

Englewood Shell Club

The Shell Scoop – Shell Seekers

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Newsletter Editor – MaryLinda Coward
escnewsletter@aol.com

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"It's hard for me to put into words why I like the beach so much. Everything about it is renewing for me, almost like therapy...Beach Therapy

Amy Dykens

President's Message – Nancy Weborg



I have been working on this message for awhile and trying to find the right words to express my feelings on being president of this wonderful club for the past two years. I am having great difficulty putting this down on paper. I have thoroughly enjoyed being president and I have learned so much over the past two years. I can remember the first meeting. I had to stand in front of the membership and conduct business. I was scared to death. But with the help of our wonderful board members and chairpersons and a lot of encouragement from all, it got easier with each meeting.

President's Message Con't.

I felt welcomed into this club from the very first meeting I attended. I have to thank Sue Rundle for taking me to that first meeting. I have learned many things and made many new friends. I will still be involved in the growth of the club, just not at the steering wheel. Please, please get involved in the workings of the club. If you don't think you want to be a chairperson yet, ask a chairperson if you can help in any way by working with them. If you don't want to become an officer quite yet; think about becoming an at large member first. Then finally, take the plunge, become an officer. Attend some of the board meetings and see how the club works. It is very rewarding and there is always help out there.

Newsletter Editor – MaryLinda Coward



It's hard to believe March is here. Soon many of our members will be packing up their treasures from the sea and heading back to their summer homes. It's also hard to believe I'm finishing my first year as the newsletter editor for ESC which has been a wonderful experience and has made my ESC membership so much richer. As Nancy has commented, her involvement in the club has provided her many opportunities to grow personally and meet new friends. I would have to agree with Nancy's comments in that this opportunity to serve as your ESC Newsletter editor has given me the opportunity to grow and learn. I would encourage all members to find their personal passion and see how you, too, can get involved.

Remember the club's email account for club members to communicate any changes you may have for your phone numbers, email or snail mail addresses or to provide comments for the Board or Chairpersons. If you change your email be sure to drop me a line so I can keep your contact information current.

Email is: escnewsletter@aol.com.

Happy Shelling!

MaryLinda



Shell Crafters - Sandy Ouderkirk & Dottie Swann



Our first Shell Crafters of 2013 was highly successful with Linda Maggiore leading the decorated mirrors session. Everyone went home with a beautiful mirror. Thank you, Linda, for a well done job. We had another exciting session on February 21 with Diane Herger and Cindy Gettle making flowers. They both did an outstanding job, and everyone took home flowers. Check out the Club's photo album for some pictures taken at this event.



March 21 – In March, Dottie Swann and I will be working on decorating baskets. Be sure to bring a basket to decorate, ribbon, any special shells, and of course your glue gun. This session will be held March 21. As always, Shell Crafters is held at the Suncoast Worship Center 881 S. River Rd. Englewood FL from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. The fee of \$7 is charged for the use of the room.

We are looking ahead to next year, and Dottie and I have agreed to chair Shell Crafters again. We are seeking volunteers to lead a craft session for October, November, possibly December, January, February and March. We know there are many talented members out there who would love to share their crafts. Please contact either one of us if you are interested. Sandy 315-404-5313 or email at sandioud@yahoo.com

ESC Merchandise - Shirley Kastner



ESC merchandise is still available for you to purchase at the last General Meeting in March. Take some of these items with you and share your fun experiences being part of the ESC group this winter. You never know when a spare luggage tag will come in handy and they make it easy to spot and pick out your bag amongst the look-alike bags many of us use when traveling. There are also caps, visors, pins and checkbook covers. These items are a great way to show your support of ESC and promote the Club to others.



Library Update

Please be sure to check and see if you have any books that need to be returned to the Library before you leave to head North-East-West (not sure how much further South travel will allow) so that books can be inventoried and ready for next season. Our Club library is open at each general meeting for use by club members. Club books may be checked out and returned in a timely fashion. Thanks for using the Library this season and be sure to check us out next year!

ESC Study Group – Debbie Freeman



Study Group at Debbie's

Debbie has led another great year of study group sessions which has helped many ESC members identify and learn about shells. That's what the ESC Study Group is all about. If you haven't had a chance to join the group this year, be sure to plan on doing so next season. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month - 1:00 p.m. at the home of Debbie Freeman. Call Debbie if you have any questions at 941-473-3359.

For new ESC members' information, The ESC Study Group was started many years ago by our club founder, and past president, Barbara Myers. Past President of the COA, Dick Forbush, also joined the Study group and provided his expertise until his retirement. The Study group started as a small group, but with our membership growing by leaps and bounds so has the attendance at our study group meetings.

Kayaking Anyone?



Any members interested in a Kayak trip out of the Grande Tours location? If there is enough interest, we could schedule an outing around the end of March or beginning of April. You can rent a single kayak for \$28 or launch your own for a \$5 launch fee. Sign up at the next general meeting on March 19th or call Amie Barnicle for more information.

ESC Outreach Program



ESC's Outreach team Co-chairs Amie Barnicle and Jane Guy recently presented "Treasures from the Shore" at Cedar Point Park that was well received by a capacity audience. ESC dynamic volunteers Darlene Gallentine and Linda Maggiore were on hand to share examples of local shells, hand out shell identification charts and instructions on shell cleaning along with locations for shelling. Participants were given the opportunity to take free shell samples.

Linda shared her display of craft projects she created and answered many "how to" questions. Jane began the program with her Queen Conch collection that addressed aspects of the live conch, its source as food and many examples of products produced from this beautiful shell. She also gave an overview and display of Florida's Horse Conch.

Amie's slide show on the lives of Gastropods and Bi-Valves habits, mantles and how they are sustained kept the audience actively engaged and generated lots of questions including "how does that happen". Check out the Club's photo album for some pictures taken at this event.



Beach Walk Update from Darlene Gallentine

We had a wonderful morning walk at Boca Grande Beach on February 13. There were 22 members shelling with me in the cold, fog and wind. The best shells found by members were, but not limited to, Common Baby's Ears, small bright orange Horse Conchs, True tulips, Florida Cones and Scotch Bonnets.

I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, March 13 at 10:00 a.m. on Blind Pass (Middle) Beach for our last walk of this season. Look for my small "flip flop" flag.

Be sure and check out the pictures from this event at the Club's photo album at www.inglewoodshellclub.org.

March Program Speaker



2012- 2013 Program

March 19 - John Colagrande - "States and Their State Shells"

Club member, John Colagrande, will talk about state shells. We can, as always, expect his presentation to be informative, interesting and entertaining.

John retired in 2001 after thirty-five years of teaching secondary school science in New Jersey. He taught Biology, Geology, Astronomy and Oceanography. In 2000, he and Larry Felder, a former student and noted paleoartist, wrote a book titled *In the Presence of Dinosaurs* which was published by Time-Life.

He is an avid shell and fossil collector having donated fossil specimens to Yale University and the state museums in Harrisburg, PA and Trenton, NJ.

John and his wife, Sandy, moved to Islandwalk in the West Villages in 2008 where he maintains what he calls "a modest collection of fossils, meteorites, minerals and, of course, shells."



Who's that girl behind the sunglasses?

Carefree Learner Outing

They say good things come to those who wait. Well, that turned out to be true for the ESC members who had to postpone their December outing due to mechanical problems. They were able to sail away on The Carefree Learner January 11, 2013. One ESC member found a very unusual pair of sunglasses that she added to her ensemble. This goes to show you never know what you will experience on the ESC club outings. Be sure to check out the great shots Kathy Schley shared from their Carefree Learners' experience on the Club's Photo Album.



Excursion to the Phillipine Islands

Six ESC members took off to the Phillipine Islands in January in search of shells and adventures. Joe Bao, Charlie Barr, Linda Powers, Homer Rhode, Brenda Steele, and Rita Stonehouse, were fortunate enough to spend 18 days in this Pacific Ocean getaway.



The trip was led by Glenn Duffy and included 15 shellers in total. The group split their time between the two destinations of Cebu and Bohol. Their accommodations were gated and guarded beach resorts with all the amenities.

Daily excursions by bangkas, the Phillipine equivalent to an outrigger, went to outer islands where the group waded, snorkeled, or dove for an amazing assortment of shells. Finds included spider conchs, a large assortment of cones, cowries, miters, and spondylus just to name a few. While ESC members enjoyed their time in the Philippines, as they say, there's no place like home and they were all happy to return to USA soil after an arduous 40+ hour return trip. Now the real work starts with the sorting, cleaning, and cataloging of their incredible collection.

Welcome Home!



Membership Roster 2012 - 2013

Please check your information for accuracy in the ESC 2012-2013 Club Membership listing on the Clubs' website under the secure "Members Only" section. If you have any updates, email them to ESCnewsletter@aol.com.

The next publication of the ESC Newsletter will be October 2013. Have a wonderful summer!