

Approved 11-2-15

ENGLEWOOD SHELL CLUB

General Meeting Minutes

10/20/15

The first general meeting of the 2015-16 season was called to order by President Brenda Steele at 1:05 p.m. at the Elks Club, Englewood. Brenda welcomed the very large enthusiastic group and then asked for a moment of silence for the three long-time club members who died over the summer: Richard Forbush, Richard Wilson and Margaret Bustamante.

Rita Stonehouse, treasurer, reported the summer balance had been \$2134.40; that a \$1000 deposit had been made to reserve the Marina Jack ship for our 20th anniversary party, leaving a balance of \$1134.40. Members were encouraged to pay dues promptly.

Committee reports were given.

Program: Sherry McKinney, chair, thanked Linda Powers for her help in suggesting speakers. The following programs are set: Nov. 17-Rebecca Oâ€™Sullivan, Archeology of SW Florida; January-John Colegrande; February-Ann Joffe; and March-Gary Schmelz.

Vice President and Membership: Sandy Ouderkirk, welcomed all returning and new members, giving a particular welcome to Victoria Weaver, a new member who completed her application prior to the meeting. Brenda pointed out that members must pay dues prior to attending classes, trips or any activity other than general meetings.

Excursions: Marilyn Boyd reported on the first three excursions planned. The trip to Sanibel is full, but two more people could possibly be accommodated. There will be a Halloween party Friday night, Oct. 30, at 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn. She asked that at least one person from each car meet at the back of the room at the break to receive further briefing. Marilyn, reporting for Carol Ayres, also announced two Carefree Learner trips in Sarasota Bay, January 25 and February 9. Both will leave from the south end of the Marina Jack boat basin at 7:45. She mentioned these trips are particularly good for all new shellers. **Ruth Middlebrooks** announced a trip November 12 to Palm Island. The fee includes car fee for the barge crossing, golf cart on-island and lunch at Rum Bay. Meet at 7:30 at Prime Time, but establish foursomes for cars and golf carts beforehand.

Sunshine: Jill Wenning asked members to let her know when other members need a card or other remembrance.

Social: Pam Orozco announced the club Holiday Luncheon will be Wednesday, December 16, 11:15-2 p.m., at the Gulf View Grill, 2095 N. Beach Road. Members should sign up for one of the three menu choices. Members can choose to participate in a \$15 shell-related gift exchange.

Library: Judy Kauk described the extensive club library holdings. She stressed the importance

of correctly checking out the books, and returning them promptly at the next meeting. She asked members to check for books at home, since several are currently missing from the collection. She thanked Linda Powers who recently donated books by Ann Joffe and Gary Schmelz to the library. The librarian is also in charge of Shell of the Month activities this year; see Judy to volunteer.

Newsletter: Brenda thanked editor MaryLinda Coward for the summer and fall newsletters. Both are available now on the club website, Englewoodshell.club.

Merchandising: Shirley Kastner, assistant chair, reported for Anita LaRochelle, chair. The newest items are small cloth wallets perfect for holding critical items, such as a bit of cash, credit card and driver's license, when members go to the beach. Cost is \$7. Large bags, visors, hats, luggage tags, pins and t-shirts are also for sale.

Beach Walks: Darlene Gallentine, chair, reported the October 14 Blind Pass beach walk was successful and the next will be November 11 at 10 a.m. at Manasota Beach. The group goes to lunch together following shelling, walk, swim and conversation.

Shell Study: Linda Powers, chair, announced the club partners with Cedar Point Park to hold meetings the last Wednesday of each month: October 28, November 25?, January 27, Feb. 24 and March 30. Bring summer shells from wherever you shelled to show and share at the October 28 meeting. Also bring ideas for the year's activities.

Shell Crafters: Leslie Furmage and Martha Dehne, co-chairs, announced that regular sessions will meet at the Elks Club in the meeting room behind the dining room/bar at 9 a.m. on the third Friday of the month. Those sessions are starred. A \$5 fee is charged to cover room rent. The schedule includes *November 20-shell decorated bracelets and necklaces by Nancy Weborg and Pam Orozco; December 7-Decorating the Club Christmas tree at Cedar Point; *December 18: Shell wind chimes/mobiles with Anita Wilson; January 11-Take down Cedar Point Christmas tree; *January 22-shell painting with guest instructor (extra charge of \$15); *February 19-Decorating Wine or Iced Tea glasses by the chairs; and *March 18-Wire Wrapping Shells led by Ruth Middlebrooks.

Outreach: Connie Cummins, co-chair, announced the group completed a very successful summer program for children with the Charlotte County Library and has a shellcraft display scheduled for November at Elsie Quirk Library. If any member knows a group that would like a shell-related program, let Connie know.

Greeters: Marilyn Boyd, chair, asked members to sign up to be greeters at meetings and pointed out that this is an excellent way to meet other members. Come about 12:30 when you are a greeter.

Historian: Patricia Mulroy, chair, will be gone for the next two months and would like members to take pictures of activities for her to put in the club scrapbook. Be sure to identify people in the picture and the activity. Club scrapbooks will be displayed at the Anniversary celebration.

Old Business followed. Brenda announced that the club gave two \$500 scholarships last spring to Kaitlyn Hanson and Alex Conrad, high school graduates planning to major in a marine science area in college. She also mentioned that very nice thank you notes were received from Jane Forbush (for Dick), Audrey and Andy Grant, and Barbara Myers, who were elected last spring as our first emeritus members. Brenda read the letter from Club Founder, Barbara Myers.

New Business: Brenda announced the 20th anniversary celebration on the Marina Jack II, January 31, 2016 at 1 p.m. There will be a buffet lunch and tour of the harbor similar to the one we had for the club's 15th anniversary. She mentioned that Marina Jack waived several hefty charges (such as \$1300 just to charter the ship), so the cost is only \$35.95/person.

Brenda announced that Linda Powers, Club representative at COA, donated the \$100 honorarium from the club to partially cover expenses, back to the club. Linda gave a report on the meeting and encouraged members to attend the 2016 meeting in Chicago. She mentioned that our club and the Broward group are envied by other clubs because we are so large and vital.

A break followed to allow welcome back conversation and activity sign-up.

Following the break, Linda Hamilton gave the Shell of the Month talk on Baby's Ears. Each person who brought an item for Show and Tell told a bit about the item. Drawings for shells concluded the meeting, which was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Anita Wilson, acting secretary