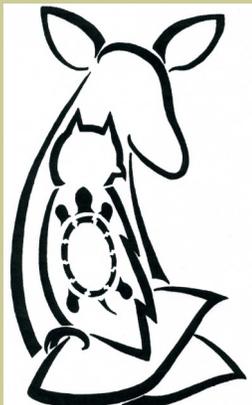


ENVIRONMENTAL
STUDIES CENTER

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

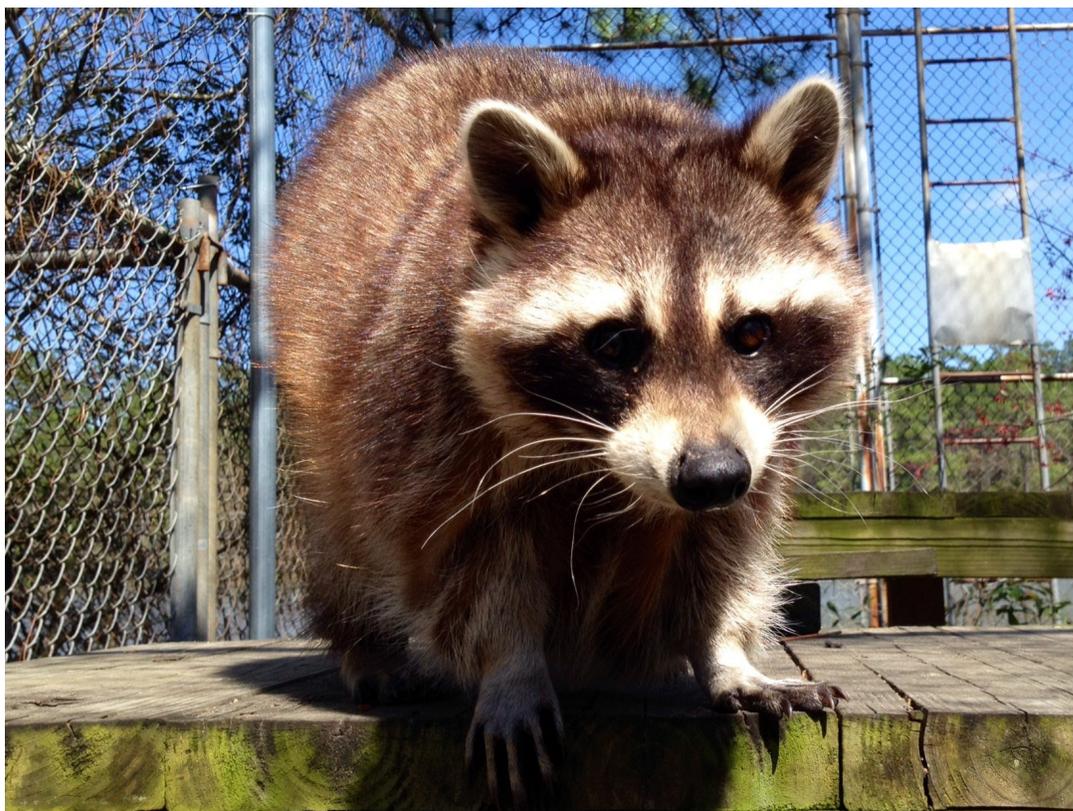


Wild Adventures

Volume IV, Issue II

Spring 2014

Critter Corner



Meet Ty

Ty is a raccoon. He has been at the ESC since 2002. He has vision problems, so he cannot be released.

Raccoons are common throughout our area. They are mostly known for the dark patches around their eyes and rings on their tail. They are nocturnal animals, so most typically you will see them at night searching for food. They are omnivorous and will eat whatever food items they find in an area. It is best to keep a good distance from raccoons because they can be carriers of rabies. Furthermore, feeding these animals is not recommended.

Stop by the ESC sometime and visit with Ty and his raccoon friend Chloe.

What's Happening at the Center

It's been a long winter at the ESC and the staff are excited for the return of warm temperatures, green grass, and little voices all over the grounds. Everything is already starting to come back to life as old man winter slowly loosens his grip on the Deep South. The visitors have returned, school groups are showing up in full force to take advantage of the educational opportunities provided by the ESC, and the wildlife is abundant.

The Rehabilitation department has been busy handling casualties of the ice storm and the usual injuries that are dealt with on a daily basis. Several improvements have been made in the past few months, including a new cage on the front porch for Shadow, our fish crow, and a fence has been added to the new mammal exhibit. In progress is an observation station being added to the area in front of the porch to view birds of prey.

As always, the ESC has lots of exciting programs going on throughout the year and the spring is no different. ESC hosted the Alabama Master Naturalists workshop where enthusiasts could come and learn all about Alabama's birds and mammals. Guest speakers included Roger Clay and Justin Monk of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Doyle Keasal of Auburn University.

The Spring Open House will be held on May 3rd from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.. This is the time to come out and see our pitcher plant bog in full bloom. Admission is free and activities include: The Raptor Show, wildlife talks, a reptile show, vendors, concessions, nature trails, and more. Follow us on Facebook to keep up with all of our events and see how you can help!



Sponsors needed for the 2nd annual Owl-O-Ween Benefit Trail Run

The 2nd Annual Owl-O-Ween Benefit Trail Run will be on October 18, 2014 at the Environmental Studies Center. We had lots of fun at last year's trail run and we hope to make this one even more successful. Our first order of business is to find sponsors for this event.

This is a great opportunity not only to advertise your business but also to support the wildlife rehabilitation program at the Environmental Studies Center. All proceeds from the run go directly to the wildlife rehabilitation program. This year we will have 3 levels of sponsorship: Screech Owl, Barred Owl, and Great Horned Owl. If you are interested in being a sponsor contact Susan Clement at 221-5000, ext. 5 for more information.



News from Out-of-this World

Many people are unaware of a current NASA Discovery mission to Mercury. MESSENGER (MErcury Surface, Space Environment, Geochemistry and Ranging) left Earth August 3, 2004. It entered Mercury's orbit March 18, 2011 and has been orbiting Mercury gathering data ever since. As of today it has completed 2906 orbits of the planet. During its 7 year journey to Mercury, MESSENGER completed 1 flyby of Earth, 2 flybys of Venus and 3 flybys of Mercury before its orbit insertion. The purpose of these flybys was to put the craft at the correct speed and trajectory for orbit insertion. It has been 30 years since the Mariner 10 provided images of 45 % of Mercury's surface. Now thanks to MESSENGER, the entire surface of Mercury has been mapped. The payload, or equipment on MESSENGER were designed to answer six major science questions.

Why is Mercury so dense?

What is Mercury's geologic history?

What is the nature and origin of Mercury's magnetic field?

What is the structure of Mercury's core?

What are the unusual materials at Mercury's poles?

What volatiles are important at Mercury?

MESSENGER has since answered many of these questions and learned a lot about the most inner planet of the solar system. Solar system studies are important in helping scientists understand more about the birth and future of the Earth. To learn more about the MESSENGER NASA Discovery mission visit www.messenger.jhuapl.edu



We RECYCLE!!!!



Bring your aluminum cans to the ESC and we will recycle them!!!!

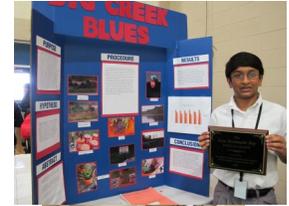
We sell the aluminum and use the money to support the wildlife rehabilitation program at the ESC.



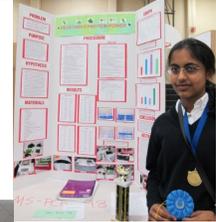
Annual MCPSS Science Fair Winners

The annual Mobile County Public Schools Science Fair was held on February 21, 2014 at Clark-Shaw Magnet School. The overall winners are as follows:

Lisa Bramuchi-Faye Horizon Award for Most Promising 6th Grade Project
Tommy White—Clark-Shaw Magnet—Environmental Science
“Big Creek Blues”



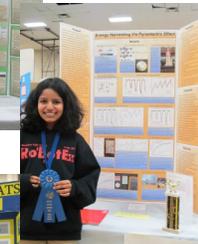
Middle School Winner
Nandita Dey—Phillips Preparatory School—Physical Science, Chemistry
“Vegetable Protein Power”



High School Winners—Tie
Rohan Palanki—Davidson High School—Microbiology
“AgNP: The Utilization of Silver Nanoparticles
for Skin Cancer Chemoprevention”



Rupa Palanki—Davidson High School—Physics
“Harvesting Energy Via Pyroelectric Effect”



Overall Winner
Kennedy MacDonald—Davidson High School—Engineering
“Flying Boats?”



Upcoming Events

April 17th 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.—Spring Work Day

May 3rd 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.—Open House at the ESC

May 3rd—Final day for the “Hammerhead Hunting” auction—bidding closes at 1:00 p.m.

May 14th 2:00 p.m.—Community Nature Series Monthly Talk—Reptiles

May 17th 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.—Rabies Clinic benefitting the wildlife rehabilitation program -Griggs Elementary School Front Parking Lot

June 9th—July 25th—Summer Hours at the ESC—Mon-Thurs 7:00—4:30 Closed Fri

June 9th—Summer Camps begin

October 18th—Owl-O-Ween Trail Run

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: _____



Recent Releases



Barn Owl



Brown Pelican



Osprey

Partners in Education



degussa.

PVOC

Pleasant Valley Opportunity Club

*Dr. Louis Buckalew
& Family*



Thoughts from the Director

What is Valuable?

How do we measure value? A forest is valuable. Nature is valuable. Wildlife are valuable. What makes something valuable? Is it because we want it or because we need it? These are questions conservationist have to deal with when trying to preserve habitats. What is an ecosystem worth? We live in a society where value is determined by money, but it is hard to put a dollar value on a wildlife habitat. Yes, you can measure how much wood is worth in dollars or what the real estate value is on the property, but you can't measure the benefits of nature. As the commercial says, "It's priceless!" How then do we make children and many adults value our natural surroundings? It has to be a personal exposure or experience to have value or it has to be a family value that has been passed on. So we depend on you, our wildlife friends and supporters of the Environmental Studies Center, to share the experience and pass this value on to friends and family. We thank you for all that you do, we hope you are also our Facebook Friend, but most of all we are glad we share the same values. You are priceless!



***"He is richest who is content with the least,
for content is the wealth of nature."***

Socrates

Patients Received in 2013

BIRDS

Common Name	Total # Rec'd	Common Name	Total # Rec'd
American Coot	1	Loggerhead Shrike	1
American Crow	2	Mississippi Kite	3
American Goldfinch	1	Mourning Dove	40
American Oystercatcher	1	Northern Cardinal	17
American Woodcock	3	Northern Mockingbird	22
Barn Owl	1	Osprey	3
Barn Swallow	4	Pied-billed Grebe	1
Barred Owl	8	Razorbill	1
Blue Jay	21	Red-bellied Woodpecker	10
Broad-winged Hawk	4	Red-tailed Hawk	13
Brown Pelican	16	Royal Tern	2
Brown Thrasher	14	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	7
Bufflehead	1	Sora	5
Canada Goose	7	Tufted Titmouse	1
Carolina Chickadee	1	Virginia Rail	1
Carolina Wren	23	Whip-poor-will	1
Caspian Tern	1	White-winged Dove	2
Cedar Waxwing	2	Wood Duck	4
Chimney Swift	28	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1
Chipping Sparrow	1	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	6
Chuck-wills-widow	1	Yellow-rumped Warbler	2
Clapper Rail	3	Non-Migratory Birds	39
Common Grackle	4		
Common Loon	2	Bird Total	423
Common Nighthawk	3		
Common Yellowthroat	1		
Cooper's Hawk	9		
Downy Woodpecker	4		
Eastern Bluebird	7		
Eastern Screech Owl	11		
Great Blue Heron	1		
Great Crested Flycatcher	1		
Great Egret	1		
Great Horned Owl	9		
Hooded Warbler	1		
House Finch	4		
Indigo Bunting	2		
Laughing Gull	35		
Least Bittern	1		
Lesser Scaup	1		
		REPTILES/AMPHIBIANS	
		Common Name	
		Box Turtle	80
		Gopher Tortoise	6
		Legless Lizard	1
		Slider (Turtle)	2
		Softshell Turtle	2
		Snake	1
		Snapping Turtle	4
		Reptile Total	96
		GRAND TOTAL	519

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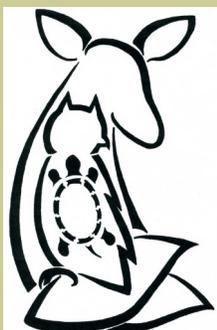
Phone: 251-221-5000
Fax: 251-221-5002

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 around 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