



The Shell Scoop November 2025

President: Lori Smith, escprez@gmail.com Newsletter Editor: Lisa Ketner

Wow! What a fantastic first general meeting to kick off our 30th season!

72 members joined us for our Ice Cream Social, making it a sweet and successful start to this milestone year.

A huge *thank you* to everyone who contributed—those who brought toppings, ice cream, bowls, and spoons, and all the helping hands who served, organized, and cleaned up afterward. We couldn't have had such a wonderful kickoff without our amazing volunteers!

The club is growing quickly—we now have 25 new members, bringing our total to 100 members so far this season! If you are a new member and have any questions or concerns please speak to any board member in person, by phone or email. We would be happy to answer any questions.

Our activities are already in full swing:

Study Group – Two very informative sessions so far, each with over 15 participants!

Beachwalks – More than 20 members enjoyed shelling and shark tooth hunting on Manasota Key.

Excursions – We started strong with 20 members exploring beautiful Egmont Key last month. **ShellCrafters** – Our talented members have been busy creating beautiful jars filled with shells.

Looking ahead, we're excited to welcome **John Jacobs** as our speaker for the November 18 general meeting.

There are so many more fun and educational activities, studies, and excursions coming up this season. A heartfelt *thank you* to all our board and team members who work so hard behind the scenes to keep the Englewood Shell Club running smoothly—your contributions are truly appreciated!

Lori Smith, President

Part of our General Meeting featured a raffle. Marilyn Boyd's donation of *Spondylus americanus* was won by Ann Proudfoot. ESC's "kitty" increased by \$200!



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Membership's Aria Catterson(lime green shirt) introduced 12 of 25 new members and presented each with a whelk. Not shown in order are members who have joined since close of last season include: Bernadette Adibi, Linda Becker, Marian Clark, Kristen Conti, Chris Cooper, Carolyn Gerbereux, Patty Hamilton, Heidi Jacobson, Joni Jankowski. Also Barbara Kelley, Karen Lamb, Janet Lucik, Gwen Meyers, Susan Michaleski, Karen Murnane, Gloria Pearse, Glenda Sammet, Sharmon Simonetti; Coke Wilson, Carl Franklin and Deborah Christensen, Richard and Sandy Smyser.

Linda Powers spoke about experiences she enjoyed while attending Conchologist of America's(COA) annual convention that took place in Corpus Christi, Texas. ESC member Karen Huether also attended. Linda also (right middle row of prior page) passed around a carrier shell (Exnophora) and shared the story of how Jaspidiconus lindapowersae became named in her honor.

Last but not least, in addition to Linda Powers Shell and Tell Presenters were Kathy Cycak: Caribbean Vase shell, and Linda Hamilton: Wentletrap "swirl" in a shadowbox.

Thursday November 13: Englewood Beachwalk: 9 AM-11PM.
BYOL (bring your own lunch)

Tuesday, November 18 General Meeting

St. David's Parish Hall

Doors open 12:30PM. Meeting Start 1PM. Adjournment 3PM.

Guest Speaker John Jacobs: Creating a Shell Exhibit



New Team Leader, Diane Casey says:

“Merchandise Order your 30th anniversary Merch folks! We have new logos and designs. Order at each meeting and receive your items the following month. We'll have new items at every meeting. Come check it out!”

SIGN UP to Decorate and or Dismantle Our Holiday Tree

Cedar Point Environmental Park

UP: 10 AM Wednesday, December 3

DOWN: 10AM Monday, January 5

**SIGN UP to Decorate an All Wood Serving Tray with Shell Art
Or Text Team Leader Carolyn Robinette to Sign Up Today**

Friday, November 21

9AM - Noon

St. David's Parish Hall

Shell Art Serving Tray

\$20 Per person Cash or Check made out to Englewood Shell Club

**DEADLINE TO SIGN UP NOVEMBER 18th
LIMITED SPACES**

“ShellCrafters will provide: wood tray, wax stain, chalk paint, sealer spray, Mod Podge and shell theme art napkins. Also Twinkle lites and some beads and pearls to add to your shells. We will first use some chalk paint and some wax stain to create the look we like. Decoupage the inside with a napkin seashell pattern, along with some burlap around the side...add some of your favorite shells inside and around the front and side. Next add a strand of twinkle lites and you are ready to use for refreshments.”

Sign Up Today or at the November General Meeting

ENGLEWOOD SHELL CLUB

FOSSIL DIG

WITH FOSSIL RECOVERY EXPLORATIONS

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THURS, DEC 10TH 8:30AM-1PM

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COST \$125
PER PERSON

Everyone will be emailed the location in the Arcadia area prior to the event day. Location TBD before the dig.

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ENJOY A SWAMP BUGGY RIDE TO A PRESELECTED SECLUDED CREEK DIG SITE, A FOSSIL DIG, AND A RIDE BACK ON THE BUGGY AT THE CONCLUSION.

Everyone must arrive by 8:30am for a lecture on digging & equipment use. This will be a light gravel dig somewhere along Joshua Creek (TBD). Groups of 10 will be taken by swamp buggy to the site. Everyone will buddy up with a digging partner & share equipment. This trip is recommended for those more physically able as digging, light hiking and traversing is required.

Wear sun protection, comfy, breathable clothes, and sneakers that can get dirty. Bring gloves, lots of water, ziploc bag for finds, towel, bug spray, snacks, ect.

Visit <https://fossilrecoveryexploration.com/faq> for more info

R.S.V.P. TO
ESCexcursions@gmail.com

You must be an ESC member in good standing to attend

If 20 people book, the price is \$125 pp.

If 30 people book, the price lowers to \$115 pp.

PEARLS OF THE MONTH Submitted by Lori Smith

Have you ever wondered why shells come in so many beautiful colors and patterns? The pigments are actually secreted by the mollusk as the shell grows! These colors can help with camouflage, temperature control, or even species identification. No two shells are ever exactly alike—each one is a tiny masterpiece of nature.

One of the most prized finds among shellers is the *Scaphella junonia*, or simply the Junonia. Its cream-colored surface decorated with rich brown spots makes it instantly recognizable.

Pearls Continued Because Junonias live in deep water and rarely wash ashore, spotting one on the beach is considered a true sheller's dream come true!

Every shell on the beach has traveled a long journey—tumbled by waves, carried by tides, and shaped by time. Studying the wear and polish of a shell can tell you how long it's been rolling in the surf or how far it's traveled. So next time you pick up a shell, remember—you're holding a small piece of ocean history!

Sharing ESC history highlights milestones and celebrates the collective efforts that have shaped our club identity over the past 30 years.

November *Sands of Time*

Presented by Kathy Baillargeon
ESC Historian

ON THIS DAY IN TIME

1996 - 1st Speaker on Shell Crafting.

1996 - 1st visit to Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum on Sanibel.

2004 - ESC Outreach evolved to reach schools, clubs, libraries, & civic groups.

2007 - ESC goes on week-long shelling trip to Isle of the Palms in South Carolina.

2012 - ESC members attend the Suncoast Conchologists & Shellers Jamboree in Pinellas County, Florida.

2017 - ESC presented a scholarship gift to Sarah Lown, Western Carolina University.

2023 - The ESC Constitution was updated for the 1st time since 2011. Added to the mission statement "foster knowledge & awareness of mollusks & their environments".



NOVEMBER TIDES Submitted by Karen Blackford

November 20: New Moon & Gasparilla Island State Park -0.1 @ 6:45AM

November 27: Sanibel Lighthouse -0.5 @ 6:45AM

ENGLEWOOD SHELL CLUB

SPECIAL SHELL CRAFTING WORKSHOP WITH ANNA CHAN

**SAT., DEC. 20, 2025
2:30PM-5PM**

**St. David's Parish Hall
401 S. Broadway, Englewood**

SEVERAL ESC MEMBERS PARTICIPATED IN A RECENT CLASS LED BY ANNA IN THE AREA. THEY FOUND IT SO ENJOYABLE THAT WHEN WE HAD THE CHANCE TO INVITE ANNA TO ESC, WE JUMPED AT THE OPPORTUNITY. FEEL FREE TO BRING ANY OF YOUR OWN SHELLS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO INCORPORATE INTO YOUR SNOWFLAKE OR ANY OTHER DESIGN YOU WOULD LIKE TO CREATE.

Registration required

Email ESCprez@gmail.com

OR SIGN UP AT THE NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING



8" x 8" Snowflake wall art created with Quicksand as base material & natural seashells.

No experience need. Materials included.

\$45 Per person

(A minimum of 20 participants is required for the class to take place)



SCULPTOR ANNA CHAN

Anna Chan of Bay Shore, New York, sees art as a conversation with nature. With a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and two decades in jewelry design, Anna walked the shorelines of Robert Moses Beach, Long Island, during the 2020 Covid lockdown. There, sand and seashells became her canvas. What began as temporary creations on the sand evolved into permanent works. Her work speaks to the beauty of the natural world and its endangered species.

Each work urges viewers to reflect on what is at stake. Anna's work has been featured in galleries, publications, and partnerships with Amazon Prime Video, Hendrick's Gin, and Stanford University. Discover more at AnnaChan-Art.com or follow @Annachandesign on Instagram and Facebook.

October 6: Study Group Text and photos submitted by Karen Blackford

"Twelve curious conchology aficionados joined ESC seashell expert & land snail legend and our new Study Group Team Leader Homer Rhode for an hour of conversation about dextral, sinistral, & everything in between. Homer shared a special marginella shell (which are normally dextral) in his collection that is a rare sinistral and very prized by shell collectors .

Meredith Blain shared a really special piece of gulf stag horn bryozoan that she found during a trip to the opening day of Cape Romano Shoals (aka Shell Island). Lori Smith and Lisa Eloff displayed a recent vintage shell collection from Guam donated to ESC by Randy Ryder.

NOTE: No December Study Group. Join Homer January 5, 1-3PM @ Elsie Quirk Library.



October 11: Egmont Key



October 14: Manasota Beachwalk



October 24: Shell Crafters Created Beach Treasure Jars



“Did you know that Cedar Point Environmental Park does one Monthly free seagrass wading trip on a Friday? Our first one will be on November 21st, and these are some of the spectacular critters that can be found in Lemon Bay. For more information you can call 941-575-5435 or email michelle@checflorida.org. We also offer nighttime wading trips, for more information on those and other upcoming programs visit our website.”
<https://www.checflorida.org/programs>— at **Cedar Point Environmental Park**”

October 29-November 2— Sanibel Island, Cayo Costa, Cabbage Key, and More!



Thank your trip organizer
Marilyn Boyd!



