

ENVIRONMENTAL
STUDIES CENTER

MOBILE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MOBILE, AL



Desiree Bishop
Director

Susan Clement
Biologist

Tracy Delcambre
Resource Teacher

Troy Latham
Resource Teacher

Andra Meredith
Resource Teacher

Grace Phelps
Bookkeeper

Kody Wiggins
Grounds Keeper

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Custodian



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Fall 2017

Critter Corner



Meet Cassi

Cassi is an American kestrel that came to the Environmental Studies Center in the spring of 2016. She had been hit by a car and had some damage to her wing that was so severe that she could not fly well enough to be released.

The American kestrel is sometimes called a sparrow hawk even though it is not a hawk. It is actually a falcon. It is one of three types of falcons that can be found in Mobile. The other two falcons are the merlin and peregrine falcon. Falcons are known for their aerodynamic shape. Their wings are slim and tapered, their tail is long and narrow and their head is round.

Kestrels are one of the few birds of prey that have color differences between the males and females. The males have a bluish colored back while the females have a reddish-brown back with bars. Cassi is a female. Their main diet includes insects, voles, mice, and lizards and they tend to hang out near open fields.

Be sure to visit Cassi the next time you are at the Environmental Studies Center. She is housed with the screech owls on our Bird of Prey Boardwalk.

What's Happening at the Center

Having a Blast at the ESC

Along with our many field trip groups and Open House, the Environmental Studies Center experienced a series of rocket launches when Evonik, one of our Partners in Education, visited us during their leadership and team building workshop. Using 2 liter plastic bottles, poster board, water, and a bicycle pump, the men and women of Evonik experimented with design as well as various amounts of water (rocket fuel) and air pressure. Through collaboration, the teams worked together to build an extremely large rocket and successfully launched it on our campus.



FALL OPEN HOUSE 2017

The Environmental Studies Center would like to thank everyone for another successful Open House. The weather was perfect as people turned out by the hundreds to enjoy the food, face painting, vendors, and of course the animals.

The purpose of Open House is to raise money and awareness for the rehabilitation program here at the Environmental Studies Center and once again the community did not disappoint. It seems every time we open for this semiannual event it gets larger and we are constantly thinking of new ways to make it better. We want to thank all those that came out to support the ESC and especially for your patience and understanding as we do our best to accommodate your needs. We hope to see you May 5, 2018 for our Spring Open House.



Annual Art Contest Winners

On November 4th 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. You can purchase a calendar with all of the winning pictures in our gift shop.

The winners are as follows:

Kindergarten-Third Grade



1st Place
Garrett Bolton
Griggs Elementary



2nd Place
Kenya Stallworth
Old Shell Road Magnet



3rd Place
Myles Patton
Dawes Intermediate

Honorable Mention

- Lillie Roberts
Wilmer Elementary
- Madison Phillips
Allentown
Elementary
- Kaylean Cady
Griggs Elementary

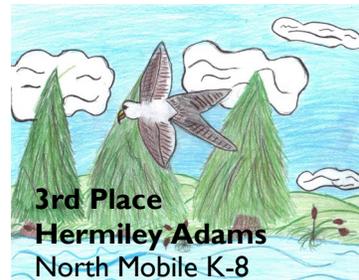
Fourth-Fifth Grade



1st Place
Kathryn Busbee
Austin Elementary



2nd Place
Isabel Williams
Austin Elementary



3rd Place
Hermiley Adams
North Mobile K-8

- Emilee Morrison
Collier Elementary
- Hayleigh Dyess
McDavid-Jones
Elementary
- Azlyn Bachmann
Eichold-Mertz
Magnet
- Madison Robinson
Austin Elementary

Sixth-Eighth Grade



1st Place
Chatherine Chung
Dunbar Magnet



2nd Place
Lauren Knight
Causey Middle



3rd Place
Jovannass Soekhies
Dunbar Magnet

- Kearston Turner
Grand Bay Middle
- Kevin Chen
Clark-Shaw Magnet

Ninth-Twelfth Grade



1st Place
Savannah Hudson
Theodore High



2nd Place
Jeremy Bankston
Theodore High



3rd Place
Cassie Cook
Theodore High

- Diane Hanes
Theodore High
- Samantha Nettles
Baker High
- Lindsay Imsand
Theodore High
- Victoria Cannella
Baker High
- Caleb Busby
Theodore High

Eight Baby Pelicans

In June we received 8 baby pelicans from the Wildlife Care and Rescue Center in Biloxi. They were found on the Mississippi beaches after Tropical Storm Cindy went through. The babies had been swept off of the Mississippi barrier islands, where pelicans nest. Over 20 babies were found and 16 of them survived. The Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida took 7 of the babies and the Wildlife Care and Rescue Center kept one that was blind in one eye. The pelican that was blind in one eye was sent to a zoo in California because it could not be released. The 8 babies that came to us were about a month old. They had some adult feathers but were mainly covered in white baby down feathers. They were ravenous and we went through hundreds of pounds of fish during the 2 months that we had them. We want to thank everyone who donated fish and money to help us feed the babies. On August 18, we were able to release the 15 pelicans on Dauphin Island. It was an amazing sight to see 15 pelicans being released at the same time and flying off to freedom!



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	Wild Birdseed
Liquid laundry soap	Bleach	Raw peanuts (in shell)	
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
 Barn Owl 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: _____



Recent Patients



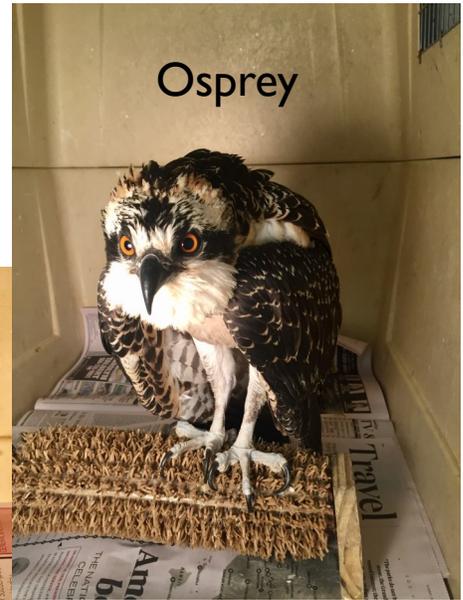
Goldfinch



Royal Tern



Black Skimmer



Osprey

Thoughts from the Director

The holiday season is here and the New Year is just around the corner. This should always be the time of year to spend with family and to participate in the spirit of giving. We thank you for always supporting us (which is why you are receiving this newsletter). During your holiday season please remember the people that need your help, but also remember the other nonprofits that help the other living creatures in your area. At the Environmental Studies Center we believe that every creature has value in its own right.

Last year over 900 individual animals were treated at the Environmental Studies Center Wildlife Rehabilitation Program. Even though our efforts don't always succeed we feel the moral imperative to make that difference one animal at a time. In this world of disappearing wildlife, imperiled species, and loss of habitat everything you do to help nature makes a difference. So as you go about your holiday shopping if you would like to make a difference to wildlife here please pick up something on our wish list, pick up a gift card for the Environmental Studies Center Wildlife Program, or donate to the Center. You may think \$10 or cheerios or a store gift card is just a small thing, but multiply it by the number of people who receive this newsletter and it will make an impact. But even if you are the only giver, your \$10 will pay for antibiotics for an injured hawk, cheerios will feed many injured mammals, and that gift card can purchase veggies for food or light bulbs to keep baby animals warm. One person does make a difference.

Thank you again and our best wishes for a joyous holiday!

Desirée Bishop, Director

"It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do little - do what you can."

Sydney Smith



A Wonderful Life

We lost two amazing educational animals in November, Jackie the white-tailed deer and Ty the raccoon. Jackie came to the Center in January, 2001 after she was confiscated by the State Conservation Department from someone who had raised her from a baby. Jackie was 4 months old when we took her in and she had no medical issues. Her problem was that she was too tame to be released back into the wild. Ty came to us in the spring of 2002. He was in captivity because he was born with juvenile cataracts and the person who had him had a permit to keep him. Unfortunately that person had to move and asked the Center to take Ty. Jackie and Ty were perfect educational animals because they loved attention and they got that every time a person or school group visited them. They were able to teach thousands of people about raccoons and white-tailed deer. Jackie was 17 when she passed and Ty was 16. If they were human they would have been in their 90's. It was hard losing both of them but we have to say that they both had a wonderful life at the Environmental Studies Center.



Partners in Education



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*Dr. Louis Buckalew
& Family*

PVOC

Pleasant Valley Opportunity Club

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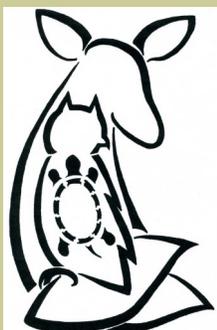
www.mcpsesc.com

Open 8:00a.m.-4:00p.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
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