



# TURTLE TRACKS

WINTER 2023

## Celebrating 50 years at the ESC!

For 50 years now, kids of all ages have awoken on that one special morning during the school year...Field Trip Day to the ESC!! If you grew up in Martin County, you know what I am talking about. For many it was the best day of their school year! Over 14,000 students a year, in grades K-7th, get to experience this awesome day and learn about the complex habitats of seagrass beds, mangrove forests, and coral reefs with a hands on approach and under the guidance of our amazing ESC teachers. The “spark” that the ESC ignites in children is priceless, something they carry with them forever. For Kim Ryan, her memories of “just wanting to find a seahorse” while seining have stuck with her, and the years spent at the ESC as a child have provided her with the knowledge to have a lifelong love and respect for her home. For Amanda Hart, her favorite memories of the ESC are mostly from her childhood and Camp Wet, but that doesn’t compare to watching her daughter, Aurora, grow up to love the ESC! And for parent Kelly Hollinger, her favorite memory is “sitting in line with our lawn chairs at 4am with coffee and friends waiting to sign our kids up for the amazing camp”. Thankfully we now have online registration, so that memory is one to be cherished for sure, Kelly! I am sure there are thousands of memories, just like Kim’s, Amanda’s and Kelly’s where kids develop a lifelong love and respect for our environment, where generations get to experience the magic of the ESC, and where parents get to drop their kids off for the best week of the summer with lasting memories of them coming home happy, tired, and full of stories of why the ESC is most definitely the place to be!

## 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the ESC



Join the Elliott Museum in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the ESC! Enjoy a cash bar and light food while listening to the past experiences and observing photographs from years gone by!

March 1, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Flip Flops ONLY!

\$30 per ticket RSVP on Eventbrite, scan QR code or Call the Elliott Museum @ 772-225-1961

Proceeds from this event will go to the Environmental Studies Council and the Historical Society of Martin County

Join us for the Environmental Studies Center 50th Anniversary Fundraiser and Celebration!

April 1, 2023 5-9PM

Visit [www.escmc.org](http://www.escmc.org) for more details and sponsorship opportunities!



***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

I have the utmost pleasure of being the President of the Environmental Studies Center Council as we commemorate an amazing milestone of this banner year! The Center is officially celebrating its 50th anniversary this April and what a privilege it is to honor the amazing work accomplished, the knowledge shared, and the spark of curiosity the ESC has instilled in our community over the past five decades.

I myself looked forward to the ESC field trips throughout my early education. As a teenager I explored the coastal waterway and experienced the center from a counselor's perspective, and I continue to encourage future generations to engage in this work. This year we want to acknowledge the past while protecting and enhancing the education programs provided. As I wish each of you a Happy New Year, I want to encourage all to support our fundraising efforts and assist us in continuing these efforts to provide free outreach and community programs such as our lecture series, Open House, Earth Day and Grandparents Day celebrations.

This council of dedicated community volunteers works tirelessly to aid in providing these programs along with college scholarship opportunities, a teaching position at the Center, and much more. I personally want to extend a thank you for the continued work this team and community have provided and will continue to provide over this next year!

We hope to see you at our 50th anniversary fundraising celebration! For those of you unable to attend, thank you for your continued support and as always we welcome new members and donors as we continue to promote environmental awareness.

Sincerely,  
Coltin Radabaugh

## 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



# Passport for Learning

**W**e are kicking off our 50th Anniversary strong!! Excited to announce the launch of “Passport for Learning” which is a partnership with the Children’s Museum, House of Refuge, Elliott Museum, Hobe Sound Nature Center and Florida Oceanographic. Students will be able to visit these locations for free with a paid adult, starting February 1, 2023. At each location they will receive a stamp and when their passport is filled, they will receive a sticker for their water bottle. This is to promote the use of reusable water bottles and introduce children and their families to the amazing educational opportunities in Martin County.

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## CORAL THE SEA TURTLE

Congratulations to Mrs. Carbaugh’s kindergarten class at Palm City Elementary for submitting the winning name, Coral, for the ESC’s new turtle. They enjoyed an ice cream sundae party and were excited to receive their own picture of Coral. They are looking forward to meeting her on their field trip to the Center in the spring.

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## EEL GRASS PLANTING

In November, Nick Muzia, Storm Water Engineer with Martin County, made an onsite presentation at the Coral Gardens Stormwater Treatment Area for five EarthSavers and their JBHS science sponsors, Nicky Weiler and Samantha Robertson. Nick explained the benefits of using natural processes, such as the planting of eel grasses (*vallisneria americana*) to filter out toxins from run-off waters before reaching the Indian River Lagoon. Earth Savers got their feet wet replanting the loose eel grass and removing some of the nuisance plants that hinder the growth of the eelgrass. It was a beautiful day and there were many birds taking advantage of the area.

The Environmental Studies Council hopes to make this an ongoing collaborative project with Nick and Martin County for the Earth Savers to assist in enhancing the water quality entering the Indian River Lagoon. If anyone is interested in participating in this project you can contact Nick Muzia at 772-288-5761



## Thank you!

Environmental Studies Center would like to take the opportunity to thank the Treasure Coast Golf Course Superintendent Association for their generous donation for our new sea turtle interactive display. We are grateful to have such amazing community support! We cannot wait to share with our students! Thank you Scott MacPhee and Chris Gast for organizing this incredible donation!



## 12 Days of Christmas Supporters

Thank you for supporting our construction in the Wet Lab to replace our wood with more durable composite wood around our Main Tank:

Crowder Rods  
Shelly Caldwell  
The Poley Family

## Grandparents Day

Thank you to the Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin and Okeechobee counties for your support this year at Grandparents Day! We had such a fun day exploring the center and enjoying the read-a-longs!

## Happy Retirement, Joann!

A big congratulations to Joann Parisi on her retirement as Plant Manager of the Environmental Studies Center. Joann has been working at the Center for 10 years and is responsible for the ESC looking so fabulous. She is a “jack of all trades” and can do anything from fixing machinery, painting, gardening and repairing whatever needs to be repaired. Her love of animals and dedication to the center is very evident by looking at the ESC property. She will be missed, especially her unique personality, but hoping her next chapter in life will be just as rewarding.....Her plans are to move to Georgia, marry big foot, dig for gold and live off the land. She has provided the ESC family an open invitation to visit. She says she just wants to live in peace and harmony. We wish you the best Joann, living in peace and harmony with Big Foot!



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