



# TURTLE TRACKS

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES COUNCIL

WINTER 2015

## Environmental Lecture Series

We are excited to announce the speakers for ESC's 28th Annual Environmental Lecture Series along with our presenting sponsor, the Tobacco Free Partnership of Martin County. The Tobacco Free Partnership of Martin County 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 2 and conclude March 23. No lecture is scheduled February 16 or March 16. The Environmental Lecture Series is FREE and open to the public. Seating is on a first-come first-served basis. Doors open about 6:30 pm

The Environmental Lecture Series will begin February 2 and feature Emily Jane Murray, Public Archaeology Coordinator for the Florida Public Archaeology Network, speaking on "Searching for the Lost Tribes: The Ais and the Mayaca." Native peoples lived along Florida's east coast for thousands of years before the explorers arrived from across the sea. Yet none of these cultures survive today. Join archaeologists on the search for the lost tribes of the Ais and Mayaca, contact-period tribes living near the Indian River.

The February 9 lecture will feature Dr. Marti Welch, Adjunct Professor, Palm Beach State College, with "Medicinal Uses of Marine Life." Can sharks and corals be used in cancer prevention? How are horseshoe crabs used in the biomedical industry? Answer these questions and more as you discover the fascinating uses of marine life that impact our everyday world.

On February 23 Freediving Instructor, Errol Putigna, will present "The Possibilities of Recreational Freediving." Errol will guide you on how to get the most out of freediving; from personal health, to hunting, to underwater photography/videography.

The March 2 lecture will feature Dr. Kirt Rusenko, City of Boca Raton Marine Conservationist, with "Is Too Much Light Bad for Humans and Sea Turtles?" Artificial light at night has long been known to have a huge negative impact on sea turtles, birds, plants, and a host of other organisms. Starting with sea turtle impacts, this talk will explore the harmful and potentially harmful effects of artificial light at night on humans, and what you can do to minimize the negative impacts of artificial light at night.

On March 9 Rob Rossmanith, Park Biologist for Jonathan Dickinson State Park, will present "How We Manage the Plants and Animals of Jonathan Dickinson State Park." The talk will include an orientation to both Jonathan Dickinson and Atlantic Ridge State Parks with a brief land use history, vegetation management techniques (prescribed fire, non-native plant removal, and hydrological restoration), and how wildlife benefits from these processes.

The series will conclude on March 23 with Jeff Guertin, Environmental Specialist at Inwater Research Group with "Where are the 99%: Studying Sea Turtles At Sea." Most research turtle research is conducted on nesting beaches when adult females come ashore to lay their eggs. Our research attempts to study sea turtles of varying life stages in the ocean, where they spend the vast majority of their lives.

### AT A GLANCE

2/2: Searching for the Lost Tribes: The Ais and the Mayaca

2/9: Medicinal Uses of Marine Life

2/23: The Possibilities of Recreational Freediving

3/2: Is Too Much Light Bad for Humans and Sea Turtles?

3/9: How We Manage the Plants and Animals of JD State Park

3/23: Where Are the 99%: Studying Sea Turtles at Sea

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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## From the desk of the President

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**H**appy 2015 from all of us at the Environmental Studies Council! 2014 was a momentous year, with the completion of our new sea turtle exhibit, the welcoming of Marilyn Gavitt as the new Center administrator, and a year full of wonderful educational opportunities for the students of Martin County.

As we look to the year ahead, there is much to be excited about! We are already busy working towards the next big project at the Center - an enhanced wet lab filled with educational exhibits, including habitat displays and interactive learning tools.

Our major fundraising event of the year will support these endeavors, in addition to providing financial support for a full-time teacher at the Center. "Coastal Goes West" promises a fun time for all with a western flair. The event takes place at D&D Family Farms in Palm City on March 7 from 6pm-10pm. Tickets are only \$75 and include dinner, drinks, live entertainment, and much more! You can purchase your tickets online at [www.escmc.org](http://www.escmc.org) or at the Center.

Also on the horizon is our annual Grandparent's Day celebration on February 7. Grandparent's Day is one of my favorite events of the year - it is always a joy to watch the students "show and tell" everything they've learned at the Center with their grandparents and family. The event is offered each year free of charge by the Council and will take place from 10am-1pm. I hope to see you there!

Our lecture series returns this February and promises many exciting topics you won't want to miss. Be sure to mark your calendars and join us at the Center.

I wish you and yours a prosperous and educational 2015 and look forward to another great year of environmental education in Martin County.

Sincerely,  
Kelly Bond Pelletier

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## Did Your Membership Expire?

**H**ave 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](http://www.escmc.org/membership) or call (772) 334-4643.**

# Coastal Goes West event set for March 7

The Environmental Studies Council is putting a twist on this year's annual fundraising event – they're bringing it out west! The annual gala raises funds to support, protect, and enhance the unique environmental educational programs of the Environmental Studies Center, and this year's soiree, "Coastal Goes West," will take place on March 7, 2015 at D&D Family Farms in Palm City. Guests will enjoy a night of fun with a western flair – including BBQ, live music for dancing by The Hot Sauce Boys, libations, and more.

"Coastal Goes West" will support programs at the Environmental Studies Center, like the annual lecture series, Grandparent's Day, the Open House, Earth Day, as well as the funding for a teacher at the Center and educational support - all while enjoying the beautiful landscape



of western Martin County. Guests are encouraged to don their best western ware and enjoy a night under the stars at

the much loved D&D Family Farms, located on Citrus Boulevard in Palm City. On the itinerary for the night is live music, fantastic BBQ food, dessert, an open bar, silent and raffles, auctions, and the rare chance to bid on unique legacy opportunities at the Center.

Guests are encouraged to scoop up their tickets early at [www.escmc.org](http://www.escmc.org). Tickets are only \$75 and are likely to sell out fast.

Come out and support the much-loved Environmental Studies Center and environmental education in Martin County on March 7!



## AT A GLANCE

**What:** Environmental Studies Council's "Coastal Goes West"

**Where:** D&D Family Farms on Citrus Blvd. in Palm City

**When:** March 7, 2015  
6-10pm

**Tickets:** \$75, available at [www.escmc.org](http://www.escmc.org) or at the Environmental Studies Center

Call the council at 772.334.4643 for further information.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CENTER ADMINISTRATOR, MARILYN GAVITT

Each day I spend at the Center brings me joy. Students arrive happy and excited to be here. One day as I was observing a class, I overheard this exchange between two students: "This is the best field trip-EVER," "Yeah, even better than Chuckie Cheese!" We are proud of the educational program we've built here and appreciate all the support we receive from the community.

The Center teachers and I embarked on a field trip to the Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center and the Loxahatchee River Center last month to gather some ideas for the ESC. Our goals are to update the displays and add more interactive learning experiences for students and visitors. We plan to start by adding digital signage in the wet lab and classrooms this spring. Our next step is to map out a strategy to implement a mangrove display in the wet lab and turn our red door room into a habitat. We look forward to these exciting changes and invite you to stop in for a visit between the hours of 9:00 am-3:00 pm on school days.





## 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 4th Grade?

Students study mangrove communities that act as a food source, nursery and habitat for many plants and animals found in the Indian River Lagoon. A field investigation of a mangrove community will engage students in the practices of science.

## Wish List

The Environmental Studies Center needs your support! The Center has a current need for:

- *Exhibit sponsors - help support new aquariums and exhibits in the wet lab!*
- *Send a child to camp for one week*
- *Critter food for our residents*
- *Native plants for our north fence*

If you are interested in supporting any of the above opportunities, please contact us at [info@escmc.org](mailto:info@escmc.org) or by calling 772-334-4643. Or stop by the Center - we'd love to see you!



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

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## Earthsavers Crew gives back

The Earthsavers Crew have been racking up volunteer hours this year at the Environmental Studies Center by helping with mulching, weeding, and working on trails in the hammock area. The next time you visit, be sure to check out the Center's trails and gardens to enjoy all of the improvements!

The Crew is a group of students in grades 8-12 that organize and participate in a variety of community service projects that benefit the environment and the Environmental Studies Council. They will be a big part of the volunteer force entertaining grandparents and grandchildren at Grandparent's Day on February 7, and have lots of fun activities planned for the rest of the school year.

## JOIN US FOR GRANDPARENT'S DAY!

**Saturday, February 7**  
**10:00 am - 1:00 pm**  
**2900 NE Indian River Drive, Jensen Beach**

**FREE!**  
**Arts & Crafts**  
**Center Tours**  
**Entertainment**



*The Earthsavers enjoyed a fishing trip as a reward for their volunteer hours!*

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

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