

ENGLEWOOD SHELL CLUB—Minutes of the General Meeting January 21, 2014

President, Debbie Freeman, called the January 21, 2014 meeting to order promptly at 1:00 p.m.

Kathryn Gudgel, program chair, introduced our speaker Ron Bopp. Ron resides in Bradenton. He presented a program entitled "Chasing Florida Fossil Seashells". Ron told us where we might find fossil shells including shell piles used for roadways and buying shells online. Ron explained how to clean fossil shells, identify them and ways to display them at home. He commented that the only downside to collecting fossil shells is that you run out of room and they contain no edible meat. Ron brought examples of fossil shells for us to look at during the break. He was presented an Englewood Shell Club cap in appreciation.

Debbie Freeman announced that two ESC members won awards at the Melbourne Astronaut Trail Shell Show. In the artistic category: The Ultimate Astronaut Trail Shell Club Arts and Crafts Award: Charles Barr of Boca Grande, Florida. Also in the artistic category Astronaut Trail Arts and Crafts Trophy: Shell Table Debbie Freeman of Englewood, Florida.

Following a ten minute break, Debbie called the meeting back to order.

Committee reports: Treasurer, Sue Chouinard reported a balance of \$4698.35

Membership: Nancy Weborg, acting for Sandy Ouderkirk, presented membership packets, name tags, and lightning whelks to the five new members who were present. Debbie will host a New Members Tea at her home on February 13 from noon to 3 for this year's new members. Invitations will be sent to the new members.

Program: Kathryn Gudgel reported that Joyce Mathews will be our speaker in February. In March Tom Ball will speak on shells with Musical names.

Excursions: Ruth Middlebrooks reported that the February 19th trip on the Calusa Queen is so popular that she will try to arrange a second trip. Space is available for the February 28th trip to Palm Island where we will shell and have lunch at Rum Bay. When signing up mark down your lunch choice. Ruth has contacted Gary Smeltz and Deborah Powell regarding a possible fossil trip.

Marilyn Boyd reporting on the Sanibel trip said there is still room at the Holiday Inn for one or two nights at a cost of \$75 per night assuming there are four in a room. Carol Ayers will be in charge of the Sanibel trip as Marilyn is unable to attend. It was suggested we might want to visit Larry Strange's Shell Shop while we are in Sanibel.

Debbie reported that there is still room on the January 31 Carefree Learner trip.

Social: Pam Orozco has signup sheets for the Home tours on February 25 as carpooling is encouraged. The tours will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pam said the annual picnic will be April 15th at the Englewood Beach Garden Club on Manasota Key. Debbie asked that all respect the times for the picnic also to please park across the street if you are capable of walking and if you plan to use the beach after the picnic.

Sunshine: A card was sent to Patty Mihalek who is recuperating from surgery.

Library: LeeAnn Bowers reminded us to take advantage of all the books that the club has to offer.

Historian: Judy Kauk asked that we send her copies of Shell Club pictures we may have.

Merchandise: Shirley Kastner had the new beach bags for sale for \$20 in addition to our t-shirts, caps, visors, luggage tags and specimen boxes. Anita LaRochelle is back for the season.

Beach walks: The next beach walk will be February 12th at 10:00 a.m. at Stump Pass.

Communication: Debbie Freeman reported for MaryLinda Coward that the newsletter contains fewer graphics so that it's easier to print out. The deadline for the next issue is February 19th.

Outreach: Amie Barnacle reported they have two events scheduled. The first one is February 7th at the Elsie Quirk Library and the other is March 17th at Boca Grande. They will have a shell and a shell craft display.

Study Group: Debbie Freeman said they have been busy taking pictures for the website. They have at least 22 shell pictures taken and identified. They will try to finish this project next month.

Shell crafters: The next project will be coquina necklaces with Linda Maggiore. The list of needed supplies is on the table along with the signup sheet.

New business: The board voted to purchase a new Christmas tree for Cedar Point Park with the cost not to exceed \$100. The board is also requesting new shell related ornaments be donated by members for the tree. We will collect them at the November meeting.

The board recommended the following donations of \$100 each to Elsie Quirk Library, Cedar Point Park, Bailey Mathews Museum, Sarasota High School's Carefree Learner, COA Education grant and the Elks Club for the scholarship fund or youth camp. Unanimously agreed.

The nominating committee of Suzanne Skalski, Linda Hamilton, and Ruth Middlebrooks will present a slate of officers next month. There will be an opportunity for nominations from the floor. Voting will be at the March meeting.

Ron Bopp reminded members of the Sarasota Shell Show on February 14th, 15th, and 16th.

Shell of the month: Anita Wilson told the story of the "pink heel splitter" one of the mussels of the upper Mississippi River basin. Half of the fresh water mussels there are threatened by dams, pollution, and the over use of them for buttons. They also have restrictive reproduction requirements.

Door prize drawing for shells was held.

President, Debbie Freeman adjourned the meeting at 2:40.

Respectfully submitted

Anna Hagstrom