



TURTLE TRACKS

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES COUNCIL

WINTER 2014

Environmental Lecture Series

We are excited to announce the speakers for ESC's 27th Annual Environmental Lecture Series along with a new presenting sponsor, the Tobacco Free Partnership of Martin County. The Tobacco Free Partnership is dedicated to the creation of tobacco-free social norms through a combination of community education, youth advocacy, and changes in local tobacco policies. We are excited to have their support and believe the partnership will be beneficial to both organizations.

The popular lecture series will be held on six Monday evenings, in February and March at 7 pm. The lectures will take place in the Environmental Studies Center's auditorium and are set to begin February 3 and conclude March 17, with no lecture on February 17. The Environmental Lecture Series is FREE and open to the public. Seating is on a first-come first-served basis. Doors open at 6:30pm.

The Lecture Series will begin February 3, featuring Dr. Barry Hummel from the Tobacco Free Partnership of Martin County on "The Environmental Impacts of Tobacco." Everyone is familiar with the health concerns associated with tobaccos products. Dr. Hummel will discuss the impacts of tobacco on the environment. Topics will range from cigarette butt pollution to emerging issues with electronic cigarettes.

The February 10 lecture will feature biologist Evan Orellana. "Invasion of the Jellyfish" will take you on a journey to explore the lives of Florida's jellyfish. Through a discussion of life history, biology, and identification you will gain a much greater appreciation for these unique animals. The talk will also discuss their many, often stinging, interactions with humans and the place of jellyfish in our future.

On February 24, Dr. Paul Gray, Science Coordinator for Audubon of Florida will present "Everglades Restoration: Getting Lake Okeechobee Out of the Indian River." Dr. Gray will talk about the human and natural history of Lake Okeechobee, how Okeechobee got unnaturally connected to the St. Lucie River and Indian River Lagoon, and prospects for undoing the harmful connection through Everglades Restoration. He will relate how

human changes in water movement and nutrient levels have affected wildlife and then explain the measures needed to improve Florida's waterways for fish, wildlife and people.

The March 3 lecture will feature Dr. Dale Hipson and "Animals of the Dupuis." Dr. Hipson has been visiting the DuPuis natural area to monitor Bald Eagle nests for many years. During that time he has had the opportunity to capture wildlife on his trusty camcorder. Come watch as Dr. Hipson shares some of the most interesting moments during his time at the Dupuis.

On March 10, Dr. Nancy Mettee, ECS's very own sea turtle veterinarian will present "Turtle CSI, Investigating and Treating Injured Sea Turtles." Dr. Mettee has a passion for treating sick and injured sea turtles. In this talk, Dr. Mettee will walk you through the most intriguing cases she has seen. She will also discuss some of the unique treatments to help these sea turtles survive.

The series will conclude on March 17 with Tim Brown, Director of Education, from Treasure Coast Wildlife. "Come Meet the Natives" will introduce you to some of the animals that call our area home. The presentation will give attendees an opportunity to get an up close look at birds, reptiles, and mammals native to Florida. Tim's presentation and his special guests always make for a fascinating talk!

AT A GLANCE

2/3: The Environmental Impact of Tobacco

2/10: Invasion of the Jellyfish

2/24: Everglades Restoration: Getting Lake Okeechobee Out of the Indian River Lagoon

3/3: Animals of the Dupuis

3/10: Turtle CSI: Investigating and Treating Injured Sea Turtles

3/17: Come Meet the Natives

Call the council at 772.334.4643
for further information.

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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
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From the desk of the President

2014 is off to great start at the Environmental Studies Center! The Center's new Coral Reef Tank provided by a grant from the Norcross Foundation, is up and running and ready for visitors on Grandparent's Day, happening February 1 from 10am-1pm. This is one of my favorite events of the year, as children are able to share their experiences at the Center with their Grandparents, bringing together generations of environmental enthusiasm in Martin County!

Additionally, the Council is well underway with a capital project to improve the Center's drainage, build a new and improved sea turtle exhibit, and add enhanced educational displays and signage. Thanks to the generosity of our community, the project is almost completely funded and the project is moving forward. If you have an interest in supporting this endeavor, we welcome your support! Sponsorship levels are available starting at \$250 and include name recognition on the new educational displays that will be at the Center for years to come.

I'd like to welcome our new Council Trustees, Cory Carter, Jeffrey Guertin, and Peggy Paterson. These new trustees are lending their skills and expertise to the Council to promote and extend environmental awareness in our community. I'd also like to thank Jill Levy and Mark Gavitt, both long-standing Council members, who have recently resigned. We appreciate their years of service and dedication to the Council and the Environmental Studies Center.

We also welcome a new boat captain at the Center, Captain John Vanilla, as we say farewell to Captain Rick Binder who retired this Fall after over 30 years of service to the Center. Captain Binder was a treasured fixture at the Center, and we wish him well in his retirement! And we look forward to our 5th and 6th grade students' adventures with Captain John Vanilla this year!

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.

Council raises funds for Sea Turtle Tank at the Center

The construction of the Center's new sea turtle tank and exhibit is one of most ambitious projects ever undertaken by the Environmental Studies Council. It has required detailed planning and communication with various agencies, organizations, and community partners. The most important partnership has been between the Environmental Studies Council, the non-profit with a mission to support the Center's activities, and the Martin County School District, which operates the Center on a daily basis.

As the turtle tank was initially being designed it became apparent that it would have to meet not only the needs of the turtle, but the safety and educational standards of the school district. The District stepped up and provided the detailed plans to make sure the new turtle tank would meet their requirements and have agreed to supervise the construction process. The District is also attempting to find the resources

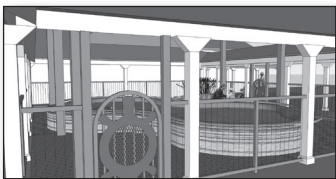
to improve rain water drainage issues currently affecting the areas around the turtle tank.

The Environmental

Studies Council's main responsibility has been to find the financial

resources to build the actual turtle tank and educational displays. For the past year, the Council has been working diligently to find donors and grants to support the project. During the Council's January meeting, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to move on to the next phase needed to build the Center's new sea turtle tank and exhibit. With 80% of the project already funded through grants and donations, the Council feels confident in asking the District to move forward with the construction process.

This Spring, the Environmental Studies Council will continue to seek donations and grants for the sea turtle tank and educational exhibits. It will also work very closely with the Martin County School District to take the necessary steps to ensure construction of the project begins this summer.



THANK YOU TO OUR TURTLE TANK SUPPORTERS!

The Council is excited to announce that Ecological Associates, Inc. (EAI) of Jensen Beach will be the Presenting Sponsor of the new turtle tank. Ecological Associates is a multi-disciplinary environmental consulting firm with extensive experience working in Florida's marine, estuarine, coastal, and terrestrial ecosystems. They may be best known for their work monitoring sea turtle nesting on the beaches of Martin County and are well respected organization within the sea turtle and scientific communities.

Just Gold Jewelers, Seacoast Bank, and The Bauman Family Foundation are all supporting the turtle tank project at the Platinum sponsorship level. We are grateful that these organizations continue to support the Environmental Studies Council and their mission to protect and enhance the education programs of the Center.

The Council would also like to announce that the William and Helen Thomas Charitable Trust have donated \$7,000 to support handicap accessible paver decking for the area around the turtle tank. This donation will ensure that everyone visiting the Center will have access and be able to see the sea turtle.

The support from a wide variety of organizations, businesses, and foundations has been amazing. The Council would like to thank everyone who has donated or supported the sea turtle tank project. We look forward to sharing this new turtle tank with everyone in the community.



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 1st Grade?

Students study manatees, characteristics of mammals and learn what it means to be endangered and the human impact on the survival of other living things. A beach walk provides an opportunity to collect univalve and bivalve shells and drift seeds.

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
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A fond farewell to Captain Rick Binder

For over thirty years, the Center Boat Captain, Rick Binder, has been at the helm of "The River Scout" during field studies with fifth and sixth graders. He served not only as boat captain, but as instructor for the sixth grade river investigation activities. His technical skills maintained The River Scout, custom built in 1972, in safe and good condition. Rick also served as unofficial steward of Fifth Grade Island, removing trash and debris from that outdoor 'classroom.'

This Fall, we bid a fond farewell to Captain Binder, as he entered into retirement. Captain Binder always put children's safety first and he has the record to prove it. His commitment to the protection and respect of our environment was an example to the students, teachers and community.

JOIN US FOR GRANDPARENT'S DAY!

Saturday, February 1
10:00 am - 1:00 pm
2900 NE Indian River
Drive, Jensen Beach

FREE!
Arts & Crafts
Center Tours
Entertainment



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