



TURTLE TRACKS

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES COUNCIL

FALL 2016

Join Us: Annual Open House!

The Environmental Studies Council will be hosting their Annual Open House on Saturday, October 15 from 10am-1pm at the Environmental Studies center. Each year, the Open House is offered free of charge for guests to visit and explore the many exhibits and treasures at the Environmental Studies Center.

The Center, located at 2900 NE Indian River Drive in Jensen Beach, features saltwater aquariums, hands on learning, and is home to a releasable juvenile loggerhead sea turtle.

Students in the Martin County School District enjoy the environmental learning opportunities provided each year at the center, and at the Annual Open House, families can take part in the fun as well! On October 15, guests will enjoy crafts, interactive activities, refreshments and sign-ups for the year's many special events.

Join us and meet Joey the alligator, tour the wet labs, visit the new educational sea turtle display,

visit a special plankton display, tour the school grounds and shop the gift shop, which is fully stocked with new toys, jewelry, kids science kits and more.

There is always something new to see at the Center!



The Open House is presented free of charge by the Environmental Studies Council, the non-profit organization established in 1978 to support, protect, and enhance the unique environmental education programs of the Environmental Studies Center. Donations are accepted and Council memberships will be available throughout the day. For more information, visit www.esmc.org or call 772-219-1887 x 121.

Honoring Gene VanCuren

On August 10, longtime Council Trustee, Gene Van Curen, retired after 38 years of service on the Environmental Studies Council. Gene was an original member of the Council and has served well for many years. As the Council's Treasurer, he managed the trust that was set up to protect the

Environmental Studies Center for decades and kept the Council operating, to ensure environmental education in Martin County was protected and flourishing. He helped to select generations of college scholarship recipients, safeguarding the fund and carefully reviewing hundreds of applications from Martin County students wishing to study environmental sciences. In addition to all of his major contributions, Gene could often be found behind the scenes, doing whatever needed to be done. Whether he was setting up tents or picking up trash, he was always there to do what needed to be done - no fuss, no credit needed, he just got things done! Gene will continue to assist us by serving on the advisory council, but now it's our turn to honor his landmark of contributions to the Council and show our appreciation for all he's done for environmental education in Martin County!



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.

Board of Trustees

Cody Mott
Council President
Kim Waser Nash
First Vice President
Mary Radabaugh
Second Vice President
Kris Kerr
Secretary
Peggy Paterson
Treasurer
Kelly Bond Pelletier
Past President

Council Trustees

Joan Bausch	Brinley Johnson
Jane M Buss	Nicole Mader
Cory Carter	Erik Martin
Ian Cohen	Kari Polhemus
Suzanne Granfield	Nancy Scott
Jeffrey Guertin	Lorena Teal
Kent Hughes	Michael Yustin

Office Manager: Rebecca Mott

Center Teachers

Marilyn Gavitt, Administrator
Heather Arnold Justin Speaks
Charlie Carr Capt. John Vanilla
Michelle Fowler

Center Staff

Sheri Tschinkel Joann Parisi

Many thanks to  **southeastern**
complexity made simple
 **for printing Turtle Tracks and using Green Ink**

From the desk of the President

Many people ask, "What is the difference between the Environmental Studies Center and the Environmental Studies Council?"

The Environmental Studies Center is operated by the Martin County School District to support a specific mission. Its role is to create environmental awareness within the students of Martin County which can be carried into the home, school and community. The Center gives every student an opportunity to learn about their local environment through hands on learning experiences. The school district should be recognized for investing in such an incredible program for more than four decades.

Shortly after the Center was opened, local community members created a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization to support the Center. The Environmental Studies Council and its Board of Trustees act similarly to a Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) by providing programs, supplies and equipment that aren't directly supported by the school district. Money is raised through general donations, grants and fundraising campaigns to provide materials needed by the Center. The Council also plans special educational events to highlight the mission of the Center.

Today, Center staff and the Council's Board of Trustees work hand in hand, solving everyday challenges and planning for the Center's future. The partnership has a synergistic effect, producing experiences for students that are impactful and educational.

As a new school year gets underway the Environmental Studies Council is proud to continue their support for the teachers and staff of the Environmental Studies Center. We can't wait to watch this year's students get excited to learn about the environment! To learn more about the programs of the Council, visit us online at escmc.org.

Sincerely,
Cody Mott

Did Your Membership Expire?

Have you renewed your membership to the Environmental Studies Council? These tax-deductible year-long memberships start at just \$25 for individuals and \$250 for businesses. Funding everything from critter food to the salary of a certified teacher, memberships directly support the educational experience presented free for ALL Martin County students. We need your support!

**To sign up, log on to www.escmc.org
or call 772-219-1887 x 121**

Volunteer Spotlight: Farah Daye

Longtime volunteer Farah Daye was nominated this year as the Outstanding Adult Volunteer for the Center. Farah spends several hours at the Center each week directly helping the teachers and students in the field. This has a direct impact on student achievement as teachers can put students into smaller groups for more one-on-one interaction. Having an extra pair of eyes assists with safety and having extra hands helps the teacher focus on the learning.

Farah also assists with preserving the history of the ESC program, which began in 1972. When she's not in the field with teachers, Farah spends time converting priceless artifacts, including old slides, photographs and VCR tapes, into digital files. She also works with the Council, and can be found running the gift shop, assisting with community events, helping with the Turtle Track mailings and countless other tasks.

The Environmental Studies Center is a much better place thanks to Farah's efforts and contributions! Her dedication to the vision and preservation of our program is valued, and she has earned the title of Outstanding Volunteer and our heartfelt gratitude!



TEACHER OF THE YEAR: JUSTIN SPARKS

Justin Sparks has been chosen as the 2016-17 Teacher of the Year for the Environmental Studies Center. Justin has been a teacher at the Center for the past 4 years, after serving in an environmental outreach program teaching children of all ages about the world we live in. Earning advanced degrees in both marine science and environmental science, Justin's knowledge has enhanced the Center's program and deepened its curriculum. Most importantly, he is a natural teacher! He has an excellent rapport with every child who passes through the Center's doors, sparking their natural curiosity about the plants and animals living in our environment.

In addition to his regular teaching duties, Justin has volunteered for turtle walks, night hikes and community events at the Center. Justin has also co-written and been awarded many grants including one for the prestigious Camp WET and a Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties Grant which was awarded for a new indoor, interactive mangrove display. With his marine science background, Justin also designed the coral reef tank purchased via a grant through the Norcross Wildlife Foundation, obtaining the permits needed to display live coral species. While most teachers use their days without students as a time to catch up on everything, Justin reaches out to high school marine science teachers, collaborating with them and arranging trips to the Center that otherwise wouldn't happen given the Center's tight scheduling. Instead, he often stays late to do his catching up.

The Environmental Studies Center staff is proud to have Justin Sparks represent them for Martin County School District's Teacher of the Year!



JENSEN BEACH GRADUATE UPDATES ESC LOGO

Justin Hess, a 2016 graduating senior from Jensen Beach High School, recently put his skills to use to assist the Environmental Studies Center in updating their logo. The logo, originally designed in 1972, was needed in updated formats to be used with modern applications. Justin completed digital design courses with Mark Conrad at JBHS, and was able to apply his Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop skills to complete the needed updates to the logo. According to Justin, "Using Photoshop has been a passion of mine that began in my early middle school days designing funny pictures and photo edits. What started as an entertaining and comedic hobby, graphic design has become more of a lifestyle. As I end my high school career and sign up for the myriad of classes contributing to this study, I can't help but wonder what the my future in graphic design will be." We wish Justin success in his future education, career and creative endeavors!



Memories at the Center

Since 1972, Martin County students have been making memories at the Environmental Studies Center. Share your memories with us for a chance to be featured in the next issue of Turtle Tracks! To be featured, email your photos to kwasernash@gmail.com.



Photo of The River Scout in the 90s provided by Nicolette Mariano



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FALL 2016

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
STUART, FL
PERMIT NO. 182

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
- Microscopes
- Student Response Systems for each classroom

If you are interested in supporting any of the above opportunities, please contact us at info@escmc.org or by calling 772-219-1887 x121. Or stop by the Center - we'd love to see you!

Purchase a brick to support the Center!



Do you want to show your support for the Environmental Studies Center and leave a legacy that will last for generations? You can now purchase an engraved brick paver for yourself or a loved one or friend to leave your mark! The brick pavers will be placed around the alligator habitat, in the butterfly

garden and throughout the garden walkways, and are the perfect gift for anyone who attended the Center, volunteered at the Center or just wants to give back to support environmental education in Martin County. Proceeds from the brick pavers will benefit Camp WET, a special two-week camp for outstanding students who examine important water and environmental issues in-depth. You can purchase a brick online at escmc.org or by visiting the Center. Bricks will also be on sale at the Open House on October 15.

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

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