



Endless Oceans: Conservation in the Community

"Endless Oceans: Conservation in the Community" is an adult education course hosted by the Mote Marine Laboratory Education Department.

Designed to give lifelong learners the opportunity to discover and explore the Gulf Coast's vibrant community of environmental conservation organizations, each class will feature Mote research and guest experts from any one of nine local organizations working to promote environmental conservation. Students will complete a semester-long project on an environmental topic of their choosing.

Details

Ages: Adult participants - 18 years and older

Time: Thursday evenings, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. from **February 4 – March 25, 2021**

Format: Synchronous via Zoom teleconference

Cost:

- In-State (Virtual + Field Trip Experiences): Members - \$247.50; Non-Members - \$275
- Out-of-State (Virtual, no Field Trips): Members - \$173.25; Non-Members - \$192.50



Course Topics

“Land Conservation and Its Impacts on Marine Habitats” with the Gulf Coast Conservation Foundation - February 4th

Land conservation in Florida can have far ranging impacts on marine habitats. This class will examine the different types of habitats seen throughout Florida’s Gulf Coast, highlight organizations working to conserve wild lands and wildlife, and introduce the semester-long student project to be presented at the end of the semester.

“A History of Science & Stewardship” with Historic Spanish Point - February 11th

In this course we will introduce key concepts, terminology, and featured environmental organizations that will be referenced throughout the course. Additionally, we will examine the history of environmental conservation in Sarasota through the work of Mote Marine Lab & Historic Spanish Point.

“Feeding the World: Aquaculture & the Scourge of Food Waste” with Sunshine Community Compost and Transition Sarasota - February 18th

Join the Mote education team as we explore the impacts of an ever-growing human population upon terrestrial and marine resources. This class will examine aquaculture as a method of increasing global food production and ways to minimize food waste in our community. We will meet with local community leaders from Transition Sarasota and Sunshine Community Compost to discuss their grass roots efforts to improve environmental health and reduce food waste locally.

“Seabirds in Study” with the Sarasota Audubon Society - February 25th

As a stopping point along the Atlantic Flyway, Florida is a critical part of the ecosystem for hundreds of species of migratory birds. Join the Mote Education team for a flight through the biology and ecology of seabirds with special guest presenters from the Sarasota Audubon Society.

“Environmental Health & Sustainability in Sarasota” with the City of Sarasota Department of Sustainability - March 11

The City of Sarasota has pledged to operate on 100% renewable energy by the year 2045, but committing to sustainability must be a community-wide effort. This class will closely examine the health of our local marine ecosystems, the environmental challenges facing our developing coastal community, and the long term effects of a changing climate. Our featured Guest Expert for this class will discuss the ongoing efforts of the City of Sarasota to meet its sustainability goals.

“The Importance of Estuaries” with the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program - March 18th

Examine the unique habitats that comprise estuaries through a focused study of the Sarasota Bay! Students in this course will examine local environmental challenges that our watersheds face, the research Mote is doing to understand these complex systems, and how the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program is working to improve the health of local marine ecosystems.

Class Wrap-Up & Project Presentations - March 25th

This course will incorporate a semester-long project on an environmental topic of the student's choosing. Outlines and examples will be discussed in the first course, but we will plan to share our projects with fellow students, complete a course evaluation, and have a course recap and wrap-up in this last class of the semester.

Field Trips (“In-state” students)

Bird-watching Excursion, North Lido Park - Saturday, February 27th, 2021

Join us for a Saturday morning bird-watching tour with experts from the Sarasota Audubon Society. Plan to walk through sandy, wooded, near-shore environments for a period of 2-3 hours.

“From the Field: An Excursion to Myakka State Park” - Saturday, March 6th, 2021

Join the Mote Education team for a morning of inland exploration at Myakka River State Park. The Myakka River State Park area plays host to hundreds of unique plant and animal species, so we will spend this entire morning performing field observations with a Park Ranger.

Field Sampling - Saturday, March 27th, 2021

Using various field sampling techniques, we will explore the Sarasota Bay's native estuarine species that surround City Island. Join the Mote Education team for a morning full of field-based water quality experiments and species sampling.