

Turtle Tank Project at the Center

Ahighlight of every visit to the Environmental Studies Center is a chance to see the Center's sea turtle. Each year more than 10,000 students and visitors have the opportunity to interact with this endangered species. The Center's teachers use this opportunity to explain how sea turtles are adapted to their marine environment and explain the threats that sea turtles face as they journey across the world's oceans. Whether you are a kindergartener or the grandparent of one, every visitor walks away from the sea turtle tank with a better appreciation for protecting marine life and the environment.

While the current tank has dutifully served for many years, the Center staff, the Martin County School District, and the **Environmental Studies Council have all agreed** that it is in need of a major renovation. For the past year a Turtle Tank Task Force, made up of educators, architects, engineers, builders, and biologists, has been meeting to design a new tank, filtration system, and educational displays that will significantly enhance the entire sea turtle exhibit. The new tank will easily accommodate an entire class and give wheelchair access, both of which are impossible with the current tank. A new state of the art filtration system will improve water quality for the sea turtle tank and all of the other sea water supplied tanks at the Center. A series of educational displays, based on state educational standards, will provide up to date information of sea turtles, the ecosystems in which they live, and how everyone can help protect the environment.

The displays
will also
highlight local
scientists
and their
research to
show students
possible
careers in
marine science.



The Environmental Studies Council has begun fundraising efforts to build the new turtle tank and displays. With a goal of \$100,000 the Council is seeking business sponsors and individual donors to help support the building of the new sea turtle exhibit. A series of sponsorship levels has been designed to give everyone an opportunity to show their support for the project. For more information about sponsorship or donating please contact Cody Mott at codyrmott@hotmail.com or visit the Council's website, www.escmc.org.

The Council is also proud to announce that the Sea Turtle Grants Program, funded by proceeds from the sale of the Florida Sea Turtle License Plate, has shown strong support for the project by awarding a grant for \$12,200 towards the new educational displays. We hope to gain further support from the entire Environmental Studies Center community to build this wonderful exhibit.





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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From the desk of the President

School's out and summer camp at the Environmental Studies Center has started with a bang! Our kids will be learning all about local ecosystems, seining and even hitting the beach for needed summer cool offs! The Environmental Studies Center camp has been going strong for 25 years, and provides fun-filled outdoor learning activities designed to teach students about their environment and to promote sensitivity towards and stewardship for its conservation. There are still a few spots available. Stop in or call 772-219-1887 for more information.

The Council has officially kicked off a new fundraising campaign to build a new and improved turtle tank for our resident sea turtle. The new tank is necessary to meet new state requirements for the well-being of Sandy, and the future releasable sea turtles who will call the Environmental Studies Center their temporary "home." The new tank will also feature a better viewing area for the many students who visit the center and learn first-hand about one of our most valued creatures, Florida Sea Turtles. Read more about the turtle tank project on the cover of this issue of Turtle Tracks, and please contact the Council, 772-334-4643, for information on this incredible project. Sponsorships and naming opportunities are available.

Lastly, a huge thank you to Rufus and Melynda for the use of their estate for the Center's 40th Anniversary Celebration! We could not have asked for a more beautiful venue or evening! Thank you to all of our sponsors, volunteers and artists that made it all possible. Mary Radabaugh, Kim Waser and Suzanne Granfield - you certainly know how to throw a great party!

Have a wonderful summer and I look forward seeing everyone at our Annual Open House in October!

Sincerely, Kelly Bond Pelletier

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.



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Rufus & Melynda Wakeman

Earth Savers Crew welcome new leaders

The Earth Savers Crew is excited to welcome Crystal Lucas and Nicole Weiler as next year's Crew Leaders!

Both Nicole and Crystal teach Biology and Marine Science Honors at Jensen Beach High School, and are excited to work with the Crew on many impactful environmental projects.

The Earth Savers Crew has been hard at work this summer, completing the Box Turtle Habitat at the Center. The Crew partnered with

the Cub Scouts on the construction of the new box turtle habitat, and the exhibit was completed with the assistance of the Cub Scout Dads and the Environmental Studies Council.



GARDEN CLUB DONATION

Thanks to the generosity of the Jensen Beach Garden Club, 5 additional students from Jensen Beach Elementary and Felix A Williams Elementary have been given the opportunity to attend the Environmental Studies Center's camp this summer. A special thank you to Brenda Hefty, Dorothy



Tazzetta, Grace Sherry, Marge Hunstberry, Joan Smith, and Ginny Koch for stopping by to present the check to the **Environmental** Studies Council scholarship chair, Kris Kerr.

GENERATION GREEN AWARD

The Environmental Studies Council was awarded

the 1st Place in the Green School Board Member/Trustee at the Treasure **Coast Chapter** of the US Green **Building Council's** 2013 Generation **Green Awards** for the Native



Plant Restoration

project. Kelly Pelletier, Council President, accepted the award on behalf of the Council at the awards ceremony on April 13 in Fort Pierce. The Environmental Studies Center was also awarded 2nd Place in the Green School/Campus category.

SUMMER 2013

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID STUART, FL PERMIT NO. 182

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Thank you to these wonderful volunteers!

hank You!

School Board recognized

the efforts of this year's

Outstanding Volunteers

Studies Center. Jennifer Guerra, a 12th Grader at Jensen Beach High, was nominated as the Youth Outstanding Volunteer, Joan Bausch was nominated as Adult Outstanding Volunteer, and Loretta "Tup" Means was nominated as Senior Outstanding Volunteer.

at the Environmental

The Martin County

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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 longterm 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!

Scholarship Winner: Michael Torounian

Congratulations to our 2013 Scholarship Winner: Michael Torounian of Jensen Beach High School!

Michael has participated at the Center as a camper, a volunteer, and a Counselor in Training, and those experiences led him to pursue the field of biology, which he will study at University of Florida. He has been accepted into UF's Innovation Academy, a program that offers a small campus environment at a large scale university catered to those who are pursuing the nation's future leaders and innovators.



Michael is a member of the Earth Savers Crew, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the National Honor Society, Jensen Beach High School Band, the National Spanish Society, Jensen Beach High School Track Team, The Class Club of 2013, and the Young Politicians of America.

He was also a participant in the Stuart Police Department's Law Enforcement Explorers program, Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly, and Martin Youth LEADERship.

Michael has logged more than 250 volunteer hours at the Environmental Studies Center and it is his hope that he can continue to encourage others to appreciate and protect our environment.