
THE SHELL SCOOP – SHELL SEEKERS ENGLEWOOD SHELL CLUB'S NEWSLETTER



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Newsletter Editor – MaryLinda Coward

CLUB WEBSITE:

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www.Englewoodshell.club



President's Message

Linda Powers

It is hard to believe that my two-year tenure is over. What a monumental two years it has been. And nothing could have been achieved without the contributions of such a dedicated, committed group of women and men.

This past year for me personally was epic. I had a shell named after me, I went on the trip of a lifetime to Fiji and Vanuatu, and I won a first-place ribbon in the Sanibel Shell Show Scientific Division. None of these events would have been possible without the help of selfless, dedicated individuals in the shelling world. I cannot imagine a more generous group of individuals than the friends I have met through this passion, this hobby of shell collecting.

For years, numerous individuals have given tirelessly of their time and talents to the Englewood Shell Club. Frequently, speakers have refused their fee to help out the club. The Shellcrafter ladies went above and beyond the call of duty this year, with teachers of the crafts spending their own money and time putting together kits for the classes. Individuals spent countless hours on research, planning, and preparation just to share that information with fellow members. The club, and me personally, would not have enjoyed the success it has had without the dedication of so many volunteers.

I'm proud of the achievements the club has enjoyed over the last two years. We've gained a lot of new members and kept the membership consistent. Our club has a stellar reputation in the shelling community for willingness to help and congenial personalities. We enjoy a strong financial position enabling us to help both the local community and the international shelling community. Each and every person should proudly proclaim that you helped in those efforts and that you are an active member of one of the best shell clubs ever, The Englewood Shell Club.

Thank you for allowing me to lead this organization for two years. It has been my pleasure to serve you. And let's all extend congratulations and assistance to our new incoming president, Colleen Fosnough.

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Newsletter Editor

MaryLinda

Six years ago, I wanted to contribute to an organization that had become a resource for knowledge, friendships and just plain fun. How could I do that being a long distant member? Linda Powers suggested I consider the newsletter editor role and voila; I took off coordinating the communication vessel for our club members. Since then, an additional communication method using Facebook was added to allow club members the opportunity to post their stories and photos. That has proven to be a great resource to share timely information such as where club members were finding the best shells on any particular day. Who knows how communication resources may change six years from now, but I'm confident our club leaders will continue to use the best communication methods to keep members informed of club events.

I have mentioned many times over the last six years how much I have received from "giving" my time to the club. The friendships I have made will be lifelong and the memories will keep me smiling and laughing well into my twilight years. I encourage all of you to think about the talents you have (yes, we all have them!) and how you can share (and grow) by volunteering in some way.

In the meantime, happy shelling. It's been a pleasure being your Newsletter Editor.



Photo by Ross Bergen

General Meeting Speaker

Candy Niziol

This month's general meeting is one not to be missed!

We are very fortunate to have Dawn and Blair Witherington with us. Their names are very familiar to everyone as they have authored numerous books on seashells, sea life, Florida, turtles, etc. They have done extensive research on subjects that are dear to our hearts. They will be bringing many of their books for purchase at the general meeting, as well as signing books; even their books that you bring with you. Doors open at noon for meeting this extraordinary couple, purchasing and signing of books. Also, photographs with the couple may be taken as well.

Dawn and Blair Witherington are professional naturalists and award-winning authors. Blair is a conservation programs manager for Disney's Animals, Science and Environment. He has baccalaureate and master's degrees in biology from the University of Central Florida, and a doctorate in zoology from the University of Florida. He has contributed numerous scientific articles and books on sea turtle biology and the conservation of beaches. Dawn is a graphic design artist and scientific illustrator trained at the Art Institutes of Colorado and Ft. Lauderdale. Her art and design are prominent in natural history books, educational posters, and museum exhibits.

Blair and Dawn have merged their art, writing, photography, and design within a number of projects, including *Our Sea Turtles* (Pineapple Press), which won Foreword Reviews 2015 Book of the Year gold medal for nature. Their other books include *Florida's Living Beaches*, *Living Beaches of Georgia and the Carolinas*, *Florida's Seashells*, and *Seashells of Georgia and the Carolinas*.

Study Group

Anita Wilson and Homer Rhode

The final ESC Study Group meeting will be Wednesday, March 28th at 2:00 p.m. at Cedar Point Park.

Candy Niziol will discuss how to pack shells for transport. She will have some great personal experience to share with you as she has just returned from a trip with several other club members to Fiji.

Hopefully we will see a sneak preview of some of the shells from Fiji and Homer and Anita will discuss a few interesting tidbits they haven't had time to discuss in past meetings. We look forward to seeing you there.

Library

Judy Kauk

With the Shell Club season coming to an end, it is time to make sure your library books are returned. All books need to be back by the March 20th meeting or the April 17th club picnic.

Linda Powers will be giving the "Shell of the Month" talk at the March meeting on a shell that is very special to her; *Jaspidiconus lindapowersae*.

Thank you for using the shell club library to assist you in your shell questions and projects!

Membership Directory

Sandy Ouderkirk

The 2017-2018 updated membership directory is now available in the member's section of our club's website: Englewoodshell.club. The member's section requires a user name and PW. If you do not know this key information, please let me know and I will provide it to you.

Please review your contact information and let me know if you have any changes. Just a reminder that to participate in any club activities or trips, you must be a member in good standing (paid dues).

As a reminder, the club membership directory is **for personal use only** and not to be used for solicitation or commercial use of any kind.

Beach Walks

Deborah Hubbard

Our next beach walk will be March 14th at Blind Pass Beach.

Come for the beach walk, shelling and join us for lunch at a location to be announced following our walk.



Annual Picnic - Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Candy Niziol

FOOD DRIVE Englewood Shell Club

Be a part of helping our community by bringing an item listed below to our Shell Club's Annual Picnic Party. All items will be donated to the Englewood Helping Hands Program at Englewood United Methodist Church. Let's help those that we can help.

Suggestions: Ramen noodles, boxes of cereal, cereal bars, jelly, cookies, crackers, mac & cheese, unsweetened applesauce, juice drinks, shelf stable milk, instant oatmeal, liquid hand soap, liquid dish washing soap, shaving cream/razors, toothpaste, tooth brush, shampoo, toilet paper. Canned items: vegetables, soups, baked beans, fruit in juice, tuna, chicken, salmon, stews, etc.

No one has ever become poor by giving...Anne Frank

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.... Charles Dickens

We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give....Winston Churchill

Pizza Box Display Winners

Anita Wilson and Homer Rhode

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the scientific exhibit competition at the February ESC Meeting. Everyone learned so much about the featured shells. Special congratulations to Judy Kauk who won Grand Championship Honors for her exhibit on *Xenophora*, carrier shells. Second place was won by Jane Guy for her excellent display and discussion covering all the stages of life of our own club shell, the Lightning Whelk, *Sinistrofulgar sinistrum* and Leslie Furmage's exhibit on coquinas, *Donax variabilis*, took third place.

Homer Rhode and Linda Powers served as judges for the exhibits, however all members voted for their favorite exhibit and the winner, Leslie Furmage won the People's Choice Award. Jane Guy's exhibit came in second for People's Choice, just as it was judged second place by the scientific judges. It was interesting how closely the scientific exhibit judges and the membership agreed on winners. Each of the top three winners and the People's Choice Awardee received shells donated by Homer Rhode. The event was planned by Homer Rhode, Linda Powers and Anita Wilson.

AND THE WINNERS ARE:



Excursions – Palm Island & Anclote Key

Ruth Middlebrooks, Marilyn Boyd, Carol Ayers

Unfortunately, the boat captain cancelled the trip to Anclote Key due to high winds. Ruth Middlebrooks mentioned that there still is room for members on the March 14th trip to Palm Island. Please contact Ruth if you are interested in going to Palm Island.

2018 SHELL SHOWS & RELATED EVENTS

Following information is subject to change. Please verify with individual organization.

Jan. 13-14, 2018

53rd BROWARD SHELL SHOW, Pompano Beach, FL
Emma Lou Olson Civic Center, 1801 Northeast 6th Street
Alice Pace, 7405 SW 128 Ct., Miami, FL 33183
E-mail: alicepace90@att.net Tel. (305) 301-1296 (Cell)

Jan. 20-21, 2018

SPACE COAST SEASHELL FESTIVAL, Melbourne, FL
Eau Gallie Civic Center, 1515 Highland Avenue
Alan Gettleman, 2225 Tanglewood Lane, Merritt Is., FL 32953-4287
E-mail: lychee@cfl.rr.com Tel. (321) 536-2896

Jan. 27, 2018

FUM (FLORIDA UNITED MALACOLOGISTS), Sanibel, FL
Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum
3075 Sanibel Captiva Road, Sanibel, FL 33957
José Leal Tel. 239-395-2233
E-mail: jleal@shellmuseum.org

Feb. 9-11, 2018

ANNUAL SARASOTA SHELL SHOW, Sarasota, FL
(New venue)
Potter Building at Roberts Arena, 3000 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota
Nancy Marini, 5003 28th Ct. E., Bradenton, FL 34203
E-Mail: sarasotashellclub@gmail.com 941-758-9790

Feb. 10 & 11, 2018

AUSTRALIA INTERNATIONAL SHELL SHOW, Fremantle, Australia
South Fremantle Football Club, Parry Street
Joanne Lockwood, 14 Swallow Grove, Waikiki 6169
E-mail: xjoannex@bigpond.com

Feb. 23-24, 2018 (Friday & Saturday)

ST. PETERSBURG SHELL SHOW, Seminole, FL
Seminole Recreation Center, 9100 113th St. N., Seminole, FL
John Jacobs, 202 Soldier Court, Seffner, FL 33584
E-mail: johncheryl@earthlink.net Tel. (813) 309-2608 (Evening)
Exhibit form available at web site: <http://www.stpeteshellclub.org>

Mar. 1 - 3, 2018

81st SANIBEL SHELL SHOW, Sanibel, FL
Sanibel Community Center, 2173 Periwinkle Way
Mary Burton, 558 Foxcreek Drive, Lehigh Acres, FL 33974
E-mail: marybsanibel@hotmail.com Tel. (239) 395-3626
Website: www.thesanibelcaptivashellclub.com

Mar. 8-10, 2018

MARCO ISLAND SHELL CLUB SHOW XXXVIII, Marco Is., FL
United Church of Marco Island, 320 North Barfield
Jae Kellogg, 1402 N. Collier Blvd., Slip D-6, Marco Island, FL 34145
E-mail: pjsailkw@gmail.com Tel. (239) 253-8483

Mar. 10-11, 2018

XXX PARIS INTERNATIONAL SHELL SHOW, Paris, France
Espace Charenton, 327 rue de Charenton, 75012 Paris
Perrine Dardart, 8, Rue des Tilleuls, 02190 Pignicourt, France
E-mail: perrine.dardart@gmail.com Tel. 33 (3) 23-22-46-41

Mar. 17-18, 2018

3rd ANNUAL HAPPENING, Phuket, Thailand
Phuket Seashell Museum, Viset Road, Rawai Beach
Tom Rice, P.O. Box 3, Rawai, Muang, Phuket, 83130
E-Mail - ofseaandshore@gmail.com
Tel. 66 (76) 381 122

Apr. 28, 2018

BRITISH SHELL COLLECTOR'S CLUB CONVENTION, Essex, England
Theydon Bois Community Centre, Essex
Deborah Rolfe, 15 Dene Holm Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8LF, UK
Email: deborah@deborahrolfe.orangehome.co.uk, Tel. 44 1474 567 827

May 4 - 6, 2018

TEXAS SHELLER'S JAMBOREE, Corpus Christi, TX
Comfort Suites Central, 538 South Padre Island Drive
Theresa Stelzig Tel. (361) 946-6491
E-mail: cstelzig@twc.com

May 19-20, 2018

XXVIII BELGIUM INTERNATIONAL SHELL SHOW, Antwerp, Belgium
(New location)
Sporthal Kattenbroek, Kattenbroek 14
2650 Edegem, Belgium
Charles Krijnen, Burgemeester Jansenstraat 10, NL-5037
NC Tilburg, Nederland
E-mail: bvc.shellshow@planet.nl Tel. 31 (13) 463 0607
Website: www.konbvc.be/shellshow.php

June 2 - 3, 2018

GULF COAST SHELL SHOW, Panama City Beach, FL
Panama City Beach Senior Center, 423 Lyndell Lane
Jim Brunner, 2511 Parkwood Drive, Panama City, FL 32405
Email: jili1043@comcast.net.
Tel. (850) 215-2086

June 19-22, 2018

AMERICAN MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING
Joint with **WESTERN SOCIETY OF MALACOLOGISTS**,
Honolulu, HA
Details to be announced on AMS web site

Jul. 7 - 8, 2018

TOWNSVILLE SHELL SHOW, Townsville, Queensland, Australia
Orchid Society Hall in Kirwan
Jack Worsfold
Email: jnw_48@yahoo.com.au

Jul. 14-15, 2018

KEPPEL BAY SHELL SHOW, Yeppoon, Queensland, Australia
Gus Moore Pavilion at the Yeppoon Show Ground
Jean M. Offord, 277 McDougall St., N. Rockhampton, Qld. 4701, Australia
Tel. 61 (7) 4928-3509

Aug. 25-26, 2018

3rd ANNUAL WEST COAST SHELL SHOW
San Diego, CA
Casa Del Prado Rm. 104, 1650 El Prado, Balboa Park
David P. Berschauer
Tel. (949) 422-6585
E-mail: shellcollection@hotmail.com

Aug. 30-Sept. 3, 2018

CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA ANNUAL CONVENTION, San Diego, CA

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20% DISCOUNT

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The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum

Shell Seeker
The Islander
By Kathleen E. Hoover

Cleaning Your Shells

All hobbies have their moments of glory. Walking down the beach after a successful shell seeking adventure, with sparkling treasures peeking through your mesh collection bag can be just such a moment. The farthest thing from your mind may be the next step, cleaning your specimens so they look pretty and even more importantly smell pretty too!

Before embarking on shell clean-up detail, it's important to decide the type of shell collection you intend to own. If you're planning a career in marine biology or conchology (study of mollusks) or intend to donate your collection to a museum, minimal "preening" is best. The specimens can be brushed lightly and cleaned with fresh water, not chemicals. Chemicals or heavy surface abrasion may destroy natural evidence/information valuable for research purposes. If your collection is recreational and the goal is a beautiful display, more aggressive cleaning may be advisable.

The first step is to remove loose debris and sand. This can be accomplished by the "dip method" if a mesh bag was used for collection. Or, the shells can be placed in a dishpan or bucket filled with water. Be sure to dispose of sandy water outdoors since it can accumulate in plumbing traps and clog the drain.

Determining if there is a dead critter inside is the next assignment. If a dead crab or snail remains, it can be pulled out with tweezers or a coat hanger bent to form a hook. It's important to be sure that the entire animal is removed. If a piece breaks off and remains buried inside the odor will be overpowering. (Please remember, collecting "live shells" is prohibited in Lee County.)

If the animal can't be removed by simply pulling it out of the shell there are several other options. The shell can be taken outdoors, buried in the garden and covered with about 12 inches of soil. Bacteria and worms will actually eat the animal. This can take weeks. The process can be accelerated by placing the shell in a bed of fire ants. The ants definitely get the "clean plate award!"

If digging in the garden or searching for red ants doesn't appeal to you, the shell can be placed in a water-tight zip-lock bag, and placed in the freezer. Once the bag is removed from the freezer and allowed to reach room temperature the animal can be grabbed and pulled out of the shell. This process can be repeated multiple times. The freeze/thaw method is strongly supported by the scientific community.

Some collectors employ the boiling method. The shell is covered with water and brought to a boil before an attempt is made to remove the animal. However, most experts don't recommend this approach as the high temperatures can cause cracks and other shell damage. If the boiling technique is chosen, damage can be curtailed by removing the "shell brew" from the fire just as the water begins to boil.

Another method generally not recommended by the scientific community is "zapping" the shell in the microwave before attempting animal removal. This technique can be very dangerous and the "smell" left behind assures a microwave will appear on next year's Christmas list!

Some collectors contend simply placing the shells in fresh water for several days is just as effective for preparing animal matter for removal. Changing the water daily prevents odor buildup.

Once the shell is free from any critters, it's time to move on to Step Three, which involves eliminating odors and bacteria. If shells aren't cleaned appropriately they can become damaged by a fungus that could spread throughout a collection.

To eliminate this risk, mix equal parts of household liquid chlorine bleach and water and completely cover the shells with the solution. The soaking time is dictated by the type of shell, the quantity of shells being cleaned and how heavy the periostracum coating is. The periostracum is a thin organic coating or "skin" that serves as the outermost layer of the shell.

Some shells shouldn't be soaked in a bleach solution. These include red tulips, orange tulips, king's crowns and shiny shells like olives and cowries.

Different concentrations of bleach are used for different types of shells. If stubborn odors make it necessary to use bleach on shiny shells, a milder 20% solution will get the job done. Rough surface shells or shells with a thick periostracum may need a more concentrated solution applied for a few minutes, washed off and then reapplied until the coating is removed.

When working with the bleach solution or removing animals, a mask, goggles and old cloths should be worn.

Once the periostracum dissolves, the shells are removed from the bleach solution and rinsed thoroughly with water. You should not be able to smell the bleach at this time. If you can, the shells should be washed with water again until the odor is eliminated.

Now it's time to apply some real "elbow grease." Scrub both the outside and the inside of the shell with a toothbrush, nail brush or wire brush. A steel dental pick is used to remove barnacles or other small shells attached to the outside of the shell. This tool is especially helpful with cleaning the ridges in cockle shells and scallops. Softer shells like figs are fragile and must be treated more delicately.

Volutes, spiral shaped gastropods (univalve shells) may be cleaned inside by using a small curved wire brush on a twisted wire stem, like a brush used to clean baby bottles.

Once the scrubbing is complete the shells are rinsed again and placed on paper towels, newspapers or a wire cookie rack. Color can be restored to dry shells by rubbing them with a cotton ball soaked in mineral oil. It is better not to use baby oil because of the number of additives it contains. After a couple of hours a dry cotton ball is used to "rub down" the shell to remove excess oil.

To the surprise of many, sand dollars are not shells but rather echinoderms, a phylum of marine animals like starfishes and sea urchins. They require special care because they're soft and break easily. Some experts don't recommend using bleach to clean sand dollars. But, others say it can be used for a short periods of time, about 20 – 30 minutes.

If you're not in a hurry for results, sand dollars can be left to dry for the winter and they will whiten by themselves. One caution, if you leave sand dollars in the sun for extended periods of time they become very brittle and crumble easily. Commercial preservatives designed for use with sand dollars can be purchased at shell shop, but a solution of 50% water and 50% Elmer's glue works just as well. The solution is brushed on one side of the sand dollar. When dry, the sand dollar is flipped over and the solution applied to that side as well. This process is repeated up to three times.

The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum is a non-profit organization. Its mission is "to provide shell, mollusk and shell-makers education, through exhibits, library services, and publications; to further the awareness of the natural environment; and to promote collection-based shell and mollusk research with an emphasis on Southwest Florida and the Gulf of Mexico."

**P.O. Box 1580 3075 Sanibel-Captiva Road Sanibel, FL 33957 USA 239..395.2233 Fax 239.395.6706
www.shellmuseum.org**