette Tysor** and **Ed Shuller** for their work with the folks at the Crystal Coast Civic Center to secure such a wonderful venue for our shell show and Jeannette's work to organize our yearly Banquet held on Saturday night of the show. Thanks to **Diana Yeames** (Kitchen/food coordinator). Huge thanks to Show Co-Chairs **John Timmerman** and **Karlynn Morgan** for organizing the show and volunteers once again this year. During the weekend, the club gained **42** new memberships, plus **19** renewals (**35** individual and **26** family memberships).

There were several raffles held during the weekend. These included our year-long raffle items of a beautiful crocheted blanket made and donated by **Erin Burch** (with additional pillow) and stained-glass sun catcher hanging plus actual shell specimens depicted in the hanging. Additional raffle items were a beautiful shell decorated box donated by exhibitor and artist **Sandy Powell** and a 4-hour shelling tour for two people donated by **Everwater Charters & Tours** in Marco Island (Goodland), Florida.

Scott also thanked the exhibitors and the Judges **Dr. José Leal**, **John Slapcinsky**, **Linda Sunderland** and **Linda Gustafson**; Vendors and Dealers, and the countless NC Shell Club members who made the shell show possible. Show Co-Chair **Karlynn Morgan** said a few words about the weekend, thanking Co-Chair **John Timmerman** for his tireless work to make our shell show such a successful event each year. She also let us know that we had the most volunteers ever this year and thanked everyone in front and behind the scenes for all their help with the show.

Mark Johnson introduced our speaker for the evening, **Dr. José Leal**. Dr. Leal has been the malacologist in residence and museum curator for 31 years. His program was about the **Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum and Aquarium** and the immense efforts to repair the damage caused by Hurricane Ian in September 2022. One of the main construction projects was the re-design and construction of the Great Hall of Shells with one of the standout shells being the World Record Size Horse Conch. The Horse Conch (*Triplofusus giganteus*) is the State Shell of Florida and is the largest gastropod in the Atlantic Ocean….the world record specimen at the museum measures 23.9"…almost 2 feet long! The shell (obtained from another collector), was donated to the museum by NC Shell Club member **Mark Johnson**.



Kimberly Nealon, Jose Leal, John Slapcincky, Kevan and Linda Sunderland

Dr. José H. Leal has served as the Museum's Curator for over 30 years, is retiring at the end of 2026. His work has profoundly influenced the organization for the better, particularly in the management of the scientific collection, exhibit development, and public education. For many, Jose is synonymous with the Museum and its educational mission.

Scott introduced Shell Show Co-Chair **John Timmerman**, who announced the Major Award Winners. The winners of the People's Choice Awards were announced: for Scientific, **Linda Zylman**, for her exhibit "The Holy Land Carvers", and Artistic, **Jennifer Geary**, for her exhibit "April Showers Bring May Flowers". One of our scholarship recipients for this year attended the banquet and was recognized by Scott: **Brianna Asock** received the Everett Long Memorial Scholarship at Cape Carteret Community College. Congratulations to Brianna!

To conclude the evening, we had a very special presentation introduced by President Scott Foxx….the addition of the club's newest Honorary Life Member. This is the highest honor in the North Carolina Shell Club. In the 69-year history of the club, this honor has been bestowed upon only 27 members. Candidates are researched and voted upon by the Board of Directors for their service and dedication to the NC Shell Club. Our newest honoree is **Bill Bennight**. Bill joined the club in 2000 and has served on the Board of Directors as Vice-President and President. He also supported and continues to support the club in many other roles including the Club Sales Table item manager and sales during the shell show, as a shell show exhibitor, program presenter at meetings, oral auction auctioneer, and organizer of many silent auctions at club meetings over the years. A beautiful framed certificate will be presented to Bill at the September shell club meeting in Carolina Beach, NC.



President Scott Foxx, the newest Honorary Member Bill Bennight, 1st Vice-President Maria Lloyd

CLUB NEWS

Let's Welcome Our New Members!

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NCSC 70th Anniversary Logo Competition

The North Carolina Shell Club (NCSC) is turning 70!! We're excited to kick off this milestone celebration with a special anniversary logo contest. All Club members are invited to design a distinctive logo that celebrates NCSC's legacy and 70 years of accomplishments. This is your opportunity to help promote the Club for an entire year and all members are encouraged to participate regardless of design experience. The winning design will be the visual symbol included on 2027 marketing, communications, merchandise and social media platforms.

Logo Submissions must:

- Be an original design and not include trademarked images
- Include "North Carolina Shell Club" and "70"
- Represent NCSC mission and values
- Include no more than four colors and be hi-res for reproduction
- Be simple, clear, professional, and scalable across all platforms
- Be submitted in electronic format
- Include Club member name, phone, and email

Logos containing inappropriate images or language will not be considered

Judging: The Executive Committee will judge all entries based on originality, creativity and innovation and will select one winning entry. The winner will be announced at the Club business meeting on Fri., November 6, 2026. (Executive Committee members are not eligible to submit entries.)

Submit entries: E-mail submissions to Maria Lloyd, 1st Vice President, beachblessings108@gmail.com, NLT Thurs., October 15, 2026. No more than three entries per Club member.

Prize: The winner will receive a $30 Club merchandise certificate.

Notice: The winning entry becomes property of the NCSC.

NCSC Executive Committee

Shell Swap Aug 15 at the Minior's













NCSC Newsletter

I've been trying to capture past issues of the Newsletters so they can have an index and put onto the website for anyone and everyone to see. Unfortunately, I need some help with that.

I'd like to capture, not just the articles, but also the people mentioned. The club has such a variety of people and looking through the Newsletters, you get a since of the people, the history and their endeavor for the club. If you'd like to help with the indexing, shoot me an email to mimiadill@aol.com and let me know. I'll send the format and a year of issues I haven't indexed, and we can get to work! Thanks for your help.

North Carolina Shell Record Sizes

An update has been published and can be downloaded from ncshellclub.com!

Recent Publication

Arthur E. Bogan, Andrew Henderson, Kevin J. Roe, David Zanatta, John L. Harris "A Revised List of the North American Sphaeriidae: Common Names, Scientific Names, and Distributions," Freshwater Mollusk Biology and Conservation, 29(1), 1-6, (4 May 2026).

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…



Annette Boulia
Lexi Ferguson
Patsy Godwin
Susan Saunders
Ed Shuller
Koji Sode

Art Bogan
Mimi Dill
Alexandra Slines

Edward Castlebury
Susan Collins
Aya Sode
Erin Stuart

2026 Membership Booklets

The 2026 Membership Booklets will be printed in September. You can pick up your copy at the Carolina Beach meeting.

Member Updates

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Condolences

Valerie and Jerry Blanchard have both been battling cancer. Jerry passed on Feb 10th at 76.

2027 Raffles



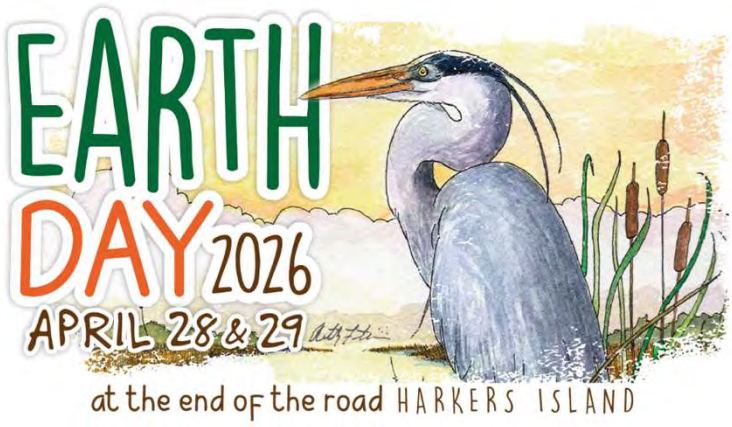
Blue Ridge Coral
Heliopora coerulea, Pallas, 1766
Distribution range: W. Pacific, tropical reefs



Golden Cowry
Cypraea aurantium, Gmelin, 1791
This specimen was collected
from Samar, Philippines



Vintage Abalone necklace and
Abalones from around the world:
Mexico, Philippines, France, United States



Numbers for Tuesday
Students: 422
26 Classes; 9 Schools
Estimated Total: 685 Day 1

Numbers for Wednesday
Students: 368
23 Classes; 8 Schools
Estimated Total: 626 Day 2

Earth Day Expo 2026 at the Core Sound was AWESOME because of you.













Karlynn Morgan won the Founder's Award for the Most Beautiful Exhibit, presented to her by Gulf Coast Shell Club Founder Bob Granda. Her exhibit was "Specimens of the Genus *Lyria*". She also received a Blue Ribbon for her exhibit



Vicky Wall won the Emily Vokes Award, presented by Judge José Leal, for her exhibit "Self-Collected Shells from Hawaii". She also received a Blue Ribbon and Judge's Special Award Ribbon for this exhibit.



Jim Brunner entered a non-competitive exhibit about the Family Tridacnidae. This exhibit previously won the DuPont Award last year. This photo shows some of his giant clam specimens.



NEWS 13 JUL, 2026

From collections to conservation: the indispensable role of natural history museums

The IUCN Species Survival Commission has published a Position Statement on the vital role of biological collections in biodiversity conservation: a formal acknowledgement that natural history museums, herbaria, fungaria and their staff are central to conservation.

The Position Statement on the vital role of biological collections - such as those in natural history museums, herbaria, fungaria and other repositories - in biodiversity conservation aims (i) to outline SSC's position on the indispensable roles played by NHMCs in species conservation and scientific discovery, (ii) to urge governments, universities, and agencies to prioritise and fund these collections as critical scientific infrastructures, and (iii) to encourage the global conservation community to fully integrate the resources and expertise of NHMCs into a collaborative strategy to reverse biodiversity decline.

Natural history collections are the foundational scientific infrastructure for species discovery, systematic research and long-term environmental monitoring. Far from being passive repositories, they are dynamic, evidence-based platforms – yet their full potential remains critically underutilised, even as biodiversity loss accelerates. Every preserved specimen – a pinned insect, a fluid-preserved amphibian, a dried plant – is a primary data point: georeferenced, time-stamped, morphologically documented; they are evidence.

> *"The IUCN Species Survival Commission believes that biological collections are irreplaceable evidence bases that allow us to close the taxonomic gap, which in turn is the precursor to assessment and conservation action. Their scientific value is thus not merely academic but crucial for conservation"* ***said Vivek Menon, Chair of IUCN Species Survival Commission.***

Closing the taxonomic gap: a prerequisite for conservation

A fundamental challenge facing biodiversity science today is the taxonomic impediment: it is necessary to document, name and describe the full spectrum of life on Earth. To the date, approximately two million species have received formal scientific names. Conservative estimates place the true total somewhere between six and seven million – thought the number may be as high as 100 million. That gap is a structural barrier to effective conservation.

The IUCN SSC Species Conservation Cycle is unambiguous on this point: a species cannot be assessed for the IUCN Red List, cannot be listed under CITES, cannot be meaningfully protected by any legislative framework – until it has been formally described and named. Taxonomy is a prerequisite and a significant proportion of those undescribed species are already sitting in museum drawers and collection cabinets, collected decades ago, never formally processed. Sustained investment in specimen-based taxonomic research is key to moving towards effective conservation.

> *Natural history museum collections are the primary evidence for discovering and protecting the Earth's biological heritage, providing the foundations for identifying and naming species"* ***said Franco Andreone, former Focal Point of IUCN Species Survival Commission for Italy, and Curator of Zoology at Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali in Turin, Italy.***

A critical infrastructure under structural pressure

The scientific case for natural history collections is robust, but the operational reality of these institutions is considerably more precarious. Chronic underfunding, inadequate storage infrastructure, biased geographic coverage – and, most critically, a shrinking pool of trained taxonomists – together constitute a systemic threat to the long-term viability of these collections. Specimens that are physically preserved but not digitised remain functionally invisible to the global research community.

> *Museums are much more than repositories of preserved animals, algae, fungi and plants; they are innovative, cutting-edge research and education infrastructures that help us discover and understand our past, while guiding our future actions for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use",* ***said Jon Paul Rodríguez, former Chair of IUCN Species Survival Commission.***

The path forward requires the deliberate integration of museum-held data with field-based conservation programmes, genomic research, and international policy frameworks. Collections do not exist in isolation. Their value is multiplied exponentially when linked to active monitoring networks, remote sensing data, and citizen science platforms.

News from Associated Museums:

NORTH CAROLINA Museum of Natural Sciences

MOLLUSKS COLLECTION



ARTHUR BOGAN

Research Curator, Mollusks
arthur.bogan@naturalsciences.org

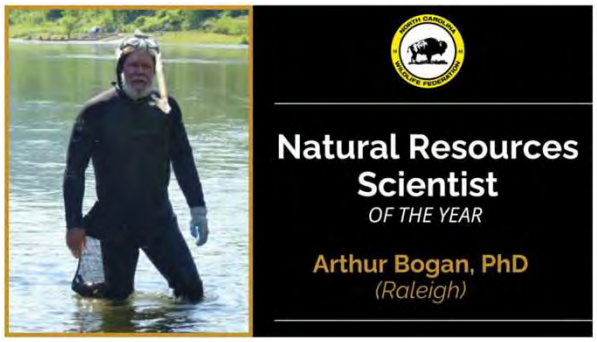
1671 Gold Star Drive, Raleigh, NC 27607
919-707-8863



JAMIE SMITH

Collections Manager, Mollusks
jamie.smith@naturalsciences.org

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



“2026 marks Dr. Art Bogan’s fiftieth year researching the biology, systematics, and conservation of freshwater mussels.

Art Bogan has served as research curator at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences since 1969. He has done field work in twenty countries and described 37 new species and four new subspecies. Seven species, a subspecies, and an entire Genus have been named after him. He has published 233 peer reviewed articles and 14 peer reviewed books. And his publications don’t just sit on shelves and collect dust; they have been cited more than 12,800 times and continue to garner hundreds more citations every year.

Freshwater mussels are a first line of defense in the service of clean water. But unfortunately, these creatures are often the last things on the minds of those who would abuse our creeks and streams and rivers. We are fortunate to have as a fellow North Carolinian someone like Art Bogan, who has dedicated his career to shining a light on some of the critical building blocks of our native, natural environment.”

North Carolina Attorney General Jeff Jackson gave an introductory address to open the event, and NCWF Board Chair Dave Cable and Jeff Michael, Deputy Secretary for Natural Resources presented honorees with custom-made wildlife statuettes.



Accompanying Art, Jamie Smith and Cindy Bogan

From the Summer/Fall 2026 Newsletter
page 8

Bailey-Matthews
National Shell Museum
& Aquarium

CURATOR'S CORNER



February 2026 mass stranding of Atlantic Giant Cockles, Gulfside City Park, Sanibel.

PHOTO BY BARRY MCBROOM

Cracked Cockles and Their Environment: What is the Connection?

By **José H. Leal, Ph.D.**, Science Director & Curator

Winter brings mass strandings of different mollusk species onto the shores of Southwest Florida. In early 2026, large quantities of Atlantic Giant Cockles (*Dinocardium robustum*) washed up on Sanibel. Museum friends Debi and Barry McBroom and, independently, Jane Kintzi, collected several cockle shells that had one valve fractured along a growth line. Some still had the two parts of the valve held by the body of the dead animal. Others had a part of one valve missing.

We have seen these types of fractures in other bivalve species, including the Southern Quahog (*Mercenaria mercenaria*) and the Tiger Lucine (*Codakia orbicularis*), but never in Giant Cockles. While we suspect that sudden changes in temperature, salinity, or other environmental conditions triggered a weakening of the shells, making it possible for them to break under stress, we are now using, among other techniques, stable isotope analysis to research the processes that led to the Giant Cockle fractures.

Stable isotope analysis measures the ratio of different isotopes* of elements, such as carbon and oxygen, in a shell and can identify where these elements came from and the environmental conditions under which the shell was formed.

Longtime Museum colleague Dr. Greg Herbert (University of South Florida), who has extensive experience in stable isotope analysis, is also participating in the project. We look forward to reporting the results.

The Museum is grateful to Phyllis Sharp for her support of this research.



Fractured Atlantic Giant Cockle Shell sections are held together by the animal's body.

PHOTO BY BARRY MCBROOM

*An isotope is a variation of an element that has the same number of protons but a different number of neutrons in its nucleus.



PHOTO BY JOSÉ H. LEAL

Fractured Atlantic Giant Cockle. Section of shell missing.

Conchologists of America Annual Convention
Sarasota-Bradenton Area, Florida
June 9-13, 2026

The annual Conchologists of America convention was hosted by the Sarasota Shell Club. Activities included a fossil dig trip, shelling in Sarasota Bay, trips to the MOTE Aquarium and Bishop Museum of Science and Nature, and a Sunset Cruise. The convention opened with a Welcome Party featuring a pirate themed costume contest. During the week there were many interesting presentations, door prizes, raffles, silent auctions, Oral Auction with amazing shells, and closing Banquet. The convention concluded with the two-day (US National Shell Show (Bourse) featuring many dealers from the United States and around the world with thousands of shells for sale. The best part of these conventions is visiting with good friends and making new ones!





Karlynn Morgan and Vicky Wall at the Pirate-themed Welcome Party



The Sarasota Shell Club Artisans gave a workshop on how to make decoupage decorated shells and starfish. NCSC President Scott Foxx is learning how to make decoupage starfish ornaments

NCSC Members who attended: Jim & Linda Brunner (FL), David, Susan, and Timothy Campbell (NC), Greg Curry (FL), Donald Dan (FL), Amy Dick (VA), Scott Foxx (NC), Richard & Meg Goldberg (FL), Brian Hayes (NC), Sue Hobbs & Phil Dietz (NJ), John & Cheryl Jacobs (FL), Mark Johnson (NC), Duane Kauffman (IN), Lee & Jan Kremer (WY), Carole Marshall (FL), Dan Minior (NC), Karlynn Morgan (NC), Don & Jeanne Pisor (CA), Scott Robichaud (MA), Ed Shuller (NC), Kevan & Linda Sunderland (FL), Vicky Wall (NC), Dave & Jody Watts (HI), Linda Zylman & Dave Holzinger.



John Jacobs presented the *Neptunea* Award to NC Shell Club members Greg and Annie Curry



Fun at the Banquet: Charlie Barr, Meg Goldberg, Scott Foxx, Vicky Wall, Mark Johnson, Karlynn Morgan and Ed Shuller



Amy Dick enjoying the banquet.



COA President Dan Minior presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to NC Shell Club members Linda and Jim Brunner

Next year's convention will be held in Kissimmee, Florida, June 2-5, 2027. More information will be forthcoming on the Conchologists of America website at conchologistsofamerica.org

Conchologists of America Annual Convention

June 14-16, 2028

Pre-convention Field Trips June 12 and 13

US National Shell Show (Bourse) June 17 and 18

Hosted by North Carolina Shell Club



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The first joint meeting of the AMS and the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society (FMCS) in 2027. The venue will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Center City, on Broad Street, a stone's throw from iconic City Hall (and ANSP). We secured a good room rate, and occupation up to four people is allowed so students should also be able to afford to stay in the hotel. Nearby attractions include the Parkway Museum district, with the Philadelphia Art Museum, the Rodin Museum, the Barnes Foundation, the Franklin Institute, the Academy of Natural Sciences, and the newly opened Calder Gardens.

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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.

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!

Newsletter Publication Dates:

Send articles to 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
1st	Feb 15th	Feb 7th	1st Q Meeting/ Shell Show
2nd	April 1st	Mar 21st	Shell Show
3rd	Aug 15th	Aug 7th	3rd Q Meeting
4th	Oct 1st	Sept 20th	4th Q Meeting