



# TURTLE TRACKS

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES COUNCIL

WINTER 2018

## 31st Annual Environmental Lecture Series

The Environmental Studies Council will be hosting its 31st Annual Environmental Lecture Series scheduled for 2018. The popular lecture series, presented by the Tobacco Free Partnership of Martin County, kicks off on January 17, and will take place on four Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. through February 7. The first lecture on January 17 will take place at The Lyric Theatre in Downtown Stuart. All subsequent lectures (January 24, January 31, and February 7) 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 Tom Fitz, freelance cameraman and filmmaker, on January 17 at The Lyric Theatre, sharing his experiences from filmmaking around the world.

Back at the Environmental Studies Center on January 24, Mike Macklin and Kathleen Euler will highlight the history of beekeeping and a comparison between commercial and backyard beekeeping. On January 31, Chelsea Bennice, will discuss her research investigating the ways in which two octopus species in South Florida use resources differently in order to coexist. The series concludes with Michael James Meier, co-founder of Ground Floor Farms, on February 7, who will discuss the environmental impact of the foods we eat and explore sustainable food options.

The Lecture Series is run 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.

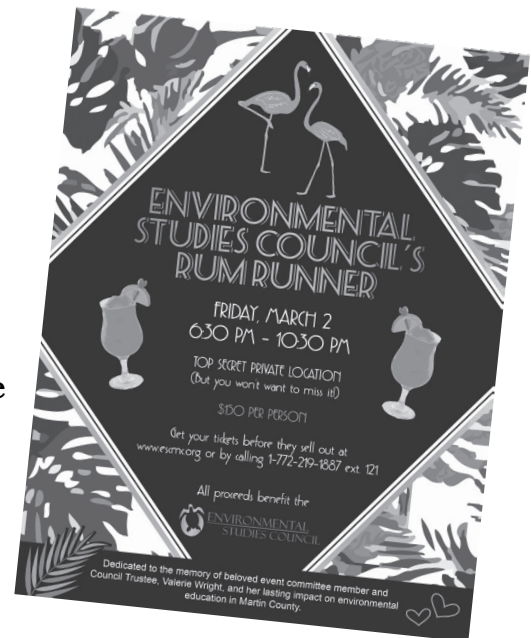
## SAVE THE DATE: ESC'S ANNUAL GALA

Mark your calendars now for March 2 - this year's fundraising gala for the Environmental Studies Council! Join us for an evening straight from the 1920s on the Rum Runnin' coast of Martin County. Located at a top-secret private residence, this event is the best kept secret on the Treasure Coast! You'll enjoy an evening in the lush tropical locale, filled with live music, dancing, dinner, an extensive silent auction, open bar, and - of course - rum!

Purchase your tickets now at [escmc.org](http://escmc.org) to reveal hints to the final location - but we promise you'll have the time of your life at this exclusive venue!

Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Email [info@escmc.org](mailto:info@escmc.org) or call 772-219-1887 ext. 121 for a complete list of opportunities.

See you at the Rum Runner!



*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

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## From the desk of the President

As the weather cools, the Environmental Studies Council is busy with events. We've made some big changes to this year's Environmental Lecture Series. It kicks off with a very special lecture at The Lyric Theatre on January 17. The series then returns to the Environmental Studies Center on January 24, 31, and February 7. We're especially thankful for Tobacco Free Martin County's continued support of this exciting and educational program.

For the second year, we're hosting Martin County's Youth Driven Cinema film contest and festival. All K-12 Martin County students are invited to submit a 3-minute video incorporating the theme "Spread the Word, Florida's Ecosystems Need Our Help." Students, family, and the general public are invited to view the top films at the Lyric Theatre on April 13. First, second, and third place finishers in each category will receive prizes and every student that attends the film festival has the chance to win a GoPro camera. All of the details can be found at [www.youthdrivencinema.com](http://www.youthdrivencinema.com)

Join us for the biggest secret of the year! Get your tickets now for Rum Runner - our annual fundraiser that promises an evening like no other - filled with amazing food, great entertainment, and more! More information can be found [www.esmc.org](http://www.esmc.org)

If you haven't yet, please show your support for the Center and make your tax deductible donation to the Environmental Studies Council. The Council has 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.

I hope that you'll join me at one of the Council events or by making a donation to show your support of the Environmental Studies Center.

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

# Grandparents Day

The Environmental Studies Council will be hosting “Grandparent’s Day” on Saturday, February 10 from 10am-1pm.

Students are encouraged to bring their grandparents to tour all of the exhibits, sharing what they’ve learned on their yearly visits to the center, where they are able to see the alligator, sea turtle, gopher tortoises, creatures in the wet lab, and much more up close!

They’ll also have the opportunity to meet the newest resident sea turtle at the center - Luna!

Visitors on February 10 will enjoy crafts, activities, games, refreshments and more, as well as the opportunity to visit the Center’s gift shop. Visit [escmc.org](http://escmc.org) to learn more!



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## EVINRUDE DONATES ENGINES

Evinrude, a BRP company, has donated two 150 horsepower Evinrude E-TEC outboard engines to the Environmental Studies Center. Evinrude’s commitment to support the Center’s educational programs is truly appreciated. Students participate in real-world scientific processes such as examining mangrove communities, discovering saltwater grassflat organisms, studying the effects of tides and collecting and testing samples which indicate overall health of waterways. The donation of these two engines will keep River Scout running smoothly for years to come.



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## SCUTE IS RELEASED AND NEW CENTER SEA TURTLE NAMED



Scute, the Center’s resident sea turtle of two years, was released into the ocean at Jensen Beach on October 31. Center staff and students gathered at the beach to see him off and wish him happy voyages as he returned to life at sea. Before his release, a new turtle arrived at the Center. As the nameless turtle became accustomed to



her new home, all kindergarten classes were asked to submit a name for this new arrival. Our judges were impressed with all the creative entries but chose the name Luna, submitted by Mrs. Bakkedahl’s class from Citrus Grove Elementary. Her class was treated to an ice cream party and each child received a picture of Luna swimming in her new home. Stop by any time and observe her enjoying her new environment.





## Thank you!

Magnus Biglin, James Connelly, and Bowen Sailor conducted a Beach Clean Up last fall, taking in donations to support their effort. They donated their collections of nearly \$100.00 to the Center!



**C**alling all cooks! Visit the Center's gift shop to pick up your copy of Florida Flavors II - the Center's famous cook book. Only \$5 or 2 for \$7.

## 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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WINTER 2018

Non-Profit  
Organization  
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STUART, FL  
PERMIT NO. 182

## In Memory of Valerie Wright

**T**he Environmental Studies Council lost our beloved trustee, Valerie Wright, this November. Valerie, an adored mother, wife and friend to many, was on the council for only a year, but in that time she made a huge impact on the work we do. You've likely seen her smiling face at last year's Evening on the River or at any of our community outreach events. She volunteered to assist with the Turtle Tracks newsletter, and was already hard at work planning the upcoming Rum Runner fundraiser.

Valerie's commitment to our community and to environmental education was contagious. Always with a smile on her face, she shared her passion with all those around her. Her fellow Rum Runner committee members have dedicated the event to Valerie, and her legacy will remain with us all.



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

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