



TURTLE TRACKS

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES COUNCIL

FALL 2017

Join Us at the Annual Open House October 21!

Council trustee Mary Radabaugh and volunteer Farah Daye are hard at work planning the upcoming Open House event on October 21 - and you won't want to miss it! 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 21 from 10am-1pm, guests will enjoy interactive activities, refreshments and sign-ups for the year's many special events.

Come meet Joey the Alligator, explore the wet labs, take in the sea turtle exhibit, and so much more!

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.escmc.org or call 772-219-1887 x 121.

THANK YOU!

Conchy Joe's Restaurant and The Dolphin Bar and Shrimp House recently donated \$3,000 for improvements to the Center's Wet Lab. The Center is converting the Wet Lab to a closed-system circulation to improve the water quality for our marine life. New pumps, plumbing, and a large holding tank will be purchased and installed soon. In addition, Conchy Joe's is partnering with us to provide additional support in the way of volunteers, repurposing equipment, and sponsoring special staff events. We truly appreciate their support!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, October 21
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

GRANDPARENTS DAY

Saturday, February 10
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

March 2017, Secret Location
Stay tuned for exciting details!

EARTH DAY

Saturday, April 21
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.



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 Environmental Studies Center is a pillar in the Martin County community. For the past 45 years, Martin County students have visited the Center to learn more about science and the environment. Multiple generations have now enjoyed attending the Center for classes and summer camps. Many adults who once came to the Center as students return with their own children. And each eagerly shares their experience with the younger generation.

Originally Jensen Elementary School, the Center retains the charm and feel of "old Florida." For example, the school's original coat racks were recently found and put on display in the Blue Door Room. And the Martin County School District and Center staff continually work



to blend the old and the new. The latest in classroom technology has been incorporated into each grade's program. Digital touch screens, classroom response devices, and the latest teaching methods make already exciting topics even more engaging for students.

Whether it has been one, five or forty years since your last visit, I invite you to stop by. Take some time to remark at what never changes and discover the new teaching tools, technology, and exhibits throughout the facility. The Environmental Studies Center is open to the public during school hours and for special events such as the Fall Open House (Oct 21), Grandparents Day (Feb 10), and Earth Day (Apr 21).

This school year, I hope you'll visit the Center to treasure its charm and be impressed by its latest upgrades!

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

Welcome New Teacher: Brook Bullock

Please join us in wishing a warm welcome to the Center's newest teacher, Brook Bullock! Prior to joining the Center, Bullock was the Science Lab Teacher at Palm City Elementary, a job she credits as being one of the best in the county. "It was an amazing job working with a wonderful staff," Bullock said.

Now joining the team at the Environmental Studies Center, she says "I am the luckiest teacher in Martin County and dare I say the State of Florida!"

Bullock has always had a love for animals. "When I was young, I was wild about horses. I was even excited to see a cow! After moving to Florida my passion naturally gravitated to the world of marine life. My first job was as an assistant at Ocean World in Fort Lauderdale, working with dolphins, sea turtles, seals and sea lions, sharks, alligators, fishes and even a penguin!"



A graduate of the University of Florida, Bullock is the proud mother of two remarkable boys, Breyer, who proudly serves in the U. S. Army, and Baylor, a senior at Martin County High School who plans to stay in Martin County as a fishing guide.

August 24 was Bullock's first day with students and she was very excited to get started! "The required and important science standards will be taught, but, equally important, I will have the opportunity to fuel a passion in our children, our future guardians, of how priceless this environment and its inhabitants are."

2017 SEA TURTLE NESTING SEASON

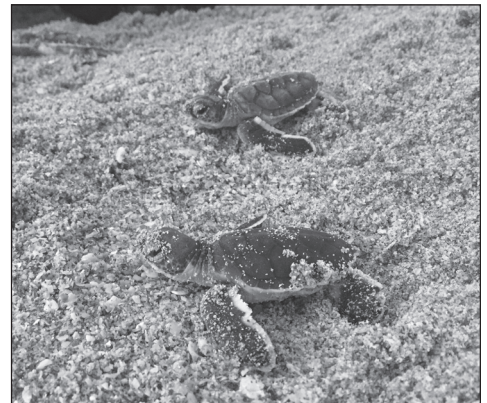
by: Council Trustee Samantha Pessolano, Ecological Associates, Inc.

South Hutchinson Island is an important nesting habitat for three species of sea turtles: leatherback, loggerhead and green turtle. The 2017 sea turtle nesting season has been one for the books. We recorded 7,819 loggerhead nests, 1,074 green turtle nests and 142 leatherback nests. Sea turtle nesting season runs March 1st - October 31st so we could see a few more nests before the end of this season!

Loggerhead sea turtles are the most common species to nest in the Southeastern United States. The Northwest Atlantic Ocean population of loggerhead sea turtles is thought to be the largest in the world. 90% of that population lay their nests on the east coast of Florida.

Sea turtles do not lay nests every year. They come back to their nesting grounds every two-three years. In a nesting season one turtle can lay five-seven nests, each containing 70-150 eggs.

Populations of all three species of turtles have increased over the last thirty years due to remarkable conservation efforts. Sea turtles still have a long way to go and conservation efforts need to continue to ensure the survival of these extraordinary creatures.



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.



Students learning to seine at the Environmental Studies Center circa the 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 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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FALL 2017

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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 led by two Jensen Beach High School Marine Science and Biology teachers, Nicole Vanderwerf and Samantha Robertson.

This year over 25 motivated and enthusiastic students joined the Earthsavers Crew! 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 the Environmental Studies Center's Open House. Come on out, it should be a wonderful event!



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

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