

ENVIRONMENTAL
STUDIES CENTER

MOBILE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MOBILE, AL



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Director

Susan Clement
Biologist

Tracy Delcambre
Resource Teacher

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Resource Teacher

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Bookkeeper

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Grounds Keeper

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Custodian



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Critter Corner



Meet Brody

Brody is a barred owl who came to the Environmental Studies Center in the spring of 2013. He was 2 weeks old and had fallen out of the nest during a storm. When he fell, it broke his left wing and damaged his left eye. The damage was so severe that it could not be repaired enough for him to be released back into the wild. He is now a part of the Center's educational program. He is brought into the classroom during classes and he does outreach with our Raptor Road Show. Barred owls have vertical brown stripes on their belly that look like bars. This is why they are called barred owls. They also have a distinct "hoot" that sounds like they are saying "who cooks for you, who cooks for you all". Brody is housed in one of our new mews so be sure to stop by and say "Hi".

What's Happening at the Center

The Environmental Studies Center partners with the Dauphin Island Sea Lab to provide an opportunity that many students never experience. This partnership is financially supported by the Alabama-Mississippi Sea Grant and allows marine biology students from the Mobile County Public School System to spend 4 hours on the Alabama Discovery with an instructor provided by the ESC. As the vessel departs the dock by the Coast Guard station on Dauphin Island we discuss safety, the characteristics of Mobile Bay, watersheds, salinity dynamics, and various other topics as they present themselves often interrupted by the occasional bottlenose dolphin. Once we reach our destination, the 26 foot otter trawl is dropped into the water and we drag for the next 25-30 minutes. In the meantime we check the salinity and do a plankton tow as well. The excitement builds as the net is pulled in and the rewards are dumped onto the large table for all to see. After a quick check and all catfish, rays, and jellies have been properly attended to the students gather around and we begin identifying invertebrates and vertebrates, discussing their characteristics, phylum, classes, identifying fins and other features. The students are both excited and afraid, some wanting to touch while others are extremely hesitant. Either way, this is an experience they won't soon forget and a valuable resource to their classroom learning.



Annual Art Contest Winners

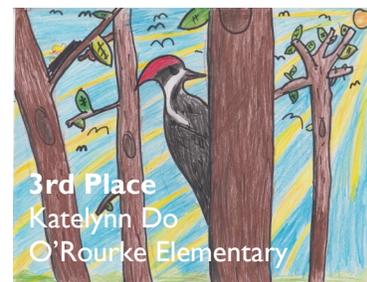
On November 5th the annual art contest winners were announced at Open House. The contest is sponsored each year by our Partner in Education, Pleasant Valley Opportunity Club. You can purchase a calendar with all of the winning pictures in our gift shop.

The winners are as follows:

Kindergarten-Third Grade



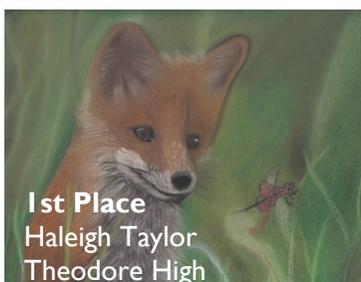
Fourth-Fifth Grade



Sixth-Eight Grade



Ninth-Twelfth Grade



Recent Patients



Bald Eagle: The bald eagle came to us thin and dehydrated with no external injuries. After fluids, food, and rest she was moved to our flight cage for a few days of exercise. She was then sent to Auburn for exercise in a larger flight cage since our flight cage is not large enough for the exercise that she needed.

Great-horned Owl: The great-horned owl was found in a peanut field in October. It was thin but it had no external injuries. After 2 weeks of rehab it was released.



Least Bittern: The least bittern landed on a ship in the Gulf of Mexico in a state of exhaustion. It was brought to the Center 2 days later when the ship docked in Mobile. After fluids and other rehab it was still too far gone for us to save.

Carolina Chickadee: This fledgling chickadee came to us in May after it had been “kidnapped” and kept by an individual for 5 days. When a fledgling is found on the ground, it needs to be put in a bush for safety so that its’ parents can continue raising it. The baby was healthy and was released in June, but it would have been in a lot better situation if its’ own parents had raised it.



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	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: _____



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.



Partners in Education



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PVOC

Pleasant Valley Opportunity Club

*Dr. Louis Buckalew
& Family*



Thoughts from the Director

In elementary school one of the first lessons about wildlife is about “What do animals need to survive?” and the answer is: food, water, shelter. These are basic needs of living things. At the Environmental Studies Center we provide these basic needs for the injured animals that come into our wildlife rehabilitation program, but we also provide care. That care is what makes the difference in a successful rehabilitation. The care we give is a direct result of the dedication of our staff and volunteers and the support of friends like you. You are receiving this newsletter because you care. I am always so very proud when visitors come to the Environmental Studies Center and bring their children or grandchildren. Without saying a word these adults are teaching these children to care about the ecosystem and all of the living things that are there. Years of being a classroom teacher and a parent have taught me that children watch us and see what we value. Added value comes when you talk to your children about what they see. If you bring your children to the Environmental Studies Center and say “Isn’t it beautiful here?” or “They take care of injured wildlife and they return them to the wild.” You just taught them the lesson that natural places are beautiful and we should take care of wildlife and leave them in the wild. Words have power and the more positive words that come from you to your children have the most power.

Teach your children to care!

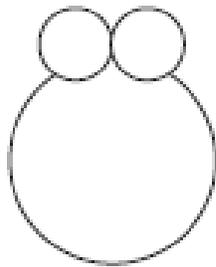
Desiree Bishop, Director



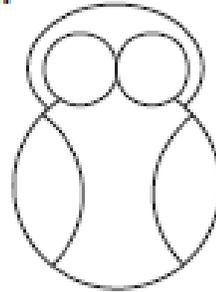
Let's Draw!

An Owl

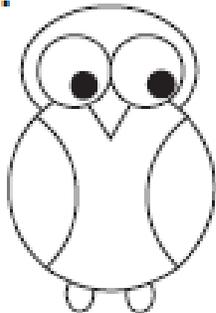
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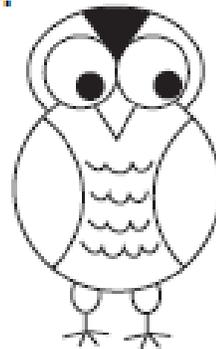
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6101 Girby Road
Mobile, Alabama
36693

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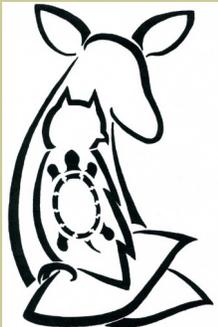
www.mcpsesc.com

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
6101 Girby Road
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