

E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center in the running for Pepsi funds

The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center is in the running for \$250,000 through the Pepsi Refresh for the Gulf Project. If the Center wins through the most votes, the funds would go towards educating students in the Florida Panhandle about the environmental sciences for the 2010-2011 school year.

The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center is a 501(c)(3) registered under the name Nokuse Education, Inc. The recent oil spill has impacted both the students in the Florida Panhandle and funding sources for the Center. To address both of these concerns, the Biophilia Cen-

ter is incorporating lessons on oil in its curriculum for fourth and seventh grades this school year, while they are aggressively seeking alternative funding sources.

The project description for the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center is "Educate Tomorrow's Leaders" and may be viewed by visiting <http://gulf.refresheverything.com>, clicking on the \$250,000 tab and scrolling down to the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center logo. Viewers may have to click on "Load More" to see the Center's project. To begin the voting process, viewers must click on "Vote for this idea"

and will then be instructed to create an account using their email address. Once an account has been set up, supporters will have to click on the \$250,000 tab one more time and look for the Center's project. Click on "Vote for this Idea" to register your vote. Votes may be placed daily throughout the month of August. Share the link with instructions to all your email and Facebook contacts; the Center needs all the votes they can get as they are competing against 276 other projects for this funding.

To learn more about the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Cen-

ter, please visit their website www.eowilsoncenter.org. The Center teaches an average of 140 students every school day and last year served Walton, Bay, Okaloosa, Holmes and Leon School Districts. The next date the Center is open to the public is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 11. If interested in volunteering at the Center, or if there are further questions, call (850) 835-1824.