



Englewood Shell Club

The Shell Scoop

ShellCrafters—Jan. 11

Study Group—Jan. 14

General Meeting—Jan. 22

November, 2007 Volume 5 Number 1

www.EnglewoodShellClub.org

President's Message—

It was such fun seeing everyone at the October meeting! And the variety of shells, crafts, and travel experiences shared at the Show-and-Tell program was awesome. The year is in full swing already and what a year it promises to be. I couldn't believe the number of sign-up sheets for excursions, socials, committees, and crafts!

Thanks so much to Brenda Steele for chairing the Holiday luncheon at noon on December 11 at The Manasota Beach Club.

Your president got a kick out of mailing out the September newsletters to begin the year. Our members are far flung in summer time, ranging from England to Bozeman, MT in the east-west line and from Ontario to Florida and Texas in the north-south direction! The newsletter editors were delighted at the number of people who have agreed to receive future newsletters via their home computer; thanks so much! If you haven't done so, sign up at the November meeting for the new format option. The advantage to you is that you will receive it earlier; the advantage to the club is cost and time saving. Isn't it wonderful to learn that the club is once again fiscally sound—that should add enjoyment to the year. Pick up your copy of the fiscal analysis at the November meeting. Thanks Joe! Put those thinking caps to work and come up with a super slogan for our club! I can't wait to see all your creativity! The winner will be announced in February. It will be time to appoint a nominating committee to come up with a slate of new officers before long. If you would like to serve either on the nominating committee or as an officer or committee chair, please tell Anita.

Have a wonderful Holiday season! Come back ready for Carefree Learner, Amelia Island, ShellCrafters, Study Group, Outreach and more! See you soon—

Anita Wilson

Its A Shellabration —

November 28 is the last date to sign up for the club's Holiday luncheon at the Manasota Beach Club on December 11, according to Brenda Steele, event chairman. The luncheon will begin with punch, finger food and conversation at noon and will be followed by the buffet at 12:30. Your check for \$19 per person including tax and gratuity should be made out to Joe Bao and sent to Brenda Steele, 1470 San Jose Drive, Englewood. If you wish to participate in the \$10 shell-related gift exchange, bring yours along to the Beach Club at 7660 Manasota Key Road.

It's Tree Trimming Time—

Come to help decorate the Shell Club Christmas Tree at Cedar Point Park! This fun activity is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 10 at 10 a.m. This will be the perfect activity to get you in the mood for our Holiday luncheon the next day. Decorating the tree is always fun and it gives you loads of ideas for decorating your own tree with shells. The club has literally hundreds of beautiful handmade ornaments. Using these ideas makes your own tree unique and part of the Florida Holiday scene.



We will be putting away the decorations on Monday, January 7 at 10 a.m. See you there. Be sure you schedule a time to bring Holiday visitors or friends to see the tree sometime between Dec. 10 and January 7!

Amie Is Teaching Again—

The last issue showed Amie Barnicle teaching a class of fifth grade students at Englewood Elementary School last May. Now Amie has agreed to work with Boca Grande Island School personnel in developing and teaching a unit on mollusks for this charter school. The unit for kindergarten through fifth graders will have classroom segments, but also field trips to local beaches. Be ready to help Amie with this project when she asks! What a wonderful Club Outreach Project for the year.

ShellCrafters Decorate Vases—

Eighteen ShellCrafters signed up for the Friday, November 16 class at Tringali Center. They created lovely vases and hurricane lanterns decorated with shells. This was the first choice activity selected by the club members in attendance at the October meeting. The January 11 class will feature shadow boxes or trays, according to Christina Anglin. Thanks to Christina and Eleanor Langlois for chairing ShellCrafters this year. Christina got all the ShellCrafter supplies moved out of Doris Brown's storage shed and into Diana Leonhardt's recently. Thanks so much to Doris for her able leadership of ShellCrafters the last two years and to both Doris and Diana for storing our 6'x6'x6' mound of shells and crafting supplies.



Here's Our Latest Contest—

Put your vocabulary and wit together and come up with a slogan that can be used by the club. We have a club shell, the Lightning Whelk, and a name for our newsletter, The Shell Scoop. Now it is time to develop a slogan. Like Nike says "Just Do It!", we might say "We're Shell-Shocked!", suggests Jane Guy, who brought the idea before the March 2007 meeting. Submit your suggestion at the November meeting, Holiday Luncheon or mail/e-mail it to Anita Wilson. You have through the January meeting to submit ideas. Anita will compile an anonymous list and give it to a committee who will choose the best five. You have through the January meeting to submit ideas. The membership will vote on those five ideas at the February meeting and select our new slogan! I'm sure there will be a prize for the winner!

DUES ARE DUE NOW!

Dues for continuing members are \$15/individual or \$25/family. New members pay \$22.50/individual or \$40/family to cover cost of name badges. Everyone who goes on a field trip or ShellCrafters must have paid their dues and signed the membership form liability waiver before the activity commences.

COA in Portland—

Our club was well represented at the Conchologists of America meeting this year even though it was clear across the country in Portland, Oregon. The seven attending were Barbara Elliott, Glen and Debbie Freeman, Matt and Dona Blaine and Rich and Anita Wilson. Our group attended pre-conference field trips to gather Miocene fossils at Lost Creek State Park, hunt shells including chitons at Seal Rock State Park, visit wineries and tour the Columbia River Gorge and Mt. Hood scenic areas. Both Blaines and Wilsons drove and spent time sightseeing all across the country; Wilsons took five weeks for the trip. Freemans went early enough to tour the entire Northern California and Oregon coast.



The first speaker was our own Dr. Jose Leal! Everyone enjoyed the program on mollusk aquaculture. In addition to learning all about raising marine mollusks, speaker Bill Dewey showed hilarious Discovery Program "Dirty Jobs" segments on harvesting mussels and geoducks! Ray Wilson spoke twice: once about fossils and next about Native Americans' use of shellfish. Floridian Gary Schmelz, who led our fossil trip last year, was the annual banquet speaker. Dr. B. Olivera, Albert Einstein Scientist of the Year, gave a fascinating talk about all he has learned about cone, turrid and auger toxins that are useful as medicines to treat human disease. Several speakers noted how many new species are found by amateurs. Other programs featured travelogues. The shells for sale in the bourse and at the silent auctions were breathtaking and from all over the world. Joyce Matthys, Sanibel winter resident and frequent speaker for our club, chaired this outstanding meeting and we thank her and husband Ken so much for all their work putting together an splendid meeting. Next year, COA will be hosted by the six Texas clubs and will be headquartered at the Crowne Plaza on San Antonio's delightful River Walk July 5-10. Plan now to attend.

Carefree Learner Fun—

The Carefree Learner is filling quickly for both the January 21 and February 19 trips, so sign up now! Both trips depart from Marina Jack's in Sarasota promptly at 7 a.m. We return to the mainland before noon. For those of you who haven't made this trip before, the club charters the Carefree Learner, Sarasota High School's ecological study vessel, for the morning. The captain takes us to one or two tidal islands at low tide and we wander through low water and sand bars looking for interesting fauna. Tommy Young, SHS biology teacher, accompanies us and



answers all our questions. Since we are out in the bay, it can be windy and quite cold at least early in the day, so dress in layers, which can be removed as the day warms. Because we are wading at least part of the time, wear shoes with covered toes that you don't mind getting wet and muddy and that will not slip off if you get caught in a bit of muck. You need a hat that protects from both cold and sun. Some people bring gloves. Don't forget zip-lock bags or pill bottles for small shells, covered round deli containers for sand dollars and sea urchins, and a bucket with a handle to carry your finds as well as drinking water, sun lotion, etc. We can collect live specimens as well as dead shells legally, but are limited to two live animals or plants of each species. Please be a good citizen in this regard, says Debbie Freeman, who made arrangements for these trips. The November 2006 and January 2007 newsletters have even more details about past trips, so newcomers can learn more by reading those articles on-line as well as following Debbie's tips on the flyer she distributed.

Slit shells are the most primitive gastropods. They date to the Cambrian period 500 million years ago.

Joyce Matthys Speaks—

The January 22 meeting program promises to be special. Joyce Matthys, chairman of the 2007 Conchologists of America meeting in Portland, OR and Bailey Matthews Shell Museum docent, will be the speaker. Joyce and her husband, Ken, live in Salem, Oregon, but winter on Sanibel just because of the shelling. Joyce is a font of knowledge about local shells and has great speaking skills. Last time Joyce spoke to our group she shared her 2003 video/DVD "Mollusks in Action", which she and Ken filmed on Sanibel in the mollusks' natural habitat. We watched living seashells eat, move and protect themselves. We learned about their anatomy and how shells grow. Rumor has it that Joyce has produced a new video that she will be sharing with us in January. Whatever she has to say, I am sure we will learn plenty and be entertained at the same time!

International Opportunities—

Jim and Bobbi Cordy, who led the club's Eleuthera trip in the summer of 2006, have another trip with openings scheduled for May, 2008. Mike and Marilyn Price, our club members, are scheduled for this trip and would be happy to have either another couple or two singles share their cabin at Miss Ethyl's. Total price for this trip is about \$750. For more details and to reserve your spot, call Cordy's at 321-452-5736 or E-mail them at corshell@earthlink.net. Mention that you would room with Prices. Prices' phone number is 352-430-1299; they now live at The Villages,

The club recently received a note from Tammy Peterson at Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbor on the Island of Abaco in the Bahamas. The resort has 88 rooms that include suites, ocean front rooms and cottage style villas as well as restaurant. The staff can recommend the best spots for close shelling and can make arrangements for private boat charter to other islands. More than 1000 species of shells have been documented there. For more information call 1-800-753-9259.

Newsletter On Line—

Thanks so much to everyone who signed up at the October meeting to receive the newsletter electronically. We will send each person on the electronic list an e-mail notifying them when the newsletter is posted to the Club Web Page. They can either read the newsletter on-line or print it from the web site on their own printer. The advantage for members is that they will receive the newsletter earlier, definitely before the meetings at which it is distributed. The advantage to the club is cost and time saving. We are even thinking that the electronic mail group could set up a little Shelling information exchange site, rather like a Birder's Hot line. We could use it to tell other members when there are lots of shells at the beach or particularly outstanding shells found. We will continue to solicit more names at upcoming meetings.

Plan to Attend—

The following shell shows and related events are scheduled for 2008. Plan to get a car load of friends together and attend at least one show. Better yet, put those tips from Harry Berryman's talk at the November meeting to work and enter an exhibit this year!

Jan. 18-20—**Space Coast Seashell Festival**, Melbourne Auditorium. 625 E. Hibiscus Blvd. E-mail: corshell@earthlink.net

Feb. 1-3—**Broward Shell Show**, Pompano Beach Recreation Center. NE 18th Av. & NE 6th St. Pompano Beach. E-mail: kishells@mindspring.com

Feb. 15-17—**Sarasota Shell Show**, Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, Tamiami Trail. E-mail: hanksfran@aol.com

Feb. 23-24—**St. Petersburg Shell Show**, Seminole Recreation Center, 9100 113th St. N., Seminole. E-mail: blipe@tampabay.rr.com

March 6-8—**Sanibel Shell Show**, Sanibel Community Center, Periwinkle Way. E-mail: sanibelchiton@aol.com

March 13-15—**Marco Island Shell Club Show XXV**, Marco Presbyterian Church, Elkcam Circle. Phone: 239-394-5416

June 14-15—**Jacksonville Shell Show**, Morocco Shrine Temple, 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road. Phone: 904-246-4012

June 29-July 3—**American Malacological Society Annual Meeting**, Southern Illinois U., Carbondale, IL. E-mail: feander@siu.edu

July 5-10—**Conchologists of America Annual Convention**, Crowne Plaza Riverwalk Hotel, San Antonio, TX Web site:www.conchologistsofamerica.org

Welcome New Members—

New members at press time this fall include Shirley Kastner, Bob Madden, Mildred Mahling, Millie Murgia, Theresa Norman and Donna Van-Vierah. Welcome to our group!



Sanibel Shelling—

Nearly thirty ESC members delighted in a three-day Sanibel Get-Away November 11-13, thanks to Marilyn Boyd, who spearheaded the excursion. Our group took over the entire Blue Dolphin Resort (except for one room with a poor New York State couple who booked before last March) and we had a ball. The resort provided lovely continental breakfast gratis in the gardens until 10 a.m. each day, so most people went shelling early and then returned to relax, converse and share shell information and even shells themselves. There were thousands of dead sea urchins and pen shells washed up about a mile down the beach, so you can expect to see them incorporated in lots of crafts this year. Marilyn Boyd found a Junonia and Linda Powers, a six-legged sea star! There were lovely nutmegs as well as some of the largest Atlantic augers and buttercup lucines we'd ever seen. The scallop shells were perfectly clean with unusually vibrant colors. Members found moon snails and gaudy natica, along with several perfect alphabet cones. Audrey Grant found both top shells and purplish tagelus. Basically we found almost all the common shells of Southwest Florida, but nothing that unusual.



Club members would like to thank Larry Strange who hosted the group for cocktails and appetizers in his lovely home literally filled with shells and shell memorabilia on Sunday evening. Several members enjoyed Ding Darling Wildlife Refuge and others took in Bailey Matthews Shell Museum, in addition to shelling. Shopping and enjoying Sanibel's fine restaurants were other highlights. Sanibel's sunrises and sunsets were fantastic. "But the best thing of all was the wonderful camaraderie we shared", said one member. Another relatively new member commented, "I knew our members were great, but I didn't truly realize what a truly fine group of people we have, until this weekend." Thanks, Marilyn and Ruth!

Calendar for 2007-2008

Tues. Nov. 27—ESC General Meeting, Lemon Bay Park, 1 p.m., Harry Berryman, speaker

Tues. Nov. 27—Dues Due

Mon., Dec. 10 —Decorate Cedar Point Christmas Tree, 10 a.m.

Tues. Dec. 11—ESC Holiday Luncheon, Manasota Beach Club, 12 noon

Thurs. Dec. 13—Boca Grande Shelling Excursion 7:30 a.m. Meet at Cedar Point Park

Happy Holidays!

Mon. Jan. 7—Take down Cedar Point Christmas Tree 10 a.m.

Fri. Jan 11—ShellCrafters, Tringali Park, 1 p.m.

Mon. Jan 14—Study Group, Cedar Point Park, 1 p.m.

Tues., Jan. 15—ESC Board Meeting, Cedar Point Park, 10 a.m.

Fri. Jan. 18-Sun. Jan. 20—Space Coast Sea Shell Festival, Melbourne

Mon. Jan. 21—Carefree Learner Shelling Trip, Marina Jack's, Sarasota Bay

Tues. Jan. 22—ESC General Meeting, Lemon Bay Park, 1 p.m. Joyce Matthys, speaker

Wed. Jan. 23—Ecological Study, Sarasota Bay, joint meeting with Sarasota Club

Fri., Feb. 8—ShellCrafters, Tringali Park, 1 p.m.

Fri. Feb. 8-Fri. Feb. 15—Amelia Island Shelling Week

Mon. Feb. 11—Study Group, Cedar Point Park, 1 p.m.

Feb. 15-17—Sarasota Shell Show

Tues. Feb. 19—ESC Board Meeting, Cedar Point Park, 10 a.m. (May be changed)

Tues. Feb. 19—Carefree Learner Trip, Marina Jack's, Sarasota Bay

Tues. Feb. 26—ESC General Meeting, Lemon Bay Park, 1 p.m. Larry Strange, Speaker

March 6-8—Sanibel Shell Show

Tues. March 10—Study Group, Cedar Point Park, 1 p.m.

Fri. March 14—ShellCrafters, Tringali Park, 1 p.m.

Tues. March 18—ESC Board Meeting, Cedar Point Park, 10 a.m.

Tues. March 25—ESC General Meeting, Lemon Bay Park, 1 p.m. program TBA + Election of Officers

Tues. April 22—Club Picnic

Englewood Shell Club

Rich & Anita Wilson

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