



The Shell Scoop January 2023

Co-Presidents: Meredith Blain & Martha Dehne

Hello Shell Seekers!

Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday and are ready for some winter shelling. There are several excursions on the books and if you haven't already reserved your spot now is the time to do it. With the recent cold fronts there are sure to be some great shelling days ahead.

I'd like to thank the Social Committee and those that volunteered to make our Holiday party at the Manasota Beach Club such a success. Good friends, good food, and an awesome atmosphere-it really doesn't get any better than that!

We have some great news and a few changes to announce. We are happy to share that Cedar Point Park has re-opened and we will resume having our monthly Shell Study there (see calendar for dates and time). Unfortunately, the Elks Club is still undergoing repair, and we are unable to hold any meetings there for the rest of the season. Board meetings will be held at the Elsie Quirk Library and the General meetings will be held at St. David's Church Fellowship Hall here in Englewood. Shell crafters will also be held at a new location. We will update you further as soon as we have more information. Thank you for your patience.

The 2023 calendar is filled with many great programs and activities. All made possible by our Team Leaders and volunteers. Maybe this will be our best year yet!

Happy shelling,
Martha Dehne, co-president



COMING SOON: Voting for 2023-2024 Board of Directors

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for President/s, Vice President/s, Treasurer, and a Director at large. Please contact Sandy Onderkirk, Lisa Ketner, or Jackie Hall to propose yourself or a fellow member. Thank you!

Shell Study: 10AM, Thursday, January 5. Bring you favorite shells to Cedar Park Center (2300 Placida Road, Englewood) and share what you know and learn what you don't from fellow shellers, including world-traveler Homer Rhode, 2016 COA Neptune Award Winner and March 2020 ESC Member of the Month. Lisa Ketner will assist.

Walk Englewood Beach 9 AM, Thursday, January 12. Look for the club's shell flag staked by the nearest restroom. Team Leaders are Kathy Cycak and Chris Hoffer.

General meeting: 1PM, Tuesday, January 17 at St. David's Fellowship Hall, 401 S. Broadway, Englewood. Guest Speaker, ESC Co-President Meredith Blain, will discuss lighting, composition, using the right background, and editing to make your seashell photographs to stand out.

ShellCrafters: *Shell on the Moon*, 10AM, **Thursday**, January 26 @ St. David's Fellowship Hall, 401 S. Broadway. Englewood. Team Leader: Leslie Furmage.

Reminder: Members must be in good standing to participate in ESC activities.

Carefree Learners: Friday, January 20, 7AM till 10:30AM
Plenty of seats remain available. Contact is Carol Ayres.

Directions:

Enter Marina Jack, 2 Marina Plaza, Sarasota, FL in your GPS. Or from I-75: take the Fruitville Road (SR 780) exit. Head west to downtown, then take SR 41 to Marina Jack. The boat, named 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!

ATTENTION ALL FOSSIL LOVERS: Gulf Coast Mineral Fossil & Gem Club Monthly Meeting January 16th at 6:30pm, 780 Firenze Ave. East, Venice

The Gulf Coast Mineral Fossil and Gem Club meetings are held on the third Mondays each month. Our goal is to promote, educate, and instruct in the many fields of earth sciences, fossil and mineral specimen collecting, and jewelry design. Everyone is welcome.

HISTORY of the NEPTUNE AWARD

By way of background, the *Neptunia* Award (Brunner, 2000; Lipe, 2000) was established at the midyear (1999-2000) meeting of the COA Board in order to recognize outstanding and distinguished service to conchologists and malacologists in recognition of: 1. Service to the Conchologists of America AND/OR 2. Service to the scientific interests of Conchologists of America AND/OR 3. Service to the science of Malacology as it applies to conchologists anywhere. Source: COA website

Who is Neptune? Neptune (Latin: Neptūnus [nep'tu:nʊs]) is the god of freshwater and the sea in Roman religion. He is the counterpart of the Greek god Poseidon. In the Greek tradition, he is a brother of Jupiter and Pluto; the brothers preside over the realms of heaven, the earthly world (including the underworld), and the seas. Source: Wikipedia

Englewood Tides for December 10 thru January 14										
Su	18	3:49a	0.2	9:57a	0.8	3:01p	0.5	9:19p	1.3	
M	19	4:44a	-0.1	11:25a	0.8	3:38p	0.7	9:49p	1.4	
Tu	20	5:35a	-0.3	12:45p	0.8	4:11p	0.9	10:23p	1.5	
W	21	6:24a	-0.6	1:59p	0.9	4:39p	1.0	11:01p	1.6	
Th	22	7:14a	-0.8	3:13p	0.8	5:01p	1.0	11:43p	1.7	
F	23	8:05a	-0.9	4:35p	0.8	5:11p	1.0			
Sa	24	12:30a	1.8	8:57a	-0.9					
Su	25	1:21a	1.8	9:49a	-0.8					
M	26	2:16a	1.7	10:40a	-0.7	6:39p	0.7	8:14p	0.9	
Tu	27	3:16a	1.5	11:29a	-0.4	6:54p	0.7	10:04p	0.8	
W	28	4:25a	1.3	12:14p	-0.2	7:16p	0.8	11:59p	0.7	
Th	29	5:49a	1.0	12:57p	0.1	7:43p	1.0			
F	30	1:48a	0.5	7:38a	0.8	1:36p	0.3	8:13p	1.1	
Sa	31	3:17a	0.2	9:38a	0.7	2:13p	0.5	8:46p	1.2	

Blue = High Tide, Black = Low Tide, Red = Very Low Tide

January 2023									
Day	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	
Su	1	4:23a	-0.1	11:28a	0.7	2:34p	0.7	9:12p	1.3
M	2	5:19a	-0.4	1:03p	0.7	3:05p	0.9	9:49p	1.4
Tu	3	6:07a	-0.5	2:19p	0.8	3:38p	0.9	10:27p	1.4
W	4	6:49a	-0.6	3:16p	0.8	4:12p	1.0	11:05p	1.4
Th	5	7:28a	-0.6	3:53p	0.8	4:51p	1.0	11:43p	1.4
F	6	8:04a	-0.6	4:14p	0.7	5:35p	0.9		
Sa	7	12:21a	1.4	8:37a	-0.6	4:26p	0.7	6:22p	0.9
Su	8	1:00a	1.4	9:08a	-0.5	4:33p	0.7	7:12p	0.8
M	9	1:41a	1.4	9:39a	-0.5	4:42p	0.7	8:07p	0.7
Tu	10	2:23a	1.3	10:09a	-0.4	4:55p	0.8	9:06p	0.7
W	11	3:08a	1.2	10:38a	-0.2	5:15p	0.8	10:11p	0.6
Th	12	3:58a	1.1	11:09a	-0.1	5:40p	0.9	11:22p	0.5
F	13	4:58a	0.9	11:40a	0.1	6:08p	1.0		
Sa	14	12:38a	0.3	6:16a	0.8	12:11p	0.3	6:41p	1.1



Let's Shellabrate 2023 SHELL SHOW *Sarasota Shell Club*

ROBARTS ARENA in POTTER BUILDING

2896 Ringling Blvd. Sarasota, FL
(Interstate 75 - exit Fruitville Rd. West)
Sarasota Fairgrounds

**Exquisite Shell Art
Scientific & Artistic Exhibits
Exotic & Rare Shells
Fabulous Shell Crafts
Educational Programs
Shells for Sale
And much more !!!**

FREE shells w/ \$5 admission
Kids under 12 *FREE* w/ paid adult
Students from ages 12 - 18 *1/2 price*

Friday
Feb. 10
10-5:00 pm

Saturday
Feb. 11
10-5:00 pm



Donna Anderson, Diane Casey, Beth Ann Finley,
Kathy Kenley, Jayne Lindberg, Gwen Montgomery,
Charlene Sullivan, Irene F. Viti, and Brenda Webb.



October 10, 2021
Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club Meeting

Cool Florida Shells!



Click on the word *Florida* to start video

presented by
Dr. José Leal



A silent auction was held in November to benefit Hurricane Ian damaged Cedar Point Center and its trails. ESC member, Cindy Boyd, designed, created, and donated this "Basket of Seaside Treasures" to the cause.

Annual ESC Picnic, "Under The Sea"
April 18th, 11:30 AM @ Maxine Barritt Park
Sign-up sheets available at January General meeting



Facebook post:

"This morning's December 15th Manasota beach walk was a bit iffy due to red tide. Well, the air and water were both clear, although there was a few very sun-dried fish here & there. The big front is on its way so Cathy Cycak, left, & Karen Blackford had a windy walk & found a few goodies, too."

Quote/photos by Karen Blackford



Join the Fun, Come Cheer on ESC Team Outreach

Members will be presenting *Seashells 101* to families at the Elsie Quirk Library from 2-3PM on Monday, February 6. There will also be a curio cabinet located within the library featuring a variety of shells that have been found by members over the years to the present date.

Contact Karen Blackford if you would like to participate in future Outreach engagements.

Lightning whelk facts by José H. Leal, Ph.D., Science Director & Curator of The Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum. Lightning whelks (*Busycon sinistrum*) are mollusk gastropods. •The males are always smaller than females. •Females are light in color, almost white. •Females can be fertilized by many males at the same time, providing genetic variation. •Distinctive chain-like egg cases contain liquid with antibiotic properties that protects and nourishes embryos. "People are always dumbfounded when they first see them," Leal says. "Through casual observation, they look like snakeskin." •There are 20 to 50 eggs per egg case, which are attached to the sea bottom but are found along the shoreline following major storms. •They are tough predators that feed on live bivalves, favoring the tough and hardy quahog. "It grabs the quahog, inserts its shell, and pushes on it patiently" until the slammed-shut quahog is pried open, Leal explains. "The central part is harder than the surrounding part of the shell edge. It needs to be strong so it won't break easily," hence the iron-hard value. •They typically grow between 15 to 30 cm in length. The world record is 40.2 cm (15.8 inches) long, found in Carrabelle in the Florida Panhandle. •They are eaten by other predators depending on their size — stingrays and bottom-feeding sharks, blue crabs and stone crabs.

Who is Neptune? Latin, *Neptūnus*, is god of the freshwater and the sea in Roman religion. He is the counterpart of the Greek God Poseidon. In the Greek tradition, he is a brother of Jupiter and Pluto; the brothers preside over the realms of heaven, the earthly world (including the underworld) and the seas.^[5] Salacia is his wife.

"Our Holiday Party was a big success! Thank you for coming. We had 60 people, Santa, and a fun gift exchange. We are donating 44 gift cards (\$1,130) to Family Promise and raised \$268 from the raffle." Pam Desruisseaux and Pam Orozco



