

ENGLEWOOD SHELL CLUB
General Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2021

The sixth general meeting of Englewood Shell Club for the 2020-21 year was Tuesday, March 16 at 1 p.m. via Zoom because of the pandemic. The group was called to order by the copresidents Martha Dehne and Meredith Blain; Meredith introduced Mary Lundeberg, a nationally known wildlife and conservation photographer and professor at the Ringling School of Art and Design. Her presentation "Share the Shore" was focused primarily on the five seabirds and shorebirds that breed on our area beaches, the problems that cause unsuccessful nesting and chick rearing as well as solutions to those issues. Our big five breeders are least tern, black skimmer, snowy plover, Wilson's plover and American oystercatcher. She also discussed the sea and shore birds that migrate through on their way to the arctic for breeding and those that winter here but breed in the Arctic. Mary encouraged each of us to become part of the solution and to encourage human behavior conducive to avian conservation. She pointed out that because we spend so much time on the beach, we can all be sea and shorebird stewards. Mary illustrated her talk with her wonderful photographs. There was a lively question and answer session following her talk.

The business meeting was called to order by the presidents at 2:15. Candy Niziol introduced Pam Orozco who gave the Shell of the Month presentation on the deer cowry. This is one of the largest cowries in the world growing to 7.5 inches in length. She pointed out they seldom come to the shore because they live in 30 feet of water. Barbara Zitel and Colleen Fosnough also showed deer cowries they have found on our local beaches.

TREASURY AND MEMBERSHIP: Judy Kauk, treasurer, said the current balance stands at \$6158.76. She said our recent \$200 donation to Lemon Bay Park was most appreciated and will be used for various essential projects at the park. Meredith announced for Gay Barlow and Linda Schmoyer that current membership stands at 88 members, very good for this pandemic year.

BEACH WALKS: Deborah Hubbard announced the next beach walk will be Wednesday, April 14 at 9 a.m. at Stump Pass. Members were encouraged to carpool and arrive early in order to get parking places.

HISTORIAN: Karen Blackford said she is putting together a club history that can be passed from historian to historian. Anyone who has newspaper clippings, photos, etc. to share should get the material to Karen. Karen also talked about how she has created and will continue to create albums on Facebook to hold photos from members on each event. This will provide a more permanent file than the current method of each person simply posting on Facebook which makes older information harder to find.

SHELL AUCTION: Candy Niziol announced the auction for the 25 th anniversary celebration is all set, with 10-12 excellent shells, several of Meredith's canvases, books from Sue Ross, wine basket from Cindy Boyd, etc

MERCHANDISING: Martha Dehne described the new 25th anniversary t-shirts that are now for sale. There are pictures and directions for ordering in an email to all members that went out this week. To order a shirt send a check for \$20 made out to ESC, size, and color of shirt desired to Martha before March 27. Shirts will be delivered at the 25 th anniversary celebration.

NEWSLETTER: Lisa Ketner said the April newsletter will be the last for the year, so send her information now!

SHELL STUDY: Martha Dehne announced the March 24 Shell Study session at Lemon Bay Park will include shell props for shell talks that club members have or plan to give, shell ID, and general shelling help. She encouraged members to bring props they have used in the past, as well as shells to ID, favorite finds, books they have found to be useful, etc. It will be a year-end wrap-up session.

SHELLCRAFTERS: Leslie Furmage could not get online today, but asked the presidents to announce that the group would be making 25 th anniversary favors at the March 26 crafting session at Lemon Bay Park. An email will be coming.

25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: Colleen encouraged everyone to bring \$15 for dinner provided by Darrell's. She said only 7 people have registered thus far; members looked surprised and many did not know how to register or where the form was. Colleen said to simply call her to register. She said information about the event was in the last newsletter and everyone should have read about it.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Martha announced the slate which has been nominated for the coming year: Co-presidents, Meredith Blain and Martha Dehne; Vice President, Leslie Furmage; Secretary, Anita Wilson; Treasurer, Judy Kauk; and Board Members at Large: Candy Niziol, Sandy Ouderkirk and Linda Masterson. There were no further nominations from the floor. Martha said she had hoped to install the officers today, but since Leslie was unable to attend, she and Meredith had decided the officers should be installed at the 25 th anniversary celebration. She started to leave the topic without acting on the officer issue, but Linda Masterson rose to a point of order and asked we vote on the officers. Marilyn Boyd moved the club cast a unanimous ballot for the officer nominees as announced. The motion was seconded and the vote affirmative.

EMERITUS MEMBERS: Martha announced Joe Bao, Ruth Middlebrooks and Amie Barnicle had been elected emeritus members and would be introduced and given certificates at the 25 th anniversary celebration. Lisa asked if there could be a chance for them to speak, particularly Amie, who was unable to come to Englewood this year. Various ideas were discussed.

DOOR PRIZES: Winners of Meredith Blain's canvases were Marilyn Boyd, Candy Niziol, Barb Myers and Kitty Saddler. Names were drawn from among the 31 members attending today's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45.

Respectfully Submitted

Anita Wilson, secretary

Approved 4/6/21

Footnote: Shell Study was actually 3/31, not 3/24.