



Education and Exhibits Update: May 4, 2020

1. Education Specialists Shannon Dack, Yasmeen Fadlallah, and Dakotah Tanczuk have been working to create new stand-alone educational packets for at-home learning. These educational packets include grade-focused text, original illustrations drawn by Yasmeen and Dakotah, and activities for students to complete while learning from home. At this time, we have created sea turtle-themed lesson and activity packets aimed at grades K-2 (27 pages) and grades 3-5 (27 pages). We are currently working on shark and ray-themed lesson and activity packets aimed at grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. We have also edited previously created lessons and activities to ensure that they are timely and relevant. These resources are available to teachers and families at Florida Oceanographic's Educational Activities website, which is being continuously updated: <https://www.floridaocean.org/educational-activities>. The FOS Educational Activities website has been featured on several digital resource hubs created by other organizations, including the Florida Department of Aquaculture and Consumer Services, and Inwater Research Group.

2. Director of Education Dr. Zack Jud held a live Zoom Webinar about "The Science Behind Oyster Restoration." Although we did not advertise the lecture heavily, we attracted 27 unique attendees (out of 39 who registered). Nearly all of the attendees stayed for the full hour-long lecture, plus a subsequent question and answer session. Guests were able to ask the speaker questions, as well as answer questions raised by the speaker. Video of the full virtual lecture can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ei3Y8wf4bN0&feature=youtu.be>. We have already received a number of positive emails from attendees, including the following:

*The webinar was very effective. Audio and visual were clear and sharp. The dual screen works much better than just having a slide on the screen. Nice to have the "chat" and "Q&A" features. You are by far one of the best speakers I've had the pleasure to listen to! I'm looking forward to the seagrass webinar!*

*Thanks again for sharing that great info. I have to say that was one of the finest presentations I have experienced in a long time. Well crafted, info packed, excellent flow, left me wanting more!*

*Best zoom meeting I've ever seen. You have done a great job of organizing the software for a good format to interact without distraction. Clean and professional.*

*I just wanted to say thank for your informative seminar on oyster restoration and I am looking forward to any available virtual classes in the future.*

3. Based on the success of our first live Zoom Webinar, we will be holding two additional Zoom Webinars in the upcoming weeks. On May 8<sup>th</sup>, we will present "Seeing Red from So Much Green – The Story of Florida's Algae and Water Issues" ([https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ymBnrAYDT0uTItvaBo8XZA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ymBnrAYDT0uTItvaBo8XZA)) and on May 15<sup>th</sup>, we will present "Florida's Fantastic Sea Turtles" ([https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_NV-bmUAYTCi7MCFr-Am0Kg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NV-bmUAYTCi7MCFr-Am0Kg)).
4. Zack led a live, 1hr 15min Zoom-based lecture about Florida's water issues for 40 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Felix A. Williams Elementary School in Stuart. Attendance for the two participating classes was 100%, and the students asked questions and remained engaged throughout the lecture. Zack was originally scheduled to give an in-person lecture for these students on March 24<sup>th</sup>, but that classroom visit was unfortunately

cancelled. Thankfully, the teacher we were working with was able to get permission from the school district to try a Zoom-based lecture, and the outcome was a huge success. Please see the teacher's thank you note to FOS at the end of this update.

5. The nonprofit environmental organization Captains for Clean Water invited Zack to participate in a "Happy Hour with a Scientist" discussion on Facebook Live. The 1hr 45min discussion, which can be viewed here ([https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=257912885596303&ref=watch\\_permalink](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=257912885596303&ref=watch_permalink)) was seen by 3,200 live viewers. By the next afternoon, the video had received more than 5,300 views. In addition to discussing Florida's water issues, Zack talked about the important work that FOS is carrying out, and made a request for financial support.



The image is a composite of two parts. On the left is a promotional poster for a Facebook Live event. The poster has a dark green background with a photo of a man in a blue shirt and white cap leaning over a boat to hold a large fish. Text on the poster includes: "Join us for CAPTAINS Happy Hour", "On Facebook Live | Tonight @ 6pm ET", "With special guest Dr. Zack Jud, Ph.D.", "Director of Education & Exhibits Florida Oceanographic Society", and "Cocktails Encouraged". On the right is a screenshot of a Facebook Live video player. The video title is "Captains For Clean Water was live." and it shows a live stream with three participants in a grid view. The video player includes a progress bar at -1:43:55, a "Start" button, and engagement metrics: 51 reactions, 107 Comments, 34 Shares, and 5.3K Views.

6. Shannon has been working diligently to plan alternative options for summer camp programming. While many organizations have made the decision to cancel all summer camp activities, we are taking a more measured approach. At this time, we have rescheduled all of our June camps (which were nearly booked to capacity) to the corresponding weeks in July, and we have rescheduled one July camp to early August. If state and federal regulations permit us to proceed with camps in July, these calendar changes should allow us to run 6 of our 8 originally scheduled camps. Parents have been incredibly supportive of this decision, and we have only had one refund request to date.
7. The Education Department has continued to create blog posts and social media content for the Development Department to share through our various channels.
8. Yasmeen and Dakotah created original artwork to accompany the "Florida's Water Story" audio visual exhibit in the Ocean EcoCenter.
9. Shannon, Yasmeen, and Dakotah worked with Volunteer Coordinator Rosemary Badger to hold a series of Zoom-based get-togethers to check in on FOS volunteers during the Coastal Center's closure.

10. Zack has continued to work closely with CambridgeSeven and Trivium to finalize educational exhibit design for the Ocean EcoCenter.
11. Zack was quoted in a TCPalm article about endangered species in the Indian River Lagoon:  
<https://www.tcpalm.com/story/news/local/florida/2020/04/20/lawsuit-army-corps-engineers-did-not-protect-endangered-species/5164421002/>

Thank you note from Christian Radcliff at Felix A. Williams Elementary:

Mr. Perry,

I am a 4th and 5th grade math/science teacher at Felix Williams Elementary School, and I have been working with Zack Jud since 2015. Each school year, I reach out to organizations within our community and ask if they will speak to my class. I think it is crucial for young people to start to realize what an impact they have on the world we live in. I also think it is important for students to start to get involved by volunteering and become passionate about the future.

Zack has not only agreed every year to come and speak to my class, but he does it in a way that captures the attention of each and every one of us. He is so knowledgeable about the topics and has a way of answering the students so they can really understand.

Back in February, Zack brought a marine biologist and author, Dr. Ellen Prager to our school to give a presentation and a free book to each student. The students still talk about what a wonderful experience that was.

Zack was scheduled to speak again this year. However, due to the state's move to distance learning, we had to put the visit aside. It took a couple of weeks for both teachers and students to get somewhat situated with remote teaching/learning. Zack continued to reach out and offer his support for going forward with the live presentation. It took a while to get approval from the district, my principal and to get comfortable with the online presenting platform of Zoom, but we managed to succeed with Zack's help.

I cannot say enough wonderful things about how our presentation went today. What an impact! We had 100 percent attendance and all of our students had the opportunity to be involved in Zack's presentation through his timely questioning throughout. I hope other students around the district can experience this as well because it is so important and extremely beneficial!

Thank you again for allowing us this opportunity.

Happy Earth Day!

Sincerely,

Christina Radcliff