

President's Notes

Our first meeting of the season was a great success. Forty-one members attended as well as thirteen guests. A large crowd for so early in the season.

The show and tell section was a little scarce, but the items that were on display were well worth a good look.

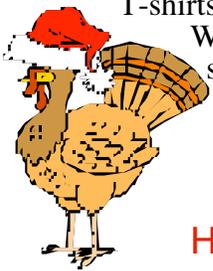
Our crafters outdid themselves. They set a pretty table and sparked interest in the shell craft part of our club.

Dick Forbush entertained us with his slide show of the Solomon Islands. Thank you Dick!

T-shirts were distributed, and trips were set up.

We managed to cover a lot of ground in a short time. Many thanks to all of our volunteers who helped to make our meeting such a good one.

Debbie Freeman



Happy Holidays

Guest Speaker

At the October meeting Dick Forbush, an ESC member, was kind enough to give a talk on his shelling adventures in the Solomon Islands. He included pictures of shells, the local scenery, and of course a sunset.

Dick also brought along some of the shells he found on his trip for us to see. The beautiful Cypraecassis rufa (common name, Bullmouth Helmet) was a real treat.

Thank you Dick. Everyone enjoyed your expertise, and we hope you will consider giving another talk soon.

Individual Boat Trip

On October 30th, eighteen of us went out on our first club trip of the season. We sailed around Gasparilla Pass, dropping anchor at a few different shelling spots.

Thank you to our three captains for making our trip a safe one.

There were many shells found, but the mud made it difficult for walking. Ask Letty Richards, the mud claimed her shoe! Unfortunately she never got it back.

The weather was perfect, and from what I hear, everyone had a fun time. Especially some lucky mollusk who is now sporting a fancy new operculum.



Visit our web site: http://fcrosby.com/shell/index.html

Question And Answer

By Linda Powers

Q: How do you determine if a shell is right or left handed?

A: Univalves naturally grow and twist right or left. The majority are right-handed, or dextral, such as the Florida Fighting Conch (Strombus alatus). Our club shell, the Lightning Whelk (Busycon contrarium) is a naturally occurring left-hander, or sinistral shell. If you hold the shell with the aperture end pointing down, either your right or left hand will easily slip into the shell's opening, thus determining if it is dextral or sinistral, right or left. Shells coiling in the opposite direction of the natural occurrence are highly prized by many.

There is still time

To be there for our tree trimming at Cedar Point Park. You will enjoy seeing the ornaments our members have created and decorating the tree for the park is a way to say thank you for all they do for us. We need to have a member or two to organize the fun. Please let Debbie know if you can help.



The Study Group

On Monday, November 10th, those of us interested in shell identification, met at Cedar Point Park. We took a closer look at Moon shells. It was interesting to see that Florida has several to choose from. It was a small group, but we had a good meeting, and learned a few things as well. There will be no study group in December, but we hope to see you in January of 2004!

Time for Paying Dues

Our annual dues are \$20 for the first year, and \$15 thereafter. Family membership will increase to \$30 the first year, and \$25 thereafter. Make checks out to Joe Bao. Give, or mail them to Marilyn Price, 2031 Forked Creek Dr., Englewood 34223, before January 1, 2004.

Stop The Press!

Did you see our write-up in the Herald Tribune on November 3, 2003? Included were pictures of the lovely Marty Sanders and new member, Marie Gallant. Looking good ladies!



Craft Corner

by Rosemary Kurt

Our group of ESC crafters has met twice since our last report. We made shell flowers and a beautiful flower arrangement using a barnacle cluster as a base.

At the October meeting, there was a sign-up sheet for those interested in craft classes beginning in January 2004. We had an excellent response!

At the November club meeting, we will have available samples of the crafts that will be taught, a list of supplies you will need for the class, date, time & location. There may be a small fee to be paid at that time.

Any questions, please contact Rosemary Kurt at 473-0844, e-mail: rokurt@comcast.net

Our December Meeting

The Christmas luncheon is at the Boca Royale, December 18th. You need to sign up and have your checks to Irene Murray by December 4th. See the last page of this newsletter for meal choices and further information.

The Carefree Learner

I have been overwhelmed by the interest in the Carefree Learner for November. We already have a full boat. If you want to be sure to be on board when she sails again on January 22, put your name on the list soon! I will have the flyers at the November meeting. There are only 24 seats and they are going *fast*.

In Terms of Shelling

Axial: In the direction of the axis of the shell.

Columella: In gastropods, a solid or partially hollow axial pillar around which the whorls are coiled.

Dorsum: The back of the shell that is opposite of the aperture.

Helical: Spirally coiled.

Holotype: Original specimen from which a new species is described.

OPERCULUM: The horny or calcareous plate attached to the foot of a gastropod that seals the aperture of the shell when the animal is within.

Protoconch: The first apex of spire that was formed while in the egg stage of a gastropod.

Spire: All the whorls above the body whorl of a gastropod.

Sinistral: When a gastropod is held with the apex up the aperture is on the left side.

Umbo: (plural: UMBONES) Also called a beak, is the earliest formed part of a bivalve shell.

UNIVALVE: A mollusk with a one-piece shell.

ESC would like to wish Helen Gardner a quick recovery. We hope you are back with us soon Helen!

Our thoughts and sympathies to Nancy O'Neil for the loss of her husband Richard.

Lemon Bay Tides For December

By Linda Powers

DECEMBER 2003									
Date	AM		AM		PM		PM		
	HI	HT	LO	HT	HI	HT	LO	HT	
1 Mon	6:27	1.2	1:09	0.8	9:00	1.1	2:14	0.2	
2 Tue	8:11	1.1	2:46	0.7	9:22	1.2	2:57	0.4	
3 Wed	9:49	1.0	3:58	0.4	9:41	1.3	3:33	0.5	
4 Thur	11:08	1.0	4:51	0.2	10:00	1.4	4:06	0.6	
5 Fri			5:34	0.0	12:11	1.0	4:34	0.8	
6 Sat			6:12	-0.1	10:18	1.5	5:00	0.8	
7 Sun			6:48	-0.2	10:39	1.6	5:23	0.9	
8 Mon			7:23	-0.3	11:02	1.6	5:43	0.9	
9 Tue			8:00	-0.3	11:29	1.6	6:05	0.9	
10 Wed	12:01	1.6	8:39	-0.3	3:29	0.9	6:36	0.9	
11 Thur	12:37	1.6	9:19	-0.3	4:12	0.9	7:20	0.9	
12 Fri	1:20	1.6	10:02	-0.3	4:52	0.9	8:15	0.9	
13 Sat	2:08	1.6	10:46	-0.2	5:27	0.9	9:24	0.9	
14 Sun	3:05	1.4	11:32	-0.2	6:00	1.0	10:49	0.8	
15 Mon	4:13	1.3			6:30	1.0	12:18	-0.1	
16 Tue	5:33	1.2	12:24	0.7	6:59	1.1	1:04	0.1	
17 Wed	7:07	1.0	1:51	0.5	7:28	1.1	1:49	0.3	
18 Thur	8:53	0.9	3:06	0.2	7:57	1.3	2:32	0.5	
19 Fri	10:37	0.9	4:10	-0.1	8:29	1.4	3:13	0.7	
20 Sat			5:08	-0.3	9:03	1.6	3:49	0.8	
21 Sun			6:02	-0.6	9:40	1.7	4:20	0.9	
22 Mon			6:54	-0.7	10:20	1.8	4:46	0.9	
23 Tue			7:45	-0.7	11:03	1.9	5:10	0.9	
24 Wed			8:36	-0.7	11:50	1.9	5:34	0.9	
25 Thur	12:40	1.9	9:25	-0.6	3:00	0.9	7:08	0.8	
26 Fri	1:33	1.8	10:12	-0.5	3:23	0.8	8:26	0.8	
27 Sat	2:31	1.6	10:56	-0.3	3:44	0.8	9:47	0.7	
28 Sun	3:33	1.4	11:37	-0.1	4:04	0.9	11:13	0.7	
29 Mon	4:40	1.2			4:24	1.0	12:15	0.1	
30 Tue	5:59	0.9	12:43	0.5	4:44	1.1	12:52	0.2	
31 Wed	7:39	0.8	2:11	0.3	5:04	1.2	1:28	0.4	



Did You Know?

The common starfish will disperse several million eggs in about two hours ~~~~~
Three of the more dangerous jellyfish that can be found in the Gulf of Mexico are the Lion's Mane, the Portuguese Man-of-War, and the Sea Nettle ~~~~~
Sea Whip Coral is a colony of hundreds of individual animals called polyps. These polyps are about 1/4" tall and each has eight tentacles ~~~~~



Officers

President: Debbie Freeman, Vice President: Marilyn Price
Secretary: Audrey Grant, Treasurer: Joe Bao

Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year