

February 17<sup>th</sup> General Meeting was called to order by President, Brenda Steele.

Treasurer Susan Chouinard reported a balance of \$5225.13.

Katherine Gudgel announced that the speaker at the March meeting will be John Colegrande and his topic will be pearls.

Sandy Ouder Kirk, Vice President presented new members with nametags, discount card, book, pin and a lightning whelk which is the club shell.

Excursions: Ruth Middlebrooks said the bus will leave at 7:00 a.m. for Honeymoon Island on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Lunch will be on your own.

There will be two trips on the Calusa Queen one on March 10 and another on April 8. The boat will leave Boca at 8 a.m.

On March 4<sup>th</sup> we will visit Palm Island. Cost is \$38 including your lunch which you must choose when signing up. Meet at 7:30 at the Prime Time parking lot.

Cedar Key trip is March 24-26 and the cost is \$143 plus the cost of the room. Meet at 8:00 a.m. to catch the bus.

Marilyn Boyd said there are still rooms available for the Sanibel trip on October 30-31.

Carol Ayers had pictures available from the Carefree Learner trips.

Sunshine: Rita Stonehouse asked to be informed if anyone needs a card.

Social: Pam Orozco said the annual picnic will be April 14 at Riverwood Beach from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Although you may stay later to walk the beach. There is no refrigerator or electric so plan ahead with your covered dish. No guests this year as space is limited but we do need 4 men to cook. Plan to carpool.

Librarian, Lee Ann Bowers asked that any books out be returned at the March meeting.

Nancy Weborg, historian, asked for pictures.

Merchandise, Anita Larochelle said she will call people when their merchandise comes in as the shipment was delayed due to bad weather up north.

Beach walk, Darlene Gallentine said we will meet tomorrow, February 18, at Blind Pass/ Middle Beach at 10:00 a.m. The March beach walk will be March 18 at the Nokomis Beach.

The Shell Study group will meet February 25<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at Cedar Point Park. Bet Hamilton will be in charge of the meeting. Bring shells and shell identification books.

Martha Dehne said Shell Crafters meet March 13 and will decorate cigar boxes. The class is full so please call if you can't make it as there is a waiting list.

Outreach, Amie Barnacle received a thank you note from the Elsie Quirk library for the program they presented during Lemon Bay Fest.

Greeter chair, Marilyn Boyd, asked for volunteers to greet and welcome guests and members at the March meeting.

There are raffle tickets available for the shell bird house and tapestry. The drawing will be held at the picnic. Money raised will go to a marine biology student scholarship.

New Business: The board voted to increase donations to \$200 each to Cedar Point Park, Bailey Mathews, Sarasota High School (carefree learner), Elsie Quirk library and Englewood Elks Lodge.

The COA Convention will be in Broward County this year. Linda Powers will represent Englewood Shell Club.

MaryLinda Coward, newsletter editor, will post a summer newsletter in August.

Several members displayed awards they won at the Sarasota Shell Show.

Debbie Freeman invited members to her home on February 23 to study cone shells. President Steele said that was out of order as she had not cleared it with the board.

Nominating committee chairman, Suzanne Skalski, presented the following nominees. President, Brenda Steele, Vice President, Sandy Ouderkirk, Secretary, Doris Wahl, and Treasurer, Rita Stonehouse.

Members at large are Linda Hamilton, Sue Rundle, Suzanne Skalski, past president Debbie Freeman and founding member Barbara Meyers.

There were no nominations from the floor.

Following a 15 minute recess