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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AN ELC FOCUS ON ADULTS

WABASSO ISLAND, Fla. The Environmental Learning Center (ELC), long known for its educational offerings for children, has developed, this season, two new environmental series aimed at adults with environmental interests: the Noted Environmentalist Lecture Series, in conjunction with the Indian River Land Trust, and The Green Living Workshops.

The Noted Environmentalist Lecture Series will feature the following speakers and topics.

Biofuels, January 21, 6:30 to 8 PM. The speaker, Dr. Ann Wilkie is an Associate Professor in the Soil and Water Science Department at the University of Florida and is an internationally known expert of biogas technology. She is on the editorial board of the journal *Biomass and Bioenergy*.

Marine Mammals, February 4, 4 to 6 PM. Guest speakers Dr. Juli D. Goldstein and Stephen McCulloch are both staff scientists at the Harbor Branch Marine Institute, now part of the Florida Atlantic University. Dr. Goldstein, a veterinarian, focuses on the husbandry, care

and treatment of stranded and captive marine mammals. Mr. McCulloch, with 30 years experience in the field, is the founder of the Division of Marine Mammal Research and Conservation at Harbor Branch. They will arrive with their Marine Mammal Ambulance to provide tours of this well equipped vehicle.

Eat Local, March 4, 6:30 to 8 PM. A never-before-assembled round table of local farmers, ranchers and harvesters will discuss the difference between “sustainable” and “industrial” agriculture and how to find locally grown/raised foods.

Beach Quest, April 1, 6:30 to 8 PM. Dr. Blair Witherington, a research scientist working on sea turtle biology and conservation at the Research Institute of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, will introduce participants to some of the wonderful and sometimes mysterious things to be found on their own beach outings. He and his wife authored the book *Florida’s Living Beaches*.

The Coastal Plain, May 6, 6:30 to 8 PM. The research of guest speaker Dr. Bruce Means has been featured in documentary films for National Geographic Television, BBC Television and PBS. With 40 years of experience studying the coastal plain that stretches from New Jersey to Texas, he will share his findings with photographs of indigenous animals and plants.

Each of these events will be followed by a wine and local finger food reception. The cost is \$30 (\$25 for ELC or Indian River Land Trust members). Advance registration is required and may be made by calling (772) 589-5050.

The following are the topics of The Green Living Workshops.

Solar Power, Saturday, February 7, 10 to noon. Representatives of the Florida Solar Energy Center will demonstrate many ways that solar energy can be harnessed for home use. \$10 (\$8 for members).

Green, Greener, Greenest, Saturday, March 7, 10 to noon. Author of the book by the same name, Lori Bongiorno arrives from New York City to talk about simple changes you can make in your everyday living to enhance the environment. The cost is \$30 (\$25 for members) and includes an autographed copy of her book.

Rain Barrels, Saturday, May 2, 10 to noon. Under the guidance of Joan Benson, Indian River County Cooperative Extension Service, participants will make their own rain barrels. The \$35 (\$30 for members) charge includes building materials for the barrels.

The Green Workshops require advance registration which can be made by calling (772) 589-5050.

The Environmental Learning Center is located north of Vero Beach off County Road 510 at the western edge of the Wabasso Bridge. Its 64-acre island campus includes exhibit areas, native plant gardens, picnic facilities, gift shop and visitor center. A list of its many field excursions including hikes, boat excursions, nature walks and bird watching can be found at www.DiscoverELC.org.

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