



**Isle of Palms, South Carolina Trip
February 4–11, 2006**

Only \$200 + food and transportation

Places Available

Sign Up Now!

November, 2005 Volume 3 Number 1

President's Message—

Dear Shellers,

Our first meeting of the season was a success, with over 40 people in attendance. Not bad considering we met the day after hurricane Wilma passed by. There were newcomers attending, and several decided to join our club. Welcome all!

You will be seeing some changes in our newsletter. I am happy to announce that the Shell Scoop is now in the capable hands of Anita and Rich Wilson. They have been kind enough to take over the work of putting this newsletter together. Their experience is worth a thousand junonias! Thank you both!

We have Freeman Crosby to thank for the great job of keeping our web site up and running. It is time to bring englewoodshellclub.org up to date. You do not need to be computer savvy, you only need to let us know what you would like to see on our site. Perhaps you have a favorite link to another shell site? All suggestions are welcome.

Now it is time to wish all of you a safe and happy holiday. I hope you find that special shell in 2006.

Debbie

Last Chance for Christmas Party—

December 1 is the last day to sign up and pay for the Holiday Shellabration at Boca Royale on Monday December 12. Socializing will begin at 10:30 with lunch at 11:30. Bring a shell-related gift (\$10 limit) if you wish to participate in the gift exchange. Send a check for \$17.00 made out to Joe Bao and the meal choice form from the September newsletter to Irene Murray, 2102 Oyster Creek, Englewood, 34223.

Next Meeting—

Joe Bao will speak about shells of Panama and Palau at the January meeting. Thanks, Joe, and also Anna Croteau, for planning this year's programs!

Carefree Learner Trips—

Debbie Freeman has planned two Carefree Learner Shelling expeditions in Sarasota Bay. The first is Thursday, December 15; the second, Monday, January 30. Cost is only \$12.00 for each fantastic experience. As always, make checks to Joe Bao; sign-up now!

Dues Due—

Anita Wilson, membership chairman, is accepting 2006 memberships beginning at the November meeting. Dues are \$20 for the first year and \$15 thereafter. Family membership is \$30 for the first year and \$25 thereafter. First year membership includes price of your membership pin. Make checks out to Joe Bao. Give or mail them along with the completed form to Anita Wilson, 935 Bayshore Drive, Englewood, FL 34223. Renewal deadline is January 1, 2006.



Shells on Sea Urchin

Great Publicity—

Did you see the great article on the club in the Englewood Herald-Tribune? Sharyn Lonsdale did a terrific job of letting everyone know what an active club we are. She took the time to visit with a number of our members. Sharyn highlighted all of our goings on and added a great picture of member Bill Notto discussing his prize fossil shells with Debbie.

Field Trips Off To Great Start—

Field trips are off to a grand start this year thanks to super-planner Marilyn Boyd. The first trip on November 1, saw an enthusiastic group at the Arcadia Fossil Pit led by Florida paleontologist and author, Mark Renz. The pit, per se, was still flooded thanks to Hurricane Wilma, but there were lots of newly dug piles for us to sift for fossil material.

Among the wide assortment of specimens, there were many complete murex galore, and lots of but perfect we did *horridum*, horrid vase featured as “Shell of the Month” at the last meeting. The group also found alligator teeth, dusky and great white shark’s teeth, many soft and hard shell turtle and crocodylian parts and even parts of ancient horses! Thanks to Marilyn, Rich Wilson and Beth Kujawa who drove. We truly appreciate their skill coming home in the pouring rain. Mark Renz’s entertaining and informative books on Florida fossil hunting are widely available in area bookstores and libraries. Look for them soon!



turban shells with operculi, some tritons, other small, shells. Yes, find *Vasum* the horrible,

Islands in Gasparilla Sound were featured in the second trip on November 7, also planned by Marilyn. Among the more unusual finds on this perfect day for boating and shelling were live bubble shells and olives. We found numerous horse conch including a freak, hundreds of small sand dollars, an area filled with sea urchins, lots of crown conch, sunray Venus and tellins—crested, pink, sunrise and white. Some were concerned at the ratio of dead to live shells since we were wading and walking in areas usually teeming with life and wondered if the summer Red Tide was responsible. It will be interesting to see what Sarasota Bay is like next month! We doff our shelling hats to Dave Walsh, Joe Bao and Jim Boyd for providing boats and piloting so capably. Ahoy, Captains All!



Always Remember—

All checks for Englewood Shell Club activities are made out to Joe Bao, Treasurer (note the spelling of Joe’s last name—B A O!). You must be a paid member who has signed and turned in the current year’s membership form to participate in club activities. Wear your pin to Shell Club activities.

Christmas Tree Decoration—

Come help decorate the Christmas tree at Cedar Point Park on Tuesday, December 13 at 1 p.m. You will not believe all the shell ornaments that club members have made and donated to this project. Just by coming to help, you will get enough ideas to decorate half a dozen trees! Bring your camera to record your favorite ideas. EQUALLY IMPORTANT is to help take down the tree on Friday, January 6 at 1 p.m.



Welcome New Members!—

New members in the club (as of November 12): Pat Kautz, Susan Burke, Beth & Tony Kujawa, Marion Betts, Christina & Max Anglin and Glenn Freeman. Welcome each and every one!

Club Calendar—

December 12—Christmas Party—Boca Royale—10:30

December 13—Decorate Christmas Tree—Cedar Point—1 P.M.

December 15—Carefree Learner Trip—Marina Jack’s, Sarasota—7 A.M.

January 6—Take Down Christmas Tree—Cedar Point—1 P.M.

January 9—Study Group—Cedar Point—1 P.M.

January 13—Shell Crafters—Tringali Center—1 P.M.

January 21—Melbourne Shell Show—Car Pool

January 24—January General Meeting—Lemon Bay Park—1 P.M.

January 30—Carefree Learner Trip 2—Marina Jack’s, Sarasota—7 A.M.

February 4-11—Isle of Palms, South Carolina Trip

Featured Shell of the Month—

Chitons

By Debbie Freeman



Chitons are a class of marine mollusks known as Polyplacophora (bearer of many plates). You might be more familiar with their common name, Coat-Of-Mails. The chiton is defined by their 8 dorsal calcareous plates, or valves, that are held together with a fleshy girdle.

Chitons remind me of those pesky armadillos that roam our Florida yards. Like the armadillo, a chiton will curl up into a tight ball when threatened. Unlike our armored mammal, chitons can be colored and nicely patterned.

Most all chitons are herbivores. The mouth is located on the ventral surface in front of the foot. The radula has numerous rows of teeth. It feeds at night and uses its radula to scrape algae from the rocks or the shells it lives on.

To remove a chiton from its rocky home might pose a challenge. They will use their muscular foot to cling tightly to the rock, making it nearly impossible to pry them off.

Cryptochiton stelleri, or the Gumboot Chiton, is the largest species of chiton, growing up to 30 cm. in length.

Chitons found in Florida are the Florida Slender Chiton (*Stenoplax floridana*), Eastern Chiton, also called the Bee Chiton (*Chetopleura apiculata*), Hemphillis Chiton (*Craspedochiton hemphilli*), Fuzzy West Indian Chiton (*Acanthopleura granulata*), West Indian Chiton (*Chiton tuberculatus*), Squamose Chiton (*Chiton squamosus*), Marbled Chiton (*Chiton marmoratus*).



Shell Club Study Group—

The study group met Monday, November 14, at Cedar Point Park. Members shared summer shelling experiences and specimens. Some members also showed how they catalog their scientific collections. The group will not meet in December, since that is the day of our Christmas party but will meet January 9, 1 p.m. at Cedar Point, according to Barb Myers, chairman.

ShellCrafters—

Thanks to Doris Brown who led this month's group at Lemon Bay Park after the November 22 meeting as they made shell roosters, mice and pigs for Christmas stocking stuffers. The group will not meet in December. Learn about the January 13 project at the November regular meeting!

Shell Club Mini Shell Show & Shell of the Month—Volunteer Now—

Our club will be having a shirt box shell show in February at the regular meeting. Start planning your exhibit now using one of your favorite shells. Learn more at the next meeting.

Volunteer to tell about your favorite shell at a regular meeting. A two-minute talk is perfect.

Shell Show Season is on the Way—

Plan to attend the Melbourne Shell Show January 21-22. The Club will organize a car pool for January 21; sign up now! Debbie Freeman has entry forms for the craft exhibition at the Sanibel Shell Show; let's have good club representation; we have so many ShellCraft artists in the club!

2006 Shell Show Schedule—

Space Coast Shell Festival
Melbourne Auditorium, Melbourne, Fl.
Jan. 21 - 22

Broward Shell Show
Pompano Beach, Fl.
Jan. 27 - 29

Sarasota Shell Show
Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, Sarasota, Fl.
Feb. 17 - 19

St. Petersburg Shell Show
Treasure Is., Fl.
Feb. 24 - 26

Sanibel Shell Show
Sanibel Community
Center, Sanibel, Fl.
Mar. 2 - 4

Marco Island Shell Show
Marco Island, Fl.
Mar. 23 - 25

Conchologists of
America
Mobile, Alabama
May 31 - June 4

Jacksonville Shell Show
Jacksonville, Fl.
June 17 - 18



