

President's Message—

Dear Shellers,

Now that the rush of the holidays is over we can return to our favorite Florida pastime - shelling! Before you all run off to the beach let's take a moment to thank those who helped to make our holiday luncheon a great success. Handfuls of shells need to be given to Irene Murray for helping me with the meal organization and the paperwork that comes with it. Same goes to Judy Curtin for handling the gift table, also to those who made the lovely Christmas trees for our place settings - Anna Croteau, Audrey Grant, Arlene Poetz, Marty Sanders, Irene Murray, Judy Curtin, and yours truly. We can't forget Joe Bao who stayed long after the celebration to organize our checks and balance. The best shells go to our entertainers - Regis Curtin and Glenn Freeman for the music, singing, dancing, and all the other fun things they did to help our club celebrate the holiday season. Thanks to you all!

We would like to find a different location for next year's holiday lunch. If anyone has an idea for a new venue please contact me. This should be done now in order to get the date we want for next December.

I have yet to hear from any of you regarding our goal to update the club's web site. It's hard to believe that with such a large club there is no one willing to help with this. A few ideas or opinions about what you would like to have on the site would be a good way to start. Please give it some thought.

Your shirt box displays should be looking good by now. I can't wait for the February meeting to see them all. That meeting will start one hour earlier so that we can set up and view the displays. I need a few volunteers to help set up and take down tables for that meeting. We will all vote for our favorite three displays, so be prepared to be a winner!

Debbie Freeman

Don't Forget—

The Carefree Learner sails at 7 A.M. on Monday, January 30, for great shelling in Sarasota Bay. See you there!



LION'S PAW SCALLOP

Upcoming Field Trips—

Sanibel Island and St. Pete Beach are on the schedule for upcoming field trips, according to field trip chairman Ruth Middlebrooks. Get the exact dates, times and other details for these February/March field trips at the January meeting. If you can't get to the meeting, call Ruth (474-4538) for details and to sign up.

Englewood History Week—

The Shell Club has been invited to participate in Englewood History Week this year. The Outreach group will have a booth identifying shells, showing our scrapbooks, providing membership forms, etc. at the Cracker Fair and Pioneer Crafts Festival on Saturday, February 11. We will display some of our ShellCrafter projects at another table!

Two Spots for Bahamas & S. Carolina—

As of press time, there were two openings for the Eluthera Island in the Bahamas trip scheduled for May 21-26. A recent cancellation for health reasons opened up these spots for two lucky people because the trip had previously filled last April shortly after it was announced! Total cost of the trip excluding meals and incidentals will be about \$650/person. We will stay four people to each of three cottages facing Tarpum Bay and have use of old GM cars to beat around the island. Jim and Bobbie Cordy will be our shell guides and they promise different shelling locations each day. We will fly out of Fort Lauderdale. Contact Ruth Middlebrooks 474-4538 to reserve a space and pay your \$300 deposit which is due now.

Two openings are also available for the February South Carolina trip. Call Debbie immediately!

Active Study Group—

Twelve ESC members attended the Study Group on January 9 at Cedar Point. This month we worked on preparing the “shirt box” shell displays to be presented at the February meeting. We had lots of interesting shells and discussion! Eleanor Langlois



decided to display her finds from our club's fossil trip...and fossils are not easy to identify! New member Doris Lyons brought shells she collected years ago in the Bahamas and Hawaii. She used many books and help from others to identify her beautiful treasures. Linda Powers brought a group of lovely bubble shells which she found on the club boat trip to the Gasparilla area in November. Many heads finally identified them as the Antillean Glossy Bubble. Nan O'Neil prepared a shirtbox with local shells labelled perfectly—she's ready for February's meeting! Jane Guy showed her display of shells done for a second grade classroom talk she gave at her granddaughter's school in Rhode Island. It was a big success. We appreciate our mentor, Dick Forbush, always eager to help and full of great shell stories and tips. Come join us next month! *Barb Myers*

Christmas Activities Were Big Success—

Thanks to everyone who helped put up and take down the Christmas tree at Cedar Point. It was as beautiful as ever! And did you see the lovely article and pictures about the tree in the Herald-Tribune! What wonderful publicity we received! The picture shows some of the crew who packed away for shells until next year!



The Christmas party at Boca Royale was loads of fun! The luncheon was delightful and this year two of Santa's helpers put on a hilarious program in which we all participated. There were great carols and a fanatastic game where the answers were names of shells. Santa's helpers were amazed that we answered so quickly and promised wonderful holidays for everyone. There were real treasures in the gift exchange! Sparkling Christmas trees were given to each person as a favor. Each tree was rubbed with glue and then rolled in crushed jingle shells to give the sparkling base before the petite flowers and ribbons were applied. Fantastic!

Mirrors by ShellCrafters—

A congenial group met Friday, January 13 at Tringali Center and made lovely shell-decorated mirrors. Thanks so much to steering committee members: Doris Brown, Sandy Terwilliger, Veronica Stier and Marie Gallant. The ShellCrafters will make shell wind chimes February 10.



Mini-Shell Show in February—

Here is a reminder of the details for the Mini-Shell Show we will be having at the February meeting. Select a 17" x10.5" shirt box. Line the bottom of the box with colored paper to set off your shells and signs. Select your favorite shell or shells and display them in the box. You can stick them in with any type of removable adhesive (so you can retrieve your shells without blemish after the show). For every shell displayed, you should have a sign that includes common name of the shell, scientific name, name of the original describer of the shell, the date the shell was originally catalogued and the geographic origin of the shell. In addition you could indicate the primary habitat of the shell and include information about where you found your shell, but that is optional. For example: American or Common Jingle Shell, *Anomia simplex*, Orbigny, 1842. Eastern United States to Brazil. Shallow water. Manasota Key, FL. Notice the correct scientific notation. Italic type is used if you have a printed sign. The genus name (first word) is capitalized; the species name (second word) is not capitalized. If you choose to include only one shell, you may wish to tell us other interesting things about the shell to fill up the shirt box display.

The Naked Snail—By Debbie Freeman

Many of you on the Carefree Learner trip in December were lucky enough to see a Nudibranch, also known as a snail without a shell. Actually, when young they do have a residual shell that is shed during adulthood. Taxonomic classification is the Phylum Mollusca; Class Gastropoda; Subclass Opisthobranchia; Order Nudibranchia. There are over 3000 species of Nudibranch worldwide, and most are pretty small with the exception of the Spanish Dancer that can grow to about 19 inches. They are hermaphroditic, having both male and female sex organs. Most live in shallow water, and are often found in tide pools. Nudibranch are famous for their colorful bodies, and beautiful feather-like gills. Our trips to the sand flats are always an adventure, but if you keep a sharp eye you may just find a special treat, like the unusual Nudibranch. To learn more about Nudibranch: www.cybereff.com or www.medslug.de/E/Linkbran.htm.



Outreach Committee Report—

The Outreach Committee manned a booth at the annual Tringali Open House on Saturday, January 7, 2006. This event showcases the programs which the community center sponsors.

Our table featured our exhibit of local shells, our club album highlighting the Shellcrafters, and “find a shell/identify a shell” for the kids. In addition, our display



of a horse conch and lightning whelk with their egg casings peaked the curiosity of quite a few adults. Our booth was attended by over 100 people, with several expressing a genuine interest in joining the club. Thanks to Linda Powers, Barb Myers, Jane Guy, and Nan O'Neil for manning the booth, Diana Leonhardt and Pat Powers for helping to organize the items, and Anita and Rich Wilson for attending as official club photographers. *Linda Powers*

Dues Due Now—

Dues are now past due! The new membership roster will be completed February 1. If you wish to be listed for the upcoming year, receive newsletters, go on field trips, participate in other activities, etc., your dues must be in before that time. There will be a list of those who have paid at the January meeting; check to find your name and be sure you have paid for the year! Thanks! Sixty-four members had paid by press time.

Enjoy our Scrapbooks—

Thanks to Linda Powers, our current historian and all those who have preceded her, we have a wonderful history of our club. Four beautiful scrapbooks of fun memories are displayed at each meeting on the counter above the club library. Take time to look.

Now Is the Time—

Please volunteer for a club leadership position in the upcoming year!

TIDE TABLE

LEMON BAY, FL February 2006

DATE	TIDE/TIME	HT	TIDE/TIME	HT	TIDE/TIME	HT	TIDE/TIME	HT
1 W	H	2:21 AM	1.5 L	9:41 AM	-0.3 H	3:36 PM	1.0 L	9:26 PM 0.2
2 TH	H	3:21 AM	1.2 L	10:09 AM	0.0 H	3:58 PM	1.1 L	10:37 PM 0.1
3 F	H	4:30 AM	1.0 L	10:31 AM	0.2 H	4:25 PM	1.2 L	11:55 PM -0.1
4 SA	H	6:02 AM	0.7 L	10:46 AM	0.4 H	4:58 PM	1.3	
5 SU	H	8:50 AM	0.6 L	10:24 AM	0.6 H	5:38 PM	1.4 L	1:21 AM -0.2
6 M			L	2:49 AM	-0.3 H	6:31 PM	1.4	
7 TU			L	4:07 AM	-0.4 H	7:39 PM	1.4	
8 W			L	5:09 AM	-0.4 H	8:57 PM	1.4	
9 TH			L	5:58 AM	-0.5 H	10:05 PM	1.4	
10 F	H	2:11 PM	0.8 L	4:55 PM	0.8 H	11:00 PM	1.4 L	6:38 AM -0.5
11 SA	H	2:13 PM	0.8 L	5:49 PM	0.7 H	11:45 PM	1.4 L	7:11 AM -0.5
12 SU			L	7:38 AM	-0.4 H	2:17 PM	0.8 L	6:32 PM 0.6
13 M	H	12:24 AM	1.4 L	8:01 AM	-0.3 H	2:19 PM	0.9 L	7:13 PM 0.5
14 TU	H	1:01 AM	1.3 L	8:22 AM	-0.2 H	2:24 PM	0.9 L	7:54 PM 0.3
15 W	H	1:39 AM	1.3 L	8:41 AM	-0.1 H	2:32 PM	1.0 L	8:36 PM 0.2
16 TH	H	2:19 AM	1.2 L	8:59 AM	0.0 H	2:47 PM	1.1 L	9:20 PM 0.1
17 F	H	3:03 AM	1.0 L	9:17 AM	0.2 H	3:07 PM	1.3 L	10:09 PM 0.0
18 SA	H	3:53 AM	0.9 L	9:34 AM	0.3 H	3:32 PM	1.3 L	11:05 PM 0.0
19 SU	H	4:59 AM	0.7 L	9:47 AM	0.4 H	4:03 PM	1.4	
20 M	H	6:47 AM	0.6 L	9:39 AM	0.6 H	4:41 PM	1.4 L	12:13 AM -0.1
21 TU			L	1:37 AM	-0.2 H	5:31 PM	1.5	
22 W			L	3:06 AM	-0.3 H	6:40 PM	1.5	
23 TH			L	4:22 AM	-0.4 H	8:07 PM	1.5	
24 F			L	5:21 AM	-0.5 H	9:31 PM	1.6	
25 SA	H	1:32 PM	0.9 L	4:30 PM	0.8 H	10:42 PM	1.7 L	6:09 AM -0.6
26 SU	H	1:33 PM	0.9 L	5:38 PM	0.6 H	11:43 PM	1.7 L	6:51 AM -0.6
27 M			L	7:27 AM	-0.5 H	1:40 PM	0.9 L	6:37 PM 0.4
28 TU	H	12:40 AM	1.6 L	7:58 AM	-0.3 H	1:52 PM	1.0 L	7:32 PM 0.2

Englewood Shell Club
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