

**ENGLEWOOD SHELL CLUB
GENERAL MEETING
November 21, 2017**

After our speaker Joyce Matthys presented a program on Byssus (Sea Silk), the meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m. by President Linda Powers.

Treasurer Rita Stonehouse gave our balance as \$3,712.41.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Beach Walks: Deborah Hubbard announced the December beach walk will be 10 a.m., December 13th at Boca Grande .

Excursions: Marilyn Boyd reports that everyone had a great time at Big Hickory. This trip will probably be repeated next year. Congress Jewelers had given each participant a \$25 gift certificate (for use in the shop) and have said they will give each attendee at the Sanibel show the same certificate. Carol Ayres is working on a trip to Anclote Key: date and details not yet finalized, but the trip will probably be in January or February. This will be an overnight trip, with a boat leaving out of New Port Richey. Details should be published in the January newsletter. Carol Ayres announced the two trips on the *Carefree Learner* are scheduled for January 17th and February 1st.

Historian: Martha Dehne has been working on a club scrapbook: she brought the finished copy with her today and invited members to peruse. Martha also presented *The Shell of the Month*, speaking about Deer Cowries. Judy Herman volunteered to do *The Shell of the Month* for January. Karen Heuther will present for February. At this point, Linda urged members to become more involved in the club by taking on a committee, or an office. As all the current members of the board, with the exception of the Secretary, will not be running for office this next year, much new blood is needed. Linda states that committee chairs, as well as board members, will serve as mentors to those members who will assume these positions.

Librarian: Judy Kauk has set up a table today to sell some of the club's older and/or duplicate books.

Membership: Linda reported for Sandy Ouderkirk that as of today, we have 107 members, of which 17 are new. New members were installed by Linda.

Merchandise: Connie Cummins gave a run-down on the club merchandise available for sale. She will take orders for shirts at the January meeting.

Newsletter: In Mary Linda Coward's absence, Linda reports that the November and December newsletters were combined. The deadline for submission for the January newsletter is January 4th. Our webmaster, Freeman Crosby is in ill health: Linda asked if anyone would be interested in taking over this position. By a show of hands, no one experienced any trouble opening the newsletter .pdf by email.

Programs: Candy gave a list of all the upcoming programs for the 2017/2018 for the year. January's program will be given by Dr. Jose Leal of the Bailey Matthews Museum. She reported that everyone who had participated in the October club sale was quite happy with the results and she feels confident

we will repeat the sale next year. Candy thanked everyone who brought contributions for the food drive which is to benefit Englewood United Methodist Church.

Shell Study: Homer Rhode announced that we will be having a Pizza-Box display in February. Linda has provided a prototype to give members an idea of what is involved. The study group has volunteered to help members with their displays. Homer and Linda will be the official judges, and Homer will be donating specimen shells as prizes. Details will be printed in the newsletter. Members should let Candy know if they will be participating.

Shellcrafters: Leslie Furmage has craft classes lined up for the year and she and Sue Murray had several samples on display. Leslie has prepared a sign-up sheets for members: to put up...and take down...the Christmas tree at Cedar Point Park. The tree will be decorated on December 4th, and taken down on January 8th.

Social: Pam Orozco spoke about the Toys For Tots program which will take the place of the gift exchange at the holiday party. Toys For Tots will have a retired Marine to speak about the program at the party. Pam states that a visit to the marine lab at Lemon Bay High School is in the works. The board has decided that rather than make a contribution to the scholarship fund at Lemon Bay (which would only benefit one student) we will donate to the lab. One of the teachers will provide Linda with a list of what's needed. A \$100 contribution has been made to sponsor the Marine Conservation Group which has been formed at the school.

Sunshine: Jill Wenning asks that if members have extra cards (with the exception of birthday cards) it would be appreciated if members would donate them to the club for use by the sunshine committee. A card was sent to Freeman Crosby.

The monthly door prizes did not make it to the meeting: numbers were drawn and the winners will receive their prize next month. Those are Liz Van Horn, Suzanne Scalski, and Wanda Moon.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Judy Herman
Recording Secretary