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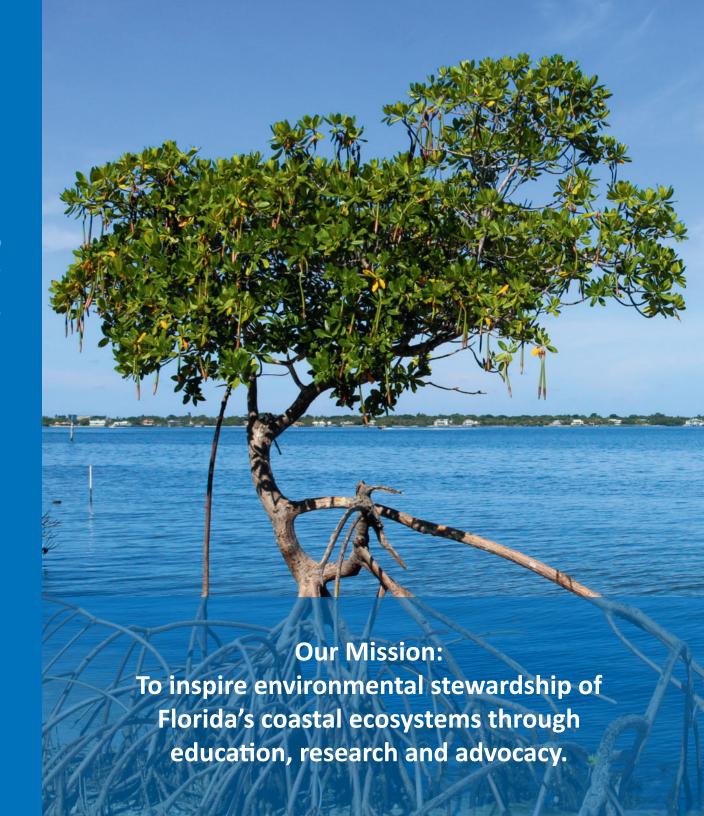
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2019: ENGAGEMENT & EXPANSION

This past year, Florida Oceanographic Society has been filled with moments of celebration and growth. In the spring we welcomed our *One-Millionth Visitor* to the Coastal Center and this fall we celebrated the groundbreaking for our new *Ocean EcoCenter* as part of our capital expansion program.

Florida Oceanographic is helping to shape the future of our waterways and the Ocean EcoCenter will propel us forward in our mission of education, research and advocacy. The new center is designed to spark inspiration, care and protection of our precious environment and the creatures that call it home. We are excited about this next phase of our growth and the opportunities it will offer for community engagement and interactive learning.

The Coastal Center was honored to welcome Florida Governor DeSantis on multiple visits as he announced critical appointments and environmental legislation. Although more work needs to be done, there is now a collective voice for change that is having a positive impact on our waterways. We are continuing to build on our legacy of education and science as it influences environmental policy in our communities.

Our ecosystem restoration and conservation efforts have benefited from a year with limited discharges from Lake Okeechobee. Our restoration programs are continuing to expand and we are working to optimize living shorelines while providing critical estuarine habitat.

Every day we celebrate the visitors to the Coastal Center and the volunteers that work alongside us to save our waters, as well as the donors, members and community supporters that make our mission possible. With your help, we are recognizing our dreams of inspiring environmental stewardship of Florida's coastal ecosystems.

Our sincere thanks to all of our generous supporters and members as we work to expand responsible environmental stewardship of Florida's coastal ecosystems.

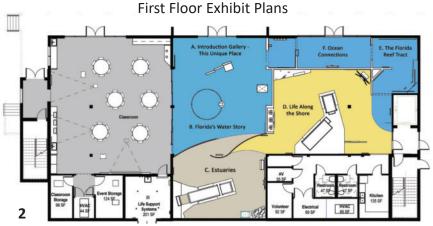
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Mark D. Perry
Executive Director



CAPITAL EXPANSION UPDATES





Ocean EcoCenter Updates

Construction of the new Ocean EcoCenter has begun at the Coastal Center and we are very excited! The past year has been filled with strategic planning, design and building milestones. We are thankful for the community's support around the project, as well as the many donors who have made this project possible. For more information about the expansion and ways you can contribute, please contact our Development Office at 772-225-0505 x108.

Jack & Barbara Nicklaus Celebrate Capital Campaign with Florida Oceanographic!

Florida Oceanographic Honorary Trustee Jack Nicklaus and his wife Barbara hosted a celebration at the Coastal Center to kick-off the Capital Campaign. Guests had the opportunity to preview plans for the Ocean EcoCenter while reflecting on Florida Oceanographic's growth.







Groundbreaking of the New Ocean EcoCenter

This fall, Florida Oceanographic Society celebrated the groundbreaking of the new Ocean EcoCenter. Capital Campaign donors, Florida Oceanographic Society volunteers and members of the community were present for this momentous occasion!







AT THE COASTAL CENTER





Over 62,000 Visitors in 2019

Florida Oceanographic Society's 57-acre Coastal Center on Hutchinson Island is home to sea turtles, stingrays, nurse sharks, local gamefish, and a number of invertebrates. Daily educational programs allow visitors to interact with stingrays, see a sea turtle up-close, and witness a feeding frenzy in our 750,000-gallon Gamefish Lagoon. Visitors can explore exhibits in both the Frances Langford Visitor Center and the Children's Pavilion, or take a stroll through the Butterfly Garden or down the Nature Trail that leads to the Indian River Lagoon. This is all while learning about Florida's unique coastal ecosystems and how to best protect and preserve them!

ANIMAL CARE

Animal Care

Our Animal Care and Life Support team is responsible for providing a safe and enriching environment for our Animal Ambassadors. Our animals play a critical role in our education endeavors and their quality of life is achieved by ensuring they receive fresh, ethically sourced food, clean habitats and daily well-being checks. It takes many hands working together to care for our animals at the Coastal Center. Activities including operant training, animal behavior analysis, diet preparation and dispersal, habitat maintenance, and many more are carried out 365 days a year.





Sea Turtles

Our sea turtles enjoyed a much more relaxed schedule this year due to a temperate winter and ideal offshore water quality. The sea turtles had fun exploring the Gamefish Lagoon and the green sea turtles: Turtwig, Hank and Anna Belle, chomped away on the macroalgae that grows in the tank. Meaning more grazing for them and less scooping for us!

Hurricanes

Late summer we dodged a massive storm as Hurricane Dorian had been predicted to hit our area. Florida Oceanographic staff and volunteers carried out all of our hurricane preparations and closed the Coastal Center for 5 days. We were lucky not to have been directly hit, but were able to use this close call as an opportunity to confirm that our protocols and procedures are in place to protect the animals if we aren't so lucky in the future.

Cownose Stingrays

Have you ever wondered what happens to the Stingrays once they outgrow the ray tank? They are transferred to the Gamefish Lagoon! There they adjust from hand feedings to tong feedings during operant training sessions. The Gamefish Lagoon is also home to a mixed population of stingrays, allowing breeding to occur. This year we had a successful coupling among our adult Cownose rays and a new baby ray was born! This ray learned to forage on the various invertebrates that live in the tank, but one day it may join in on the operant training. It's great to see this ray growing bigger by the day!



EDUCATION

Education flows through all parts of Florida Oceanographic Society's mission. Through education comes change – change in personal behavior, change in legislation, and change in the health of our waterways. By educating our community, our children, and our civic leaders about Florida's marine life and environmental issues, we truly hope to create a better future for the Treasure Coast and beyond.

Coastal Center Field Trips

1,850 participants attended 44 standards-based educational field trips this year. An additional 2,100 participants from 61 groups visited the Coastal Center as part of the Self-Guided Field Trip Program. For students unable to visit us in person, we offered a Virtual Field Trip Program that streamed 39 live, interactive lessons directly into classrooms around the globe, reaching nearly 1,200 students. Grant support allowed us to provide Virtual Fields at no cost to students and teachers.

Deserving Kids to the Coast

We are deeply committed to supporting the educational needs of socioeconomically disadvantaged children in our community. Our grant-funded "Deserving Kids to the Coast" marine science education program provides free field trips to the Coastal Center for students who would otherwise be unable to afford these opportunities. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, we provided 13 free educational field trips, reaching more than 500 deserving students – the program's biggest year yet!





Coastal Lecture Series

The 2019 Coastal Lecture Series broke an all-time attendance record, attracting 1,430 guests to eight thought-provoking lectures focused on marine science and the environment. These free, grant-supported lectures provided an opportunity for leading scientists to share their knowledge and expertise with our coastal community.



Sea Turtle Nesting Walks

Our state-permitted sea turtle walk program offers guests a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to observe a sea turtle nesting on Hutchinson Island's beaches. This year, more than 400 attendees participated in 19 educational and inspirational sea turtle walks – learning all about sea turtle conservation, and successfully witnessing a nesting turtle 80% of the time.

explore the Coastal Center and the coastal ecosystems that make our region so special.



Game Fish & Fish Games

Sixty girls and boys, ages 8-14, participated in our 8th annual Game Fish and Fish Games Youth Fishing Clinic. The children learned how to be skillful and ethical anglers in preparation for our three-month-long Youth Fishing Tournament, which netted 660 fish! This program's goal is to create lifelong anglers – and lifelong environmental stewards. A grant from Fish Florida allowed us to provide free rods to all participants.



RESEARCH & CONSERVATION



FLOOR - Florida Oceanographic Oyster Restoration

The FLOOR program works to restore and expand critical oyster reef habitat in the St. Lucie Estuary and southern Indian River Lagoon while involving the community in direct, hands-on efforts. The program relies on local partner restaurants that have collected over 48,000 pounds of shell this year.

To date, the recycled shell has been used to build over 126 reefs encompassing approximately 65,200 sq. ft.. Our scientists are developing and testing alternatives to reef restoration including building 400 plastic-free, concrete-based oyster shell modules.



FOSTER - Florida Oceanographic Seagrass Training Education & Restoration

The FOSTER program is a citizen science-based seagrass research and restoration program, working to restore seagrass habitat by educating and engaging our local community through hands-on participation.

This program utilizes nursery-grown seagrass fragments to create a non-destructive seagrass source for restoration. Volunteers collect stranded seagrass fragments from local shorelines that are grown out at the Coastal Center in our 16 nursery tanks. This year, staff and volunteers completed 10 seagrass transect surveys, observing some recovery of paddle grass and, to a lesser extent, shoal grass. To date, the program has planted over 623 sq. ft. of seagrass into the Indian River Lagoon.





Living Shoreline & Plant Restoration

Living shorelines improve coastal resiliency and provide an alternative to traditional hardened stabilization methods by using elements like oyster reefs, seagrasses, mangroves, and salt marsh plants. In our new plant nursery, we are raising over 600 mangrove propagules to support ongoing living shoreline restoration efforts. As part of a pilot program to improve local living shoreline restoration methods, our team of scientists and volunteers deployed several juvenile mangroves and plugs of salt marsh into estuary restoration sites.

Collaborations & Partnerships

Recognized for having subject matter expertise, our scientists participate in local, state and national conferences and other efforts related to conservation. Collaborations include:

CERP RECOVER Science Coordination Group
Indian River Lagoon Aquatic Preserves
Marine Discovery Center
Marine Resources Council
Martin County Public Works
Oyster Integrated Mapping and Monitoring Program
Phytoplankton Monitoring Network

Academic Partners

Clark Advanced Learning Center Florida Gulf Coast University Florida Sea Grant Indian River State College Martin County High School University of Central Florida University of Florida



Water Quality

Our water quality program has been monitoring the health of our local waterways for over 20 years, providing valuable data to local and regional environmental managers and scientists. We monitor 32 sites across 10 zones that encompass the St. Lucie Estuary and the southern Indian River Lagoon. Thirty-seven volunteers test for weekly changes in salinity, temperature, water clarity, oxygen, and pH to assess estuary health. To date, this program has involved more than 120 volunteers who have collectively submitted over 15,500 data sets!





ADVOCACY

Taking the Message to the Community

As active advocates, we fight for our waterways and the preservation of Florida's environment. In addition to being members of the Rivers Coalition and the Everglades Coalition, we lead conversations, take part in stakeholder meetings and work to educate the community about water quality issues. Examples of our participation include:

- Participating in 48 local, state and federal agency meetings and conference calls
- Attending Everglades Action Day in Tallahassee, FL to advocate for clean water
- Serving as an expert panelist for the Water Quality in the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries and Watersheds workshop hosted by the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board
- Representing our community at the annual Everglades Coalition Conference, attended by over 300 participants from around the state
- Attending America's Everglades Summit in Washington, D.C.
- Serving as President of the Rivers Coalition, a 105-member organization





Environmental Policy

This year, Florida Oceanographic hosted Governor DeSantis at the Coastal Center for special announcements and a bill signing. It's encouraging to see progress for our environment, including appointing a new Governing Board to the South Florida Water Management District, allocating funding for Everglades Restoration and directing state agency focus on accountability, transparency and collaboration.

In our work to inspire environmental stewardship, we recognize that change happens when people are educated about issues and inspired to make a difference. We will continue to expand our engagement and outreach in the community by what we do both individually and collectively as an organization.



Rally for the River

Fourteen participating organizations joined Florida Oceanographic's research and advocacy booths at Rally for the River in downtown Stuart's Flagler Park. Over 250 people attended this community awareness event and had the opportunity to get hands-on with restoration and water quality demonstrations, as well as participate in shoreline clean-ups and discussions on Florida's water story. Event messaging focused on educating each of us to be advocates for protecting our environment and pledging to make changes to help Save Our Waters. The event also included educational sails on the Schooner Lily and tours of local oyster reefs.



Being a Voice for our Environment

As both active advocates and conservationists, we strive to share the truth behind the science. While the problems facing our environment can appear complicated and overwhelming, our staff is constantly working to find the best ways to convey relevant, accurate and understandable facts. We want to ensure that the information being disseminated by state agencies and local representatives is factual and not misleading. We continually strive to be an independent voice and advocate for our environment.

Visit our website at FloridaOcean.org and follow our social media channels











Florida Oceanographic Society's Executive Director, Mark Perry, recognized for 40 years of environmental stewardship.

VOLUNTEERS



A Dedicated and Inspirational Team

Volunteers are involved in every aspect, program and department of Florida Oceanographic Society. They help at the Coastal Center daily by interacting with our guests, assist us monthly with habitat restoration projects and heed the call for special events and outreach into the community. Volunteers make our mission possible!

This past year more than 200 active volunteers donated over 14,000 hours with our research, education, animal care and development departments. When a volunteer says that their volunteer time is the best part of their day, we know we have the right people. We are so fortunate to consider them part of our team as we work side by side achieving our mission.





Hours Well Spent

- Exhibit guides spent 6,340 hours educating Coastal Center guests
- 310 hours were dedicated to beach and roadway cleanups
- Green team gardeners invested over 700 hours maintaining our gardens
- Animal Care volunteers donated nearly 300 hours assisting our Animal Care Team
- Restoration volunteers spent 5,300 hours supporting our FLOOR and FOSTER programs
- Outreach volunteers inspired the community while sharing our mission for over 280 hours

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EVENTS



Keep Our Beaches Dark, Flat & Clean!

Our beautiful beaches serve as important nesting areas for threatened and endangered sea turtles. From March – November, we have sea turtles crawling onshore to lay eggs and hatchlings making the long journey out of their sandy nests to the ocean. Since it's also the best time of year for beach-goers, it's important to let them know how they can help protect sea turtles.

Partnering with Hutchinson Island hotels, we are able to reach visitors to the area and expand our Dark, Flat & Clean messaging with educational information in hotel rooms, lobbies and on the beach. We've also had the opportunity to partner with researchers for special sea turtle nest programs so that hotel guests can get a better understanding of the sea turtle life cycle.

Benefits & Outreach Events

This community has been so supportive of Florida Oceanographic Society and the fight to Save Our Waters! Our reach expanded even further this year with Sip & Shops at J. McLaughlin and Lilly Pulitzer, World Oceans Day at New England Fish Market & Restaurant, 12 Weeks of Summer at Mulligans, and a BBQ at Coquina Cove. We also hosted outreach booths at community events including Oyster Fest, the IRL Science Fest, Earth Day at Oxbow, and Back to School and Summer Camp Expos. In addition to our community outreach events, Florida Oceanographic Society hosted and participated in various fundraising events that supported our mission to inspire environmental stewardship through education, research and advocacy.







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Members of the Ocean Legacy Society have notified Florida Oceanographic that we have been included in their legacy giving and estate plans. The Ocean Legacy Society supports the long-term health and sustainability of Florida Oceanographic.

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Tom & Linda Houston
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Ralf & Bob Massey
Dan & Cathy Merritt
Joyce & John Slavsky
Family Foundation
Clare & Molly Tyler
The Susan & Nils Peterson
Charitable Fund
John & Carol Wagner
Stanton & Margaret
Weissenborn
Patricia Zygmun

Up to \$2,000

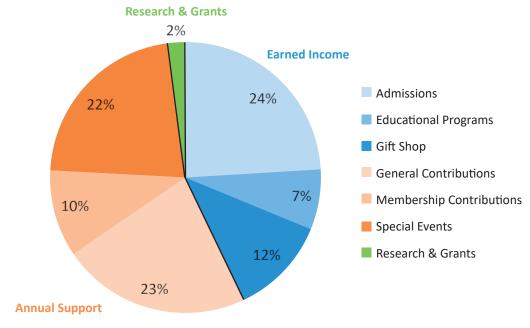
Beverly Anderson Mary Astras Marcia Balow Jane & Bob Burton Mark & Donna Cocorullo In Memory of May Webb Gerry & Kathleen DeMont Gary & Karen Goforth Matthew & Jane Hooks John & Kallie Jurgens Anonymous Jacqui & Ed Lippisch Alison & Brian McMahon Lorraine & Doug O'Hara John & Linda Schieffelin Sandy & Nelson Stefany Darlene Straka Davies & Gayle Tainter Scott & Kelly Turnbull Isa Von Hessert

OPERATING PERFORMANCE

FISCAL YEAR OCT. 2018 - SEPT. 2019, FROM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

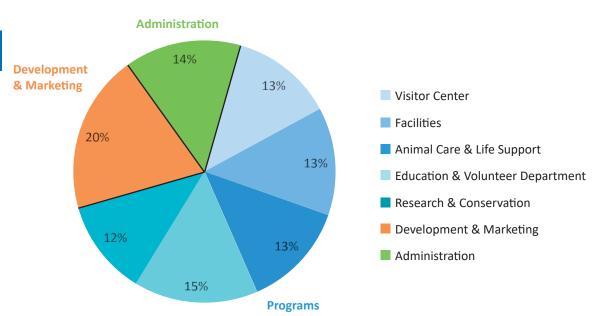
Support and Revenues

Admissions	\$423,652
Educational Programs	\$126,729
Gift Shop	.\$207,405
General Contributions	\$395,975
Membership Contributions	.\$183,086
Special Events	.\$389,440
Research & Conservation	
Total Support and Revenues	\$1,762,740



Expenses

Visitor Center	\$211,924
Facilities	.\$222,607
Animal Care & Life Support	.\$218,999
Education & Volunteer Department	\$256,006
Research & Conservation	.\$195,657
Development & Marketing	.\$330,569
Administration	\$239,715
Total Expenses	\$1,675,477



BOARD & STAFF DIRECTORY

Board of Directors

Board Chair

Allen Herskowitz

Vice Chair

Patricia Noonan

Secretary

Bob J. Mathias Gary Goforth, Ph.D., PE (2019)

Treasurer

Matthew King

Directors

W. John Amerling
Mark Cocorullo
Audrey Gillis
Gary Goforth, Ph.D., PE
Paul R. Hederman
Matthew Hooks, DMD
Linda Houston
Daniel B. Merritt
Nancy Rand

Honorary Trustees

W. Scott Turnbull

Mary Jo Askew
Bob Bauman
Tom A. Evinrude
Dale Hudson
Deane MacMillan
Edwin Massey, Ph.D.
Jack Nicklaus
John Pratt
Paul A. Shirley

Administration

Executive Director Mark D. Perry

Administrative Assistant Cathy Muir

Animal Care & Life Support

Director of Animal Care & Life Support Brittany Biber

Animal Care Specialist Chris Britton

Animal Care Specialist Angelina Bruno

Development

Director of Development & Marketing Abigail Flood

Community Outreach & Event Coordinator Michelle Byriel

Graphic Design & Marketing Coordinator Renée Salvat

Development Assistant Deanna Thurlow

Volunteer Coordinator Rosemary Badger

Staff Directory

Education

Director of Education & Exhibits Zack Jud, Ph.D.

Education Specialist Shannon Dack

Education Specialist Yasmeen Fadlallah

Education Specialist Dakotah Tanczuk

Operations

Operations Manager Shaun Jackson

Operations Technician
Jim Haehnel

Research

Research Scientist Glenn A. Coldren, Ph.D.

Research Scientist Kathryn Tiling, Ph.D.

Research Continued

Research Assistant Samantha Smith

Visitor Center

Visitor Services Manager Susana McHale

Visitor Services Assistant Manager Jan Kurtz

Admissions Associate Joyce Gherlone

Admissions Associate
JoAnn McCann

Admissions Associate Bonnie Smith

Gift Shop Associate Gail Neward



