



Englewood Shell Club

The Shell Scoop

September, 2007 Volume 4 Number 4

www.EnglewoodShellClub.org

First Meeting—Oct. 23
Lemon Bay Park, 1:00 P.M.

Sign Up for Amelia Island Now

First Trip—Oct. 29

President's Message—

Welcome back to Shell Club after what I hope was a great summer break! We will all look forward to hearing about each other's summer shell finds and other activities at the first meeting, Tuesday, October 23 at 1 p.m. at Lemon Bay Park. Remember to bring summer's treasures to share with the group during our Show and Tell program. The Leadership Team has been busy planning activities for the upcoming year. This newsletter will give you an overview of their plans and how beautifully the various chairs have dovetailed their activities so you don't have to miss a thing! Sometimes, this meant changing a meeting from its usual date, so file the newsletter for future reference. Of course, you can always refer to it on line at <http://EnglewoodShellClub.org>. Speaking of our web site and the newsletter, our leadership team was so efficient that Rich and I were able to publish and print this newsletter midsummer. So we asked Freeman Crosby, our WebMaster, to go ahead and post the newsletter on-line early as well. Who saw it early?

The first excursion, the annual private boating adventure planned by Marilyn Boyd, will be Monday, October 29. Both the ShellCrafters (Nov. 16) and Study Group (Nov. 19) dates are atypical dates for different reasons, so mark your calendars carefully. The Christmas Party will be Tuesday, Dec. 11 at the Manasota Beach Club once again. Thanks to Brenda Steele for chairing this year's party. Your immediate action will be required to reserve a spot for the Feb. 8-15 trip to Amelia Island. The first board meeting will be Tuesday, November 20 at 10 a.m. at Cedar Point Park. As always these are open meetings and any member is welcome to attend.

See you soon for another wonderful year of shelling!

Anita Wilson

Outreach Action—

Outreach continued booming even after our season concluded. Shown are Debbie Freeman who addressed more than 100 GM retirees with her talk entitled "The Naked Shell" in late April and Amie Barnicle who taught three fifth grade classes with more than 90 students at Englewood Elementary School in May.



ShellCrafter News—

Eunice Herr won the first place ribbon in the Hobby Contest at a NARFE Conference in late May with a magnolia flower mounted on driftwood. Look closely—she won a second ribbon as well. Good Job!!



The first meeting of ShellCrafters this fall will be Friday, November 16 at 1 p.m. at Tringali Center. Christina Anglin and Eleanor Langlois,

cochairs of ShellCrafters this year, will have a table full of craft ideas at the October general meeting on October 23 at Lemon Bay Park. Members can then vote on the projects they wish to pursue at ShellCrafter sessions this year and the November project will be determined then. What a perfect addition to our Show and Tell program at the first meeting!

Fun Times with the Shell Seekers—

Our fall excursions look good.

● Marilyn Boyd has chosen October 29 as the date for our annual **boat trip** to start off the new year. (see separate article).

● A two nighter to **Sanibel** is set for November 11th and 12th. I hope you have already sent your money to Marilyn Boyd for that excursion. Details were shared at the spring picnic. Call Marilyn after Oct. 1 regarding additional availability for this trip.

● Anita Wilson will coordinate a morning of shelling, followed by a South Beach Restaurant luncheon at **Boca Grande** on Thursday, December 13. We will leave Cedar Point Park at 7:15 a.m. to carpool down. Plan to park in the state park lot beside the South Beach restaurant since the regular entrance to the park may not be open when we arrive. Low tide is about 9 a.m.

We also have lots of plans for spring! Look for more details on these trips later, but mark your 2008 calendar now!

● There will be **Carefree Learner trips** on Sarasota Bay on January 21 and February 19, according to Debbie Freeman. The tides are not low enough to warrant the usual December trip.

● Debbie Freeman also has planned a week's shelling trip on **Amelia Island** in far northeastern Florida for February 8-15. (see separate article)

● I am setting up a trip to **Useppa Island** for a tour of the museum and lunch at the Useppa Club, am looking at a shelling excursion from the causeway at **Manasota Key** and many have asked to include a **Shell Key** trip again.

I hope to see you in November. I will be getting a new right knee in September.

—Ruth Middlebrooks

Bird Bath—

The club had an extra volunteer helping repair the shell-covered bird bath at Cedar Point Park last March! While our members were working away, the cutest little baby coon you ever saw came to visit. He climbed up and sat on the birdbath drinking water for at least five minutes. Thanks to Ruth Middlebrooks, Eunice Herr, Debbie Freeman, Sandy Terwilliger and Anita Wilson who also worked on the project.



T-Shirts on Sale—

If you haven't done so, plan to pick up one of our club's lovely new t-shirts this fall. They feel and look great!



Amelia Island Adventure—

A week of shelling on Amelia Island has been planned for Feb. 8-15, 2008 by Debbie Freeman. This trip will replace the Isle of Palms, South Carolina trip of the past two years. Amelia Island is in the very far northeastern corner of Florida, north of Jacksonville and just below the Georgia line. As you study the map, you will see that the coast curves inward in this area, which means that shells from both north and south wash in here. Wilsons found lots of large channeled and knobbed whelk as well as blood arks, various bittersweets, ribbed mussels, lucines, semeles, partridge tun, baby's ears, olives, sand dollars, and sea stars among other things and friends picked up a huge *C. megalodon* shark's tooth here. Anita cautioned that it was a windy week, which brought lots of shells. The area is also loaded with history. To quote AAA: "miles of Appalachian quartz beaches and towering sand dunes distinguish Amelia." It is the eastern terminus of the first cross Florida railway and Florida's first resort. Fernandina Beach is a quaint, centuries-old town with great walking tours of historic buildings. Fort Clinch State Park is on the Island and Kingsley Plantation part of Timucuan ecological & historical preserve, Huguenot Memorial Park, Big and Little Talbot Island State Parks, and Fort Caroline Natl. Memorial are nearby. Anita warned that it will be cold in February. Debbie has reserved two 2 bedroom/2bath condos on first floor in the same building. We can probably get another if people call to reserve quickly. Cost will be about \$350/person (50% due immediately) plus travel and food. Call Debbie's cell phone (941-223-9397) or E-mail her (limpet@comcast.net) immediately to reserve your spot for this trip!

The word "Wentletrap" comes from the Dutch and means "spiral staircase".

Programs! Programs! Programs!

What will we learn this year from the experts in the field of Conchology, better known as shells? Just read this list of upcoming ESC programs!

Remember when you were in kindergarten and you got to show and tell about something? In October you will be going back to the good old days and you will get to **Show and Tell** about all the wonderful shell items you made or found. Bring beach-found treasures, craft projects, new shell-related books, experiences—the sky is the limit!

In November we will be taught how to make a scientific display. **Harry Berryman**, a world renowned Conchologist and a member of our club, will give us the ins and outs of displaying shells in shell shows. His tips will be as useful to those who wish to enter craft items as scientific displays. Harry has won many awards for his scientific displays including the Master's Award at the Space Coast Seashell Festival.

December, of course, is our **Holiday Luncheon**, so great conversation, the Manasota Beach Club, a great view of the Gulf, shell-related gift exchange and the luncheon will be program and more.

Joyce Matthews from the Bailey Matthews Museum will speak to us in January. She has a new tape describing differences between mollusks in the Northwest USA and those in Florida. She introduced this video at COA in August and we are among her first presentations thereafter.

In February our good friend **Larry Strange** from Sanibel Seashell Industries entertains us as well as informs us on a subject not yet selected.

March will bring a program by another one of our own members but we are holding out so we can surprise you later.

We believe we will have exciting programs and you will not want to miss any of them.

—Marilyn Boyd

First Field Trip—

Marilyn Boyd is organizing a private boat trip so members can shell area waters accessible only by boat on Monday, October 29. Sign up by calling Marilyn at 474-2500 after October 1. Final details will be shared at the general October meeting October 23. Low tide will be 10:36. Bring a bag lunch, plenty of water, sun screen, sun glasses, hat, and containers for shells you gather. Be sure to wear shoes that can get wet and will protect your feet. Each passenger will donate \$10-15 to provide boat gas for the gracious people who share their boats and expertise with us.

Spring Picnic—

Jackie McLean did it again! The Shell Club picnic April 24 at Englewood Gardens Beach Club was great. Both the company and the food were wonderful. Thanks to everyone who helped make the day such a success. The big news was that members reported finding perfect *C. Megalodon* shark's teeth in the previous week at both Blind Pass and South Venice Beaches!



Gasparilla Island Excursion—

The last trip of the year to Gasparilla Island on Thursday, April 5, probably yielded more species of shells than any other trip all year. A perfect combination of about twenty new and experienced shellers scoured the piles of shells on Boca Grande beaches and came away with tops, gaudy natica and moon snails, fig shells, pear and lightning whelks, horse and fighting conch, various species of drills, olives, bubbles, jingles, rocellaria, semeles, tinted cantharus, duck and surf clams, arks, lucines, kitten paws, various worm shells, purplish tagelus, coquinas, various Venus shells, cockles, nut clams, various jewel boxes and slipper shells, zigzag and other scallop shells, Florida cones, coffee melampus, nutmegs, augers, ceriths, and many more. The water, weather, lunch and company all made for a great day—the perfect combination of relaxation and camaraderie. Thanks Ruth for organizing the excursion! NOTE: We have a repeat of this trip planned for Thursday, Dec. 13, 2007.



Dr. Leal Speaks—

Dr. Jose Leal's talk last March on boring bivalves was anything but boring! First he differentiated between burrowing and boring bivalves. He pointed out that coquinas, pen shells, surf clams and tagelus which burrow into the sand or soft mud are not boring species. Boring bivalves actually change the structure of the host materials permanently. He showed a picture of a collapsed building caused when shipworms completely wrecked the supporting pilings and the building tumbled into the sea. Boring strategies may be chemical, mechanical or a combination.

Dr. Leal described wood borers of the *Martesia* family which live in floating wood. The piddock commonly called a shipworm has a small rasping shell, but the worm itself can easily be 15 inches long.

Angel wings, such as our own *Cyrtopleura costata*, bore into densely packed mud and may live two feet down. The final group bores into calcium carbonate compounds such as limestone, coral and other shells. Date Mussels and the *Gastrochaenidae* or rock-borer clams are examples. Dr. Leal described four *Rocellaria* rock-borer clams which live in Florida. They bore into other shells, after the animal has died and create little dwellings for themselves on the inside of the host shell. He and a colleague rediscovered one species within the last 18 months. He challenged club members to seek these on our beaches. Sure enough, since then several of us have found them!



Dues Due Now—

You will notice that a membership renewal form is included in this newsletter. As you read our Constitution and Bylaws, you will find that the year runs from October 1 through September 30 and dues cover that period. The last few years, the board informally decided to make the dues run from January 1 through December 30. Last spring I appointed a constitution review committee with the idea of bringing the rules and practice into alignment. You will be receiving their recommendations at an upcoming meeting, however the committee feels that the membership year should remain Oct. 1-Sept. 30. Therefore dues are technically due right now. As a transition, I have suggested that we accept dues renewal through the date of the general November meeting (Nov. 27). You can pay at either the October or November meeting. If you will not be back in Englewood until after Nov. 27, please send your dues renewal form and check made out to Joe Bao (\$15 for individual; \$25 for family membership) to Linda Powers before November 27, so she can develop the new year's membership roster. Linda's Ohio address is 1408 Southlyn Drive, Kettering, OH 45409. She will be back in Englewood by the November meeting. Thanks!

The Marlinspike shell was actually used by sailors of old to untie knots in ropes on board ship. The Marlinspike is not only sharp, it is also strong.

Visit the Library—

Thanks to Harry Berryman, the club library has been enriched considerably. He has contributed 68 journals to our collection. In addition to copies of *American Conchologist*, there are issues of *Of Sea and Shore* dating back to 1980. You can find the very first (1988) issue of the *Bulletin of Paleomalacology*. This journal was edited by Edward Petuch, whose name all Florida fossil lovers are very well acquainted. Your editor gets a kick out of the way Petuch names so many shells after family and friends. Then there are copies of *La Conchiglia*, an international shelling magazine published in Rome as well as numerous issues of *Hawaiian Shell News*. And don't think just because you haven't been to Hawaii this magazine holds no interest for you. It covers the world! One of the first issues to catch the editor's eye had a feature article on Folly Beach, South Carolina. That is the beach where Rich and Anita picked up Jasper's dwarf olives on the club's South Carolina trip last spring. This particular article features the *Epitonina* of Folly Beach and Anita hadn't even had time yet to ID her S. C. wentletraps. What a find! This magazine made her just about as happy as finding the shells did! Our sincere appreciation, Harry!

Fall Club Calendar—

- Amelia Island Sign-Up—Now!**
- First Meeting—Oct. 23**
- Boat Trip—Oct. 29**
- Sanibel Trip—Nov. 11-13**
- ShellCrafters—Nov. 16**
- Study Group—Nov. 19**
- Shell Club Board Meeting—Nov. 20**
- November Meeting—Nov. 27**
- Dues Due—Nov. 27**
- Holiday Luncheon—Dec. 11**
- Boca Grande Shelling—Dec. 13**

ESC Study Group—

What do you know about our Study Group? Sometimes I wonder if perhaps, we have misnamed the Study Group, making it sound like work! Study? Back to school? Work? Not this group! If you join us at 1 p.m. on the second Monday of the month, at Cedar Point Park, you will find that we get together to try to identify and learn about many of the shells we find. It is a great sharing experience.

It is a very informal time when you are likely to hear—

"I can't decide if this is an Atlantic Oyster Drill or a Gulf Oyster Drill. What do you think?"

"Well, let's check the books..... In this book it looks like...."

"Look what I found at Stump Pass this week!"

"My friend sent me this shell from Panama and I haven't a clue what it is!"

"What kind of an egg case is this?"

"Does this look like a Stearns cone or a Jasper cone?"

"How do we tell the top from the bottom of a shell?"

"An immature fighting conch??? I thought it was a cone."

Both new and experienced shellers bring lots of questions each month and we all learn and have a lot of fun as we study the books and share experience. We laugh plenty as we learn ways to clean, preserve, catalog and display our shells. We also appreciate Dick Forbush, the knowledgeable guy who keeps us on the straight and narrow when we really start to go in the wrong direction when identifying a shell.

The group concentrates mostly on Florida shells and fossils, but if you have other shells you wonder about or if you would simply like to learn more about local shells, do come and share the fun with us. Many of us are beginners, some are more experienced shellers, but univalve or bivalve, we all learn together.

Please note that while we regularly meet on the second Monday of the month, our first meeting this year will be on the **third** Monday, November 19, 1 p.m. at Cedar Point. This change means we won't conflict with the club trip to Sanibel on November 11-13. We will not meet in December because of the Christmas party, but will resume on January 14, 2008. I hope you'll join us!

—Barbara Myers



Nerites

Leadership Team 2007/2008

President: Anita Wilson

Vice President: Linda Powers

Secretary: Doris Lyons

Treasurer: Joe Bao

Elected Board Members: Jane Guy
Marie Gallant

Immed. Past Pres.: Debbie Freeman

Found. President: Barbara Myers

Committee Chairmen:

Membership: Linda Powers

Excursions: Ruth Middlebrooks
Debbie Freeman

Program: Marilyn Boyd

Librarian: Eunice Herr

Publicity: Doris Lyons

Historian: Amie Barnicle

Social/Sunshine: Jackie McLean

Christmas Party: Brenda Steele

Newsletter: Rich & Anita Wilson

WebMaster: Freeman Crosby

Parliamentarian: Marilyn Boyd

Nominating: To Be Announced: Jan.

Group Chairmen:

Study Group: Barbara Myers

ShellCrafters: Eleanor Langlois
Christina Anglin

Outreach: Jane Guy

Greeters: Irene Murray
Arlene Poetz
Marie Gallant

Nerites—

Neritidae or the nerites are a large family with 19 genera and several hundred species worldwide. Five genera and 13 species live in North America. They inhabit both brackish and fresh water; some freshwater species resemble limpets in appearance. We think of them as strongly sculptured because two of our favorite species are the Bleeding Tooth, *Nerita peloronta* and the Four-tooth Nerite *Nerita versicolor*, but some species are smooth. The female lays its eggs in dome-shaped capsules on rocks. The name "nerite" comes from "Nereus", a sea god of the ancient Greeks. This god's son, Nerites, was changed into a mussel by Aphrodite, because he would not abandon the sea and follow her to a life on land. The Romans called one of their sea snails "netira". Shallow waters adjoining the coast are called neritic waters in scientific jargon. It is no coincidence that these waters are the most common nerite habitat.

Complete and send this application only if you will not pay at the October or November meeting .

Application for Membership

Individual dues are \$22.50 the first year* and \$15 thereafter. Family memberships are \$40 the first year* and \$25 thereafter. To join, please submit the application below (with your check made payable to Joe Bao), to Linda Powers, 1408 Southlyn Drive, Kettering, OH 45409.

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Spouse Name (optional) _____

Florida address

Street _____

City/Zip _____

Phone _____

Other address

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

What months are you in Florida?

J F M A M J J A S O N D

WE REQUEST YOU SIGN THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING FIELD TRIPS:

RELEASE OF LIABILITY

I agree that I am individually responsible for my own safety and my personal property when I participate in any club field trip activity. I will not hold the Englewood Shell Club, field trip leaders, nor the property owner liable for any injuries should they occur.

Signed _____

Sanibel Excursion—

A few of the group on Sanibel in late March for a day of shelling, lunch at the Hungry Heron, and a fantastic behind the scenes tour of Bailey-Matthews Shell museum. Thirty-two people signed up for this trip.



Shellabrate the Holidays with the Englewood Shell Club!

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

TIME – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2007, 12:00 NOON

**PLACE – MANASOTA BEACH CLUB
7660 MANASOTA KEY ROAD, ENGLEWOOD**

PUNCH AND FINGER FOODS WILL BE SERVED IN THE SURF ROOM AT NOON. WE WILL ADJOURN TO THE MAIN DINING ROOM FOR LUNCHEON BUFFET AT 12:30

THE BUFFET INCLUDES SOUP, GREEN SALAD, CHICKEN, FISH, DELI BOARD, PASTA SALAD, VEGGIES, FRESH FRUIT, ASSORTED BREADS AND A DESSERT BAR WITH LOTS OF CHOCOLATE. LEMONADE, TEA AND COFFEE INCLUDED.

THE COST OF THE LUNCHEON IS \$19.00 PER PERSON, TAX AND GRATUITY INCLUDED.

MAKE CHECKS TO JOE BAO AND SEND THEM WITH THIS FORM TO: BRENDA STEELE, 1470 SAN JOSE DRIVE, ENGLEWOOD, FL 34223 AFTER OCT. 1 BUT BEFORE NOV. 23.

ALL PARKING IS ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE BEACH CLUB.

REMEMBER—IF YOU WISH TO EXCHANGE A GIFT, BRING ONE TO EXCHANGE. TEN DOLLAR MAXIMUM AND SHELL-RELATED.

Name(s): _____

How many attending?: _____

Phone Number: _____

Check number: _____

Amount of check: \$ _____

Englewood Shell Club

Rich & Anita Wilson

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