

The Shell Scoop Anniversary Issue

Englewood Shell Club

ESC

Charter

The Englewood Shell Club was formed January 23, 1996, to bring together people interested in sea-shells. Club members share their enthusiasm and experiences about mollusks of all kinds. The main interest is in Florida shells.

Club

Emblem



- Common Name: Lightning Whelk or left-handed whelk
- Scientific name: Busycon sinistrum
- Former name: Busycon contrarium Conrad, 1840

How We Began

Tired of traveling back and forth to the Sarasota Shell Club, Barb Myers asked fellow sheller, Elsie Doyle why they couldn't start their own club in Englewood. They agreed they could and on January 23, 1996, the first meeting was held at the Charlotte County Library at Tringali Center. Both were worried no one would come after advertising the first meeting in the local paper. To their surprise, 26 enthusiastic shellers came and continued to come back.

This core group and those who attended meetings the first year, were later known as the Charter Members. They helped plan the programs, excursions and activi-

ties that remain central to Englewood Shell Club (ESC) today.



Founding member Barb Myers.

One of the first mentors and an early supporter of the club was a newcomer to the Bailey Matthews Shell Museum in Sanibel, Dr. Jose' Leal. He is one of our Honorary Members and a frequent guest

speaker at our General Meetings. The Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club was another source of support for the early members of the club.

Today, we have over 150 members and programs and interests that were never imagined back in 1996.

Barb is quick to point out that all of our club activities exist and thrive because of dedicated, enthusiastic, and talented members who do not hesitate to volunteer and willingly give of themselves to make the club better and stronger every year. Our club is now rich in history and recognized as one of the largest and most active shell clubs in the world.

Why the Lightning Whelk

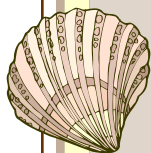
The Lightning Whelk seemed an appropriate shell to select for the club emblem as it was commonly found on Englewood beaches. Plus, Englewood was located in the "Lightning Capital of the World." The Lightning Whelk is a colorful shell and

known to grow large. This was a hope of the club back in 1996—to grow.

The common name for the shell is derived from its streaks which appear to resemble lightning flashes.

The shell's scientific name indicates the way it grows with a left spiral contrary to the way of most other shells.

Whelks are found in many sizes and are perfectly formed even when miniature. They feed on clams.



Englewood Shell Club Milestones

Apr. 9, 1996: First Sea Life Excursion w/Capt. Schneider, Grand Tours, from Placida into Lemon Bay.

Oct. 1996: Joe Bao first shell speaker on Panama shells from his diving trips.

Nov. 1996: First speaker on shell crafts. Made and donated shell ornaments for Tringali Center Christmas Tree.

Dec. 10, Christmas pot luck Lemon Bay gift raffl

1996

Jan. 23, 1996: First club meeting at Charlotte County Tringali Center Library. Planning Board established with Barb Myers presiding.

Mar. 26, 1996: First guest speaker: Captain Marion Schneider, Grand Tours.

Summer 1996: First summer boating excursion with Joe Bao.

Nov. 1996: First visit to Bailey Matthews Shell Museum, Sanibel. Dr. Leal gives personal tour.

Nov. 1996: Freeman Crosby hosts our website using his domain name.

Oct. 1997: First club excursion to "Marilyn's Island." So known by club members for Marilyn Boyd. Trip made on members' boats.

Jan. 26, 1998: First Outreach Program held at Lemon Bay Park for the Park's FL Awareness Speaker's Series. Topic: Shelling in Englewood.

Jan. 1998: Club membership at 50 members, \$532.05 in treasury. Shell book donated to Tringali Center Library as thank you for free rooms.

Mar. 24, 1998: First presentation on Tree Snails by Shirley Ryan (91 years old).

Nov. 24, 1998: ESC has table at Annual Tringali Book Fair. We offer free shells to the public and info about ESC.

1998

Dec. 1997: First Shell Craft Day held at meeting. Etta Crosby and Trudy Doyle were the instructors/organizers.

Jan. 1998: First time Sailors' Valentines presented to club as program.

Feb. 24, 1998: First shell raffle held at end of meeting; shell donated by Madge Cleveland.

March 1998: Shells from shell pen pal Alex Pes of Costa Brava, Spain, placed on display for one month at Tringali.

Jan. 1999: Ba releases first I dent's letter—to our newsletter covers the up year and sent

Nov. 2000: Over 700 shell Christmas decorations donated to families in Los Alamos, NM, where homes were devastated by fires that summer.

Feb. 28, 2001: First ESC Constitution approved. Nancy Smith O'Neal wins award for Sailor's Valentine at Naples Shell Show.

April 2001: Judy Curtin takes office as President. Cedar Pt. Park requests ESC's participation for Earth Day activities.

Feb. 5, 2002: First bus trip and excursion to Honeymoon Island. Three shell collections: Pittenger's, Ryan's, and Reynolds', given to Cedar Pt. Park.

March 2003: Debbie Freeman elected President. First newsletter published: *The Shell Scoop*.

2000

2000: Dr. Leal is first Honorary Member.



2001

2001: First Silent Auction held prior to meeting w/ sales of other shells. Wading trip moved to Cedar Pt. Park. First trip to Cayo Costa. Club acquires it's own website domain name.

2002

Jan. 8, 2002: First home tours offered to members by Jane Guy, Carol Meyer and Helen Gardner. Marilyn Price starts Beach Walks.

2003

2003: First trip to Caladesi Island State Park, Dunedin. First fossil trip to Acadia with guide Mark Rentz.

2003: Shel moved to a with Rosem Chairperson

1996: First luncheon, style at Bay Park with e.

Jan. 1997: First car-pool trip to Mote Marine, Sarasota.

Feb. 25, 1997: Joe Bao teaches first shell jewelry making class.

April 1997: First Care-free Learner excursion in Sarasota Harbor.

April 1997: First wading trip at Ponce de Leon Park, Punta Gorda.



1997

Jan. 28, 1997: First Shell Study Day. Members brought local shells and looked through library books to ID shells.

Feb. 1997: Luella Patterson first member to enter Sarasota Shell Show. Won award for fossil shell exhibit - Marina Jack's for lunch.

March 1997: First trip to Don Pedro Island. Joe Bao shuttles members on his boat to and from Boca Grande.

April 22, 1997: First time Dr. Leal is guest speaker at club meeting.

July 1997: Trudy Doyle first delegate to attend COA convention. Club joined COA.

Feb. and Mar. 1999: Club members enter and win awards at Sanibel and Sarasota Shell Shows.

Mar. 1999: Marilyn Boyd elected President.

Oct. 1999: Moved club meetings to Cedar Point Park. Lightning Whelk selected as club shell.



Dec. 1999: Gold stars affixed to Charter Members' nametags. All tags turned in at end of each mtg. to reuse at next mtg.

1999: Study Group becomes a separate activity. Dick Forbush joins club and becomes mentor for Study Group.

1999

rb Myers President—precursor letter—coming from NY.

Mar. 1999: First Shell Swap with club members by drawing numbers to select from offerings.

Apr. 1999: First end-of-season club picnic held at Manasota Beach, Venice. First year for club t-shirts.

Dec. 28, 1999: First shell auction. Christmas tree donated to Cedar Pt. Park and decorated by club.

1999: Local shell expert, Dick Forbush, gives Living Shell talk. First shell display donated to Cedar Pt. Park.



2004: First shell book lending library started by Anita Wilson for use by club members.

Nov. 2004: Outreach started and evolved to reach schools, clubs, libraries, civic organizations and local groups.

2006: ESC 10th Anniversary. First trip to Shell Key. Anita Wilson elected President. Dick Forbush and Freeman Crosby become Honorary Members.

2007: ESC repaired shell fountain at Cedar Pt. Park. Joe Bao received special Certificate of Appreciation from club. Christmas luncheon moved to Manasota Beach Club.

2008: ESC has 126 members. Doris Lyons elected President. Larry Strange becomes Honorary Member. First boat trip from Marco Isl. Brenda Steele resumes Beach Walks.

2004

2005

2006

2007

2008

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Nov. 2004: First group overnight shelling trip to Sanibel Island. Stayed at Blue Dolphin and cocktail party at Larry Strange's home.

2005: First shell display with flyers about ESC at "Cracker Fair" on Dearborn St. Club meetings moved to Lemon Bay Park. First trip to Isle of Palms, SC.

2006: Outreach created hands-on display for Cedar Pt. Park. First international trip to Eleuthera, Bahamas arranged by Ruth Middlebrooks.

2008: First trip to Amelia Island. First Newcomers Tea hosted at Marilyn Boyd's home. First trip to Useppa Island.



Englewood Shell Club

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As club members, we recognize mollusks are part of the precious natural wildlife resources and make every effort to protect and preserve them. We share awareness and try to leave shelling spots as undisturbed as possible, take only specimens needed for collections and study, and leave live egg cases to grow. We also promote the preservation of habitats for the enjoyment and benefit of generations to come.

The Shell Seekers

2009: Linda Powers speaks about Philip-pines trip. Nature Walk with Bud Doyle at North Jetty, Nokomis. Adopted "The Shell Seekers" motif.

Jan. 2010: Began 15th anniversary year. Celebrated on *Marina Jack II* w/luncheon cruise and at club mtg. Dr. Gary Schmelz guest speaker on Florida fossil shells.

March 2010: Peter Dance (England) and Harlan Wittkopf (USA), world renowned shellers are guest speakers.



On board the *Marina Jack II* anniversary luncheon cruise, January 22, 2010. From left: Club Founder and former President Barb Myers, current President Christina Anglin, former President and current Vice President Debbie Freeman, current Parliamentarian and former President Marilyn Boyd, and current Programs Chair and former President Anita Wilson. *Jack II* on January 22, 2010.

2009

2010

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2009: Christina Anglin elected President. Largest ESC contingent at COA convention with 13 members in attendance.

Jan. 2010: Dr. Gary Schmelz, Peter Dance and Harlan Wittkopf become Honorary Members. Club reaches 150 members, treasury at \$4,324.03.



Thanks is not enough.

On behalf of the entire Englewood Shell Club, a special thanks goes out to all of the early Englewood Shell Club members for their enthusiasm and support of the club. These Charter members gave of their time and offered many ideas for club activities. The club has grown tremendously due to their efforts and interests. Another thank you goes out to the local reporters and their editors, especially from *The Sun*, *Herald-Tribune*, and *The Venice Gondolier*, who generously reported on our club's activities over the years. A giant thank you also goes out to the many members who contributed their photos and memorabilia to be retained in our club's scrapbooks. The scrapbooks are now considered our history books and are carefully managed by club historians. These books were relied on heavily during the preparation of this publication. And a thank you also goes out to our former presidents: Barb Myers, Marilyn Boyd and Debbie Freeman, whose collective memory was instrumental in sorting out the many details for this issue.