



The Shell Scoop February 2026

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

As I reflect on our **30th Anniversary Luncheon at the Waverly**, I am filled with gratitude and pride. The incredible turnout, the delicious food, and, most of all, the wonderful company made it a truly memorable celebration. It was so special to see longtime members and newer members gathered together sharing stories, laughter, and a mutual love of shells and the friendships built around them.

Events like this remind me just how special the Englewood Shell Club truly is. Thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, helped plan, and contributed in any way to making the luncheon such a success. It was a beautiful way to honor our past while celebrating the vibrant club we are today.

Looking ahead, we have **many fun and exciting activities** coming up, including excursions, beach walks, and shell studies. We are also having a **shell sale at the February General Meeting**, which is always a favorite and a great opportunity to find something special.

Whether you have been a member for decades or just recently joined, I encourage you to take part in these upcoming events. The friendships formed, knowledge shared, and memories made are what make our club so meaningful.

Thank you for being part of the Englewood Shell Club family. I look forward to many more moments of discovery and time spent together.

Until the next low tide,
Lori Smith
ESC President

February 2nd Carefree Learners trip for this season has been canceled.

“Organizer, Carol Ayres, recently received a text explaining that they are still waiting on required Coast Guard paperwork to launch their newly built boat, and it has not yet been approved. Because of this delay, the trip will not be able to take place this season. We plan to offer it again next year.” Lori Smith

1-3PM Monday February 2 Study Group with Team Leader Homer Rhode upstairs in the Elise Quirk Meeting Room. Topic: Top Shells. Remember to bring along your favorite shells and share what you know and/or learn what you don't from Homer and fellow shellers. **SAVE THE DATE:** Study Group March 2. Stay tuned for details.

**BEACH WALK/LUNCH BLIND PASS BEACH
6725 MANASOTA KEY ROAD, ENGLEWOOD FL 34223**

**LUNCH AT KEN & BARB'S
2000 OYSTER CREEK DR, GROVE CITY
TUES, FEBRUARY 10, 2026**

9am Beach Walk / Lunch @ NOON

**You're welcome to join us for lunch even if you don't attend the
beachwalk**

MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF 25 FOR POTATO BAR

**Potato Bar & Garden Salad
Meeting for lunch at Noon**

LOCATION

**Ken & Barb's
2000 Oyster Creek Dr
Englewood, FL 34224**

POTATO BAR INCLUDES

**Cheese sauce, Shredded cheese, Broccoli,
Chives, Ground beef, Sour cream,
Bacon, Roasted vegetables
Garden salad included**

Cost for Lunch

\$21

**INCLUDES TAXES &
GRATUITY CHARGE**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Email: escprez@gmail.com

**SEND PAYMENT TO: Englewood Shell Club
P.O. Box 911
Englewood, FL 34295**



SHELL CRAFTERS, BEACH WALKS, EXCURSIONS, SHELL STUDIES, SPECIAL EVENTS

HEY SHELL SEEKERS! MARK YOUR CALENDARS
Englewood Shell Club



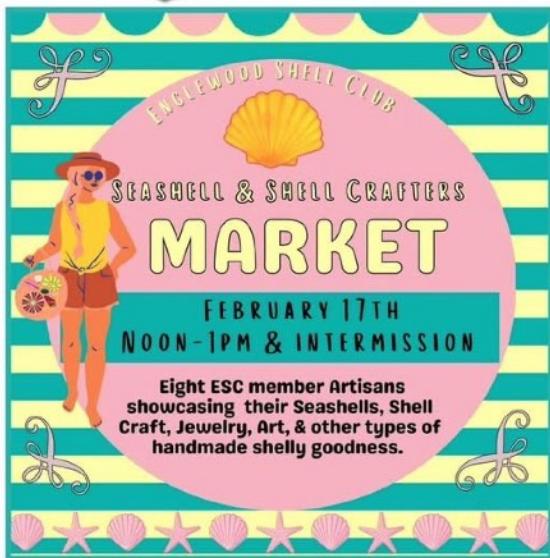
FEB GENERAL MEETING



Tuesday, February 17
Shellcrafters Market starts at Noon-1pm
General Meeting 1pm-3pm



Located at: St. David's Episcopal Church Parish Hall
401 S. Broadway Ave., Englewood



MON, 2/2 @ 1PM SHELL STUDY

TUES, 2/10 @9AM BEACH WALK AT
BLIND PASS BEACH & POTATO BAR
LUNCH AT BARB & KEN'S @ NOON

FRI, 2/20 @ 9AM SHELLCRAFTERS -
MAKING SHELL CRITTER POODLE

CHECK YOUR ESC CALENDAR & EMAIL
FOR COMPLETE DETAILS.

For more info email us at info@englewoodshell.club

Celebrate all things Englewood during the Lemon Bay Fest Saturday, February 7 through Saturday, February 14.

ENGLEWOOD SHELL CLUB OUTREACH TEAM MEMBERS LINDA POWERS, KAREN BLACKFORD, LESLIE MOHR, KATHY BAILLARGEON, AND JAYNE LINDBERG PRESENT "SHELL 101" Friday, February 13 @ 11am in the meeting room upstairs in Elsie Quirk Library on Historic Dearborn Street.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT. COME OUT AND CHEER THEM ON!

ENGLEWOOD SHELL CLUB

KEEWAYDIN ISLAND

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THU, FEB 19,
2026



**COST
\$54.30**

PER PERSON

× × × ×

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!
ONLY 13 seats
available!**

You must be an ESC member in good standing to attend

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





ESC Shellcrafters

Friday, February 20

9 am - Noon

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



\$15

Per person

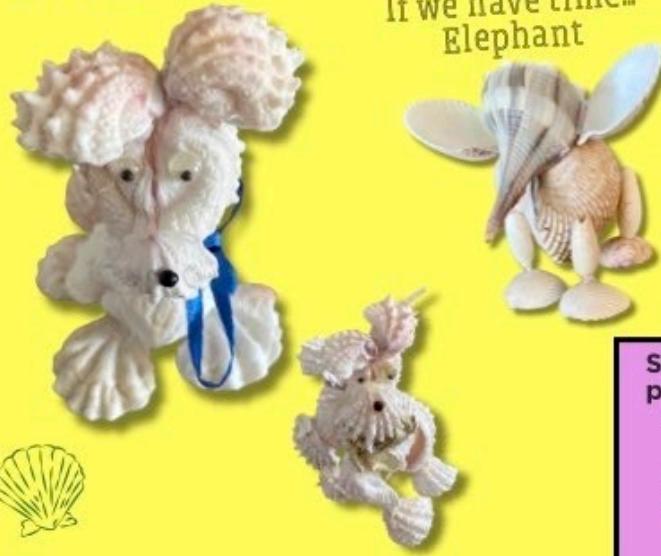
SIGN-UP NOW
ESCprez@gmail.com



Class Led by
ESC member
Connie Edwards

Shell Critter Poodle

If we have time...
Elephant



In the shell crafting world, shell critters are one of the oldest forms of transforming shells into art. Who didn't buy a shell critter as a souvenir from their first Florida trip?

Join ESC shellcrafter Connie Edwards as she leads a class on the basics of making a shell critter. The possibilities are endless!

Sign up today by emailing
ESCprez@gmail.com

Deadline to RSVP IS Feb 17th. Mail your check made out to "Englewood Shell Club" to:
P.O.Box 911, Englewood FL 34295
or pay at the Feb General Meeting.

Shell crafters will provide:

- Flat bead for the nose
- Wiggle eyes
- Ribbon for the collar

YOU BRING:

- 6- pair (left & right) large Jewel Boxes

(also bring various small & medium jewel boxes)

- A mat to work on to protect the table
- Hot glue gun & glue sticks
- Any of your own special shells or embellishments

Elephant- medium & small pairs of cockle shells, 3" lightning whelk, & 4 olives



Meet ShellCrafters Co-team Leader, Leslie Mohr

Shell crafting combines two of my favorite things, walking the beach collecting shells and creating things. I love to take art classes to learn a new technique or medium. Shell Crafters will be making shell animals in February, led by Connie Edwards, and in March, we'll be making shell embellished crosses. I am excited to work with Lisa Kinney, and we have some fun ideas in mind for next year!

Meet ShellCrafters Co-team Leader, Lisa Kinney



I love collecting seashells and creating shell art. Along with being a member of the Englewood Shell Club, I have been an artisan with the Sarasota Shell Club for 6 years and I have had an Etsy shop in the past. I make a variety of items with seashells and I am working together with Leslie Mohr to coordinate future Englewood Shell Crafter classes. We have established the crafts for this season and are compiling a list of crafting ideas for next season. We hope to have some of our craft ideas for classes on display during the ESC Seashell and Shell Crafters Market on February 17. We hope to see you there!

**Did you know that ESC's Library includes 13 Shell Crafting books?
Contact Librarian Terry Crouch to borrow one or more of these gems.**



Boynton, Pamela, Contemporary Sailors' Valentines
Collett, Amanda, My Way of Shelling
Critchley, Paula, The Art of Shellcraft
Fowler Elbert, Virginie, Shell Craft
Goodman, Stuart, Art From Shells; Jewelry, Sculptures, Collages, Figurines, Collections
Holmes O'Keefe, Heather, American Shell Craft
Joeffe, Anne, Shellcrafting Sanibel Island, FL.

Krauss, Helen K., Shell Art: A Handbook for Making Shell Flowers, Mosaics, Jewelry, and Other Ornaments

Madeira, Grace L., Sailors' Valentines

Malcolm, Trisha, Crafting on the Go

Marshall, Marlene Hurley, Shell Chic

Spencer, Andrea, Seashore Style

Stephens, Cleo M., Shellcraft

Travers, Louise Allderdice, The Romance Of Shells In Nature and Art

What Went Up, Came Down

ESC's Christmas Tree was on display for over a month at Cedar Point Environmental Park. Four members gathered on January 5th and un-trimmed the tree and packed up the oodles of ornaments made over many years by countless ShellCrafters. Left to right: Sandy Onderkirk, Teresa Monaco, and Linda Schmoyer. Bottom: Lisa Ketner.



January 21, 2026 ESC 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION







Founding ESC Mother
Barb Myers







The Shell Scoop

Anniversary Issue

Englewood Shell Club



CHEERS TO 30 YEARS!

ESC CHARTER

The purpose of the Englewood Shell Club is to bring together persons interested in shells and shell collecting, and to foster knowledge and awareness of mollusks and their environments by providing opportunities for participation in related programs and projects.



The Club Shell

Why the Lightning Whelk

The Lightning Whelk seemed an apt choice for the club emblem because it was commonly found on Englewood beaches. Additionally, Englewood is located in the "Lightning Capital of the World." The Lightning Whelk is a vibrant shell, renowned for its large size. This mirrored the club's aspiration back in 1996—to grow. The shell's common name comes from its lightning-like streaks. Its scientific name reflects its unique left-spiraling growth, which is opposite to most other shells. Whelks come in various sizes and are perfectly formed even when small. They feed on clams.



Barb Myers



Marilyn Boyd



Linda Powers

Tired of making the trek to the Sarasota Shell Club, Barb Myers approached fellow shell enthusiast Elsie Doyle about starting their own club in Englewood. They agreed it was a great idea, and on January 23, 1996, the inaugural meeting took place at the Charlotte County Library in Tringali Center. Both women were apprehensive about attendance after advertising the first meeting in the local newspaper.

To their delight, 26 enthusiastic shellers showed up and continued to return. This core group, along with those who participated in the first year, later became known as the Charter Members. They played a crucial role in planning the programs, excursions, and activities that remain central to the Englewood Shell Club (ESC) today.

The Story of Our Beginning

Among the founding members were Barb Myers, Marilyn Boyd, & Linda Powers. One of the club's early mentors and supporters was Dr. José Leal, a newcomer to the Bailey Matthews Shell Museum in Sanibel. He is now one of our Honorary Members and frequently speaks at our General Meetings. The Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club also provided invaluable support during the club's early days.

Today, our organization boasts over 100 members and a diverse range of programs and interests that were unimaginable back in 1996. Barb is quick to highlight that the success of our club is due to the dedicated, enthusiastic, and talented members who willingly volunteer their time and efforts to continually strengthen the club. Now rich in history, our club is recognized as one of the largest, most active, & friendliest shell clubs in the U.S. and beyond.

The 30th anniversary gemstone is a pearl which symbolizes wisdom, endurance, & hidden beauty formed through perseverance. The pearl is the only gemstone that has its origin as a piece of grit. The oysters response to the irritation of the small piece of grit is to cover it with layer after layer of beautiful Nacre or more commonly known as mother-of-pearl. As we celebrate our 30 year milestone of the Englewood Shell Club, let us remember the wisdom gained from all our members, the many challenges the club has overcome together, and what a rare & precious achievement our club years together have been, much like a lustrous pearl.

**“Seashells were money before coin,
jewelry before gems, art before canvas.”**

— Cynthia Barnett (Author & ESC Honorary Member)

Our Presidents

1996-1999 Barb Myers
1999-2001 Marilyn Boyd
2001-2003 Judy Curtain
2003-2006 Debbie Freeman
2006-2008 Anita Wilson
2008-2009 Doris Lyons
2009-2011 Christina Anglin
2011-2013 Nancy Weborg
2013-2015 Debbie Freeman
2015-2016 Brenda Steele
2016-2018 Linda Powers
2018-2020 Colleen Fosnough
2020-2023 Meredith Blain & Martha Dehne
2023-2025 Lisa Ketner
2025-2027 Lori Smith

2023-Cynthia Barnett
2006-Freeman Crosby
2010-Peter Dance

EMERITUS MEMBERS

2017-Christian Anglin
2021-Joe Bao
2021-Amie Barnicle
2017-Richard Eckart
2017-Helen Gardner
2021-Ruth Middlebrooks
2024-Sue Murray
2015-Barbara Myers
2023-Rita Stonehouse
2017-Dottie Swann
2015-Dick Forbush*
2015-Andy* & Audrey Grant*
2023-Eunice Herr*
2025-Kathy Kenley*
**In Memoriam*



The Founder's Award

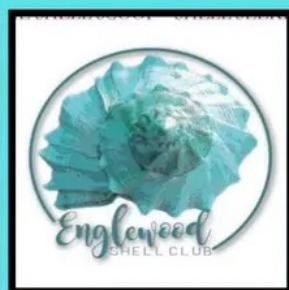
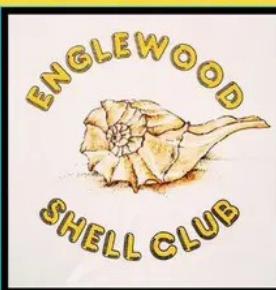
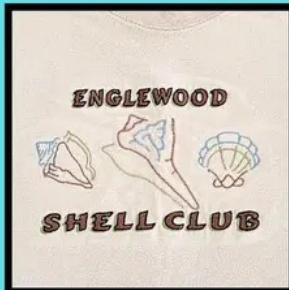
2016 Connie Cummings
2017 Deborah Hubbard
2018 Leslie Furmage
2019 Martha Dehne
2020 Meredith Blain
2021 Lisa Ketner
2022 Karen Blackford
2023 Jackie Hall
2024 Anita Wilson
2025 Lori Smith

HONORARY MEMBERS

2001-Dr. Jose Leal
2010-Dr. Gary Schmelz, Ph.D.

2010-Dr. Gary Schmelz, Ph.D.
2009-Larry & Carol* Strange
2010-Harlan Wittkoph

The Evolution of Tee Style!



To our treasured members, your dedication and enthusiasm have been the foundation of our club. Whether you've been with us from the start or have joined us along the way, each of you has significantly contributed to the development of our Conchology/Malacology community. Your involvement in our events, your support for our projects and outreach efforts, and your faith in our ESC mission statement have been truly invaluable. Thank you for your friendship, your commitment to having fun, and for believing that we can make our world a better place, one shell at a time.

Best shell wishes~Kathy Baillargeon & Karen Blackford (content creators)

Never Give Up

Submitted by Pam Desruisseaux



Last minute trip to Kice Island. Up at 3:30 AM, on the road at 4:30, cold boat ride but lots of shells. Meandering my way through the mangroves, looked down and there it was I froze in disbelief then showed a friend who called me naughty names and said now you can stop your whining after all these years. It's a little old and weathered but still in one piece just like me. Feeling grateful. Don't ever give up hope just have faith and enjoy.

EXCITING and HAPPY NEWS Lori Smith, President

I'm excited to share that Marilyn Boyd has agreed to take on the responsibilities of Parliamentarian for the club!

The role of the Parliamentarian is to advise the President, the Board, and the membership at large to ensure that our business meetings are orderly, efficient, and conducted democratically. The guide for accomplishing this is Robert's Rules of Order.

Thank you so much, Marilyn—we truly appreciate you stepping into this role and look forward to your guidance and support.

I'm also happy to announce that Bonnie Lytton, Marilyn Boyd, and Gwen Montgomery have agreed to serve as our Nominating Committee this year. The position currently available is Director at Large.

Responsibilities of the Director at Large include:

- Communicating feedback from members to the Board of Directors
- Assisting with other duties as requested by the Board of Directors

If you would like to be considered for this position, please reach out to a member of the Nominating Committee. The committee will also make an announcement at the February General Meeting for anyone interested in being considered or for those who would like to nominate a fellow member.



A WHOPPING 16 inquisitive shell seekers came out for the **January Shell Study** hosted by Homer Rhode & Linda Powers. Homer's passion for land snails started early in life. Homer's dad was the 1st park ranger at the newly formed Everglades National Park in the late 1940's. As a young boy Homer would ride to work with his dad and explore the wild places while his dad worked. Land snails became his passion early on.

Karen Blackford

JANUARY NOKOMIS BEACHWALK



JANUARY SHELLCRAFTERS: SHELL ORBS LED BY LISA KINNEY

January NEW MEMBERS LUNCHEON @ Rotonda West Community Center



New Members (not shown in order) were Renee and Tasha Long, Glenda Sammet, Susan Michaleski, Heidi Jacobson, Marian Clark, Deanice Beck, Marcia Beck, Patty Hamilton, Gloria Pearse, Paula Jackson, and Tom Anderson. Team Welcome New Members were Marilyn Boyd, Debbie Smith, Lisa Ketner, Donna Anderson, Pam Desruisseaux, Lori Smith, Karen Blackford, and Annette Carruthers.

PEARL OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Lori Smith

Sand dunes are a vital part of our coastal ecosystem, and shellers are asked to stay off them to help protect our beaches. Dune grasses and plants have deep root systems that hold the sand in place, reducing erosion and providing a natural barrier against storms and high tides. When these plants are trampled, the sand can easily blow or wash away, weakening the dunes and leaving nearby areas more vulnerable to damage. Dunes are also home to important wildlife, including nesting birds and other small animals. By staying off the dunes, shellers help preserve the natural beauty and stability of our beaches so they can be enjoyed for many years to come.



Pontoon Boat Raffle Winners Spend Morning Shelling & Sightseeing

Submitted by Ruthann Kort

On the morning of Friday Jan. 23rd, six ESC members set sail for a morning of shelling with Brad and Ruthann Kort. They were the happy winners of the December Pontoon Boat Raffle.

The weather was perfect, warm and sunny as we navigated the less than 10 minute trip to Stump Pass State Park. Because of a negative low tide we headed straight for the north end of what is now known as Milton's Island. The inter-coastal was full of live marine life including many sea urchins.

Once on the Gulf side, the north point became everyone's place to be. It was shells galore without any other competition. So many shells and so little time. The ladies leisurely strolled and trolled up and down. Treasures were everywhere. Ruthann gave away everything she found, including a perfect medium sized black Lions Paw. It was spectacular.

After 2 hours it was back on the boat for a quick ride and snack. Down to the south end for more shelling. This required a further walk but everyone just went at their own pace or just sat in shell deposits and hunted.

So many different species of shells were found. Excellent specimens. The ladies did some bird watching and identifying which was enjoyed by all.

In a blink of an eye it was time to head back to the marina. Once docked and back on land, Ruthann shared some of her shell collection so that every person would go home with at least one new shell species. Everyone seemed to really enjoy the time together with others that totally "get" your shell addiction.



And the lucky winners were Bonnie Lytton front, back L to R Lisa Eloff, Gale Bakalik, Laurie Leonardo, Aria Catterson, and Anita Wilson.

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

February Sands of Time



**Presented by Kathy Baillargeon
ESC Historian**

2021-Beloved Founding Mother Barb Myers attends ESC 25th anniversary.

♥ Jackpot! Colleen Fosnough finds a junonia, murex, and rose murex on Last Chance Sandbar (Shell Island).

2022-ESC thoroughly enjoys a shell outing to Palm Island. They made plans to go back the following month!

♥ Linda Hamilton coordinates the annual Shell Market at Feb general meeting.

2023-The prestigious Founder's Award is presented to Jackie Hall.

♥ Lisa Ketner is elected ESC President for a 2-year term.

2024-Leslie Furmage, Shell Crafter's leader, retires after 15 years.

♥ Shell Crafters Market is led by new chairperson, Carolyn Robinette.

2025-Anita Wilson graciously hosted the New Members luncheon at her home.

♥ Lori Smith is presented with the prestigious Founder's Award.



FEBRUARY TIDE PICKS



LAISSEZ LES BONS TEMPS ROULER!
WINTER TIDES & WINDS ARE WORTH THE
EARLY MORNINGS & CHILLY WEATHER. IF
YOU DON'T GET OUT BEFORE 10AM,
PARKING & TRAFFIC WILL RUIN A GOOD
SHELLING DAY. LAYER UP & GRAB YOUR
HEADLAMP FOR FANTASTIC FINDS ON
JUST ABOUT ANY BEACH THIS MONTH.
SHELLCRAFTERS- THE NOKOMIS NORTH
JETTY IS A BONANZA FOR SMALL SHELLS.
REPLENISH YOUR INVENTORY NOW.
HAPPY SHELLING- KB

MANASOTA KEY (SOUTH END-STUMP PASS S.P.)

NORTH END-MANASOTA BEACH
RUN 1 HOUR EARLIER
MIDDLE KEY-BLIND PASS BEACH
RUN 30 MINUTES EARLIER

SUN, 2/1 7:14am -0.7'
MON, 2/2 7:49am -0.6'
SAT 2/14 to THURS 2/19
All early AM after sunrise negative lows

Winter shelling can be surprisingly good on M.K. If we get any NW winds over 20 kts., hit any beach on the next morning after especially Milton Pass at Stump Pass S.P.

GASPARILLA ISLAND STATE PARK

SUN, 2/1 6:46am -0.7'
MON, 2/2 7:21am -0.5'
TUES, 2/10 to TUES 2/17
All early AM after sunrise negative lows

Members have been finding lots of wentletraps & other goodies in the wracklines. Park next to South Beach Restaurant to get an early start before the S.P. opens at 8am.

BEST PICKS FOR DAY TRIP BEACHES

SOUTH LIDO BEACH	MON, 2/2 6:25am -0.7'
SANIBEL LIGHTHOUSE	MON, 2/2 7:43am -0.9'
MARCO ISLAND/SOUTH BEACH	SUN, 2/1 6:21am -0.8'

If you are up for a drive, leave early & beat the tourists out to the wracklines. If you arrive later than 10am, traffic & parking will be a huge challenge. Go Early.

FULL MOON

FEB 1



NEW MOON

(With a annular solar eclipse)

FEB 17

South Lido Park consists of one hundred acres containing a variety of coastal habitats influenced by the Gulf of Mexico, Big Sarasota Pass, Sarasota Bay, and Brushy Bayou.
2201 Ben Franklin Drive, Sarasota.