



ENGLEWOOD SHELL CLUB

THE SHELL SCOOP – SHELL SEEKERS

FEBRUARY 2022

www.Englewoodshell.club

Co-Presidents: Meredith Blain & Martha Dehne

Welcome Shell Seekers,

Who is ready for some FUN in February? We have a lot of happenings going on this month! This Thursday, at Cedar Point Park, Candy N. will be leading a discussion on cleaning and organizing all of our seashells. Our beach walk will be February 9th at Venice Beach at 9:00 am. The 10th will be another Palm Island excursion led by Marty. Don't we all just LOVE Palm Island? Sharon McKenzie, executive director at BIPS, will be discussing the making of "Mullets and Mangroves" and the rich history of Cayo Costa at our General meeting on the 15th. **Come to the General meeting at NOON to check out our members' craft and shell SALE!** February 17 is our Carefree Learner excursion led by Carol A. on Sarasota Bay. And, don't forget Shell Crafters at 10:00 am, February 25th at the Englewood Elks Club.

While we all have lots of Fun and Friendships at Englewood Shell Club, let us remember that everything is run by VOLUNTEERS. We all need to pitch in and continue making Englewood Shell Club a fun place to gather. We would LOVE to see each Team Leader have a TEAM of volunteers! Whether it is agreeing to do a shell of the month, an outreach program, being a greeter, lead one group shell study, make phone calls, or plan one excursion, we NEED each and every one of you to help keep the Englewood Shell Club thriving and successful.

Happy Shelling! Co-President Meredith Blain



"Volunteer! Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can." Arthur Ashe

January Shell Study



“There are more than 800 species of cones. They are tough little warriors,” said presenter Karen Huether who was assisted by fellow club member, Deb Lawton. Thank you, girls!

January 8: Stump Pass Beach State Park photos by Meredith Blain



About the gafftop fish: it's called the crucifix fish because, if you remove the skull and clean it up (an anthill helps), then dry it out in the sun, it looks like an oddly ornate Christ on the Cross (Google it). It also rattles because it has calcified “pearls” inside that are supposed to be good luck .
Source: staugustine.com Top Right: The crucifix fish bone found by Meredith was “bigger than usual.”



Study Group
Shell Cleaning
Presented by Candy Niziol
Thursday, February 3, 10 AM
Cedar Point Environmental Park

OFF THE SHELF by Jackie Hall, librarian

Shell pile! We have all had buckets, bowls, and piles of shells that we carried home from the beach, so now what? Our library has several books that may help from cleaning, identification, and even a bit on storage for your shell collection. Not to mention a nice selection on shell crafting.

“Clean Your Shells: And Other Sea Life” by Betty and Robert Lipe goes into detail on cleaning a wide variety of shells. “How to Clean Seashells” by Eugene Bergeron, is much broader than just cleaning and touches on labeling, displaying, and packing shells to ship.



“Shell Shocked” by Art Weil, is in a class by itself. I found this book clever and entertaining. I could do a piece on this book alone, but it belongs here.

We have many books on shell identification: local, regional, worldwide. “Collectible Florida Shells” by R. Tucker Abbott, “Rare and Unusual Shell of Southern Florida” by Edward J. Petuch, and “The Collector’s Encyclopedia of Shells” edited by S. Peter Dance are just a few.

“Seashells of North America: A Guide to Field Identification” by R. Tucker Abbott and “Compendium of Seashells” by R. Tucker Abbott & S. Peter Dance, both also cover managing your collection, and include building plans for storage cabinet. And I think it would be a sin to talk shells without mentioning works by these amazing conchologists.

I give a 5 Whelk rating to the group, and deservedly to each one. I could have saved myself time and “hard knocks” learning if I would have read any of these books first. Please stop by the library, say hi, and check-them-out!





FREAK SHELL CONTEST

What's a FREAK shell? It's a shell with an abnormal structure, some sort of growth defect, or even a strange color pattern.

Email Lisa Ketner photograph/s of your freak shell/s. Your name will be put in the hat for each entry.

Deadline is February 18.

Winner will be drawn at the March General meeting.

Palm Island Trip Details:

Thursday, February 10

Carpool departs: 7:40 AM Sharp!

1500 Placida Road, Englewood (Merchants Crossing)

Don't forget the price of the trip includes tip, golf cart, and lunch!

Contact is Marty Atkins

Carefree Learner Details:

Thursday, February 17

Carefree Learner departs dock: 7 AM Sharp!

Contact is Carol Ayres

Directions : Enter Marina Jack, 2 Marina Plaza, Sarasota, FL, in your GPS

From I-75: Take the Fruitville Road (SR 780) exit. Head west to downtown, then take SR 41 to Marina Jack.

The Carefree Learner is located on the South end of the marina next to LaBarge Park.

Here's What You Need:

Pail or bucket, gloves, small shovel or trowel, long-handled scoop, small plastic container for small treasures. Water shoes or boots are recommended. No flip-flops! Dress in layers; you'll be glad you did!

Restrooms are located in the back of O'Leary's!

**February 11-12: 56th Annual Sarasota Shell Show
Potter Building at Roberts Arena, 2896 Ringling Boulevard**



Did You Know Cowries hide beneath coral or in cracks and crevices during the day and only come out at night? Many cowries are herbivores, while others dine on sponges and other animals. They generally mate for life and remain in one area for their entire lives. Once fertilized, the female cowrie will lay her eggs on the ocean floor and sit on them like a nesting bird for up to four weeks. The eggs hatch into drifting veligers (planktonic larvae) that eventually settle to the bottom and become juveniles. Gradually, they develop shells that wrap completely around their soft bodies. mauinews.com



Join the Greeters' Team

Volunteers are needed to greet members and guests attending General meetings. Contact Marilyn Boyd if you're looking for an opportunity to shine your warm personality for a good cause.

Walk Venice Beach

Wednesday, February 9 @ 9 AM

Look for the club's shell flag next to the restrooms.
Team Leaders are Kathy Cycak and Chris Hofer.



General Meeting: Tuesday, February 15, Englewood Elks Club 1 PM

Don't forget to arrive @ NOON to check out our members' craft and shell SALE!

Guest Speaker: Sharon McKenzie is the executive director of Barrier Islands Park Society (BIPS). She will be discussing the making of "Mullets and Mangroves" and the rich history of Cayo Costa.

Barrier Island Parks Society (BIPS) manages and operates three historic sites, supports four state parks, manages two gift shops, a bike and kayak rental program at Cayo Costa, Beach Ambassador, Light Keeper and Bird Stewardship programs and much more. BIPS has many exciting educational programs and events slated for 2022.

Source: www.barrierislandparkssociety.org

Shell of the Month: Kathy Cycak will talk about cowries.

Blast from the Past: ELEUTHERA SHELLING TRIP

By Linda Powers

Eight intrepid ESC shellers traveled to Eleuthera, an outer island of the Bahamas on May 13-20, 2011 for a fantastic shelling trip with experienced guide, Jim Cordy. Some had been on this trip before, and a few of the girls were on their very first international shelling trip. All agreed that it was a great experience, with a large variety of Caribbean shells found.

We traveled to different environments each day. At the sandy beaches we found beautiful sunrise tellins and milk conchs. At the rocky beaches, we found West Indian tops, chitons, limpets and nerites. We snorkeled a salt pond and found the small black murex (*Chicoreus dunni*), the only place on earth where it is found. We also collected the tiny dark-brown marginella named after Jim Cordy (*Volvarina jimcordyi*) in Sweetings Pond.

Queen conchs were discarded everywhere we went. We found a pile of fresh-dead, and spent a lot of time picking the best of the best. Queen conchs are commercially threatened, but when found with the hatchet mark indicating the natives harvested them for food, are legal to take. Sadly, Bobbi Cordy, Jim's wife and past Secretary of COA, passed away earlier this year. We were honored to attend Jim's ceremony to spread her ashes at her favorite beach, Millar's. Ruth Middlebrooks read a beautiful poem and we put together a bouquet of local flowers. It was a very touching service and we were all very moved.



Shell Talk

by Jackie Hall

Sinum perspectivum: SY' num per SPEC' tiv um (White baby's ear)

Sinum maculatum: SY' num mak' yu LAH tum (Maculated baby's ear)

Polinices lacteus: poh LIN' ee sis lack TEE us (Moon snail milk)

Naticarius canrena: NAT' ih kar ee us KAN' ree nuh (Moon snail colorful)

Neverita duplicata: nev' er ee tah du' plee CA' tuh (Shark eye)

The Sunray Venus Clams by Jose Leal

The Sunray Venus Clam, *Macrocallista nimbosa* (Lightfoot, 1786), is one of the most attractive members of a very diverse family of bivalve mollusks, the Veneridae. Sunray Venus Clams have shells that vary in color from salmon-pink to brown to grayish-blue. The “Sunray” pattern on the valves is always asymmetrical, i.e., one valve is not a mirror image of the other. A prized shellfish item, the species is being farmed in captivity in parts of Southwest Florida, including Pine Island in Lee County. It is not uncommon for shellers to find paired valves of the species along the back bays of Lee County, in areas where the bottom is a nice mix of sand and mud. During a recent, clear-water paddle board excursion at high tide along the beautiful stretch between Bunche Beach and the Sanibel Causeway, I found a treasure trove of paired Sunray Venus Clams shells.



Sunray Venus Clams, including a group of shells found near Bunche Beach in Fort Myers.
Photos and article by José H. Leal, curator Bailey Matthews Museum

Welcome New Members: Linda Armentano, Joe Austin, Kitty Bankston, Clair Beckmann, Kathleen Buckholtz, Bonnie Carpenter, Kathy Castle, Dondi Davis, Edward Davis, Dotty Dion, Diane Gallagher, Judy Loveland, Bonnie Lytton, Kate Maloney, Carole McConnell, Jackie McGonigle, Elsie Miller, Gay Muller, Mike O’Brien, Jean and Steve Peterson, Linda Peterson, Dolly Raker, Holly Regar, Kim Roberts, Carolyn Robinette, Laura Sage, Barbara Sauceman, Jackie Schneider, Diane Thomas, Anne and Tom Walker, Joanne C. Walsh, Susan Watson, Pat Weaver, Diana Wideman, Holly Wilson, and Kathy Zehr.

Newsletter Editor’s Wish List:

Please email Lisa Ketner your photographs, recipes, poems, shell stories, cartoons, book reviews, and craft inspirations. Thank you!



How Lucky We Are to Live in Paradise!

Charlotte County, named for Britain's Queen Charlotte Sophia, is a diverse landscape of small cities and barrier islands that, along with Lee County, encircle 270-square-mile Charlotte Harbor. Its shoreline (mostly in conservation) encompasses inlets, a mangrove-lined aquatic preserve, the Peace and Myakka rivers, and 28 miles of beach.floridadep.gov

It's that time again!

Your 2022 Nomination Committee is in place. Please contact us should you have any interest in the following positions. We look forward to hearing from you. Job Descriptions can be found in the ESC Constitution that you received in your Membership Package. Thank you!

Positions Available: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, & Member At Large
Nomination Committee: Pam Desruisseaux, Jackie Hall, and Suzanne Skalski

How “The Shell Seekers” Became Our Slogan!

“The Shell Seekers” is the Club’s new slogan; winners of the contest were Doris Lyons, Ruth Middlebrooks and Anita Wilson, who all three independently submitted this slogan idea. The slogan was selected by the membership at the February 2008 meeting.

The History of Demere Key



Demere Key (called Demerey’s Key when Frank Cushing visited in 1895) is an archaeological site west of Pine Island. On June 13, 1972, it was added to the US National Register of Historic Places. The Island is named for its early owner, Lewis Deméré (1813 – About 1880), who was born at St. Simons Island, Georgia. He and his wife, Virginia Clancy Barnard Deméré (1821–1900) and son, Raymond Barnard Deméré (1843–1905) lived on the island until about 1880. Demere Key is the home to the Sea Grape Lodge, which is now a private residence. Phil DeGraff bought the island from Harry Stringfellow May 9, 1954. Stringfellow spent thousands of dollars putting in a causeway from end of Maria Drive out to Demere Key. Construction for the Sea Grape Lodge began in 1955 and the lodge opened February 9, 1958. Sea Grape Lodge was sold to private owners in 1972 and closed to the public.

Shellcrafters

Create a Charming Resin

Friday, February 25

10 AM Englewood Elks Club

Team Leaders are Leslie Furmage,
Cindy Boyd, and Colleen Fosnough





This unique brand new poster was designed by life long malacologist, Dr. Jose' Leal, the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum's Science Director and Curator. "Cool Florida Shells" will make a great gift for any shell enthusiast. Poster measures 18"x24" and ships in a tube \$15. Shipping is \$6.



IF you would like to purchase any or all of these items, visit Team Leader, Patti Redmond, at the Merchandise table at our Feb. General meeting.



Extreme Low Tides



A minus low tide is any tide that drops below sea level. They are identified on a tide chart with negative numbers. A minus low tide occurs when the sun & moon are aligned, typically around the full moon. The pull of both then causes extremes in the low/high tides.

Tuesday	2/1	7:48 am	-0.7
Wednesday	2/2	8:25 am	-0.6
Wednesday	2/16	7:34 am	-0.5
Monday	2/28	6:04 am	-0.6



New Moon 2/1
Full moon 2/16

There are no upcoming Super Moons until June 2022.



January 19: Palm Island Excursion—Thank you Team Leader, Marty Atkins



December 7: Holiday Luncheon at Manasota Beach Club



These beautiful “business cards” are a brand new way to share information about Englewood Shell Club. See Martha Dehne if you would like a few. Thank you to our talented designers, Candy Niziol and Karen Blackford.

Bonappetit! Buon appetite! Meshigare! Guten appetit!

Submitted by Carol Mae



A first for Sarasota Shell Club and the gourmands in our group. On March 22, 2022, we will host a gourmet, “Hands on” cooking class at Publix Aprons Cooking School, located at Publix Supermarket, 2875 University Pkwy, Sarasota. Class will begin at 2:00 pm as an interactive learning environment. Cost is \$60.00 per person, plus a \$3.99 event fee for a total of \$63.99. Space is limited so sign up early using the following link: <http://www.eventbrite.com/cooking-class-hosted-by-sarasota-shell-tickets-238449397567>. This is a private link for shell club members only. If you have any problems or questions, contact Carol Mae.

Menu includes:

Bacon-Porcini Pate Crostini with Apricot Chutney

Oysters (we will be shocking)

Duck Breast Roulades with Fig and Port Reduction and Grilled Asparagus

Classic Chocolate Mousse

Wines will be served with each course so everyone who participates must be over age of 21.

There will be a sign-up sheet at our General meetings, simply for a reminder email to be sent. Cancellations must be made 72 hours in advance of the class for a refund.