

Englewood Shell Club
General Meeting
October 21, 2025

1. Call to Order – Welcome/Announcements (Lori Smith)

Lori Smith, President, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm on October 21, 2025 at the St. David's Fellowship Hall. Lori welcomed all the members and announced that the 30th anniversary of the Englewood Shell Club would be celebrated in January. Lori suggested that members visit all the tables that were set up at the meeting so they could sign up for trips, the 30th anniversary luncheon, buy merchandise, make crafts, and volunteer for events. Lori also announced other events that are scheduled: December 9, 2025 – a pot luck luncheon; January 20, 2026 – the 30th anniversary dinner at the Waverly Restaurant; Date to be announced – special craft with artist, Anna Chan; and December 6, 2025 – Christmas Parade in Rotonda, Florida with the theme 50's Rock and Roll.

Lori reported that Lisa Eloff and Anita Wilson were guests on "All About Women" with Mary Jones, News/Talk show 1530 and 107.5 and 98.1 WENG radio this morning talking about the Englewood Shell Club "shellabrating" its 30th anniversary and all things shells.

Lori also reported that the club has received two donations in shell collections. One from the Philadelphia Museum and the other from Randy Ryder who is local and collected the shells from Tumon Bay, Guam. Lori announced that she is working with Mr. Ryder in hopes of being a guest speaker at a future meeting.

Lori announced that the club is in need of members to volunteer and fill the following positions: outreach, parliamentarian, home tours, end of year picnic, and new member luncheon.

Lori reported that Homer Rhode is the Team Leader for Study Group and the next meeting will be held on November 3, 2025, at the Elsie Quirk Library from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. The topic will be on the growth and reproduction of shells.

Lori also reported that the Historian, Kathy Baillargeon is working on the "Sands of Time" for the monthly newsletter and for the 30th anniversary and if anyone has any pictures or stories to please share.

Lori announced and read a thank you note from Sue Murray for her appointment as an emeritus member and also announced the sunshine cards and notes that have been sent to present and past members this month.

2. New Members – Welcome (Mary Ketelsen and Aria Catterson)

Aria Catterson and Mary Ketelsen welcomed 13 new members to the club and presented each with a whelk shell as they gave a brief introduction of themselves.

Lori introduced all the members of the board and the team leaders for 2025/2026 Englewood Shell Club: Lori Smith, President; Lisa Eloff, Vice President; Deb Smith, Secretary; Judy Landry, Treasurer; Lisa Ketner, Past President and Newsletter; Donna Anderson and Pam Desruisseaux, Directors-at-Large, Karen Blackford, Communications Director and Outreach; Lori Smith and Lisa Eloff, Excursion and Beachwalks; Marilyn Boyd, Greeters; Kathy Baillargeon, Historian; Terry Crouch, Librarian; Mary Ketelsen, Donna Anderson, and Aria Catterson, Membership; Diane Casey, Merchandise; Carolyn Robinett, Shellcrafters; Homer Rhode, Study Group; and Linda Schmoyer, Sunshine.

3. Treasurer's Report (Judy Landry)

Judy reported that the starting balance was \$10,049.48. Income received was \$1,744.80 with \$1,610.00 coming from membership dues and \$134.80 coming from the yearbook sale. Expenses paid were \$1,862.44 – website cost \$325.00, membership expenses \$80.00, miscellaneous (business cards, ink, paper) \$154.10, yearbooks \$404.42, Egmont down payment \$449.00 and Waverly Restaurant down payment \$500.00. Current balance is \$9,533.19.

Lori gave a brief description of the budget for the club for the year and explained that funding for donations and scholarships is to be determined since it is costly to run the club. For instance, the cost to run the website can cost up to \$3,000 a year and to rent the space at St. Davids is \$1,200 to have our meetings. There is a storage facility cost as well that is over \$600. While the club has money there are many expenses.

TEAM REPORTS

4. Greeters, Sanibel Trip, Special Raffle, Pot Luck and 30th Anniversary Charm (Marilyn Boyd)

Marilyn reported that there is a sign up sheet for those wishing to be a greeter for November and that at every meeting there is a sign up sheet for the next month.

Marilyn announced a special raffle to help raise money for the club. She displayed a spondylus oyster that was worth between \$150 to \$200. The first 40 members that purchase a ticket for \$5 are in the drawing at the end of the meeting.

Marilyn announced that the Christmas holiday pot luck lunch is scheduled for December 9, 2025 at St. Davids. Everyone please bring their best dish. There will be a door prize provided by Cindy Boyd with singing but no dancing.

Marilyn reported that there were still some rooms available for the Sanibel trip scheduled for October 31 thru November 2, 2025. Lots of fun is planned – a boat trip to Captive Island and Cabbage Key, a trip to Congress Jewelry, dinners, and a tour of the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum. Please contact her if anyone is interested,

Marilyn also announced that she is working with Congress Jewelry to make a prototype for the club's 30th anniversary and she hopes to have a sample by the next meeting. The cost should be around \$60.00.

5. Outreach (Karen Blackford)

Karen announced that outreach is a fun way to meet members and people within the community. At the table there are sign up sheets for 4 outreach events: February 5 thru 8, 2026 is the Sarasota Shell Show and Marine Life Festival and volunteers are needed to assist; February 13, 2026, Lemon Bay Fest wants the club to present Shell 101. Linda Powers has agreed to be the presenter again this year. Volunteers will be needed for the artistic and scientific displays; March 5 thru 7 is the Sanibel Shell Show and Festival at the Community House that is on Sanibel Island; and March 6, 2026 is the Nokomis Beach Talks and we have been invited to do Shell 101 at 10:00 am with Kathy Cycak being the presenter.

Karen also announced that on December 3, 2025, Meredith Blain will be speaking at the Brew With a View at the Port Boca Grande Lighthouse Museum at 9:30 am if anyone is interested in volunteering.

6. GUEST SPEAKER (Linda Powers)

Linda Powers, Past President and Chartering Member of ESC, also currently the Director of COA Membership (Conchologist of America, Inc.) gave a presentation and shared the highlights of the 2025 COA Convention in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Linda also announced that the 2026 COA Convention will be held June 7 thru June 13 at the Marriott Hotel in Bradenton/Sarasota, Florida with the theme being pirates. Membership costs \$25 a year and includes the quarterly American Conchologist magazine.

7. Shell and Tell

Linda Powers, Kathy Cycak and Linda Hamilton each gave a presentation for "Shell and Tell."

8. New Business

Diane Casey, team leader for merchandise shared with members the new ESC merchandise form for all the new merchandise that if ordered today will be available at the next meeting.

Carolyn Robinette, team leader for shellcrafters reminded members that there will be a shellcrafter class on October 24, 2025 for \$20.00 and to please sign up by October 22, 2025.

Lori announced that at the next meeting there will be a sign up sheet for the 30th anniversary luncheon that will be held on January 20, 2026 at the Waverly Restaurant for \$60.

Karen Blackford announced that a digital copy of the yearbook will be sent out to each member next week.

9. Adjournment

Lori adjourned the meeting at 2:41 pm and the shell raffles and ice cream social was held.

Respectively,

Debbie Smith
ESC Secretary