
ENGLEWOOD SHELL CLUB

THE SHELL SCOOP – SHELL SEEKERS



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Newsletter Editor Message

Labor Day is just around the corner. That means the summer is coming to an end, school is starting, vegetables and fruits are being harvested and canned and the ESC shell club members are preparing for another great year of events and camaraderie as we approach our club's 20th Anniversary. It's amazing to think that 20 years has passed since our founding members formed the club based on their interest, love and respect of nature's gifts from the sea.

It's been 38 years since I first stepped onto Englewood Beach while visiting my mother-in-law who had lived on Manasota Key for many years. I was so thrilled to find shells of all quality and kinds that I picked up every one of them. Later in my life I became what I would call a 'shell snob'; only picking up perfect specimens. I soon learned that I was limiting myself by doing so when one of the renters in our condo association presented me with a beautiful cameo pin made of all broken shells.

It was this experience that reminded me of the old adage, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. I would look at broken shells and walk past looking for only the perfect ones to add to my collections. What I failed to remember is that in God's eyes, everything he creates is perfect and has a purpose.

These days I walk the beach looking and collecting various shells no longer requiring perfection and wondering how I will display or use them in the wonderful Shell Crafter sessions our talented members lead. I'm glad I was reminded of that old adage.

Summer Happenings on the Florida Beaches

While many of our club members headed north for the summer, those that remained in Florida kept busy continuing the beach walks and outings. For those of you who haven't checked out the club's Facebook page, here are some of the events our members have participated in.

August: Don Pedro Island trip organized by Sandra Ouderkirk. If you have never been to Don Pedro, it is a barrier island that is only accessible by boat. It is primitive and therefore, a treasure hunter's paradise.

ESC members Linda Powers, Rita Stonehouse, Martha Dehne, & rookie Anita Wilson participated in the 7th annual Great Bay & Sound Scallop Search in Lemon Bay. A total of 18 scallops were found with Anita and Linda each finding their first!

July: The Outreach program presented a program to children and parents at the Charlotte County Public Library, "Read and Feed". Linda Powers, Darlene Gallentine, Connie Cummins and Rita Stonehouse shared their knowledge of shells and collecting. Children went home with shells and the club donated shelling books to the library.

Our President, Brenda Steele, represented ESC at the COA Convention 2015, *Gala in the Glades*. Brenda will be reporting on her experience in her President's message in an upcoming newsletter.

And who can resist a trip to Mote? Linda Powers provided a private tour of the aquarium to some lucky members. For those of you who don't know, Linda has tirelessly supported Mote through various volunteer opportunities, including being lead on a shell exhibit. If you haven't had the chance to visit Mote recently and see it, be sure to put that on your agenda for your next stop in Sarasota.

Many members have submitted pictures of their personal shell finds this summer. Be sure to check out our club's FB page for more interesting stories from our members.

Richard Howard Wilson

Sadly, our long time club member and advocate of nature and conservation causes, passed away on June 18, 2015. Richard and Anita lived life to the fullest. I remember meeting them when I first joined ESC. Anita's infectious smile and laugh were most welcoming. Richard, a bit more reserved, but nonetheless full of spunk in his own way. A tribute to his well lived life continues in his family, friends and the love and respect he showed to others and nature. Rest in peace, Richard. You will be missed.

Anita Wilson sent me an email this summer with some thoughtful reminders of a well lived life. She has graciously allowed me to share the following six short stories with our members

- 1) Once all villagers decided to pray for rain, on the day of prayer all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That's FAITH.
- 2) When you throw a baby in the air, she laughs because she knows you will catch her. That's TRUST.
- 3) Every night we go to bed, without any assurance of being alive the next morning but still we set the alarms to wake up. That's HOPE
- 4) We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That's CONFIDENCE.
- 5) We see the world suffering, but still we get married and have children. That's LOVE.
- 6) On an old man's shirt was written a sentence 'I am not 80 years old.... I am sweet 16 with 64 years' experience. That's ATTITUDE.

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories!

October and November 2015 Calendar of Events

OCTOBER 2015:

Tu	6	10:00 AM	Board Meeting	Elsie Quirk Library
W	14	10:00 AM	Beachwalk	Blind Pass Beach
Tu	20	1:00 PM	General Meeting	Elks Club
W	28	2:00 PM	Study Group	Cedar Point Park

NOVEMBER 2015:

Tu	3	10:00 AM	Board Meeting	Elsie Quirk Library
W	11	10:00 AM	Beachwalk	Manasota Beach
Tu	17	1:00 PM	General Meeting	Elks Club
F	20	9:00 AM	Shellcrafters	Elks Club
W	25	2:00 PM	Study Group	Cedar Point Park



Photo compliments of
Ross Bergen – Sanibel
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