



# TURTLE TRACKS

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES COUNCIL

SUMMER 2018

## Behind Our Red Door

What makes the Environmental Studies Center so special?

For those of you who have had the opportunity of walking through our brightly colored doors you surely know the answer. Try to imagine a child visiting, learning, seeing with eyes WIDE open. Every week, over 400 students from ages 5-17 walk through these doors ready for an adventure. This experience will leave a footprint, a small step that will last a lifetime in their environmental education. Through our exhibits, marine life and the dedication of our teachers, we give them so much more than just a field trip.

The Environmental Studies Council is a vital part of the growth, heart, and community pulse of the Center. We strive to make a difference every year in our fundraising efforts. This summer our Council's goal is to give our RED DOOR room

a makeover with interactive, sensory habitats reflecting the community we live in. Please join us in this effort by choosing to become a sponsor. Together, we can make a difference!

Sponsorships of the Red Door Classroom are available at the following levels:

Red Door Supporter: \$500

Red Door Friend: \$1,000

Red Door Visionary: \$5,000

Red Door Dream: \$20,000

To help support the Red Door project, please visit [escmc.org](http://escmc.org) and click on the Red Door Room project or call 772-219-1887 x 121.



## Congratulations to our Scholarship Recipient

Congratulations to Sydney Towle, a graduate of South Fork High School! Sydney was presented with a \$5,000 scholarship at the May Environmental Studies Council Trustee's meeting. Read her heartfelt thanks to our Council...

Dear Environmental Studies Council Board,  
I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for being chosen as your scholarship recipient. With your help, I am able to pursue my passion for the environment at my dream college (Darmouth). This award will allow me to focus more on my education, rather than the cost. I am truly so honored and will try my best to make you proud. Thank you for believing in me and my dreams.  
Sincerely,  
Sydney Towle



## THANK YOU TO THE MERRY MERMAIDS!



Lorna Day of Ooo La La Catering and Kimberly Perron of Resort at Home recently hosted the Merry Mermaid Party at the Women's Club of Stuart, benefiting the

Environmental Studies Council! Thank you to Lorna and Kimberly for a fabulous event and a generous donation to the Council!



Photos by Liz MicKinley: Top to Bottom, Kimberly's Resort at Home display featuring her latest fabric collection; Lorna gave an entertaining cooking demonstration; Council trustees enjoyed the food and festivities!



**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

**Kim Waser Nash**  
Council President

**Kari Polhemus**  
First Vice President

**Kara Muzia**  
Second Vice President

**Kris Kerr**  
Secretary

**Peggy Paterson**  
Treasurer

**Cody Mott**  
Past President

### Council Trustees

Grant Baysinger	Nicole Mader
Kelly Bond Pelletier	Erik Martin
Jane M Buss	Kaija Mayfield
Cory Carter	Samantha Pessolano
Farah Daye	Coltin Radabaugh
Suzanne Granfield	Mary Radabaugh
Jeffrey Guertin	Nancy Scott
Patty Henderson	Kait Toebe
Kent Hughes	Michael Yustin
Brinley Johnson	

**Office Manager:** Rebecca Mott

### Center Teachers

Marilyn Gavitt, Administrator	
Heather Arnold	Michelle Fowler
Brook Bullock	Capt. John Vanilla
Charlie Carr	

### Center Staff

Sheri Tschinkel	Joann Parisi
-----------------	--------------

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

## From the desk of the President

Another school year at the Environmental Studies Center has flown by! The teachers and staff once again did an incredible job of providing a rich and engaging environmental education for Martin County's students. The Environmental Studies Council continued to support the Center in its mission providing funding for a teacher's salary, boat and aquarium repairs, classroom supplies, and much more.

The end of the school year also marked the end of my time as the Council president. It was an honor to serve as the leader of an organization so highly respected within our community. Over the past three years, the Council and Center staff have worked hard to modernize the Center while maintaining the old Florida charm that makes it such a special place. Being part of the process to improve each student's educational experience was extremely rewarding. It was also an absolute pleasure to work with the inspiring teachers and staff as well as the dedicated Council members and volunteers that support the Center.

I'd also like to warmly welcome the new Council president, Kim Waser Nash. Kim attended the Center as an eager Martin County student. She has been a Council member for seven years and has been extremely active with the Council's fundraising activities. She has also served as the editor for this Turtle Tracks newsletter since 2012. I'm excited to see what fresh ideas Kim brings to the Council in the upcoming year.

Sincerely,  
Cody Mott



*The new executive board was installed by School Board member Marsha Powers at the May Council meeting: Kris Kerr, Secretary; Kara Muzia, 2nd Vice President; Kari Polhemus, 1st Vice President; Peggy Paterson, Treasurer; Kim Nash, President; Marsha Powers; and Cody Mott, Past President*

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



## SUMMER CAMP AT THE CENTER!

Summer Camp is in full swing at the Environmental Studies Center! This year, the Center will welcome over 600 children during the month of June. Activities include fishing, seining, snorkeling, cast netting, setting up aquaria, and rides on the River Scout. Children also enjoy arts & crafts, games & relay races, and interacting with the animals on campus.

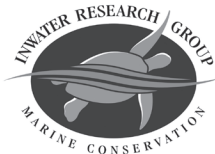
Camp WET participants, the Center's grant-funded camp, also go to Jonathan Dickinson Park and ride on the Loxahatchee River Queen where they will explore Trapper Nelson's home site. In addition, Camp WET participants get to ride on the infamous Dragon Boats in the Indian River Lagoon!

Camp is always a special time at the Center. Thank you to the Hughes family, the Reamer family, the Hatch family, the Schermerhorn family, the Jensen Beach Garden Club, the family of Michael Chatham, the Environmental Studies Council and the Perry J. Cohen Foundation for their generous donations of camp scholarships for children in need.

## THANK YOU TO OUR RUM RUNNER SPONSORS!



**Wallace**  
VOLVO



Center For Travel



TEAM PARKS

Nic Mader

Jane Buss



The  
"Butterscotts"



## Rum Row Sponsors

**PREMIER**  
PHYSICAL THERAPY & SPORTS MEDICINE



Just Gold Jewelers  
Fine Jewelry and Diamonds Since 1986

**BRIDGE**  
FINANCIAL



Patty & Kevin  
Henderson



## Cap's Place Sponsors

**MONTEREY**  
MOTOR CARS

**FOGEL**  
CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, INC.



**AVID**

The Pelletier  
Family



Felix A. Williams  
Elementary PTA



Special thanks to our hosts, Lehr & Paul Filipe



## THE ANIMALS OF THE CENTER

Have you been by the Center lately? Our baby sea turtle, Luna, has tripled in size! She loves swimming around in her 6,000 gallon tank. Joey #6 will be leaving us this summer as he retires to Busch Wildlife Sanctuary in Jupiter, Florida. Although still a baby at two-years-old, he is getting too large and ornery to handle. Joey #7 will be making his debut before school starts. All the tanks in the Wet Lab are on a closed circulation system now. The water is much clearer and easier to maintain. We have horseshoe crabs, a lobster, tarpon, snook, a nurse shark, look downs, and puffers. Children especially enjoy our touch tanks where they can get up close and personal with hermit crabs, horseshoe crabs, pencil urchins, and sea cucumbers.



Our coral reef tank is taking off with all kinds of Atlantic sea life. It is vibrant and colorful, especially when the black light is on! Stop by when the school year begins. We are open to the public most days from 1:30 pm-3:00 pm.

**Congratulations  
to the  
Environmental  
Studies Center  
Employee of the Year!**

Congratulations to Captain John Vanilla, the Center's Employee of the Year! Captain John can be spotted on the River Scout, safely transporting students through our local waterways as they explore and investigate local habitats. We appreciate you, Captain John!



## Wish List

The Environmental Studies Center needs your support! The Center has a current need for:

- *Exhibit sponsors - help support new exhibits in the Red Door Room!*
- *New Life Jackets for the River Scout - visit our website for the link to purchase!*
- *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

SUMMER 2018

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

## Save the Date: 2018 Open House

**T**he Environmental Studies Council will be hosting their Annual Open House on Sat., October 6 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. 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 6, guests will enjoy interactive activities, refreshments and sign-ups for the year's many special events.

Guests will have the opportunity to 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, and kids science kits.

“The Open House offers families the chance to enjoy all the wonderful environmental learning activities that students take part in during their annual field trips to the Center,” said event co-chair Farah Daye. Daye, a trustee of the Environmental Studies Council, is planning the event along trustees Mary Radabaugh and Coltin Radabaugh.

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.

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

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