



Education and Exhibits Update: November 13th, 2019

1. The **Deserving Kids to the Coast program** kicked off for the 2019-20 school year with a no-cost field trip for 25 students and teachers from White City 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. Four additional Deserving Kids to the Coast field trips are scheduled for November.
2. For the fifth year in a row, the Education Department partnered with the Development Department to run a shark and ray-themed educational outreach display at the **Indian River Lagoon Science Festival** in Fort Pierce. This year, Education Specialist Shannon Dack and Community Outreach Coordinator Michelle Byriel represented FOS at the event. Several hundred guests stopped by our highly interactive and educational booth during the course of the day. This is the largest community outreach event that FOS participates in each year.
3. In honor of Halloween, Shannon led a **spider-themed guided nature trail walk** for FOS volunteers.
4. Education Specialist Dakotah Tanczuk led a manatee-themed **outreach presentation for guests at the Hutchinson Island Marriott Beach Resort**.
5. The Education Department led two **virtual field trips** as part of the Microsoft Global Learning Connection "Skype-a-thon."
6. The Education team also led a successful **seining field trip** for a group of 5th and 6th graders.
7. FOS partnered with the FL Department of Environmental Protection to release **biodegradable "drift cards" into the Indian River Lagoon**. These cards will help scientists better understand how water (and pollution, plastic debris, algae blooms, etc.) moves around in our estuary. Cards were simultaneously released in Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, and Brevard Counties. So far, 7 of our drift cards have been recovered, one washing up on a Singer Island beach 30 miles south of the Coastal Center.
8. Dates have been set for this winter's **Coastal Lecture Series** at the Blake Library. We are currently working to solicit prominent and relevant speakers to fill eight available time slots. The series kicks off on January 7th.
9. Director of Education Dr. Zack Jud gave an **outreach lecture** focused on Florida's water issues for 100 members of the Lost Lake Women's Club. Two days after the outreach lecture, 15 members of the Women's Club visited the Coastal Center for a **private guided tour**.