



TURTLE TRACKS

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES COUNCIL

SUMMER 2015

New exhibit donated to Center

This May, the National Save the Sea Turtle Foundation donated a new sea turtle exhibit to the Environmental Studies Center.

The exhibit is fabricated to highlight the biology, habits, and conservation of Florida's sea turtles. It was originally donated to the International Game Fish Association in Fort Lauderdale, where it served as an educational display for 14 years before they closed.

National Save the Sea Turtle Foundation President, Frank Wojcik, saw an opportunity to recycle the piece by donating it to another facility, and covered the transportation and setup costs to install the piece at the Environmental Studies Center in Jensen Beach.

"The display will help bolster our kindergarten curriculum, but will also be utilized for students and visitors of all ages," said Center Coordinator Marilyn Gavitt. "The exhibit is a fantastic addition to our Center – it looks like it was meant to be here all along."



National Save the Sea Turtle Foundation's mission is to provide educational programming, promote public awareness of Florida's marine ecosystems, and support sea turtle research both in the United States and abroad.

The Council sends their gratitude to the National Save the Sea Turtle Foundation for their generous donation that will educate the students of Martin County for years to come!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Congratulations to Christina Marani, this year's scholarship recipient! Christina will be attending Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne to study Marine Biology, with the goal to complete her PhD. She has volunteered at Florida Oceanographic Coastal Center and served as a Counselor in Training at the Environmental Studies Center Summer Camp after attending the camp for 8 consecutive years. She intends to study sea turtle research and protection, while striving to preserve the most diverse estuary in the world - the Indian River Lagoon. Christina was presented with her scholarship at the May Environmental Studies Council Trustees' meeting, where she shared her plans and passion for conservation with Council Trustees. We wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavours!



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 **southeastern**
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From the desk of the President

I am honored to have been elected president of the Environmental Studies Council. As a board trustee for the past three years I have grown to understand that the Environmental Studies Center is a special place. The education that students receive at the center, from the best teachers in the district, creates an environmental awareness that the students carry with them forever. I have heard countless stories from parents, neighbors, and friends about how a class field trip or week at summer camp impacted their lives. It has also been great to learn about the center's history and the dedicated group of people who have ensured its success. The vision of these forward-thinking and environmentally conscious citizens has helped create a culture and special appreciation for the environment within Martin County.

The board of trustees, school district, and center staff continue to work tirelessly to improve the facility and bolster its mission. The new sea turtle tank and exhibit was completed last fall, and a new sea turtle educational display has just been installed to supplement the kindergarten curriculum. Center Director, Marilyn Gavitt, and the school district have begun upgrading the technology for visiting students. They installed Wi-Fi internet access, purchased new tablets and water sampling equipment, and put interactive displays in the wet lab. Kaye's Corner Gift Shop has also been restocked with exciting new toys, jewelry, and educational items.

I invite you to stop by and see all of the new and exciting things happening at the center. I look forward to continuing the Council's mission and ensuring that the center continues to play an integral part in environmental education within our community.

Sincerely,
Cody Mott

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
or call (772) 334-4643.

Council elects 2015-2016 Executive Board

The Environmental Studies Council has elected their 2015-2016 Board of Trustees. The Trustees were installed on May 13 by Superintendent Laurie Gaylord.

The Executive Council includes Cody Mott as President, Mary Radabaugh as First Vice President, Kim Waser Nash as Second Vice President, Peggy Paterson and Gene VanCuren as Co-Treasurers, Kris Kerr as Secretary, and Kelly Bond Pelletier as Past President. The 2015-2016 Board of Trustees includes Joan Bausch, Jane Buss, Cory Carter, Ian Cohen, Suzanne Granfield, Jeffrey Guertin, Eileen Hatt, Kent Hughes, Brinley Johnson, Nicole Mader, Erik Martin, Michael Owen, Deborah Owens, Kari Polhemus, Megan Remick, Dr. Pat Ries, Nancy Scott, Lorena Teal, and Michael Yustin.



Thank you to Kelly Bond-Pelletier, the Council's outgoing President, pictured with Superintendent Laurie Gaylord

A MESSAGE FROM THE CENTER ADMINISTRATOR, MARILYN GAVITT

I am amazed at the community support we have received this school year. Recently, a donor who wishes to remain anonymous contributed funds to purchase small tablets for classroom use. Our teachers will be trained next month on how to properly implement this new technology in our curriculum. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Christine Zdeb and Anne R. Burford for contributing funds to purchase new equipment during the Twelve Days of Christmas campaign. Stop by and see our recently restored screen in the Blue Door room. Artist Kate Wood meticulously brought it back to life and the old Jensen Beach businesses featured bring back treasured memories for those who have lived in the area a long time. This was made possible through the Women Supporting the Arts donor circle and the Wilmington Trust. The family of Penny Sangas donated hundreds of items, including Penny's original paintings, prints, and stationery to sell in our gift shop. Finally, I'd like to recognize The Technology Education Resource & Redesign Alliance (TERRA), a non-profit organization who recently awarded the ESC a \$3,000 grant. We used the funding to purchase a multi-touch flat panel for our fourth and sixth grade program. Integrated Telecom, Inc. of Palm City donated the installation. I cannot thank our generous community enough! We truly appreciate it.



HIDDEN OAKS STUDENT RAISES FUNDS FOR CENTER

Student Sam Crombie raised \$167 for the Environmental Studies Center to help build the Center's new Sea Turtle Exhibit. Thank you, Sam, for your efforts and inspiration!

The Council is currently collecting donations for new exhibits in the Center's Wet Lab. If you'd like to contribute, you can donate online at www.escmc.org.

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 5th Grade?

In 5th grade, A spoil island in the Lagoon serves as the setting for exploration of the island itself and mangrove and grassflat communities. The field study includes investigations of terrestrial, intertidal, and marine environments.

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*
- *Charging cart for 24 small tablets*

If you are interested in supporting any of the above opportunities, please contact us at 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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SUMMER 2015

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River Scout Gets an Overhaul!

The River Scout, the Center's 33ft long boat, has been ferrying school children throughout the Indian River Lagoon for more than 40 years. Students in the Center's 5th and 6th grade classes spend the day aboard the River Scout and learn to be scientists as they collect data from the lagoon. The Environmental Studies Council is excited to announce that the River Scout will continue to serve for many more years and is scheduled for a maintenance overhaul after summer camp. The National Save the Sea Turtle Foundation has generously agreed to fund the River Scout's repairs. Look for a full feature on the updated River Scout in the next Turtle Tracks!



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