

The Schiele

Museum of Natural History

1500 E. Garrison Blvd., Gastonia, NC
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www.schielemuseum.org



Department of Research and Collections, Malacology Collection Adjunct Curator Denise Furr

The Schiele Museum is a large municipality owned museum in the heart of Gastonia, NC. The malacology collection officially began in 2007 with a donated private collection. The museum has acquired several collections since, plus research in the piedmont of NC has provided specimens. Now the collection houses 1000 species and almost 20,000 specimens, and it continues to grow rapidly. It is the second largest collection of mollusks in North Carolina. Volunteer curator Denise Furr is also chief researcher, with the help of occasional volunteers. The budget consists of a small stipend for supplies, equipment, publications, and the housing of the collection. The focus of the collection now is to survey the terrestrial mollusks of the piedmont of North Carolina and surrounding area.



The collection has specimens from 29 countries with a concentration in NC and the southeast US.

- 31 lots freshwater
- 2416 lots marine
- 1827 lots terrestrial

Four short cabinets house the malacology collection consisting of

- 179 families
- 546 genera
- 1007 species
- 19,849 specimens in 4067 lots (as of July 8, 2017)



Storage of specimens in centrifuge tubes, shell vials and glass jars. Preserved specimens are in 80% denatured ethanol and make up about 30-40% of the collection. The plastic boxes are actually archival containers for baseball cards. Polyester fiber fill plugs the vials.



SCHIELE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY LYNN PLANETARIUM

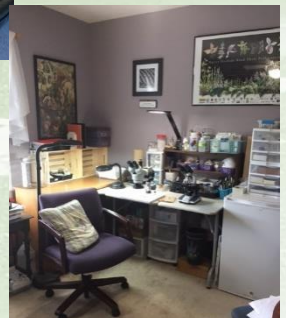
Marine specimens, such as this donated collection from scallop shell dumps near Beaufort, make up the bulk of the backlog and are a challenge. Terrestrial mollusk surveys have been the priority for curation and are close to totally digitized.



The Natural History Collections Lab also houses the arthropod collection (70,000 specimens), and the mycology collection (about 5000 specimens). The insect collection is the second largest in NC, and the spider collection is the largest in NC. All 8 NH curators are volunteer, with a full-time archaeologist and a full-time collections manager.



Lab space for malacology work is at a premium at the museum. Due to space issues, most of the lab and prep work occurs offsite.



Where it really happens.



PastPerfect Software for Museum Collections



The Schiele uses PastPerfect Museum Software for natural history and cultural records. Currently, the collections are not online, but preparations are in the works to soon accomplish that feat. All mollusk records are currently in an Excel database, with about three-fourths imported to PastPerfect. The goal is to have all records in PastPerfect by the end of 2017 and all records accessible online by the end of 2018.