

Education and Exhibits Update: March 2, 2020

1. The Education Department was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Andrew and Robin Hunt Philanthropic Fund. This grant will partially support our “Deserving Kids to the Coast” program, which provides no-cost field trips to the Coastal Center for students at low-income schools. The grant will also help to provide stipends for college interns, supplies and scholarships for summer camp, and educational outreach programming.
2. The 2020 Coastal Lecture Series continues to see record attendance. On February 4<sup>th</sup>, globally recognized marine biologist and author Dr. Ellen Prager spoke in front of 290 guests. On February 11<sup>th</sup>, 200 guests gathered to hear Dr. Michael Grace, Professor Emeritus from Florida Institute of Technology. On February 25<sup>th</sup>, Erick Ault from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission attracted 140 guests. With two lectures remaining, we have already reached 1430 guests – tying our all-time attendance record. Our next lecture, scheduled for Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, will feature Dr. Jon Moore speaking about the environmental impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Videos of previous lectures are available at [floridaocean.org](http://floridaocean.org).
3. In conjunction with Dr. Ellen Prager’s lecture series appearance, we facilitated an assembly at Felix Williams Elementary School. Dr. Prager spoke about her work in the Galapagos Islands, and gave every 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grader – approximately 200 students – a copy of her latest young-reader book.



4. FOS hosted a regional meeting of the Association of Nature Center Administrators. Executive Director Mark Perry and Director of Education Dr. Zack Jud teamed up to lead an hour-long lecture about advocacy in a nature center setting. Approximately 35 attendees, representing 16 different organizations, participated in the meeting.

5. Sunday morning **educational beach walks**, led by Education Specialist Shannon Dack, have wrapped up for the season. A total of 54 attendees participated in 8 beach walks this winter.
6. Education Specialists Yasmeen Fadlallah and Dakotah Tanczuk designed and led special hands-on educational activities for our **“Science Saturdays”** program. On January 25<sup>th</sup>, our activity focused on FOS’s mangrove and seagrass restoration work (in honor of Mangrove and Seagrass Month). On February 8<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, we ran an experiment demonstrating the effects of ocean acidification on marine creatures (Invertebrates Month).
7. **Summer camp registration** opened on Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> (January 27<sup>th</sup> for FOS members). Already, 63% of our available spaces have been filled. We were only 49% booked on this date last year.
8. The Education team led two **volunteer refresher workshops** in preparation for our busy season at the Coastal Center.
9. 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 Community Outreach Coordinator Michelle Byriel directly interacted with several hundred children and adults.
10. Registration is open for Florida Oceanographic Society’s **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Game Fish and Fish Games Youth Fishing Clinic**. The event will be held on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Participants, ages 8-14, will rotate through 7 educational stations, and take home their own fishing rod provided by a grant from Fish Florida.
11. Registration is open for a **“Science Behind Oyster Restoration” workshop**. This intensive, half-day workshop will combine a classroom lecture, shellfish hatchery and seagrass nursery tours, and hands-on field activities to expose members of our community to the habitat restoration work being carried out by FOS. The workshop is supported by a grant from the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program.
12. Dakotah assisted with a **volunteer appreciation field trip** to Loggerhead Marinelife Center, where she volunteers.
13. **Eventmakers donated a 20’ x 20’ frame tent** to provide covered picnic space for field trips and summer camp groups. This was an essential need, as access to our group pavilion has been cut off during Ocean EcoCenter construction. Eventmakers is allowing us to use the semi-permanent tent for 5 months, charging just a single-day rental fee to cover installation and removal.
14. Zack led **two community outreach lectures about algae blooms and Florida’s water issues** – one for the Nettles Island Women’s Club, and one for the St. Lucie River Power Squadron. Both groups donated a \$100 honorarium to FOS.
15. Zack conducted a **sea turtle-themed virtual lecture for an undergraduate oceanography class** at Bentley University, in Massachusetts. This fee-based program generated \$125 for FOS.
16. Zack served as a **Session Chair during the Indian River Lagoon Science Symposium** at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute.
17. At the “Shell Party,” Zack led **guided group tours of the Ocean EcoCenter**, and narrated an animated fly-through tour of the new exhibit space.