



Education and Exhibits Update: April 6, 2020

Response to COVID-19 and Coastal Center Closure

1. The Education Department has transitioned to working from home during the Coastal Center's closure. We have been focused on creating new educational content in a variety of formats, including:
 - Educational lesson plans and activity packets for parents with children home from school. We are designing these from scratch, using all original content and graphics.
 - Educational social media posts including video clips, photos, and in-house created infographics to ensure that our community is still actively engaging with FOS on a daily basis. We hope to use these posts to grow our presence on social media. Before we began working from home, the Education team took photos and videos from around the Coastal Center for use in future social media posts.
 - Educational blog posts for the FOS website.
 - We have also updated the "Educational Activities" page on the FOS website. This will become a clearinghouse for all of the new at-home educational content that we are developing.

2. We have been in communication with elementary school, high school, and college teachers about the possibility of creating video-based lessons for their students. At the present time, all of the teachers we have spoken to are still trying to figure out how best to deliver remote content to their students. As these teachers become more comfortable with teaching remotely, we will work with them to develop live or recorded video lessons. For college-level lessons, we feel comfortable charging a programming fee. We intend to provide all other programming free of charge. When possible, we will try to utilize existing grant funding to support these efforts.

3. Prior to closing the Coastal Center to the public, the Education Department implemented a new set of visitation policies designed to allow an enjoyable guest experience, while still providing a safe atmosphere for guests, volunteers, and staff members (e.g., limiting the number of guests at an exhibit, feeding the rays in multiple waves, roping off areas for staff members to use while speaking, adding crowd control stanchions and signage around exhibits). We hope that these policies will provide a margin of safety when the Coastal Center does reopen for visitation.

4. We have spoken to the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program about our reimbursable grant supporting the FLOORED program. With schools closed into the foreseeable future, we will not be able to fulfill the requirements of this grant. The IRLNEP is not able to offer us a grant extension, but they are willing to allow us to submit a Change of Scope order. We are developing alternative options that will still broadly satisfy the requirements of the grant program to ensure that FOS does not lose this funding.

5. As of this time, the Education Department has had to cancel the Science Behind Oyster Restoration Workshop, Game Fish and Fish Games Youth Fishing Clinic, an outreach lecture aboard the Schooner Lily, four classroom outreach lessons at Fort Pierce Central High School as a part of the FLOORED program, six FLOORED field trips to the Coastal Center, a classroom outreach lesson at Felix Williams Elementary

School, an outreach lesson at the Marriott, an outreach lecture at a Hutchinson Island condominium, an educational activity at Waterfest, and a lecture at the monthly volunteer breakfast.

6. Between March 17 and April 30, we have cancelled 23 school field trips.
7. We are currently not able to schedule grant-funded programming, including the Deserving Kids to the Coast program, the Virtual Field Trip program, and the FLOORED program.

Prior to the Coastal Center Closure

1. The 2020 Coastal Lecture Series reached a total of 1,745 attendees over the course of 8 lectures, smashing our previous attendance record of 1,430 guests. Average attendance was more than 200 guests per lecture. On March 3rd, Dr. Jon Moore from FAU spoke in front of 160 guests about the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. On March 11th, 155 guests gathered for a shark lecture by Dr. Stephen Kajiura from FAU. Videos of all eight lectures are available at floridaocean.org.
2. Education Specialists Shannon Dack and Dakotah Tanczuk led a private guided beach walk for 25 members of the Valencia Pointe Bird and Nature Club.
3. The Education Department held a special Oyster Reefs as Habitat field trip for the entire 7th grade at Jupiter Christian School. Director of Education Dr. Zack Jud started the program by giving an in-school lecture about oyster restoration to 80 7th graders in Jupiter Christian School's gymnasium. For the next two days, the students visited the Coastal Center for the hands-on field portion of their trip. The students had an opportunity to bag oyster shell, tour a shellfish hatchery, and search for creatures that had colonized an existing restoration reef.
4. The Education Department received a surprise \$500 donation from the Nettle's Island Woman's Club to support educational opportunities for St. Lucie County children. After Zack's lecture to the Women's Club last month, club leadership was inspired to make an additional donation to FOS (beyond the honorarium provided the day of the talk).
5. Zack and Community Outreach and Event Coordinator Michelle Byriel worked with the McGraw-Hill Publishing Company to film a 360° virtual learning experience at the Coastal Center. Once completed, Florida Oceanographic Society will be able to share this virtual lesson.
6. Zack wrote a detailed narrative outline for the Florida's Water Story floor projection A/V exhibit in the Ocean EcoCenter, and has continued to work closely with our graphic designer to finalize educational content for the new building.