



Smithsonian
Marine Station Fort Pierce

Marine Science in the Morning

PROGRAM SCHEDULE, WINTER-SPRING 2020

All programs take place at the St. Lucie County Aquarium. Prices are \$4.25 for adults and \$3.25 for seniors and includes all-day admission to the Aquarium.



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15TH @ 9AM

Marine Invertebrates: A Resource for Drug Discovery

Dr. Peter McCarthy, Research Professor, FAU Harbor Branch



The Marine Biomedical and Biotechnology group at FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute is a leader in the discovery of new therapeutic compounds from marine organisms such as sponges, soft corals and their associated microbes. The talk will describe the process of marine drug discovery and will discuss some of our findings and their potential benefit to medical science.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29TH @ 9AM

Florida Horseshoe Crab Watch: Linked with Limulus

Kirk Fusco, Indian River Lagoon Aquatic Preserves



The American horseshoe crab (*Limulus polyphemus*) is an incredible organism that has existed unchanged for hundreds of millions of years. This invertebrate is not only important ecologically for Florida's marine and estuarine environments, but also for the pharmaceutical and biomedical industry around the world. Come learn about this amazing creature.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH @ 9AM

Call of the Wild: Goliath Grouper Research in Jupiter

Bryan Nichols, PhD (FAU), Tony Grogan (RV Discovery), James Locascio, PhD (Mote Marine Lab)



This talk will present some of the latest research on goliath grouper vocalizations off the coast of Florida. Learn about the new data from underwater receivers that monitor the movement of tagged fish and sound recorders placed on sites where the giant fish aggregate here each fall. Presented by Palm Beach County divers working with a Mote Marine Lab scientist, you'll hear just how loud these massive grouper can be when things get romantic off our coast, and what we may learn from their booming calls.

MORE ON REVERSE -->

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH @ 9AM

Applying Genomics to Better Understand Marine Symbioses

Dr. Jose V. Lopez, Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography, Nova Southeastern



Because most microorganisms cannot be cultured in the laboratory, genetics and metagenomic methods are necessary to characterize microbial functions. One such role is that microbes such as bacteria form partnerships with larger host organisms to form holobionts. Our laboratory has been characterizing various types of fascinating symbioses, from shallow endangered reef to depths of the oceans illuminated by bioluminescent symbiotic bacteria.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11TH @ 9AM

Sea Turtle Friendly Beaches in St Lucie County

Ken Gioeli, UF/IFAS Extension St. Lucie County



This presentation will be conducted by Ken Gioeli, UF/IFAS Natural Resources Extension Agent for St Lucie County. He specializes in wildlife management and environmental education. Ken works with residents and visitors to teach them about the threatened and endangered sea turtle species nesting on St Lucie County's beaches. He also helps them learn about how adopt sea turtle friendly practices on our beaches during nesting season (March 1 – November 15).

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25TH @ 9AM

Miniature Mariners: A Microscopic View of Marine Invertebrate Zooplankton

Dr. Michael Boyle, Research Biologist, Smithsonian Marine Station



It is estimated that 95% of biodiversity in the world's ocean are marine invertebrates (e.g. starfish, snails, worms, crabs). Many of them produce microscopic swimming larval stages, the most common developmental pathway in the animal kingdom. Yet we know very little about them. This presentation will reveal a stunning diversity of planktonic marine animals through the science of developmental biology, life histories and laser scanning confocal microscopy.

SMITHSONIAN MARINE ECOSYSTEMS EXHIBIT

AT THE ST. LUCIE COUNTY AQUARIUM

420 Seaway Dr.

Fort Pierce, FL 34949

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StLucieCo.gov/Aquarium