



TURTLE TRACKS

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES COUNCIL

FALL 2014

Join Us at Open House for Sea Turtle Exhibit Unveiling

The annual Environmental Studies Center Open House Family Fun Day will take place on October 18 from 10am-1pm at the Center. We invite you to join us for this celebration and for the unveiling of the newly completed Sea Turtle Exhibit!

Construction on the Sea Turtle Exhibit began last year to create a new and enhanced environment for the Center's educational Sea Turtle, and provide better learning opportunities for the many students who visit the Center every year. The Council has raised over \$200,000 to fund the exhibit, thanks to the generosity of many donors. The new exhibit includes a large tank, viewing deck, and educational signage. The Ribbon Cutting ceremony will take place at 11am, after which visitors will be invited to be the first to explore the new Sea Turtle Exhibit.

At the Open House, guests will have the opportunity to enjoy the hands-on environmental learning that students experience each year at the Center. On October 18, guests will enjoy crafts, interactive activities, refreshments, entertainment, and sign-ups for the year's many special events. They will also have an opportunity to tour the wet labs, butterfly gardens, native plant hammock, and meet the new "Joey," the Center's residential Alligator.

Admission to the Open House is free of charge, but donations are accepted. Lunch will also be available for a small donation. Please join us on October 18 and enjoy all the Center has to offer!

CENTER WELCOMES NEW ADMINISTRATOR

The Environmental Studies Center is pleased to welcome their new administrator, Marilyn Gavitt! Marilyn lives in Jensen Beach with her husband, Mark. They have two grown children, Heather and Ryan. Marilyn began her career with the Martin County School District in 1990 at JD Parker Elementary. She went on to teach at Hobe Sound Elementary and then Felix A. Williams Elementary, where she was honored as their Teacher of the Year in 1998, became National Board Certified and later won The Florida Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching. After receiving her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership, Marilyn moved into District administration as the Coordinator of Instructional Technology. Marilyn is thrilled to join the Environmental Studies Center, and we are very excited to have her on board!



CONGRATULATIONS TO DIANNE PIERCE ON HER RETIREMENT!

Dianne Pierce has retired as administrator of the Environmental Studies Center after serving for more than six years in this position. Pierce's experience as a former teacher, school administrator, and District Coordinator for School Improvement spanned 36.5 years. At ESC, she was an asset in guiding science curriculum development, overall facility improvements, and facilitating the successful summer camp program, involving nearly 900 children each year. Most recently, she worked with the School District and the Council as site manager for the Turtle Exhibit project. Dianne's enthusiasm for learning and her positive outlook are recognized by students, colleagues, parents and the community. Her leadership will be missed but we wish Dianne joy in a much deserved retirement.



Please consider leaving a legacy by naming the Environmental Studies Council in your estate plans.



The Environmental Studies Council, Inc.

2900 NE Indian River Drive
Jensen Beach, FL 34957
Council Office: (772) 334-4643
Center Office: (772) 219-1887

Mission Statement

To protect and enhance the education programs of the Environmental Studies Center and to promote and extend environmental awareness through community education.

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Many thanks to  for printing Turtle Tracks and using green ink!
Southeastern Printing
Stuart, Florida


From the desk of the President

Welcome back to start of another school year! Many exciting changes are underway at the Center, and we look forward to welcoming you all at our Open House event on October 18!

Our Sea Turtle Exhibit is complete and will be unveiled at our Open House, with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 11am. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing with you the result of this much-anticipated project. The new exhibit is truly a community-wide effort, with donations coming from so many supporters - including the students of Martin County! Over \$2000 was collected by the students of all the elementary schools in Martin County and St. Joseph's Catholic School.

Additionally, we are excited to welcome Marilyn Gavitt as the new administrator of the Environmental Studies Center! Marilyn brings with her 24 years of experience with the Martin County School District, and is an amazing steward of our local environment. Dianne Pierce retired this September, and we thank her for all she has done for the Center, and wish her well in her retirement!

I hope you can join us on October 18 to learn all about the many goings-on at the Center, and get involved in the upcoming programs and activities happening throughout the year. Please bring your families and friends to learn more about our treasured Environmental Studies Center.

Thank you for your continued support, and all the best in the 2014-2015 school year!

Sincerely,

Kelly Bond Pelletier



Jane Buss thanks Mrs. Norup's class at Bessey Creek Elementary for the funds they raised for the Sea Turtle Exhibit

Did Your Membership Expire?

Have you renewed your membership to the Environmental Studies Council? These year-long memberships cost just \$25 for an individual, \$50 for a family and \$100 for a business. Funding everything from critter food to the salary of a certified teacher, memberships directly support the educational experience presented for free for ALL Martin County students. We need your support!

To sign up, log on to www.escmc.org/membership or call (772) 334-4643.

Earthsavers Crew Kicks Off New Year

The Earthsavers Crew has been off to a busy start this school year, participating in many environmental projects throughout the community!

On Saturday, September 20, the Crew took part in a beach cleanup at Hobe Sound Public Beach. Twenty Earthsavers Crew students attended, combing the beach for trash and debris, and they left the beach spotless.

On Saturday, September 27, the Crew hosted a table at the Indian River Lagoon Science Festival. The Festival was sponsored through the



Smithsonian Marine Station in Fort Pierce.

The Crew is open to high school students with a passion for environmental science. For more information, or to join the Crew, visit www.esmc.org or call the Center at 772-334-4643.

SALE!

Visit the Environmental Studies Center “Kay’s Korner” Gift Shop to enjoy new discounts on adult and child size t-shirts, sweatshirts, and more!

You’ll also enjoy a wide selection of items to shop from, including coffee mugs, cookbooks, toys, and more. All proceeds from our gift shop benefit the Environmental Studies Council, supporting, protecting, and enhancing the unique environmental educational programs of the Environmental Studies Center.



GRADS MADE GOOD

The Council would like to congratulate Max Wallace for his recent achievements at the University of Florida. Wallace was a camper and counselor at the Environmental Studies Center, a recipient of the Council’s college scholarship, and as an Eagle Scout, he helped build the Center’s pergola and butterfly garden.

Wallace and his classmate, Jose Rafael Guarin, developed a software program used to help landowners determine if they would benefit financially from storing water instead of allowing polluted water to runoff into waterways such as the Indian River Lagoon. The South Florida and St. Johns River water management districts pay owners of large parcels, typically farmers, to retain runoff on their properties.

The project was part of a yearlong competition at University of Florida, which the students won.

“We hope that the ease of use will encourage landowners to get involved,” said Wallace. “In under 30 minutes they can see if a portion of their land would be useful to the district.”

The Council congratulates Max on his achievements and looks forward to learning about his future accomplishments!

Did you know?

Since 1972, the Environmental Studies Center has incorporated innovative teaching methods that are field oriented, with hands on investigation. The curriculum at the center meets Florida's Next Generation Sunshine State Standards, Common Core State Standards, and reflects real-world application of scientific processes.

What would you learn in 3rd Grade?

The saltwater grassflat community: a community of plants and animals that acts as a food source, habitat, and nursery. A field investigation of a grassflat community in the Indian River Lagoon will engage students in the practices of science. Students will collect, record, compare, analyze data, make inferences, and raise questions about the natural world.

Speaker's Bureau

Every Martin County student knows about their exciting, hands-on environmental education experience at the Environmental Studies Center -- but do YOU? We're reaching out to homeowner's groups and civic organizations with the hope of sharing with our neighbors how this premier environmental agency is making a long-term impact on Martin County. Our Council is willing to present anywhere from formal meeting sessions to evening cocktail hours. If you'd like to learn more, call our offices at (772) 334-4643 today!



Environmental Studies Council, Inc.
2900 NE Indian River Drive
Jensen Beach, FL 34957

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Center welcomes Heather Arnold

Teacher Heather Arnold has lived in Stuart since 1976, the year she first attended the Environmental Studies Center as a student. Heather graduated from UCF in 1992 with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and has taught at Jensen Beach Elementary School, Crystal Lake Elementary, and Felix Williams Elementary, each year learning the lessons of the Center's curriculum to prepare her classes for their visit. Heather has taught in the Center's Summer Camp program for the past 9 years and is thrilled to join the teaching staff, where she is able to instill the love of the environment to the students of Martin County.



JOIN US FOR OUR OPEN HOUSE!

Saturday, October 18
10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Environmental Studies Center
2900 NE Indian River Drive, Jensen Beach

FREE!

Tour the Center
See the NEW Sea Turtle Exhibit & Meet Scuttle!
Arts & Crafts
Refreshments
Entertainment
Educational Activities

GO GREEN! JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST! FIND US ON FACEBOOK !

<http://www.facebook.com/escmc>