



See You at the Picnic!

Order your new Club T-Shirt
Now—Call Linda 474-3187

Have a Great Summer!

March, 2007 Volume 4 Number 3

www.EnglewoodShellClub.org

President's Message—

Thanks to everyone for a most successful and enjoyable year with the Englewood Shell Club. We've had fun on field trips, crafting, learning about shells via programs and study group and spreading the word via Outreach.

Thanks to members' diligence in paying for field trips when they sign up, strong club membership and our fundraisers this year, the club is in excellent fiscal shape and should have no need for dues increase or fund raising in the upcoming year.

Let's all celebrate by having a grand time at the April picnic, our year's concluding formal group activity. The picnic will be Tuesday, April 24 (our regular meeting day) at 12 noon at the Englewood Gardens Beach Club. See you there!

Anita Wilson

Spring Picnic—

The spring picnic and final meeting of the year will be Tuesday, April 24, 12 noon, at the Englewood Gardens Beach Club, 2560 Beach Road on Manasota Key, according to **Jackie McLean**, picnic chairman. Each member attending is asked to bring a dish to share (appetizer, salad, dessert); the club provides entrée, beverages and tableware. Sign-up at the March meeting. Registration deadline is April 19; call Jackie at 474-8011. The picnic is strictly a social event, similar to the Christmas party; no business will be conducted. Directions to the Englewood Gardens Beach Club follow: From Englewood Beach, drive north. The Beach Club is on the left, right before Island House; if you get to Pelican Landing, you have gone too far. Parking is available inside the gated area and also on the right side of the road. Since the club is on the beach, dress appropriately for picnicking, beach walking, etc. Bring/wear a swim suit if desired, and, of course, a shelling bag! The club does have an outdoor shower to rinse off after a swim. The clubhouse can be used in case of rainy weather, so a rain date is not planned.

Mini-Shell Show—

Kim Duperault was the first place winner at the Mini Shell Show sponsored by the club preceding the February meeting. She showed an outstanding collection of shells that she has gathered locally. It was wonderful to see Kim's display since she is a relatively new member of the club.

Ruth Middlebrooks won second place with her creative display of graduated cup and saucer fossil shells which she gathered on the trip to Naples earlier this season while **Marilyn Boyd** won third place with an exhibit of a fossil coral growing on a conch shell. She titled her display: "He's not heavy; he's my brother!" Also on a lighter side, **Ann Berthold** brought her lovely shell flower bouquet to grace the scientific display table. Thanks to **Linda Powers, Ann Madden and Brenda Steele** for organizing this event.



Cracker Fair and Shell Sale—

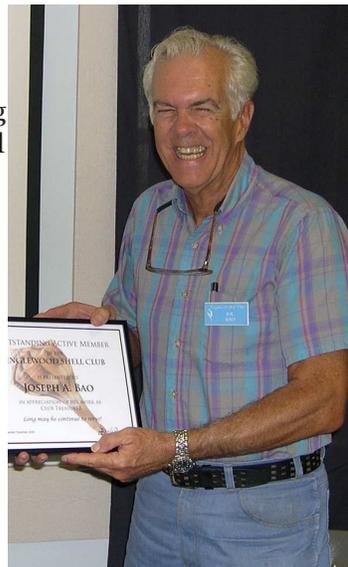
The club raised nearly \$400 in two successful fundraisers within a few weeks of each other. The club raised \$261.50 at the shell sale before the January meeting, thanks to the generous shell donations of **Audrey and Andy Grant, Regis Curtin, Dorothy Robertson, Nancy O'Neil, Grace Gilbert and Barbara King**. Members then created lovely shell craft items from these and other shells to sell at the Cracker Fair, the concluding event of Englewood



Historical Society's Lemon Bay Fest. We made an additional \$120 there. Thanks to **Marie Gallant** who opened her home for a crafting session. The Outreach Group also had an informational display at the Cracker Fair, and answered many questions of both area residents and vacationing northerners. Thanks to everyone who made and donated crafts, all those who worked the fair Feb. 10, and to **Cori Haring**, owner of **Bed Bugs**, in downtown Englewood who graciously allowed the club to set up their display in front of her store at no charge.

Joe Bao is Mr. Treasurer—

Joe Bao was honored by the club at the January meeting when he was made the club's very first Outstanding Active Member and awarded a framed certificate. Joe has been treasurer of the club since its inception, a task that year by year becomes more challenging. Joe always rises to the task. Club members thank him for his steadfastness and for the great job he does. In addition, Joe has been a frequent club speaker, lends his boat for the club private boat excursion, and is always willing to share his font of shelling knowledge with other club members. THANK YOU, JOE BAO!



Outstanding Outreach & Publicity—

The Shell Club continues to have a great deal of exposure lately, thanks in part to several Outreach activities and also to wonderful articles in the local press. **Jane Guy** and **Linda Powers** chair Outreach; **Doris Lyons**, Publicity.

- **Ruth Middlebrooks** taught a class on Sailor's Valentines to a group of 25 home-schooled children February 8 at the Jacaranda Library. This activity was also a Venice Gondolier feature picture story and brought a \$20 stipend for the club.
- The Outreach committee had a well-received booth at the Cracker Fair Saturday, Feb.10.
- **Linda Powers** taught a shelling class for residents of Pelican Landing on Feb. 19.
- Jan Findley of the Englewood Sun did a great article about the club which was published on Valentine Day and **Patti Mihalik**, one of our new members, authored another excellent article which appeared in the February 28 Herald-Tribune.
- **Amie Barnicle** made contact with three elementary school principals in our geographic area and offered our services as guest speakers and resource people for classroom activities and field trips.
- **Jane Guy and Diana Leonhardt** will be providing the program at a Heron Run brunch in April.
- **Amie Barnicle** spoke to more than 60 members of the Venice Men's Coffee Club March 14.
- **Debbie Freeman** addressed the Men's Garden Club of Englewood in January and the Presbyterian Women in March.
- Shellcrafters **Ruth Middlebrooks** and **Betsy O'Donal** have graciously agreed to give a shellcraft demonstration as program for the National Association of Retired Federal Employees April 2.
- The Club participated in Spring Break Camp at Cedar Point in March and may be on the program for June Eco-week Camp, also sponsored by Cedar Point Park. **Amy Barnicle, Barb Myers, Jane Guy and Ann Davidson** will participate in March but we still need two volunteers who will be in town June 6 to help the children ID shells at Englewood Beach.

Field Trips: Shell Key and Sanibel—

More than 40 avid shellers braved 38 degree weather on February 19 and were rewarded with great shelling on Shell Key off St. Petersburg. The sun shone brightly and the ferocious wind of the past few days brought thousands of shells to the beach. Among the rarest finds of the day were several Great Tellins, the largest of Florida's tellins, an easily broken and rare shell for SW Florida. Others found perfect turbans, cones, worm shells and very large Florida ceriths. One person found a small chiton rolling around inside a small pen shell as she was washing shells back home. There were hundreds of sand dollars of all sizes, and at least as many buttercup lucines, jingle shells, bay scallops, and sunray Venus clams of all sizes. One area was covered with large cockles



and there were prickly cockles, huge egg cockles and brilliant yellow Morton's egg cockles. Most people picked up perfect channeled duck clams, bubbles (possibly even elegant glassy bubbles), and disk dosinia. There were fragile surf clams, Pennsylvania lucine, and lady in waiting Venus in pairs. A walk to the lagoon yielded brilliant rose petal tellins, a crucifix fish (part of the skull of a gafftopsail catfish that resembles Christ on the Cross) and many crown conch. **Blaines** even put up a couple of octopi! Our thanks to **Ruth** for planning such a wonderful trip. Last year's trip to Shell Key was fantastic, but this year's was even more productive.

Ruth also organized a carpooling trip to Sanibel March 22. It was a full day since the group shelled in the morning near the lighthouse, went to lunch at the Hungry Heron and enjoyed a behind the scenes tour of Bailey Matthews led by Dr. Leal in the afternoon.

Spirula—

The cute little white spiral shells *Spirula spirula* which we sometimes find washed up on the beach are actually the inner supporting columns of tiny squid. After the squid die and decompose, the little spirals wash ashore for us to use in sailor's valentines and other shellcraft.



Shell Show Winners—

Harry Berryman won the coveted Master's Award at the Space Coast Seashell Festival!

Debbie Freeman judged crafts at the St. Petersburg Shell Show Feb. 23-25 while **Dick Forbush**, along with **Jose Leal**, judged the scientific displays and individual shells at the Marco Island Shell Show March 15-17.

Several members carpoled to Melbourne for the Space Coast Seashell Festival. Many more members enjoyed the Sarasota and Sanibel shows and took in the lectures at Bailey Matthews.



Web Page Updated—

The new photo gallery is up and running on the club's webpage. There are photos of recent club activities, as well as memories of past events, including prize-winning crafts and scientific displays created and displayed by our members at past Sarasota Shell Shows. These pictures should inspire members to create their own prize winners over the summer. Other Web site data have been updated. All of the club's newsletters are now on line in the newsletter archive. Be sure to visit the link to the Bailey Matthews SW Florida Shells site when you are endeavoring to identify your shell specimens. Visit our web site at www.inglewoodshellclub.org. Thanks again to **Freeman Crosby** for providing our website and serving as webmaster and to **Rich Wilson**, who worked with Freeman on the update!

Spring Programs—

Peggy Williams, president of the Sarasota Shell Club this year, addressed the club at the February meeting. She told about her shelling trips to Belize. She showed slides of Lamanai and the river trip leading to this Mayan archeological wonder, of Ambergis Key where her shelling trips headquarter and of many shells found on her trips. Her slides featured excellent pictures of live shells. One of the fascinating things she described was the egg laying frenzy of murex. Once she and her trip mates found 300-500 murex trapped within a huge mass of egg cases the murex had laid.

Dr. Jose Leal, director of the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum on Sanibel, will be the March speaker, according to **Marilyn Boyd**, program chairman.

Nightlights and Favors—

Forty-six ShellCrafters made beautiful nightlights with shells, lights and glass blocks at the February meeting at Tringali February 10. We thank **Eunice Herr** and **Marilyn Boyd** who led this session, says **Doris Brown** ShellCrafter chairperson. Special thanks also to their husbands, **John Herr** and **Jim Boyd** who spent many hours drilling holes in the glass blocks with special bits and drill presses, so we could insert light strings inside the blocks.

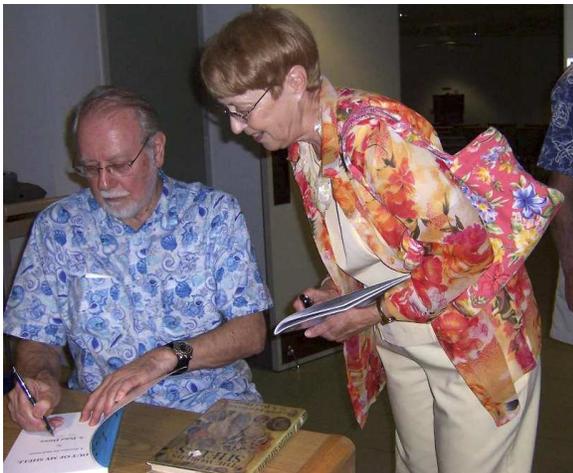


Thanks to the ShellCrafters, next winter's Christmas party favors are complete and ready to grace the tables at the Manasota Beach Club Tuesday, December 11. The ShellCrafters made the favors at the March meeting. That was the final ShellCrafter session for the year.

The first fall session is scheduled for Friday, November 16 at 1 p.m. at Tringali Center. NOTE: This is one week later than the normal meeting date, in order to avoid a possible conflict with Veteran's Day. **Eleanor Langlois** and **Christina Anglin** have graciously agreed to chair ShellCrafters for the upcoming year. **JoAnn Carroll**, **Marie Gallant** and **Sandy Terwilliger** will assist.

Dance with Barb—

No melodic strings in the background here. Barb Myers, ESC founding president and Study Group Chair, gets S. Peter Dance's autograph at Sanibel. Barb says March's Study Group was great. Be sure to sign up for the April 9 Study Group session—this year's last.



Carolina Found—

Fourteen intrepid shellers hit the windy beaches of South Carolina and were rewarded with lovely shells during the club's Isle of Palms trip March 3-10. Everyone found many common and maculated baby's ears. There were channeled, knobbed and lightning whelks, as well as drills, channeled duck clams, arks, cockles, sand dollars, disk dosinea, pen shells, mussel and oyster shells, northern quahog, tellins and surf clams. We found many stout tagelus, *Tagelus plebeius* and Atlantic jackknife clams, *Eanis directus*. The picture shows either razor or boring clams. The animals had bored into the rock outcroppings and looked just like boring clams, but the hinges were more like those of razor clams which merely dig into the sand or muddy areas. New for many of the group were wonderful tiny



variable dwarf olives, *Olivella mutica*, and Jasper dwarf olives, *Jaspidella jaspidea*, which looked like miniature lettered olives. The moon snails were also slightly different from ours with thin-

ner shells and larger body whorl. We came home with loads of lovely little crab shells and wentletraps. The group also enjoyed exploring Sullivan's Island with its square lighthouse, historic forts and great restaurants and shops and also spent a day soaking up the sights of Historic Charleston. The low country seafood was as wonderful to eat as the shells were fun to find. Springtime was just beginning in South Carolina, so the group was treated to blooming azaleas, camellias, redbud, daffodils, dogwood, and other spring-time flowers that we often miss in Southern Florida. Thanks **Debbie** and **Glenn**.

The Cookie House at Cedar Point—

Have you wondered about the little cottage being restored at Cedar Point Park? The Cookie House is so named because it is built from log rounds. It was the home of the former Bass Laboratory, a precursor to Mote Marine Labs. When the movers were preparing to move the Cookie House to Cedar Point they found 26 boxes of records and environmental information on the local watershed. Dr. E. Estavez of Mote Marine is currently analyzing the data; be on the lookout for articles detailing Lemon Bay of the 1930's. A quick look at the data indicate that Lemon Bay, particularly Stump Pass, was an excellent Bay Scallop fishery. Sawfish, now an endangered species, were so common as to be a nuisance. Information for this article comes from the January 2007 issue of Southern Shore Lines, publication of the American Littoral Society.

Englewood Shell Club

Rich & Anita Wilson

935 Bayshore Drive

Englewood, FL 34223-2203