



Education and Exhibits Update: December 11th, 2019

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 college interns, supplies and scholarships for summer camp, and educational outreach programming. We were also awarded \$10,000 from the William and Helen Thomas Charitable Trust to partially support “Deserving Kids to the Coast,” as well as \$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.
2. The “Deserving Kids to the Coast” program continued this month with a no-cost field trip for the second half of White City Elementary’s 3rd grade class, as well as two no-cost field trips for Lakewood Park Elementary’s entire 3rd grade class. Combined, these trips reached 126 students and teachers from Title I schools in St. Lucie County. This grant-supported program provides free educational field trips to the Coastal Center for socioeconomically disadvantaged students.
3. Seven speakers have been confirmed for the 2020 Coastal Lecture Series, including two internationally recognized scientists. The series kicks off on January 7th with a presentation by John Englander, a high-profile sea level rise expert. Mr. Englander has agreed to waive his substantial speaker’s fee for FOS.
4. The Education Department assisted with the Rally for the River community outreach event on November 16th. Education Specialist Dakotah Tanczuk staffed an educational booth focused on oyster reef restoration, and Director of Education Dr. Zack Jud led two on-water lectures aboard the Schooner Lily, focused on Florida’s water issues. The owners of the Schooner Lily have offered to donate half of their proceeds from these cruises to FOS.
5. We held two unique field trip programs this month – one for a group of students from the Seminole Tribe of Florida Brighton Reservation, and another for a group of special-needs high school students.
6. Sunday morning educational beach walks, led by Education Specialist Shannon Dack, will begin on Sunday, January 5th, running through the end of February.
7. Florida Oceanographic Society provided a free Coastal Center visit for 38 campers and 22 mentors from Operation 300. Operation 300 provides camps for children who have lost a parent in the armed forces.
8. Shannon, Zack, and Education Specialist Yasmeeen Fadlallah assisted with the volunteer appreciation social.
9. Zack led a 90-minute Skype-based lesson for an upper-level college herpetology (reptile and amphibian biology) class at Mississippi State University. This fee-generating lecture reached ~30 undergraduate and graduate students.
10. Zack led a detailed review and re-write of the graphics and educational signage that Cambridge Seven Associates prepared for the new building (a 100+ page document).