



The Shell Scoop December 2023

Lisa Ketner, Editor

Dear Members,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Team Leaders, may the warmth, peace, and blessings of the holiday season surround each of you and in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Lisa Ketner, president

ESC's 25th Anniversary of Decorating Holiday Tree

Decorating the artificial pine tree located within Cedar Point Learning Center starts at 1PM on Thursday, December 7. All ornaments to be hung have been created over the years by ShellCrafter participants. No sign up necessary. The merry and bright tree will be on display for public viewing until 1PM Wednesday, January 17. Contact Lisa Ketner if you want to remove and pack up ornaments.

Your Social News from Team Leader, Pam Desruisseaux

Thanks for a great response for our Holiday Party on Dec.12th @ 11:30 @ the Manasota Beach Club. Remember to bring a wrapped gift for the Shell Exchange & Gift Cards for the Jubilee Center Food Pantry (Gas, Supermarket, Walmart). Dress in your best Holiday attire & be ready to have a ton of fun!

Also, don't forget to "Save The Date" for our Annual Picnic on April 16th @ the Maxine Barritt Beach pavilion.

Who Wants to Go Shelling?

Connect with like minded people at Manasota Beach, Thursday, December 14. Start time is 10AM. Team Leaders are Kathy Cycak and Chris Hofer.

ShellCrafters: Shell Trees

Join the fun expressing your talent with other members who love to make art out of shells on Friday, December 15. Start time is 10AM. Team Leaders are Leslie Furmage and Carolyn Robinette.

AHOY! Two Excursion Opportunities Available in January

Carefree Learner: Lowest possible tide, Thursday, January 25. Boat leaves 2 Marina Plaza, Sarasota, 6:45AM **sharp**. \$20. No tax. Tipping is recommended, but optional. **Nine** seats remain available at this time. Contact is Carol Ayres.

Dog Beach and Shell Key Preserve (Pass-a-Grille; South St. Pete): Tuesday, January 30. Sunrise shelling on Dog Beach 7AM-9AM. Ferry to SKP leaves dock **promptly** at 9:30AM. Shell, explore, and picnic 10AM-2:15. Fees: \$7 for tolls (round trip). Dog Beach parking meters \$3.25 per hour. Purchase parking passes at ferry terminal ticket booth. Four passengers in one car \$5. Round trip ferry ticket \$25 plus tax—**note**: cash or credit card only. Tipping is optional.

Contact Lisa Ketner to sign up or request a detailed flyer.

January 2024 Study Group

Thurs. Jan. 4 at 1 p.m. at Anita Wilson's home, rather than at Cedar Point Park.

The Wilson's address is in the membership roster and GPS gets you there easily. Anita's home is about 1/2 mile off Old Englewood Road off 776. She will leave the Holiday Welcome Flag with poinsettias and cardinals on the post by the house entry which is on the left side of the road. The shell driveway serves three homes, so keep to the right as you drive in or proceed straight to the second drive, which also serves the Wilson home. If you park in back, simply walk up the back walk through the pool cage to the house. The house is gray with stone trim. New members, coming to Anita's for this meeting will get you set for the Newcomer's Tea at Pam Orozco's home on January 18. She lives right up the street from Anita.

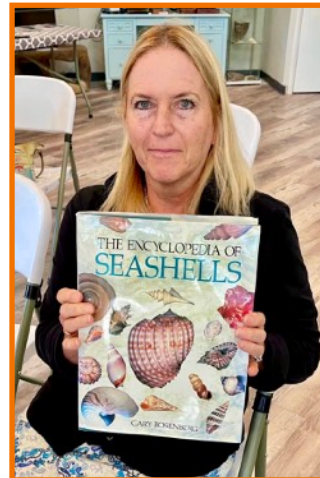
Hopefully Marilyn Boyd will be able to speak about wentletraps at this meeting. We will also identify and share shells members have found recently. Anita will also share an easy idea for storing your scientific collection, and you can view her shell ID books.

Although the Wilson home is nothing like the homes that will be on the tour later this spring, it will give you an idea of what is to come as you view Anita's shell collection, crafts, and see holiday party favors and ShellCrafter projects from the 20+ years the Wilsons have been members of the club. Plus you will see examples of the shell flowers Diane Herger will teach you to make at the upcoming ShellCrafters on Jan. 19.

November Englewood Beach Walk



November Shell Study: Olive Shell



Thank you Bonnie Lytton, left, who explained the difference in the several varieties of Olive shells we find locally: lettered dwarf, and fulgur. Anita Wilson shared several reference books that would make a great addition to any sheller's library and suggested "Florida's Living Beaches" by Blair and Dawn Witherington.

Kathy Cycak spoke about fossils and shared some of her personal collection.

Last but not least, new member Ingrid Lehmann won a surprise raffle. Her prize was "The Encyclopedia of Seashells" donated by Linda Masterson.

November ShellCrafters: Embellished Cigar Boxes



ESC Supports Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center's Annual Fundraiser



Thank you Martha Dehne who donated this basket and its goodies.

November Guest Speaker: Tony Duncan

Tony used a slide show to demonstrate his talk about the shells he collected over the 13 year span he and his wife, Karen, lived in Okinawa, Japan. He also generously gifted the club unique shells won by seven lucky raffle ticket holders.

His Instagram page is Tony D @okishells_td)



Thank you Programs Team Leader, Meredith Blain, for recruiting yet another amazing speaker. Looking ahead: Tuesday, January 16 Guest Speaker, Tom Annesley, will discuss Cone shells.

Negative Tides for December

Full Moon - 12/26

Boca Grande Pass

Wed, 12/13 -0.5 7:16am

Tues, 12/26 -0.5 6:37am

(12/25-29 low tides all look great)

South Lido Beach at Big Pass

Thurs, 12/14 -0.7 7:01am

(12/13-16 low tides all look great)

Tues, 12/27 -0.6 6:26am

“Remember, week days are less crowded.
The earlier, the better. Try to go just before sunrise.
The early bird does get to walk the wrack line first!”
Karen Blackford

Is Your New Year's Resolution to Volunteer? If so, please consider ESC.

Historian needed to keep an accurate record of the history of the club.

- Compile a yearbook of the highlights, accomplishments, & milestones using the online service Shutterfly. One copy is ordered for the ESC library and club members may order copies to be presented at the first meeting of the following season.
- Attend as many ESC events as possible and document with photos. Maintain online albums on facebook and submit to our newsletter to record significant happenings. Encourage club members to add their photos to the online albums.
- Remind club members of upcoming milestones and other important dates. The historian should refer to the club's historical documents, such as past yearbooks, newsletters, and meeting minutes to make sure all relevant dates are recognized.
- Should be organized, like to be creative, have basic computer skills, & be able to attend club functions.
- Training available. Contact is Karen Blackford.

Projector Operator/s is/are needed to set up our brand new projector and assist the featured General meeting Guest speaker: November 21, January 16, February, 15, March 19. Training available. Contacts are Karen Blackford and Meredith Blain