

ENVIRONMENTAL
STUDIES CENTER

MOBILE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MOBILE, AL



www.mcps.com/esc

Desiree Bishop
Director

Susan Clement
Biologist

Tracy Delcambre
Resource Teacher

Troy Latham
Resource Teacher

Anita Salinas
Resource Teacher

Grace Phelps
Bookkeeper

Judson Martin
Grounds Keeper

Hubert Robinson
Custodian



Wild Adventures

Volume III, Issue I

Fall 2012

Critter Corner



Meet Ichabod

Ichabod is a Sandhill Crane. The Sandhill Crane is a tall bird with mainly grey feathers and a red forehead. These birds can often live to be 20 years old. Being an omnivore, they eat everything from seeds and grains to invertebrates and small vertebrates. Sandhill Cranes are not seen often in our area but can be found in the region in grasslands, meadows, and wetlands. Stop by and meet Ichabod on your next visit to the ESC.

The ESC is open Monday—Friday from 8:00 until 4:30.

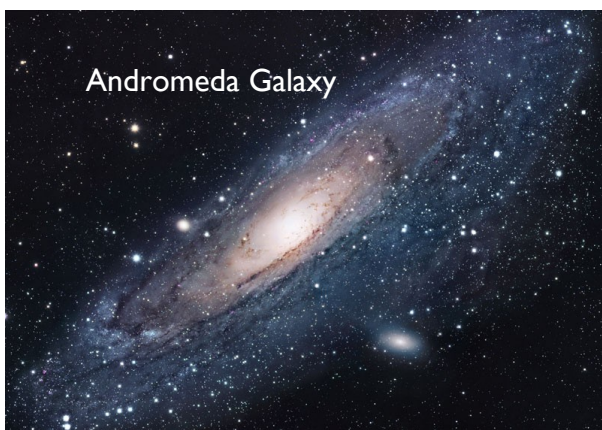
What's Happening at the Center

The weather is beginning to cool and the leaves are changing. The grounds at the Environmental Studies Center are a beautiful place in the fall! Hopefully, you've had a chance to visit the Center lately. School children tour the grounds daily learning about native plants and animals. On Saturday, November 3rd, Fall Open House was held. As always, a great time was had by all who attended. Open House will occur again in the spring on Saturday, May 4th.

A new program has begun at the center entitled The Raptor Road Show. This is where the Center's resident birds of prey are brought to you for special events. Prices are reasonable for each show. Participating raptors often include the barred owl, great-horned owl, American kestrel, red-tailed hawk, screech owl, and osprey. This program engages and educates audiences about the wonders of native birds or prey. All monies raised through this program, help to support the wildlife rehabilitation program here at the Environmental Studies Center.

During the past two school years, the staff at the center has been working diligently to increase the number of middle school students served through educational programs. In order to do this, new programs have been developed that focus on the importance of local watersheds and orienteering. Funding has been provided in part through grants from NOAA and Legacy. Teacher education has played a major role in these programs. To date the participating middle school students have learned a great deal and enjoyed their time spent at the center. The ESC staff hopes to continue these programs for all middle school students.

News from Out-of-this World



Andromeda Galaxy

The Environmental Studies Center hosted its annual Fall Sky Watch on October 23rd. The Mobile Astronomical Society generously provided their telescopes and expertise to share the wonders of the night sky with Mobile County's school students and the community. Guests were able to view the moon, the Ring Nebula, the Andromeda galaxy (our closest neighbor), Messier objects and various other deep sky objects. Fall constellations include Pegasus, Cassiopeia, Andromeda, Cygnus, Aquila and Lyra. Be sure to catch our Spring Sky Watch scheduled for February 19th, 2013.



Wildlife Success Stories

This past summer the Center received a newly hatched chuck-wills-widow nestling.. It was a healthy baby but, unfortunately it could not be returned to its parents because the people who found it kept it for several days before bringing it to the Center. Remember that healthy babies can always be returned to their nest.

Chuck-wills-widows are nocturnal insectivores. So, the baby was raised on a diet of mealworms, crickets, and small pieces of raw meat. Chuck-wills-widows only feed as they fly, so babies never self feed in captivity. Fortunately catching flying insects does not need to be taught to them. When the baby was fully feathered and flying well, it was released on the ESC property at dusk. It flew like a champ and hopefully is eating all of those annoying insects that everyone doesn't like to have around.



Annual Calendar Contest Winners

On November 3rd, the annual calendar contest winners were announced at Open House. The contest is sponsored each year by our Partner in Education, Pleasant Valley Opportunity Club. The winners are as follows:

Kindergarten-Third Grade

- 1st Place** Brooklyn Jones
McDavid Jones Elementary
- 2nd Place** August Rivera
Dawes Intermediate
- 3rd Place** Briana Collins
Dawes Intermediate

Fourth-Fifth Grade

- 1st Place** Min Seo Kim
Shepard Elementary
- 2nd Place** Andrew Travis
Dawes Intermediate
- 3rd Place** Melissa Calleo
Griggs Elementary

Sixth-Eight Grade

- 1st Place** Brooke Richardson
Grand Bay Middle
- 2nd Place** Jason Potts
Clark-Shaw Magnet
- 3rd Place** Christian Leslie
The Pathway

Ninth-Twelfth Grade

- 1st Place** Zoe Mould
Baker High
- 2nd Place** Abby Young
Theodore High
- 3rd Place** Kayle Bryant
Theodore High

Wildlife Rehabilitation News

Eagle Scout projects help the rehabilitation program tremendously. Building cages and making improvements on cages can get very costly but fortunately a lot of this has been done through Eagle Scout projects. Some improvements have been the food platforms and shelters in the bird of prey, coyote, water bird, and raccoon exhibits. Several new cages have also been built. In addition, a concrete pond was added to the coyote cage. Several projects are in the works now. If you know of a boy scout that needs an idea for an Eagle Scout project, keep the Center in mind.



Become a Member of the Environmental Studies Center's Wildlife Friends

The Environmental Studies Center houses a wildlife rehabilitation program that is dedicated to the care and potential release of injured and orphaned native wildlife. You can help the wildlife rehabilitation program by becoming a "Wildlife Friend". The ESC needs your help fund raising, doing mailings, and maintaining exhibits. Please assist the ESC in helping local wildlife.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____

Zip Code: _____ **Phone:** _____

E-Mail: _____

Membership (includes a newsletter subscription)
\$10.00 Individual or Family (annually)

I can volunteer to help with:

Fund Raising/Donation Solicitation _____	Mailings _____
Promotions _____	Orphan Caretaker _____
Animal Transportation _____	Exhibit Maintenance/Construction _____
	Exhibit Animal Feeder _____

Wildlife Wish List

Clip-on clamp lamp	1 cc and 3cc syringes	Chicken vegetable baby food	Small frozen fish
Pine bark mulch	Pine shavings (for cages)	Dried whole corn	Cheerios
Cages	Baled hay	Frozen mixed vegetables	Scratch feed
Heating pads	Ziploc freezer bags (gallon & quart)	Fresh fruits and vegetables	Raisins
Liquid laundry soap	Bleach	Raw peanuts (in shell)	Wild birdseed
Liquid dishwasher soap	Paper towels	Nuts (in shell)	
Wal-Mart gift cards	Newspaper	Dry dog food (small bites)	
60-watt light bulbs	Plastic wrap	Unsalted sunflower seeds	
Scrub brushes	Dawn dish soap	Canned sardines in water	
Cash	Animal crackers	Canned dog and cat food	

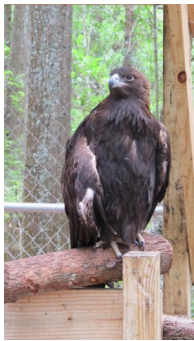


Wildlife Adoptions

For a \$25 annual donation you can help with the feeding, care, and shelter of one of the native wildlife housed here at the Environmental Studies Center. Not only can you adopt an animal for yourself but, you can give an adoption as a gift. Adoption benefits include: adoption certificate, photograph of your animal, fact sheet about the species, recognition of your adoption on the exhibit, and the opportunity to make a scheduled visit with "your" animal.

Complete the information below and mail it to the Center with your payment. Make checks payable to the Environmental Studies Center.

Animal Adoption



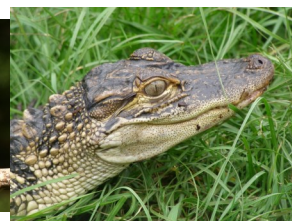
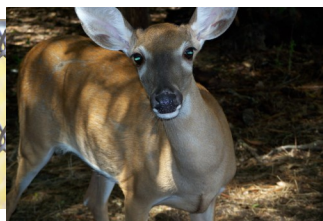
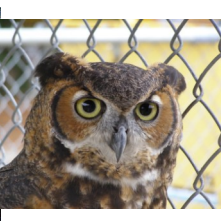
Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

Please choose one: ☐ Raccoon ☐ Deer ☐ Pelican ☐ Seagull ☐ Alligator
☐ Mallard Duck ☐ Canada Goose ☐ Black Vulture ☐ Turkey ☐ Coyote
☐ Red-Tailed Hawk ☐ Bald Eagle ☐ Golden Eagle ☐ Turkey Vulture ☐ Screech Owl
☐ Barred Owl ☐ Great-Horned Owl ☐ Great Blue Heron ☐ Wood Duck



Upcoming Fundraisers



The Environmental Studies Center will be having a day of fundraising activities on Thursday, November 29. Pizza Hut on South University Boulevard and Demetropolis Road will be donating a percentage of their pizza sales on that day to the Environmental Studies Center with the presentation of a voucher (included in this newsletter) when ordering. Also, on November 29 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm the Center will host a gold/silver buy back party. The Center will receive 15% of what is paid out to customers. At the last gold event customers took home anywhere between \$200 and \$1000 for their unwanted jewelry and coins. So mark your calendars for November 29 and come to the Environmental Studies Center to sell your unwanted jewelry and then go to Pizza Hut with your vouchers!

Partners in Education



degussa.

PVOC

Pleasant Valley Opportunity Club

*Dr. Louis Buckalew
& Family*



Thoughts from the Director

Why Environmental Education?

As a public education facility the Environmental Studies Center's mission is to promote environmental literacy, teach sustainability, and to make sure "No Child is Left Inside." Environmental education creates new levels of awareness and works toward a sustainable future. It is critical now because of the complex environmental challenges confronting our community, nation, and world which require an environmentally literate citizenry.

Sustainability is based on a simple principle. It is important to make sure that we have and will continue to have, the water, materials, and resources to protect human health and our environment. Everything that we need for our survival and well-being depends either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment.

Environmental education is important for everyone, but it is critical for our children. It is the stepping stone for creating the green workforce for a new economy. Engaging children in the world around them, getting them outdoors, and promoting thinking skills are all components of a literate population. Nurturing social awareness and engaging ideas into action helps our children become better leaders in a global society.

So it is our goal here at the Environmental Studies Center to be a role model for our community and to continue to educate and inform the children and the citizens of this community on how to protect our environment and promote a sustainable world.



Christmas Craft for Kids

Pine Cone Critters

Here are some scaly animals to give away or to hang on your Christmas tree.



What You Need:

- cardboard
- pine cones (you will need about one medium pine cone per animal)
- wiggle eyes, buttons, or beads
- small sharp scissors
- ribbon
- white craft glue

What You Do:

1. Draw animal shapes on the cardboard.
2. Cut out the shapes with scissors. (You may want to ask for an adult's help.)
3. Take a pine cone and carefully bend each scale backward until it snaps. Then ask an adult to help you cut the scales off the pine cones with small sharp scissors.
4. Squeeze a thick line of glue on the cardboard shape where you want a row of scales to go. Then glue down the scales. Repeat for each row of scales. Overlap the scales a little so the cardboard doesn't show.
5. If you want, you can leave space for the eyes and glue on wiggle eyes, buttons, or beads.
6. When the glue has dried, turn your creature over and glue on a long loop of ribbon.

*Craft by Kendra Lebo; Photo by American Image, Inc.
Courtesy of the National Wildlife Federation*

What are some simple things you can do to help the environment?

- | | |
|---|--|
| ♦ Plant a garden | ♦ Decrease use of chemicals |
| ♦ Compost | ♦ Use non-plastic refillable water bottles |
| ♦ Plant native plants for our native bees | ♦ Use unbleached coffee filters |
| ♦ Recycle anything | ♦ Use canvas grocery bags |
| ♦ Reuse anything | ♦ Unplug electronic devices not being used |

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**MOBILE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

MOBILE, AL

**6101 Girby Road
Mobile, Alabama
36693**

**Phone: 251-221-5000
Fax: 251-221-5002**

**Open 8:00a.m.-4:30p.m.
Monday—Friday**

**Individual Admission:
Free
\$2 Donation appreciated**

**Group tours:
Reservations required
Contact 251.221.5000
for pricing information**

Non-profit organization



Wild Adventures

The Environmental Studies Center is a natural sciences education facility designed to provide unique learning experiences. In addition, wildlife rehabilitation plays a vital role each day here at the Center. With over 500 acres of rich woodlands, the Center affords teachers, students, and the general public an opportunity to experience firsthand the natural environment. Natural resources include pine and bay forests, swamps, freshwater streams, carnivorous plant bog, and a twenty-acre lake.

Man-made resources include numerous nature trails, covered pavilions, live animal exhibits, butterfly garden, and native plant garden. Indoor facilities include an auditorium, library, and classroom containing live reptile exhibits, a saltwater aquarium, and numerous preserved specimens native to Alabama.



The Environmental Studies Center houses a wildlife rehabilitation program that is dedicated to the care and potential release of injured and orphaned native wildlife. The wildlife rehabilitation program receives over 1000 wild patients a year. These animals all need food, care, and shelter to survive. The program relies upon donations from people like you for its operation and success.

**Environmental Studies Center
6101 Girby Road
Mobile, Alabama 36693**