



# TURTLE TRACKS

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES COUNCIL

WINTER 2017

## 30th Annual Environmental Lecture Series

We are excited to announce the speakers for ESC's 29th 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 thankful to have their support and believe the partnership will be beneficial to both organizations.

The popular lecture series, presented by the Tobacco Free Partnership of Martin County, kicks off on February 6, and will take place on six Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. through March 27, with no lecture scheduled for February 20 or March 13. All lectures will take place at the Environmental Studies Center auditorium, located at 2900 NE Indian River Drive in Jensen Beach.

The Environmental Lecture Series is FREE and open to the public. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and seating is available on a first-come first-served basis.

This year's speaker schedule features **Grant Baysinger**, Environmental Specialist with Ecological Associates, Inc., on February 6 discussing the role of the environmental consultant; **Sandra Thurlow**, author and local historian, on February 13 discussing US Life Saving Service - Florida's East Coast; **Wendy Parker** on February 27, discussing Martin County Solid Waste programs; **Laura Engleby**, chief of the Marine Mammal Branch of the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Region, on March 6 discussing dolphins and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico; **Beau Yeiser**, biological scientist, on March 20 discussing the status and research of Florida's Smalltooth Sawfish; and **Irene Arpayoglou**, M.S. on March 27 discussing Indian River Lagoon Aquatic Preserves.

All lectures are free and open to the public. The Lecture Series is presented 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 at each lecture.

Each year the Environmental Studies Council

provides funding for college scholarships, a teaching position at the Center, educational outreach programs, new exhibits at the Center and much more. Most recently, the Council raised funds for the Center's new sea turtle exhibits and secured funding from the Save the Sea Turtles Foundation to restore the River Scout boat. For more information, visit [www.escmc.org](http://www.escmc.org) or call 772.334.4643.

### AT A GLANCE

- 2/6: The Role of the Environmental Consultant
- 2/13: US Life Saving Service - Florida's East Coast
- 2/27: Martin County Solid Waste Programs
- 3/6: Dolphins and the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in the Gulf
- 3/20: Florida's Smalltooth Sawfish
- 3/27: Indian River Lagoon Aquatic Preserves

Call the council at 772.219-1887 x121 for further information.

Sponsored by:



## Grandparents Day: February 11



The Environmental Studies Center will host its annual Grandparents Day open house on Saturday, February 11th from 10 am to 1 pm. Grandparents Day is a wonderful opportunity for children, grandparents, and the rest of the family to explore the Center. Stop by this free event to see the Center's sea turtle, alligator, aquariums and more! There will also be a free craft, scavenger hunt, and other activities. The Center's gift shop will also be open and filled with fun and educational toys for all ages. We can't wait to see you at Grandparents Day!



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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for printing Turtle Tracks  
and using Green Ink

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## From the desk of the President

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It takes many different people, each sharing their unique skills and talents, for the Environmental Studies Center to work. Foremost are the Center's teachers that ensure every Martin County student has an opportunity to experience nature. Their knowledge and ability to reach students makes the Center such a special place. But there is also a bigger group of administrators, support staff, maintenance crews, and school bus drivers that make sure the Center is a safe and nurturing environment. Their work often goes unnoticed but is essential and much appreciated.

There is also a small, but very dedicated team of volunteers who help with every imaginable task. Whether it is preparing thousands of Turtle Tracks to be mailed or scrubbing the turtle tank, this group ranging from high school students to retirees jumps right in. A few artists also volunteer their time to bring the Center's walls to life. Together, these volunteers have an immense positive impact on the facility.

Another group volunteers their time as members of the Environmental Studies Council. The Council works to plan educational events and raise funds to support the Center's programs. Right now, Council members are planning the Grandparents Day open house and the Council's annual fundraiser. While much of their efforts are through e-mails and committee meetings, the results are always fun and memorable for everyone who attends. Their support is essential to maintaining the high level of educational opportunities at the Center.

Lastly, community members and businesses play a critical role by supporting the Center through donations and providing discounted services. Whenever a refrigerator quits working or microscopes need replaced, someone is always there to step up and help. The community's strong connections to the Center are truly amazing and appreciated.

I'd like to thank each person for their time and support. It truly takes the efforts of everyone working together to ensure the success of the Environmental Studies Center.

Sincerely,  
Cody Mott

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## 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.esmc.org](http://www.esmc.org)  
or call 772-219-1887 x 121

# ***In Memory of Janet Reno***

**F**ormer U.S. Attorney Janet Reno, sister of longtime Environmental Studies Center supporter Maggy Hurchalla and an outdoorswoman herself, died at her home in Miami on Nov. 7, 2016, of complications from Parkinson's Disease.

While Ms. Reno was the first woman U.S. Attorney General, serving under President Bill Clinton, and previously was the first woman State Attorney in Dade County, "she also was a happy adventurer who paddled Class III whitewater rapids and more than a dozen Florida rivers, got lost on the Wacissa, camped out from the Everglades to the Suwannee, explored endless dirt roads and blue springs, and loved nothing better than being outdoors in the wild Florida she loved and the wild Potomac she came to love," her sister said.

"She really didn't break barriers," Hurchalla said. "She just didn't notice they were there."

Ms. Reno was the oldest of four siblings born to longtime Dade County journalist Henry Reno and Jane Wood Reno, a naturalist who built the family home on 21 acres bordering the Everglades. They grew up in that house, in pine-palmetto and cow pasture, near the end of North Kendall Drive. "There were horses and cows and chickens and ducks and pigs and goats and raccoons and alligators and peacocks," Hurchalla said. "Janet milked the cow when our father had to work late."

She graduated from Cornell University in 1960 with a degree in chemistry, then entered Harvard Law School, graduating in 1963, one of a handful of women in a class of more than 500. She went to work for a Florida law firm and became active in Democratic politics. She opened a law firm with Gerald Lewis, who won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, and in 1971 became general counsel to the judiciary committee of the Florida House. In that position, she worked on an overhaul of Florida courts.

She was recruited back to South Florida from Tallahassee by former Dade County State Attorney Richard Gerstein, and within a few years became his chief assistant. After Gerstein resigned in 1978 she was selected as his successor and re-elected five times before the White House called in 1993. As a two-term U.S. Attorney, she worked to reduce crime, enforce civil rights laws, and combat terrorism, drugs and international organized crime.

Most notably, Hurchalla said, Ms. Reno was devoted to children. "For someone without children, she rocked a whole lot of babies to sleep on her front porch."

A memorial service was held Dec. 11 at the Kendall campus of Miami-Dade College.

## ***EVENING ON THE RIVER: ANNUAL ESC FUNDRAISER***

*The Environmental Studies Council announces an Evening on the River, a fundraising gala to be held at the private residence of Marcia & Gary Hendry.*

*The event will take place on Fri., March 31 from 6:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. and features dinner by Southern Table, live entertainment with the Nouveaux Honkies, drinks, dancing, a silent auction and more. Kari Polhemus and Brinley Johnson are co-chairing the not-to-be-missed event.*

*"Our Evening on the River is a night to celebrate the past works of the Environmental Studies Council and the bright future that awaits us," said Johnson. "It will be a night to celebrate the council's mission of environmental*

*stewardship and education - and what better setting to do that than a night on the beloved St. Lucie River!"*

*Funds raised will support Council programs, including college scholarships, a teaching position at the Center, educational outreach programs, new exhibits at the Center and much more.*

*Guests are encouraged to scoop up their tickets early at [www.escmc.org](http://www.escmc.org). Tickets are \$150 per person 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 31!*

# 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](mailto:kwasernash@gmail.com).



*Photo of former Boat Captain, John Whiticar, circa 1970s.*

## 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*

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 772-219-1887 x121. 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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WINTER 2017

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## Staff Spotlight: Joann Parisi



“This is God’s heaven here,” says Joann Parisi, our Facilities Technician at the Environmental Studies Center. She is one of the most dedicated and hard-working employees we’ve had the pleasure of working with! Our buildings are over 80 years old and can be a challenge to maintain. We’ve received many compliments from the community that our site has never looked better.

Joann wears many hats. She is responsible for not only the custodial duties, but the repair, maintenance, safety, and pest control of our campus. We are fortunate to have had the local Native Plant

Society assist with the care of the butterfly garden, but the weeding and trimming of plants, shrubs and trees can take several hours a week, 52 weeks a year, which Joann handles with optimism and pride.

Self-motivated, Joann demonstrates initiative in identifying potential problems and offers suggestions for improvement. She is always willing to share her knowledge with others or lend a helping hand when needed. She is truly committed to the students we serve and has been an asset to ESC.

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