



## The Shell Scoop

April 2025

Lisa Ketner, Editor

Hello Fellow Shellers,

What a fantastic picnic to close out the season! A huge shoutout to Bonnie Lytton and her awesome posse for making it so special—the decorations, baskets, raffle, food, and silent auction were all amazing. You really made it a fun and memorable day for everyone!

Looking ahead, we've got a great season coming up. Our first general meeting will be in **October 2025**, and throughout the year we'll be celebrating the **30th Anniversary of the Englewood Shell Club**—how exciting is that?

We've got a mix of familiar favorites and new adventures lined up, like fun excursions, shell studies, potlucks, shell crafters, and all kinds of other shelltastic happenings.

If you have any questions, ideas, or suggestions, don't hesitate to reach out to me or Lisa Eloff, Vice President. We're always up to trying new things and would love to hear from you!

We're already getting things ready and will continue over the summer. We are really looking forward to what's ahead.

Take care during the break—we can't wait to see everyone back next season!

Lori Smith  
President

### April 7: Palm Island

*"Here are some photos of my 1st Englewood Shell Club excursion recently on Palm Island. A fun day with everyone. Thanks to Diane and Mark Casey for driving to and from the ferry. And for Lisa Kinney driving us to 2 sections of the beach. Beautiful water and views looking for shells despite the intense winds. I loved my lunch of Mahi Mahi Tacos."*

Jayne Lindberg, Facebook











*All That Glitters Is Not Gold: Amazing Abalone Shells* is currently on exhibit at the Bailey Matthews National Shell Museum and Aquarium.

*Shells of the Abalone group of marine gastropods represent a diversity of color, pattern, and visual impact that is matched by very few others. Many abalones have an otherworldly, iridescent quality that is prized as a source for jewelry, decorative objects, and mother-of-pearl.*

*This exhibition of 60 Abalone shells from the Museum's collection showcases wide-ranging varieties from around the globe, focusing on their unique beauty, factors that make the shells appear the way they do, classification, fisheries, and conservation status. Source: [shellmuseum.org](http://shellmuseum.org)*





## Congratulations Meredith Blain 2025 Sanibel Shell Show Artistic - 1st Place Award Winner

"East Coast Elegance: A Golden Perspective  
A variety of seashells self-collected in one weekend  
along the Gold Coast of Florida."

## Local Conchologists of America News

"A BIG Thank You and Congratulations to Karen Huether who is running unopposed for the first Vice President position in Conchologists of America, our parent organization. She will be elected and installed at COA's convention in Corpus Christi, Texas, in July of 2025."

Submitted by Anita Wilson



## April 11: ShellCrafters' Season Finale

Nearly 15 members gathered to create gifts being kept a secret until distributed in the future to members attending our Holiday Luncheon and other similar events. Connie Edwards led the class and was assisted by Team Leader, Carolyn Robinette and Volunteer, Irene Viti.





## April 15: Annual Farewell Picnic

Ruthann Kort, Facebook: "Thank you to Bonnie and all of her helpers for a fantastic picnic. Food was delicious. The pavilion never looked so good decked out in bandanas, sunflowers and with cowgirls/boys everywhere. The silent auction offered something for everyone to bid on. Treasures from near and far. Books, artwork, excursions, jewelry and so much more. Fun, fun and yet more fun."





Karen Blackford, Facebook: "Boy Howdy, what a fun picnic! It was a shelltastic way to end our ESC 24-25 season with a rip roaring, boot stomping "Happy Trails to Shells" party. It takes incredible dedication & hard work to make an event of this size a resounding success. Thank you kindly to Picnic Chairperson Bonnie Lytton and her committee - Terry Crouch, Gwen Montgomery, Leslie Mohr, & Laurie Leonardo. The club is very grateful for all your time, effort, & enthusiasm in planning and hosting such a wonderful party. A huge thank you to Sandy Ouderkirk & Teresa Monaco for working the registration table Also huge thanks to Lori Smith & Lisa Eloff for hosting the silent auction. Much appreciation goes to Diane Gallagher & Diane Casey for manning the raffle table & selling the tickets. And to the many other club members who helped set-up & clean-up, your efforts are much appreciated! And how can we forget the Cowboy Choir! YeeHaw! Teamwork really does make the dream work. Thanks so much for a wonderful farewell picnic!"







Karen Blackford, Facebook: "A THANK YOU KINDLY!! To our generous donors who gave us some fabshellous shell booty to give away at today's picnic raffles."

Shown left to right: Priscilla Adams won the door prize gift basket arranged by Cindy Boyd.

Donna Anderson won the gift certificate for \$135 towards a 4 hour shelling trip with Everwater Charters and Tours.

Kathy Baillargeon won the excursion bucket filled to the brim with shell swag goodies courtesy of Ali Mick SWFL Shell Guide and put together by Lori Smith and Lisa Eloff.

Bonnie Lytton won the guided dig with Fossil Recovery, a \$100 value."





## March General Meeting: Awards and Installation of 2025-2026 Officers

### Emeritus and Memoriam Awards

Sue Murray, unable to attend, was named as an Emeritus Member and Kathy Kenley was named as an Memoriam Member. In addition, the club donated \$100 in Kathy's name to the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum and Aquarium.

### Founder's Award Winner: Lori Smith



Lisa Ketner, right, out-going president said, *"Well known for her enthusiasm and kind heart, this year's recipient joined ESC in 2023. She is appreciated for volunteering her organizational skills to accomplish individual, committee, and team goals with equal energy. Today we recognize Lori Smith for serving as this season's Excursion Co-Team Leader and for participating on this and last year's Nominating Committee. Her volunteer resume also includes: assisting Beachwalk Team Leader Lisa Eloff and together they manage the auction table featured at our annual picnic. She also performs various volunteer tasks at Sarasota Shell Club's Shell Show. Last but not least, Lori regularly contributes descriptive shelling stories accompanied by photos to the Club's Facebook page and Newsletter. Please come forward President-elect and accept the 2024-2025 Founder's Award."*

Lori Smith, left, responded, *"I'm so honored to receive the Founders Award—it truly means a lot to me! A big thank you to Lisa Ketner for even thinking of me for something so special. I've only been shelling for about a year and a half, but from the moment I started, I was completely hooked. The shells themselves are beautiful, of course, but learning about the incredible creatures that live inside them made me appreciate them even more. Joining this club has been such a gift. The people I've met here, (and one in particular, who passed away last year, Kathy Kenley) with their deep knowledge and passion for shelling, have inspired me every step of the way. It made me want to jump in, help out, and learn everything I can about this amazing shelling world."*



L to R: Lori Smith—President, Lisa Eloff—Vice President, Deb Smith—Secretary, Judy Landry—Treasurer, Donna Anderson—Director at Large, Pam Desruisseaux—Director at Large, and Lisa Ketner.  
Absent: Karen Blackford—Communications Director.