

North Carolina Shell Club donates shell display to Nunnelee Pediatric Specialty Clinic

In March 2017, I was contacted by Neesha Allen who works for the Nunellee Pediatric Specialty Clinic. The Clinic was preparing to move to a new expanded office in the Autumn Hall subdivision in Wilmington, North Carolina. They had outgrown their original space in the first floor of the Betty Cameron Women's and Children's Hospital at the main campus of New Hanover Region Medical Center.

Neesha's outline stated the clinic was seeking artwork and other nautical themed displays to decorate the offices, halls and exam rooms of the new clinic. The goal was to be visually exciting compared to the typical medical center.

The North Carolina Shell Club agreed this to be a worthwhile project after my presentation at the May meeting at Cedar Point. More members of the club agreed to become involved later in the year. Dr. Brady Semmel joined me for this first effort to assemble an exhibit which we installed at the clinic on June 13th. I designed the display case which the clinic then had fabricated for the collection. Brady and I filled the case with shells we collected on North Carolina beaches. Neesha preferred larger shells such as Helmets and Whelks. Brady and I agreed to push the limits and include smaller shells including the Scotch Bonnet. After all a North Carolina collection is incomplete without this shell!

The display is hung in the admission area at one of six "pods." The pods each have a specialty. There are five additional pods that may one day feature a shell display. North Carolina Shell Club will work on more displays. Decorating the clinic is an ongoing project. Future displays may feature more North Carolina shells as well as shells from other parts of the world. Want to help? Contact, North Carolina Shell Club President, Everett Long.

The first display the Club donated to the Clinic compliments its mission to make it a place their young patients will remember for more than a visit to the doctor.

John Timmerman

Letter from Neesha Allen at Nunnelee after completion of the display

Good afternoon,

Today while making my Clinic rounds, I inquired of one of our Clinic physicians about the new "shell shelf display," and what his thoughts were about it. With little more than a passing question, I had a lengthy conversation with all the members of the entire pod team. Everyone seemed to stop what they were doing at that moment and added into the conversation about how much they liked the display. The physician updated that it was his favorite part of the entire new Clinic, one of the nurses said that she had received many compliments from patient's that had really enjoyed looking at the display and the patient's had mentioned that they would like to bring in their own collections.

The display also is generating a lot of discussion about the correct spelling of all the shells names and if the descriptions are accurate, which is very intriguing to me because you are the expert shell seekers. I did ask the group if they would like for me to invite the experts back for a shell discussion and they thought that maybe it would be a good idea, but they would get back to me. I think that when they were pushed a bit about their knowledge, they may have been a bit shy about their "supposed" facts.

The display is very educational and beautiful and we are very honored to have it in our new Clinic. We would love to have many more of them and maybe in the future we will be able to have more cases built, so please let us know if the shell club would be willing to fill more. As you know, we have a lot of spaces here that could use a shell display. Thank you again for all your hard work and for helping to make our Clinic a true show place.

Best wishes and sincere thanks,

Neesha



North Carolina Shell Club members John Timmerman and Dr. Brady Semmel show off their collection of North Carolina shells donated to the Nuneelee Pediatric Specialty Clinic, Wilmington, North Carolina, June 13, 2017.