

Englewood Shell Club

The Shell Scoop

September 2009

Volume 6 Number 3

www.EnglewoodShellClub.org



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President's Message

Welcome back Englewood Shell Club (ESC) members! We look forward each fall to your return and the beginning of another great season.



This year is a very special one in which we will be celebrating our fifteenth anniversary. For Barb Myers, our founder, and for other charter club members, we owe our gratitude for all the wonderful experiences, adventures, friends and learning experiences we've come to enjoy.

We are planning a very special celebration in January to commemorate this occasion. In addition to our monthly Jan. meeting, we have a lunch cruise scheduled aboard the Marina Jack II, in Sarasota. Thank you Brenda Steele for making this happen. I hope all of you will sign up for this event as several members expressed regret they were unable to participate in our annual Christmas party due to family commitments. Hopefully, our anniversary cruise on January 22 will fit into your calendars more easily. It promises to be a great event.

Our new Board and committee members have been busily planning a full season of shelling trips, monthly activities, wonderful guest speakers, special events and opportunities to learn, share and serve in the many capacities the club offers. So let the fun begin!

President, Christina Anglin

President's Profile

I am married with two children. My son, Shannon, is in medical research at the University of TN Medical Center, Knoxville; and my daughter, Hilary, is an architect in Portland, OR. She and her husband, Shannon (no kidding), have two children: my wonderful granddaughter, Isabella, who is eight and my incomparable grandson, Zeke, who is five. My husband, Max, and I have lived in Englewood for 6 years. We came from Chattanooga, TN where I taught Art at high school and college levels for 25 years and had previous teaching assignments in Florida and Hawaii. I also traveled internationally.

My interests, other than collecting and studying shells, are computers, art, photography, swimming daily laps, and designing and making jewelry.

My greatest accomplishment is a recent mosaic mural project I designed and directed for the Tennessee Riverpark in Chattanooga. Over a period of 14 years, I worked with 37 area schools and over 10,000 participants to create mosaic murals in the Park. The theme was "A School of Fish" and each participant created one unique, original mosaic fish. Participants ranged in age from 3 to 83. My team of art teachers and I used the original fish to create linear compositions of fish swimming in a river of glass. These bands encircled 29 buildings, columns, shelters, pavilions, restrooms, ranger stations and community centers. I completed the project last summer doing much of the work here in Englewood and commuting to Chattanooga for installation. Friend and design team member Mary Brown, assisted in my absence.

I am permanently at home in Englewood. I love the area, the climate and especially the many wonderful friends I have made here.

Our New Board



Standing from left to right: Brenda Steele, Vice President; Christina Anglin, President; Nancy Weborg, Treasurer. Seated is Judy Kauk, Secretary.

A new ESC Board of Directors was elected at the March '09 meeting. The new Board includes: Christina Anglin, President; Brenda Steele, Vice President; Nancy Weborg, Secretary; Judy Kauk, Treasurer; and three Directors-at-large: Joy Brandt, Debbie Freeman, and Linda Powers. Two other club members are automatically on the Board due to their positions: Barb Myers; Founding Member; and Doris Lyons, as our most recent Former President. However, Doris later resigned her club membership and Anita Wilson is now the most recent Former President and will hold this position.

The slate of candidates presented in the January '09 ESC newsletter changed before the March election due to the resignations of office by former President Doris Lyons and Director-at-large Ann Madden. A new slate was prepared by the Nominating Committee and presented at the March club meeting. After the election of officers, the three Directors-at-large were elected.

Monthly Board meetings are open to all club members and held on the third Tuesday, October through April, (except Nov. on the 16th) at the Englewood Library from 10 until noon.

Committees

Following is a list of our 2009-2010 Committee Chairs and Group Activity Leaders:

- Anniversary:** Brenda Steele
Beach Walks: Rita Stonehouse
Carefree Learner: Debbie Freeman
Excursions: Ruth Middlebrooks and Marilyn Boyd
Historian: Sue Rundle
Librarian: Eunice Herr
Membership: Brenda Steele
Merchandise: Eileen Tabone and Carol Roberts.
Newsletter: Susan Ross
Nominating Committee: TBD in Jan. '10
Outreach: Amie Barnicle and Jane Guy
Parliamentarian: Marilyn Boyd
Programs: Anita Wilson
ShellCrafters: Joy Brandt and Shirley Kastner.
Social and Sunshine: Jackie McLean
Study Group: Barb Myers and Debbie Freeman.
Webmaster: Freeman Crosby

Membership Renewal

It's time to renew your annual membership! Renewals are due the first meeting you attend this fall. If you arrive in Florida later, you may mail your check and a completed membership form to Vice President Brenda Steele, 1470 San Jose Drive, Englewood, FL, 34224. Forms must be signed consenting to the release of liability and are available online at: www.EnglewoodShellClub.org.

Dues for renewing members are \$15/person and \$25/family. Dues for new members are \$22.50/person and \$40/family. The higher price for new memberships covers the expense of name tags used to admit you and identify you at ESC activities. Make checks payable to Englewood Shell Club.

All General Meetings are free and guests are welcome. However, the advantage of an ESC membership includes access to other club activities such as shelling excursions, study group sessions and shell crafting lessons.



In Fond Memory

It is with sadness we note Luella Patterson died on May 29, 2009. Luella was a charter member of Englewood Shell Club and an active supporter of all of our projects. Her love of shells brought her to our club at its first meeting and she remained active until last year when her health was failing.

Luella loved all of our activities, trimming the shell Christmas trees, the trips on the Carefree Learner, and especially loved trips to the fossil pits. Never mind that it was hot and dirty, Luella was down there digging in the midst of the fossils. She enjoyed making Christmas ornaments for the trees, loved the Christmas parties, the many boat trips, and just enjoyed collecting shells. Her favorite shell was the Wentletrap and she collected many beautiful specimens over the years.

She was everybody's friend and we will miss her very much. The club has made a contribution to the Alzheimer's Association in memory of Luella.

Barb Myers

Beach Walk Schedule

- Nov. 11 - Manasota Beach, Venice**
- Dec. 09 - To be announced**
- Jan. 12 - TBA**
- Feb. 09 - TBA**
- Mar. 09 - TBA**
- Apr. 13 - TBA**

Library News

We are very fortunate to have a Library in our club with books that cover so many areas of the wondrous sea world. Whatever your shell interest is, you are sure to find a book. There are books to help you learn about the many seashells here in Florida and around the world, the different kinds of shells, where they are found, their identification, and much more. Also, there are books on the many beautiful crafts that can be created from seashells, including Sailors' Valentines and flowers made from shells.

Of special note, Barbara Myers, donated many of her books to our Library this year. We are deeply appreciative and thank her for her generosity. In addition, there will be new books in our Library on display for members to view and check out beginning in October.

Printed copies of our Library's Bibliography and other articles of interest are available upon request to members at monthly meetings and some items are also available online. So get ready for a fun and learning year using our Library.

Eunice Herr

Summer Beach Walks

Rita Stonehouse graciously accepted the role to plan our Beach Walks this year. She started with our summer beach walks and we went to Boca Grande, Stump Pass Beach State Park, Englewood Beach, Manasota Beach and Blind Pass Beach. Shelling wasn't the greatest as we had few storms and (fortunately) no hurricanes to stir up the Gulf waters, but we had lots of time to socialize, and some terrific lunches together as well!



Since We Last Met

A shell without a shell? The Nature Walk with Bud Doyle in March was at the North Jetty in Nokomis. We experienced the first southwest wind of the season with strong gusts up to 30 mph. The winds were so strong that the osprey nest we saw blew down from the "Slow Speed" channel marker; two of the three baby osprey we saw survived the ordeal. Shown here are a few of our members listening to Bud describe the unusual and common items found on the shore, including balls of clay that were really from oil spills in the Gulf, (they looked like alligator dung and melted in hot sun), and sea squirts.

Who knew? Kathi Rader-Gibson, Park Naturalist, Lemon Bay Park, was our March General Meeting guest speaker and presented information about Lemon Bay and other area parks. Lemon Bay Park has an eagle's nest, visible from one of the main walking paths, an outdoor picnic pavilion and a small outdoor arena. The trails lead to the water's edge and you can even see live shells at low tide on the shoreline. Take a minute to enjoy the Park either before or after one of our meetings as there is really a lot to see and enjoy, including rare scrub jays.

Dig in! Shell club members enjoyed a dinner after the second fossil pit shelling excursion in April. The trip was in Collier County and we are fortunate to have the trip leader, Dr. Gary Schmelz, as our guest speaker this January.

At the pits. Shown here is Ruth Middlebrooks, co-chair of excursions, talking with one of the trip leaders and club members about the fossil trip. They are "down in the pits" and fortunately no one lost a shoe or got stuck in the muck. The group did have some great finds and hopefully, they will bring them to Gary's meeting to show to everyone.

Three guys grilling! Yes, we had a lot of fun at the annual picnic held at the end of April. Shown here are the three chefs: Ken McLean, Bob Steele, and Jim Boyd. They graciously volunteered their time and grilled several dozen burgers for us. They also shared their fun sense of humor and quick wit. Thanks guys for all the help and for the laughs!



The unsinkable. Amie Barnicle instructed members Jackie McLean, Eileen Tabone, and Carol Roberts on the rules of kayaking. This is a great way to look for shells, especially at parks near uninhabited islands and places with shorelines inaccessible by foot. Amie is a certified kayak instructor and willing to schedule kayak shelling trips for those who go through a kayak training course. (See sign up at mtgs.)

Bigger than big. Larry Strange, member and owner of Sanibel Seashell Industries, is shown holding a *Syrinx arvanus*. Member Susan Ross is holding a Melo amphora, common name the Diadem volute. Larry is proud and privileged to note he acquired the shells this summer and they are perhaps some of the largest specimens ever found. They are on display and for sale at his store.

Show and tell. Nearly 50 members participated in the shelling excursion to Egmont Key in March. The trip was fun as some of the shellers came home with buckets filled with shells. We had an early ferry ride to the Key ahead of the general public, thanks to the great planning of Ruth Middlebrooks, excursions co-chair. This is a trip we'll want to repeat.

Gone shell'n. Members Linda Maggiore and Ginny La Branche spent time shelling this August at Mt. Desert Island in Acadia National Park, Bar Harbor, Maine. They reported finding many snails and mussels.

And the number is...Rita Stonehouse, Linda Powers, and Judy Green (not shown) joined others on Sept. 12 for the inaugural scallop count in Lemon Bay. The count was conducted north of the Tom Adams Bridge to Gasparilla Sound. The count produced 94 scallops and was sponsored by a Charlotte County Sea Grant to foster healthy bays.

In August, the 2nd Annual Sarasota Bay Great Scallop Search resulted in approximately 136 scallops. Last year the count was almost 900. Both of the Bays are sensitive to runoff, red tides, and pollutants. Recent efforts to manage the environmental effects are working. Healthier conditions exist for the bivalves and counts will fluctuate annually.



ShellCrafters

Get those glue guns ready! Our first crafting session is Friday, November 13.. This year our Shell Crafters will always meet at Tringali on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM.

Your monthly fee for crafting is \$5 to help defer the cost of renting the craft room. If there is an additional fee for supplies, you will be notified in advance. Checks and cash will be collected at our General Meeting and also at the door on crafting day. Make your checks payable to Englewood Shell Club.

A huge "Thank You for a Job Well Done!" must go to our Club President, Christina Anglin, for purchasing, assembling and delivering the new cabinets to hold our shells and craft supplies at Tringali. Plus, an additional "Thanks" for hauling out the bins and sorting through the shells. "Thanks" also Diana Leonhardt, you must be happy to have all that space in your garage. This will be a wonderful improvement for shell crafting. Just think, all of the Clubs' shells will now be at our fingertips.

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



- Nov. 13** Shell decorated napkin rings and door hangers
- Dec. 11** Christmas ornaments
- Jan. 08** Shell decorated wall plaque
- Feb. 12** Shell flowers and butterflies
- Mar. 12** Jewelry

Joy Brandt and Shirley Kastner

COA



Above: ESC members at recent Conchologists of America (COA) conference in Tampa. From back to front: Linda Powers, Rita Stonehouse, Ruth Middlebrooks, Joy Brandt, Debbie Freeman, Glen Freeman. Others members attending the conference not shown include: Dr. Jose Leal, Larry Strange, Barbara Elliot, Homer and Ann Rhode, and Dona and Matt Blaine.



Dr. Jose' H. Leal shares this photo and memorable moment as a result of the COA conference: "During the last COA convention in Clearwater, I mentioned casually to Brazilian shell dealer Marcus Coltro ("Femorale") that, as a museum professional, I opted not to have a shell collection. In that conversation, I said that I particularly missed not having any of the species I named. Three weeks later, I received from Marcus and his brother, Jose' Coltro this AWESOME shell of *Odontocymbiola simulatrix* Leal & Bouchet, 1989, from off Itajai, Santa Catarina state, Brazil, measuring 205 mm. (*O. simulatrix* is the largest species I named so far!) What a present to celebrate the 20 years of naming that species!"

Programs

Start planning what you will bring/describe for the **Show and Tell** at the meeting on Tuesday, October 27. We will continue our tradition of sharing arts and crafts we made over the summer as well as telling about places we visited and shelled as the program for our first fall meeting. In addition, Debbie Freeman, our delegate to the Conchologists of America (COA) meeting in Tampa this summer, will share highlights of the meeting with us. Can't wait to see everyone and learn about your summer!



“Worldwide Landsnails” is the title of Homer Rhode’s program for the Tuesday, November 24 meeting. Although Homer and Ann Rhode have been club members for only a short time, they have collected worldwide marine and landsnails for about 40 years. He has 10 marine collecting programs and 3 landsnail programs which he presents around the state, nation and at COA. Homer says he will share the best of the 3 landsnail programs with us!!! In addition to collecting and speaking about mollusks, Homer has been a scientific

judge for more than 20 shell shows. From the escargot we love to eat; to the Philippine, Cuban and Florida tree snails; to fresh water mussels and the apple snails that are the sole food of the snail kite in the Everglades; to the ramshorn snails in our yards; to Euglandina and waxy polygyra; Homer will teach us much and answer many questions we all have. Landsnails are so numerous, yet there are few books devoted to these snails. (Right: photo by Linda Maggiore of landsnails discovered this summer in Acadia National Park.)



Dr. Gary Schmelz, Naples, who led several fossil collecting trips for our Club, is our speaker for the Tuesday, January 26 meeting, and will tell us more about the Florida fossil shells we gathered. Gary is also a well known speaker at both COA and the Sanibel Shell Show. Gary will bring his new book on Florida fossils if it has been released by the publisher by the time of our meeting.



Date Change! Our February 23 meeting has been moved to Tuesday, March 2 so that **S. Peter Dance**, world renowned shell expert and author of 18 books, can address our Club. Look for details in future issues.

We finish off our 15th anniversary year with a program on **Sailors’ Valentines** on Tuesday, March 23. Anita Wilson will give a short history of the art and Ruth Middlebrooks and Debbie Freeman will share their tips on making Sailors’ Valentines. Left photo, is an example of an unconventionally shaped Sailor’s Valentine created by Debbie Freeman over the summer. It is an exquisite piece of art and we look forward to seeing the Valentine in person as well as at upcoming area shell show competitions. At our March 23 meeting, we will also have a display table where all members who made Sailors’ Valentines can bring them to display!

Anita Wilson

Excursions

Carefree Learner.

The *Carefree Learner* is a boat that is set to sail on Thursday, December 3, and Friday, January 29. Debbie Freeman arranged the excursions again this year based on date availability and low tide readings for Sarasota Bay. This is one of the most popular trips and we try to arrange it annually.

The excursions leave out of Sarasota Harbor near the Marina Jack Restaurant and travels during low tide to sandbars in Sarasota Harbor behind homes near Mote Marine. The boat is owned by Sarasota High School and is used by students and others to study marine life in the Bay. You leave early, but it is one of the more interesting live shell excursions we offer. Dress accordingly as it may be cool when you leave early in the morning. You are allowed to take home two live shells of any species and all the empty shells you find. Bring a bucket to hold your shells and plan to wear shoes in the water while you go wading. The boat only seats 12 so sign up fast for this fun trip. Coupons are near the end of the newsletter for both excursions. Complete the coupon and send it in with your check by the due date.



Margarita Island, Venezuela.

This year an international trip to Margarita Island off of Venezuela is planned by Linda Powers. Trip leader Glenn Duffy has arranged international trips before, including the one Linda and other members took to the Philippines in 2008. The trip is scheduled for November 3 - 10. We are anxious to view the shells and photos from this trip and hope to see another great presentation by the participants next season.



Sanibel.

The club's favorite trip to Sanibel takes place Tuesday - Thursday, November 17 - 19. Marilyn Boyd is in charge of the excursion again this year and it was a sell out last year. We are staying at the Holiday Inn both nights and the room rate is \$143 for two nights. You can share a room with up to four people and the hotel offers a pool, Tiki bar, and a lounge area for gathering with friends. Much of the time is considered "free time" and you can plan your own days to include meals and shopping as well as shelling at the various beaches of Captiva and Sanibel Islands. If you don't want to spend the night, you can always drive down for the day and meet the group on the beach for shelling.

Outreach

ESC Outreach programs take place all year. Programs are run by ESC volunteers who present information on shells and sometimes work with shell crafts. We have programs designed for all ages and are well received by those in the community. Previous programs include shell excursions with Girl Scout Troops; presentations to local park environmental groups, community associations and clubs, chapters of national associations, as well as, groups of friends.



Amie Barnicle and Diana Leonhardt, Outreach volunteers, stand by a shell display they used when speaking about the different shells found in Florida at a National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) meeting.



Rita Stonehouse is shown helping girls from an Englewood Girl Scout Troop. They were learning about shells and working on shell crafts to meet the requirements of a shelling badge (shown at right). The girls had a full day on the beach as part of their excursion. When they regrouped after summer break, they sent ESC member Linda Powers a very unique thank you note. Be sure to look for it during our Show and Tell session in October.



We need you!

The Outreach program is in need of occasional volunteers to assist in the various programs. An interest in shelling, offering an extra set of hands and having a willingness to help those who want to learn is all you need to volunteer. If you are interested in occasionally volunteering as an assistant or as a presenter, or if you know of a group or association interested in an Outreach program, contact either Amie Barnicle, Jane Guy or sign up at the meetings.



Englewood press captured Linda Powers working with boys and girls attending a program held at Cedar Point Environmental Park this summer. Children ranged in age from 5 to 15 years old and enjoyed making shell crafts and critters to take home as part of the program.



ESC 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
after October 13 to:

Brenda Steele, 1470 San Jose Drive, Englewood, FL 34223.

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.

Cost: \$22 per member (tax and gratuity included)
Your RSVP by coupon and payment are due by Tuesday, November 24.
You are welcome to participate in a shell-related gift exchange; there is no obligation.
Bring an anonymously wrapped shell-related gift. (\$12.50 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 RSVP Coupons
All checks are non-refundable and payable to Englewood Shell Club.

Stub to Keep
 ESC Sanibel Trip
 Nov. 10 & 11, 2009

Date sent to Marilyn
 Boyd: _____

Sanibel Island Trip
 Holiday Inn Reservation, Nov. 10 & 11, 2009

Name(s) _____ Phone: _____

Amount: \$143/room rate for two nights including tax
 Mail check to Marilyn Boyd, 1021 Grant St., Englewood, FL 34224
 Deadline: Tuesday, October 27, 2009

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 Holiday Luncheon
 Tues., Dec. 08, 2009

Date sent to Nancy
 Weborg: _____

ESC Holiday Luncheon
 Manasota Beach Club, 12:00 (Noon), Tuesday, Dec. 08, 2009

Name(s) _____ Phone: _____

Amount: \$22 /member
 Mail check to Nancy Weborg, 4564 Pompano Road, Venice, FL 34293
 Deadline: Tuesday, November 24, 2009

Stub to Keep
 ESC Carefree Learner
 Tues., Dec. 03, 2009
 \$12/member

Date sent to Debbie
 Freeman: _____

Carefree Learner Excursion I
Carefree Learner, sailing from Marina Jacks Sarasota Harbor, Tues., Dec. 03

Name(s) _____ Phone: _____

Amount: \$12/member
 Mail check to Debbie Freeman, P.O. Box 339, Englewood, FL 34295
 Deadline: Friday, November 20, 2009

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

Date sent to Debbie
 Freeman: _____

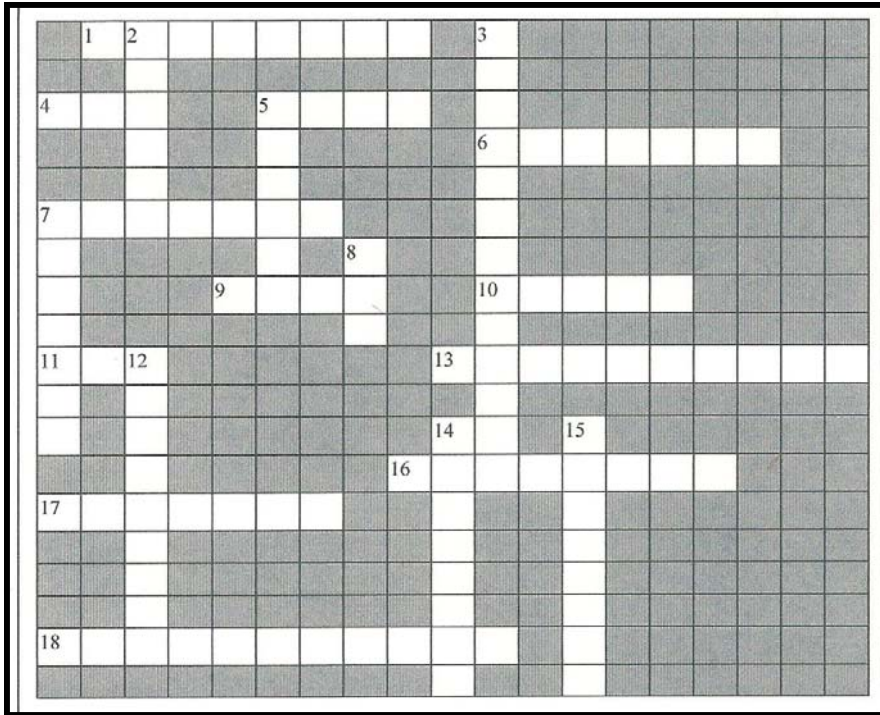
Carefree Learner Excursion II
Carefree Learner, sailing from Marina Jacks Sarasota Harbor, Fri., Jan. 29

Name(s) _____ Phone: _____

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

Shell Seekers Crossword Puzzle

Clues are from this issue and general knowledge. Answers in next issue.



Across

1. Delicious snail
4. Mollusk society
5. Shell name dropper
6. Our own repository
7. Old as dirt
9. Founder
10. Fruit snail
11. Club letters
13. Second Mondays
17. Blue or green
18. Fourth Wednesdays

Down

2. Form of mollusk
3. Second Fridays
5. Charter member
7. Anniversary
8. Fading away
12. In charge
14. Floridian paradise
15. Fourth Tuesdays

Englewood Shell Club

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