



First Meeting—Oct. 24
Boat Trip—Nov. 9
ShellCrafters—Nov. 10
Study Group—Nov. 13
Fossil Trip—Nov. 18
Carefree Learner—Dec. 6

September, 2006 Volume 3 Number 4

President's Message—

What a joy it has been to begin my presidency with such a great leadership team! I was a little apprehensive about filling Debbie's shoes; she was a super president. However, the wonderful people leading our club had most of the plans for fall meetings/activities completed by mid-May and in June, I was able to put together most of this newsletter while we were still in Florida with our better computer. Remember to check our club's website <http://englewoodshellclub.org/> for last minute announcements and details. We have great field trips, programs, shell crafts, etc. all planned for the 2006-07 year and we welcome each of you back this fall. The first meeting will be Tuesday, October 24 at 1 P.M. at Lemon Bay Park. Bring your crafts and shells to share! Sign up at that meeting for a November 9 private boating trip, the November 10 ShellCrafters purse decoration project, the November 18 fossil shell trip to the Naples area and the December 6 Carefree Learner Trip..

Remember that checks for all Englewood Shell Club activities are made out to Joe Bao, our Club Treasurer. Thanks, Joe, for your great work on our behalf. Keeping financial records of our many activities is not an easy task. Thanks also to Debbie and Glenn Freeman who opened their home for the April cookout and pool party. Everyone had a great time.

Our Christmas party at the Manasota Beach Club on December 12 sounds fantastic! Anna Croteau and Debbie Freeman have done a fine job planning for it. The registration form for that luncheon is included with this newsletter.

I'm looking forward to a great year shelling with you!

Anita Wilson

Debbie Was Our Delegate—

Debbie Freeman, immediate past president, represented us at the 35th annual Conchologists of America convention in Mobile, Alabama, May 31-June 4, 2006. She reports that the programs were varied, covering everything from fresh water mussels, marine mollusks, the use of DNA in malacology, to shelling in the Philippines and even a talk on how to create a power point program. "There was plenty to learn and enjoy", said Debbie, who added "a great power point program on reproduction of various mussel species" was one of her favorites.

"The highlight of each COA convention is the bourse. There were more than 30 dealers presenting shells from around the world. Looking at all those wonderful shells is always a great way to end the week!", reported Deb with a smile. She admits she bought a few shells to bring home to remember the trip!

Next year the COA convention will be sponsored by the Oregon Society of Conchologists in Portland, Oregon, August 1-5, 2007. Debbie and Anita plan to be there. We would love to have you join us! For more information regarding the COA, visit our web site at <http://www.conchologistsofamerica.org/home/>.



We've Gone International—

Enthusiastic Englewood Shell Club members spent May 21-26 shelling Eleuthera, the Bahamas, on the first ever ESC International Expedition! Thanks to Ruth Middlebrooks, who worked for more than a year deciding on a location, finding guides, confirming arrangements, and communicating with members, the trip was a resounding success. ESC members will get to experience the week vicariously later this year when the trippers share their experience in a monthly club program. You will love the DVD Glenn Freeman has produced from his video and everyone's slides and you will feel like you are in the tropical seas yourselves looking for shells; watching feather duster, Christmas tree and fire worms!; swimming among the colorful fish; watching the sea fans sway in the gentle waves and marveling at the glory of live Flamingo Tongues!

The group hit the water the very first afternoon and most days shelled at least two locations on Eleuthera, an island 100 miles long, but only three miles wide.

Bobbie and Jim Cordy of the Astronaut Trail Shell Club were guides; Bobbie's name may be familiar to several of you since she is also the current secretary of COA. The group shelled not only tropical reefs and ocean bays, but also a saline pond known for its black shells and another pond that features mahogany-colored egg cockles and lots of ice cream cone shells produced by a marine worm. The Black Lace Murex *Murex quala* of the Salt Pond is found nowhere else in the world.

Plan to join the Club when we hit the beaches for the next International Adventure!



Show and Tell Time—

The first Englewood Shell Club meeting of the fall will be Tuesday October 24th at 1 P.M. at Lemon Bay Park. The program will include an eight-minute video on Sohoton Cave, the Phillipines, and it also will be Show and Tell time, according to Marilyn Boyd, program chairman. "Everyone is encouraged to bring samples of the crafts they made this summer, special shells found, or other shell-related items" she said. "This is a great way to get ideas and share enthusiasm for the new year". "Marilyn has great guest speakers lined up for the year", says Anita Wilson, Club President. You will enjoy each month and be amazed at the variety of programs. Marilyn has everything from shell craft ideas, to shell science to International shelling on the docket!

Fossil Trip—Naples Area

SATURDAY, November 18, 2006

The group will leave Lemon Bay Shopping Center at 6:30 A.M. and car pool to the fossil pit off Immokalee Road near Corkscrew Swamp in northern Collier County. Dr. Gary Schmelz of Naples will be our guide for the expedition. The cost is \$22 per person excluding lunch and transportation.

We will shell until noon and then lunch at Longhorns in Naples in a private room where Gary will discuss our finds and share a bit about the geology of South Florida. We will order from the menu, and will return to Lemon Bay around 4:00 p.m.

Our limit for this trip is 15 people so it is on a first come, first served basis according to when the checks are received by Ruth Middlebrooks. Checks for \$22 per person should be made out to Joe Bao and mailed to:

Ruth Middlebrooks

293 Dogwood Trail

Kitty Hawk, NC 27949

Telephone: (252) 261-8503

Ruth hopes to return to Florida around November 5 and the contact number there is (941) 475-4538.

Board Meetings—

The first board meeting will be Tuesday, October 17, at 10 A.M. at Cedar Point Park. Board meetings are the 3rd Tuesday morning of the month in October, November, and January through April. All board meetings are open meetings. Any member is welcome to attend.

ShellCrafters to Decorate Purses—

ShellCrafters will meet Friday, November 10 at 1 P.M. at Tringali Center for the first meeting of this year. Marilyn Boyd will lead group members as they decorate straw purses with shells and beads, according to Doris Brown, one of the ShellCrafters Leadership Group. Marilyn showed purse samples at the March 2006 meeting. If you did not sign up and order a purse then, bring a purse with you to decorate. Also bring your own shells for decoration as well as glue gun and glue sticks; Marilyn will provide beads for accents. She suggests small shells that are easy to glue to the straw surface will be most durable. She will have a decorated purse to show and give ideas at the October 24 Club meeting. If you are not already signed up, do so at the October meeting. Each member attending ShellCrafter sessions will pay \$3.00 each session to cover cost of Tringali Center room rental, just as we did last year. ShellCrafters meet the second Friday of each month at 1 P.M. at Tringali.

Fun with Dick and Jane—

Dick and Jane Forbush hosted the ESC study group at their home for the final (April) meeting of 2005-06. "Dick is our resident expert", said Barbara Myers, Study Group chairman. "He attends all the group meetings and is always ready with answers and challenges to our questions. We so appreciate all he does for the club! For him to host a meeting at his home and share his beautiful shells with us was a very special treat! Thank you Dick and Jane!"

The first meeting of the fall study group will be Monday, November 13 at 1 P.M. at Cedar Point Park. Be sure to bring special shells you found this summer and those you have had trouble identifying. Study Group meetings are the second Monday of each month.



Tips for Cleaning Shells—

Collecting shells is so much fun. Cleaning them is sometimes a chore! Everyone I talk with has his or her favorite methods. Here are some tips from the book "How to Clean Seashells" by Eugene Bergeron which I found at the downtown Venice library in the Florida section, call number 594.047 BER.

He suggests that boiling in a stainless steel pan (enamel is second best) for two minutes for large shells and less for small ones is often the easiest and quickest method. Bergeron says to remove the animals from their shells with a twisting motion after boiling, but before the shell has cooled completely. Don't use boiling for cowries or other shiny shells.

Freezing the shells for at least 72 hours is another method. Then remove shells from the freezer, run cool water over them for 5 minutes and pull out the body. Simply refrigerating tropical shells will also work. Bergeron suggests this method for more delicate shells, such as fig shells, highly colored conch, olives, large augers, coquinas, cones, pen shells, jewel boxes, oysters, and tulip shells. Debbie Freeman had the bright idea of using a water pic to blow out the shells. It works well!

Placing shells in 70% alcohol for 72 hours is a third method. He suggests this for small shells like marginella, dove, nassa, and small augers. He says that the bodies will simply dry out after removing from the alcohol and won't smell. He says one advantage is that operculum stays right in place. Bergeron does admit this method works best in a dry climate, something that Florida doesn't have!

Cleaning chitons pose special problems because Bergeron says "they will roll up like sowbugs" when removed from their rock. He suggests keeping them in seawater until you get home. Then put them in a dishpan of fresh water. Let them move to the side of the dishpan and then slide them up onto a glass slide and then wrap the slide with fabric tape. Place in alcohol or alcohol-glycerin solution for several days. Then dry. I wonder if this method might also work to get perfect shape for seastars!

The method I've used most successfully to add a bit of natural shine to the shells is to rub them with a mixture of baby oil and lighter fluid, then buff with a clean cloth. Craft shells can be sprayed with acrylic, but don't use it on your specimen shells.

Anita Wilson

Boating for Shells—

Marilyn Boyd is organizing a private boat trip shelling Charlotte Harbor, Thursday, November 9. Sign up at the October meeting or call Marilyn at 474-2500 after October 1.

In Memoriam: Judith A. Curtin

It is with great sadness that we announce that Judy Curtin, former ESC president, passed away Friday, June 2, 2006 at TideWell Hospice and Palliative Care in Venice. Judy and her husband, Regis, moved to Englewood in 1999, where she was active in the Orchid and Red Hat societies as well as Shell Club. Her favorite labor of love was the sea turtle program. She loved walking Englewood Beach checking for new nests and took great joy in seeing the hatchlings make it to the sea. Judy also worked at the Spinnaker Restaurant in Englewood. Judy was born in Pittsburgh, Pa, and lived and worked there until her retirement. In addition to her husband, Regis, Judy left two daughters and a son, a grandson, and brother. A memorial service was held the evening of June 6 at Englewood Beach. Judy was such a happy, enthusiastic person, always ready to help and always ready for fun with the club. She will be sorely missed. The Club sent a memorial donation in her honor to TideWell Hospice.



Leadership Team 2006/2007

President: Anita Wilson
Vice President: Linda Powers
Secretary: Debbie Freeman
Treasurer: Joe Bao
Elected Board Members: Jane Guy
Marie Gallant
Immediate Past Pres.: Debbie Freeman
Founding President: Barbara Myers
Committee Chairmen:
Membership: Linda Powers
Trips: Ruth Middlebrooks
Debbie Freeman
Program: Marilyn Boyd
Librarian: Christina Anglin
Publicity: Doris Lyons
Historian: Amie Barnicle
Social/Sunshine: Jackie McLean
Christmas Party: Anna Croteau
Newsletter: Rich & Anita Wilson
WebMaster: Freeman Crosby
Parliamentarian: To be Announced
Nominating: To Be Announced: Dec.
Group Chairmen:
Study Group: Barbara Myers
ShellCrafters: Doris Brown
Sandy Terwilliger
Marie Gallant
Outreach: Linda Powers
Jane Guy
Greeters: Irene Murray
Arlene Poetz
Marie Gallant

Shell Craft Ideas—

So, you are in the mood for a little shell crafting on a hot autumn afternoon! Where do we get new ideas for projects? One of the best places is regular attendance at ShellCrafter sessions of ESC! Active participants often bring individual projects they are working on to share their work and the ideas with other ShellCrafters. Another wealth of ideas can be obtained attending the various shell shows in Florida. The Sanibel Show was the best your newsletter editor attended last year for crafting ideas. But the quickest idea source is the library!

The following list includes some of the shell craft books in our club library. (1) Angel, 1975. *Photographing Nature: Seashore*. (2) Clark, 1983. *Betty's Shell Flowers*. (3) Goodman, 1972. *Art from Shells: Jewelry, Sculptures, Collages, Figurines, and Collections*. (4) Krauss, 1976. *Shell Art: A Handbook for Making Shell Flowers, Mosaics, Jewelry and other Ornaments*. (5) Logan, 1974. *Shell Crafts*. (6) Merten, 1975. *Elegrant Shellcraft*. (7) Pearson, 1965. *Contemporary Shell Craft*. (8) Pelosi, 1959. *The Book of Shell Craft Instruction*. (9) Pope, 1975. *Shellcraft Animals*. For more inspiration, you might check out Stix and Abbott, 1979. *The Shell: Five Hundred Million Years of Inspired Design* or Travers, 1962. *The Romance of Shells in Nature and Art*. You will notice that none of these books are "hot off the press"; if you run across new books on shellcrafting, please suggest them to the ESC librarian or any member of the board. Local libraries also have shellcrafting books. One of the more recent is *Shell Chic!* Check out a book and set to work.

Give a Call—

If you know one of our members is sick or needs a perk-up, please give Jackie McLean, our social/sunshine chairman, a call at 474-8011 so that she can send a card. Thanks!

HO HO HO! It is once again time for making your plans to attend the **Englewood Shell Club**

Holiday Luncheon

Time - Tuesday, December 12, 2006, at 12:00 noon

Place - Manasota Beach Club

7660 Manasota Key Road, Englewood

Punch and finger foods will be served in the Surf Room at noon
We will adjourn to the main dining room at **12:30** where soup will be served, and the buffet will be open.

*Please be sure to mark your choice for **hot** or **cold** soup.

The buffet includes - chicken, fish, deli board, green salad, pasta salad, veggies, fresh fruit, assorted breads, dessert bar - with lots of chocolate! Lemonade, tea, and coffee.

The cost of the luncheon is \$19.00 per person.

Tax & gratuity included

Make **checks out to Joe Bao** and send them with this form, to **Anna Croteau by the November 28** shell club meeting.
Anna Croteau, 1371 Kiskadee Drive, Englewood, Fl. 34224

All parking is across the street from the Beach Club

REMEMBER - If you wish to exchange a gift, then you need to bring one to exchange. A **\$10.00** maximum is suggested, and please make it

SHELL RELATED! Merry Christmas!

Name:_____ Phone number: _____

How many attending:_____

Do you want **HOT** soup_____ or **Cold** soup:_____

Check number:_____ Amount of check:\$_____

Englewood Shell Club

Rich & Anita Wilson

935 Bayshore Drive

Englewood, FL 34223-2203