

**ENGLEWOOD SHELL CLUB  
General Meeting Minutes  
2/21/17**

The February 2017 general meeting of Englewood Shell Club was preceded by a shell and book sale which opened at noon, 2/21/17 at the Englewood Elks Club. Sale proceeds will help fund the club's scholarship and donation program; some of the items were gifts from the Bet Hamilton estate, but individual members also rented tables to sell personal shells and books with a table fee going to the club. The formal meeting was called to order by President Linda Powers at 1 p.m. Linda introduced Sherry McKinney, who presented a delightful and informative program about a recent shelling trip to the Dominican Republic. Following the program, a short break for more shell and book sales and sign-ups was taken and the business meeting began at 2 p.m.

President Linda thanked Linda Hamilton, Judy Kauk and Candy Nizioł who managed the shell/book sale. She congratulated three members who won four ribbons at the recent Sarasota Shell Show. Judy Herman won two blue ribbons for antique shell items; Jane Guy won a red for her tabletop, Sailor's Valentine style, arrangement which she made in honor of Jim and her 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary; Karen Paulsen won with her nativity scenes in abalone shells. Treasurer Rita Stonehouse, treasurer, reported the club's fiscal balance is \$6234.48, but many bills are outstanding and club donations will be discussed later in the meeting.

**Committee Reports:**

**Beach Walks:** Deborah Hubbard, chair, announced the next beach walk will be March 8 at 10 a.m. at Manasota Beach, rather than at Stump Pass because of the dredging/renourishment process currently beginning at Stump Pass.

**Excursions:** Ruth Middlebrooks, chair, announced that the boat hired to take members to Useppa Island for three separate trips had engine trouble that was proving difficult to repair. Ruth will call those affected with new plans, but the upcoming Feb. 23 trip is definitely postponed. Ruth next reminded members of the March 10 trip to Palm Island. Members should meet at 7 a.m. in the Merchant Crossing parking lot to car pool and pick up car ferry passes. The \$38 fee covers the car ferry, golf carts, access to Palm Island and luncheon; fee must be paid and luncheon choice designated today. The road to the car ferry is marked; it is the road immediately before Leverocks on Placida. Carol Ayres, co-chair, reported the February Carefree Learner trip was excellent with cooler temperatures but less water to wade compared with the January trip. Marilyn Boyd, co-chair, announced a trip to Sanibel for October 27-29. Rooms at the Sanibel Beach Resort (formerly Holiday Inn) will be \$444/2 night stay. Martha Dehne is arranging a boat out of Fort Myers for Friday which will take 44 people to islands for shelling on the way to Sanibel. Sign-up sheets were available.

**Historian:** Martha Dehne, chair, announced that a complete set of club activity pictures will be on our web site later this year. She is continuing to work with Shutterfly to produce an actual book as well.

**Librarian/Shell of the Month:** Judy Kauk, chair, reiterated that club books must be returned after one month so other members also have access to the books. She thanked members for participating in the excess book sale. President Linda mentioned the COA *American Conchologist* recently published supplement #1 which lists the CITES shells. She suggested any member who travels internationally

should take the supplement with them to assure legal shells will not be confiscated by customs. She also mentioned the importance of placing shells in checked, rather than carry-on luggage, since shells in carry-on luggage have recently been seized as potential weapons. Judy introduced Anita Wilson, who gave the Shell of the Month talk on the importance of our club shell, the lightning whelk, to Native American tribes east of the Mississippi River. Anita also announced that **Study Group** meets tomorrow (Wed., Feb. 22) at 2 p.m. at Cedar Point Park and that shell egg casings and the shells which lay them is the topic.

**Membership:** Sandy Ouder Kirk, VP and chair, announced the club had 139 members (16 new) before today and that seven more people joined at this meeting for a total of 146 members. New members were introduced to the club and given their membership materials/name tags. Nancy Weborg, welcome table, announced there were 89 members and 11 guests attending today's meeting.

**Merchandise:** Connie Cummins, chair, announced that all who had ordered t-shirts last month could pick them up today and that additional orders would be taken next month for both V-neck t shirts and scoop neck tank tops. She announced that existing merchandise from previous years is now on sale for half price.

**Newsletter and Website:** MaryLinda Coward, editor, explained why some newsletters had been posted later than anticipated this year and said that future newsletters would be posted by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month, in order to allow last minute changes to be made following board meetings.

**Outreach:** Tori Weaver, chair, thanked all the members who assisted with the Lemon Bay History Festival classes and the Elsie Quirk library displays and asked them to stand and be recognized. All activities were very well received. Display take-down will be at 10 a.m. Feb. 28 at Elsie Quirk Library. All who have items displayed should arrange to pick them up at that time or call Ruth Middlebrooks ahead of time, so she can take them to her house for later pick-up. Tori asked for volunteers to assist with a kids' summer camp program June 22 at Cedar Point Park. The program is all ready to go since it was given last year and Bobbie Rodgers, director, asked for a repeat class. Tori mentioned that she has another commitment next year which will not enable her to chair Outreach; she explained what a fine, fun learning experience it was for her this year and encouraged others to volunteer to chair the committee.

**Program:** Sherry McKinney, chair, announced that Alan Gettelman will speak next month about shelling in the Philippine Islands.

**Shellcrafters:** Leslie Furmage, co-chair, announced that this Friday's class on flower making (Feb. 24) taught by Diane Herger is full, but that openings remain for the March 24 class on shell wrapping to be taught by Ruth Middlebrooks.

**Social:** Pam Orozco, chair, introduced Diane Herger, Linda Masterson and Colleen Fosnough who will be opening their homes for a Shell Club tour this coming Saturday, Feb. 25 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Pam had direction information to each home. Dick Eckart announced that he will be moving north shortly and will have a shell sale at his home from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, the same day as the tour and encouraged members to add his home to their tour schedule. Pam announced that the club picnic will be April 18 from 11-2 at Englewood Gardens Beach Club. Members could sign up today.

**Sunshine:** Jill Wenning, chair, thanked everyone for all the cards she received as she recovered recently from a knee replacement and asked people to notify her when other members needed good wishes. A card was sent to Amie Barnicle who recently received a pacemaker; she is recovering nicely.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Officer Nomination:** Ruth Middlebrooks, chair, introduced Jane Guy and Jill Wenning; the three formed the nominating committee. Ruth said the process was easier this year because several of this year's officers agreed to continue to serve. She presented the following slate of officer nominees for the 2017-18 year: Linda Powers, President; Sandy Ouderkirk, Vice President; Judy Herman, Secretary; Rita Stonehouse, Treasurer; and Sue Rundle, Wayne Cormier and Candy Niziol, Directors at Large. President Linda thanked the committee and asked for further nominations from the floor. There being none, she declared nominations closed and said elections would follow at the March meeting.

**Donations:** President Linda announced that the board has suggested the club make the following donations which total \$1700 this year: Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum \$200; Cedar Point Park \$200; Conchologists of America \$100; Elsie Quirk Library \$200; Englewood Elks \$200; Freeman Crosby (Web Site administrator) \$100; Lemon Bay High School Scholarship \$500; and Sarasota High School (Carefree Learner) \$200. Suzanne Skalski moved approval of the donations. The motion was seconded and the favorable vote was unanimous.

**Closing Actions:** Four packets of shells from the Dominican Republic trip were raffled. It was mentioned that the 2016-17 membership roster is available on line for members to download. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10. Final sign-ups and shell/book sales continued.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Wilson, Acting Secretary