



## NEWS & UPDATES

November, 2015



### Meet the New Director

Helena Solo-Gabriele, Ph.D, P.E., is a professor of Environmental Engineering and Associate Dean for Research with the [University of Miami College of Engineering](#). She is also the new Director of the South Florida Caribbean (SFC) CESU. Despite substantial commitments to campus administration, mentoring and teaching, she remains actively engaged in research. Central to her research, is her focus on water issues. Her research has ranged from investigations of the Everglades surface water to studies of recreational beaches and *Cryptosporidium* contamination. She has led pioneering research on environmental contamination linked to the use and waste of arsenic-treated wood.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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### A Message from the New Director

“Welcome to the SFC-CESU Newsletter. I am grateful to Carol Daniels, NPS for general administrative support for the [SFC-CESU](#) and assembling and distributing this newsletter. I wanted to take this opportunity to state that I am honored and enthusiastic in my new role as Director of the SFC-CESU and that I look forward to interactions through this new role. To give you a little bit of history and context, the [CESU's \(Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units\)](#) were authorized in 1998 for the purpose of providing opportunities for collaborative research, technical assistance, and educational activities. Currently there are 17 CESU's throughout the country which include 15 federal agencies and 358 additional partners. The South Florida Caribbean CESU is housed at the University of Miami, Florida, with the purpose of linking federal agencies and institutions to increase access to expertise and facilities across southern Florida, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. I am proud to say that the SFC-CESU consists of 8 federal agencies (National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, and the Dept. of Defense) plus 19 non-federal partners (U. Miami, U. Florida, U. North Carolina-Wilmington, U. Virgin Islands, U. Puerto Rico, Barry Univ., Florida Atlantic Univ., Nova Southeastern U., U. South Florida, Florida Inst. of Technology, Florida International Univ., Florida Gulf Coast Univ., Flagler College, Audubon Society of Florida, Everglades Foundation, Ocean Research and Conservation Association, Cetacean Logic Foundation, Inc., Inst. for Regional Conservation, and Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden). I am grateful to Dr. Peter Swart, the prior director of the SFC-CESU for developing such an esteemed network for the SFC-CESU. In my initial phase as the new SFC-CESU director I am focused on listening and learning about the aspirations of the SFC-CESU partners and the many opportunities available through the CESU network. The first priority on the list is to update the SFC-CESU website, get to know our partner groups, and to start strategic and annual planning with the SFC-CESU partners. If you are an SFC-CESU partner or would like to learn more about the SFC-CESU, please feel free to contact me at [hmsolo@miami.edu](mailto:hmsolo@miami.edu). I look forward to serving in this new role in facilitating collaboration. – Helena Solo-Gabriele, Ph.D.”

## Learn about Ocean Parks and the 2016 National Park Service Centennial

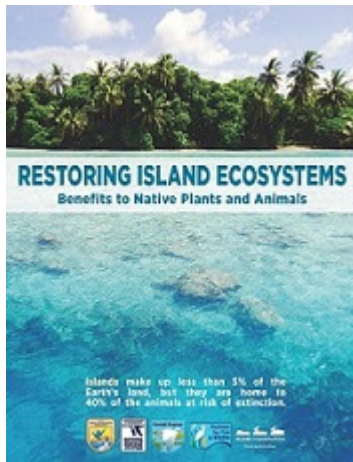
The National Park Service (NPS) is entrusted with managing 86 ocean and Great Lakes parks across 22 states and four territories. With over 11,000 miles of coast and 2.5 million acres of ocean and Great Lakes waters, the parks provide tremendous recreational benefits and biological and cultural values to the nation. The Park Service celebrates its 100th birthday in 2016. The Park Service Centennial will include events and activities across the ocean and coastal parks as part of the [Find Your Park](#) Centennial campaign. The Nov. 12th webinar provided a brief overview of the breadth and extent of coastal resources and issues in the National Park System and the NPS Centennial. Visit the video archive to view the presentation

VIEW WEBINAR



## Learn about the Dry Tortugas NP Research Natural Area.

VIEW PLAN



## FWS Works to Restore Island Ecosystems

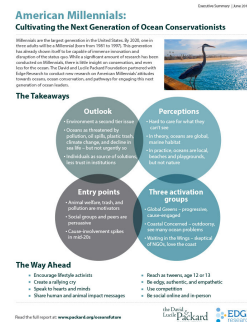
Islands are often home to remarkable plants and animals found nowhere else on Earth. Because islands are isolated, their ecosystems and native species are especially sensitive to invasive species. For this reason, islands provide an unmatched opportunity to save unique and imperiled plants and animals.

Recognizing the importance of island ecosystems and their vulnerability to disturbances and invasive species, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) along with Island Conservation adopted an Island Restoration Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to promote invasive species removal for the benefit of native plants and animals on islands. Others are encouraged to become members of the MOU.

VIEW

## American Millennials: Cultivating the Next Generation of Ocean Conservationists

Millennials are the largest generation in the United States. By 2020, one in three adults will be a Millennial (born from 1981 to 1997). This generation has already shown itself to be capable of immense innovation and disruption of the status quo. The David and Lucile Packard Foundation partnered with Edge Research to conduct new research on American Millennials' attitudes towards oceans, ocean conservation, and pathways for engaging this next generation of ocean leaders. Please access the full report or executive summary to learn more.



VIEW WEBINAR

VIEW REPORT

## LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENING... SFC-CESU partners on the move

### Fifteen and Growing!!!

The SFC-CESU just reached the fifteen year mark on October 6, 2015. As we celebrate more than a decade of stewardship and sustained support for our mission of conservation and preservation, we welcome [Flagler College](#) as the newest member of the SFC-CESU. Our expertise in the humanities and coastal science are greatly enhanced with the addition of Flagler's notable researchers and programs in [history](#), [preservation](#) and [environmental science](#). [DETAILS](#)

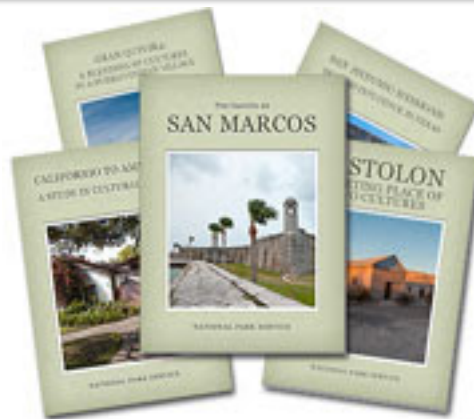




## FAU Hosts Meeting on Everglades Invasive Species

On October 20th & 21st, 2015, the [U.S. Geological Survey](#) and Florida Atlantic University [Center for Environmental Studies](#) sponsored a technical meeting in Boca Raton, FL to discuss how the Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) decision framework for non-indigenous species in the Greater Everglades could be enhanced. About 50 researchers and managers participated in a series of presentations and working sessions that included case studies.

[DETAILS](#)



## Cultural Resources as Tools for Learning

The [Florida Center for Instructional Technology](#) at the Univ. of South Florida collaborated with the National Park Service Office of Interpretation and Education to create a series of five interactive, iBooks. The instructional texts focusing on Hispanic Heritage were created to complement school curricula in the social sciences and were prepared for free, distribution via iTunesU. Pilot copies of the books are currently undergoing review.

[DETAILS](#)



Spores of the Florida bristle fern.



IRC's CEO, Craig van der Heiden, working with the Florida bristle fern (*Trichomanes punctatum subsp. floridanum*). Photo Credits: James Johnson.

## Institute for Regional Conservation Contributes to Listing of Florida Bristle Fern as Endangered

On October 6, 2015 the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)(FWS) announced the listing the Florida Bristle Fern (*Trichomanes punctatum subsp. floridanum*) as "endangered" under the Endangered Species Act. [Institute for Regional Conservation](#) (IRC) researchers Craig van der Heiden and George Gann played a critical role in providing the ranking materials including the historic distribution and specific habitat requirements that contributed to this listing. In the [Final Ruling](#) released by FWS, IRC's work is acknowledged and Dr. van der Heiden's reports are repeatedly referenced and cited throughout. IRC has spent more than a decade looking for this endemic fern in [Everglades National Park](#) and more recently in the Withalochoochee State Forest. For additional information on the Florida Bristle Fern, check out the plant page in IRC's Floristic Inventory of South Florida.

[DETAILS](#)

## Revitalizing the Indian River Lagoon

After numerous years in decline, the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) is now the focus of considerable attention. The Indian River Lagoon Council was established in 2015 to operate the [Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program](#). Several members of the SFC-CESU are engaged in efforts to understand the complex issues affecting this area and to find viable solutions to improve the lagoon. Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) has established the [IRL Research Institute](#), FAU's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute hosts scientists from across the region at the [Annual IRL Symposium](#) and Ocean Research and Conservation Association has developed a [Campaign for a Clean IRL](#). Gary Zarillo, FIT recently launched a study to assess the impacts of commercial and recreational fisheries on marine resources of Canaveral National Seashore. Expect to hear more about work on the IRL in the coming months.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### **2016-2017 NOAA Domestic (USA) Coral Conservation Cooperative Agreements**

Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-NOS-OCM-2016-2004574

Application Deadline: January 6, 2016

These awards are intended to support coral reef conservation projects in shallow water coral reef ecosystems, including reefs at mesophotic depths, in American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, Florida, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands...

[DETAILS](#)

### **DoD Strategic Environmental Research and Development (SERDP)**

Pre-proposal Deadline: January 7, 2016, by 2:00 p.m. ET

Researchers from federal organizations, universities and private industry are invited to apply for SERDP FY 2017 funding. SERDP issues two annual solicitations, the Core Solicitation (for basic and applied research and advanced technology development) and the SERDP Exploratory Development (SEED) program (for innovative approaches that entail high technical risk or require supporting data to provide proof of concept).

[DETAILS](#)

**SERDP Funding Opportunities Webinar** - View the seminar to learn more.

[DETAILS](#)

### **2016 Ecological Effects of Sea Level Rise Program - Advancing Predictive Capabilities to Evaluate Natural and Nature-based Features**

Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-NOS-NCCOS-2016-2004616

Grant Application Deadline: January 8, 2016

NOAA/NOS/National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS)/Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research (CSCOR) is soliciting proposals under the Ecological Effects of Sea Level Rise (EESLR) Program to evaluate...

[DETAILS](#)

### **National Park Service Grants Available for Battlefield Preservation Projects**

Funding Opportunity Number: P15AS00175

Application Deadline: January 14, 2016

Since 1990, the American Battlefield Protection Program and its partners have helped protect and enhance more than 100 battlefields by co-sponsoring 429 projects.

[DETAILS](#)

### **NOAA Coral Program NGO Partnership Funding Opportunity**

Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-NOS-OCM-2016-2004583

Application Deadline: January 21, 2016

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) with demonstrated expertise and experience in supporting coral reef management in the United States are invited to submit proposals to establish partnerships with the NOAA Coral...

[DETAILS](#)

### **Department of Defense ERDC Broad Agency Announcement**

Funding Opportunity Number: W912HZ-15-BAA-01

Application Deadline: January 31, 2016

The U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) has issued a Broad Agency Announcement for various research and development topics...

[DETAILS](#)

### **FY2017 National Sea Grant College Program Dean Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship**

Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-OAR-SG-2017-2004620

Application Deadline: February 12, 2016

This notice announces that applications may be submitted for the 2017 National Sea Grant College Program Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship...

[DETAILS](#)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 13, 2015 | Coral Gables, FL

UM/IPCC Event: The Gathering Threat of Climate Change and Its Implications for Water Security and Sea Level Rise

Nov. 13-14, 2015 | Miami Beach, FL

The World is Watching -24 Hours of Reality & Live Earth Focus on Climate Change

Nov. 17-18, 2015 | San Juan, PR

Climate Change in the Caribbean 2015: Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands

Nov. 17-20, 2015 | Coconut Grove, FL

Fish at Night: An International Symposium

Nov. 19, 2015 | West Palm Beach, FL

South Florida Ecosystem Task Force Meeting

Dec. 1-3, 2015 | Key West, FL

Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit

Dec. 3, 2015 | Sarasota, FL

10th Annual Sustainable Communities Workshop

Dec. 5, 2015 | Ochopee, FL

2015 Big Cypress Swamp Heritage Festival

Jan. 7-10, 2016 | Coral Gables, FL

Everglades Coalition 31st Annual Conference



Catch the spirit of the NPS Centennial around a campfire at Big Cypress NP.

When: Saturdays at 7:00 PM, starting Dec. 12, 2015

Where: Midway & Monument Campgrounds

Info: Big Cypress Visitor Center (239) 695.1750

[DETAILS](#)

You are receiving this email because you previously expressed interest in the SFC-CESU.

Compiled and distributed by the South Florida Caribbean CESU.

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For additional information on the SFC-CESU click [here](#).