

Englewood Shell Club

The Shell Scoop

January 2010

Volume 7 Number 1

www.EnglewoodShellClub.org



The Shell Seekers

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President's Message

Happy New Year Shell Seekers, and welcome back to all those returning to Englewood after the holidays.



Christina Anglin, President

This is a wonderful time of year. Janus, the mythical god for whom January is named, looked both forward and backward. We review the past year, reliving the fun and adventures we enjoyed, and perhaps say "good riddance" to those things that didn't quite meet our expectations. We look forward to many exciting events on our Shell Club calendar for 2010.

As we celebrate our fifteenth anniversary, I hope you will all sign up for our special Marina Jack luncheon cruise. This promises to be a wonderful experience for all. You may want to bring a spouse or a friend since we have now opened the cruise to guests. Contact Brenda to make your reservations.

This issue covers a lot of interesting activities for the club. Please note the changes to the dates and times for ShellCrafters' sessions. Also, our February General Meeting was moved to Tuesday, March 2, at 1:00 p.m. March's General Meeting is back to our regular schedule on Tuesday, March 23, at 1:00 p.m. See you there!

Christina Anglin, President

Founder's Profile

I am from the Buffalo, NY area and I "retired" to Englewood to enjoy the beautiful weather, beaches and people. We have loved all of them. My husband Jerry and I remain snowbirds and feel we have the best of both worlds as we enjoy our three children and seven grandchildren.



Barbara Myers, ESC
Founder and
Board Member.

Jerry and I retired as vice presidents of our independent general contracting companies. In addition to my family and the business, my other interests include antiques, music and birding. I played cello for a community orchestra, sang in chorals, and joined Englewood's Suncoast Chorale. As a member of the Venice Audubon Society, I enjoy birding in different Florida habitats.

Little did I know, when I first walked the beaches of Manasota Key, that I would fall in love with shelling. As a complete novice, I picked up shells that were pretty, interesting and different. This interest led to researching shell names, looking for library books on shells, and joining the Sarasota Shell Club where I met Elsie Doyle. We decided it would be great to start our own club in Englewood. In January 1996 we greeted our first shell club members. The rest is history!

Barb Myers

Beach Walk Schedule

Jan. 12 - Manasota Beach
Feb. 09 - Boca Grande @
Lighthouse Beach
Mar. 09 - Blind Pass Beach
Apr. 13 - TBA

Communications

Website Update. We have new slide shows on our website of recent club excursions, the Cedar Point Park Christmas tree, Shell-Crafters, and our Xmas luncheon created by our webmaster, Freeman Crosby. www.inglewoodshellclub.org. The slide shows are made from photos taken by club members attending the various events. You're encouraged to take photos and send them electronically to me, Susan Ross, Communications Chair, for use in both the newsletter and our website. Please contact me in advance at srosspass@hotmail.com if you have more than six photos to send electronically as my server has file size limitations and I can make other arrangements to transfer your photos. *Susan*

**The next newsletter deadline is
Monday, March 1.**

Sanibel Shell Show

Beginning this year, all entry forms and information about the Sanibel Shell Show are available through the club's new website: sanibelcaptivashellclub.com. If you are unable to access a computer and need a printed form for the annual shell show, send a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope to:

Anne Joffe
1163 Kittiwake
Sanibel, FL 33957

Or you can call her at: 239-472-3151. The show is Thurs., March 4 - Sat., Mar. 6.

Merchandise Committee



From left: Shirley Kastner, Eileen Tabone, and Ruth Middlebrooks, members of this year's Merchandise Committee, pose for a snapshot while manning the merchandise table at November's General Meeting.

The ESC Merchandise Committee members are selling club t-shirts, and shell decorated, plastic-covered checkbook covers, credit card holders, and luggage tags at every General Meeting. Stop by their table to see the latest ESC merchandise at the next meeting.



Study Group Schedule

Jan. 11 — Turbans, Stars & Tops
Feb. 08 — Arks, Bitterweet Clams
and Cockles
Mar. 17 — Nerites, Nassa and
Mud Snails
Apr. 12—Discussions re: odd
shells found on our beaches

ShellCrafters' Schedule

ATTENTION ShellCrafters New Dates & Time!

Jan. 07, Noon — 2 pm.,
Shell-decorated wall plaques
Feb. 11, Noon — 2 pm.,
Shell flowers and butterflies
Mar. 11, Noon — 2 pm.,
Jewelry



ShellCrafters having fun in December working on Christmas ornaments.

Attention All ShellCrafters

Inspire us.....bring the projects you created at ShellCrafters to our next General Meeting for all to admire.

Please mark your calendars with the NEW MEETING DATES and TIME for ShellCrafters' sessions at the Tringali Recreation Center.

New! THURS. , JAN. 7, Noon — 2 PM
We are making Shell Decorated Wall Plaques. There are additional plaques and mirrors available for sale for those who still need one. Contact Joy if you are interested in reserving one. Remember to bring along some of your own shells.

New! THURS., FEB. 11, Noon - 2 PM
Shell Flowers & Butterflies are on our agenda. We have several members who have graciously offered to demonstrate their shell flower making techniques. If you weren't able to learn how to make the shell butterflies at last season's class, good news; Carol Christensen will teach us how to create those unique butterflies once again. Carol will show beautiful examples she created for our inspiration. If you have arcs, clams, augers or ceriths, bring them along for your creations.

If you don't want to create the scheduled craft project, don't stay away. All members are welcome to work on any project of their choice and share creative ideas.

Your monthly fee for crafting is \$5 to help defer the cost of renting the craft room. Checks and cash will be collected at the door on crafting day. Pack your glue gun, I'll see you there! *Joy Brandt*



A shell reindeer and an ornament wreath made from gar scales. Note: Upcoming projects will be displayed at General Meetings along with the sign-up sheets.

Attention All Crafters Shell Donations Welcome!

Please bring shells to crafting class for your project. Though we now have our Club's shells available for use at Tringali, we do not have an unlimited supply. Thank you!

Upcoming Programs

We have two more top-tier speakers to call to your attention thanks to the efforts of several ESC members who keep a keen eye out for great speakers. We are planning book signings at each of our next two meetings, and some books by the respective authors will be available for sale.

Please note the date change for our Feb. General Meeting; it was moved to March 2. This means we will have two General Meetings in March. Our regular March General Meeting still stands on March 23. On March 23, we will have a presentation on Sailor Valentines by Anita Wilson, Debbie Freeman, and Ruth Middlebrooks. Details will appear in our March ESC newsletter.

“Florida Fossils” by Dr. Gary Schmelz, Tuesday, January 26.

Dr. Gary Schmelz is our speaker on Tuesday, January 26 and his topic is Florida fossils. He will use a PowerPoint presentation to review the formation of the Florida peninsula, examine the different types of vertebrate and invertebrate fossils found in different formations, and will discuss some future changes to the Florida peninsula. He will bring some examples of fossils from different formations, as well as, show us some literature for identifying fossils.

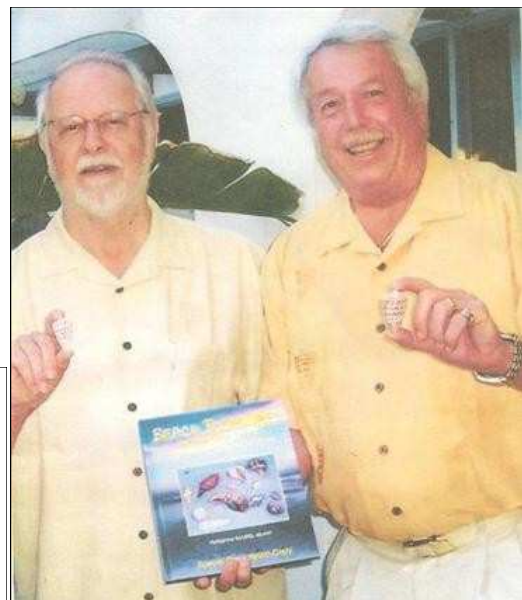
Dr. Schmelz has written dozens of natural history articles for *Gulfshore Life Magazine*. Currently, Dr. Schmelz is a Field Research Associate with the University of Florida where his main investigative interests are in the area of paleomalacology. To date, he has described 31 new species of fossil marine mollusks. His most recent scientific writings appeared in *The Nautilus*. Other accomplishments include: publication of *The Gift*, a young adult novel; assistance with the establishment of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Nature Center on Key Biscayne; and publication of the book *Native Wildflowers of Collier County*. More recently he has co-authored the booklet *Mollusca of the Florida Shoal River Formation*. Dr. Schmelz is presently President of the Baily-Matthews Shell Museum, Sanibel Island, FL; and was a former professor at Edison College where he taught marine biology, oceanography, ecology, and biology. He also finished publication of his second flower book *Common Native Wildflowers of SW Florida*. You are welcome to bring one of his books for him to sign at the meeting, some may be available for sale at the meeting.

“Of Fabled Shells and Eastern Promise” by Dance and Wittkopf, Tuesday, March 2.

“Of Fabled Shells and Eastern Promise” is the title of our March 2nd program, which will be presented by world-renowned shellers, authors, speakers and best friends, S. Peter Dance and Harlan E. Wittkopf.

Harlan will open with humorous anecdotes about Peter and himself, leading into Peter’s talk featuring his relationship with Don Bosch and some once-in-a-life-time shelling in the waters around Oman on the Eastern side of the Arabian peninsula and its islands, including Masirah. Harlan, who is known as the “King of Sanibel Beachcombers,” will then close with some tips on shelling.

From left: S. Peter Dance and Harlan E. Wittkopf, co-authors of *Beach Treasures*, shown holding a copy of the book and alphabet cone shells.



November's Program

Homer Rhode Talks Land Snails

Homer Rhode, ESC's November speaker and worldwide sheller, took club members to Florida's Everglades and Keys and then transported us to Okinawa, the Philippines, New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Java, Cuba, American Samoa, Jamaica and Indonesia in 30 minutes of fascinating facts and beautiful land snails. After the program he mentioned off-hand that he has even found shells in Antarctica! Homer pointed out that land snails are found almost everywhere in trees, leaf litter and on rocks.



Homer began his talk with a slide of a 200 year old *Helicostyla gilva* shell in his collection that has a personally written Sowerby description that is more than 145 years old! He showed pictures of the largest land snail, *Achatina fulica*, which can grow six inches long and also a nearly microscopic white, spiny spiral *Blaesopira* which was also a feature of the case of shells he brought for club members to view.

Homer has land snails of every color from the brilliant chartreuse green *Papustyle* of New Guinea to brilliant yellows and reds of Cuba. Many have spiral patterns, while others have patterns that resemble zebra camouflage.



He pointed out that both the green shells and brown and white patterned shells hide perfectly among the leaves and earth tones of their surroundings. He has shells of many shapes, including a sexually dimorphic *Viverra* snail and a *Amphidromus pervusus* which has both senestral and regular forms. He found one *Nerites* in the Solomon Islands more than a mile from water, even though all other *Nerites* are marine shells. Homer has gone to great lengths to add to his collection; in one case he befriended a local man who was felling trees to build a house; that was the only way he could find *Partula* snails living in the treetop canopy. Homer shared his extensive collection of Florida and Cuban *Linguus* shells. He pointed out that Florida does get new resident shells, often from imported plants. For example, the Puerto Rican *Pleurodoonte marginella* shell has spread throughout the Everglades and Keys. There are about 200 species and forms of land snails in Florida now. Homer also gave several examples of shells whose total populations are found only within a few hundred square feet; Jamaica alone has 1100 endemic species.

Club members are indebted to Homer for sharing his stories and expertise with the group. Thanks, Homer! We can't wait to have you back to discuss another mollusk topic with us!

Shell Key



It turned out to be a warm and sunny day for our shelling trip to Shell Key via the Egmont Ferry out of Fort De Soto Park on Nov. 23. Many of the shells found were small, but the bounty was large for small banded tulips, Atlantic surf clams, lightning whelks, chestnut turbans, pear whelks, oyster drills, Florida cones, alphabet cones, worm shells, moon snails, apple murex, cross-barred venus clams, coquinas, and false ceriths. We'll be back!

Upcoming Excursions

Honeymoon Island

Ruth Middlebrooks, Excursions Co-chair, has planned a shelling trip for us by bus to Honeymoon Island on Monday, February 1. The cost is \$30/member. You need to sign up and pay by check at the Jan. 26 General Meeting. Checks should be made payable to Englewood Shell Club. Plan to be at the Lemon Bay Shopping Center parking lot at 6:15 a.m. to board the bus on February 1.

Mote Marine Breakfast and Tour

Ever wonder what happens at Mote Aquarium before the morning crowds arrive? Find out by coming to "Breakfast at Mote" on Monday, February 15. The "Breakfast" includes a continental breakfast, guided tour and Aquarium tickets that allow us to enjoy the Mote facilities before its doors open to the general public

Tickets are \$23/person (\$11 for Mote members). Attendance is limited to 40. You will need to sign up and pay at the Jan. 26 General Meeting. Make your check payable to Englewood Shell Club. You also need to arrange your own carpools and plan to arrive at the Mote at 8:30 a.m. The breakfast and tour end around 10:30 a.m., and since everyone will have an admission ticket, you are more than welcome to spend additional time at the Mote after the tour.



Photo courtesy of Mote Marine and Aquarium.

Fossil Pit Trip

Ruth also has another fossil dig scheduled for

Saturday, April 3, in the fossil pits near Fort Myers. Details and sign-up sheets will be available at our Gen. Mtgs. beginning in January.



Carefree Learner

The Carefree Learner expedition scheduled first for Dec. 3, was rescheduled two more times due to bad weather and finally sailed on Dec. 17. Debbie Freeman reports the January 29 trip is full. There will be a sign-up sheet for the wait list at our Jan. General Meeting in the event of any last minute cancellations.



From left: Sheila Miller, Shari Loechler, and Joan Stegmeyer bundled up for a day of good shelling.

The best finds were large lightning whelks, tulips and the infamous Jasper cone. There were no scallops to be found on this trip, but there were many sanddollars, starfish and large paired cockle shells. Below are photos of some of the common and colorful sponges found on this trip.



Holiday Luncheon

The ESC Holiday Luncheon was just wonderful! The Manasota Beach Club and Resort provided a spectacular array of food and desserts for the 75 members who attended this year. Nancy Weborg did a phenomenal job organizing the luncheon as it went off perfectly. We all need to thank her!



Santa was heard wishing everyone, "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!"

Thanks also goes out to Marilyn Boyd and Jackie McLean who were our greeters and to Eileen Tabone who helped organize the gift exchange. Judy Green and Shari Loechler co-chaired a group of ten women who helped make our table decorations which were sea



urchin baskets decorated with shells. Thanks ladies. The tables looked beautiful!

Food items were generously donated. This was a new activity for the club and it was managed by Jackie McLean. The food donations went to the St. Francis of Assisi food pantry in Englewood. Jackie passes along a huge thank you from the pantry.

Santa, played by Glenn Freeman, was a wonderful surprise and helped Linda Powers and other elves distribute gifts during the exchange. A good time was had by all!

Trimming the Tree



The Cedar Point Park Christmas tree trimmed by ESC elves. Front row from left: Susie Rundle, Nancy Weborg, Carol Genest, Linda Powers, Shirley Kastner, Jackie McLean, Joy Brandt. Back row from left: Rita Stonehouse, Rhea Guertin. Not shown: Pattie Mihalik and Christina Anglin.

ESC had 11 elves trimming the Cedar Point Park Christmas Tree this year. This was truly a fun day by those who volunteered as everyone was in the holiday spirit. The project involved inspecting and repairing shell ornaments from previous years and then trimming the tree. Every item, including the garlands, are handmade by ESC members and made out of shells. It's a great display and truly one of inspiration if you need ideas for your own tree. The tree is on public display every year during the month of December. We also volunteer every year to take the tree down for the Park in early January.

We were fortunate to receive such terrific press coverage again this year. Member Pattie Mihalik is a staff correspondent for the *Englewood Sun* and she was assigned to cover this story in the *Our Town* section.

Her photos and story made the front page on Thursday, December 3! Another article was submitted by Susan Ross to the *Englewood Review* with some of Pattie's photos. One photo ran as the cover page for the paper on Monday, December 11. The article ran inside along with additional photos.





Englewood Shell Club 15th Anniversary Luncheon Cruise

Aboard the *Marina Jack II*

Friday, January 22, 2010

Board at 11:30AM

Sarasota Bay Front, #2 Marina Plaza

A unique dining experience while cruising Sarasota Bay and enjoying the spectacular views. The Seabreeze Luncheon Buffet includes Tossed Salad with Dressings, Freshly Baked Bread, the Daily Catch, Chef's Choice Chicken, Vegetable Medley, Dessert, Iced Tea and Coffee.

**Cost: \$32.95 per person
Members may invite a guest.**

Stub to Keep
ESC Anniversary
Lunch Cruise
Fri., Jan. 22, 2010

Date sent to Brenda
Steele: _____

ESC Anniversary Lunch Cruise

Marina Jack II, Sarasota Harbor, Friday, Jan. 22, 2010

Name(s) _____

Phone: _____

Amount: \$32.95/person

Mail check to Brenda Steele, 1470 San Jose Drive, Englewood, FL 34223

Deadline: Wednesday, January 15, 2010

Upcoming Raffle



Joan Stegmeyer, Raffle Chair, (seated) speaks with Anita Wilson at Nov.'s General Meeting. Displayed on the raffle table is one of a set of ocean-themed wall plaques featuring real shells in attractive collages.

Raffle tickets for a miniature shell shop and a set of ocean-themed wall plaques featuring real shells in attractive collages will be sold during ESC General Meetings in January and March. The winners of the raffled items will be drawn at the ESC club picnic in April. The items were donated by club founder, Barb Myers. All income earned from the raffle will go into our treasury to support the many activities of ESC. Joan Stegmeyer heads up our Raffle Committee. Look for Joan at our General Meetings where she mans the raffle table.

Happy New Year!

Englewood Shell Club

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