



The Shell Scoop March 2023

Co-Presidents: Meredith Blain & Martha Dehne

Hello ESC members,

Well, the time has come for us to pass the baton. It has been a wonderful learning experience for both of us. We are sure that each year brings unexpected delights and challenges. It has been an honor to guide the club that Barb Myers founded in 1996. We hope that we have strengthened the bonds that keep us together as a club. Of course, no one does it alone, and we can't even imagine anyone being President without a Co!

We want to give a huge thank you to the Board of Directors, Team leaders, Volunteers, and of course all 122 Members. While it may look easy, Team leaders and Board members work hard to ensure a healthy atmosphere filled with learning and fun. While it can be uncomfortable at times, be assured that we realize that everyone is invested in and doing their best looking out for the Englewood Shell Club. We look forward to many more successful years to come. Thank you for all of your support and kindness the last three years. We are so very grateful to be part of the Englewood Shell Club.

Sincerely,
Meredith and Martha, co-presidents

Beachwalk: 9am, Thursday, March 9 @ Brohard Beach-**Canceled**

Study Group: If you want to up your shelling game by learning more about how tides affect the what and where of when to do you best shelling, join our own Kathy Kenley 1pm, Thursday, March 17 @ Cedar Point Learning Center

ShellCrafters: 10am, Friday, March 31, @ St. David's Fellowship Hall

True or False: Florida's state shell is the Horse Conch, *Triplofusus giganteus*. This enormous saltwater snail has a shell that can grow up to 2 feet in length making it the largest living snail in North America and the second-largest snail in the world. Source: University Florida Museum

General Meeting: Tuesday, March 21 @ 1PM

Englewood Shell Club
Speaker of the Month

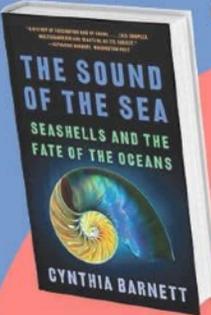
Seashells and the Fate of the Oceans

Tues, March 21 at 1p.m.
2023

A glorious history of shells and of those who have loved them.

Cynthia Barnett
Award-winning environmental author & journalist
Guest Speaker

Named a best science book of 2021 by NPR's Science Friday



Located at St David's Fellowship Hall 401 S. Broadway, Englewood

Cynthia will speak from 1 till 2pm. There will be a 30-minute intermission to peruse Cynthia's book table. She will sign purchased books, so don't forget your checkbook. There will also be a refreshment table available. The General meeting will resume at 2:30pm with our usual Directors' and Team leader reports as well as the voting and swearing in of our 2023-24 Officers.



DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN! Picnic on the Beach April 18th @ Maxine Barritt Park @ 11:30. Delicious Catered Buffet, Photo Booth, Raffles, Silent Auction, Entertainment, Prizes & more... Sign up March 21st @ Mtg. or mail check made out to ESC for \$20 to: Pam Desruisseaux whose address is on the membership roster located in the Members' Only section of our website: englewoodshell.club

Deadline April 1st. Thank you!

Did you know, the Calusa people of Florida left the most extensive shell works known in the United States? These natural and cultural archives were almost entirely flattened for roads and farms. Mules hauling the shell-heaped carts across farm fields in the early twentieth century had to be fitted in special boots to protect the soft undersides of their hooves from the sharp shell spires and spines. Source: University of FL Museum

February General Meeting: Jackie Hall Receives 2022-2023 Founder's Award

The following speech was written by Co-Presidents Meredith Blain and Martha Dehne and read to members by Martha.

In 2016 Barb Myers, the Englewood Shell Club's founding mother, initiated the Founder's Shell Award to honor a member who has given thoughtful support, service and/or contributions to the club in the past year. In Barb's words, "This Founder's Shell is our club shell, the lightning whelk, and I found it on one of the club's early Carefree Learner trips in Sarasota Bay on December 4, 1998. I hope that it will be passed on each year in appreciation of a club member selected by the Englewood Shell Club President."

Three years ago, a small group of ladies came to an Englewood Shell Club's beach walk with the hopes of identifying a few beach treasures. They enjoyed their visit and soon joined our club. One of the ladies jumped right in and filled the open position of the club Librarian. Without hesitation she worked all summer purging and updating our library catalog. She also created a new, very visible, drop box to return checked out books. She worked hard to assure that at every meeting the library was open, and a Shell of the Month speaker was in place. If you haven't guessed by now, we are talking about our friend, Jackie Hall.

A self-professed "worker bee" Jackie never hesitates to step up wherever help is needed. She is now the Co-Membership coordinator, was an integral part of sorting and storing a large, donated shell collection, and made sure we had a meeting venue after the Elks Club was no longer available due to hurricane Ian.

Jackie, you are first to raise your hand to offer assistance and share great ideas and are exactly what Barb Myers had in mind when she created the award. It is our pleasure to present to you the Founder's Shell Award.

Congratulations, Jackie!



L to R: Meredith, Jackie, Martha



FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING PRESENTATION BY CAROLE MARSHALL

Submitted by Linda Powers



The Englewood Shell Club was very honored to have Carole Marshall discuss her presentation of Seashells of the Lake Worth Lagoon and Look-alike Shells and how to distinguish them.

Carole is a current member of the Broward Shell Club. She was also the recent recipient of the Conchologists of America's prestigious Neptunea award. She is a renowned speaker on the shelling lecture circuit and is valued for her extensive knowledge of mollusks.

Carole discussed the diversity of shells in the Lake Worth region, as a result of the Gulf Stream and the variety of habitat in the region.

Carole also discussed look-alike shells, found both in Lake Worth and on our southwest coast. She explained how to differentiate between many species: fighting conchs, deer cowries, lions paws, moon snails and a subspecies of queen conch.

There are over 800 different species in the Lake Worth region and Carole has been writing a book about this diversification for the last 15 years. Kudos to Carole for an interesting and informative presentation.

More February General Meeting:



Left: Judy Landry, Team Merchandise
Right: Pat Weaver, Co-Librarian



Team Social—Left: Paula Sepanski,
Right: Jayne Lindberg



Membership Leaders—Left: Jackie Hall, Right: Linda Schmoyer

Team Greeters—Left to Right: Laurie Leonardo, Sandy Ouderkirk, and Karen Luce



Kathy C, Karen B, Judy K, Gale B, Linda P, Anna H, & Meredith B





Hello Shell Seekers,

*Englewood Shell Club Library recently acquired a New Valuable Treasure. A Book titled *Sea & Land of the Don Pisor Collection*. This Book was found and purchased for us by Jackie Hall at the Melbourne Florida Shell Show in January 2023. The book is autographed by the author. He has been collecting shells for 45 years. He has collections from all over the world. His shells are still at shows and in museums. The photography is amazing. Absolutely worth perusing for the serious shellers. *Reminder anyone out there willing to share a 5-10 minute "Show and Tell" on his/her favorite shell, please contact me. (Pat Weaver, librarian)*

Educational Opportunities

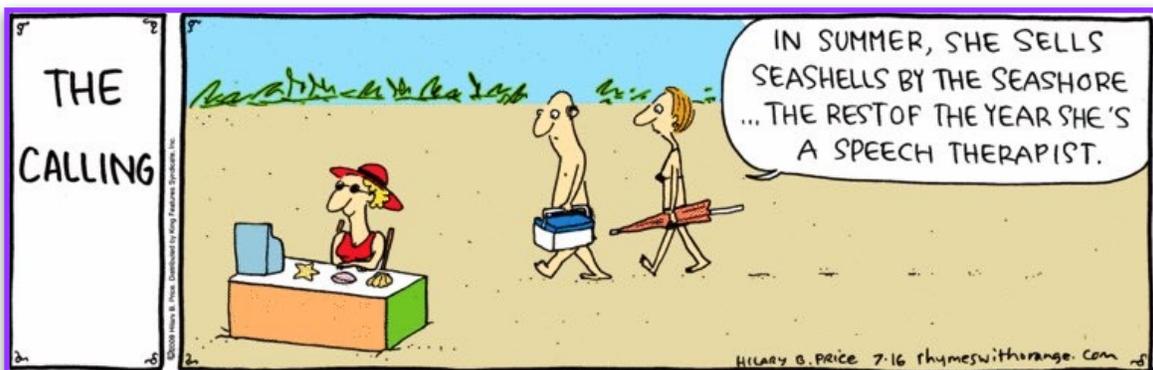
The thirteenth meeting of Florida United Malacologists (FUM) will take place on Saturday, April 15, 2023, at the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Fish & Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI), in St. Petersburg, Florida. The one-day gathering typically includes presentations by researchers, enthusiasts, citizen scientists, educators, and students, and covers a broad swath of mollusk-related topics. The Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum hosted the first FUM in 2010, and the event has been hosted also by the Florida Museum of Natural History, the University of South Florida, and Stetson College. As usual, FUM is open to anyone interested. There is no fee for participation, but registration is required. Participation will be limited to about 70 people. If you're interested in attending, please contact: Steve Geiger, Stephen.Geiger@MyFWC.com or Dave Karlen, Karlen@epchc.org. Learn more about past FUM events at <https://www.shellmuseum.org/2022-fum!> Additional details about FUM 2023 will be publicized soon!

Barrier Island Parks Society Program: Dr. Blair and Dawn Witherington unveil their new book *Gulf Beach Quests* in an exciting lecture presentation. Blair and Dawn are renowned authors and professional naturalists who have merged their art, writing, photography and design in an impressive body of works, including first and second editions of *Florida's Living Beaches*, *Living Beaches of Georgia and the Carolinas*, *Florida's Seashells*, *Seashells of Georgia and the Carolinas*, and the Gold Award winning book, *Our Sea Turtles*. Personally autographed books will be available for purchase after the presentation.

Apr 05, 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Boca Grande Community Auditorium, 131 1st St W, Boca Grande, FL

RSVP



February Palm Island Excursion

Linda Powers: *Another great excursion to Palm Island Resort & Rum Bay restaurant. Thanks Marty!!!* Pam Desruisseaux: *Wonderful day on Palm Island!*



