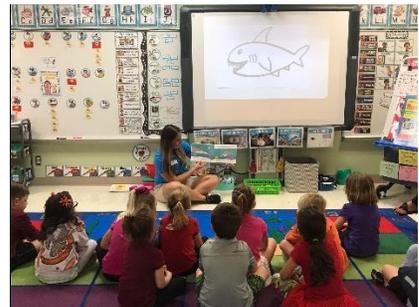




Education and Exhibits Update: February 27, 2019

1. This month, Director of Education Dr. Zack Jud wrote and submitted **two Letters of Intent (LOIs) for grants that would support educational programs** at Florida Oceanographic Society. One LOI was submitted to the Impact 100 St. Lucie grant program, in the amount of **\$100,000** to support our “Deserving Kids to the Coast” field trip program. If funded, this grant would allow Florida Oceanographic Society to provide free educational field trips to the Coastal Center for more than 2,000 3rd grade students from Title I schools in St. Lucie County. A second LOI was submitted to the Frances Langford Fund grant program, in the amount of **\$22,374** to create the “Coastal Classroom Explorers” program. These funds will allow us to develop and deliver free educational classroom lessons, activities, and presentations to elementary schools and after school programs in Martin County. Zack also provided writing assistance to the Research Department as part of the submission of an LOI and full grant proposal to the Impact 100 Martin grant program.
2. The 2019 **Coastal Lecture Series** continues to see exceptionally strong attendance. At our Jan. 28th lecture, Dr. Jon Moore from FAU spoke about gopher tortoises to an **audience of 180**. On Feb. 4th, Dr. Grant Gilmore from Estuarine Coastal and Ocean Sciences, Inc., educated **170 guests** about several species of very rare fish that are found in the St. Lucie Estuary. FOS Board member Dr. Gary Goforth generously stepped in to speak for an under-the-weather Mark Perry on Feb. 11. More than **220 guests** attended Gary’s lecture, which provided an update on the health of Florida’s waters. Finally, **220 guests** attended a Feb. 18 lecture about the 1715 Spanish treasure fleet by Prof. Ron Frazer from Indian River State College. Our next lecture, scheduled for March 4th, will feature University of South Florida biology professor Dr. Chris Stallings, who is an expert in the biology of the goliath grouper. The full lecture series schedule is available at www.floridaocean.org
3. The 2018/19 **Deserving Kids to the Coast program** continued this month, providing three no-cost field trips for 122 3rd grade students and teachers from Samuel Gaines Academy, a Title I school in Ft. Pierce. This grant-supported program provides free educational field trips to the Coastal Center for socioeconomically disadvantaged students. These trips were supported by a grant from the Roy A. Hunt Foundation.
4. Education Specialists Yasmeeen Fadlallah and Nicole Harper debuted a brand **new kindergarten classroom outreach program** that they designed from scratch over the last few weeks. This hands-on, interactive program represents an expansion to our existing classroom outreach offerings.



5. Nicole and Yasmeeen also completely **redesigned our kindergarten field trip curriculum** to create a more interactive Coastal Center visit that touches on a greater number of state educational standards.

6. Education Specialist Shannon Dack led four **Sunday morning beach walks** this month. These educational beach walks are open to the public at a cost of \$12 per person, and include free admission to the Coastal Center.
7. Shannon also led a **volunteer breakfast/workshop** focused on the biology of spiders.
8. Yasmeen designed and implemented a **special experimental activity to help celebrate Invertebrate Month** at the Coastal Center. Guests learned about invertebrates, and participated in an experiment demonstrating the effects of ocean acidification on shellfish. The activity was held on two different Saturdays in February.



9. The Education Department created a series of **“Romance in the Natural World” Facebook posts** for the week leading up to Valentine’s Day.
10. Shannon, Nicole, and Yasmeen met with a group of **Girl Scouts** at the Coastal Center to discuss careers in the sciences, as well as Florida’s ongoing environmental issues.
11. Yasmeen set up and staffed a shark and ray-themed educational outreach booth at **NatureFest**, a one-day public science festival held at the Manatee Center in Fort Pierce. Over the course of the day, Yasmeen and FOS volunteer Laura Elsenboss directly interacted with several hundred children and adults.
12. Nicole and Yasmeen have both successfully completed a 32-hour training course through the National Association of Interpretation to become **Certified Interpretive Guides**.
13. Yasmeen received a **full scholarship to attend a Florida Master Naturalist’s course**.
14. **Summer camp** registration opened on February 4th, and already **50% of available spots have been booked**.
15. Zack served as a session chair at the **Indian River Lagoon Science Symposium**, which was held at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute.
16. Zack represented Florida Oceanographic Society at the **Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program’s Citizens’ Advisory Committee meeting**, held in Sebastian, FL. Zack serves as an appointed Martin County representative on the Citizens’ Advisory Committee.
17. Zack provided oral comments about the proposed **Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual** at a public meeting hosted by the US Army Corps of Engineers.
18. **Florida Sportsman Magazine** invited Zack to speak in front of a group of fishing guides and fishing industry professionals about the failing health of the Indian River Lagoon. The meeting, which was held in Titusville, FL, was filmed for later broadcast. Zack also filmed a short mini-documentary with Florida Sportsman Magazine, focused on Florida Oceanographic Society’s ongoing habitat restoration work.
19. Zack led a **guided tour of the Coastal Center** for donors Andrew and Robin Hunt, financial supporters of educational programming at Florida Oceanographic Society.