



The Shell Scoop March 2026

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

I am filled with gratitude for the incredible dedication and generosity of our volunteers who give so freely of their time and talents to help support our club. The strength of our organization comes from members who are willing to step forward and share their energy to keep our mission of learning, sharing, and celebrating the beauty of shells alive.

We had a wonderful Shell Sale at our February General Meeting! A special thank you to Linda Hamilton for volunteering to get the Shell Sale up and running, we truly appreciate your time and dedication. And thank you to all the members who supported our talented and very crafty shell artisans by purchasing their beautiful creations. Your enthusiasm and support help make our club events such a success!

Thank you to everyone who gave their time and energy to help build our library carts and keep our resources organized and accessible for our members. These projects may seem small, but they make a huge difference in supporting our club's educational efforts.

A heartfelt thank you to those who volunteered at the Sarasota Shell Show, helping represent our club with pride and sharing our passion for shelling with the broader community. Your enthusiasm and willingness to help make events successful and truly reflects the spirit of our club.

I also want to recognize the members who worked on putting together the curio for the Lemon Bay Fest and to those who prepared and delivered our presentation for the festival. Your creativity and hard work helped highlight who we are and what we love to do.

Special appreciation goes to those who staffed the Expo table at the Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve, sharing information, answering questions, and introducing others to the joy of shelling and coastal conservation.

Thank you to our nominating committee for the time and care you put into helping guide our club's future leadership. Your service is essential to keeping our organization strong and vibrant.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to our shell craft leaders who generously share their skills and patience while helping others create beautiful handmade pieces to cherish.

To every volunteer who helped in ways large and small, setting up, cleaning up, organizing, teaching, or simply showing up to lend a hand, please know that your efforts do not go unnoticed. Volunteerism is the heart of our club, and it is because of you that we continue to grow, share knowledge, and build lasting friendships.

Until the next low tide,

Lori Smith
President
Englewood Shell Club

March 2 Study Group 1-3 PM. Studying Cones with Homer Rhode at the Elsie Quirk Library Program Room located on the first floor.

March 6 Kathy Cycak and Karen Blackford present *Shells 101*. This interactive educational program is sponsored by Nokomis Institute. Start time: 9AM under the main pavilion located at the North Jetty (100 S. Casey Key Rd, Nokomis). **SHOW YOUR SUPPORT. COME OUT AND CHEER THEM ON!**



BEACH WALK/LUNCH GASPARILLA ISLAND S.P.
880 BELCHER ROAD, BOCA GRANDE, FL 33921
LUNCH AT KEN & BARB'S
2000 OYSTER CREEK DR, GROVE CITY
TUES, MARCH 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 TACO BAR

Meeting for lunch at Noon

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

Cost for Lunch
\$21
INCLUDES TAXES & GRATUITY CHARGE

TACO BAR INCLUDES
CHICKEN, BEEF, LETTUCE, TOMATO, ONION,
SOUR CREAM, PICO DE GALLO, GUACOMOLE,
SOFT AND HARD SHELLS AND REFRIED BEANS

REGISTRATION REQUIRED
SIGN UP AT FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING OR
Email: escprez@gmail.com
SEND PAYMENT TO: Englewood Shell Club
P.O. Box 911
Englewood, FL 34295

JOIN US for the Taco Bar at Ken and Barb's! **You do not** have to attend the beach walk to come and enjoy great food and even better company. If you'd like to participate in the lunch, please email Lori Smith, escprez@gmail.com as soon as possible. Let's make this a fun afternoon together!

March 17 General Meeting
1-3 PM (doors open 12:30) St. David's Parish Hall

Guest Speaker, Randy Ryder, generously donated his shell collection to ESC. He will speak to members about the shells collected at age 10 in Tumon Bay, Guam.

Tumon Bay is a bay in the United States territory of [Guam](#), opening to the [Philippine Sea](#). Tumon Bay or Agana Bay are the most likely locations that [Ferdinand Magellan](#) dropped anchor on March 6, 1521, which was the island's first encounter with Europeans.^[3] The bodies of [Diego Luis de San Vitores](#) and [Pedro Calungsod](#) were thrown into the bay following their murders on April 2, 1672, during the [Spanish-Chamorro Wars](#).^[4] In response, the Spanish launched a punitive attack on Tumon, burning several houses and *sakman*. However, the Spanish column was attacked on both flanks as it waded through the waters of Tumon Bay, losing three soldiers to poison spears. Two Chamorro warriors were killed in the battle.^{[5]:30–31} During the [Japanese invasion in 1941](#), the [South Seas Detachment](#) under the command of Major-General [Tomitarō Horii](#) made landings at Tumon Bay.^[6] Source: Wikipedia

Vote for a Director at Large March 17

Please remember that we will be voting for a new Director at Large at our March meeting. The candidates are Kathy Cycak and Meredith Blain. An email will be sent soon to all voting members with information about each candidate to help you make an informed decision. We encourage everyone to participate. Lori Smith, President

March 20 ShellCrafters
Shell Crosses led by Leslie Mohr
9 AM-Noon St. David Parish Hall
Details Coming Soon!



Origins and Development of Shell Crosses

Shell crosses, often made from mother-of-pearl, were first developed by Franciscan friars in the Holy Land. This tradition dates back approximately 500 years, where these crosses were crafted as religious artifacts and symbols of faith. Source: AI

Pearl of the Month

Submitted by Lori Smith

Seashells are more than just beautiful beach treasures, they are the protective outer homes of marine mollusks, built slowly over time from calcium carbonate. As the animal grows, it adds new material to the opening of the shell, creating the unique shapes, ridges, and colors we love to collect. The patterns we see are influenced by genetics, diet, and environment, making each shell truly one of a kind. Every shell on the shoreline represents a small piece of ocean history shaped by tide, time, and life beneath the waves.

MARCH TIDE PICKS



On MARCH 8 we spring ahead.

DST means later sunsets = later shelling. Spring tides bring negative low tides early & late in the day during March. Remember, this is the peak of tourist season so if you want a parking spot, it may not coincide with your tide time. Also, in state parks, gates open at 8am & close at sunset, so your shelling may get curtailed. Pick a place you know you can get parking and consider sunset shelling at South Lido or the Range Light Beach on Gasparilla Island where you can stay for the golden hour. Any winds over 20kts will be great shelling on the next low tide cycle so go somewhere.

You can't win if you don't play!

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, 3/1 6:08am -0.5'
MON, 3/2 6:38am -0.4'
TUES, 3/3 7:06am -0.2'
SAT, 3/14 5:46am -0.3'
FRI, 3/20 9:22pm -0.3'

Spring breakers and Easter tourists are about to swarm Manasota Key beaches! So, either rise and shine or head out for some sunset shelling. Don't miss the Milton cut at Stump Pass State Park—south winds are rolling in with heaps of shells!

GASPARILLA ISLAND STATE PARK

TUES, 3/3 6:39am -0.2'
MON, 3/16 6:17am -0.2'

Last year's beach makeover might've scared off the shell parade, but hey, after some strong winds, there could still be a treasure hunt! Just remember, playing parking Tetris is inevitable since the tourists have invaded!

BEST PICKS FOR DAY TRIP BEACHES

SOUTH LIDO BEACH WED, 3/18 6:06 am & 6:08pm -0.0'
SANIBEL LIGHTHOUSE SUN, 3/1 6:08am -0.8'
MARCO ISLAND/SOUTH BEACH MON, 3/2 6:27am -0.5'

Every day trip is a mini escapade waiting to happen! Dodge the traffic beast by venturing out on a weekday bright and early. Beware: I-75, Sanibel Causeway, & Collier turn into traffic jungles during rush hour. Arm yourself with patience for the gridlock battle!

FULL WORM MOON
& FULL LUNAR ECLIPSE

MARCH 3

FULL WORM MOON

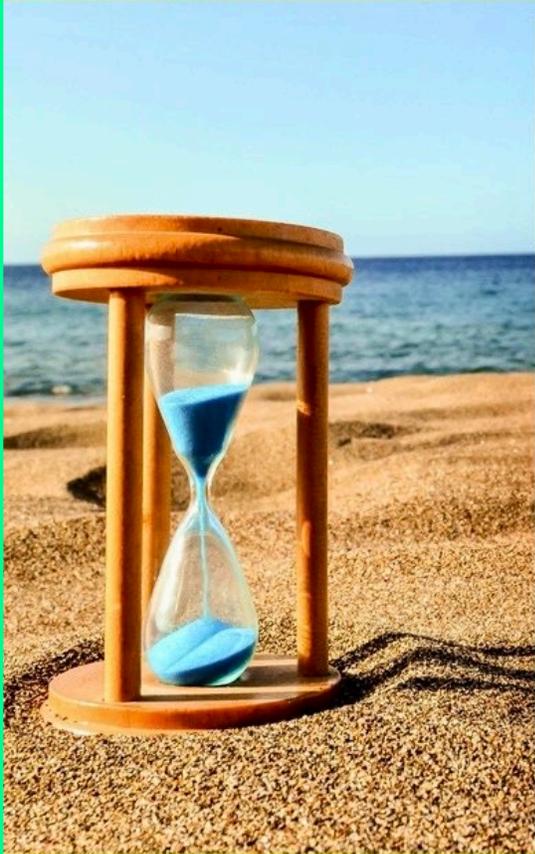


NEW MOON

MARCH 19

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

March *Sands of Time*



**Presented by Kathy Baillargeon
ESC Historian**

1996-1st guest speaker at the March meeting is Capt. Marian Schneider of Grande Tours.

2001-Thanks to Freeman & Etta Crosby, the club acquires its own website domain name www.englishwoodshellclub.org.

2006-ESC meetings are held at Lemon Bay Park.

2011-March general meeting speaker is Florida Sea Grant scientist Betty Staugler presents "Lemon Bay Scallops".

2017-ESC Librarian Judy Kauk sells \$337 worth of books donated from the late Bet Hamilton's collection. Monies funded the ESC Scholarship Program.

2021-The Sanibel Shell Show went online due to Covid. ESC members conducted the monthly shell study outdoors at Lemon Bay Park, led by Karen Huether on the "Murex Family," with all participants wearing masks.

2023-March speaker is renowned author Cynthia Barnett who wrote "Sound of the Sea, Fate of the Oceans". Cynthia is also made an honorary ESC member.

2024-Pam Orozco organizes the ESC Home Tour featuring the homes of Kathy Cycak, Diane Herger, & Colleen Fosnough.

February Beach Walk: Blind Pass





February Study Group: Homer Rhode, Meredith Blain, and Linda Powers educated more than a dozen members about Topsails.

Team Outreach Participates in Englewood Lemon Bay Fest



Left to right Terry Crouch, Kathy Baillargeon, and Leslie Mohr arranged a display of shell related items in the Elsie Quirk Library curio cabinet.

Lemon Bay Fest was a hit! 20+ curious shell seekers attended. Presenter Linda Powers gave a shelltastic talk on local seashells & their environments. Leslie Mohr, Kathy Baillargeon, Jayne Lindberg, Gale Bakalik (purple shirt), Ruthann Kort, & Karen Blackford (pink shirt) worked together to set up displays of shell crafting & local seashells.

Library Book Cases Crafted in Englewood, Florida, USA!



Thank you Marilyn's husband, Jim Boyd for building, Ron Schmoyer, Linda's husband, for painting, and Librarian Terry Crouch for organizing the books and other important resource making them to be easily browsed and/or borrowed at each General Meeting, except December and April.

Members Volunteered, Exhibited, & Explored Sarasota Shell Club's Show

Volunteers included (* indicates dual members of ESC & SSC): *Amy Bentley, *Cindy Boyd, *Nancy Cadieux, *Diane Casey, Marian Clark, *Pam Desruisseaux, Connie Edwards, Diane Herger, *Karen Huether, Joni Jankowski, *Lisa Kinney, Ruthann Kort, Jennifer Leader, Janet Lucik, *Debbie McDermott, *Bruce Paulsen, Ken and Ann Marie Proudfoot, Beverly Root, Laura Sage, *Debbie Smith, and *Lori Smith.



Amy Bentley's *Why Are My Shells Blue?* won a Blue ribbon and a Blue ribbon for her stained glass *Nautilus*





Lisa Kinney's *Dreaming of a White Christmas* won a Blue ribbon and a Red ribbon for her *Sea Turtle*



FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING: SHELL & SHELL ART MARKET & MORE!

Participants included: Top Left to Right: Aria Catterson, Gwen Montgomery, Pam Desruisseaux w/helper Paula Sepanski, and Market Organizer Linda Hamilton. Bottom Left to Right: Lisa Kinney, Leslie Mohr, Linda Schmoyer, and Meredith Blain.



Left: Deanice Beck Won the Seahorse Themed Raffle Prize Donated by Charter Member, Marylin Boyd.



President Lori Smith Presented Ruthann Kort with 2025-26 Founder's Award



I was so excited to win the Founders Award for 2026. I was pleasantly shocked and surprised. It's a great honor and I wondered what it was I did that people noticed. I love the Englewood Shell Club and its members so much that helping is just fun to do. It's all part of the ESC experience. I am excited to see what each year will bring, how I can learn from others, and continue to help the club grow however I can. It's gonna be a lot of fun and I can't wait.

DID YOU KNOW Barb Myers, the Englewood Shell Club's founding mother, initiated the Founder's Shell Award in 2016 to honor a member who has given thoughtful support, service and/or contributions to the club during the past year?

February ShellCrafters: Poodle and Elephants Led by Connie Edwards



Two Members of Team Outreach Hosted Expo Table

Ruthann Kort (left) and Donna Anderson hosted the ESC Expo table at "Exploration Day-Loving Nature" at the Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve, home of Lemon Bay Conservancy. The preserve is an 80 acre former golf course that has been resorted as a nature preserve located off Placida Road.

Englewood Shell Club

Shellapalooza

Beach Party



\$25
per
person

Tuesday, April 7th
11:30am-2:30pm

Rotonda West Community Center
646 Rotonda Circle

CATERING BY



SIGN UP AT GENERAL MEETING
or Mail your check made out to
"Englewood Shell Club" to:
Bonnie Lytton
5057 Seagrass Dr., Venice, FL
34293



SNACKS 🐠 MUSIC 🐠 BINGO
RAFFLE 🐠 SILENT AUCTION 🐠

Team Shellapalooza will be selling tickets again at the March General Meeting and is seeking donations for the auction and the raffle.

The Board of Directors **SHOUTS OUT BIG THANK YOU** to Committee members: Marilyn Boyd, Terri Crouch, Laurie Leonardo, Chairperson Bonnie Lytton, Leslie Mohr, and Gwen Montgomery!

FEBRUARY KEYWADIN ISLAND EXCURSION

