

ENVIRONMENTAL  
STUDIES CENTER

MOBILE COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MOBILE, AL



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Biologist

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Resource Teacher

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Custodian



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## Critter Corner



### Meet Macy

Macy is a 1 ½ year old brown pelican who came to us last year on the day before Thanksgiving. She is named after the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. She was found starving at a marina in Baldwin County and brought to Coastal Wildlife Rescue in Foley. She had a deformed lower beak, which we feel she was born with, and it prevented her from catching fish. Pelicans dive into the water and scoop fish up with their lower beak. The beak was not able to be fixed so Macy was placed with us as an educational animal. She is hand fed twice a day, since she is not able to pick fish up on her own.

Macy is now a major part of our educational program and she is used to teach students about adaptations in birds. She comes into the classroom where the students can get a very close view of her. She is housed in our fenced in rehabilitation yard near the parking lot, so come by and see Macy sometime.



# What's Happening at the Center

## Pesticides and Pollinators

Pollinators such as butterflies, honeybees, bumblebees, and solitary bees have become collateral damage in the war on pests. None of us like to work in our flower beds or gardens only to find them overrun by aphids, mites, caterpillars, etc. The easy solution is to break out the pesticides and go to work. Some plants and seeds are even pretreated to prevent insects from harming your vegetables or bedding plants. Unfortunately, pesticides do not discriminate between the harmful and beneficial insects.

One class of pesticides particularly harmful to pollinators is known as “neonicotinoids” or neonics for short. These include Acetamiprid, Clothianidin, Dinotefuran, Imidacloprid, Thiacloprid, and Thiamethoxam and disrupt the central nervous system of many insects including pollinators. Neonics are a widely used and popular pesticide due to their ease of application and effectiveness. The neonics are systemic, meaning the chemicals travel throughout the vascular system of the plant and therefore kills insects that feed on any part of that plant whether it's the leaves, pollen or nectar.

Many nurseries inoculate their plants with neonicotinoids so we should be careful as to what we purchase. The big box stores that supply flowers and plants have tags that will tell you if it has been treated with neonics. Read all the labels carefully before making your purchase. Be aware of what you are buying, the types of pesticides you are using, follow the application rates, and do not apply when the pollinators are out.

Happy gardening!





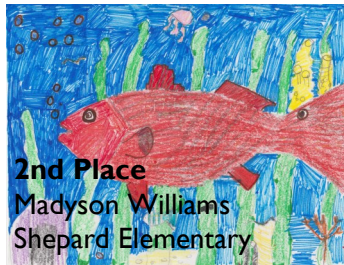
# Annual Art Contest Winners

On November 7th the annual art contest winners were announced at Open House. The contest is sponsored each year by our Partner in Education, Pleasant Valley Opportunity Club. For a \$15 donation you can have a calendar with all of the winning pictures. The winners are as follows:

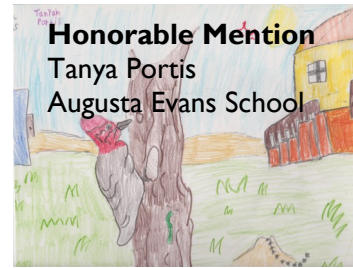
## Kindergarten-Third Grade



**1st Place**  
La'Kerria Jones  
Shepard Elementary



**2nd Place**  
Madyson Williams  
Shepard Elementary



**Honorable Mention**  
Tanya Portis  
Augusta Evans School



**3rd Place**  
Rui Yuan  
Shepard Elementary

## Fourth-Fifth Grade



**1st Place**  
Claudia Mann  
Haskew Elementary



**2nd Place**  
Carson Williams  
Shepard Elementary



**3rd Place**  
Sarah Gieger  
Shepard Elementary

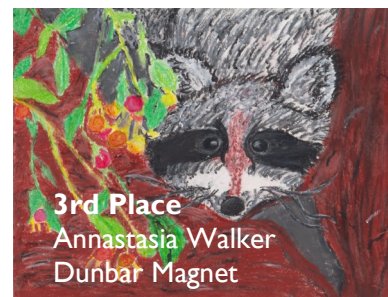
## Sixth-Eight Grade



**1st Place**  
Catherine Chung  
Phillips Magnet

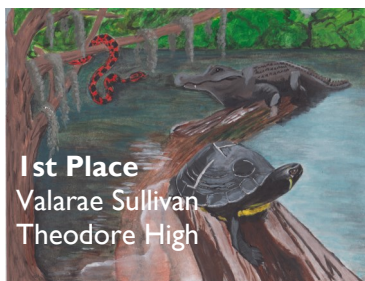


**2nd Place**  
Kaylan Williams  
Dunbar Magnet



**3rd Place**  
Anastasia Walker  
Dunbar Magnet

## Ninth-Twelfth Grade



**1st Place**  
Valarae Sullivan  
Theodore High



**2nd Place**  
Haley Ozaeta  
Theodore High



**3rd Place**  
Michelle Davis  
Theodore High

## Recent Patients



### Virginia Rail

This Virginia rail came to us on September 24, thin and lethargic. After fluids and food it improved immensely and was able to be released on October 6.

### Yellow Breasted Chat

On October 5 we released a yellow breasted chat that was migrating through. We received it on August 28. It had a broken wing. It had a great recovery and was happy to continue on with its migration.



### Northern Gannet

We had 2 gannets admitted in August. They had no injuries but were thin. After fluids, worming, and lots of fish we were able to release them several weeks later. These are sea birds that are not seen very often. They are very cool birds.

### Mississippi Kite

This fledgling Mississippi Kite, unfortunately, fell out of the nest and broke its' hip in July. It healed well and was released in October.





## 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 Environmental Studies Center e-Newsletter.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

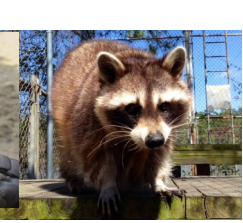
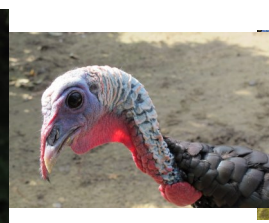
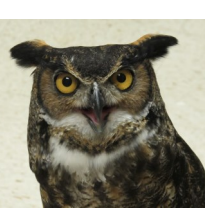
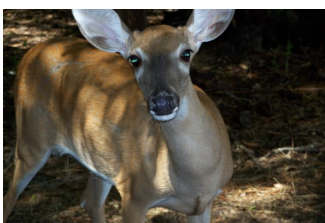
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please choose one: \_\_\_ Raccoon \_\_\_ Deer \_\_\_ Pelican \_\_\_ Seagull \_\_\_ Alligator

\_\_\_ Mallard Duck \_\_\_ Canada Goose \_\_\_ Black Vulture \_\_\_ Turkey \_\_\_ Coyote

\_\_\_ Red-Tail Hawk \_\_\_ Bald Eagle \_\_\_ Wood Duck \_\_\_ Turkey Vulture \_\_\_ Screech Owl

\_\_\_ Barred Owl \_\_\_ Great-Horned Owl \_\_\_ Great Blue Heron \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_



## Weathering Yard

A new exhibit has been added near the porch at the Center. It is called a weathering yard. This is an area where we can tether our birds of prey during the day that are normally housed indoors. In the yard they are able to enjoy the sun and nice weather in the great outdoors. The 2 birds that are using the yard are Mallory, the Cooper's Hawk, and Orion, the Peregrine Falcon. Mallory is missing an eye, after damaging it when she fell from her nest as a baby. Orion had head trauma and wing damage when he was hit by a car.



### Partners in Education



degussa.

PVOC

Pleasant Valley Opportunity

*Dr. Louis Buckalew  
& Family*



## Thoughts from the Director

Watersheds, watersheds, everywhere! Watersheds, watersheds why we care!

A **watershed** is the area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place. Whether you know it or not, we all live in a watershed. The raindrops that fall on our lawns, woods and roads ultimately either replenish an aquifer or flow into a creek or stream. As a result, the actions we take and the decisions we make with how we value water impact the needs of those downstream, including our fish and wildlife.

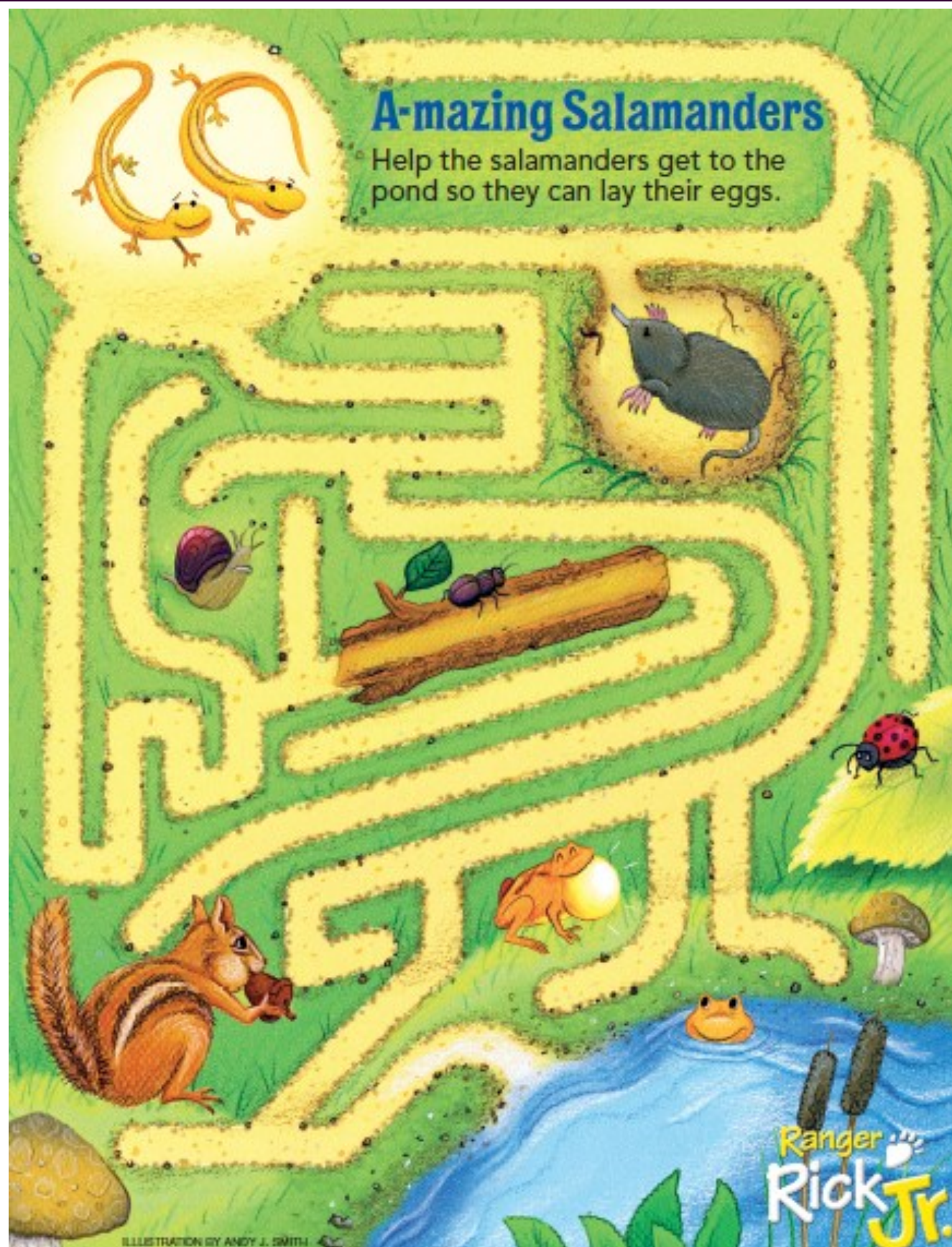
We all know that we contribute to polluting our water. We all know trash in the road ends up in Mobile Bay, no matter where you live. Storm drains that carry rainwater from the roads empty into our rivers and streams. Trash from the malls, downtown, midtown, west Mobile all end up in our bay. We have beach cleanups, road cleanups, and river cleanups but still the trash travels through the watershed. The lesson of litter has yet to be learned by our community. Don't pollute starts at home. No fertilizer, pesticide runoff. No leaves blown into drainage ditches and gutters. No cigarette butts in the street. No trash blowing out of trucks and cars. We all have a role in protecting our aquatic resources.

A child who loves to fish will become an adult who will work to protect our fisheries. A child who loves to canoe will become an adult who will fight to protect our rivers. We will fail them miserably if we do not make the effort to engage them in both the joys and responsibilities of using and caring for our water resources, for they are the voters and taxpayers of the future. More important, if children grow up without the opportunities we have had in our lifetimes to experience the spectacular aquatic environments of our state, they will miss one of the greatest joys of living in Alabama.

*"We forget that the water cycle and the life cycle are one."* Jaques Cousteau

Desiree Bishop, Director





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**MOBILE, AL**

**6101 Girby Road  
Mobile, Alabama  
36693**

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

**www.mcpsesc.com**

**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, gift shop, 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 800 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**