



Environmental STUDIES CENTER

Wild **Adventures**

Fall 2019

Critter Corner

Meet Cricket.....

Cricket the blue jay came to the Center three years ago as a fledgling. He had been raised by the person who brought him in and unfortunately they had treated him as a pet. Because of this he was very tame. Besides being very friendly, Cricket also had a major eye infection from an earlier injury. We were able to treat the eye infection but he still lost the sight in that eye. Because of the blind eye and his friendliness, Cricket had to stay at the Center permanently. He is housed in our outdoor small bird aviary.



Blue jays are in the corvid family. They are very smart and can learn to talk and mimic sounds. They are omnivores so they eat both meat and plants. They eat everything from insects, worms, acorns, fruits, and vegetables. Be sure to stop by and see Cricket in our small bird aviary.



Mobile County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Save the Dates.....

Bird Fest

October 5th

Fairhope, AL

10:00 am – 2 pm

Raptor Road Show 11:00 am & 1:00 pm

Fall Open House

November 2nd

ESC Grounds

9:00 am – 3 pm

Spring Open House

March 21st

ESC Grounds

9:00 am – 4 pm



On Location!

- These shows are appropriate for most audiences and venues.
- The shows feature rehabilitated, unreleasable wildlife.
- All moneys raised through this program, including donations, help to support the ESC's non-profit wildlife rehabilitation program.

Call for pricing and availability

251-221-5000

Outreach Programs

Do you want to educate your students or the general public about native wildlife?

The ESC's outreach programs can help make that possible!

Raptor Road Show

Marvel in the wonders of native birds of prey. Learn about their habitats and adaptations. View birds of prey up close to gain a deeper understanding of these magnificent creatures.

Wildlife of Mobile Show

So many astonishing creatures live in the Mobile area. Some fly, some slither, some crawl, some walk.....but all are amazing. In this show you will see mammals, reptiles, and birds up close.

Remarkable Reptiles Show

Believed to be slimy and dangerous, reptiles are often feared. In this show, you will learn the truths about these fascinating creatures that live throughout Mobile County.

Wildlife Wish List

Clip-on clamp lamp	1 cc and 3cc syringes	Chicken vegetable baby food
Pine bark mulch	Pine shavings (for cages)	Dried whole corn
Cages	Baled hay	Frozen mixed vegetables
Heating pads	Ziploc freezer bags (gallon & quart)	Fresh fruits and vegetables
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
Wild Birdseed	Scratch Feed	Cheerios
Small frozen fish		

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 Skunk Turkey Vulture Screech Owl

Barred Owl Great-Horned Owl Great Blue Heron Other: _____



2018 Patients

BIRDS

Common Name	Total # Rec'd	Common Name	Total # Rec'd
American Crow	1	Osprey	3
American Goldfinch	4	Ovenbird	1
American Woodcock	2	Palm Warbler	1
Barn Owl	3	Prothonotary Warbler	2
Barn Swallow	2	Purple Gallinule	1
Barrred Owl	5	Purple Martin	1
Black Vulture	1	Red-bellied Woodpecker	5
Black-bellied Whistling Duck	5	Red-shouldered Hawk	3
Blue Gray Gnatcatcher	1	Red-tailed Hawk	8
Blue Jay	10	Red-winged Blackbird	1
Broad-winged Hawk	4	Ring-billed Gull	1
Brown Pelican	14	Royal Tern	2
Brown Thrasher	10	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	9
Canada Goose	3	Ruddy Duck	1
Carolina Wren	14	Sharp-shinned Hawk	3
Cedar Waxwing	1	Summer Tanager	1
Chimney Swift	24	Tricolored Heron	1
Chuck-will's-widow	2	Tufted Titmouse	3
Clapper Rail	1	Virginia Rail	2
Common Blackbird	2	White Ibis	1
Common Grackle	2	White-winged Dove	6
Common Loon	2	Wood Duck	9
Common Nighthawk	4	Wood Thrush	5
Cooper's Hawk	8	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2
Double-crested Cormorant	4	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	1
Eastern Bluebird	1	Yellow-rumped Warbler	1
Eastern Screech Owl	7	Non-Migratory Birds	11
Forster's Tern	1	Bird Total	342
Eastern Towhee	1		
Gray Catbird	1	MAMMALS	
Great Blue Heron	1	Common Name	Total # Rec'd
Great Horned Owl	7	Armadillo	3
Herring Gull	1	Cottontail Rabbit	28
House Finch	5	Opossum	137
Indigo Bunting	1	Mammal Total	168
Killdeer	2		
Laughing Gull	27	REPTILES	
Least Tern	1	Common Name	Total # Rec'd
Merlin	1	Aquatic Turtles	4
Mississippi Kite	3	Box Turtle	64
Mourning Dove	26	Snakes	3
Northern Cardinal	19	Reptile Total	71
Northern Mockingbird	23		

GRAND TOTAL

581

2019 Photography Winners

Student photography contest winners were announced during the spring semester. Winners are as follows:

Leaves, Trees, and Cypress Knees Category



**Grade Division:
3-5th Grade**

**Andryuna Harmon
Council Traditional
School**



**Grade Division:
6-8th Grade**

**Fisher Coleman
Semmes Middle
School**



**Grade Division:
9-12th Grade**

**Alex Rosenthal
St. Paul's Episcopal
School**

Bugs, Butterflies, and Songbirds Category



**Grade Division:
3-5th Grade**

**Logan Ammons
Council Traditional
School**



**Grade Division:
9-12th Grade**

**Yamires Nieves-
Fernandez
Chickasaw High
School**

2019-2020 Educational Programs

The ESC is starting the new school year with new programs! In the spirit of continuous improvement, we have revamped our programs to accommodate each grade level. The biggest change comes with our elementary programs that focused on animals and their characteristics. Animals will still be a part of the program but the format has changed quite a bit to include story time, touch tables, and art. The Star Lab is offered to meet objectives for 1st grade as well. Our second grade through fifth grade lessons are about pollinators, Native Americans, and all things found along our coast. The Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant funded program SEA ICE has a new microplastic component added. All of these changes are designed to provide students with the best learning experience possible while enjoying what nature has to offer here on campus.

The grounds are open to the public for all to come and enjoy 8 am – 4 pm. There is a three-dollar admission fee per person, with children in strollers free. We have scavenger hunts and listen and learn activities to do while visiting.

The staff at the ESC hopes to see you soon.

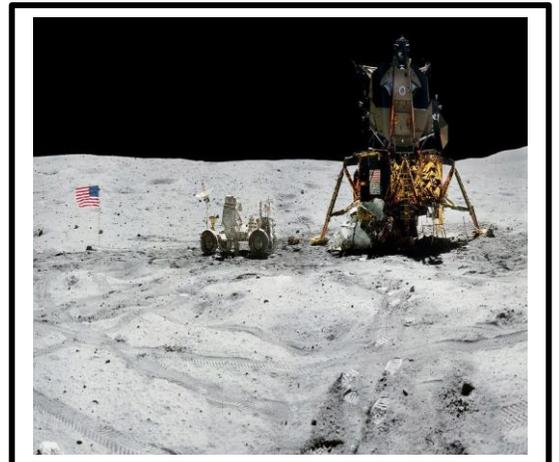


Out of this World News

In only 50 years...

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the astonishing accomplishment of the United States of America and for mankind when two Americans landed on the moon. Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins, along with the many men and women of NASA, conquered the challenge and planted the American flag on the Moon's surface in July of 1969. This feat not only led to some pretty cool bragging rights, but has also fed the desire to go further into our solar system. From the Russian satellite Sputnik to the foil wrapped moon lander to the space shuttle and then on to the International Space Station and the numerous satellites, the space race has led to an aerospace industry that has given us so many of our modern conveniences including Velcro and the handheld computers that so many of us can't live without.

So, what lies ahead? How many of our MCPSS students will be involved in space exploration and perhaps even walk on the surface of Mars? What innovations and discoveries will we be celebrating in the next 50 years?



Reflections from the ESC....

Have you ever thought about what happens to a balloon after it is released? Balloon releases are becoming increasingly popular for charitable events, memorials, or to bring awareness to an issue. They may make a pretty sight floating away into space, but at what cost?

When a balloon is let go, it will blow away only to burst or deflate and return to the Earth where they can cause terrible problems for any animal they may come in contact with. In addition, they contribute to the ever-growing problem of plastic pollution in our ecosystems. Balloons have killed birds, whales, sea turtles, and other wild and domestic animals. Sea turtles and other aquatic animals often confuse balloons with jellyfish and eat them. When an animal swallows a balloon, it can block its intestinal tract leading to starvation. Ribbon and string that are attached to the balloons can cause entanglement and death. Mylar balloons can cause dangerous power outages, spark fires, and take years before breaking down.

There are many fun and reverent alternatives you can use to honor or memorialize. For example, bubbles are a safe and easy alternative that has a beautiful effect. Flags, banners, streamers, ribbons for ribbon dancing, kites, and paper pinwheels are all safe and more environmentally friendly.

Another wonderful environmentally sound practice is to plant a tree to mark the event. As it grows, it will be a reminder for years to come.

Here at the ESC, we believe teaching children empathy and respect is extremely important. However, it is equally important that we also teach our children how to respect and care for the environment.

We feel it is irresponsible to celebrate one event by causing an equally tragic one. Every balloon

released is a potential life lost. Please join us in helping put an end to balloon releases in our city. Encourage event planners to use more environmentally sound practices as we have requested that our school system do the same. Call us. We will be happy to help design an alternative to balloon releases.

As Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

We look forward to your visit. Come see us!

Dr. Tracy H. Jay



FALL ARTS & CRAFTS

OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND

9 AM – 3 PM

Arts & Crafts Vendors

Jewelry, wreaths, quilts, artwork, woodwork, clothing, candles, honey products, and so much more!

Parking on grounds
Overflow parking at
Burns Middle School

Raptor Road Show

Calendar Contest
Winners Announced



Mobile County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Environmental
STUDIES CENTER

6101 Girby Road Mobile, AL 36693



Recent Patients



Baby American Crows

We received 2 baby crows in July on 2 different days. They were from different places. The first one we received was not able to use its foot very well, because of a puncture, so we splinted it. The foot was not broken but it had some muscle soreness. The baby was also quite thin and weak. The second baby came to us a week later very thin and lethargic. The people who found it saw no signs of its parents for several days so they brought it to us. After several weeks both crows improved dramatically. We were able to remove the foot splint off of the first crow after a week and its foot was fine. Both crows are now in a flight cage and will be released by the end of August.

Barred Owl

The barred owl was found in the middle of the road in early August. We assume it had been hit by a car. It had some trauma to its head but no broken bones. It had to be hand fed for a few days because of the head trauma but then it started eating on its own. It will hopefully be released at the end of August.



Recent Patients



Cooper's Hawk

The Cooper's hawk appeared to have some head trauma when it came to the Center. It was very unsteady on its feet and was disoriented. We feel that it might have hit a window because it was found near a building. We gave it fluids and hand fed it for a few days. By the second day it was perching and by the third day it was eating on its own.

We were able to move it to an outside cage after 5 days and it was released after two weeks. Cooper's hawks are very high strung birds and can sometimes be very difficult to rehabilitate so we are very proud of this successful release.

Painted Bunting

The painted bunting came to the Center in the early summer after it hit a window. It was disoriented but did not appear to have any injuries. We kept the bunting overnight to let it rest and to observe it. By the next day it was alert and perching and flying perfectly.

After another exam, we decided it was in good health and we were able to release it that day.





**Environmental
STUDIES CENTER**



Arts and Crafts

Open House
Saturday, November 2, 2019
9am- 3pm

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT IS October 18, 2019

Name	
Business Name	
State Tax ID#	
Address	
Phone Contact	
Email	
Product sold (Please be specific including any brands)	
RELEASE:	The participant(s) release the Mobile County Public School System and the Environmental Studies Center and individuals connected with this event from any and all liabilities arising from any transactions or occurrences anywhere at said event and agree to hold such parties forever harmless.
Date:	Signature:

Send with payment to:
Check or cash
Environmental Studies Center
6101 Girby Road
Mobile, AL 36693-3323

Outside booths *will not* have access to electricity. Food vendors should have proper permit.

FIRST PAY FIRST RESERVED

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO DIRECTLY TO EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITES AND WILDLIFE CARE AT THE ESC.
THANK YOU!

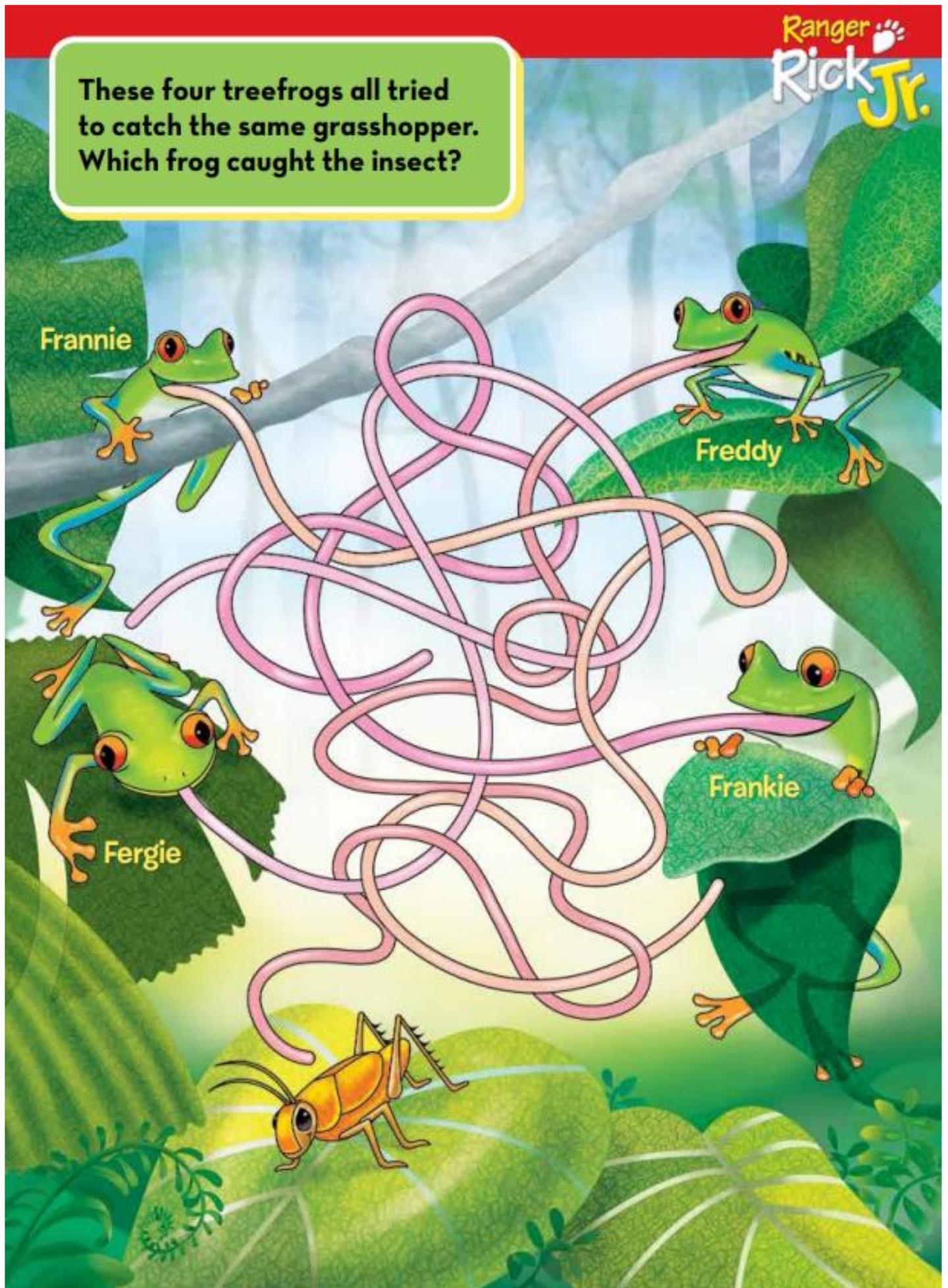
These four treefrogs all tried
to catch the same grasshopper.
Which frog caught the insect?

Frannie

Freddy

Fergie

Frankie



Contact us at 251-221-5000
www.mcpsesc.com

Come Visit Us...

Open Monday-Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Individual admission: \$3 per person

Group Tours: Reservations required – Call 251-221-5000 for pricing and availability



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.



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Mobile, Alabama 36693

Sea Grant
Mississippi-Alabama