

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

October 18, 2016

The first general meeting of the Englewood Shell Club for the 2016-17 year was called to order at 1 p.m. by President Linda Powers at the Elks Club, Englewood, Florida. Linda welcomed everyone to the new year. She then asked for a moment of silence for the three club members who passed away recently: Cory Phillips, Kristine Barr, and Bet Hamilton.

Anita Wilson served as acting secretary for this meeting in the absence of Doris Wall, secretary. Rita Stonehouse, treasurer, reported a current balance of \$1935.19 with all outstanding bills paid.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Beach Walks:** President Linda reported for chair Deborah Hubbard who could not attend. Beach walks will be the second Wednesday of each month. The next beach walk will be November 9 at 10 a.m. at Nokomis Beach.

**Excursions:** Marilyn Boyd reminded the group about the Sanibel trip October 28-29. The group will stay at the Holiday Inn; cost is \$440/room for the two nights. More people could possibly be accommodated. There will be a Halloween Party October 28 at 7 p.m. She asked that all participants meet after the general meeting to go over details.

Ruth Middlebrooks reported for Carol Ayres on the 2.5-3 hr. Carefree Learner boat trips to explore sand bars in Sarasota Bay Jan. 13 and Feb. 10. Carol prepared a sheet of instructions for each participant. It was reported that the new leader of the trip is excellent. President Linda asked that members who have gone on several trips allow newer members to sign up first since space is limited.

Ruth mentioned that other possible trips planned for the year include Useppa Island, an East Coast overnight excursion, fossil trip and Palm Island. More details will be announced about those at the November meeting.

**Greeters:** Marilyn Boyd, chair, asked for volunteers to serve as greeters and mentioned this is an excellent way to get acquainted with other members. There is a sign-up sheet.

**Historian:** Martha Dehne (speaker) and Judy Kauk, co-chairs, plan to gather and share pictures of the year's activities via electronic media. There will also be a scrapbook produced by Shutterbug or similar service at the end of the year to permanently record those activities. They will tell the group next meeting how to access the site chosen.

President Linda explained that the club's Facebook page, Englewood Shell Club, is a closed members-only site. Members should go to the page and ask permission to join. Only ESC members can see the posts.

**Librarian:** Judy Kauk displayed 25 new books. Most were from Bet Hamilton's Collection. Bet

donated her entire shelling library to the Club. President Linda thanked Connie Cummins, Judy Kauk, Martha Dehne, Jill Wenning and Judy's granddaughter who helped Linda gather and pack Bet's shell collection which will be donated to COA (Conchologists of America).

**Shell of the Month:** Linda Powers discussed the Japanese Wonder Shell, a turret, which was this year's COA Convention Shell. It is reported that Frank Lloyd Wright used the shell as inspiration for some of his buildings; therefore the Chicago Planning committee (site of this year's meeting) chose the shell in honor of Chicago's many architecturally unique buildings. One point of trivia about the shell is that the column will screw into the back of a Sundial shell, which Linda demonstrated. Linda announced that four Wonder shells would be the raffle prizes today.

**Membership:** President Linda reported for VP and membership chair Sandy Ouderkirk. She announced the names of new members who joined since last spring and asked new members who joined today to stand and introduce themselves.

**Merchandising:** Connie Cummins will be assuming the chair position for this committee since Corey Phillips passed on. She distributed a survey to all members today and will use results to choose items of clothing to sell this year. Items left from last year are for sale.

**Newsletter and Website:** The president reported for MaryLinda Coward. Deadline for the November newsletter issue was changed from October 11 to October 24.

**Outreach:** Chair Tori Weaver announced she is working with Darlene Gallentine as they plan community outreach. Activities planned at this time include two 45 minute presentations at the Lemon Bay Festival in February at Elsie Quirk Library. One will be Shelling 101; the second will be-What do I do with the shells I have collected? The committee will also be producing displays for the library display cases. She would like a separate subcommittee to handle those displays and asked volunteers to contact her or Darlene. She asked that members donate shells to be given away to class participants. There will be more information in the next newsletter.

**Programs:** Sherry McKinney, chair, announced that Bet Hamilton had planned to present the program in November and a replacement is currently being sought. Scott Robichaud will speak in January about his shelling trip to Honduras, while the November 2016 trip by several members to the Dominican Republic will be featured in February, and Allan Gettelman will address Phillipine shelling in March.

**Shell Study Group:** Anita Wilson announced that she will be assisting Linda Powers with Study group since Linda is also President. The group will meet the fourth Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. at Cedar Point Park. The October meeting will include sharing of interesting shells found over the summer and (if time permits) a review of SW Florida cockle shells given by Anita. The November meeting will be November 30 to avoid Thanksgiving conflicts; there is no December meeting.

**Great Scallop Search:** Anita Wilson reported briefly on the great scallop search research project that several members participated in last summer. She encouraged others to try it next summer.

**ShellCrafters:** Co-chairs Martha Dehne (speaker) and Leslie Furmage announced the year's Shell craft classes will begin at 10 a.m. on the third Friday of each month at the Elks Club. Classes must be paid for at the general meeting before each crafting session. There is a handout at the table listing all the year's activities. Sign-ups this year will be for the upcoming two months' programs. October will feature rope and shell enhanced picture frame, shadowbox or mirror; November will be Sip and Dip pictures of lightning whelks painted by members.

**Social:** Chair Pam Orozco announced the Christmas luncheon will be December 6 at the Gulf View Grill. There are announcements that include luncheon choices at her table. Pick one up. Checks and reservations will be due at the November meeting. Cost is \$25. In addition, Pam is planning a Member Home Shell Tour for February and a spring picnic.

**Sunshine:** Chair Jill Wenning announced she had mailed 20 cards since spring. Please call her if you know of members who need a card. Members, stay healthy!

**Parliamentarian:** Nancy Weborg will serve in this capacity.

There was no old business to come before the group. The president announced a ten-minute break so members could chat and sign up for activities.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**COA:** Brenda Steele discussed the history of COA, the Chicago meeting last July and the upcoming meeting in Key West next August. Brenda mentioned the organization began in 1972 and has grown to be a well organized, respected national group. Brenda discussed the various activities of the Chicago COA meeting which included pre-convention tours, an opening ceremony, silent auction, speakers, a wonderful welcome party at the Field Museum, banquets and awards, a meeting for club representatives, and a bourse with shell dealers from all over the world. She encouraged members to join COA and for us to go to Key West this coming August. Linda Powers announced that it will be essential for our club members to help with the Key West meeting, because Key West has only one COA member. Anne Joffe, Sanibel, is program chair and will be most appreciative of our help.

**Shell Shows:** President Linda announced that shell shows will be starting soon. Information on the Sanibel Show is on display.

**New Logo:** Connie Cummins shared a potential new logo developed gratis by a professional graphic designer for our club. The membership voted overwhelmingly to accept the new logo which can be produced in any color and used on club merchandise.

**Shell Sales:** President Linda said a member had visited another club and reported that members of that club could rent tables to sell their shells before the meetings. Linda asked if the club members would be interested. Other members then spoke about seeing the same activity at other meetings they visited. In one case the person selling was expected to give 10% of proceeds to the club. In another case, extra items made at club shell craft classes were sold to members who could not attend the crafting meetings with proceeds going to the club. President Linda pointed

out that might be possible, but that to allow our members who sell professionally to do so at club meetings could become unwieldy. The membership seemed in favor of the shell sale idea. Linda said the topic would be discussed at the upcoming board meeting.

**Homer Rhode, COA 2016 Neptunea Award Winner:** Homer was introduced to the group and the president told about Homer's achievements in conchology and about the Neptunea award. It is an honor to have Homer as a member of our club. Club members gave Homer a standing ovation! President Linda announced that during the break she had asked Homer to replace her as study group leader, that Homer agreed and would be working with Anita Wilson.-

The business meeting was adjourned.

The program was Member Show and Tell. Members shared a variety of summer projects, everything from a shell-decorated stained glass lamp shade to shell floral arrangements, jewelry and microshell collection.

The meeting concluded at 2:45 after the raffle of four wonder shells from Chicago COA.

Respectfully submitted

Anita Wilson, Acting Secretary