



TURTLE TRACKS

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES COUNCIL

FALL 2015

River Scout Gets An Overhaul for New School Year

For more than 40 years, the River Scout has served the Environmental Studies Center and carried more than 100,000 students to give them an experience that no classroom can match. The boat's unique design and the fact that it's carried generations of Martin County school children, make it instantly recognizable and a cherished sight whenever it's spotted on the water.

This year, students and local boaters will notice some major changes to the River Scout. The boat received a large upgrade with support from the Environmental Studies Council and a grant through the National Save the Sea Turtle Foundation. Most notably, the entire boat received new paint and an exciting hull wrap depicting an underwater scene complete with a sea turtle, fish, and coral reef. Safety equipment including a new VHF radio and Garmin navigation system were installed. New life jackets were also purchased for all the staff and students. Before being put back in the water, the

River Scout's motors were inspected and made ready for the new school year.

The project could not have been completed without the dedication and support of local businesses and community partners.

The project was managed by, and completed at, Central Marine Services in Stuart. The hull was prepared by Eco Strip, the new hull wrap was custom designed by Sign Jungle, and the engines were serviced by Rick Parker Marine Services.

The National Save the Sea Turtle Foundation has worked since 1987 to provide educational programming, promote public awareness of Florida's marine ecosystems, and support sea turtle research both in United States and abroad. For more information, visit www.savetheseaturtle.org.



EARTHSAVERS CREW

The Earthsavers Crew is excited to start a new school year! The Earth Savers Crew is a group of hard working, dedicated high school students that are earning volunteer hours while simultaneously helping the Environmental Studies Center and our precious environment. The Crew is lead by two Jensen Beach High School Marine Science and Biology teachers, Nicole Vanderwerf and Samantha Robertson. This year the roster for the Earth Savers crew has over 30 motivated and enthusiastic students. If you are interested in joining the crew, or have any questions please contact Nicole or Samantha by email at vandern@martin.k12.fl.us or roberts@martin.k12.fl.us. They will be happy to answer any questions. The Earth Savers first event will be at the IRL Science Festival on September 26, in Fort Pierce. Come on out, it should be a wonderful event!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, October 17
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Environmental Studies Center

FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON

Saturday, January 16
12 p.m.

The Tesoro Club

LECTURE SERIES

Begins February 1

Visit escmc.org for full details

Call the council at 772.219.1887x121
for further information.



***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) 219-1887 x 121
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

The 2015 – 2016 school year is already in full swing and so is the Environmental Studies Council. The Council kicked off the school year with a major overhaul of the Center's boat, the River Scout. Thanks to a generous grant from the National Save the Sea Turtle Foundation, the River Scout looks wonderful and has upgraded safety equipment. Without their support such an amazing overhaul would never have been possible.

The Environmental Studies Council works diligently to meet the needs of the Center and its students. Did you know the Environmental Studies Council raises funds to support one teacher's salary, 20 summer camp scholarships, and a 4 year college scholarship each year? The Council also provides food and veterinary care for the Center's animals and funding for campus improvements such as the new sea turtle exhibit. The Council depends on grants, business sponsorships, and donations from individuals like you, to make all of it happen.

Now is the perfect time to show your support for the Center and make your tax deductible donation to the Environmental Studies Council. The Council has just updated its membership levels and added wonderful benefits. Membership now includes a discount to the gift shop and free or reduced admission to nearby nature centers like the Loxahatchee River Center and Manatee Observation & Education Center. The Council also provides a special membership for businesses that would like to show their support for the Center. Business members also receive sponsorship opportunities at Council functions.

Please join me and the Council by supporting the wonderful programs provided by the Environmental Studies Center.

Sincerely,
Cody Mott

Did Your Membership Expire?

Have you renewed your membership to the Environmental Studies Council? These year-long memberships start at just \$25, and provide support for 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 772-219-1887 x 121.

In Loving Memory of Michael Chatham

GONE, BUT WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN



Michael Chatham retired from the Environmental Studies Center in January, 2008, after 15 years as its director. He spent the last 7 years following his many passions: fishing, camping, traveling,

spending time with his family, and welcoming his grandchildren, Luca and Audrey. Unfortunately, Mike died suddenly this past summer while traveling through Arkansas on a vacation with his wife, Denise.

As director of the Center, Mike supported the hands-on approach to environmental learning. He was successful in securing funding for revisions to the original turtle tank, a new water treatment system, more touch tanks, and improvements to the wet lab. He was also instrumental in moving the water displays from the Orange Door classroom and installing waterproof flooring. He would be proud and supportive of the continued improvements to the Center today.

Mike's life revolved around his love of nature. As an avid surfer, he would stop by the beach on his way to work to catch a few waves. As a laid back, patient person, it wasn't a surprise that fishing was his favorite past time. A conversation with Mike wasn't complete without "fishing" as one of the topics! In retirement, after a relaxing day on the water, he would stop by the Center and share his catch and a few stories with his former employees. Many days were spent fishing with his grandson, Luca, by his side. We are sure he will be stepping into his grandfather's footsteps with this experience and training under his belt.

Ask anyone about Mike Chatham and you will hear about the many reasons he was well-loved.

Past students in his science classes at Murray Middle School remember him as their "favorite" teacher who hooked them on science and love of the environment. The staff at the Center saw Mike as a friend, colleague and "the boss," in that order. Everyone enjoyed his sense of humor, his great smile, fun conversations and his contagious laugh.

Even in his retirement, Mike remained dedicated to the center. He shared his knowledge with many more students during his time substitute teaching, served on the committee for the new turtle tank, and brought his family to many Center events.

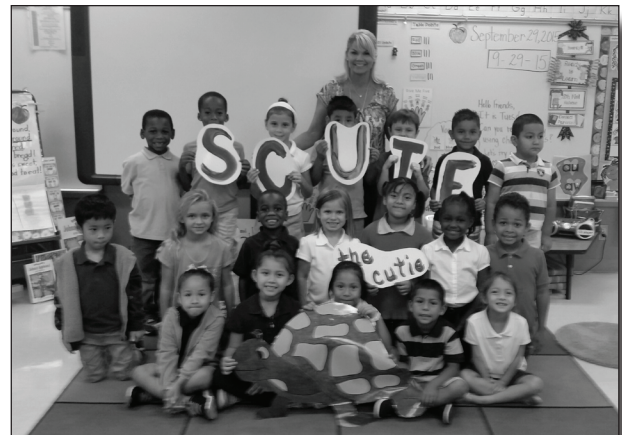
We will always remember Mike for his kindness, compassion, friendship, and his love of life.

CLASS NAMES NEW SEA TURTLE

Congratulations to Mrs. Sherri K. Saxton's kindergarten class at Pinewood Elementary School for choosing the winning name for the Environmental Studies Center's new resident sea turtle!

The winning name is "Scute," named after the hard plates that cover the outside of a turtle's shell. The scutes are made of keratin, which is also the key component of hair and fingernails. The arrangement of scutes on the shell is different for each species and helps biologists identify them.

Come meet Scute at the ESC Open House on Saturday, October 17 at the Center! You can visit Scute in the ESC Sea Turtle Exhibit from 10:00am-1:00pm. You'll also have the opportunity to meet Joey the alligator, tour the wet labs, visit a special plankton display, and shop the gift shop, which is fully stocked with new toys, jewelry, and kids' science kits. This year's Open House is sponsored by Total LifeSafety Corporation.



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 6th Grade?

Aboard "The River Scout," students use equipment to collect and test samples, which indicate the health of the river. Information from samples collected over time is examined and compared in the Center's lab.

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*
- *Gift Cards for our upcoming fundraising auction*

If you are interested in supporting any of the above opportunities, please contact us at info@escmc.org or by calling (772) 219-1887. 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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FALL 2015

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Save the Date! Fundraising Luncheon at The Tesoro Club

Mark your calendars for the Environmental Studies Council's annual fundraising event - a luncheon and auction afternoon at the beautiful Tesoro Club.

The luncheon will take place on January 16, 2016 at noon and features appetizers, a plated luncheon, wine, a signature cocktail, live entertainment, and a not-to-be-missed auction.

The luncheon will support the much-loved Environmental Studies Center. Each year, the Environmental Studies Council provides funding for college and summer camp scholarships, a teaching position at the Center, educational outreach programs, like the Environmental Lecture Series and the Center's open houses, and much more.

Tickets will be available for \$100 per person online at www.escmc.org or can be purchased at the Center. Purchase your tickets before December 10 and save \$10!

We look forward to seeing you at The Tesoro Club!

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

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