



Environmental Learning Center Annual Report 2017-2018



www.DiscoverELC.org

"Look deep into nature, and then you will
understand everything better."

Albert Einstein

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to educate, inspire and empower all people to be active stewards of the environment and their own well-being.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to become an essential element of the community for transforming the understanding of ecology of the South Florida Coast for people of all ages and backgrounds, helping them learn to interact with the land in environmentally responsible ways, and improving their health and well-being through positive connections with nature.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR, DONALD E. BARR

I became chair of the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) Board of Directors in July of 2018 and am honored to have the opportunity to serve in this capacity. Bill Clemens successfully steered the board for three years before I assumed the office. My plan is to build on his meaningful legacy and those of his predecessors.

Since beginning my term as chair, I have had the pleasure of meeting and interacting with countless friends of the ELC and members of our community who have visited our campus and explored what we have to offer. Your guidance and suggestions are always welcome. Most recognize that the ELC is a very special place in our community.

The ELC celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2018, and we had an excellent year. What we do today is a living tribute to the vision, dedication and commitment of the Pelican Island Audubon Society, George Bunnell (Founder), Holly Dill (our first Executive Director), and the volunteers, donors and county officials who recognized the importance of environmental education and action. We are here today because of what they wanted to do to protect and preserve the health of our lagoon and the environment.

Thank you to all who contributed to the financial health of the ELC – the ELC Foundation, contributors, various granting organizations/partners, members, and event participants.

During 2018, the ELC completed the very long process of developing a Master Plan under the able leadership of board member Tim Buhl. The board formally approved that plan in the summer of 2018. We could not have accomplished such a task without the support and valuable input from board members, staff, volunteers, donors, other stakeholders, members of the community and professional advisers. The ELC now has a written road map of where it wants to be in 10-15 years and how we will get there.

I hope you enjoy reading our Annual Report for FY'18. While you read, please always remember that it is your belief in our mission and your support that makes the ELC a valuable resource and gathering place for all in our community. When you need respite or replenishment, come to the ELC and walk our trails, sit on a bench or under a tree. You have a home in nature. Come visit us!


Donald E. Barr
Chair

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Amy Shea, *Environmental Educator*

Bev Shea, *Guest Services /Membership Manager*

Ray Weatherdon, *Facilities Director*

OUR ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HIGHLIGHTING MANY OF THE WINS IN OUR
PURPOSE-DRIVEN MISSION

Looking Back at 2018



15,723
Visitors



1,753
Pontoon Boat
Passengers



161
Field Trips



6
Major Events



\$12,220
Total Value of
In-Kind Contributions



348
New Members



2,806
Students Served



10
High School & College
Interns

VOLUNTEERS



The Environmental Learning Center is thankful for each and every one of our generous volunteers. It is through their gifts of time and talent that the ELC can carry out its mission of being active stewards of the environment.

"Volunteering at the ELC has been very rewarding. It gives us the opportunity to share our love for paddling and cycling while encouraging stewardship for the environment and personal well-being."

Matt & Maggie Lechowicz
Volunteers

268
Volunteers

9,996
Hours Volunteered

\$241,303
Total Value of Volunteer Service



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Fiscal Year July 1, 2017- June 30, 2018

Revenue

Contributions	\$415,910
Special Events	\$73,201
Programs	\$153,250
Other	\$140,227
Investment Gain	\$606,340
Total Revenue	\$1,388,928

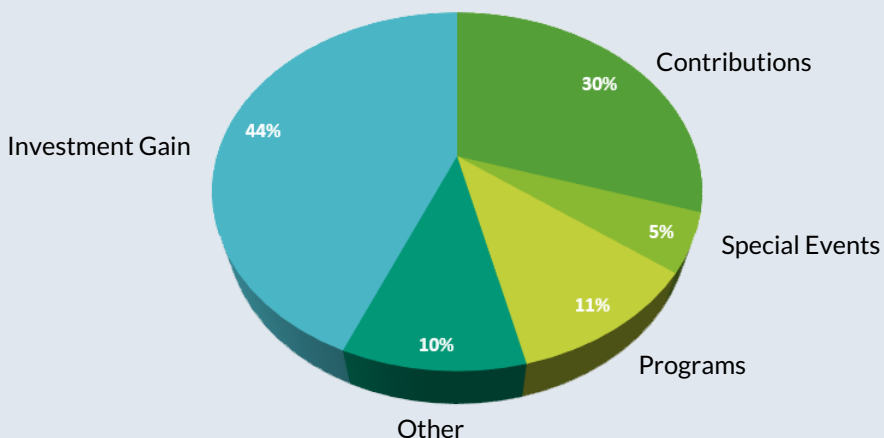
Expenses

Program Services	
Educational Programs	\$1,029,023
Support Services	
Management and General	\$138,826
Fundraising	\$210,719
Total Expenses	\$1,378,568

Net Assets

Beginning of the Year	\$6,657,472
Change in Net Assets	\$10,360
End of the Year	\$6,667,832

Breaking Down the Revenue



The ELC Foundation

The Environmental Learning Center (ELC) Foundation, Inc. is a separate not-for-profit corporation that serves as a sole support organization to the Environmental Learning Center, Inc., and manages both gifts designated by the board for long-term investment and gifts permanently restricted by donors for investment in perpetuity.

The ELC Foundation utilizes an internal committee of financial stewards who manage the Foundation's assets. Through prudent oversight, this Investment Committee has ensured rates of return that have performed solidly over a ten year period.

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Alice Cole
Haydn Cole
Jorge Fernandez
John D. Lowenberg, Sr.

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Robert Prindiville

Environmental Learning Center Foundation Rate of Return

All Data are Annualized	1 yr	3 yr	5 yr	7 yr	10 yr
ELC Foundation Assets	16.53%	7.47%	11.74%	10.52%	7.87%
65/35 Mix*	7.80%	4.39%	8.01%	8.46%	4.33%

*65% All Country World Index MXWD, 35% Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index AGG

Reasons to Donate Now

Your charitable contributions support nature-based programs, events and interactive exhibits that positively impact thousands of children and adults each year. Your generous donations and memberships enable us to maintain and expand our many offerings and services for the community, helping make the world a better place.

Please give today at discoverelc.org or contact
Lesley Lichko, Director of Philanthropy
at lesley@discoverelc.org or
772-589-5050 ext. 103.



With Appreciation...

For over 30 years, our donors have made it possible for the ELC to serve the community through school excursions, camps, lectures series, adult education, internships, professional development, family festivals, youth outreach, and numerous partnerships and other programs that increase access to nature for people of all ages and walks of life.

We couldn't do it without you. Thank you for your ongoing support!

This annual report includes gifts received between July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018.

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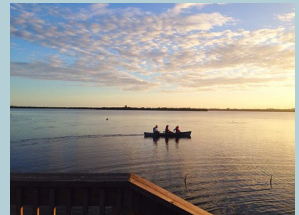
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Connecting people with nature is our mission.

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School District of Indian River County

Senior Resource Association

The Learning Alliance

United Way of Indian River County

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Vero Beach Museum of Art



National Estuaries Day Celebration

Saturday, September 23, 2017

Attendees enjoyed a morning of fun and educational activities while recognizing the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) selection of the Indian River Lagoon as an "Estuary of National Significance!"

Events



Half Haunted Halloween

Friday, October 27, 2017

Half Haunted Halloween allowed guests to experience nature at night with this interactive Halloween event!

WinterGreen Night Lights

Saturday, December 2, 2017

This beautiful evening included live music, fun games, and canoeing under mangrove tunnels filled with holiday lights.



Golfin' for the Lagoon

Monday, February 26, 2018

ELC's 25th Annual Charity Golf Tournament took place at Bent Pine Golf Club. Golfers & guests enjoyed a buffet luncheon, 19th Hole Cocktails, an auction and awards.

EcoFest

Sunday, March 4, 2018

This afternoon of outdoor fun was our biggest event of the year! We offered workshops, Birding 101, container gardening, live music, and more!



Anniversary Gala

Saturday, April 7, 2018

Guests enjoyed cocktails, dinner, a champagne toast, live and silent auctions, and the presentation of the Environmental Visionary in Action Award.

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

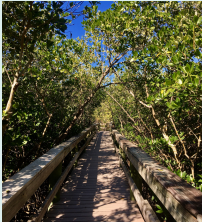
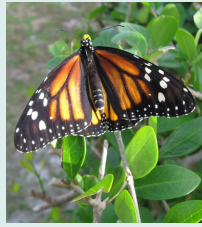
A Sneak Peek of our Master Plan

ELC's master plan is a long-term goal that will guide our future growth and development, while carrying out our mission. It will be executed in stages based on community support and fundraising successes.

Our master plan features a self-sustainable interpretive center, native butterfly garden, canopy walk, solar terrace, nature play zone, orchid waterfall and more.

This is the ELC Master Plan. This is ELC's vision for our shared future.





Our Mission:

Our mission is to educate, inspire and empower all people to be active stewards of the environment and their own well-being.

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