

Timeline of Recent Research and Restoration Events

November 12: Samantha Smith led a shell bagging with 6 volunteers creating 273 bags of shell. This was a private event held with Publix employees. Manatee Island Restaurant and Chuck's Seafood Restaurant were added to the oyster shell recycling program.

November 13: Samantha Smith met with Assistant Superintendent, Wendy Parker, of Solid Waste Authority to secure off-site storage space for the existing oyster shell bags as needed. SWA will allow the material to be held for upcoming reef deployments.

November 14: Glenn Coldren and Samantha Smith assisted with oyster collection with the UF Master's Student on the Indian River Lagoon Microplastics Project.

November 16: FOS's Annual Rally for the River Event was held in Flagler Park in Downtown Stuart. Research participated with booths on FLOOR, FOSTER, Living Shorelines, and Water Quality. Glenn Coldren led walking tours on living shorelines and presented on FLOOR. Kathryn Tiling held a mangrove planting and water quality demonstrations, while presenting FOSTER. Samantha Smith led oyster bagging during the event.

November 19: Glenn Coldren and Kathryn Tiling did a site visit to Samsons Island restoration site in Satellite Beach. FOS is partnered on both oyster and seagrass restoration efforts at this site with multiple agencies from the Indian River Lagoon.

November 21: Samantha Smith led a shell bagging with 16 volunteers creating 375 bags of shell.

December 5: The new research lab was delivered. Post-installation modifications are being scheduled.

Seagrass Nursery Expansion Update

The main seagrass exhibit nursery is up and running. Seagrass from the experimental nursery were transferred into the main nursery at the beginning of September. These trays are now viewable by the public. Work to be completed includes lining and plumbing the shoreline tanks and reinforcing the tables in the experimental nursery.

Research Lab Replacement Update

New research lab building was installed on December 5th. Staff is currently scheduling post-installation modifications (AC, insulation, etc.), which are expected to be completed after the holiday season.

Grants Update

The Oyster Habitat Mapping in the St. Lucie Estuary project has been completed and the invoice has been submitted. All other projects are continuing as scheduled.