



The Shell Scoop December 2025

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



My heart is truly full from the incredible generosity our members showed our community. Our recent donation to **St. David's Jubilee Center** was a tremendous success and will make a real difference for many individuals and families who are struggling to make ends meet. Moments like these remind me how special this club is and how blessed we are to be able to give back in such meaningful ways.

We were also so fortunate to have **John Jacobs** as our speaker at the November meeting. His presentation was informative and enjoyable, and we are grateful for the time he shared with us. If anyone has suggestions for future speakers, please don't hesitate to let me know. I will do my very best to make those connections happen!

Our trip to **Anclote** was nothing short of fantastic! The weather was warm and beautiful, the shells were plentiful, and the return trip featured a fun, spontaneous sing-along to Neil Diamond's "*Sweet Caroline*" that had everyone smiling. While this month's beach walk started off a bit chilly, it quickly warmed up and turned into a wonderful time of shells, sunshine, and friendship. Be sure to look for the **ESC flag** (let me know if you cannot see it) if you'd like to join in on any upcoming beach walks!

We have many exciting activities coming up, so please be sure to stop by all the information stations, set up at the general meetings, to learn what's new and get signed up. We also send out numerous emails on upcoming events with the way to get in touch with the team leader for that activity. There's always something fun on the horizon with the Englewood Shell Club!

I would like to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a very Happy New Year!!! See you all in January for the 30th year of the Englewood Shell Club!!

With shells of gratitude,
Lori
ESC President

NO December Study Group, ShellCrafters, or Beachwalk.

SAVE the DATE: Study Group January 2026

Join Study Group Team Leader Homer Rhode: Monday, January 5 @ 1PM inside the Elsie Quick Library Meeting Room. Stay tuned for details!

AHOY! FOSSIL DIG Central Florida!
Friday, December 11, 8:30AM-1PM

Fossil dig with Fossil Recovery Explorations (FRE)
Owner/Operator Chris Mandell. RSVP ESCexcursions@gmail.com

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



December Sands of Time



ON THIS DAY IN TIME

1996-First ever ESC holiday celebration with gift raffle at Lemon Bay Park.

1999-First shell auction. First Christmas tree is decorated and donated to Cedar Park Environmental Park.

2000 -700 seashell Christmas ornaments were donated to Los Alamos, NM where homes were devastated by summer fires.

2016-\$300 in donations raised for St. David's Jubilee Center food pantry.

2017- Instead of participating in a gift exchange, ESC members contributed to Toys for Tots.

2021-Holiday gift card drive for Family Promise of South Sarasota County collects 63 gift cards valued at \$1,600 donated by ESC members.

2023-25th anniversary of decorating the holiday tree at Cedar Park Environmental Park.

Over the years, ESC holiday luncheons have been held at Manasota Beach Club, Gulf View Grill, the Waverly, and the Pelican Point Country Club.

**Presented by Kathy Baillargeon
ESC Historian**

POT LUCK, RAFFLES, FELLOWSHIP, SURPRISES, & MORE!

1-3PM TUESDAY DECEMBER 9 @ ST. DAVID'S PARISH HALL

(Doors Open 12:30PM. Team Leaders on hand with sign up sheets!)

YOU CAN WIN

COME SHELLING WITH RUTHANN KORT ON A PONTOON BOAT TO STUMP PASS

6 CHANCES TO WIN!

\$20

For an arms-length
of tickets



**TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING.
DRAWING HELD AT THE END DURING THE HOLIDAY POT LUCK.**

You are buying a raffle ticket for a chance to win one of six available seats.

The trip is scheduled for Friday, January 23, 2026, from 9 AM to 1 PM. You will meet Ruthann & Brad Kort at Stump Pass Marina and head out to Stump Pass on a pontoon boat for a delightful morning of shelling. Drinks & snacks are provided. Ruthann will take you to both ends of the island which are only accessible by boat for a fun morning of shelling, sharks tooththing, & bird watching. The negative Low tide is at 10:40am.

If the trip is cancelled due to inclement weather, it will be rescheduled.

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT ESC DONATION PROJECTS

PEARLS OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Lori Smith

Remember to take two shell bags when you go shelling. One to collect shells and one to collect trash. Shellers who pick up litter make a significant positive impact on the environment by directly removing harmful debris, protecting wildlife from injury or ingestion, and helping preserve of beautiful coastline for turtle generations. Every piece of trash collected makes our beaches safer, healthier, and more enjoyable for everyone.

DECEMBER TIDE PICKS



HANG ONTO YOUR BUCKETS SHELLERS BECAUSE THE WINTER NEGATIVE TIDES HAVE ARRIVED! IF YOU ARE A LATE RISER, YOU ARE GOING TO MISS THE LOW TIDE SHOW. THE SNOWBIRDS ARE BACK SO GO EARLY. STAY AWAY FROM WEEKENDS WHEN THE BEACHES ARE PACKED. STUMP PASS BEACH S.P. PARKING LOT OPENS AT 8AM. ALWAYS GOOD FOR A NICE WALK OR SUNSET VIEWING.

GASPARILLA ISLAND STATE PARK

THURS, 12/4 6:19am -0.6'
FRI, 12/5 7:08am -0.6'
SAT, 12/6 8:01am -0.6'
MON, 12/22 8:33am -0.3'
(only 1 tide cycle on Mon,12/22)

The State Park opens at 8am. Use the parking lot next to South Beach Restaurant & walk over the seawall into the park to be 1st on the wrack line. Be careful and mind any ongoing hurricane repairs.

SOUTH LIDO BEACH

FRI, 12/5 6:10am -0.8'
Sat, 12/6 7:02am -0.8'
SUN, 12/21 7:04am -0.5'
Mon, 12/22 7:40am -0.5'
TUE, 12/23 8:11am -0.4'

You gotta go early & beat the tourists to the shell piles. Safe beach to go before sunrise but always take a shell buddy & a backup flashlight.

SANIBEL LIGHTHOUSE

THURS, 12/4 6:27am -1.1'
FRI, 12/5 7:19am -1.1'
SAT, 12/5 8:13am -1.1'
FRI, 12/19 6:56am -0.8'
SAT, 12/20 7:30am -0.7'

Get out there early & miss the causeway traffic. There will be sandbars for miles. Jump over to Gulfside City Park for more negative low tide action.

FULL COLD
SUPER MOON
DEC 4



NEW MOON
DEC 20

SAVE THE DATE: CAREFREE LEARNERS!

Monday, February 2, 2026. \$30 p.p. Details coming soon.

A MESSAGE OF THANKS

Greetings fellow shellers!

All I can say is **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, and THANK YOU!!** Your generosity truly touched so many hearts. Lisa Eloff and I delivered the donations collected at our November General Meeting to the **St. David's Jubilee Center** the very next morning, and we were thanked more times than we could count!

They were incredibly grateful for everything that was given and especially thrilled to receive the **personal hygiene items and pet food**, which are always in great need. Seeing their appreciation was a powerful reminder of what makes our club so special.

I am so proud that our shared love of shelling and community service has kept our club strong for **30 wonderful years**, and I'm excited to help keep the tradition of giving alive for the next 30 years!

We will be collecting donations again at our **December General Meeting / Potluck**. Please remember to bring **non-perishable food items, personal hygiene products, and pet food**.

Kindly note: **No gift cards, please.**

Thank you again for showing what true sheller hearts look like!

With shells of gratitude,

Lori Smith, ESC President



Outreach Volunteer Opportunities
Sign Up Sheets Available @ EVERY General Meeting

February 6-7 Sarasota Shell Show and Marine Life Festival. Volunteers receive free admission!

February 13 Bay Fest: Linda Powers presents *Shells 101*

The program will be presented to the Englewood community in the Elsie Quirk Library upstairs Meeting Room. Volunteers sought to “work” either the Scientific or Shell Craft table. Approximately 3 hours.

March 6, 9AM: Kathy Cycak presents *Shells 101*

The program will be presented under the main pavilion located at the North Jetty (100 S. Casey Key Rd, Nokomis) Event involves set up, presentation, and breakdown. Approximately 3 hours.

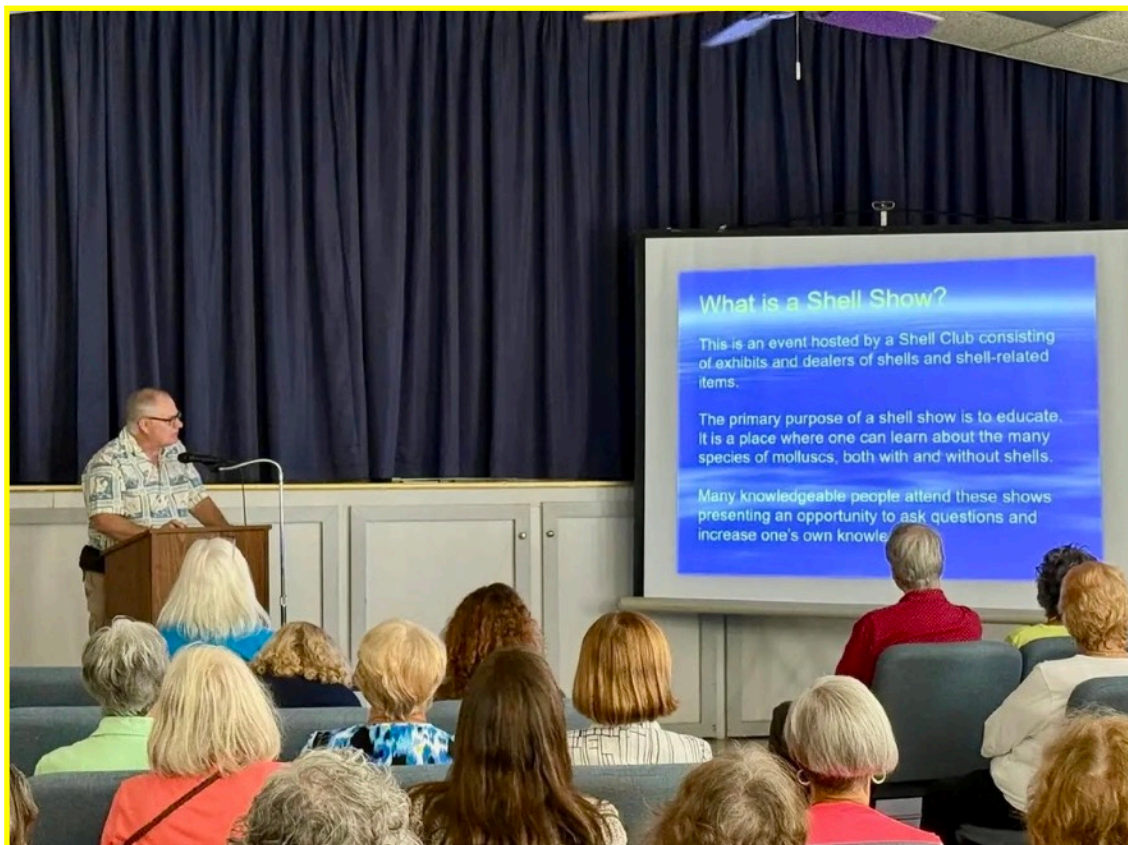
NOVEMBER 7: ANCLOTE KEY

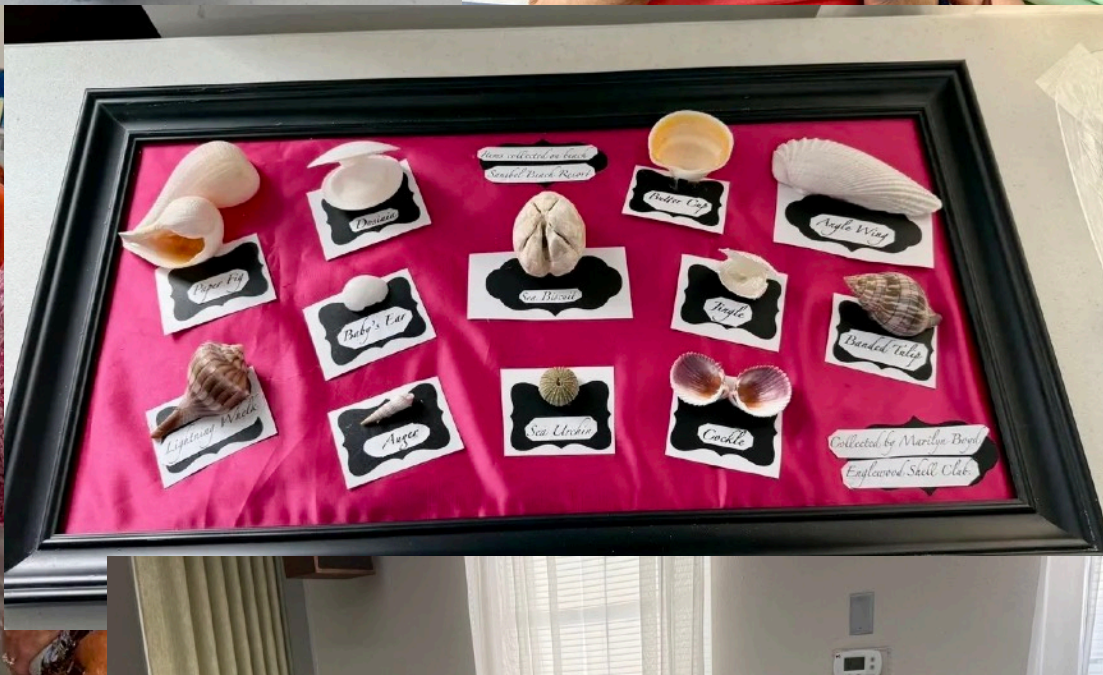


NOVEMBER 13: ENGLEWOOD BEACH



NOVEMBER 18: GENERAL MEETING





HEY!

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!*

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.



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

No experience need. Materials included.

\$50

Per person this includes \$5.00 to help pay for the room rental

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

Registration required

Email ESCprez@gmail.com

OR SIGN UP AT THE DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING



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.