



**Cayo Costa—April 5**

**Club Picnic—April 25**

**COA—Mobile, AL  
May 31 – June 4**

March, 2006 Volume 3 Number 3

## President's Message—

Dear Shellers,

*Congratulations to those of you who took part in our shirt box display of shells!. You all did a wonderful job!*

*We are looking at the end of another shell club season. It always goes by so fast! This will be my last message to you as president. In April you will have a new club president, with new ideas and goals for next season! I have enjoyed the past three years as your president. We have accomplished many good things. We now have a newsletter, a craft group, an outreach program, and a library that continues to grow. I want to thank all of you who worked so hard to make these things happen. Also many thanks to my board members without whom I would not have been able to do the job. I am sure you will keep working to make the ESC a great club to be a part of.*

*Hope to see you at the April picnic!*

*Debbie Freeman*

## It's Picnic Time!

The annual club picnic which concludes the year's formal activities will be Tuesday, 12:00 noon, April 25 at Debbie Freeman's home. Everyone attending should plan to bring a dish to pass and a chair. Sign up at the March meeting if you have not done so. Hamburgers, paper goods and beverages will be supplied by the club. **Jackie McLean** chairs the event.

## Woman of Many Talents

**Marilyn Price**, our Shell Club Librarian and last year's VP and membership chair, won the Palm Island Recipe contest last summer. She would be happy to share the recipe for her prize-winning Calamondin Cake with anyone who would like the recipe. Congratulations, Marilyn! *(I wrote this little piece early last fall. Finally we have room and now on page one—The Editor)*

## Club Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

Iced tea and a cake, beautifully decorated in a shell motif, with matching table service were served from a table strewn with lavender coquinas and other shell decor as the club celebrated its tenth anniversary following the January 24, 2006 meeting. **Barbara Myers**, club originator and first president, was called upon to cut and serve the cake. Barb reminisced with the newsletter editor later and Anita found that **Shirley Guillamette, Joe Bao, Margaret Bustamante, Winifred Ziehl and Bill Notto**, who are still members of the club, all attended the very first meeting that she called. Many charter members of the club's first formal year are still active in the group. Our 10<sup>th</sup> year saw membership rise to 100 members. Only two other people have served the club as president between Barb Myers and current president **Debbie Freeman**. They are **Marilyn Boyd** and **Judy Curtin**. As we begin our eleventh year of activity, Barb is delighted with all our activities and hopes the next ten years will be as enjoyable as the last ten. Thanks to **Marilyn Boyd** and **Linda Powers** who arranged the birthday celebration.



## Mini-Shell Show a Great Success

Approximately 20 members brought displays to the first ever Mini-Shell Show at the February meeting. The displays were enjoyed by all and engendered much interest. The toughest thing for most members was deciding which exhibit to vote for, since we could vote for only one. All were meritorious and in so many different ways. Some exhibits featured a single shell; some, great big shells and others, shells best viewed with a magnifying glass. Some featured all the species of a genus found in Florida; others showcased shells from a particular country or shells of a genus from various parts of the world. The competition winners each received ribbons and a lovely trophy shell as prize. First place winner was **Kathy Schley**, shells of Costa Rican waters; second place went to **Linda Powers** with her self-collected shell miniatures; **Audrey Grant** and **Joe Bao** tied as third place winners. Audrey's exhibit featured moon snails plus other *Naticidae* shells while Joe showed *Conidae* shells from around the world. Thanks so much to President **Debbie Freeman** for the great idea for this activity and for organizing the event. She even selected the shell prizes!



## Thanks to the Board

Thanks so much to the 2005-06 board who led the club so capably during the last year. Pictured left to right (back row): **Debbie Freeman**, president; **Anna Croteau**, program and publicity chairman; **Irene Murray**, board member, greeter, and Christmas party; **Joe Bao**, treasurer; **Anita Wilson**, vice president, membership and newsletter editor; (front row): **Jackie McLean**, board member and spring picnic; **Ruth Middlebrooks**, trips chairman; **Audrey Grant**, secretary; and **Barb Myers**, first president board member and study group leader. Not pictured, but equally appreciated are **Judy Curtin**, immediate past president; **Marilyn Price**, librarian; **Rich Wilson**, newsletter publisher; **Jane Guy**, outreach co-chairman, **Linda Powers**, historian and outreach co-chair; and **Doris Brown**, **Marie Gallant**, **Veronica Martin-Stier** and **Sandy Terwilliger**, ShellCrafters steering committee.



## Welcome New Members

New members in the club since the last report include **Ann Berthold**, **Suzanne DiGiovanni**, **Barbara Elliott**, **Rhea Guertin**, **Eunice Herr**, **Eleanor Langlois**, **Doris Lyons**, **Ken McLean**, **Trudy Miles**, **Pauline Miller**, **Nancy Spragg**, **Joy Van Buskirk**, **Ginny Whitaker**, and **Melissa Wolford**. Membership as of March 10 stands at 85 members, according to membership chair **Anita Wilson**.

## April Board Meeting-April 4

The April board meeting will be Tuesday, April 4 at 10 a.m. at Cedar Point Park. Note: This is a special time this month only. All new and old officers and committee chairmen should attend this meeting, since retiring leaders will have opportunity at this meeting to orient the incoming officers. Board meetings will resume in the fall at the usual time, the third Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. at Cedar Point Park. The first fall board meeting will be October 17. Mark your calendars now! Remember all board meetings are open meetings.

## Isle of Palms Fun

In February eleven of us took a week to go shelling in South Carolina. Several of us had gone two years ago and were especially excited about this trip. The Island of Palms is about a twenty minute drive from downtown Charleston, S. C. We shared two ocean



front villas, just a quick walk over the dunes to the beach. In February the beaches are deserted, and tides low. The week was chilly, and on a few days with the wind blowing it was cold. But being true shellers the weather did not stop us from hitting the beach! The starfish and sand dollars were plentiful. We found angel wings; arks; pen shells; moon's; whelks (*B. canaliculatus* and *B. carica*); olives; augers; wentletraps; ice cream cone snail, oyster drills; periwinkles; mermaid's purse; sand collars; sea whip and sea pansys, both soft corals; and many other different types of bivalves. When not shelling we enjoyed socializing and sightseeing on historic Sullivan's Island, and the beautiful city of Charleston. The ten-hour drive passed quickly, and was well worth making. We are already talking about going again next year, and if you think you might like to join us please let me know.—*Debbie Freeman*

## Cracker Fair and More

“Was the Cracker Fair a success?” asked Linda Powers. “Yes, if the enthusiasm of the shell club participants is an indicator! The Englewood Shell Club was invited for the first time to attend the Cracker Fair sponsored by the Lemon Bay Historical Society on Saturday, February 11. Our booth was in company with The Writer's Guild, Herald Tribune, live music and lots and lots of vintage automobiles. We had a steady stream of visitors all day, mostly older couples who were drawn to the event to see the cars. We do think we may get new members due to this event”, says **Linda Powers**, Outreach co-chair. Ruth Middlebrooks reported that we could have sold our display of an adult lightening whelk a few times over.

“The Outreach shell display is fantastic”, said **Sandy Terwilliger**, ShellCrafters leadership committee member. “It brought so many people to the booth as they tried to identify shells they had found at the beach, and once in our booth, they were drawn to the ShellCrafter items as well! It was a splendid joint effort of two committees”, Sandy said. Several ShellCrafter items sold well! In addition, there were articles and pictures in the Englewood Sun featuring the crafters. More good publicity for the club. Thanks so much to **Anna Croteau**, who has served the club as publicity chairman this year! Thanks also to **Audrey Grant** who donated many shells to the Outreach and Crafting groups this year.

A big Thank You to all who helped man the Outreach Booth: **Amie Barnicle, Marilyn Boyd, Diana Leonhardt, Ruth Middlebrooks, Nan O'Neil and Linda Powers**. A special note of gratitude to Marilyn's husband, Jim, who spent many hours designing and building a portable stand for the display. Another big Thank You to the ShellCrafters who worked their side: **Doris Brown, Marie Gallant, Veronica Martin-Stier, Sandy Terwilliger, and Rita Zedren**.

## More Outreach

In addition to the Cracker Fair, the Outreach group has been busy putting the final touches on their teaching outline for elementary schools and it is ready to go. They also have constructed “portable shirtbox displays” so that students will have a hands-on experience to identify local, common shells. They plan to use parts of all their Outreach AV materials for Earth Day programs in April. Thanks so much to **Linda Powers** and **Jane Guy** who co-chaired Outreach this year.



## Our programs have been wonderful

**Joe Bao** spoke about shells of Panama at the January meeting. The presentation featured shells of both the east and west coasts of Panama. Following the talk he exhibited several of his prize shells. The most surprising to many of us was his huge Tent Olive Shell (*Oiva popphyria*); it was at least five times the size of our largest local olives. **Dick**

**Forbush** presented a fascinating slide show on live shells from around the world at the February meeting. The shiny beauty of a Flamino Tongue shell is lovely, but the live body is spectacular. Dick said that some of the most dramatic bodies are defense mechanisms to frighten predators. Rumor has it that **Larry Strange** of Sanibel will be the March speaker.

**Linda Powers** told the club about the Florida Horse Conch in the mini shell report at the January meeting.

This is Florida's state shell and is one of the largest shells in the world. It feeds on tulips and pen shells among other things. Horse conch come in two colors: orange and pink! Linda suggested cleaning the outside of horse conchs in Sno-bowl cleaner if they are badly encrusted. What do you think we will learn from **Jane Guy** at the March meeting?

Sincere thanks to all our wonderful speakers and to **Anna Croteau**, program chairman this year.

## Members Attend Shell Shows

Eleven ESC members attended the Melbourne Shell Show January 21. The show was extensive with many

scientific exhibits, vendors galore and prize crafts. Among the favorite exhibits were several by Peggy Williams including an interesting one telling about various shell characteristics and adaptations to their environment, a microshell exhibit called "Take a Closer Look" that included



photographs taken and enlarged by the author so shell details could be seen, and a well done fossil exhibit by Jim VunKannon identifying various fossil shells and describing the geological periods when the shells lived. Our members loved the exquisite sailor's valentines set in pocket watches in the craft exhibition.

Many members also attended the Sarasota Shell Festival Feb. 18. What a great job the Sarasota Shell Club did to make it a show worth seeing. The scientific displays were top notch. If you needed any shells, books or craft items, they likely could be found at the vendors' booths. The craft displays were very nice, as always, especially the valentines. Deb Freeman mentioned that Peggy Williams who did the interesting exhibits described above has just published a new book on Terebrae and it was for sale at the Sarasota show. Congratulations to our fellow Florida sheller!

The St. Petersburg Shell Show was cancelled because the roof of the convention center collapsed in a recent deluge, but several members attended the Sanibel Show in early March. This show featured enough shell craft ideas to keep one busy for a lifetime. Those who have attended many Sanibel shows mentioned that this year the feature was Sailor's Valentines; they were much more numerous than shell flower displays. Another of the editor's favorites was a framed art piece composed entirely of lightning whelks, our club's emblem.

## Carefree Learner Exciting Once Again

The second Carefree Learner expedition of the year on Tuesday, January 31, was a sell-out. Members found the bay floor literally covered with sand dollars, sea anemones of several colors, and banded tulip shells. Tommy Young our guide, dug parchment worms and six-foot long sloppy guts anemones to show the group. Red orange trumpet or plume worms were exciting and several smaller dark ones were also found. These animals are usually submerged, so it was great to see them in the water. Some members also saw pear whelks actually laying their eggs and egg cases! Club President **Debbie Freeman** says that the Carefree Learner has already been reserved for next year; trips will be December 6 and January 18 to take advantage of low tides.



## ShellCrafters Heat Up

The last two ShellCrafter sessions of the year were the best attended yet. February's meeting featured seashell wind chimes. **Sandy Terwilliger** and **Anita Wilson** gave lots of tips at the January club meeting and crafters came to the craft session stocked not only with shells, but also with wooden, crystal and china beads, driftwood pieces, and other sealife-themed items to include in their wind



chime creations. Sandy and **Linda Powers** led an even larger and more enthusiastic group in March making Buttercup Lucine Magnolias. The crafters learned about the importance of using either left or right handed shells in each flower and how to tell the difference. Many centers can be used in the magnolias, even tea candles, but the painted Australian pine cone centers made the creations both gorgeous and almost anatomically correct. Thanks so much to this year's ShellCrafter leadership committee: **Doris Brown, Marie Gallant, Sandy Terwilliger** and **Veronica Martin-Stier**. They look forward to seeing you next November 10, 1 p.m. at Tringali Center for the first meeting. The committee welcomes your shellcrafting ideas!

## Recent Finds on the Beach

Congratulations to **Linda Powers** who recently found an absolutely perfect right-handed Lightning Whelk! ID on this rarity has been confirmed by several experts in the field. If you ask very nicely, she will show the shell to you!

Up North we used to think of March as kite-flying weather. But down here, the windy March weather has brought lots of shells to the beach, making it perfect shelling weather. Among the shells found and reported recently include baby's ears, large moon snails, good-sized shark's teeth, and egg cockles. Be sure to let the newsletter editor know if you find a prize at the beach! Wilson's Florida phone is 475-5417; For summer input before the September issue, write 8103 W Highway 77, Hayward, WI 54843 or phone (715) 462-9399. Their E-mail address is ramassociates@earthlink.net all year.

## March Features Two Field Trips

Beautiful and serene Shell Key, a small barrier island just south of Pass-A-Grille and St. Petersburg Beach via a 10-minute ride aboard a special 8 a.m. 49-passenger ferry, greeted ESC members on Monday, March 13. We left Englewood at 6:15 and traveled via bus to the St. Petersburg area, so no one had to drive



cars through early morning rush-hour traffic. The most exciting find was a Lantern Shell, a Brachiopod, pictured! Other favorites were brittle stars, bubble shells, baby's ears, purplish tagelus, turbans, wentletraps, coffee melampus and a moon snail operculum. There were huge sunray Venus, cockles, olives, worm shells, buttercup lucines and much, much more. We lunched at a Pass-a-Grille restaurant.



A special behind-the-scenes tour of Bailey Matthews Shell Museum in Sanibel was March 27. This

car pooling field trip took place after this newsletter went to press, but we are sure a great time was had by all. The group planned to lunch at the Hungry Heron on Sanibel. Thanks to **Ruth Middlebrooks** for chairing these activities.

## Cayo Costa Trip April 5

The final local area field trip of the year will feature Cayo Costa. Trip chair **Ruth Middlebrooks** says, "The *Tropical Star* of Pine Island will pick up our group at the Pink Elephant on Boca Grande at 8:30 a.m. with a return pick-up at 1:30 p.m. Cayo Costa is a subtropical deamland located directly south of Boca Grande in a chain of bar islands that shelter Charlotte Harbor and Pine Island sound. The park is accessible only by boat; since it is a state park, no live shells may be collected. If you haven't signed up already, call Ruth at 474-4538. Thanks Ruth for a wonderful winter and spring of shelling! Thanks also to **Marilyn Boyd** and **Debbie Freeman** who organized the fall trips for the club!

LEMON BAY, FL		TIDE TABLE						APRIL 2006	
DATE	TIDETIME	HT	TIDETIME	HT	TIDETIME	HT	TIDETIME	HT	TIDETIME
1 Sa	H 3:45 AM	1.0 L	7:57 AM	0.7 H	1:54 PM	1.8 L	10:07 PM	-0.3	
2 Su	H 6:03 AM	0.8 L	8:52 AM	0.8 H	3:26 PM	1.8			
3 M	L 12:08 AM	-0.3 H	4:03 PM	1.7					
4 Tu	L 1:20 AM	-0.1 H	4:48 PM	1.6					
5 W	L 2:41 AM	-0.1 H	5:53 PM	1.5					
6 Th	L 3:57 AM	-0.1 H	7:46 PM	1.3					
7 F	L 4:55 AM	-0.1 H	12:45 PM	1.1 L	4:21 PM	1.0 H	9:42 PM	1.3	
8 Sa	L 5:40 AM	-0.1 H	12:41 PM	1.1 L	5:33 PM	0.8 H	10:58 PM	1.3	
9 Su	L 6:14 AM	0.0 H	12:46 PM	1.1 L	6:19 PM	0.6 H	11:56 PM	1.3	
10 M	L 6:42 AM	0.1 H	12:51 PM	1.2 L	6:58 PM	0.4			
11 Tu	H 12:44 AM	1.3 L	7:04 AM	0.3 H	12:56 PM	1.3 L	7:32 PM	0.2	
12 W	H 1:28 AM	1.2 L	7:22 AM	0.4 H	1:03 PM	1.4 L	8:05 PM	0.1	
13 Th	H 2:09 AM	1.1 L	7:37 AM	0.5 H	1:14 PM	1.5 L	8:37 PM	-0.1	
14 F	H 2:50 AM	1.1 L	7:51 AM	0.6 H	1:31 PM	1.6 L	9:12 PM	-0.2	
15 Sa	H 3:34 AM	1.0 L	8:03 AM	0.7 H	1:54 PM	1.8 L	9:52 PM	-0.2	
16 Su	H 4:24 AM	0.9 L	8:14 AM	0.8 H	2:22 PM	1.8 L	10:38 PM	-0.3	
17 M	H 5:32 AM	0.8 L	8:16 AM	0.8 H	2:57 PM	1.8 L	11:34 PM	-0.3	
18 Tu	H 3:39 PM	1.8							
19 W	L 12:43 AM	-0.2 H	4:31 PM	1.8					
20 Th	L 2:01 AM	-0.2 H	5:41 PM	1.7					
21 F	L 3:15 AM	-0.2 H	7:19 PM	1.5					
22 Sa	L 4:17 AM	-0.1 H	11:52 AM	1.1 L	3:30 PM	1.0 H	9:08 PM	1.5	
23 Su	L 5:06 AM	-0.1 H	11:49 AM	1.1 L	5:00 PM	0.7 H	10:40 PM	1.4	
24 M	L 5:47 AM	0.1 H	11:58 AM	1.3 L	6:03 PM	0.4 H	11:55 PM	1.4	
25 Tu	L 6:20 AM	0.3 H	12:11 PM	1.4 L	6:56 PM	0.1			
26 W	H 1:02 AM	1.3 L	6:47 AM	0.4 H	12:28 PM	1.5 L	7:45 PM	-0.1	
27 Th	H 2:04 AM	1.2 L	7:08 AM	0.6 H	12:49 PM	1.8 L	8:32 PM	-0.3	
28 F	H 3:05 AM	1.1 L	7:25 AM	0.8 H	1:14 PM	1.9 L	9:18 PM	-0.3	
29 Sa	H 4:08 AM	1.0 L	7:36 AM	0.8 H	1:43 PM	1.9 L	10:05 PM	-0.3	
30 Su	H 2:15 PM	2.0 L	10:55 PM	-0.3					

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