



ENGLEWOOD SHELL CLUB

THE SHELL SCOOP – SHELL SEEKERS

FEBRUARY 2020

CLUB WEBSITE: www.Englewoodshell.club

President: Colleen Fosnough housedressinginc@gmail.com Newsletter Contact: LisaKetner1960@icloud.com

General Meeting
Tuesday, February 18
1 p.m at the Englewood Elks Club

Shell of the Month
Atlantic Giant (heart) cockles
presented by Carol Mae



Guest Speaker Bob Fuqua
Will talk to us about hunting fossils &
the kinds we find in southwest Florida.



Photo: Marty Atkins

True or False
A fossil is the mineralized
remains of an animal or plant.

February Beach Walk

Our next Beach Walk is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12 at Stump Pass Beach, 900 Gulf Blvd, Englewood, FL at 10:00 AM. Don't forget your sunscreen, water, and something to sit on.

Deborah Hubbard will have our shell flag, and usually be located within walking distance to the restrooms. While we are shelling we usually make a decision where to go for lunch. All members are reminded they need to be aware of the current water and beach conditions and are encouraged to check them out using the websites below.



Mote Marine: visitbeaches.org

Florida Fish and Wildlife: myfwc.com or call 866-300-9399 for a current recorded message on Red Tide (*Karenia brevis*).

Englewood Live Beach Cam: pureflorida.com

A note from ESC member Ellie Decker:

Instead of going to the Punta Gorda Englewood Beach website, an easier way to find the Beach Cam for Englewood Public Beach is to go straight to <https://www.earthcam.com/usa/florida/englewood/?cam=englewoodbeach>

For information, questions, or comments contact Coordinator Deborah Hubbard 305-395-2464 (phone/text) or send an email to hubsfldeb@bellsouth.net



Heartfelt Thanks—Keep-'em Comin'!

LisaKetner1960@icloud.com is seeking newsletter material: photos, recipes, poems, shell stories, cartoons, book suggestions, craft inspiration, and more!

February Carefree Learner Excursion

Monday, February 10

Boat leaves 7:30 a.m.

Want to go? Contact Carol Ayers at: 941-830-8252 or 508-274-6584

Directions:

Enter Marina Jack, 2 Marina Plaza, Sarasota, FL in your GPS. Or from I-75: take the Fruitville Road (SR 780) exit. Head west to downtown, then take SR 41 to Marina Jack.

The boat, named Carefree Learner, is located on the South end of the marina next to LaBarge Park.

Here's What You Need:

Pail or bucket, gloves, small shovel or trowel, long-handled scoop, small plastic container for small treasures. Water shoes or boots are recommended. No Flip-flops! Dress in layers; you'll be glad you did!

Restrooms are located in the back of O'Leary's!

DID YOU KNOW: One of the main symbols for Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love, is the seashell.

Sailor Valentines are a type of antique souvenir, or sentimental gift originally brought home from a sailor's voyage at sea for his loved one during the early 1800s. Sailor Valentines are octagonal, glass fronted, hinged wooden boxes ranging from 8" to 15" in width, displaying intricate symmetrical designs composed entirely of small sea shells of various colors glued onto a backing. Traditional shell designs often feature a centerpiece such as a compass rose or a heart design, and in some cases the small shells are used to spell out a sentimental message.



Although the name seems to suggest that the sailors themselves made these objects, a large number of Sailors' Valentines originated in the island of Barbados, which was an important seaport during this period. Historians believe that the women on Barbados made the Sailors' Valentines with local shells, or in some cases with shells which had been brought to Barbados from Indonesia, and then the finished products were sold to sailors.

It has been concluded by John Fondas in his book *Sailors' Valentines* that the primary source for Sailors' Valentines was The Old Curiosity Shop, located in Barbados, and a popular place in the 1800s for sailors to purchase souvenirs. John's research tells of a sailors' valentine reconstruction, where the reconstructing artist found pieces of a Barbados newspaper inside the backing.

Today, antique "Sailor's Valentines" are once again in demand for their beauty and unusual qualities. Interest has sparked resurgence in this art form. Many Sailors' Valentines, both new and old can be found on Cape Cod.

By Jeanne Studio/Demand Media

It's Time for the February Food Drive!

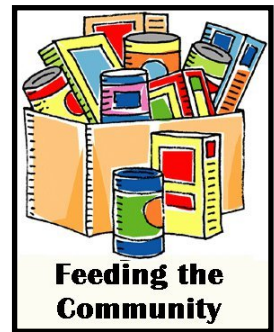
Please be advised that our club will hold a food drive at our February general meeting to benefit the Helping Hands organization. If you wish to participate, please bring any of the following items to the February meeting:

Nonperishable items: canned or dry beans, soup including broths, cereal, peanut butter or other nut butters, canned fruit in juice, canned vegetables, canned tuna or chicken, pasta/rice, pasta sauce, canned stews, unsweetened applesauce, and Personal

items: toothbrush/paste, shampoo, deodorant are appreciated.

Please do not donate food that is past the expiration date.

Any questions, contact Candy Niziol: candyniziol@comcast.net



Membership News from Co-Chair Linda Schmoyer

Welcome back to all former members who have renewed this year (83 singles and 11 families) and a hearty welcome to our new members (10 singles and 1 family)! This means, as of the general meeting held on January 21, 2020, our membership has grown to a total of 117 paying members plus 6 Honorary and 8 Emeritus members for a total membership of 131. Be sure to tell your shell-loving friends about our club, invite them to a general meeting to show them what the club is all about, and help boost our future membership!



February 2020 Library News

A special thank you to Karen Blackford for obtaining for the club a complimentary, signed copy of *My Way of Shelling* by Amanda Collett. You can check it out at our February general meeting.

Any questions, please contact Candy Niziol.



FEBRUARY SHELLCRAFTERS
Acrylic Pour Painting
Friday, February 21, 1 PM at the Elks Club

Merchandise Message from Patti Redmond:
Our order is placed and if all goes well I will have everything to distribute at the February meeting.



Win Prizes for Doing
What You *Love!*

Got snapped photos of your shell crafts or amazing shell finds? Beach walks? Shell Club excursions? Holiday or end of year luncheons? Study group at Cedar Point?

We want your photos for the 2019-2020 Yearbook!

It's easy! E-mail mblain93@gmail.com or text your photo(s) to Meredith Blain at 941-445-1440. Be sure to include your name, contact info, and a brief description of the activity including who, when and where.

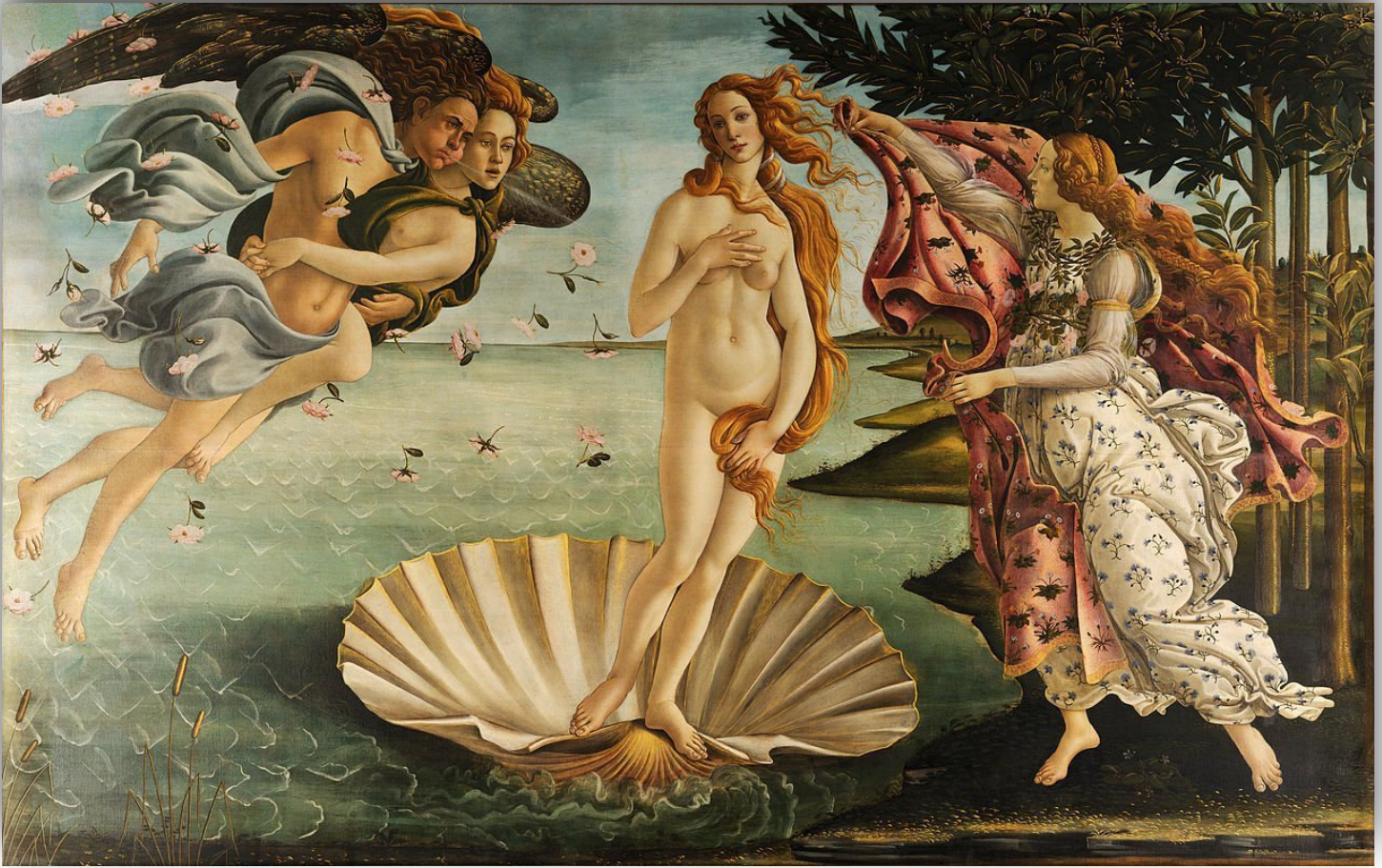
YOU COULD BE A WINNER!

Every time you submit a photo, you will be entered in a drawing for some Amazing SHELL-TASTIC Prizes!

THANK YOU!

Meredith Blain Historian

What's the difference between a piano and a fish?
You can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish!



Shells were important in ancient history and mythology. Venus, the Roman goddess of love, emerged from the sea and was ferried to shore, fully formed on a scallop shell, as depicted in Botticelli's famous painting Birth of Venus. Also interesting, Lakshmi the Hindu goddess of beauty, love and fertility was created from the sand and pearls within an oyster shell.

Member of the Month: Sue Rundle



What is your favorite shell? Queen conch and all orange shells

What is your prized shell found? Baby ear

What is your favorite beach? ALL

What is your most unusual find? Wentletrap

How long have you been a member of the ESC? Since 2005

Have you held any positions at ESC or volunteered?

Yes, I have been Historian, Board member-at-large, Christmas Party co-chair, and I currently provided orientation for new members if needed.

Sue and her husband, Bill, have been married for 58 years.

While Bill was working at IBM, Sue was a stay-at-home mom

to their three sons, all of whom played football, baseball, and hockey. Nearly two decades ago, Bill and Sue left Vermont to become full-time residents of South Venice. In addition to collecting shells, Sue enjoys cooking, playing cards, entertaining guests, and keeping in touch with her grandchildren; three boys and three girls.

Coming Soon: Shell and Shell Craft Sale!

A shell and shell craft sale will take place at our General meeting on March 17. All items for sale must be shells or shell crafted items made by our ESC members. Table space reservations may be made with a \$5.00 fee when you sign up. A table space will be 1/2 of each round table provided.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the February meeting.

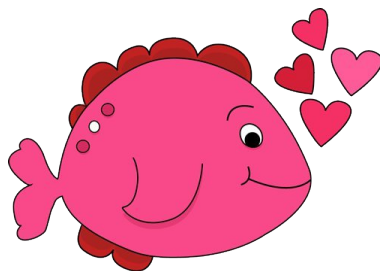
Contact Linda Hamilton at 937-578-3605 with questions.



Congratulations, Meredith Blain!

Meredith found this heart-shaped shell at Don Pedro State Park. The photograph, taken by Meredith, is featured in the January/February edition of Beachcombing Magazine.

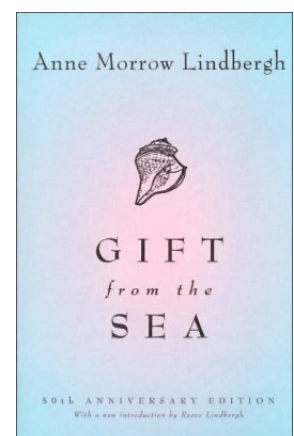
Beachcombing Magazine is the print and digital magazine dedicated to beachcombing, beach travel, coastal arts, and coastal living. Each issue is chock full of stories about sea glass and beach glass, shells, fossils, driftwood, and more from shorelines around the world.



Happy Valentine's Day!

“Published in 1955, *Gift from the Sea* is like a shell itself in its small and perfect form. It tells of light and life and love and the security that lies at the heart.”

New York Times Book Review





“Creativity is Intelligence Having Fun” Albert Einstein

Shell Crafters Sue Ross, Carol Ayers, Judy Landry, and Jane Guy are four of the many members who gathered in December at the Elks Club to glue shells on glass with Shellcrafters Team Leader Leslie Furmage.

Photos submitted by: Sue Murray

ENGLEWOOD SHELL CLUB'S

1996-2021

25th Anniversary

Collecting Memories and More!

Do you have fond memories of ESC people, trips, special events, amazing shell finds, etc.? Do you have copies of articles featuring the club and/ or its members? Do you have copies of new or old club related photographs? If so, send them to Historian, Meredith Blain: mblain93@gmail.com



FUN in the SUN!

On Monday, January, 13, nearly a dozen club members participated in the first of two Carefree Learner excursions scheduled for this year. The air was warm and so was the water in Sarasota Bay. And as you can see, the sky was a beautiful shade of blue! *Photos submitted by Club Historian, Meredith Blain.*



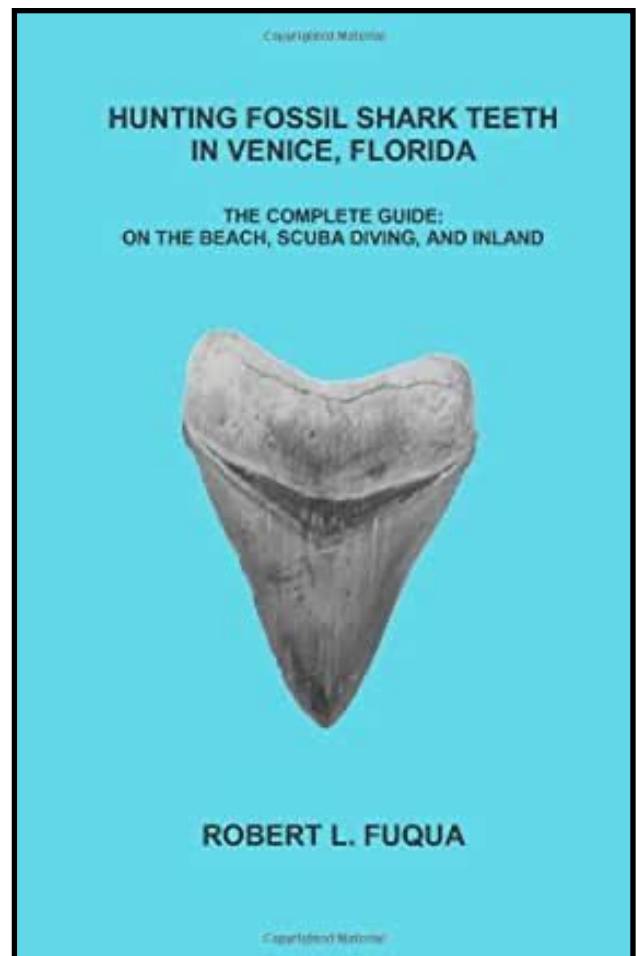
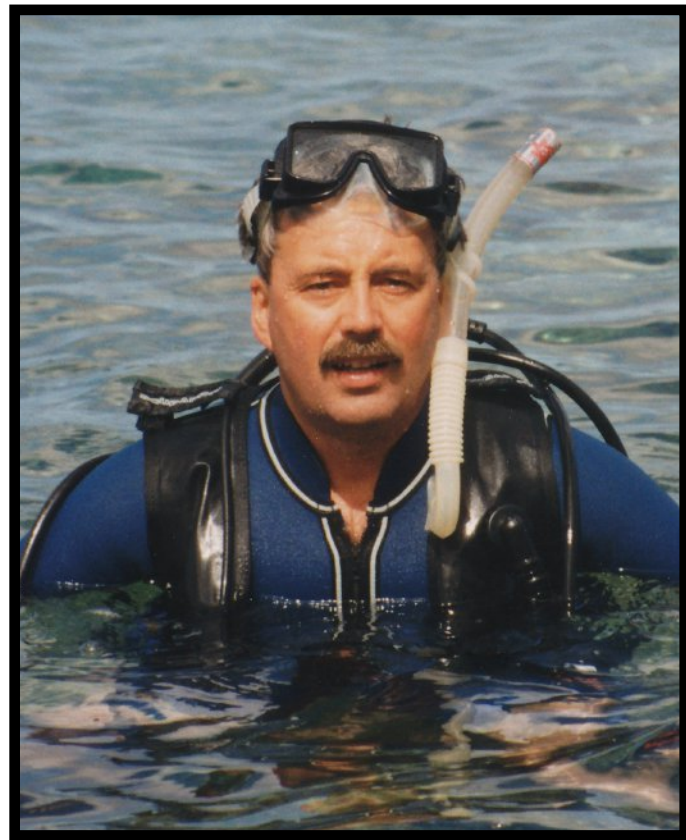
Bob Fuqua

Robert L. (Bob) Fuqua was born in south central Kansas in October 1949 and grew up steeped in the mid-western values and work ethic. In 1971 he graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and then served in the US Air Force for four years doing intelligence work. That led to a civilian career in intelligence at the National Security Agency in Maryland. In 2002 he retired with over 30 years-service and he and his wife Linda moved to Venice, Florida in 2004.

Bob started keeping freshwater aquariums as a young boy and was always interested in everything that lived in the water and often used a microscope to explore what lived in ponds and water-filled ditches. He was also fascinated by the fact that Kansas was once part of a large sea and fondly remembers finding fossil shark teeth in the chalk bluffs in the western part of the state.

In 1977 he became a certified SCUBA diver and started making trips to the Florida Keys and Caribbean to dive on the coral reefs. In 1985 he volunteered as a SCUBA diver at the new National Aquarium in Baltimore and eventually became the Sunday Dive Captain. After five years he had to give up that position to take a field assignment in Hawaii with his real job.

Bob's other interests include astronomy, bicycle riding, stand up paddle boarding, fossil collecting and restoring an old British sports car. However, one of his greatest passions is diving for fossil shark teeth in the Gulf of Mexico off of Venice, Florida. He now has over 5000 fossil shark's teeth in his collection, including those that he found in Kansas over 50 years ago.





SURPRISE!

“The person receiving this year’s Founder’s Shell Award is a breath of fresh air, full of ideas, and an asset to our club,” said President Colleen Fosnough before presenting Meredith Blain a huge whelk at the January General Meeting.

The newsletter editor later asked Meredith to share her reaction to winning the award. “Little did I know what fantastic changes were in store for me a short two years ago. One fateful shelling trip arranged by Karen Blackford allowed me to meet Martha Dehne, Judy Kauk, and Kelle Covington. I really had no idea that Shell Clubs existed. So I joined, barely knowing a soul, feeling nervous but excited to learn more about the shelling world. It has by far exceeded all of my expectations! I’ve received nothing but kindness and encouragement from everyone in the Englewood Shell Club. I would have never dreamed that so many members would truly appreciate my shell photos, artwork, or my love of Turks and Caicos! The Englewood Shell Club is filled with so many talented,

and intelligent members with a vast wealth of knowledge, who should all be recognized and celebrated. It is a huge honor and surprise to be this year's recipient of the Founder's Shell Award. Thank you so very much!"



Pecan Sandies: A Treat to Make for Your Sweetheart!

1 cup butter
1/3 cup sugar
1 tablespoon water
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup chopped pecans
1 cup sifted powdered sugar or granulated sugar

Preheat oven to 325 degrees

Beat butter in a mixing bowl with an electric mixer on medium to high speed for 30 seconds.

Add the sugar, water, and vanilla and beat till combined. Beat in as much flour as you can. Stir in remaining flour and pecans.

Shape into 1 inch balls. Roll balls in granulated sugar and flatten by crisscrossing with a fork or the bottom of a glass pressed in granulated sugar.

Place on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake about 20 minutes or till bottoms are lightly browned.

Cool cookies on a wire rack and watch your sweetie enjoy!

Makes approx. 36 cookies

Submitted by Candy Niziol

Do You Have a Warm Heart?

Marilyn Boyd, Greeters' Team Leader, is seeking individuals to help welcome members and guests attending the club's monthly general meetings. Marilyn can be reached via email at mcboyd622@aol.com. Let her know even if you can only do it once or twice. Remember, members and guests must sign in at the Greeters' table and be sure to get your raffle ticket!





March Newsletter Will be available for viewing Thursday, March 5

WOMAN with a MERMAID HEART



Allow yourself to be magical.
Dream as wild as the sea.
Don't let reality get in your way.
Love your life.
Let yourself become your true self.
Dive into hope, for hope will carry you
Through the darkest water.
Trust your journey even when no one else does.
Welcome change with open arms.
Know that you are always stronger than
you think you are.
Steer with your heart.
Go where no one has gone before,
and make your own beautiful path.
Submitted by Carol Mae

The More the Merrier!



Judy, Martha, and Meredith invite you to bring your shells to the Wednesday, February, 23, **Shell Study** at Cedar Point for identification. They also plan to discuss different beaches to visit for shelling.

Upcoming Trips!

Please bring your checkbook to the February meeting. We have trips scheduled to Palm Island on Feb. 26 and March 25 at 8.00am, \$38, (includes tax & tip), meet at 7:30 at Plaza parking lot across from Bealls next to Fifth Third Bank in Englewood-same as last year. Keewaydin Island on April 2 at 7:30am (car pool) \$47 includes tax . (Leave tip on boat) Shell Island (Kice Island an alternative) at 6:45am on Feb. 23 and Feb 25. \$108 including tax (tip captain on boat). Shell Island will be closed for bird nesting from 3/1 to 9/1 so there will be boats coming to the island after us. Better shelling before they come.

A special trip to Navarre Beach in the Panhandle on April 8 & 9 coming home on April 10. Partner up! Call Best Western at 850-939-9400 and book your room. (Rates range from \$139-\$159 plus tax)

For more info or any questions, call Marty at 203-592-4040.