



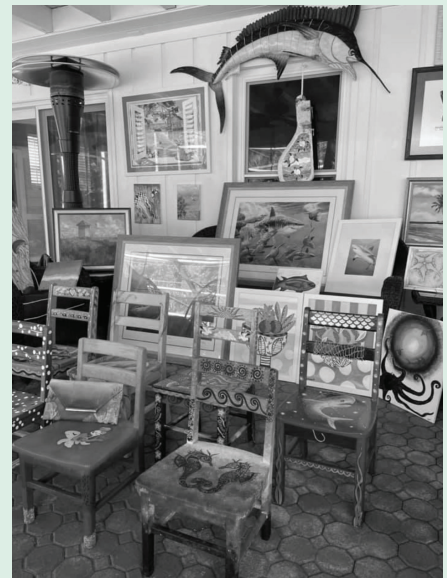
# TURTLE TRACKS

SUMMER 2021

## Online art auction a success!

by Mary Radabaugh

On March 18, 2021 the Environmental Studies Council launched their very first online auction featuring local artists including students as well as adults. Due to our local artist donating over 45 pieces of their work, we were able to present these items for bid and raffle with all proceeds supporting The Environmental Studies Center located in Jensen Beach FL. We were able to raise \$15,000.00 plus dollars, with feedback from participants being that this was a fun event as well as easy to navigate. A few of the most popular items were the hand painted student chairs that were original to the center as well as the raffle for the Photography Session with Lindsey Potter who just happens to be one of our council members as well as a committee member for the fundraiser. We would like to thank our community for participating in our annual fundraiser and the continuing support towards the center. All donations benefiting The Environmental Studies Center will continue to educate our youth of the importance of protecting and conserving our environment. Stay tuned...We may have another online event in the fall and would look forward to all participating again in supporting the Environmental Studies Center. A huge thank you to Coltin Radabaugh Co-chair, Nicole Mader, Kaite Toebe and Lindsey Potter for their time and effort to make this event what it was!



## 2021 Turtle Walks

by Samantha Pessolano

The Environmental Studies Council will be hosting 2 guided sea turtle walks this summer after taking a hiatus last summer due to COVID-19. Participants will be given an educational presentation while our scouts patrol the local beaches looking for a nesting turtle. The scouts will be looking for a loggerhead sea turtle emerging from the water trying to find the perfect place to lay her eggs. If we are lucky, our scouts will find a mother who found a great spot on the beach and participants will get to view the egg laying and nest camouflaging process. This event is conducted under a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Martine Turtle Permit. Educational facilities, such as ESC, is the only safe and legal way to observe the nesting sea turtles. For more information on sea turtle visit [MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com).

**\*\*Please note all activities are conducted under FWC MTP #21-160.**

***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

**Kara Muzia**

Council President

**Suzanne Granfield**

First Vice President

**Coltin Radabaugh**

Second Vice President

**Kris Kerr**

Secretary

**Peggy Paterson**

Treasurer

**Kim Waser Nash**

Past President

### Council Trustees

Misty Aydelotte	Kaija Mayfield
Grant Baysinger	Cody Mott
Cory Carter	Kari Polhemus
Farah Daye	Lindsey Potter
Jody Edwards	Mary Radabaugh
Skylar Gorman	Sarah Ralicki
Jeffrey Guertin	Tricia Rastrelli
Patty Henderson	Angela Schramm
Nicole Mader	Nancy Scott
Nicolette Mariano	Kait Toebe

**Office Manager:** Jen Burrage

### Center Teachers

Valerie Gaynor, Coordinator

Heather Arnold	Michelle Fowler
Brook Bullock	Capt. John Morrow
Charlie Carr	

### Center Staff

Anita Mattia	Joann Parisi
--------------	--------------



## From the desk of the President

As we spring into summer, it's fun to think of all the fun, summery activities that await us. Long days at the beach, summer camp, maybe a family vacation or two. While we're spending our time playing outside, there are ways to make our recreation educational and even beneficial for the environment.

One of the many amazing things about Martin County is our water. My personal favorite thing to do is to get out snorkeling at St. Lucie Inlet State Park, located just south of the inlet. Some of the amazing creatures I've seen are nurse sharks, grouper, sawfish, and even manta rays.

The St. Lucie Inlet here in Stuart marks the northernmost point of the South Florida Reef Tract, a stretch of coral that runs from us here in Martin County and winds down around the Keys, ending at the Dry Tortugas. It's the largest coral reef tract in the contiguous United States. We have a unique opportunity here to be involved in monitoring the health of the reef through Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) Bleachwatch Program. After a lesson from one of FDEP's biologists, you can help collect invaluable data- the health of our coral reefs.

The Bleachwatch program is part of FDEP's Seafan network. Citizen scientists, observers can report other marine anomalies including vessel groundings, anchor damage, and even marine debris- the trash- that you find floating in the ocean or washed up on shore.

Taking a guided sea turtle walk is also a great way to learn more about these special creatures that share our beaches. When you go with a knowledgeable guide, not only do you get intimate knowledge of sea turtles, but you're also more likely to see one.

Whether you're snorkeling this summer, going on a guided sea turtle walk, or simply helping by keeping our beaches clean, I wish you a fun-filled, watery summer here on the Treasure Coast.

Best wishes,  
Kara Muzia

## Did Your Membership Expire?

Have you renewed your membership to the Environmental Studies Council? We need your support!

To sign up, log on to [www.escmc.org](http://www.escmc.org) or call (772) 219-1887 x 121

# ***New Center Secretary: Ms. Anita Mattia***

**O**riginally from Long Island, NY, she has lived on or near the water most of her life. She has two sons with two beautiful daughters-in-law who she considers daughters. She lives here with her husband and enjoys fishing, hitting the beaches, and life on the river - all that nature has to offer is her greatest pastime.

“Growing up in the ‘country’ and living on Long Island close to the water has made me appreciate nature and the outdoors, Ms. Mattia said. “I love the beach and all it has to offer. The wildlife and scenery never get old to me. I could sit in the sun with a good book at the beach for hours on end! I love listening to music, love the theater and enjoy watching old black and white movies. Reading, spending time at the beach and with friends and family is what I enjoy the most. I can never do enough of it!”



---

## ***BIO CORNER***

by Kara Muzia

Summertime means sea turtle nesting here in Martin County!

Three of the seven species of sea turtles found in the world nest right here on our beaches. These are the loggerhead, green, and leatherback. While sea turtle nesting season technically runs March 1 through October 31, each species has their own rhythm of nesting, the height of which is summertime. And no, sea turtles don't know when their nesting season is, so you'll notice they do not stay within this March to October timeline.

Leatherbacks kick off nesting season, with the first nest laid usually in February. The largest sea turtle in the world, these leathery giants spend most of their time in pelagic, or open, ocean, and in colder waters. In fact, leatherbacks have been seen as far north as the Arctic Circle!

Loggerheads typically start nesting here in mid to late April. Our beaches here have some of the highest numbers of nesting loggerheads in the world!



Green sea turtles are the late comers, they start nesting towards the end of May, but they've been found nesting as late as Thanksgiving! These guys are so named not because their shell is green, but because they eat so much seagrass that their fat and tissues have turned the chlorophyll!

As you enjoy your beach time this summer, please remember we share the sand with these amazing creatures. Remember to leave the beach clean, dark, and flat, so we can have many more fruitful turtle seasons to come.



**The ESC is so excited to welcome campers back on our campus this summer! We will be doing three weeks in July for students entering 2nd through 8th grade. It will be a fun-filled week of outdoor activities for the kids. Campers will have the opportunity to set up an aquarium with partners and fill that aquarium with specific organisms they catch while seining. In addition the campers will be enjoying a couple boat rides, snorkeling, fishing, and games at the ESC. The gift shop will be open for a visit, ice cream will be for sale, and they can even create their own icee from Kona ice! Of course every camp day will include a couple visits to the beach to splash in the waves, build sand castles, or catch sand fleas in the surf! We've been waiting a LONG time to have kids on our campus with sandy shoes and fishy fingers!**

## **Wish List**

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

- Critter food for our residents
- Check out the Environmental Studies Council facebook page for the Amazon wish list!

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 2021

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

## **Scholarship Winner**

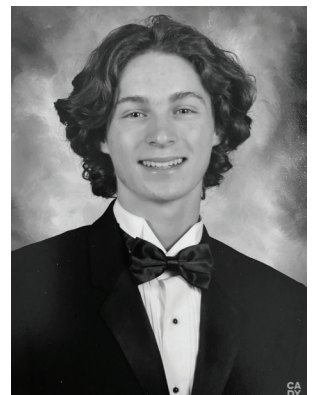
by Suzanne Granfield,  
Chairman ESC Scholarship committee

**The 2021 ESC Scholarship winner is...**  
**Evan Phillips from MCHS!**

Evan is pursuing Environmental Engineering at University of Florida in the fall. He is an Eagle Scout, active in Band and National Honor Society as well as track.

Evan plans to pursue a career as a scientific researcher to develop new materials that are safer for the environment and possibly a new form of plastic which is safer so future generations can continue to enjoy our land and resources.

Congratulations Evan, we look forward to following your moves into the future and hearing how you are doing!



**Find us on Amazon Smile to support the Council!**

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

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