



Education Department Update: December 14, 2020

1. The Education Department was awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Marmot Foundation, a \$15,850 grant from the William and Helen Thomas Charitable Trust, and a \$10,000 grant from the Roy A. Hunt Foundation. These grants will support various educational programs, while also providing operational funding to support the Education Department.
2. We are in the process of scheduling speakers for a virtual version of the 2021 Coastal Lecture Series. Dr. Zack Jud, Director of Education, will be kicking the series off on January 5<sup>th</sup> with a lecture about Florida's invasive reptiles and amphibians. Dr. Dan McCarthy and Dr. Ken Lindeman will be speaking about Florida's nearshore reefs on January 12<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Lora Simpson, Director of Scientific Research, will be giving a lecture about the impacts of climate change on mangrove expansion on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Lectures will be streamed live using Zoom on Tuesday evenings, January through March. If you have speaker recommendations, please contact Zack directly.
3. Education Specialist Yasmeen Fadlallah led two fee-based virtual field trips and one no-cost grant-funded virtual field trip this month.
4. The Education Department provided a free grant-funded field trip to the East Stuart Youth Initiative, a program serving socioeconomically disadvantaged children in our community.
5. During December, the Education Department will host four early-morning guided nature trail walks, before the Coastal Center opens to the public. Space in these fee-based walks is limited. Registration is available at: <https://www.floridaocean.org/events>. Four early-morning nature trail walks were scheduled for November, but three were canceled due to a lack of registration.
6. The Education Department facilitated a Coastal Center birthday party this month. Birthday parties are available at the Coastal Center for a fee of \$200.
7. Florida Oceanographic Society's "Fish Cam" has been added to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services educational resources newsletter.
8. Zack continues to coordinate with ColorAd, Trivium, and CambridgeSeven to finalize exhibit design for the Ocean EcoCenter.
9. As a part of TCPalm's annual "Twelve Days of Christmas" series, Florida Oceanographic Society is requesting our community's support to purchase three digital microscopes for the Ocean EcoCenter's new classroom.