

ENGLEWOOD SHELL CLUB

Minutes of General Meeting

November 18, 2014

Englewood Shell Club President Brenda Steele called the second general meeting of the 2014-15 year to order at 1 p.m. on Tuesday November 18 at the Elks Club in Englewood. She welcomed new and returning members who had not been at the October meeting.

Sue Chouinard, Treasurer, reported the club's current balance is \$5161.88.

Sandy Ouderkirk, membership chair, introduced the thirteen new members who have recently joined the club and presented them with pins, nametags, lightning whelks, constitutions, a copy of Out of My Shell, etc. and announced that this is the largest group of new members in a long time. The membership now stands at 88. She thanked Ruth Middlebrooks for planning the wonderful Florida Keys trip last week.

Ruth Middlebrooks, Excursions Chair, reported briefly on the Keys trip. She announced and described bus trips scheduled for Honeymoon Island State Park February 26 and Cedar Key March 24-26 and pointed out sign-up sheets on the tables. She said a trip to Don Pedro Island is also planned and more information will follow at future meetings. Nancy Weborg, reported for Marilyn Boyd, excursions co-chair, that a trip to Sanibel is planned for next October 30/31, 2015 and that members must sign up and pay a deposit of \$50 by December 1 to reserve a spot at the Blue Dolphin Resort. If more people register than can be accommodated at the Blue Dolphin, additional rooms will be reserved at the Holiday Inn. Carol Ayres, excursions co-chair, announced the two Carefree Learner (Sarasota High School's Marine Science boat) trips in Sarasota Bay are scheduled for January 6 and 21; cost of each is \$20 and is due now. Each trip is approximately 2.5-3 hours in length; weather may be cold so dress in layers. Each excursion chair asked for and answered questions from the group.

Sunshine Chair, Rita Stonehouse , asked members to call her with names of members who are ill or otherwise need a card sent from the club to them.

Pam Orozco, Social Chair, announced the Christmas luncheon will be December 9 at Manasota Beach Club. Members may arrive at 11 a.m. for a social hour preceding food service at noon. There is a voluntary gift exchange; if members wish to participate, bring a shell-related gift with a \$15 price limit. Reservations must be made and paid by December 1. She reminded people to park on the east side of the road and President Brenda suggested those bringing members who have difficulty walking should let them off next to the club house and then park across the road. Pam asked for volunteers to act as Santa's elves for the gift exchange. The spring picnic is still in the planning stages. President Brenda Steele reminded members to always bring checkbooks to meetings, so they can easily sign up and pay for activities.

LeAnn Bowers, Librarian, encouraged members to check out books from our library and

said several new books have been donated.

Nancy Weborg, Historian, welcomes pictures of any and all club activities for the club scrapbook.

President Brenda Steele said no membership campaign is planned at this time because new memberships are coming in nicely without special action.

Anita Laroche, Merchandise Chair, discussed and showed all the items the club currently has for sale to members and mentioned there may be new t-shirts after the first of the year.

Darlene Gallentine announced that in spite of the cold weather forecast, there will be a 10 a.m. beach walk tomorrow, Nov. 19 at Manasota Beach.

Linda Powers, Study Group Chair, announced a successful first meeting of the Study group with 17 people in attendance. The next meeting will be next Wednesday, November 26 at 2 p.m. at Cedar Point Park. Attendees are encouraged to bring shells they would like to have identified.

Leslie Furmage, ShellCrafters Co-chair, thanked Ruth Middlebrooks for the successful abalone nightlight project this month. She announced sign-ups for several upcoming activities. The Christmas tree at Cedar Point Park will be decorated at 10 a.m. on Monday, December 8 and decorations will be put back away on Monday, January 12; lunch will follow each process! Kathy Schley will lead ShellCrafters in making shelled napkin rings at 9 a.m. on Friday, December 12 at the Elks Club. The January 9 ShellCrafters session will have two projects: creating mini-shadow boxes and yarn embellished shells. Directions as well as sign-ups are on the tables for both December and January ShellCrafters. Shell flowers will be the topic of the February 13 session and shell decorated cigar boxes will be featured March 13.

President Brenda Steele, reported for the Outreach Co-chairs that the Club has a display at Elsie Quirk library through the end of November and encouraged members to drop by to see it.

Nancy Weborg asked for January meeting greeter volunteers on behalf of Greeting Chairman, Marilyn Boyd. Jeannine Emond and Dottie Swann volunteered.

OLD BUSINESS followed.

President Brenda announced that members are finding the discounts afforded by use of our membership cards are working nicely and both members and merchants are pleased with the results.

She reminded members to sign up for the raffle. A shell-decorated bird house and shell needlework donated by Kris Barr will be prizes in the April drawing. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Money will be used for a scholarship for a Lemon Bay high school graduating senior who wishes to major in marine biology or similar program.

NEW BUSINESS followed. The President asked members who do not have computer printer access to ask a friend to print a copy for them or to print their own at a local library, so MaryLinda Coward does not have to print and mail copies.

The President announced the club now has a Facebook page as an extension of the newsletter. Items posted on the page must be shell-related and "Of the Moment". She gave appropriate examples of current beach finds and new shell craft ideas. The content will be monitored. To gain access members must be on Facebook; dues for the current year must be paid; it is a closed group, ie, only members who have requested to be part will be admitted. Access directions will be coming via e-mail shortly. Brenda also reminded members that the new website address is www.inglewoodshell.club.

Linda Powers suggested members may wish to send Barb Myers, our founding president, a birthday card.

The business meeting was adjourned at 1:45. Linda Powers, the day's speaker, was introduced by Katherine Gudgel, program chair, following a short recess. Linda gave a most informative and entertaining illustrated talk about the 2013 shelling trip led by Glenn Duffy to the Philippine Islands that she and five other Club members experienced.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Wilson, Acting Secretary