

ENGLEWOOD SHELL CLUB

Minutes of General Meeting

October 15, 2013

The first Englewood Shell Club general meeting of the 2013/14 year was called to order at 1:05 p.m. at the Elk Lodge, Englewood, by President Debbie Freeman. Debbie welcomed new and returning members and impressed upon members that according to the clubs' membership council of the Conchologists of America which met in July 2013, Englewood Shell Club is one of the best clubs in the country.

Anita Wilson was acknowledged as acting secretary for Anna Hagstrom. Sue Chouinard, Treasurer, reported a balance of \$2526.38 as of 10/1/13. President Debbie pointed out that although we are seen as an outstanding chapter, the club is in dire need of volunteers for leadership positions. Debbie will be president only this year; a new president will be elected this coming spring. Dottie Swann, who was elected co-vice president with Sandy Ouderkirk, is ill and unable to serve, so Sandy is serving triple duty as VP, membership chair and ShellCrafters chair. Therefore our leadership is stressed and members must step forward now and in the spring if the club is to continue. Debbie announced a new Audiovisual Committee, which will be in charge of operating the AV for program speakers. Volunteers are sought and should contact Debbie. Debbie pointed out that we now have our own computer, so the volunteers would only have to learn one system and would receive training.

Committee Reports:

MEMBERSHIP: Sandy Ouderkirk welcomed five new members to the club and said that today more had joined and many returning members had already paid their dues. New members received new membership packets developed over the summer.

PROGRAM: Kathryn Gudgel announced that Dr. Jose Leal, Bailey Matthews Shell Museum, Sanibel, will be the November speaker and will discuss the new museum exhibits and their development. Ron Bopp, will speak in January about fossils; Joyce Matthews, Sanibel and Oregon Shell Clubs, will show her new CD in February and she is currently communicating with two possible speakers for March. More later.

EXCURSIONS: Ruth Middlebrooks announced the November 7 trip to Egmont Key, off Fort DeSoto. The bus will leave the Elks Club North Lot at 7 a.m. A boat will take us to Egmont Key at 9 a.m. and we can shell until 2 when we reboard the boat and then bus for the trip home with expected return about 4 p.m. The \$49 charge covers both bus and boat; bring a bag lunch and beverage. (Later in the meeting, after the break, Ruth said vacancies remain and members should contact other members and that possibly non-member friends would be allowed on this trip.) Ruth pointed out the flyers from Peggy Williams about her upcoming International trips.

Debbie Freeman announced there will be a bus trip to the 49th Broward Shell Show on January 18th and that sign-up was on the table. Cost of this trip is \$45.50; the bus will leave at 7 a.m. and

return about 7 p.m.; participants should plan to brown bag meals, since there is a 3.5 hour bus trip each way.

Debbie announced that the January 2 Carefree Learner trip is full and there is a waiting list; openings remain for the January 31 trip. Cost of each of these trips is \$20 not \$14 as the newsletter stated.

SOCIAL: Pam Orozco announced that the Christmas Party will be December 10, noon, at the Manasota Beach Club. Sign-up for attendance and helpers will be at the November meeting. Cost is \$22. A voluntary gift exchange (maximum of \$15) will be held. Gifts must be shell-related. Improvements in the buffet line are planned.

The Spring Picnic will be April 15 at the Englewood Gardens Beach Club. Most on that later.

At the request of members, we will again have a Home Tour to view members' shell collections. This is planned for February with the date to be announced. Linda Powers, Jane Guy, Joe Bao and Deb Freeman have agreed to show their collections. More later.

LIBRARY: LeAnn Bowers, Librarian, encouraged members to check out books and return them at the next meeting.

HISTORIAN: Debbie announced for Judy Kauk that members can send digital photos to Judy and she will see they are posted on the Web, placed in the newsletter &/or put in the scrapbook.

SUNSHINE: Debbie announced that Carol Genest is sunshine chair and has been sending cards. Please, when you know someone who needs a card, notify Carol.

MERCHANDISING: Shirley Kastner will be subbing for Anita LaRochelle until January and pointed out that teeshirts are for sale for \$10; hats for \$12, visors for \$10, 2 luggage tags for \$7; Peter Dance's book "Out of my Shell" for \$5, and specimen boxes, 5/\$1.00. The club merchandise will be for sale on the web site before long. Expect more merchandise soon.

COMMUNICATION: Debbie announced for MaryLinda Coward that the deadline for the November Newsletter is October 23. There is no December newsletter, so get any information that is needed before mid-January in now.

STUDY GROUP: Chair Debbie Freeman announced that the date for the February meeting is Feb. 10; the other dates remain as listed in the newsletter. Everyone is welcome.

SCIENTIFIC SHOEBOX DISPLAYS: Deb thanked Study Group members for developing scientific shoebox displays for the meeting. She announced surprise prizes in this category. A three-member undisclosed panel judged the exhibits and ribbons of excellence were given: First Prize: Freaks of Nature, Deb Freeman; Second Prize: two boxes: Beach Curiosities and Fossils, Kathy Scheley; and Third Place, Mighty Mussels of the Upper Midwest, Rich and Anita Wilson.

John Colagrande gave a short report describing some of the finds from the April 2013 fossil trip.

OUTREACH: Deb announced that the first Outreach activity has already been scheduled. It will

be at Boca Grande Lighthouse, Wednesday, March 12, when Outreach volunteers will give their acclaimed program from last year.

GREETERS: Marilyn Boyd asked members to sign up to greet people for the November meeting and December Party. She mentioned it is a great way for new members to get acquainted with continuing members

There was a 10 minute break for members to look at Show and Tell exhibits, Scientific Shorebox displays, and to sign up for field trips and pay dues.

SHELLCRAFTERS: Deb Freeman and Sandy Ouderkirk, chair, announced that St. David's Episcopal Church has new leadership which has refused to honor our contract to meet there this year. The October meeting, this coming Friday 9 a.m.-noon WILL meet there. The group will decorate bird houses and initials which members will bring, along with their glue guns. But beginning in November the ShellCrafters will meet at the Elks Club. Debbie and Sandy have worked very hard to find an alternative venue. The Elks will not be storing our supplies, so sometime in the near future, the ShellCrafters will have a sale of craft shells to members. In the future plan to supply your own shells unless otherwise instructed. The club will retain ownership of extension cords, tablecloths, etc. Topic for November will be Christmas Ornaments. The January, February and March crafts were announced and are as described in the newsletter. A list of supplies needed for each session will be available.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME: There will be a Welcome Tea on Thursday, January 16 at Deb Freeman's home. This will give new members a chance to get acquainted with each other and with board members.

SHELL OF THE MONTH – Bet Hamilton will give the November Shell of the Month.

President Deb Freeman announced that members should wear their name tags to all club functions. She previously mentioned that members should take care to take everything they brought with them into the meeting room, dispose of beverage cups, etc. appropriately.

There was a motion to adjourn; it was seconded and passed. The meeting adjourned at about 2:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Wilson, Secretary pro temp