

### President's Notes

As I write this I am thinking of how quickly the summer has passed. We are all getting ready for another busy season of shelling. Soon our winter friends will return, and calanders will be lacking space for even one more item. So get two calanders!

They have finished the dredging at Stump Pass. I'm sorry to say that I have yet to get out there to check out the shelling. If one of our members has had the chance to do so, please let us know.

Linda Price has reported sand dollars coming in at Pelican Point during the end of July. I hope you had the opportunity to *scoop* up a few.

We are still lacking a shell trip for March. I hate to say this, but if we do not have a volunteer to set something up, then there will not be a trip. We will be happy to help if you need it.

I did want to thank all those who have been in touch regarding the Shell Scoop. I have heard many good things about our first attempts, and those of us who have worked to make it happen really appreciate knowing how you feel. Comments have been positive. Thank you.

Safe travels, and we will see you soon!

Debbie Freeman

### Question And Answer

By Linda Powers

**Q:** What causes the holes in the beach bivalves?

**A:** More than likely, a moon snail (or shark eye) is the culprit. Moon snails have big appetites and eat several mollusks every day. They drill holes into bivalves by rasping with their file-like teeth, aided by an acid produced by a special gland. They can drill a hole into a shell in about ten minutes.

Source: *Florida's Fabulous Seashells and Other Seashore Life* by Winston Williams



### Future Needs

We are asking for volunteers to arrange the trimming of the Christmas tree at Cedar Point Park on Dec. 15. Including refreshments & Christmas carols. Also taking down the decorations on Jan. 9.

Cedar Point Park will set up and take down the tree for us.

### Letter In A Bottle



A few months ago we received an e-mail from a gentleman from Texas who is doing research for a book he is writing. He is requesting the help of Englewood beachcombers. Mr. Parker explains...

"It is to be a collection of true stories about people who have found messages in bottles on seashores all over the world."

After I stopped laughing, I called Mr. Parker. He is seriously looking for messages in a bottle! He believes that 'shellers' might be a great source for such salty missives.

If you have found a message in a bottle, please contact Mr. Parker. He is waiting to hear all about it! Dan Parker, P.O. Box 235, Port Aransas, Tx. 78373 phone: 361-749-5738, e-mail: cen60999@centurytel.net

### Our Web Site

By Debbie Freeman

For those of you who have had a look at our web site recently, you may have noticed a slight change. It was suggested that our shell club roster be removed from the site for privacy reasons.

Each club member has his or her personal copy of the roster, and so removing it from the public eye should not cause a problem for our members. If you have a different opinion, please let me know.

ESC web site: <http://fcrosby.com/shell/index.html>

### For Your Calendar

Our meeting in December will be a holiday luncheon held at the Boca Royale restaurant on Dec. 18, 2003. We will have the details for you by the October meeting.

Friday, Feb. 26, 2004 Debbie has scheduled a fossil dig in Arcadia with Mark Renz. Mark believes the pit will still be open then. Let's keep our fingers crossed.

<http://www.fossilexpeditions.com>

### Did You Know?

The two most common marine grasses found in North

America are Eel and Turtle. ~~~~~

There are 32 species of seahorses world wide, and only the male becomes pregnant. ~~~~~

The archaeologist that directed investigations into the shell mounds of FL. in 1890 was Clarence A. Brown. ~~~~~