



The Shell Scoop January 2026

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

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season filled with joy, family, special moments and lots of beautiful shells.

As we begin the new year, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to **Kathy Cycak** for her incredibly generous **\$500 donation** to the club, made at our December Pot Luck meeting. Kathy's kindness will help cover the yearly cost of the church for our general meetings. Thank you Kathy!!

This month marks a very special milestone — **our club officially turns 30 years old!** What an amazing accomplishment and a testament to the passion, dedication, and love of shelling that has brought so many of us together over the years.

We will be celebrating our **30th Anniversary on January 20th from 11:30–2:30 at The Waverly Restaurant in Englewood**, complete with a beautiful ocean view.

It promises to be a lovely afternoon of fellowship and celebration. We are fortunate to have a **beautiful door prize created by Cindy Boyd** (thank you, Cindy!) and a **string of real pearls generously donated by Debbie Smith** to be raffled off (thank you so much, Deb!). This will be the only raffle during the event, as my hope is for everyone to simply relax, enjoy the moments, and celebrate 30 wonderful years together.

Looking ahead, we have **many exciting excursions and beach walks planned**, with final details and cutoff dates coming soon. These outings are a fantastic way to meet fellow members, explore our beautiful shores, and, of course, search for seashells — something that continues to bring us together year after year.

If you have any questions about upcoming excursions, please feel free to reach out to me by phone, text, or email. Thank you all for being part of this incredible club and for making these 30 years so meaningful.

Here's to celebrating our past, enjoying the present, and looking forward to many more shell-filled adventures together.

Until the next low tide
Lori Smith, ESC President

CREATING, EATING, LEARNING, FELLOWSHIP, ADVENTURE, AND MORE!

KICK OFF ESC'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY!

10-11AM Monday **January 5**: Come join the fun of dismantling the club's Christmas tree on display at the Cedar Park Environmental Park.

1-3 PM Monday **January 5**: Elsie Quirk Meeting Room. Study Group Team Leader Homer Rhode's discussion will focus on *Land Snails and Their Amazing Diversity*. Remember to bring along your favorite shells and share what you know and or learn what you don't from Homer and fellow shellers.

9AM-Noon, Friday **January 16**: ShellCrafters, St. David's Parish Hall. ESC Artist Lisa Kinney has volunteered to teach the class. Details Coming Soon!

11:30AM-2:30PM Tuesday **January 20**: Englewood Shell Club's 30th Anniversary Celebration. Waverly Restaurant, 2095 N Beach Rd., Englewood.

9AM Thursday **January 22**: Nokomis Beachwalk, 1000 S. Casey Key Rd. If enough members would like to eat lunch we will head over Pop's Sunset Grill (112 Circuit Rd.) at the conclusion of the walk. popssunsetgrill.com

SAVE THE DATE—1-3PM Monday **February 2**: Study Group with Team Leader Homer Rhode inside the Elise Quirk Meeting Room. Stay tuned, details coming soon!

EXPLORE THE TIDAL FLATS OF SARASOTA BAY!

CAREFREE LEARNER EXCURSION: Monday, February 2

Twenty-two seat available. \$30 per person (includes tip).

Arrive 6:30 AM. Boat departs 7AM Sharp! Adventure wraps up 10:30AM.

Mail your check made out to Englewood Shell Club (Memo line Carefree Learner) to Englewood Shell Club, PO Box 911, EnglewoodFL, 34295.

DIRECTIONS:

Enter Marina Jack, 2 Marina Plaza, Sarasota, FL, in your GPS. Or from I-75, take the Fruitville Road (SR 780) exit. Head west to downtown, then take SR 41 to Marina Jack. The boat, named Carefree Learner, is located on the South end of the marina next to LaBarge Park. Dress in layers; you'll be glad you did!

Restrooms are located at the back of O'Leary's Tiki Bar.

HERE'S WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU:

Small Trowel or Shovel
Small Plastic Bucket for Miniature Shells
A Bucket the Size of Your Choice
Rubber Gloves
Water Boots/Shoes (No Flip Flops!)
Water, Snacks, Sunscreen

READY, SET, GO: 2018 CAREFREE LEARNER ADVENTURE

How many shiny happy faces can you identify?



Sarasota Bay History cited from the History section of sarasotabay.org

“Sarasota Bay in the form we recognize today was formed approximately 5,000 years ago. Over geologic time, local sea level has ranged from as much as 330 feet below to 100 feet above present levels. Just 17,000 years ago, the shoreline of the Gulf was about 60 miles to the west of where it lies on Sarasota and Manatee County beaches today.

Sarasota Bay served as a key waterway for the Tocobago, Timucuan and Calusa Tribes during the 1500s. These tribes thrived on the bounty of Sarasota Bay and nearby estuaries. The large shell mounds, or middens, they created are still visible throughout the area.

Fishers from Cuba established fish camps, or rancheros, on the shores of Sarasota Bay from the late 1700s to the mid 1800s.

Their trade was mainly in mullet and mullet roe, although they also salted drum fish, turtles, and trout to ship south. The Florida Seminole Indian Tribe also frequented the region during this time for hunting, fishing and farming.

"Sea fish are in such innumerable quantity's as exceed even imagination." - Bernard Romans, early European explorer of Southwest Florida estuaries.

Large-scale drainage projects eventually drained thousands of acres of freshwater marsh in the Sarasota Bay watershed. These marshes extended east of the coastal ridge to Myakka and from Tampa Bay to Charlotte Harbor. The marshes were drained initially to create agricultural opportunities and later provided residential and commercial landscapes.

Beginning in the late 1800s, the Intracoastal Waterway was dredged to provide a deep, protected channel running the length of the Bay and beyond. Dredge-spoil islands were created throughout the Bay during construction, covering seagrass beds and changing water circulation patterns. The natural shore was gradually replaced by seawalls to retain dredge-and-fill materials for housing sites. As development expanded, natural land cover was replaced by nonporous parking lots, roads, and rooftops.

The slow trickle of settlers became a stream, and then a flood after World War II. Coastal development intensified from the late 1950s to 1970, as hundreds of acres of bay bottom were dredged to produce waterfront lots. Canals were dredged and the spoil was used to create waterfront subdivisions. Drained saltwater marshes were converted to residential neighborhoods.

Bird Key, located between the City of Sarasota and St. Armands Key, was once the location of one of the largest seagrass beds in Sarasota Bay. The Bird Key development was bulkheaded with seawalls. Dredges filled the area behind the seawall with material from the Bay bottom, and the resulting expanded island was divided into single-family home sites.

Sarasota Bay is a very different place today from what long-term residents remember. Miles of natural shoreline habitats have been replaced by seawalls, and once-abundant mangrove wetlands have been filled and depleted. Residential and commercial development throughout the Bay area has resulted in larger amounts of stormwater runoff and pollution.

The Sarasota Bay Estuary Program was established to restore Sarasota Bay water quality and habitats. While Sarasota Bay will always change with the times, it is our responsibility to maintain the natural functions and features that make the Sarasota Bay watershed a beautiful place to call home.



JANUARY TIDE PICKS



THE WINTER'S NEGATIVE TIDES ARE FINALLY HERE! IT'S ALSO A SUPER MOON MONTH! TIME TO SNAG YOUR FLASHLIGHT, LAYER UP, AND HIT THE BEACH AT THE CRACK OF DAWN. IF WE GET ANY 20KT+ WINDS, EVERY BEACH WILL BE A TREASURE TROVE OF POSSIBILITIES. MY TOP PICKS FOR EPIC SHELLING DAYS ARE JAN 4 OR 5. HAPPY SHELLING! ~KB

GASPARILLA ISLAND STATE PARK

FRI, JAN 2 6:17 am -0.8'
MON, JAN 5 8:27 am -0.5'
WED, JAN 21 8:33 am -0.3'

Best bang for your buck. \$6 toll/\$3 State Park Fee, & quick drive out. Bundle up & hit the beach early before the tourists wake up.

SOUTH LIDO BEACH

SAT, JAN 3 6:08 am -0.9'
MON, JAN 5 7:32 am -0.7'
TUES, JAN 20 7:03am -0.6'

The parking lot opens early. Sadly, the beach has been eroding again but you never know what will wash out of the renourishment escarpment.

SANIBEL LIGHTHOUSE

FRI, JAN 2 6:35 am -1.3'
SAT, JAN 3 7:24 am -1.3'
MON, JAN 5 8:48 am -1.0'
FRI, JAN 30 5:44 am -1.2'

OMG! How low can you go? 1/15-1/22 are negative lows all week long. Try Gulfside City Park or Tarpon Beach for a new adventure!

FULL SUPER WOLF MOON
JAN 3



NEW MOON
JAN 18

PEARLS OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Lori Smith

Understanding tide charts, wind direction, and recent weather can greatly improve shelling success. Low and outgoing tides often expose fresh material, while onshore winds help push shells toward the beach. Recent storms or strong winds can stir up the seafloor and bring unusual or deeper-water shells into the wrack line.

Please head over to YouTube and search Englewood Shell Club. Be sure to watch Englewood Shell Club Shell Study – March 2023: “Tides”, where Kathy Kenley does a fantastic job explaining how tides affect shelling.

Upcoming 2026 Outreach Volunteer Opportunities

February 6-7 Sarasota Shell Show and Marine Life Festival. Every volunteer receives free admission! Contact Nancy Cadieux to sign up today.

February 13 Englewood Lemon Bay Fest: Linda Powers *Shells 101*

This 11AM to noon interactive educational program takes place in the Elsie Quirk Library upstairs Meeting Room. Volunteers sought to "work" either the Scientific or Shell Craft table. Contact Linda Powers to sign up today.

March 6 Kathy Cycak *Shells 101*

This interactive educational program starts 9AM under the main pavilion located at the North Jetty (100 S. Casey Key Rd, Nokomis). Event involves set up, presentation, & breakdown. Contact Kathy Cycak to sign up today.



ESC members served as volunteers and exhibited artistic talents at Sarasota Shell Club's successful 2025 Show.
Here are some of them.>>>

ENGLEWOOD SHELL CLUB

KEEWAYDIN ISLAND

X
X
X
X

THU, FEB 19,
2026



**COST
\$54.30**

PER PERSON

X X X X

You must arrive by 5:45 am at Rose Marina
951 Bald Eagle Dr, Marco Island 34145
Shuttle departs at 6:15am and returns at 10 am
or noon.

Bring water, sun protection, shell tools, snorkle, viewer
bucket, & whatever you need to be comfortable.

Must be able to board shuttle boat. No restrooms
on island. Easywalking once on Keewaydin.

**DON'T DELAY!
DEADLINE TO
SIGN UP IS
Jan. 10
ONLY 34 seats
available!**

You must be an ESC member in good standing to attend

R.S.V.P. TO
ESCEXCURSIONS@GMAIL.COM

Covid 2020 Didn't Keep ESC Members Bottled UP!



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

January *Sands of Time*



Presented by Kathy Baillargeon
ESC Historian

ON THIS DAY IN TIME

January 23, 1996 -Barb Myers & Elsie Doyle host first ESC meeting at the Charlotte County Library (Tringali Center). 26 shell lovers attend.

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

1997-First carpool field trip to Mote Marine on City Island in Sarasota.

2002-First Home Tours offered to members by Jane Guy, Carol Meyer, & Helen Gardner. Marilyn Price starts monthly Beach Walks.

2006-ESC celebrates 10 years. First trip to Shell Key in St. Petersburg. Anita Wilson elected President.

2016-ESC shellabrates 20th Anniversary with a luncheon cruise on Sarasota Bay aboard the Marina Jack II.

2021-ESC 25th Anniversary Picnic moved from Maxine Barritt Park due to inclement storms & moved inside to the Englewood Elks Club.

2023-Meetings are moved to St. David's Episcopal Church after the Elks Club closed for hurricane damage.

2026-30th Anniversary party held at The Waverly on Manasota Key.

Here are three of the vast amount of books & other resources Librarian Terry Crouch has available for Shell Lovers to Check Out!

Lipe, Betty & Robert E. (1993) Clean Your Shells & Other Sea-Life. St. Petersburg, FL. Shell Store. Located: Shells.

Scales, Helen (2015) Spirals in Time: The Secret Life and Curious Afterlife of Seashells. Bloomsbury Sigma. Located: Misc.

Witherington, Blair & Dawn (2017) Florida's Seashells: A Beachcomber's Guide. Sarasota, FL. Pineapple Press. Located: Florida Shells.

Dec. 2025: POT LUCK, RAFFLES, DOOR PRIZES, & AS ALWAYS, FELLOWSHIP!



How We Began

Submitted by Founding Mother Barb Myers
(1-23-2010)

Volume 7, Anniversary Issue

January 23, 2010

The Shell Scoop Anniversary Issue

E n g l e w o o d S h e l l C l u b

ESC

Charter

The Englewood Shell Club was formed January 23, 1996, to bring together people interested in seashells. Club members share their enthusiasm and experiences about mollusks of all kinds. The main interest is in Florida shells.

Club Emblem



- Common Name: Lightning Whelk or left-handed whelk
- Scientific name: Busycon sinistrum
- Former name: Busycon contrarium Conrad, 1840

How We Began

Tired of traveling back and forth to the Sarasota Shell Club, Barb Myers asked fellow sheller, Elsie Doyle why they couldn't start their own club in Englewood. They agreed they could and on January 23, 1996, the first meeting was held at the Charlotte County Library at Tringali Center. Both were worried no one would come after advertising the first meeting in the local paper. To their surprise, 26 enthusiastic shellers came and continued to come back.

This core group and those who attended meetings the first year, were later known as the Charter Members. They helped plan the programs, excursions and activi-

ties that remain central to Englewood Shell Club (ESC) today.



Founding member Barb Myers.

One of the first mentors and an early supporter of the club was a newcomer to the Bailey Matthews Shell Museum in Sanibel, Dr. Jose' Leal. He is one of our Honorary Members and a frequent guest

speaker at our General Meetings. The Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club was another source of support for the early members of the club.

Today, we have over 150 members and programs and interests that were never imagined back in 1996.

Barb is quick to point out that all of our club activities exist and thrive because of dedicated, enthusiastic, and talented members who do not hesitate to volunteer and willingly give of themselves to make the club better and stronger every year. Our club is now rich in history and recognized as one of the largest and most active shell clubs in the world.

Why the Lightning Whelk

The Lightning Whelk seemed an appropriate shell to select for the club emblem as it was commonly found on Englewood beaches. Plus, Englewood was located in the "Lightning Capital of the World." The Lightning Whelk is a colorful shell and

known to grow large. This was a hope of the club back in 1996—to grow.

The common name for the shell is derived from its streaks which appear to resemble lightning flashes.

The shell's scientific name indicates the way it grows with a left spiral contrary to the way of most other shells.

Whelks are found in many sizes and are perfectly formed even when miniature. They feed on clams.

Dec. 2025: PEACE RIVER FOSSIL DIG



Dec. 2025: SPECIAL CRAFTING CLASS WITH ARTIST ANNA CHAN





AMAZING TALENTS SHINED AT ESC's 2025 SHELL MARKET!



Linda Hamilton,
Event Chairperson