
THE SHELL SCOOP – SHELL SEEKERS ENGLEWOOD SHELL CLUB'S NEWSLETTER



Volume 13, Issue 4

February 2018

Newsletter Editor – MaryLinda Coward

CLUB WEBSITE:

escnewsletter@aol.com

www.inglewoodshell.club

President's Message

Linda Powers

February's message will be short and sweet as just six days after our January general meeting, three members of the ESC headed out to Fiji on a shelling trip. Hopefully, we will have lots of pictures and lots of shells to share with everyone!

The first Carefree Learner trip of our season was a tremendous success. With only nine intrepid pre-dawn shellers, there was a lot to observe and find if one was adventurous enough to take a long hike on the exposed seagrass bed. Lightning whelks and tulips abounded. Colleen Fosnough brought a gigantic hermit crab back to the boat to share with all. The Sarasota High School teacher decided to make it a pet for a few weeks to share with her marine biology class. There were several new members who were enthralled with the whole experience.

Carol and Ruth Middlebrooks have been hard at work putting together excursions for you. Anclote Key is a new trip happening March 7-8. There were no more rooms available following our meeting but check with Carol if you would still like to go to get on a wait list.

The ever-popular Palm Island Golf Cart trip is scheduled Feb. 15 & Mar. 15. Contact Ruth if you didn't get the opportunity to sign up for that. Haven't our programs been sensational? Joyce Matthys' talk on byssus and Dr. Leal's program were so informative. Two more excellent programs are scheduled. The upcoming craft projects are beautiful. Please be sure to bring your completed work to February's meeting for all to enjoy. Thanks to Leslie Furmage and Sue Murray for your efforts as well as Diane Herger who is so organized and always so very helpful in assisting club members.

Numerous members are diligently working on their pizza box display for the big competition at February's meeting. Call Anita Wilson or Homer Rhode if you need any help. But the most important thing to remember is have fun with your display! Enjoy all the upcoming Shell Club events. I'll see you all again at the February general meeting.



Inside This Issue

President's Message

Newsletter Editor

General Meeting Program

Study Group

Library

Membership Directory

Beach Walks

Excursions

Pizza Box Display

Shell Shows for 2018

Merchant's Discounts for members

Shell Cleaning Tips

Newsletter Editor

MaryLinda



Happy Valentine's Day

Wow, this been a busy year already for our shell club and its only February! The outings, lunches, beach walks, crafting, and learning opportunities have been amazing. I'm already hooked on making all the flowers Leslie, Sue and Diane taught us at the last Shellcrafters' session. I guess if you are on my Christmas gift list; you know you'll be getting something that has shell flowers as part of the theme in Dec 2018 ☺.

I had the fantastic opportunity of joining an adventurous group of ladies and men on February 1st for my first Carefree learner experience. Yes, it was a bit chilly, and thank you to all those who provided recommendations on what to wear to stay off that cold. No, I wasn't hitting the ski slopes of Aspen, Colorado as I did in my younger days when I left my home at 5:00 a.m., but you wouldn't have known it with all the layers I had on to hit the flats of Sarasota Bay. And, boy, was I glad I had on all those layers. It got warmer as the sun came out, but I sure was happy I was prepared for the chill. As far as the experience itself, I definitely have to say it deserves a star entry in my life resume. The quiet of the morning, the sun rising over Sarasota Bay, the tide moving out revealing the inhabitants of the flats were amazing...these were some sites I've envisioned, but not experienced. The large hermit crab I mistakenly announced as a lobster was HUGE! I can't wait to sign up for the next Carefree learner, but unfortunately, I will have to wait until next January. Hey, Carol, is the JAN 2019 sign-up sheet available yet????



This experience is just another example of the fantastic opportunities available to our club members. We are so fortunate to have dedicated chair members arranging all these wonderful opportunities. Please don't miss *the boat*, the next time it is available. It will be an entry in your life resume, too.

Amie Barnicle, past Outreach club representative along with Jane Guy, brought to my attention that the Elsie Quirk Library on Dearborn in Englewood has a Sailors Valentine exhibit on display during the month of February. The Sailors Valentines on display were projects from several of our club members including Ruth Middlebrooks, Jane Guy, Marilyn Boyd, Christina Anglin, and Pam Orozco. Please drop by and check out the beautiful artistry of these club members.

I've included some info on shelling cleaning techniques from the Bailey Matthews Shell Museum which Jane Guy shared at the last study group. You'll find this information at the end of the newsletter. Thanks, Jane!

Happy Shelling and Cleaning!

General Meeting Speaker

Candy Niziol

Our speaker for February is Dr. Victoria Weaver, or as her friends know her as "Tori". She spent her summers on the Jersey Shore where she began life as a naturalist and as a collector of shells, corals, sea glass, egg casings and, if allowed, sea stars, sea horses and occasionally, sun dried crabs. At the back of her Grandparent's house, the brackish water of Manasquan River revealed thousands of horseshoe crabs, mussels, and clams in all sizes and species. This is where she met the Quahog clam species that would eventually become the center of her PHD in Art Education and Art History. Her presentation titled "The Meanings of Wampum Shell Beads", proves to be an extremely interesting and fascinating story.

Study Group

Anita Wilson and Homer Rhode

ESC Study Group will meet Wednesday, February 28th at 2:00 p.m. at the Cedar Point Park. Anita Wilson will discuss Florida's fossil shells after club members have the opportunity to discuss and share shells they have found over the last month. The March meeting on Wednesday, March 28th (2:00 p.m. at the Cedar Point Park) will be the last session of the season.

Candy Niziol will share her insights on packing and transporting shells. Homer Rhode and Anita Wilson will share the insights they have gleaned over the years. This will also be the last of Anita's and Homer's two-year term leading Study Group sessions. Participants are encouraged to suggest topics for the March study group at the February meeting.

*The power of knowledge is sharing
The more we share, the more we learn.*

Library

Judy Kauk

We have three new books purchased for the library with funds from the fall book sale. "Seashells of the Florida Panhandle", "The Art of Shelling" (a guide to shelling locations from Florida to Maine) and "American Shell Craft" (a 2017 book of patterns/history/inspiration).

The February "Shell of the Month" talk will be an interesting one given by Karen Huether on the King Helmet.



Membership Directory

Sandy Ouderkirk

The 2017-2018 updated membership directory is now available in the member's section of our club's website: Englewoodshell.club. The member's section requires a user name and PW. If you do not know this key information, please let me know and I will provide it to you.

Please review your contact information and let me know if you have any changes. Just a reminder that to participate in any club activities or trips, you must be a member in good standing (paid dues).

As a reminder, the club membership directory is **for personal use only** and not to be used for solicitation or commercial use of any kind.

This is my fifth and final membership directory that I have organized. I will be retiring from the Membership chair position after this season. It's been a pleasure to support the club in this capacity. Thanks for everyone's patience and understanding in preparing the years' directories.

Beach Walks

Deborah Hubbard

The January beach walk was held at Nokomis Beach with lunch afterwards at Pop's Sunset Grill.

The February beach walk will be at Indian Mound Park, 210 Winson Ave, Englewood FL 34223. Following the beach walk, we will meet for lunch at a nearby restaurant to be decided by our shell group.

The monthly beach walk locations are posted on the Club's website page. Be sure to bring your beach chair and suntan lotion. Just look for our group with our Shell flag nearby (usually within walking distance to the restrooms). Looking forward to seeing everyone!

IT'S TIME FOR..... Pizza Box Shell Display

Anita Wilson and Homer Rhode

You've been preparing for this "Olympic" event all season....Now it's time to join the fun by bringing and enjoying your shell displays in pizza boxes at the February general meeting.

Members participating will be able to place their displays any time after 12:00 NOON. Each display will be identified with a number. After judging has been completed, participants' names will be shown. Remember all members will be able to vote for their favorite display and the participant receiving the most votes will receive the People's Choice Award. All exhibits will also be judged by two qualified judges with shell prizes donated by Homer Rhode which will be given to the top three displays. See you then. If you have any questions about the display requirements, please see the January Newsletter for details.

*

Excursions

Ruth Middlebrooks, Marilyn Boyd, Carol Ayers

Overnight Trip to "Gather Shells" at
Anclote Key, FL March 7-8, 2018

Arrive at Island Paradise Charters 5015 US Rt. 19 New Port Richey, FL 34652. Boat & lunch provided \$ 45.00. We will board the boat promptly at 9:00 a.m. to Anclote Key. Bring a chair, towel, shelling tools, bucket, water shoes, sweatshirt, sunscreen. We will be staying one night at the Quality Inn, Tarpon Springs located at US Highway 19 N. Tarpon Springs, FL. 34689. Dinner is on your own.

Questions—Contact Carol Ayers @ 508-274-6584

2018 SHELL SHOWS & RELATED EVENTS

Following information is subject to change. Please verify with individual organization.

Jan. 13-14, 2018

53rd BROWARD SHELL SHOW, Pompano Beach, FL
Emma Lou Olson Civic Center, 1801 Northeast 6th Street
Alice Pace, 7405 SW 128 Ct., Miami, FL 33183
E-mail: alicepace90@att.net Tel. (305) 301-1296 (Cell)

Jan. 20-21, 2018

SPACE COAST SEASHELL FESTIVAL, Melbourne, FL
Eau Gallie Civic Center, 1515 Highland Avenue
Alan Gettleman, 2225 Tanglewood Lane, Merritt Is., FL 32953-4287
E-mail: lychee@cfl.rr.com Tel. (321) 536-2896

Jan. 27, 2018

FUM (FLORIDA UNITED MALACOLOGISTS), Sanibel, FL
Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum
3075 Sanibel Captiva Road, Sanibel, FL 33957
José Leal Tel. 239-395-2233
E-mail: jleal@shellmuseum.org

Feb. 9-11, 2018

ANNUAL SARASOTA SHELL SHOW, Sarasota, FL
(New venue)
Potter Building at Roberts Arena, 3000 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota
Nancy Marini, 5003 28th Ct. E., Bradenton, FL 34203
E-Mail: sarasotashellclub@gmail.com 941-758-9790

Feb. 10 & 11, 2018

AUSTRALIA INTERNATIONAL SHELL SHOW, Fremantle, Australia
South Fremantle Football Club, Parry Street
Joanne Lockwood, 14 Swallow Grove, Waikiki 6169
E-mail: xjoannex@bigpond.com

Feb. 23-24, 2018 (Friday & Saturday)

ST. PETERSBURG SHELL SHOW, Seminole, FL
Seminole Recreation Center, 9100 113th St. N., Seminole, FL
John Jacobs, 202 Soldier Court, Seffner, FL 33584
E-mail: johncheryl@earthlink.net Tel. (813) 309-2608 (Evening)
Exhibit form available at web site: <http://www.stpeteshellclub.org>

Mar. 1 - 3, 2018

81st SANIBEL SHELL SHOW, Sanibel, FL
Sanibel Community Center, 2173 Periwinkle Way
Mary Burton, 558 Foxcreek Drive, Lehigh Acres, FL 33974
E-mail: marybsanibel@hotmail.com Tel. (239) 395-3626
Website: www.thesanibelcaptivashellclub.com

Mar. 8-10, 2018

MARCO ISLAND SHELL CLUB SHOW XXXVIII, Marco Is., FL
United Church of Marco Island, 320 North Barfield
Jae Kellogg, 1402 N. Collier Blvd., Slip D-6, Marco Island, FL 34145
E-mail: pjsailkw@gmail.com Tel. (239) 253-8483

Mar. 10-11, 2018

XXX PARIS INTERNATIONAL SHELL SHOW, Paris, France
Espace Charenton, 327 rue de Charenton, 75012 Paris
Perrine Dardart, 8, Rue des Tilleuls, 02190 Pignicourt, France
E-mail: perrine.dardart@gmail.com Tel. 33 (3) 23-22-46-41
Mar. 17-18, 2018

3rd ANNUAL HAPPENING, Phuket, Thailand

Phuket Seashell Museum, Viset Road, Rawai Beach
Tom Rice, P.O. Box 3, Rawai, Muang, Phuket, 83130
E-Mail - ofseaandshore@gmail.com
Tel. 66 (76) 381 122

Apr. 28, 2018

BRITISH SHELL COLLECTOR'S CLUB CONVENTION, Essex, England
Theydon Bois Community Centre, Essex
Deborah Rolfe, 15 Dene Holm Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8LF, UK
Email: deborah@deborahrolfe.orangehome.co.uk, Tel. 44 1474 567 827

May 4 - 6, 2018

TEXAS SHELLER'S JAMBOREE, Corpus Christi, TX
Comfort Suites Central, 538 South Padre Island Drive
Theresa Stelzig Tel. (361) 946-6491
E-mail: cstelzig@twc.com

May 19-20, 2018

XXVIII BELGIUM INTERNATIONAL SHELL SHOW, Antwerp, Belgium
(New location)
Sporthal Kattenbroek, Kattenbroek 14
2650 Edegem, Belgium
Charles Krijnen, Burgemeester Jansenstraat 10, NL-5037
NC Tilburg, Nederland
E-mail: bvc.shellshow@planet.nl Tel. 31 (13) 463 0607
Website: www.konbvc.be/shellshow.php

June 2 - 3, 2018

GULF COAST SHELL SHOW, Panama City Beach, FL
Panama City Beach Senior Center, 423 Lyndell Lane
Jim Brunner, 2511 Parkwood Drive, Panama City, FL 32405
Email: jili1043@comcast.net.
Tel. (850) 215-2086

June 19-22, 2018

AMERICAN MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING
Joint with **WESTERN SOCIETY OF MALACOLOGISTS**,
Honolulu, HA
Details to be announced on AMS web site

Jul. 7 - 8, 2018

TOWNSVILLE SHELL SHOW, Townsville, Queensland, Australia
Orchid Society Hall in Kirwan
Jack Worsfold
Email: jnw_48@yahoo.com.au

Jul. 14-15, 2018

KEPPEL BAY SHELL SHOW, Yeppoon, Queensland, Australia
Gus Moore Pavilion at the Yeppoon Show Ground
Jean M. Offord, 277 McDougall St., N. Rockhampton, Qld. 4701, Australia
Tel. 61 (7) 4928-3509

Aug. 25-26, 2018

3rd ANNUAL WEST COAST SHELL SHOW
San Diego, CA
Casa Del Prado Rm. 104, 1650 El Prado, Balboa Park
David P. Berschauer
Tel. (949) 422-6585
E-mail: shellcollection@hotmail.com

Aug. 30-Sept. 3, 2018

CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA ANNUAL CONVENTION, San Diego, CA

ENGLEWOOD SHELL CLUB MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNT MERCHANTS

BAILEY-MATTHEWS SHELL MUSEUM

3075 Sanibel-Captiva Rd.
Sanibel, FL

FREE ADMISSION

BEACH ROAD BOUTIQUE

1350 Beach Rd.
Englewood, FL

10% DISCOUNT

CREATIVE FRAMING & GIFT GALLERY

Holiday Center
Intersection of U.S. 41 & 776
Venice, FL

10% DISCOUNT

GASPAR'S DIVE 'N BOARD

2961 Placida Rd. Ste. 3
Englewood, FL

**10% OFF SNORKELING GEAR + SOME
OTHER ITEMS**

HOOKED ON SUP

Cape Haze Marina Skips @ Placida
6950 Placida Rd. 1990 Placida Mariner Rd.
Englewood, FL Englewood, FL
hookedonsup@gmail.com

10% OFF ON-SITE RENTALS

MARGARET ALBRITTON GALLERY

13020 Fishery Rd.
Placida, FL

10% DISCOUNT

PIRATE'S DREAM

3250 Placida Rd.
Englewood, FL

20% DISCOUNT

SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS

1157 Periwinkle Way 2422 Periwinkle Way
Sanibel, FL Sanibel, FL

10% DISCOUNT

SHERYL'S SHELL SHOP

1185 S McCall Rd
Englewood, FL 34223

20% DISCOUNT

SOUTHERN DESIGN LIVING

2980 Placida Rd.
Englewood, FL

10% DISCOUNT

The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum

Shell Seeker
The Islander
By Kathleen E. Hoover

Cleaning Your Shells

All hobbies have their moments of glory. Walking down the beach after a successful shell seeking adventure, with sparkling treasures peeking through your mesh collection bag can be just such a moment. The farthest thing from your mind may be the next step, cleaning your specimens so they look pretty and even more importantly smell pretty too!

Before embarking on shell clean-up detail, it's important to decide the type of shell collection you intend to own. If you're planning a career in marine biology or conchology (study of mollusks) or intend to donate your collection to a museum, minimal "preening" is best. The specimens can be brushed lightly and cleaned with fresh water, not chemicals. Chemicals or heavy surface abrasion may destroy natural evidence/information valuable for research purposes. If your collection is recreational and the goal is a beautiful display, more aggressive cleaning may be advisable.

The first step is to remove loose debris and sand. This can be accomplished by the "dip method" if a mesh bag was used for collection. Or, the shells can be placed in a dishpan or bucket filled with water. Be sure to dispose of sandy water outdoors since it can accumulate in plumbing traps and clog the drain.

Determining if there is a dead critter inside is the next assignment. If a dead crab or snail remains, it can be pulled out with tweezers or a coat hanger bent to form a hook. It's important to be sure that the entire animal is removed. If a piece breaks off and remains buried inside the odor will be overpowering. (Please remember, collecting "live shells" is prohibited in Lee County.)

If the animal can't be removed by simply pulling it out of the shell there are several other options. The shell can be taken outdoors, buried in the garden and covered with about 12 inches of soil. Bacteria and worms will actually eat the animal. This can take weeks. The process can be accelerated by placing the shell in a bed of fire ants. The ants definitely get the "clean plate award!"

If digging in the garden or searching for red ants doesn't appeal to you, the shell can be placed in a water-tight zip-lock bag, and placed in the freezer. Once the bag is removed from the freezer and allowed to reach room temperature the animal can be grabbed and pulled out of the shell. This process can be repeated multiple times. The freeze/thaw method is strongly supported by the scientific community.

Some collectors employ the boiling method. The shell is covered with water and brought to a boil before an attempt is made to remove the animal. However, most experts don't recommend this approach as the high temperatures can cause cracks and other shell damage. If the boiling technique is chosen, damage can be curtailed by removing the "shell brew" from the fire just as the water begins to boil.

Another method generally not recommended by the scientific community is "zapping" the shell in the microwave before attempting animal removal. This technique can be very dangerous and the "smell" left behind assures a microwave will appear on next year's Christmas list!

Some collectors contend simply placing the shells in fresh water for several days is just as effective for preparing animal matter for removal. Changing the water daily prevents odor buildup.

Once the shell is free from any critters, it's time to move on to Step Three, which involves eliminating odors and bacteria. If shells aren't cleaned appropriately they can become damaged by a fungus that could spread throughout a collection.

To eliminate this risk, mix equal parts of household liquid chlorine bleach and water and completely cover the shells with the solution. The soaking time is dictated by the type of shell, the quantity of shells being cleaned and how heavy the periostracum coating is. The periostracum is a thin organic coating or "skin" that serves as the outermost layer of the shell.

Some shells shouldn't be soaked in a bleach solution. These include red tulips, orange tulips, king's crowns and shiny shells like olives and cowries.

Different concentrations of bleach are used for different types of shells. If stubborn odors make it necessary to use bleach on shiny shells, a milder 20% solution will get the job done. Rough surface shells or shells with a thick periostracum may need a more concentrated solution applied for a few minutes, washed off and then reapplied until the coating is removed.

When working with the bleach solution or removing animals, a mask, goggles and old cloths should be worn.

Once the periostracum dissolves, the shells are removed from the bleach solution and rinsed thoroughly with water. You should not be able to smell the bleach at this time. If you can, the shells should be washed with water again until the odor is eliminated.

Now it's time to apply some real "elbow grease." Scrub both the outside and the inside of the shell with a toothbrush, nail brush or wire brush. A steel dental pick is used to remove barnacles or other small shells attached to the outside of the shell. This tool is especially helpful with cleaning the ridges in cockle shells and scallops. Softer shells like figs are fragile and must be treated more delicately.

Volutes, spiral shaped gastropods (univalve shells) may be cleaned inside by using a small curved wire brush on a twisted wire stem, like a brush used to clean baby bottles.

Once the scrubbing is complete the shells are rinsed again and placed on paper towels, newspapers or a wire cookie rack. Color can be restored to dry shells by rubbing them with a cotton ball soaked in mineral oil. It is better not to use baby oil because of the number of additives it contains. After a couple of hours a dry cotton ball is used to "rub down" the shell to remove excess oil.

To the surprise of many, sand dollars are not shells but rather echinoderms, a phylum of marine animals like starfishes and sea urchins. They require special care because they're soft and break easily. Some experts don't recommend using bleach to clean sand dollars. But, others say it can be used for a short periods of time, about 20 – 30 minutes.

If you're not in a hurry for results, sand dollars can be left to dry for the winter and they will whiten by themselves. One caution, if you leave sand dollars in the sun for extended periods of time they become very brittle and crumble easily. Commercial preservatives designed for use with sand dollars can be purchased at shell shop, but a solution of 50% water and 50% Elmer's glue works just as well. The solution is brushed on one side of the sand dollar. When dry, the sand dollar is flipped over and the solution applied to that side as well. This process is repeated up to three times.

The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum is a non-profit organization. Its mission is "to provide shell, mollusk and shell-makers education, through exhibits, library services, and publications; to further the awareness of the natural environment; and to promote collection-based shell and mollusk research with an emphasis on Southwest Florida and the Gulf of Mexico."

**P.O. Box 1580 3075 Sanibel-Captiva Road Sanibel, FL 33957 USA 239..395.2233 Fax 239.395.6706
www.shellmuseum.org**

APPLICATION FOR ESC MEMBERSHIP 2017-2018

(October 1, 2017– September 30, 2018)

(PLEASE PRINT)

Please complete application and include your check made payable to the Englewood Shell club. Send to:

Sandra Ouderkirk
8984 Bantry Bay Blvd.
Englewood, FL 34224

<u>Individual Membership</u>	<u>Family Membership</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> New*\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> New*\$60.00

Name _____ Spouse (optional) _____

Florida Address:

Street _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone # _____ Cell # _____
E-mail _____

Other Address:

Street _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone # _____ Cell # _____

Would you be willing to serve on one of our many committees? Yes No Maybe

Interested in _____

Please contact me to discuss opportunities within the Club Yes Phone _____

RELEASE OF LIABILITY

I understand and agree that pictures taken during Englewood Shell Club activities in which I may appear may be displayed in ESC publications. I agree that I am individually responsible for my own safety and my personal property when I participate in any club field trip activity. I will not hold the Englewood Shell Club, field trip leaders, nor the property owner liable for any injuries should they occur.

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

**covers one-time cost of name tag*

DO NOT COMPLETE

Check # _____ Amount _____ Dated _____