

Englewood Shell Club

The Shell Scoop

November 2009

Volume 6 Number 4

www.EnglewoodShellClub.org



The Shell Seekers

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President's Message

Greetings Shell Seekers,

After a bit of a bumpy start, our Board of Directors and Leadership Team is complete again. Debbie Freeman was approved by the board to serve as Vice-President after the resignation from this position by Brenda Steele. Eunice Herr was approved to serve as Director-at-large after Debbie vacated this position when she accepted the role as Vice President. Linda Powers, formerly co-chair of Membership, stepped up to be our Membership Chairperson. Brenda Steele remains in charge as Chairperson of the Marina Jack luncheon cruise. We not only have an excellent Board of Directors, but an exceptional leadership team. The Englewood Shell Club (ESC) is very fortunate to have this group of talented and dedicated leaders and we certainly appreciate the hard work they do.



As many of you know, it is a very special year as we celebrate our fifteenth anniversary in Jan. Our celebration luncheon cruise is aboard the *Marina Jack II* and it promises to be a really wonderful experience. We hope many of you who miss our Christmas luncheons will take this opportunity to attend a purely social event with your shelling buddies. You can leave your buckets and sand scoops at home for this one! We will be in a climate-controlled environment, and hurricane season will be over, so don't worry about the weather.

Our first meeting was very well attended with 59 members and 6 guests. Our volunteer sheets were filled with names as were the sign-ups for November's ShellCrafters' workshop and our upcoming excursions. One new activity we can look forward to is a raffle. Details can be found later in the newsletter with photos of raffle items.

I look forward to getting to know you all and enjoying many activities with you. Our intent is to provide you many opportunities to learn, to serve and to have fun.

President, Christina Anglin

Vice President's Profile

I was born in Newton, just outside of Boston, and grew up in Worcester County, Massachusetts, where I lived until I married Glenn Freeman in 1982. We spent five years in Atlanta, Georgia while Glenn did his orthopedic residency and I worked in a children's hospital. When a friend asked me to babysit her newborn, one thing led to another and I began a home daycare that I ran until moving in 1987.

While in Atlanta, I also took up beekeeping. I started with three hives and found I really enjoyed it. In 1987 we moved to Southwest Virginia where I retired and began perusing the things I never had time for. My cake decorating hobby that started in Georgia grew quickly in Virginia. I had more orders than I had time for and was published three times in a Scandinavian pastry magazine. The beekeeping also grew. Before long, I had 13 hives, was harvesting gallons of honey, and rescuing swarms. My honey was sold at a local restaurant. With my free time, I learned about working with glass and began creating stained glass using the copper foil method.



Debbie Freeman, Vice President

Nine years ago we moved to Englewood, Florida. Soon after I began volunteering with the Great Dane rescue. I am now a director of Southwest Great Dane Rescue (SWGDR.org), and a member of the Great Dane Club of America. The rescue takes much of my time and Glenn and I always have a foster pup in our home.

My interest in shells began in 1984 after a winter storm off the coast of South Carolina. It was there I found my first shells. Since then, my collection has become worldwide. My favorite family is Xenophoridae (carrier shells). I'm very active in our club and organize the Carefree Learner expeditions, hold Study Group at my home and am a former ESC President. I am also a member of the Central Florida Shell Club, the Sarasota Shell Club, and the Conchologists of America (COA).

Debbie Freeman

Club Donations

An important function of the Englewood Shell Club are our annual contributions to organizations that support our programs and reflect our interests. In the past year, our list of donations included:

- \$100 — Lemon Bay Park
- \$250 — Bailey Mathews Shell Museum
- \$100 — Conchologists of America
- \$150 — Sarasota High School Biology Department
- \$100—Cedar Point Park

In the Spring, we will review recommendations again and make decisions about donations to deserving groups and organizations. You may make recommendations or suggestions at any of our General Meetings or share them with any member of the Leadership Team for consideration.

Beach Walk Schedule

- Dec. 09 - Canceled**
- Jan. 12 - Manasota Beach**
- Feb. 09 - TBA**
- Mar. 09 - TBA**
- Apr. 13 - TBA**

Membership Update

If you are renewing your membership by mail, we have a new address for you. Mail your check and the completed membership form to Linda Powers, 2700 N. Beach Road, Unit D106, Englewood, FL, 34223.

Forms are available online at: www.EnglewoodShellClub.org or you can call Linda for a form at 941-474-3187.

Committees

Following is a revised list of our 2009-2010 Committee and Group Leader Chairpersons::

Standing Committees:

- Membership:** Linda Powers
- Communications:** Susan Ross
- Librarian:** Eunice Herr
- Historian:** Sue Rundle
- Outreach:** Amie Barnicle & Jane Guy
- Programs:** Anita Wilson
- Social and Sunshine:** Jackie McLean
- ShellCrafters:** Joy Brandt & Shirley Kastner
- Excursions:** Debbie Freeman, Ruth Middlebrooks & Marilyn Boyd
- Study Group:** Barb Myers & Debbie Freeman
- Merchandise:** Eileen Tabone & Carol Roberts
- Beach Walks:** Rita Stonehouse
- Parliamentarian:** Marilyn Boyd
- Webmaster:** Freeman Crosby

Special Event Chairpersons:

- Christmas Luncheon:** Nancy Weborg
- Christmas Luncheon Favors:** Judy Green & Shari Loechler
- Marina Jack II Lunch Cruise:** Brenda Steele

Ad Hoc Committees as needed:

- Nominating Committee**
- Constitution**
- General Meeting Set-up**

Communications

Website Update. The ESC website, www.EnglewoodShellClub.org, has a new tab on the Home Page titled "Members Only." By clicking on this tab you are taken to a page requiring a Password and a User ID. These will be sent to you by email after you renew your membership if you provide an email address. You will then have two selections. One is to view the most recent set of approved General Meeting Minutes and the other is to view the most recent Membership Directory.

In Fond Memory



It is with sadness we note the passing of our friend Nan Smith O'Neill. Nan was a Charter Member of the Englewood Shell Club (ESC) and was such an enthusiastic and active member until her health declined several years ago. She left Englewood at that time to be with her daughter, Cindy, in Connecticut. Nan enjoyed many facets of our club, and was most creative in her interest in and artistic work with

shells. She made beautiful Sailor's Valentines using only shells she collected. She decorated her home beautifully with shells, did shell needlework, created many crafts and shared ideas as well as shells with so many of us. Nan made shell flowers note cards and many beautiful creations to share with others. She even collected the sands upon which the shells lie, including sands from all over the world. She hosted the ESC annual picnic at her home, which was "shell decorated" and a pleasure to attend. Nan was a member of the Outreach Committee from its inception and an active gardener and a member of the Englewood Garden Club. Nan said she got the love of gardening from her mother and now her daughter shares this love with Nan. Her last months were spent with her daughter and grandsons, and she so enjoyed the gardens at their home. It is sad to lose a long time friend and her warm presence has been and will be dearly missed.

Barb Myers

Did You Know?

"Englewood Shell Club crafts shell decorations for New Mexico families" was the headline that appeared in the *Englewood Sun Herald* back on Thursday, November 23, 2000. Nancy Smith was among 25 who helped make shell Christmas ornaments for families who lost their homes to wild fires in Los Alamos, N.M. that summer.



Library News

The ESC library has many interesting books to help you learn about and enjoy the wonders of the sea. Several good books to help identify shells you find on the beach are: *Compendium of Seashells* by R. Tucker Abbott and S. Peter Dance; *Florida's Living Beaches* by Blair and Dawn Witherington; and one of our most popular books for new shellers, *Florida's Fabulous Seashells and Other Seashore Life*. There are also good books for shell crafting. I encourage you to browse our library and enjoy our many fabulous books.

Eunice Herr

ShellCrafters

Dec. 11 Christmas ornaments

Jan. 08 Shell decorated wall plaques

Feb. 12 Shell flowers and butterflies

Mar. 12 Jewelry

On December 11, 2009, the ShellCrafters will meet at 1:00 p.m., at Tringali. We are making Christmas ornaments this month. They will be glass ornaments filled with sand and small shells. The empty glass ornaments will be available for purchase at the ShellCrafters meeting and run \$1 each.

On Jan. 8, we will be making a shell decorated wall plaque. The plaques will also be available for purchase and they also run \$1 each.

Special Request: Please bring your door hangers and napkin rings you made to our November General Meeting for all to admire.

As always, feel free to bring a craft project of your choice to work on if you prefer. Don't forget your glue gun! We'll see you there.

Joy Brandt and Shirley Kastner

Sanibel Exursion

ESC shellers found a bounty of shells on the beaches. Pen Shells, Wentletraps, Fighting Conchs, Augers, Ceriths, Tritons, Tulips, Crown Conchs, Mussels, Worm Shells, Jewel Boxes, Cross-barred Venus, Scallops, Banded Tulips, Parchment Tube Worms, Seaweed, Sea Urchins, Moon Snails, Lightning Whelks, Murex, Cardita Shells, Clams, Sunray Venus Clam, Dosinia, Channeled Duck Clams, Calico Clams, Olives, Buttercups, Bubble Shells, paired Coquinas, Kitten's Paws, Turrets, Fig Shells, Yellow Cockles, Van Hyning's Cockles, Prickly Cockles Ponderous Arks, Turkey Wings, and Jingles were part of this bounty.



From left to right: Eunice Herr, Christina Anglin, Nancy Weborg, and Sue Rundle at the welcome sign for Englewood Shell Club in the lobby of the Sanibel Holiday Inn.

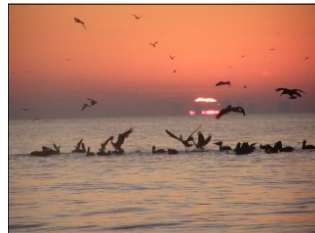


Marilyn Boyd felt like Queen for a Day after collecting 175 Wentletrap specimens at the Lighthouse beach.

The Sanibel excursion was another wonderful shelling experience. Several club members took advantage of a boat trip from the J. N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge and were fortunate to view an assortment of dolphins, birds and other marine life. Below are photos of photos of a dolphin and a snowy egret.



Other than the volume and odor of Parchment Tube Worms found on the Holiday Inn beach, the beaches were in terrific condition. Some members were up before sunrise to capture shells from low tide each morning. The Holiday Inn provided a hospitality room which became a great place to socialize, especially after *Dancing with the Stars* on TV. Honorary club member Larry Strange and his wife graciously hosted a reception at their home for us. What a wonderful shell collection they own!



Programs

Change the Date NOW —

Change the date of the February ESC General Meeting one week from the expected Tuesday, February 23 to Tuesday, March 2! We have the opportunity to have S. Peter Dance, but he can only come March 2. He will be joined by Harlan Wittkopf of Sanibel who will speak before Peter, just as he did on Sanibel last season. For those of you new to shelling, S. Peter Dance is one of the world's leading shell experts. He has written or co-authored at least 18 books, including *Encyclopedia of Shells*, *Rare Shells*, *Eyewitness Handbook of Shells* and is co-author of the *Compendium of Seashells*, the bible of shell identification worldwide. *Seashells on my Mind* is the title of his most recent book, which was introduced last spring at the Sanibel Shell Show. Peter is willing to sign your books and will probably have books for sale. Before becoming a full time writer, speaker, researcher and consultant, Peter spent sixteen years working at various museums, nine years at the Natural History Museum of London. We are unbelievably lucky to have him coming to speak to our club, so mark your calendar right now! March 2, 2010! What a way to celebrate the club's 15th anniversary year! I want to extend a generous thank you to Linda Powers and Marilyn Boyd who made the initial contact with Peter in Sanibel last spring!



Homer Rhode's topic is "Land Snails—A Worldwide Perspective" at the November 24th General Meeting. Homer has presented shell talks all over the country. For our group he has put together the best of three different presentations on land snails! Come prepared to learn much!

Dr. Gary Schmelz is our speaker on January 26. He led several club field trips to Collier County fossil pits for us. His Florida Fossil Shells program will put it all together as he tells what the fossil shells are, why Florida has so many, and when and where they were deposited. My husband Richard and I heard a talk he gave on the topic in Naples and it was awesome!
Anita Wilson

Raffle

We are having a raffle! Raffle tickets for various items will be sold during ESC meetings held between January and March. The winners of the raffled items will be drawn at the club picnic in April. Three items were donated by club founder, Barb Myers, who continues to be an inspiration to us and a good friend to club members. One item is a lovely miniature shell shop and two other items are ocean-themed pictures featuring real shells in attractive collages. All income earned from the raffle will go into our treasury to support the many activities of ESC.



Excursions

Carefree Learner Update.

The first *Carefree Learner* excursion is on Thursday, December 3. The date was incorrectly noted on the coupon in the last issue. This excursion is full and we are keeping a wait list in the event of cancellations. There are still seats available for the *Carefree Learner* excursion scheduled for Friday, January 29. A coupon to use for the January excursion is found later in the newsletter. To sign up, send your completed coupon and a check by the due date to Debbie Freeman. We will keep a wait list for this date as well.

Fossil Pit Trip

We have another fossil dig scheduled for April 3 in the fossil pits near Fort Myers. Details and sign-up sheets will be available beginning with the January General Meeting.

Honeymoon Island

Watch for future news regarding a shelling trip by bus to Honeymoon Island next year.



Margarita Island, Venezuela.

The trip to Margarita Island in October was organized by Linda Powers through Glenn Duffy's tours. By the end of the trip, 14 of the 20 attendees were now ESC members. The shelling was mainly on beaches and in dump piles and everyone came home with a stunning collection of lower Caribbean shells. It is hoped that Glenn will consider future Caribbean trips for the ESC.

Outreach



Brownie Troop #411 learns about shelling on Manasota Key.

Linda Powers and Rita Stonehouse hosted an Outreach Program for Brownie Troop #411. The girls were 7 and 8 years old in 2nd and 3rd grades at Vineland and Myakka Elementary with troop leader Tina Cabana.



Debbie Freeman speaking at Christ United Methodist Church in Venice, FL.

On October 26, Debbie Freeman spoke to a group of 40 at the Christ United Methodist Church in Venice, FL. She gave her keynote presentation on living mollusks. Debbie explained you can find snails and their shells everywhere. Debbie notes, "I always enjoy giving this program because the short movie clips that I have scattered throughout really surprise people and capture their attention."

Study Group

Jan. 11—Turbans, Stars and Tops

Feb. 08—Arks Bitterweet Clams and Cockles

Mar. 17—Nerites, Nassa & Mud Snails

Apr. 12—Discussions re: odd shells found on our beaches



October Study Group: From left to right: Jasper Carlton, Anita Wilson, Debbie Freeman, Christina Anglin, Judy Kauk discussing Tritons, Distorsio and Frog Shells.



Visiting Central Florida Shell Club members from left to right: Phyllis Dray, Ed Radschweit, Christopher Stalder, Myra Venable.

On November 14, the Central Florida Shell Club, based in the Orlando area, decided to take a shelling trip that landed them in Englewood. Attending were Phyllis Gray, Ed Radschweit, Christopher Stalder and Myra Venable. The first stop was the home of fellow member Debbie Freeman to see her shell collection. After viewing shells and socializing, it was off to the Lock & Key restaurant for lunch. Debbie then led the group to the beach to do a little shelling. Everyone found sharks teeth, and the weather was perfect for beach combing.

Shell Club organizing

One of the nice parts of living in Southwest Florida is the abundance of beautiful shells lining the beaches.

If you would like to learn more about the many varieties of shells to be found in Englewood and on nearby beaches, or if you would like to share your knowledge with others, you are welcome to attend the organizational meeting of the Englewood Shell Club at 1 p.m. next Tuesday in the Englewood-Charlotte Library, 3450 S. McCall Road, Englewood.

Information: 473-2124.

Did You Know?

ESC had its very beginnings as a study group. Above is a reprint from the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* dated Wednesday, January 17, 1996.

Answers to the October puzzle

Across

1. Escargot
4. COA
5. Leal
6. Library
7. Fossils
9. Barb
10. Apple
11. ESC
13. Studygroup
17. Mussels
18. Beachwalks

Down

2. Snails
3. ShellCrafters
5. Luella
7. Fifteen
8. Ebb
12. Christina
14. Suncoast
15. Meetings

The next newsletter deadline is December 23, 2009.



Englewood Shell Club 15th Anniversary Luncheon Cruise

**On 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 are encouraged to sign up early.

Note: Non-members may sign up after 12/10/09 if space permits.

**Members: Complete the coupon and send it with your payment
Brenda Steele, 1470 San Jose Drive, Englewood, FL 34223.**

Englewood Shell Club RSVP Coupons
All checks are non-refundable and payable to Englewood Shell Club.

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/member
Mail check to Brenda Steele, 1470 San Jose Drive, Englewood, FL 34223
Deadline: Wednesday, January 15, 2010

Stub to Keep
ESC Carefree Learner
Fri., Jan. 29, 2010
\$12/member

Date sent to Debbie
Freeman: _____

Carefree Learner Excursion II
Carefree Learner, sailing from Marina Jacks Sarasota Harbor, Fri., Jan. 29

Name(s) _____ Phone: _____

Amount: \$12/member
Mail check to Debbie Freeman, P.O. Box 339, Englewood, FL, 34295
Deadline: Tuesday, January 15, 2010

REMINDER
ESC Holiday Luncheon
Tuesday, December 8, 2009, 12:00 (Noon)
Manasota Beach Club
7600 Manasota Key Road, Englewood

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Punch and appetizers are served at noon in the Surf Room.
A luncheon buffet is served in the Main Dining Room at 12:30 p.m.

You are welcome to participate in a shell-related gift exchange; there is no obligation. Bring an anonymously wrapped shell-related gift. (\$15.00 maximum value.)

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This year we asking each member to bring along a food bank item to donate to a local food bank for those less fortunate than ourselves. A donation container will be located near the entrance of the Club.

Englewood Shell Club

Editor Susan Ross
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