



Education and Exhibits Update: December 19, 2018

1. The Education Department was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Roy A. Hunt Foundation. This grant will partially support our “Deserving Kids to the Coast” program, which provides no-cost field trips to the Coastal Center for students at low-income schools. The grant will also help to provide stipends for interns, scholarships for summer camp participants, and sea turtle outreach programming. We were also awarded \$1,000 in fishing rods and reels from the Fish Florida grant program, for participants in our Game Fish and Fish Games Youth Fishing Clinic. So far this fall, we have written and submitted 5 grant proposals totaling \$69,402 (plus \$1,000 in fishing equipment).
2. The 2018/19 Deserving Kids to the Coast program continued this month, providing two no-cost field trips for 73 students and teachers from Weatherbee Elementary, a Title I school in Ft. Pierce. This grant-supported program provides free educational field trips to the Coastal Center for socioeconomically disadvantaged students. This round of free field trips was supported by a grant from the Andrew and Robin Hunt Philanthropic Fund. We are currently in the process of scheduling the next round of Deserving Kids to the Coast field trips.
3. The Education Department provided a free Coastal Center visit for 18 children and 4 adults from the Hibiscus Children’s Shelter, a home for neglected and abused children from our community. This grant-funded visit was an offshoot of the Deserving Kids to the Coast program.
4. Education Specialist Nicole Harper attended a “Teaching Climate Change and the Environmental Crisis” professional development workshop hosted by Florida Atlantic University’s Pine Jog Environmental Education Center.
5. Education Specialist Yasmeen Fadlallah led a shark and stingray-themed outreach presentation at the Hutchinson Island Marriott Beach Resort. This fee-based program generated \$50 for FOS.
6. Sunday morning educational beach walks, led by Education Specialist Shannon Dack, will begin on Sunday, January 6th, and will run through the end of February.
7. The Education Department created temporary hands-on educational displays at the Coastal Center for the Special Activities Days associated with “Manatee Month” and “Bird Month.”
8. In honor of “Bird Month,” the Education Department hosted a special early morning guided bird walk on the FOS nature trail, led by former Education Director Ellie Van Os.
9. Speakers have been confirmed for all eight dates of this winter’s Coastal Lecture Series at the Blake Library. The theme of this year’s lecture series is “Our Water - Our Land - Our Future.” The series kicks off on January 7th with a presentation about tracking the migrations of juvenile sea turtles, led by Dr. Kate Mansfield from the University of Central Florida.

10. The Education Department held an “Oyster Reefs as Habitat” field trip for 20 6th graders from Redeemer Lutheran School. This upper-level field trip integrates FOS’s educational and research missions into a single learning experience.
11. Nicole received a package of thank you letters and drawings from a Colorado 4th grade class that participated in one of her Virtual Field Trips.
12. The Education Department assisted with the filming of a children’s television show segment for MCTV.
13. Director of Education Dr. Zack Jud held an on-water presentation about Florida’s water quality issues during a sunset cruise in the Indian River Lagoon. The cruise was donated to FOS by John and Carole Gregory as an Oceans Alive auction prize.
14. Zack gave a lecture for the Southeast Geological Society about Florida’s sabellarid worm reefs, and a second lecture for the Stuart Flyrodders about algae blooms and water quality issues. Stuart Flyrodders presented a \$300 honorarium to FOS.
15. Zack put together a special private visit to the Coastal Center for a 5-year-old sea turtle expert who is battling Leukemia. He also led a tour of the Coastal Center for a group of 11 British travel agents, facilitated through the Martin County Office of Tourism.
16. This month, Zack co-authored and published another peer-reviewed scientific paper in the journal “Environmental Biology of Fishes.” He also wrote a detailed outline documenting educational goals for the proposed EcoCenter exhibits, as well as “A Floridian’s Guide to Algae,” which is available on the FOS webpage.