

ENVIRONMENTAL
STUDIES CENTER

MOBILE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MOBILE, AL



Desiree Bishop
Director

Susan Clement
Biologist

Tracy Delcambre
Resource Teacher

Troy Latham
Resource Teacher

Anita Salinas
Resource Teacher

Grace Phelps
Bookkeeper

Kody Wiggins
Grounds Keeper

Hubert Robinson
Custodian



Mobile County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Wild Adventures

Volume IV, Issue I

Fall 2013

Critter Corner



Meet River

River is a juvenile Bald Eagle. He is under a year old. After leaving his nest, he sustained a traumatic injury to his wing and he is no longer able to fly. He came to live at the ESC in September after being rehabilitated at the Peace River Wildlife Center in Punta Gorda, Florida. Juvenile Bald Eagles do not obtain their adult feathers and standard colors until around five years of age. Eagles eat a variety of other animals including fish, ducks, amphibians, and small mammals. Often, Bald Eagles will harass other birds, such as Osprey, to steal their catch. Stop by and see River sometime. The ESC is open Monday—Friday from 8:00 until 4:30.

What's Happening at the Center

Cooler temperatures and colorful leaves are a good reason to visit the ESC. Come and check out our nature trails with a pitcher plant bog, animal exhibits, classroom displays or simply sit by the lake and enjoy nature. We are as busy as ever teaching students of all ages about native plants, animals and even space!

The skies were clear and the visitors were abundant for the Fall SkyWatch on October 10th. The Astronomical Society was here to assist with their telescopes. Fall Open House was held Saturday, November 2nd and was a huge success. It gets bigger each year. Thank you to all who attended and we look forward to seeing you next spring on Saturday, May 3rd.

The Center would like to welcome a new staff member and say goodbye to an old. Kody Wiggins has joined the ESC staff as our new groundskeeper after Mr. Judson Martin III retired this past June after 30 years of service. There are also new programs at the ESC. The *Native Americans and Alabama's Plants, Animals, and Skies* is a new fourth grade program that was a big hit among Mobile County Public School teachers and students. This program focuses on Native American constellations, stories associated with native wildlife, and plants used by Native Americans. In addition, our staff will be conducting educational talks with the community on the second Wednesday of every month except December. Topics will vary each month.



The Center has become the latest chapter of FrogWatch USA, a citizen science program coordinated through the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). FrogWatch USA is AZA's flagship citizen science program that invites Individuals and families to learn about

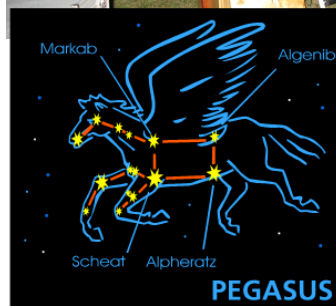
the wetlands in their communities and help conserve amphibians by reporting the calls of local frogs and toads. The ESC will be conducting a workshop for those interested in joining FrogWatch on December 16 from 9:00 -12:00. Check with the staff if you are interested in participating or with any other questions you may have about the Environmental Studies Center.



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

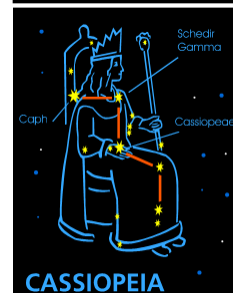
- ♦ Plant a garden
- ♦ Compost
- ♦ Plant native plants for our native bees
- ♦ Recycle anything
- ♦ Reuse anything
- ♦ Decrease use of chemicals
- ♦ Use non-plastic refillable water bottles
- ♦ Use unbleached coffee filters
- ♦ Use canvas grocery bags
- ♦ Unplug electronic devices not being used

News from Out-of-this World



The Environmental Studies Center hosted its annual Fall Sky Watch on Oct. 11th. 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, Neptune and Uranus. Double stars, open star clusters, globular clusters, planetary nebula and spiral galaxies were also viewed by visitors. Fall constellations

include Pegasus, Cassiopeia, Andromeda, Cygnus, Aquila and Lyra. This winter look for Taurus, Orion with his companions Canis Major and Canis Minor. Be sure to catch our Spring Sky Watch which is scheduled for March 11th, 2014.



Annual Art Contest Winners

On November 2nd, 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. The winners are as follows:

Kindergarten-Third Grade

- 1st Place** Thomas Samuel Savell
Mobile Magnet
- 2nd Place** Chloe Fernandez
Dawes Intermediate
- 3rd Place** Anastasia Overton
Dawes Intermediate

Fourth-Fifth Grade

- 1st Place** Jayda Linley
Collins-Rhodes Elementary
- 2nd Place** Brooklyn Lloyd
McDavid Jones Elementary
- 3rd Place** Makayla Dortsch
Collins-Rhodes Elementary

Sixth-Eight Grade

- 1st Place** Kiersten Burgett
Burns Middle
- 2nd Place** Victoria Cannella
Clark-Shaw Magnet
- 3rd Place** Gradie Miller
Clark-Shaw Magnet

Ninth-Twelfth Grade

- 1st Place** Jewel Biggs
Baker High
- 2nd Place** Morgan Mabry
Montgomery High
- 3rd Place** Michael Casper
Murphy High

Saying Goodbye

Unfortunately, when you work with animals, eventually you have to say “goodbye”. This year, we had to say “goodbye” to three wonderful educational animals, Goldie, the golden eagle, Slash, the pine snake, and Uno, the screech owl. Goldie came to the Environmental Center in 1987 after being rehabilitated at Auburn University. She was found at Lake Guntersville, Alabama in 1984, as a mature adult, after being shot in the wing. Slash came to the Center in 2002 after being confiscated by the Conservation Department from an individual who did not have a permit to keep a pine snake. Slash was in very poor health and was quite thin. He was already a mature adult and had a cataract in one eye. It took a lot of work, but Slash eventually became a wonderful educational animal in our classroom. Uno arrived at the Center in 2008 after the people who had him as a “pet” found out that it was illegal to possess a native bird without an educational permit.

Unfortunately they had found Uno with a broken leg and did not care for it properly so it healed at an unnatural angle. Uno was never able to use his foot and had to balance on the deformed leg instead. Uno was kept in our classroom instead of our outside aviary because of his leg. All three of these animals had a wonderful and long life teaching people about their species of animal. “Goodbye” Goldie, Slash, and Uno.



Adopt an animal at the Environmental Studies Center for Christmas!

For only \$25 you can give the gift of life while giving your loved one a special bond between them and the animal of your choice. Your adoption will include:

- A plaque with their name on the animal's cage*
 - A picture of the animal*
 - A certificate of adoption*
 - A natural history report of the animal*
 - Cherishable memories*
- For more information please call 251-221-5000.*



Wildlife Wish List

Clip-on clamp lamp	1cc 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: _____

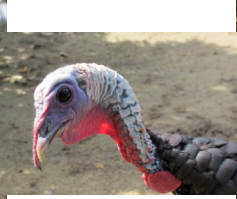
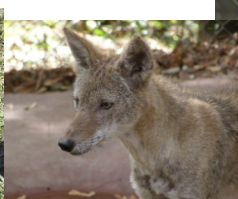
Email Address: _____

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: _____



Changes in the wildlife rehabilitation program

Due to new state regulations, the Environmental Studies Center will no longer be able to take most mammals. We will primarily just be taking in native birds and reptiles. Unfortunately, we are no longer able to take in baby squirrels either because we are not allowed to use volunteers to help us raise them. For more information about these regulations please contact the Alabama Department of Conservation at 251-626-5474.

Partners in Education



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PVOC

Pleasant Valley Opportunity Club

*Dr. Louis Buckalew
& Family*



Thoughts from the Director



Fall has arrived. The changing leaves, the crisp air, and the quiet let us know that a transformation is afoot. Not as loud and showy as summer fireworks, but fall is calm and inviting like a fireplace. This is the season that makes us glad that we can witness the changing of the earth and helps us realize that the natural world around us is a living thing. Children that come to the Environmental Studies Center in the fall remind us that the changing of seasons is magical. They stick hands out to grab leaves going by, they twirl in the breeze with arms outstretched, and gaze at birds flying overhead. **Every** child is born a naturalist. His eyes are, by nature, open to the glories of the stars, the beauty of fall, and the mystery of life.

Nathaniel Hawthorne (1842) said,
*"...I cannot endure to waste anything
so precious as autumnal sunshine by*

staying in the house." Get out of the house and come to the Environmental Studies Center and become childlike in your enjoyment of nature.



Gold & Silver Buying Fundraiser



Benefiting
The Environmental Studies Center
6101 Girby Road
Thursday December 12, 2013
3 PM - 6 PM

Gold prices are near an all-time high! Bring in your gold, sterling silver & Pre 1964 silver coins, broken chains, coin sets, mismatched earrings or any other unwanted gold jewelry, silver jewelry, sterling silverware, flatware and receive **CASH** onsite!

PLUS...

After you are paid for your jewelry or coins,
An ADDITIONAL 15% from our profits will be donated to
The Environmental Studies Center by Bob's Crazy Gold

For more information contact:
Susan Clement at 251-221-5000, ext. 5

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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, 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 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**