

# Englewood Shell Club

## *The Shell Scoop*

### *Shell Seekers*

Volume 7 Number 6

March 2011

[www.EnglewoodShellClub.org](http://www.EnglewoodShellClub.org)

#### President's Message



March will be our last General Meeting and this will be our last newsletter of the season. It will mark the end of my tenure as President of the Englewood Shell Club. I am honored and proud to have served the club and to have met so many interesting and charming members. I am continually impressed by the creativity and active involvement of our members, both in the club and in the larger community of Englewood. I have been happy to have served with an outstanding board of directors and with committee chairmen who are dedicated, active and committed to making the club the best it can be. It is to their credit that we are able to enjoy the many activities, excursions and learning experiences the club offers. We are the envy of many Shell clubs across the state and nation. It is due to our many dedicated members. As newsletter editor, I have chosen to spotlight a few of them. I hope we can continue this feature, for we have so many deserving of our recognition. I wish the very best to the new officers and

#### Member Profile - Judy Kauk



I have been a member of Englewood Shell Club for three years and have served as secretary for two. As long as I can remember I have been interested in collecting things of nature. Even though I grew up in land-locked northern Illinois, in a small farm town eighty miles west of Chicago. As a child I spent many summers at a lake in Wisconsin where I was always searching for clam shells, arrow heads, rocks and feathers. My parents visited Florida when I was seven and brought back beautiful shells, as well as a monkey (but that's another story). I was fascinated with the shells they brought me, and that began my quest. Someday, I thought to myself as a young girl, I would also find shells like those.

I got my degree in nursing and have worked as a registered nurse in many different areas of the medical field. I met my husband, Pete, while sailing. We had a dream of long-distance rivers And many interesting, challenging, beautiful

## President's Message

and members of the board. I hope many of you will volunteer your time and talents to the club. You will find it a satisfying and rewarding experience. The friends you make, the things you learn, and the opportunities it offers make it interesting and a satisfying experience. The club offers us wonderful places to explore, creative things to make, interesting things to learn and, most importantly, the opportunity to make many good friends who share our interests. Bless you all and thank you for allowing me to serve you these past two years.. I won't pretend that it has always been easy, but I'm glad I was chosen to serve.  
Christina

## Member Profile - Judy Kauk

waterways, getting ever farther away from home, and eventually we crossed the Gulf and ended up in Englewood, where my parents wintered. Our long-distance sailing plans were temporarily shelved due to family responsibilities, but we loved Englewood and decided to drop anchor here. I am very fortunate to have my daughter and her family living nearby, and now I have the joy of spending time on the beach with my four grandchildren, sharing with them the wonderful treasures that can be found there.  
Judy

## Anne Joffe of Sanibel fame suggests using slices of bread as a safe way of transporting Sand dollars

\* \* \* \* \*

Sea urchins, sand dollars and other fragile shells can be strengthened with a coat of Elmer's glue thinned with water, 50/50, and applied to the outside or swirled inside.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Note: the March meeting of the Shell Club will be on March 15th at 1 PM instead of March 22 to accommodate our distinguished guest speaker from England, Mr. Tom Walker, who is a famous collector of shell themed stamps from around the world. We will meet in the middle room to the right of the entry.**

# Memorials

Katherine "Bobbi" Cordy passed away February 2 after a several month illness. She was the show chairperson for the Astronaut Trail Shell Club for the entire time of the shell shows, Secretary for the COA, and co-chair of the COA conventions in 2001 and 2011. Bobbi was truly a larger than life person, a passionate advocate for the hobby and science of shelling and a person of extraordinary energy. With her husband Jim, she led trips to many Bahamas locations over the past twenty years. We are so pleased that she got to participate in the opening of the Johnson-Cordy Museum of Shells of the Brevard Natural History Museum last November, a lasting memorial to Bobbi and Jim for their extraordinary knowledge and passion for shells.  
Alan Gettleman

\* \* \* \* \*

We have also received news that the wife of Peter Dance passed away early this month after a long illness. She and Peter were known internationally for their research and interest in shells and shelling. Their shelling trips took them around the world. Peter's books on Shells are widely recognized as some of the best available. We were very privileged to have Peter as a guest speaker last year and hope that he will again visit us for the March meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

John Baker,  
long time member of the Astronaut  
Trail Shell Club and the  
Conchologists of America (COA)  
died at the age of 90. John was  
one of the early members of COA  
since at least 1973. His parents  
were from Eleuthera, Bahamas which  
is where he learned to love  
shells..

# Upcoming Events

## March

- 3/1/11 **Sailor Valentine Work Session - Debbie Freeman's**
- 3/1/11 **Sailor Valentine Exhibit at Elsie Quirk Library through 3/31/11**
- 3/3/11 **Bus trip to Sanibel Shell Show - Parking Lot back of Elk's Lodge 8 AM - Return 2PM**
- 3/9/11 **Beachwalk - Blind Pass (Middle Beach)**
- 3/14/11 **Study Group Debbie Freeman's 1 PM**
- 3/15/11 **ESC Board Meeting Elks Lodge 10 AM**
- 3/15/11 **ESC General Meeting - 1 PM Elks Club Program Tom Walker "Philatelic Shells" ShellCrafters 12-2 PM Englewood SPorts Complex**

## April

- 4/19/11 **ESC Board Meeting Elsie Quirk Library 10:15 AM**
- 4/26/11 **Shell Club Farewell Picnic - Englewood Gardens Beach Club 11-4**

## July

- 7/13-17/11 **"Space Coast Treasures" Radisson Resort at the Port, Port Canaveral, FL Conchologists of America COA Annual Convention**

For those of us who remain here during the summer, we will continue our Summer Beach walks each month.

# What is happening with Shell Club Committees and Groups

## **EXCURSIONS**

Our 2010 - 2011 excursions have been a huge success. A three day bus trip to the Florida Keys in November was enjoyed by 29 members. The weather was great and the participants all agreed that it was well worth the trip. Then in January we visited Cayo Costa and almost filled the 59 passenger limit on the Tropic Star boat that took us over to this very interesting island. A cold snap deterred a few of our members who had signed up but the sun did shine and the water was calm. A bus trip is planned for Honeymoon Island on February 23 and this one is filled to capacity. Another Fossil Pit trip is scheduled for April 19 with Gary Schmelz as our guide once again. We don't know how long the fossil pits will be open to us so we are very pleased that Gary has arranged this one for us.

## **Carefree Learner**

Twice during the winter months the ESC sails Sarasota Bay on the Carefree Learner. The Carefree Learner is a boat that was built by Sarasota High School to serve as a hands on marine classroom. The ESC rents the boat, captain, and biologist for trips out to the sand flats at low tides for shell study and collection. This is a very popular trip, and those attending always dock with a better understanding of what our bays have to offer. For questions about the Carefree Learner please see Debbie Freeman.

## **Programs**

Each month the ESC has a guest speaker come and give an educational program on a topic of their choosing. These programs cover a wide variety of subjects from marine ecology, shell stamps, exotic shelling adventures, fossils and the history of Sailors Valentines. If you have someone that is interested in giving a shell related program let Debbie Freeman know.

## **Study Group**

The ESC Study Group was started many years ago by our club founder Barbara Myers. Until his retirement we had the expertise of Dick Forbush to help us learn about the shells we collect. Back then we were a small group, but with our membership growing by leaps and bounds so has the attendance at our Study Group meetings. Whether you want help in identifying the shells you have, or just learning more about them, please join us. Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, at 1 p.m., at the home of Debbie Freeman. Questions? Call 473-3359.

## **Outreach Committee**

The Librarian at Elsie Quirk Library requested that members of the Shell Club participate in two events of their Lemon Bay Fest.

The first event was in conjunction with a Folk Art program designed for youngsters and parents creating "Treasure Boxes". ESC members that assisted were Diana Leonhardt, Linda Powers, Suzanne Skaiski, Jane Guy, and Amie Barnicle. A contribution of small shells was made for use on their boxes. Articles with photos appeared in the Sun and Herald newspapers,

The second event held on February 11th at Elsie Quirk Library, was presented by Outreach co-chairs Amie Barnicle and Jane Guy. approximately 40 people attended this happening covering the Queen(Pink) conch and a sample of our Englewood local shells "Treasures from the Shore". Both members spoke and provided information to this audience, who, after the demonstration remained to take advantage of the shell display, free sample shells, discussion and identification chart. Compliments were received from the Librarian and from a number of those in attendance.

## **Membership:**

As Vice-president, my duties have also included membership. This involves printing the membership application form, included in the October Newsletter. All new members receive a folder which includes the Constitution, current newsletter, a list of board officers and committee chairmen, and other materials as well as a membership name tag.

Upon receipt of an application and dues, a roster is created. This year I also created a list of new members and a list of members who indicated an interest in getting involved with committees or other club activities. This list was given to current chairpersons to use as a tool to get members involved. I believe it is very important for members to become actively involved in club activities at some level to perpetuate the growth of the club. Nancy Weborg, Membership Chairman

## **Historian - Club Scrapbook**

History as described in Webster, is "what has happened in the past, and the recording of past events." The Historian documents records of our Shell Club activities on a yearly basis by using pictures and articles. It is my wish to help member appreciate all our special events and happenings, and also to let us remember all the wonderful memories we have shared in our Shell Club. Sue Rundle, Historian

## **Library**

Our Library is for all of our members to use to help us learn about and appreciate the many beautiful shells and sea life here in Florida and throughout the world. We have books and magazines covering interesting topics that can be checked out before and after each meeting. There are books with patterns and directions for members that enjoy doing crafts with shells. Please remember to return your books the following month so that others may enjoy them.

Eunice Herr, Librarian

## **Social and Sunshine**

My responsibilities as Englewood Shell Club Social/Sunshine Chairmen are to send notes to members who are sick or hospitalized, as well as to send condolences to members who have lost a loved one, or to the families of deceased ESC members. If you know of someone who should receive such a correspondence, please let me know. I can be reached by phone at 941- 474 - 8011.

I am also responsible for planning and coordinating our social events, including the Christmas party and the end of the year picnic. Both are lots of fun, so please plan on attending. Jackie McLean, Social/Sunshine Chairman

**My Most sincere Thank you to our Wonderful Leadership team! They are the greatest! Christina Anglin**

# *Spotlight on Shell Club Members*



**Sharon Craig**'s love of shell art began with a shell box her father made for her mother as a token of his love while struggling in Africa during WWII. During breaks from the action, he dove for the shells, bartered for a thin gold chain at one of the souks, made the wood box and borrowed glue used for the airplanes to put it all together. A part of her heritage, she is drawn to our local beaches and surrounding shore life. She relocated here in 2006. Sharon has taught shell art at the Englewood Art Center and sells her work in the Beaux Arts shop there.

Sharon also likes to design jewelry, garden and cook.

Her interests are captured in her work which is currently on display at Englewood Art Center



**Debbie Freeman** is not only our Program Chairman, Study Group Leader and coordinator of the Carefree Learner trips, but also finds time to make beautiful Sailor Valentines and to teach other members to make their own. She is the owner of a world class shell collection and gladly shares her knowledge with local groups as well as our club. Debbie is an artist who is creative in other arts as well. She designs and makes stained glass panels and makes lovely shell creations which regularly win blue ribbons at Florida shows. She is an active member of Conchologists of America. Debbie also is a proud owner of a Great Dane, Emma, who thinks she is also a club member. Debbie has assisted many Great Danes find loving homes.



**Carol Christensen** is a multi-talented member who amazes us with her many interests. She is an avid designer of prize winning shell art creations. Last season she won first place at Sarasota for her lovely shell mirror and took another prize for a smaller mirror that featured shell encrusted tar balls! This year another lovely mirror was awarded a second prize. She is a talented painter and prize winning photographer, She is also a builder and decorator of scale model houses. When she won The miniature shell shop in our raffle last year, she could hardly wait to improve it further. It now is lighted inside and is newly painted and landscaped. She promises to show it to us soon.

**There are so many wonderfully talented people in our club it was very difficult to spotlight only three. I hope this will be a continuing feature so that you can become better acquainted with many of our outstanding, fascinating members.**



**On the go  
with  
Englewood  
Shell Club:  
*Cayo Costa  
Boca  
Grande  
Carefree  
Learner  
Shell Shows  
And so  
much More***





### Prize Winners



Carol Christensen And Charlie Barr



Carols' Prize winning photograph, chosen as one of the top photos of 2010 by National Geographic

Wow!



Debbie Freeman with her winning Sailor Valentine which took first place at the Melbourne Shell Show





# **FAREWELL PICNIC**

*Englewood Garden Beach Club*

April 26. 2011 - 11AM - 4PM+

**POTLUCK PLUS BURGERS AND DRINKS**

**Fun**

**Friends**

**Door prizes**

**Beach combing**

**Shell seeking**

**Swimming**

*Come and wish our winter visitors*

*Bon Voyage, and Come Back Soon!*

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