
ENGLEWOOD SHELL CLUB

THE SHELL SCOOP – SHELL SEEKERS



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Newsletter Editor – MaryLinda Coward

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President's Message – Linda Powers

How often have you been saying "is it that time already?" Has 2016 gone by in the blink of an eye for you as it has for me? I can't believe it's time to start the Englewood Shell Club's 21st season.

A lot happened in Englewood during the summer. Tropical Storm Colin and Hurricane Hermine redesigned our area beaches. Beach erosion all up and down the West Coast is a major concern. The good news is that Hermine deposited lots and lots of shells on our beaches. Fighting conchs were a dime a dozen, lots of whelks, and some really big shark eyes were just some of the gifts she gave us.

There were also changes within the Club's organization. Sadly, we lost new member Cory Phillips this year. Cory had volunteered to do our merchandising. With his passing, Connie Cummins has stepped up to the plate to take over in this capacity. Tori Weaver will be taking over as the new chair for Outreach. Tori, a former teacher, is looking forward to this new opportunity. Jill Wenning will help out with the audio/visual duties along with Sunshine. Martha Dehne is going to explore an electronic website for club pictures, along with her crafting creativity. We have had lots of members with health issues over the summer. Please keep them in mind with your well wishes.

The first meeting of October 18 will be Show 'N Tell. Be sure to bring the treasures you found or obtained during the summer and tell us all about them. Marilyn Boyd has organized our first excursion to Sanibel Island from Oct. 28-30. Remember, you must renew your membership prior to attending any ESC functions. Past President Brenda Steele and I attended the Conchologist's Of America Convention this summer in Chicago. I am pleased to report that our own Homer Rhode was one of three recipients of COA's Neptunea Award, for service to the organization. Homer and his wife Ann couldn't have been more proud and Ann was able to carry out the surprise for Homer.

I am somewhat daunted in this new capacity as your president, but have a very good, knowledgeable, and reliable team to help me out. They have been hard at work all summer, organizing trips, crafts, speakers, events, and communications for the upcoming year. A big thanks to all of you. Let's have a fun year of friendships, shelling, and learning about these amazing creatures we call Shells!

Shellcrafters Sessions Martha Dehne and Leslie Furmage

We have a lot of exciting crafts planned for this season! We will have another Sip & Dip class where we will create a shell painting designed especially for ESC crafters! If you joined us last season and painted the Junonia, you know how much fun this class is!

We will also be creating crystal clay pendants (taught by Pam O.), shell flowers (taught by Diane H.) and wire wrapping (taught by Ruth M.) just to name a few. Details and sign for up for each class will be at the monthly meetings.

Please do not contact the instructor to sign up for the class. We will start off our 1st Shell Crafters meeting with an easy project to help you get back in the swing of things. We will be crafting a rope frame or mirror (taught by Leslie F.) *supply list to follow* and will meet Friday-October 21st at 10 a.m. (*please note that this is an hour later than previous seasons). We will still meet at the Elks Club in the room behind the bar. Please bring your \$5 to the monthly meetings and pay when you register for each class. We are really looking forward to seeing everyone and as always if you are interested in teaching a class or have a fun craft idea let us know. Please call if you have any questions. See you soon! Leslie & Martha

Supply list for October's project – rope frame or mirror ():

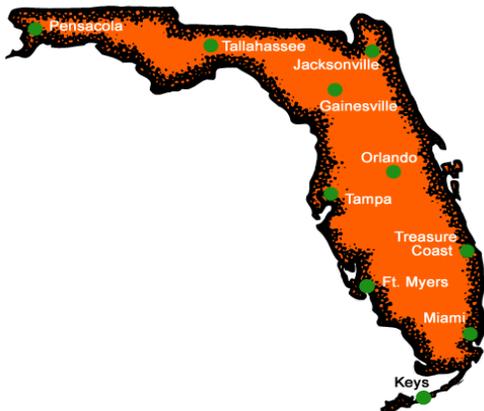
- *wood frame or mirror; paint at home for a finished look
- *rope; either jute or white nylon rope will look nice
- *glue gun and glue sticks
- *shells, starfish and sea glass to decorate

Excursions Ruth Middlebrooks, Marilyn Boyd, Carol Ayers

Welcome back to another packed season of fun and interesting excursions. We've got several trips planned, but we also have time to think about our excursions over the coming months.

Our first excursion will be to Sanibel for Halloween fun. The Carefree Learner, always a popular outing from Sarasota Bay is scheduled for January or February.

Additional excursions will include a boat trip out of Fort Myers, a visit to Useppa Island, and a fossil trip. We are very excited about offering a trip to the East Coast and are looking at options for that excursion. As you can see, we have a lot of excursions planned for our Englewood Shell Club members so get ready to GO! **Remember that you must be a member in good standing (paid dues) in order to participate in the club's excursions.**



Beach Walks

Join our members for the monthly beach walks. The September beach walk was held at Sharkie's! As you can see from our members' smiling faces, the walk and lunch afterwards was a good time.



Membership Sandy Ouderkirk

I want to welcome everyone to this year's ESC membership group. Be sure to send in your membership applications as soon as possible so that you can participate in trips and events. You must be a paid member in order to participate in trips and events.

ESC's annual membership runs from October 1, 2016-September 30, 2017. Individual membership is \$20 for returning members, \$30 for new; family renewal is \$35 and new family is \$60.

Membership application can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Thinking Holidays and Christmas parties? Pam Orozco

Then be sure to mark your calendar for the ESC Annual Holiday luncheon. The date will Tuesday December 6th and the location will be at the Gulfview Grille.

More details on the time, menu and price will be available at our first general meeting in October.



Study Group Anita Wilson & Linda Powers

Five members of ESC participated in the 2016 Great Bay and Sound Scallop Search on July 23. Volunteers snorkeled grids throughout Lemon Bay and Gasparilla Sound looking for live scallops and also recording grass type and percent cover and recording other wildlife seen.

This is a Sea Grant Florida project. This year's ESC participants were Martha Dehne, Judy Kauk, Linda Powers, Rita Stonehouse and Anita Wilson. Martha found the only live scallop of the day for our group, but several others were found by other groups. This was good news, since many scallops were killed by red tide last fall.

Last year, both Linda and Anita found live scallops. While diving for scallops, the group also saw a large Southern stingray, a baby dolphin with its big sister as well as other dolphins, lots of birds and found live horseshoe and spider crabs while diving for scallops.

**GENERAL MEETING PROGRAMS
2016 – 2017
Sherry McKinney**

We have some very interesting and informative programs lined up for the upcoming season.

The November program will be "Cleaning Shells". After we collect those beautiful shells we need to know how to properly clean them.

Our guest speaker in January will be Scott Robichaud. He will be presenting a program on his dive trip to Roatan, Honduras, to collect Caribbean mollusks.

In February we will have a presentation on "Shelling in the Dominican Republic".

Our March program will be presented by Allen Gettleman. The topic will be "Marine Shelling in the Philippines".

We are looking forward to another great year of shelling in Florida as well as learning about shelling in other parts of the world.

**Carefree Learner
Carol Ayres**

This year's dates for the carefree learner trips are Friday, January 13, 2017 and Friday, February 10, 2017.

Details on time and cost will be provided at the October general meeting.

We also need a phone number or cell number if possible in case there is a weather cancellation. The trip is 2-3 hours on the sand flats of Sarasota Bay. It could be cold, and it will be muddy, so dress accordingly. Water shoes are a must. This is a non-refundable trip unless it is cancelled due to weather.

If you have any questions call Carol Ayres at 941-830-8252. More information is available on the carefree learner website at <http://carefreelearner-shs.com/Home Page.html>

**Outreach Programs
Tori Weaver and Darlene Gallentine**

First, we'd like to thank to Connie Cummins for chairing the Outreach Programs last season. Connie kept us organized and on time. We'll miss her as she moves onto another role in ESC. Second, we'd like to extend a welcome back to current and new members and invite you to become a part of the ESC's educational Outreach. As part of our team, you would receive guidance regarding our most common shells or, if you are a more experienced sheller, you would share your expertise about shells and their habitat. This is a great opportunity to both learn and teach about the wonderful shells available in local beaches.

This season we are invited to present Shell Collecting Part 1 and Part 2 at both of Englewood's libraries. We will also return to the two Cedar Point Environmental Park Children's Summer Camps. These are all one hour programs and we already have the information and shells prepared. So please consider joining us by contacting Tori Weaver or Darlene Gallentine. We are looking forward to hearing from you!

LIBRARY Judy Kauk

We have some great new books that the club has purchased for our library this season, including a beautiful new book on sailor's valentines. We also have had some shell books donated recently so stop by at the October meeting and check out these great new additions. We need members to volunteer to give "shell of the month" talks this season so please consider giving a short presentation on your favorite shell or even your favorite place to shell and the shells you find there.



ESC Scholarship Brenda Steele

The ESC scholarship has been renamed to "*The Englewood Shell Club Barbara Myers Scholarship*", in honor of our founder, Barb Myers. The recipient, Samantha Albino, a senior at Lemon Bay High School maintained high grades, participated in extracurricular activities and worked part time throughout her high school years. She is attending the University of Florida where she will be majoring in marine science. Samantha was thankful and honored to receive the ESC Barb Myers scholarship. To quote Samantha, "I promise to work hard to live up to the expectations you have of your scholarship recipients." I think ESC chose the right student!

A Message From Nancy Weborg

Hi everyone! I just wanted to give a heartfelt thank you to my extended family (the club) during my serious health issues earlier this year. I don't believe I would have made it thru without my family and all my shell club friends. For all the time I spent in the hospital and rehab (83 days - but who was counting) there was a family member or club member with me every day. There was someone with me even when I didn't know there was. I am happy to say I am doing fine now and plan on seeing all of you at the October meeting. Again, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Nancy

*A note from Linda Masterson to ESC Members
Thanks for Being There
Linda Masterson*

My husband Cory Phillips had a real gift for connecting with people; he was a genuinely nice guy who always had a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his face. When he passed away unexpectedly in May just a few weeks before our 26th wedding anniversary, my world turned upside down.

We'd moved to Englewood from the mountains of Colorado in July 2014, and had been so busy rehabbing our home and reinventing our lives we hadn't met many people we connected with. But luckily a chance encounter with Martha Dehne led us to the Shell Club.

When we joined last October we felt instantly welcomed, and so lucky to have found such an amazing group of people. Maybe Cory was easy to remember because he was usually the only guy on the monthly beach walks and field trips, or maybe it was his great big laugh. Or his multiple toe rings and pink and orange flip flops. Or maybe it's just that Shell clubbers have big hearts, and many also know what it feels like to lose someone you love.

The cards and emails and phone calls that poured in for weeks were little rays of light during those blackest of days. On the beach walk in June that honored him we hung shells on the colorful wishing tree down from Blind Pass beach. And everyone gave me a special shell or two they'd collected that day. At lunch afterwards I sat with other women who had lost the loves of their lives and somehow gone on; that gave me hope that better days might lie somewhere ahead.

I filled a memory jar with the shells we gathered, and added the Shell Club name badge he was so proud of. It sits on my dresser, a daily reminder that life is mostly about the people you care about, the memories you create and the good you leave behind. The wishing tree is gone today; a victim of Hurricane Hermine. But I know the shells we hung for Cory are still out there somewhere. I know he's out there too, walking heaven's endless beach searching for treasures or taking long hikes in the crisp mountain air. I wish I could hug every one of you who reached out to me. Thank you for caring and for being there.

Linda Masterson

APPLICATION FOR ESC MEMBERSHIP 2016-2017

(October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017)

(PLEASE PRINT)

Please complete application and include your check made payable to the Englewood Shell club. Send to:

**Sandra Ouderkirk
8984 Bantry Bay Blvd.
Englewood, FL 34224**

Individual Membership	Family Membership
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> New*\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> New*\$60.00

Name _____ Spouse (optional) _____

Florida Address:

Street _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone # _____ Cell # _____
E-mail _____

Other Address:

Street _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone # _____ Cell # _____

Would you be willing to serve on one of our many committees? Yes No Maybe

Interested in _____

Please contact me to discuss opportunities within the Club Yes Phone _____

RELEASE OF LIABILITY

I understand and agree that pictures taken during Englewood Shell Club activities in which I may appear may be displayed in ESC publications. I agree that I am individually responsible for my own safety and my personal property when I participate in any club field trip activity. I will not hold the Englewood Shell Club, field trip leaders, nor the property owner liable for any injuries should they occur.

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

**covers one-time cost of name tag*

DO NOT COMPLETE

Check # _____ Amount _____ Dated _____