
ENGLEWOOD SHELL CLUB

THE SHELL SCOOP – SHELL SEEKERS



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Newsletter Editor – MaryLinda Coward

NEW CLUB WEBSITE:

escnewsletter@aol.com

www.inglewoodshell.club



President's Message – Brenda Steele

This season has been a productive one for our club. The membership cards have been a value added benefit to our club members and merchants. Many of us have supported the local merchants and they in turn, have provided discounts. Definitely a win-win for all!

Our Facebook page continues to grow. It is available to all paid members who are on Facebook. All you need to do is search Englewood Shell Club from your page and send a request. Many members participated in the club's great excursions and there are more excursions to come. Excursions are a great way to meet other members, learn more about seashells and explore different shelling places.

The Outreach Team, with the assistance of volunteers, has been involved in community events providing education about our local shells and showcasing to attendees what ESC has to offer. Shell Crafters classes have been running at full capacity with members making beautiful and unique creations. Shell Study Group has attracted many. To accommodate all those who attend, we are changing the seating arrangements. Our annual picnic which is the last General Meeting this spring is being held at a new location on Manasota Key.

MaryLinda Coward, our Newsletter Editor and Website Coordinator, has volunteered to do an additional newsletter publication for the summer months. She has one of the most difficult jobs and here she is adding to her load! Thank you, MaryLinda, for all you do for the Englewood Shell Club.

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Study Group Linda Powers

The Englewood Shell Club Study Group had great participation by over 25 members on Wednesday, January 28th.

The meeting concentrated on the shells that were found on both Carefree Learner trips in January. Bet Hamilton and Homer Rhode assisted Linda Powers with identification and information on such shells as dove shells, the cockle family, tulips, and fighting conchs.

Bet showed the group her fighting conch collection which includes an albino and a "freak" specimen. Homer helped all to learn and pronounce the scientific name of our local shells.

And I learned something I never knew from Homer....male fighting conchs are much smaller than the females. I've always been curious why some of those adult shells were so much smaller. That's why I love the world of shelling...there's always more to learn!



Shellcrafters Sessions Martha Dehne and Leslie Furmage

The last Shellcrafters of this season will be held on Friday, March 13, 2015 9:00 a.m. at the Elks in Englewood. Karen Paulsen will lead members in making shelled cigar boxes.

Shellcrafters charges \$5 to participate in each class, and there may be an additional cost if the instructor is providing any materials. If you have any questions, suggestions or comments; please contact Martha Dehne at 941-473-1247 or Leslie Furmage at 941-828-1297.



MEMBERS' YEAR END PICNIC **Pamela Orozco**

The ESC annual year end picnic will have a new location this year on Manasota Key. It will be held Tuesday April 14, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Riverwood Beach Club, 2610 N. Beach Rd.

Sign up is required and you must be a member to attend. Parking is limited so carpooling is highly recommended. There is no refrigeration on the premises or electric. It is handicap accessible.

EXCURSIONS

Ruth Middlebrooks, Marilyn Boyd, Carol Ayers

Members are heading out for a two night trip to Cedar Key scheduled for March 24, 25, 26, 2015. Captain Doug's boat will take us for a shelling trip on March 25th. We will stay at the Island Room Resort.

The boat trips on the Calusa Queen for March 10th and April 8th are full.

SUMMER BEACH WALKS

Next beach walk is Wednesday, March 18th at Nokomis Beach. Take Rt. 41 north. Turn left at Albee Rd, Nokomis. Drive to the end. The parking lot is directly across the street.

Beach walks will continue during the summer. If you are interested in summer beach walk locations, please let Linda Powers know.

MEMBERSHIP LIST/MEMBER INPUT & RECOGNITION

The membership list has been updated and is now available to members only on the ESC website. We have 33 new members this year and look forward to them being active in our many club opportunities. As a reminder, members' contact information is for club and members use and not for commercial purposes or solicitation. Any changes in your contact information should be sent to the escnewsletter@aol.com.

If you have an idea about a future event, group or class, please come and present it at a Board meeting. We look forward to you input!

SHELL SHOW AWARDS-If you have won an award in either scientific and/or artistic division(s) since the first of the year, please forward your name, division/category, award, and shell show to escprez@gmail.com.

LIBRARY **LeAnn Bowers**

Remember to check out the library books as a resource for you to help identify and learn more about the wonderful world of conchology.

Here is a list of the new books added to the ESC Library in 2014-2015 season:

Dance S. Peter *Out of my Shell* [3 copies] added 1 copy
Goodman S&L *Arts From Shells* [2copies] added 1 copy
Marshall,Marlene *Hurley Shell Chick* [2 copies] added 1 copy
Mauries Patric 1994 *Shell Shock* Thames & Hudson
Sammon, Rick 1992 *Seven Underwater Wonders of the World* Thomasson-Grant
Schmelz are scheduled for the third Wednesday of the Gary W. 2013 *Journey to the Edge of Eden* Gary Schmeltz
Spencer Andrea 1998 *Seashell Style* Lorenz Books
Thomas, Ingrid *The Shell* [3 copies] added 1 copy (**BE SURE TO CHECK OUT LINDA POWERS' REVIEW OF THIS BOOK IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER**)

As a reminder to members who have checked out books, please drop them off at the library at a monthly general meeting when you are done with them.

Book Review by Linda Powers

THE SHELL **A World of Decoration & Ornament** **Authored by Ingrid Thomas**

At my first COA convention in 2002 in Sarasota, Marilyn Boyd and I had the pleasure of meeting and befriending the author of *The Shell*, Ingrid Thomas. There was an instant chemistry between all of us, but it went further than our mutual admiration of seashells.

Ingrid became sick at the convention and Marilyn and I volunteered to take care of her. She has a deep rooted fear of flying and we volunteered to drive her to Miami so that she could avoid the flight from Sarasota to Miami. Ingrid ended up being my guest for a few days. Her great joy during those days was walking Manasota Key and collecting coquinas.

I have read *The Shell* cover to cover. The illustrations and information on the history of shells, shell jewelry, shells in art is very interesting and compelling. The book is chock full of little tidbits about shells. One particularly interesting factoid discusses the 'byssus' threads of pen shells and how they were revered by the Romans as the 'silk of the sea'. Some of the pieces Ingrid discovered and featured in the Decorative Arts section are absolutely breath taking.

Ingrid is a shell artist in her own right, but had no intention of using any of her artwork in the book. When the book was in the final draft process, the editors told her she needed a cover page. They saw her own artwork of coquinas and stated that was perfect. When asked what the name of the piece was, she said the first name that came to mind. Look on the Contents under Page 2 to understand why this is one of my favorite shell books!

March General Meeting Program Katherine Gudgel

March's program will be presented by John Colagrande. Before retiring in 2001, John was employed as a high school science teacher in New Jersey. For 35 years he taught Biology, Oceanography, Geology, Astronomy and Paleontology.

In 2001 he co-authored a book entitled *IN THE PRESENCE OF DINOSAURS*, which was published by *Time-Life*.

As an avid fossil and shell collector, John has donated specimens to Yale University and the state museums in Trenton, New Jersey and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and now maintains a modest collection of shells, fossils, meteorites and minerals. John and his wife, Sandra, currently live in North Port and are members of the Manasota Fossil Club, the Sarasota Shell Club and of course, the Englewood Shell Club.

John will be presenting on Pearls
Which definition suits you?

Prosaic

Pearl: a smooth, lustrous, variously colored deposit, chiefly calcium carbonate, formed around a grain of sand or other foreign matter within the shells of certain mollusks and valued as a gem.

Imaginative

Pearl: born from an oyster complete with a shimmering iridescence, luster and soft inner glow unlike any other gem on earth.

Whichever you prefer it still begs the question of how something so wondrous can emerge from an oyster's way of protecting itself. Some consider it one of nature's loveliest surprises.

