

Wild Adventures

Volume 1, Issue 1

October 2010



Staff:

D. Lloyd Scott
Director

Desiree Bishop
Resource Teacher

Tracy Delcambre
Resource Teacher

Anita Salinas
Resource Teacher

Susan Clement
Biologist

Grace Phelps
Secretary

Judson Martin
Groundskeeper

Hubert Robinson
Custodian



What's happening at the Center

Welcome to the first addition of "Wild Adventures", a semi-annual newsletter about the Environmental Studies Center.

Fall is upon us and the ESC is a very busy place. Our wildlife rehabilitation department has been very busy caring for injured and orphaned native wildlife. Our resource teachers have been teaching school groups each day. Also, many visitors tour our exhibits daily. What a wonderful time of the year!

Our Fall Sky Watch will be held October 14th at 7:00 p.m. The Mobile Astronomical Society will be on hand with their telescopes to show everyone some amazing astronomical sights. We hope that you and your family will join us for this wonderful semi-annual event.

Fall Open House will be held November 6th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. We hope to see you for wildlife tours, great speakers, and fun family activities.

The ESC is now on Facebook. Be sure to become a fan so you can receive our weekly news feed. We feature many of our new arrivals on the site, as well as upcoming events and various needs of the ESC.



Critter Corner

Meet Cooper

Cooper is our newest addition at the ESC. He is a 5 month old coyote pup. He is adapting well to his permanent home. Make sure that you stop by to visit this amazing creature. Say hello to his coyote buddy, Bo, during your visit. The ESC is open Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. for you to meet Cooper.



Wildlife Rehabilitation News



The wildlife rehabilitation program has had a very busy spring and summer raising orphaned wildlife such as birds, opossums, and squirrels, but it is finally slowing down a little. This time of year we mainly receive injured wildlife and during the winter we tend to receive a lot of hawks. Many people have asked if we received wildlife affected by the oil spill. We did not because there was a center set up by BP in Theodore which took in all of the oiled wildlife found in Alabama. We were not allowed to take in any animal that had been exposed to oil. However, we did help the Theodore center by taking any injured bird they received that was not covered with oil.

Educational Program News

Our educational program is in full swing this school year. We are busy teaching Pre-K through 12th grade students about our native plant and animal life. The new coastal reptile exhibit is open to the public. Delta and Bayou, our alligators, are enjoying their new home. Boomer, our new educational opossum, has made his debut to school children on field trips.

Anita Salinas has joined the staff at the ESC as a resource teacher. She is a former Biology, Earth and Space Science, and Environmental Science teacher from Murphy High School. She is a NASA MESSENGER Fellow. She will be handling field trips and school visits involving the STARLAB.

The resource teachers are gearing up for the special programs for 4th and 5th graders. "Finding Nemo", the December program, teaches 4th graders about marine organisms found in our area and their role in coastal ecosystems. "Inside the Cell", the January program, reinforces microscope skills and cell biology for 5th graders. This year will be the best so far!



Thoughts from the Director



The 2010-2011 school term marks the thirty-sixth year that the Environmental Studies Center has provided field trip opportunities for schools throughout the greater Mobile area. From a modest number of just over 1,700 visitors in 1974, the Center currently averages close to 25,000 annually. In addition, hundreds of injured and orphaned animals are cared for and many released each year to resume their rightful place in the wild. As more and more wild places are consumed by urban expansion, the need for the Center becomes greater than ever before. The great naturalist and conservationist John Muir said, "In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks." The Center still provides the opportunity for that walk with nature and, with the continued support of the School Board, the school community and the general public, will make that walk available for years to come.

Wildlife Wish List

Clip-on clamp lamp	1 cc and 3cc syringes	<u>Food items</u>	Fresh vegetables
Airline pet carriers	Small mesh nets	Dried whole corn	Small frozen fish
Cages	Baled hay	Scratch feed	Plain Cheerios
Bleach	Ziploc freezer bags (gallon & quart)	Wild birdseed	Raisins
Liquid laundry soap	Plastic wrap	Raw peanuts (in shell)	Goats milk
Liquid dishwasher soap	Heating pads without auto shut off	Nuts (in shell)	Fresh fruit
Wal-Mart gift cards	Paper towels	Dry dog food (small bites)	
60-watt light bulbs	Pine shavings (for cages)	Unsalted sunflower seeds	
Newspaper	Pine bark mulch	Canned sardines in water	
Cash		“Chicken vegetable” baby food	

Wildlife Adoptions

For \$25 a year you can help with the feeding, care, and shelter of one of the native wildlife housed at the ESC. Not only can you adopt an animal for yourself or your child’s class but you can give an adoption as a gift. Adoption benefits include: adoption certificate, photograph of animal, fact sheet about the species, recognition of your adoption on the exhibit, opportunity to make a scheduled visit with “your” animal. Complete the information below and mail to the ESC with payment to adopt.

Animal Adoption

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____



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

How can you help the ESC????

- ◆ Donate items from the Wish List
- ◆ Complete a Wildlife Adoption
- ◆ Become a Fan on Facebook
- ◆ Join the volunteer program
- ◆ Become a Partner in Education
- ◆ Purchase an inscribed plaque
- ◆ Make a cash donation
- ◆ Stop by for a visit



To find out more about helping the ESC contact 251-221-5000.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES CENTER

6101 Girby Road
Mobile, AL 36693

Phone: 251.221.5000
Fax: 251.221.5002
www.mcpss.com/esc

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.



Mobile County
Public Schools

Board
of
School Commissioners

Dr. Reginald Crenshaw
Rev. Levon Manzie
Mr. Ken Megginson
Mr. William S. Meredith
Dr. Judy P. Stout



About the Center

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 at the ESC. Featuring over 500 acres of rich woodlands, the Center affords teachers, students, and the general public an opportunity to experience the natural environment firsthand. Our natural environments include pine and bay forests, swamps, freshwater streams, carnivorous plant bog, and a twenty-acre lake.

Man-made features 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 1,000 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.

The Environmental Studies Center
6101 Girby Road
Mobile, Alabama 36693

