



TURTLE TRACKS

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES COUNCIL

WINTER 2013

Join Us for the 40th Anniversary Gala

This year, the Environmental Studies Center is celebrating 40 years of environmental education in Martin County, and the Council is planning the ultimate celebration on March 16 at the waterfront estate of Rufus and Melynda Wakeman.

The 40th Anniversary Gala, sponsored by Seacoast National Bank, Just Gold Jewelers, Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers, and Nancy Scott, is an event not to be missed - featuring a piaya dinner, appetizers, music by , photos, luxury activities, an open bar, and much more! The original roof tiles of the Environmental Studies Center building, a historic site built during the WPA, have been painted by local artists including Dan Mackin, ... and will be auctioned off at the event, in addition to the original art by Brian Sylvester that was created for the Center's anniversary. A raffle auction will be held with prizes including luxury spa baskets, jewelry, sporting equipment, and more.

Tickets for the event are \$100, but order before February 15 and receive a discounted rate of \$85. Tickets can be purchased at the center, by calling 772.334.4643, online at www.escmc.org, or by visiting Seacoast's main branch on Colorado and US1. We look forward to seeing you there!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

GRANDPARENTS DAY

Saturday, February 2nd

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Environmental Studies Center

40TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

Saturday, March 16th

6:30 pm - 10:30 pm

The Wakeman Estate

Call the council at 772.334.4643
for further information.

MARS LECTURE SERIES

Monday Evenings at 7pm

Environmental Studies Center

Feb 4: Everglades "Where are we going and can we get there?"

Feb 11: "Entangled Destiny"

Feb 25: "A short history of the Indian River Lagoon"

March 4: "The Prevalence of Animal Bites and Rabies, Risks and Hazards to Public Health"

March 11: "Threatened and Endangered Species of the Treasure Coast"

March 18: "Fishing for Ear Bones"



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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From the desk of the President

As we celebrate 40 years of environmental education in Martin County, it is a great time to reflect on the countless programs that have had a tremendous impact on generations of residents in our community. The Environmental Studies Council was formed 35 years ago to ensure the continuation of the Center's programs - including the water quality survey that 6th graders have worked on for several years.

The program, kicked up a notch thanks to the generous donation of the disbanded Treasure Coast Junior Rowing Association, Dr. Dan Velinsky and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Brodie, allows the students to study water temperature, dissolved oxygen, salinity and turbidity, and plot with their GPS where each sample originates. This information is then transferred to the new GIS at the Center.

The recent heavy September rains, tropical storms like Isaac, and recent discharges from Lake Okeechobee have produced discouraging water quality tests. In speaking with Center teacher, Denise Blanton, she is excited to see just how concerned the 6th graders are regarding these water quality issues. The students take the situation personally - and the Environmental Studies Center aims to educate our youth on how they can make a difference.

I bet we have a few soon-be-scientists who might be able to help us all one day. After all, that is what the Environmental Studies Center is about -- hands on environmental learning.

Sincerely,

Kelly Bond Pelletier

*ESC Students
conduct
Water
Quality Tests
in our local
Estuaries
thanks to the
generosity
of Dr. Dan
Velinsky and
Mr. and Mrs.
Larry Brodie*



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.**

Introducing the 2013 Mars Lecture Series

What do fish ears, rabid raccoons, sheet flow, Ais Indians, scrub jays, and entangled dolphins have in common? – They are all topics in the 26th Annual MARS Environmental Lecture Series.

The popular lecture series presented by The Environmental Studies Council, will be held on six Monday evenings in February and March at 7 pm. The lectures will take place in the Center's auditorium beginning February 4, and are FREE and open to the public. Seating is on a first-come first-served basis. Doors open at 6:30 pm

The MARS Lecture Series will begin February 4 featuring Maggy Hurchalla, former Martin County Commissioner and environmental advocate. "Everglades Restoration: Where are we going and can we get there?" will discuss the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and discuss why and how it was enacted. Ms. Hurchalla will also talk about what goods things are actually happening to restore the Everglades ecosystem.

The February 11 lecture will feature Jim Moir, Marine Science Facilitator, from the Ocean Works Group. "Entangled Destiny" will relate how our lives and activities are interconnected to the lives of many marine mammals.

On February 25, Marty Baum, the new Indian Riverkeeper, will present "A Short History of the Indian River Lagoon." It will discuss the history of the Indian River Lagoon and the many changes to the lagoon, both good and bad, since the indigenous Ais Indians first inhabited the

area. The lecture will also talk about the current issues concerning the lagoon and what the Indian Riverkeeper is doing as an advocate.

The March 4 lecture will feature veterinarian, Dr. Charles Neer. "The Prevalence of Animal Bites and Rabies, Risks and Hazards to Public Health," will talk about how the prevention and control of animal bites and rabies is a major concern in the US and other parts of the world. Dr. Neer's lecture contains important information of environmental and public health significance.

On March 11 ecologist, Greg Braun, from Sustainable Ecosystems International will present "Threatened and Endangered Species on the Treasure Coast - from charismatic mega-fauna to obscure mini-flora." The lecture will provide a status update on some of our well-known and highly-publicized Endangered species like manatees, sea turtles and wood storks, and introduce us to some of the more obscure coastal plants and animals that are designated as Endangered or Threatened.

The series will conclude on March 18 with biologist, Kim Denesha, from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. "Fishing for Ear Bones," will dive into science collected by FWC researchers to help support sustainable fisheries. The information gained from this ongoing study is designed to help researchers and fisherman gain a better understanding of Florida's important fish populations.

The Earth Savers Crew

Save the planet, or at least make a difference; this is the motto of the Earth Savers Crew, a committed group of high school students working to make a difference for our planet. The Crew is sponsored by the Environmental Studies Council as an outreach to "graduates" of the Environmental Studies Center's K-7 hands-on instructional programs, and provides high school students with an opportunity to work on meaningful projects that are beneficial to the local environment.

The Crew meets after school and occasionally on weekends to assist with open house activities and to maintain the Center's butterfly garden and mangrove farm. A key partner in the mangrove farm is the students in the Camp Wet summer program, who collect the

mangrove seeds and set the germination process in motion. As the young mangrove trees mature, the Crew re-pots them into increasingly larger pots until the trees have grown to a size where they can successfully be planted on a shoreline. The Crew has also partnered with Martin County Parks to establish a mangrove fringe along a shoreline at Sandsprit Park near the entrance to the Manatee Pocket. Once established, these mangrove trees will help to stabilize the shoreline while also providing critical habitat for oysters, barnacles, sponges, fish, snails, crabs, birds and more. The Crew is also working with a local Cub Scout pack to collaborate in building a larger and more natural habitat for the box turtle display which is used by the Center's staff as a teaching tool.

Thank you!

Michelle Fowler and Denise Blanton, teachers at the Environmental Studies Center, presented Libby Reinert of Jonathon Dickinson State Park with a plaque of appreciation for their partnership in Environmental Education.

Jonathan Dickinson State Park has allowed the Center to cover our freshwater curriculum with 7th graders for 4 years.



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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In loving memory of Floyd DeNicola

Floyd A DeNicola, age 92, a long-time supporter of the Environmental Studies Center, died after a long illness on December 4, 2012. Born in Mingo Junction, Ohio on December 8, 1920 of Italian-born parents, he learned to speak English in first grade. He went on to eventually earn a Ph.D. in economics from Ohio State University...his beloved Buckeyes.

He married Kathleen (Kay) M Schoch, for whom the Center's gift shop is named, in March of 1943 on a 4 day pass from the US Army. He served in the 95th Infantry, known as the Victory division and was one of the Iron Men of Metz, named so after the fierce combat in retaking that French town. For his heroic war efforts, he received a silver star with oak leaf cluster, a bronze star and the purple heart. The French said 'thanks' in 2009 by naming him a Chevalier in their Legion of Honor.

Committed to education and the environment, Floyd was a long-time volunteer at the Environmental Studies Center in Jensen Beach, the establishment of Indian Riverside Park, the Men's Garden Club, the Florida Native Plant Society and the Martin County Conservation Alliance. He and Kay maintained summer homes on Paulinskill Lake in northern Jersey, then Great East Lake in Wakefield NH and later moved to a tidal cove on the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia.

A memorial service was held on January 12 at the Environmental Studies Center. Memorial donations can be made to the Environmental Studies Center of Jensen Beach or the Martin County Conservation Alliance in Stuart.

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