

### Upcoming Events

#### Fri Apr 1 Mini Brown Bag Lunch Series

You bring your lunch, we serve up the science! Michael Studivan presents *Coral reef science in the 21st century: New genetic and remotely operated technologies to study thousand year old coral reefs*. Ocean Discovery Visitor's Center, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. [Click here](#) for more dates in the series.

#### Sat Apr 2 Special Lecture at the Emerson Center

FAU Harbor Branch archaeologist, Dr. Andy Hemmings, will give a free talk on the Old Vero Site at the Emerson Center (1590 27th Avenue, Vero Beach) at 7 p.m. Event hosted/sponsored by the Old Vero Ice Age Sites Committee.

#### Wed Apr 13 Ocean Science Lecture Series

*Rivers, Rooms, and Wrists: The Future of*

## March, 2016

### FAU Harbor Branch Awarded \$3 Million Grant to Help Florida's Sportfishing Industry



Members of the Bonefish & Tarpon Trust Board listen to FAU Harbor Branch's Dr. Paul Wills during a recent tour of HBOI's aquaculture park. (photo credit: TCPalm)

Aquaculture scientists at FAU Harbor Branch are embarking on a \$3 million grant-funded project designed to help Florida's multi-billion dollar sportfishing industry. The research, funded by a grant from the Bonefish & Tarpon Trust (BTT) in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, is the first of its kind and involves the design and testing of an experimental research project to grow bonefish for stock enhancement.

"FAU Harbor Branch is well-equipped to take on this project," said Megan Davis, Ph.D., HBOI interim executive director. "Our extensive infrastructure that is already in place coupled with years of experience in working the life cycle of a variety of fish is what helped us win the grant. We are excited to take on this groundbreaking work."

Bonefish populations have been declining in recent years, with estimates showing a decrease of as much as 90 percent in some areas, including the Florida Keys.

"This is an incredible opportunity for the university," said FAU President John Kelly. "This valuable partnership will help provide solutions for one of Florida's most economically important industries, and I'm excited FAU was the university selected to lead the way with this cutting edge work."

BTT uses a science-based approach to learn about and identify threats

*Sensing at Scale* presented by Dr. Jason Hallstrom, Professor and Director of FAU's I-SENSE. Johnson Education Center Auditorium at 7 p.m. - admission is FREE.

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to bonefish, tarpon and permit fisheries in the U.S. and Caribbean basin and applies a combination of research, stewardship, education and advocacy efforts to address areas of concern.

Florida's recreational and commercial fishing industries and associated businesses account for billions of dollars that drive the economic engine for the state each year and contribute to hundreds of thousands of jobs.

## Ajemian Joins OCEARCH on Shark-Tagging Expedition



*Dr. Matt Ajemian (second from right) participated in shark-tagging with OCEARCH in 2015.*

Tomorrow, FAU Harbor Branch Assistant Research Professor Dr. Matt Ajemian will join OCEARCH on their mission to tag Great White Sharks off the coast of Jacksonville. Ajemian will be a part of a multi-institutional, collaborative science team gathering data to further the understanding of the ecology, physiology and behavior of white sharks in the Atlantic Ocean. Follow their progress by [clicking here!](#)

## Semester by the Sea Students Gain Hands-On Experience



*2016 Semester by the Sea students aboard the R/V Bellows.*

A dozen Semester By The Sea (SBTS) students recently returned from an excursion at sea aboard the *R/V Bellows* in the Gulf of Mexico. The research cruise was part of the Ocean Exploration for Undergraduates course aimed at providing "hands-on", at-sea, multi-disciplinary opportunities for students with the ultimate goal being to help students become successful scientists through active participation and immersion in an ocean sciences research cruise.

Working at sea with Dr. Dennis Hanisak, Dr. Jim Masterson and Biologist John Hart (a SBTS 2012 alumnus working in the Hanisak Lab), students developed team projects, collecting appropriate data and producing a scientific poster. Through these activities, students learn a number of research methodologies in a team setting and take a small project from inception at sea through completion and dissemination. Projects will be presented in the SBTS poster session on April 15.

## Excavation Efforts Resume at Old Vero Site



Archaeologists, students and volunteers are once again busy searching for clues into Vero Beach's ancient past at The Old Vero Site, one of the oldest and largest archaeological digs of its kind, located on the

Treasure Coast. The project is now being led by FAU Harbor Branch and FAU's Department of Anthropology within the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, in partnership with the Old Vero Ice Age Sites Committee (OVIASC).

Excavation efforts have been led by renowned archaeologists James M. Adovasio, Ph.D. and Andy Hemmings, Ph.D., who continue to manage the dig under the new partnership agreement and are now housed at HBOI.

The Old Vero Site has been called one of the most important finds in the history of North American archaeology, after construction efforts on a drainage canal in 1913 exposed the well-preserved remains of Late Pleistocene flora and fauna in association with human remains and artifacts. The project has been overseen since 2010 by the OVIASC. The group conducts regular tours during active digs, coordinates volunteers who assist archaeologists on-site and works to raise funding for the project.

Other collaborators on the project include scientists in HBOI's ancient DNA lab who will process some of the recovered bones, and Indian River State College will be providing ancient DNA soil analysis and student volunteers.

For more information on tours and volunteering, contact OVIASC at 772-257-9018 or visit [www.oviasc.org](http://www.oviasc.org).

## Kids Can Become "Ocean Explorers" at Harbor Branch



Local children who love the outdoors now have the opportunity to learn from some of our area's most esteemed researchers during FAU Harbor Branch's "Ocean Explorers" program. The single-day camp program is being offered to students aged second to fifth grade through Harbor Branch's *Mission: Ocean Discovery* initiative. Students participating in the camps will experience hands-on learning with HBOI biologists, researchers and educators each Saturday through a variety of ocean science related subject areas. Camps include: Lagoon Trekkers, Ocean Discovery, Marine Life, Big and Small and Deep Sea Discovery.

Sessions are limited to 15 children per group with four counselors overseeing activities like exploring mangrove marshes and seagrass beds in the Indian River Lagoon.

Camps run on Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and depart from Harbor Branch's Ocean Discovery Visitor's Center, 5600 US 1 North, Fort Pierce. Cost is \$25/child with lunch available for an additional \$5. Participants must pre-register by calling 772-242-2293. [Click here](#) for registration info!