

President's Notes

By now you must have rested up from your holiday rush. I trust you have all had a Merry Christmas, and are keeping all of those new year resolutions to the fullest!



Our holiday luncheon seemed to be a huge success. The gifts were wonderful, as well as the food and high spirits. Santa told me that he really had the best job - passing out all of our gifts. He also mentioned that we have a club full of very huggable ladies, and asked for the phone number of that "lovely woman with the seashell shoes!"

Time to move on to the rest of our shelling season. We still have a full 'To Do' list to work on, so please check your calendars, and join in the fun.

Wishing you all great things for 2005.

Debbie Freeman



Did you Know?

Chitons or Coat of Mail shells have a fleshy girdle that is covered by 8 shell like plates
www.worldwideconchology.com

Female cowries sit on top of their eggs to protect them

Many land snails can lift ten times their weight up a vertical surface

It takes two years to grow a pearl and that some clams can grow pearls as large as a golf ball in about ten years
www.conchologistsofamerica.org

Thank You!

A huge thank you to Dick Forbush for another great talk. You always amaze us Dick with your knowledge of shells, and your shelling adventures. How lucky we are to have you as a part of our club!

Carefree Learner



It was a windy and cold morning for our first Carefree Leaner trip of the season on December 14th. That did not stop seventeen of us from going out into Sarasota Bay to do a little shelling! I was reminded of how children look going out to play in the snow. So bundled up they can hardly bend over. It was a good day none the less, and everyone headed home with lots of pretty shells. Our guide, Tommy Young, was his usual helpful self, and Captain Bob greeted us with smiles all around.

The weather for our January 11th Carefree trip made up for the cold in December. Sunny and warm! there were 20 of us that day, and I doubt that anyone was disappointed with their finds.

Tree Trimming

The Cedar Point Christmas tree looks great! Thanks to all the volunteers who were there to do the trimming.



Bobbie Rodgers, park manager, said there were more people than in the past who come to see our tree.

It's Time to ID Those Shells!

By Anita Wilson, Club Librarian



The first step in identifying those great shells you have found on the beach or on the Shell Club field trips is a trip to our Englewood Shell Club Library! So many resources await you there.

The most complete resource at your disposal is the **Compendium of Seashells** by R. Tucker Abbott and S. Peter Dance. Abbott is THE authority on shells and Dance runs a close second; here they collaborated. The Compendium includes full color pictures of more than 4200 of the world's marine shells. Chances are you will find even your most perplexing questions answered as you study this 400+ page book. In addition to pictures and descriptions of 4200 shells in taxonomic order and a wonderful index, the Compendium includes an introduction that discusses shell scientific classification, shell features and aids to identification, and descriptions of shell condition. It also gives notes on mollusk habitat, conservation, geographical ranges, and tells how to catalog and care for your shells.

Each shell is pictured on a black or appropriated colored background so you can see shell details and when it is important to shell identification, both the back and front of the shell are shown. In addition to the common and scientific names, each description includes the shell's mature size, its geographical range, habitat, and description of salient features. The person who initially described the shell and the date of its discovery, for example, "Gmelin, 1791" are given.

To show just how extensive this book is, there are 151 scallop species shown. However there are only two Kitten Paws! This gives you great insight into the larger picture of two common shells on our beaches. The book includes seven pages (12 species/page) of conchs and eight pages of moon shells.

The Englewood Shell Club has the 1986 edition of this book; the most recent and scarcely changed edition was copyrighted in 2000 by Cecilia Abbott and Peter Dance.

If the Compendium has already been checked out, look for **A Collector's Encyclopedia of Shells** by Dance. We have this book also. In fact, I have found that it is very useful to always use at least two books when doing a shell identification. I get an initial ID using one book and then check it out in a second book to verify with a different picture and identification. If two references agree, I feel more sure of my choice. Another wonderful book with worldwide coverage is **The Shell: Five hundred million years of inspired design** by Hugh and Marguerite Stix and R. Tucker Abbott. This fantastic book was recently donated by Jane Guy and includes fascinating tidbits of information as well as awesome photos of some of the world's most beautiful shells.

If you know your shell is a Florida one, check out

Williams, 2003 book **Florida's Fabulous Seashells and Seashore Life**. This book not only describes the shells, but includes bigger pictures and tells you more about them, since it covers only Florida shells. Our library also includes a copy of Siekman's **Handbook of Florida Shells**.

Our library has books on other areas of the world such as Warmke and Abbott's **Caribbean Seashells: A guide to the marine mollusks of Puerto Rico and other West Indian Islands, Bermuda and the Lower Keys**, Keen's book, **Seashells of Tropical West America: Marine Mollusks from Lower California to Columbia** and Kira's tome entitled **Colored Illustrations of the Shells of Japan**. I'm not sure where we got these books; be sure to let the club librarian know and we will place a notation of your gift in the book!

If you know your shell is a cone or a cowrie, check out J.G. Walls book **Cone Shells: A synopsis of the living Conidae** or his book **Cowries**. Both these volumes were donated by Debbie Freeman.

Once you know the names of your shells, wouldn't it be wonderful to know how to pronounce their scientific names? Just look at **It's Easy to Say Crepidula! A phonetic guide to pronunciation of the scientific names of sea shells and a glossary of terms frequently used in malacology** by Cate and Raskin. Barb Myers gave us this book, which Bailey Mathews Museum gave to her. All of a sudden, you are an expert! Have fun shelling and learning all about what you have found.

**Remember: a complete, frequently updated, bibliography of our library collection is found on the Shell Club Web Site!*



CRAFT CORNER

by Rosemary Kurt

The Shell Crafters created three beautiful and unusual flowers made from the cut Strawberry Strombus at our January class, and we're already looking forward to February's class.

In keeping with Valentine's Day, we will be creating our own 10" or 7" Sailor's Valentine (similar to last year's class). At the January ESC meeting, there will be sample displays of the Valentine's, various wood boxes, and their patterns. Since this is not a large class, we will also be making the Glass Candle Vases in February. Various and unusual vases will be supplied and you will be able to pick the one you like the best!

It is requested that you make every effort to pay for a class when you sign up for it. It sure makes it easier on the bookkeeping!

Classes are held at the Tringali Center in Englewood from 1-4 pm the second Friday of each month. Rosemary Kurt 473-0844. rokurt@comcast.net

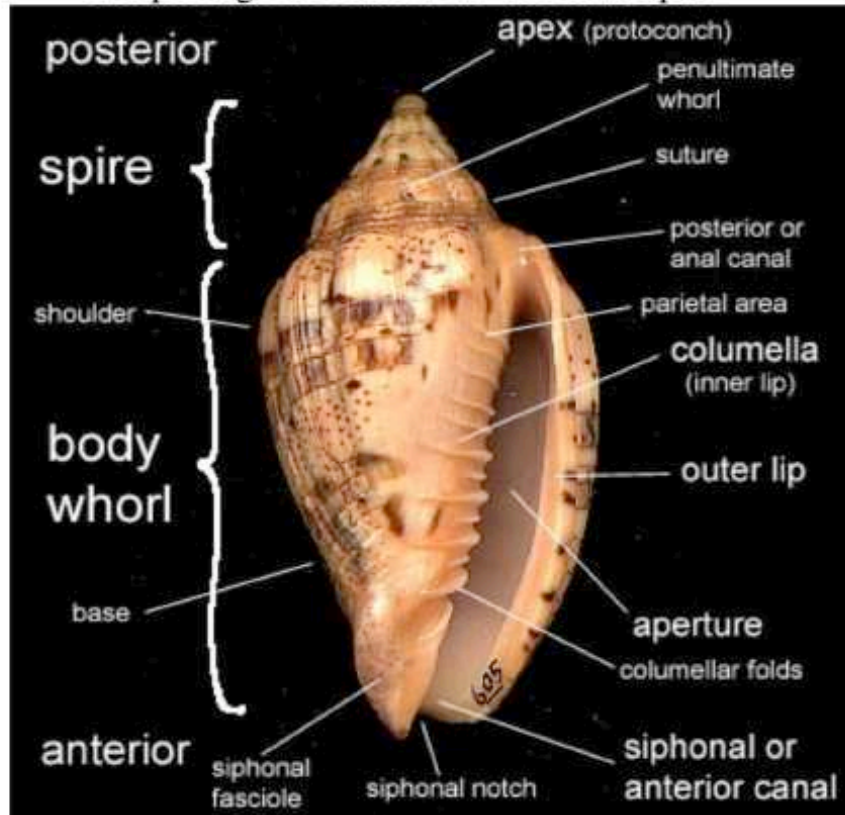
Visit our web site at
<http://englewoodshellclub.org>

Morphology: The study of form and structure

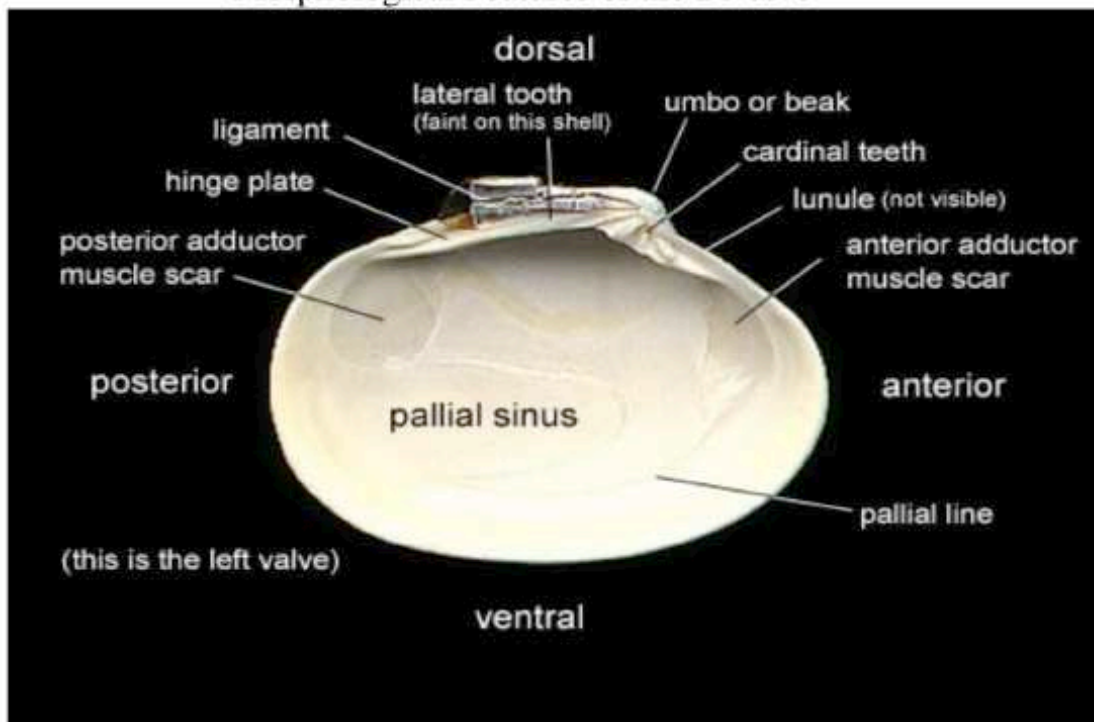
The following diagram will help you to better understand the words you see associated with shell identification. My hope is that seeing how these words are used will make identifying your shells a little easier.

These charts are used with the permission of Peter Egerton. See Peter's web site for the quiz associated with the diagrams. <http://members.shaw.ca/bcshells/index.html>

Morphological Features of the Gastropod



Morphological Features of the Bivalve



In Terms of Shelling

- Auricle:** The ear like appendage of a bivalve beak.
- Autonomy:** The casting off of a body part as a means of escape, such as the tail of a lizard or the claw of a lobster.
- Bifid:** Divided into two equal parts by a groove.
- Cline:** Gradual development from one subspecies into the other within a geographic range.
- Crenulation:** Notches or indentations along an edge, the scalloped margins of a shell.
- Ecomorph:** A variation due to environmental conditions.
- Scabrous:** A rough scaly surface.
- Taxon:** Any unit of classification.
- Varix:** A thick raised ridge indicating a resting growth stage.

ESC Calendar

February:

- Craft class is the 11th
- Study group is the 14th
- Honeymoon Iland ./ Caladesi trip is the 15th
- General meeting on the 22nd
- Speaker is Joyce Matthys from Bailey-Matthews Museum

March:

- Craft class on the 11th
- Study group on the 14th
- General meeting on the 22nd (There are 5 Tues. in March, we meet on the 22nd)
- Speaker is Larry Strange from Sanibel, the color of shells

April:

- Our last meeting will be picnic& pool time.
- At the home of Debbie Freeman. Details at February meeting.
- ** There has been a change regarding our speakers schedule - John Greenlaw will speak in Jan. and Larry Strange will speak in March.

- Feb. 4 - 5 BROWARD SHELL SHOW, Pompano Beach
- Feb. 18-20 SARASOTA SHELL SHOW
- Feb. 25-27 ST. PETERSBURG SHELL SHOW
- Mar. 3 - 5 SANIBEL SHELL SHOW
- Mar. 10-12 MARCO ISLAND SHELL SHOW
- Mar. 19-20 TREASURE COAST SHELL CLUB SHOW, Jensen Beach, FL
- July. 19-24 CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA ANNUAL CONVENTION, Ft. Myers, FL

Tide Chart: Englewood, Lemon Bay

February 1 -14 - 2005

2005-01-26	00:29 EST	1.47 feet	High Tide
2005-01-26	08:37 EST	-0.40 feet	Low Tide
2005-01-26	15:16 EST	0.78 feet	High Tide
2005-01-26	19:26 EST	0.57 feet	Low Tide
2005-01-27	01:10 EST	1.43 feet	High Tide
2005-01-27	09:04 EST	-0.34 feet	Low Tide
2005-01-27	15:25 EST	0.84 feet	High Tide

2005-01-27	20:15 EST	0.48 feet	Low Tide
2005-01-28	01:53 EST	1.34 feet	High Tide
2005-01-28	09:29 EST	-0.25 feet	Low Tide
2005-01-28	15:38 EST	0.92 feet	High Tide
2005-01-28	21:06 EST	0.38 feet	Low Tide
2005-01-29	02:41 EST	1.23 feet	High Tide
2005-01-29	09:54 EST	-0.12 feet	Low Tide
2005-01-29	15:57 EST	1.02 feet	High Tide
2005-01-29	21:59 EST	0.27 feet	Low Tide
2005-01-30	03:35 EST	1.08 feet	High Tide
2005-01-30	10:18 EST	0.04 feet	Low Tide
2005-01-30	16:19 EST	1.13 feet	High Tide
2005-01-30	22:58 EST	0.15 feet	Low Tide
2005-01-31	04:37 EST	0.91 feet	High Tide
2005-01-31	10:39 EST	0.22 feet	Low Tide
2005-01-31	16:43 EST	1.23 feet	High Tide
2005-02-01	00:05 EST	0.02 feet	Low Tide
2005-02-01	05:56 EST	0.73 feet	High Tide
2005-02-01	10:54 EST	0.41 feet	Low Tide
2005-02-01	17:12 EST	1.33 feet	High Tide
2005-02-02	01:23 EST	-0.11 feet	Low Tide
2005-02-02	08:00 EST	0.61 feet	High Tide
2005-02-02	10:44 EST	0.57 feet	Low Tide
2005-02-02	17:49 EST	1.41 feet	High Tide
2005-02-03	02:47 EST	-0.27 feet	Low Tide
2005-02-03	18:39 EST	1.48 feet	High Tide
2005-02-04	04:06 EST	-0.45 feet	Low Tide
2005-02-04	19:46 EST	1.54 feet	High Tide
2005-02-05	05:15 EST	-0.61 feet	Low Tide
2005-02-05	21:02 EST	1.61 feet	High Tide
2005-02-06	06:12 EST	-0.73 feet	Low Tide
2005-02-06	22:14 EST	1.68 feet	High Tide
2005-02-07	07:00 EST	-0.77 feet	Low Tide
2005-02-07	14:38 EST	0.83 feet	High Tide
2005-02-07	17:14 EST	0.78 feet	Low Tide
2005-02-07	23:17 EST	1.71 feet	High Tide
2005-02-08	07:42 EST	-0.72 feet	Low Tide
2005-02-08	14:42 EST	0.81 feet	High Tide
2005-02-08	18:22 EST	0.63 feet	Low Tide
2005-02-09	00:15 EST	1.68 feet	High Tide
2005-02-09	08:19 EST	-0.60 feet	Low Tide
2005-02-09	14:54 EST	0.84 feet	High Tide
2005-02-09	19:22 EST	0.47 feet	Low Tide
2005-02-10	01:10 EST	1.56 feet	High Tide
2005-02-10	08:50 EST	-0.42 feet	Low Tide
2005-02-10	15:07 EST	0.91 feet	High Tide
2005-02-10	20:21 EST	0.32 feet	Low Tide
2005-02-11	02:06 EST	1.38 feet	High Tide
2005-02-11	09:18 EST	-0.20 feet	Low Tide
2005-02-11	15:23 EST	1.03 feet	High Tide
2005-02-11	21:19 EST	0.18 feet	Low Tide
2005-02-12	03:02 EST	1.16 feet	High Tide
2005-02-12	09:42 EST	0.02 feet	Low Tide
2005-02-12	15:43 EST	1.15 feet	High Tide
2005-02-12	22:19 EST	0.06 feet	Low Tide
2005-02-13	04:03 EST	0.93 feet	High Tide
2005-02-13	10:01 EST	0.22 feet	Low Tide
2005-02-13	16:05 EST	1.27 feet	High Tide
2005-02-13	23:23 EST	-0.02 feet	Low Tide
2005-02-14	05:13 EST	0.72 feet	High Tide