

## ENGLEWOOD SHELL CLUB

### Minutes of General Meeting

November 19, 2013

President Debbie Freeman called the second Englewood Shell Club general meeting of the 2013-14 year to order November 19, 2013 at 1:05 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, Englewood. Debbie welcomed all new and returning members and announced that the minutes of the October meeting had been approved by the Board and were posted on the "members only" section of the Club website for members viewing.

Kathryn Gudgel, program chair, introduced Dr. Jose Leal, Curator and Director of Education of the Bailey Matthews Shell Museum, who spoke to the group on the topic of "Shells in My Life." His humorous and informative illustrated lecture was very well received. Dr. Leal has enjoyed shelling from the early days of his life growing up in Brazil and he has now been at the Bailey Matthews for 18 years. Several shells have been named for him.

Following a short break, President Debbie called the meeting back to order with several announcements. She mentioned that Anita Wilson was serving again as acting secretary. Debbie announced that she has been elected to the COA Board of Directors and the Club gave her a hearty round of applause. Regarding old business of the ShellCrafters change of venue, Debbie announced the Club did get its deposit for ShellCrafters back from St. Davids Church. There will be a sale of craft supplies in January since we no longer have space to store them. Judy Greene, Margaret Bustamante, Linda Maggiore and Suzanne Skalski volunteered to help with that sale. Sue Chouinard, club treasurer, will man the cash box. Debbie said that if members wanted to donate shells to sell to other members they should contact her and they could be sold at the same time. Rich and Anita Wilson volunteered to provide their truck to move the empty ShellCrafters cabinets.

Sue Chouinard, Treasurer, announced the balance at the beginning of this meeting was \$3998.12. Sandy Ouderkirk, Vice President and Membership chair, welcomed four new members to the club and announced we now have 86 members, eight of whom are new.

#### Committee Reports:

**SHELLCRAFTERS:** Sandy Ouderkirk announced the ShellCrafter projects for the upcoming months and said they would be held in the meeting room at the Elks Club behind the bar area. There will be signs. This Friday's meeting (Nov. 22) members will make Christmas ornaments and trees. Sandy stressed that members must bring all their own supplies. New member Candy Niziole will lead the Dec. 13 meeting and members will make Christmas angels. January 24 Linda Maggiore will lead the class as they make coquina necklaces. February and March plans were also reviewed. All meetings will be from 9 a.m. until noon. Sandy announced supplies that will be needed, pointed out all the sample projects, and mentioned the sign up lists and \$7.00 cost which covers room rental. All information is also on the web site.

**PROGRAMS:** Debbie announced for Kathryn that Ron Bopp of Sarasota who will speak about fossil shells would give the January program.

## EXCURSIONS:

\*Carol Ayers announced there would be a trip to Cayo Costa aboard the Calusa Queen on Wednesday, February 19. The cost will be \$26. Sign-up will be in January. The Calusa Queen will take the group to Captain Phils on Captiva for lunch. Husbands who are not members or other guests will be welcomed only if there are openings after members have been accommodated.

\*Marilyn Boyd announced there would be a trip March 5 and 6 to Sanibel for the Sanibel Shell Show. Ten rooms at the Holiday Inn for both nights have been reserved. March 5 will be a shelling day; March 6 is the opening day of the show. Rooms need to be used both nights. This is a carpool trip. Sign up now; a \$150 check is due to Marilyn by the January meeting.

\*Debbie Freeman announced a bus trip to the Broward Shell Show on January 18, 2014. Cost is \$45. Thirty people are needed to go. Plan to bring bag lunch for the bus.

\*Debbie Freeman announced the January 2 Carefree Learner trip is full, but spaces remain for the Jan. 31 excursion.

\*Debbie Freeman mentioned the Melbourne show is the week before the Broward show (January 11 & 12). They are still looking for artistic entries for this show. The scientific entries are always excellent and our members have done well here also.

LIBRARY: LeAnn Bowers mentioned that many copies of Sea and Shore magazine which is no longer published and almost all American Conchologist journals published by COA (our parent organization) are in the library ready for your check-out.

HISTORIAN: Judy Kauk said Egmont Key photos would be welcome for the scrapbook and web site.

## SOCIAL:

\*Pam Orozco pointed out the sign-up sheet for the Dec. 10 Christmas party at Manasota Beach Club. Buffet luncheon cost is \$22 with checks due before the end of November; this is a members-only event. Helpers are needed. There will be a \$15 shell-related gift exchange for those who wish to participate. The party begins at 11:30, with luncheon at noon.

\*February 25 is the date for the Shell Home Tour at the homes of Debbie Freeman, Jane Guy, Joe Bao and Linda Powers. Homes will be open from 10-3. This is an informal event; members are encouraged to car pool. There will be maps and directions in January.

\*The Shell Club picnic will be April 15.

\*The New Members Tea will be January 16 from noon to 3 p.m. at Freemans home. This event is for new members (last year and this year) and offers an opportunity to get acquainted with each other and with board members. Sign up now. There will be a light luncheon.

MERCHANDISING: Debbie and Shirley Kastner have taken pictures of our current merchandise for the web site and information sent to MaryLinda Coward. Items can be viewed, but will not be

sold, on the site soon. Merchandise will still be available for sale only at meetings. Shirley showed samples of our merchandise and gave prices.

**STUDY GROUP:** Debbie Freeman announced the next Study group meeting will be December 9 at 1 p.m. at her home. The topic will be mollusk predation; members are encouraged to attend and bring shells with holes. Study group members are preparing information at this time for pictures and identification data for Florida shells. This will be on the web site before the end of the ESC season.

**OUTREACH:** Amie Barnicle announced two presentations are set for sure (Englewood History Week and the March 17 Boca Grande talk); two more are probable. Amie thanked the excellent group of volunteers who have been helping. She needs Florida shells to distribute at these programs; shells should be large enough that small children wont put them in their mouths and choke. Amie mentioned that any group of 10 or more who is interesting in learning more about Florida shells is eligible to have a program from our clubs Outreach group.

**BEACH WALKS:** Darlene Gallentine reported on the very nice Boca Grande field trip last week and announced the next beach walk will be Wednesday, December 11 at 10 a.m. at Manasota Beach.

**GREETERS:** Marilyn Boyd ask members to sign up to be greeters in January. We have plenty for December.

Bet Hamilton presented a short talk and showed her huge, rare Orange triton for Shell of the Month. She found it in the Bahamas during one of the fourteen summers she spent on a live aboard boat. She showed the usual brown and white triton. Bet pointed out that the Australian relative of our triton cannot be taken from the Great Barrier Reef because it is the main predator of the Crown of Thorns, which destroys coral. Anita Wilson offered to present the January Shell of the Month.

Kathy Schley will be the chair of the new Technology committee; they will help with AV at meetings. Joe Bao and Margaret Bustamante are also on the committee and others are welcomed. See Debbie.

Debbie Freeman asked for volunteers to notify local papers about our meetings and speakers. Judy Green and Mary Jo Schwed volunteered.

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anita Wilson, secretary pro temp.