

ENVIRONMENTAL
STUDIES CENTER

MOBILE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MOBILE, AL



Staff:

D. Lloyd Scott
Director

Desiree Bishop
Resource Teacher

Susan Clement
Biologist

Tracy Delcambre
Resource Teacher

Judson Martin
Groundskeeper

Grace Phelps
Secretary

Hubert Robinson
Custodian

Anita Salinas
Resource Teacher



Wild Adventures

Volume I, Issue 2

March 2011

What's happening at the Center

Spring is in full bloom and the ESC is a flutter with all types of activity. Our wildlife rehabilitation department continues to stay busy with orphaned and injured animals and we see many school groups each week.

This March marks the end of an era at the ESC. Mr. David Lloyd Scott, our director, will be retiring after 37 years of service to the Mobile County Public School System. Mr. Scott has been the only director the ESC has known for all of these years. He took the idea of a public school outdoor education center from its inception to a multipurpose educational building, outdoor animal exhibits, pond, lake, boardwalk, and nature trails. Under his care and guidance the ESC has developed into one of the most respected environmental education programs in the state. He will be greatly missed.

Spring Open House will be held on Saturday, May 7th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. As always our Open House will be a fun-filled day for all.

Sadly, since our last newsletter, one of our most beloved wildlife residents, Amber the white-tailed deer, passed away. Amber was found as an injured fawn. Due to her injuries, she lost one of her legs. Amber lived out the remainder of her life here at the Center. She was seventeen years old when she passed away. We miss her deeply.



Critter Corner



Meet Pilgrim

Pilgrim is a Peregrine Falcon. The fastest animal on Earth, this type of bird can reach speeds up to 230 miles per hour. The Peregrine Falcon does not live in our area year round but can be seen during migration. One way you can see a Peregrine Falcon is to stop by the ESC and meet Pilgrim. The ESC is open during the

school year Monday—Friday from 8:00 until 4:30 and during the summer Monday—Thursday from 7:00 until 5:30.

Wildlife Rehabilitation News

Spring is here and this means baby season is now upon us. This is the busiest time of year for the wildlife rehabilitation department. Please read the enclosed insert "What to do when you find a baby bird". Most baby birds do not need to be brought to the Center and should be left alone for the parents to take care of them. Remember to think first before rescuing, in most cases wild animal babies are not orphaned and the best thing is to leave them alone, especially fawns and bunnies.

The insert "Wildlife Treated at the ESC" shows all of the species that we received in 2010. We received a total of 1032 animals. So as you can see we keep pretty busy throughout the year.

If you are interested in helping us raise orphaned wildlife, let us know. We especially need help raising baby squirrels. Just remember, we are raising these babies to be released and not to become pets. Other orphans that we need help with are bunnies and opossums. If you have a good area to release wildlife please contact us.



Educational Program News

Another school year is quickly coming to a close. This spring has been very busy with school groups visiting the ESC each day. Students have been studying wildlife, native plants, and space education. It has been an amazing year full of eager young faces.

Soon summer will arrive and our summer camps will be in full swing. Each camp is a half day camp with offerings in the morning and afternoon. Programs include: "The Forest and Me" for Grades 1-2, "Investigating the Natural Environment" and "Let's Get Physical with Science" for grades 3-4, "The Wonderful World of Nature" and "Feathers to Rockets" for grades 5-6, and "Investigations in Microscopy" for grades 7-8. The cost of each program is \$75. This cost includes a camp t-shirt. We look forward to seeing some new faces this summer.



Thoughts from the Director

Thanks for the memories.....

March 31 will be my last day as ESC Director. My thoughts are many, spanning 37 years of service to the school system. I want to take this opportunity to thank the many people whom I have had the opportunity to work with in an effort to teach about the natural world and man's responsibility for its care. During my years with the ESC, hundreds of thousands of area citizens, the majority of whom were students in grades K-12, experienced first-hand the beauty and bounty of nature through visits to our facility. Many were inspired to move

forward in pursuit of environmental careers, while others left with a greater sense of respect and stewardship for planet earth. Yes, thanks for the memories and the privilege to have engaged in such a satisfying career.

Lloyd Scott

Wildlife Wish List

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Clip-on clamp lamp | 1cc and 3cc syringes | Animal Crackers |
| Pine bark mulch | Pine shavings (for cages) | Dried whole corn |
| Cages | Baled hay | Scratch feed |
| Heating pads | Ziploc freezer bags (gallon & quart) | Wild birdseed |
| Liquid laundry soap | Bleach | Raw peanuts (in shell) |
| Liquid dishwasher soap | | Nuts (in shell) |
| Wal-Mart gift cards | <u>Food Items</u> | Dry dog food (small bites) |
| 60-watt light bulbs | Small frozen fish | Unsalted sunflower seeds |
| Scrub brushes | Frozen mixed vegetables | Canned sardines in water |
| Cash | Cheerios | Dog biscuits |



Wildlife Adoptions

For \$25 a year you can help with the feeding, care, and shelter of one of the native wildlife housed at the 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 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 Center with payment to adopt.

Animal Adoption



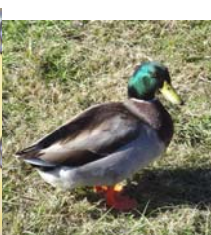
Name: _____

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 Great Blue Heron Peregrine Falcon



ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES CENTER

MOBILE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MOBILE, AL

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 information

Non-profit organization



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 Center. Featuring 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 600 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.

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



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