



Education and Exhibits Update: January 22, 2020

1. The Education Department was awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Marmot Foundation. This grant will support our Coastal Lecture Series, Virtual Field Trip program, educational outreach programming, sea turtle walks, and summer camps. These funds will also be used to provide a small stipend to highly qualified college interns for the Education Department.
2. The 2020 Coastal Lecture Series kicked off on January 7th with a standing-room-only crowd for a talk by globally recognized author and sea level rise expert John Englander. More than 300 guests packed into the Blake Library for John's presentation – one of the largest turnouts in Coastal Lecture Series history. On January 14th, 190 guests gathered for an update on Florida's water issues by Mark Perry, Executive Director of Florida Oceanographic Society. Sandy Thurlow, noted historian and author, shared a photographic history of Hutchinson Island with another near-record crowd of 300 guests on the evening of January 21st. Our next lecture, scheduled for Tuesday, February 4th, will feature globally recognized marine biologist and author Dr. Ellen Prager.
3. Sunday morning educational beach walks, led by Education Specialist Shannon Dack, began on Sunday, January 5th, and will run through the end of February. Guided beach walks are \$12 per person, and include admission to the Coastal Center.
4. The Education Department hosted a meeting of the Nature Educator Alliance of the Treasure Coast, a newly formed professional society aimed at staff members of local environmental and conservation organizations.
5. The Marriott Hutchinson Island Beach Resort has scheduled monthly outreach presentations through the winter season. Education Specialist Dakotah Tanczuk led a shorebird-themed outreach lesson in December, and Education Specialist Yasmeen Fadlallah led a shark and ray-themed outreach program in January. FOS charges the Marriott \$50 per outreach presentation.
6. Our existing Special Activity Day program has been rebranded as "Science Saturdays." On one or two Saturdays per month, the Education team will lead a hands-on educational activity at the Coastal Center in conjunction with that month's theme. In December (Shorebird Month), Dakotah and Yasmeen designed and implemented an activity focused on bird beak adaptations. In January (Mangrove and Seagrass Month), they designed and held an activity highlighting FOS's mangrove and seagrass restoration work.
7. As part of our volunteer continuing education breakfast series, Yasmeen gave a presentation about her graduate school research project focused on the trash that washes up on local beaches.
8. We assisted Audubon of Martin County with their annual Christmas Bird Count by providing free early morning access to the FOS nature trail and the assistance of a volunteer nature trail guide.
9. Summer camp registration opens on Tuesday, February 3rd (January 27th for FOS members).
10. Education Director Dr. Zack Jud has accepted a position on the Indian Riverkeeper Advisory Committee.