



Education Department Update: March 22, 2021

1. The **2021 Coastal Lecture Series** wrapped up on March 9th with a presentation about sawfish biology and conservation. A total of **2,493 attendees** tuned in live to watch the ten virtual lectures we offered this winter (an average nightly attendance of 249), smashing our previous attendance record of 1,745 guests. We have received dozens of positive emails from attendees, urging us to continue the use of a live streaming format for future lectures. Recordings of this year's lectures are available at: <https://www.floridaocean.org/coastal-lecture-series>. To date, these videos have received an additional **1,043 views** on YouTube.
2. Florida Oceanographic Society and The Everglades Foundation are partnering up for a "bonus" **lecture focused on Everglades restoration** and the health of our coastal estuaries on Tuesday, March 30th at 6:30 pm. Speakers include FOS Executive Director Mark Perry, FOS Director of Education Dr. Zack Jud, and Everglades Foundation Senior Ecologist Dr. Steve Davis. Register at: <https://www.floridaocean.org/events/everglades-estuaries>
3. Education Specialists Shannon Dack and Yasmeen Fadlallah led **two additional guided beach walks** during the last weekend of February to wrap up our 2021 beach walk program.
4. Yasmeen and Zack led our **first in-person Coastal Center Experience field trip since the start of COVID-19**. Although we have been effectively utilizing virtual field trips to reach students during the pandemic, this was the first school group to visit the Coastal Center in a year.
5. **All eight of our 2021 summer camp weeks are 100% booked to capacity**. Shannon has confirmed that one of our previous full-time (temporary) camp counselors will be returning this summer. We are currently advertising a second full-time camp counselor position.
6. Zack submitted a full written **grant proposal and accompanying video presentation to the Impact100 Martin** grant program. This \$100,000 grant would have supported the "Coastal Classroom Explorers" program, an educational initiative designed to provide unique educational opportunities for at-need students in Martin County. Unfortunately, our proposal was not selected as one of the three finalists. The Community Foundation Martin – St. Lucie informed us that our proposal was very well received, but this year's funding priorities did not align with our request.
7. Mark and Zack led a **guided educational nature walk** at the St. Lucie Inlet Preserve State Park for 50 Sailfish Point residents.
8. Zack led **two college-level virtual lectures** this month, including a sea turtle ecology and conservation talk for a herpetology class at Mississippi State University, and a harmful algae bloom talk for an environmental science class at Bentley University. These lectures are priced at \$135 per presentation.
9. Two former Education Department interns, Amanda Marker (winter 2021) and Meagan Knoll (summer 2020) have joined our team as **part-time Assistant Educators**. These temporary positions were designed to help with some of our daily staffing needs during the busy spring season. Amanda and Meagan, both seniors

at Florida Atlantic University, will be spending time staffing the touch tank and the ray tank, as well as conducting our daily ray and sea turtle presentations.

10. Zack appeared in a CBS 12 news story about an ongoing manatee mass mortality event: <https://cbs12.com/news/local/record-breaking-number-of-manatees-die-in-2021>. Zack was also interviewed by TCPalm for a story about the manatee die-off, and by Indian River Magazine (along with Mark) for a story about the new Ocean EcoCenter.
11. Zack continues to coordinate with ColorAd and Trivium to finalize exhibit design for the Ocean EcoCenter.