

2022 Annual Environmental Science Retreat

April 14, 2022 • 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute

5600 N US Highway 1 • Fort Pierce

Agenda

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- 1:00 - 1:30 **Welcome, Dr. John Baldwin**
Interim Director, Environmental Science Program
- 1:30 – 2:30 **Keynote Address, Dr. Mark Cook**
Section Leader, Systemwide Everglades Research Group
South Florida Water Management District
“When Flows Returned to the River of Grass”
- 2:30 – 3:30 **Panel Discussion**
From class to career: A panel discussion engaging students and professionals
Jennifer Baez, Environmental Supervisor
Palm Beach County Environmental Resource Management
Mark Cook, Section Leader, Systemwide Everglades Research
South Florida Water Management District
Ali Courtemanche, Invasive Animal Biologist
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Joy Young, Marine Biologist
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Ricardo Zambrano, Wildlife Biologist
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- 3:30-5:00 **Student Poster Session and Social**
Poster judging will be held from 3:30-4:30
Winners of the 2022 *Charles E. Roberts Environmental Science Research Award* will be announced April 20 on the Environmental Science website <http://science.fau.edu/envirosci/>



Dr. Mark Cook is a British born avian ecologist and restoration scientist who has studied bird behavior and conservation ecology for over 23 years. He is currently the Section Leader of the Systemwide Everglades Research Group in the Applied Sciences Bureau of the South Florida Water Management District.

Mark has a BSc Honors degree in Marine Zoology from the University of Bangor, Wales, an MSc in Ecology from Durham University, England, and he received his PhD from Glasgow University, Scotland, where he specialized on life-history and breeding strategies of arctic seabirds. After his PhD he spent four years as a post-doctoral researcher at the University of California, Berkeley studying breeding strategies of Neotropical passerines. His scientific research has broadly investigated the ecology and evolution of bird behavior and how it relates to environmental conditions. This has involved studying species as diverse as wading birds and waterfowl in the Everglades, songbirds in the rainforests of Puerto Rico and Spain, parakeets in the Llanos of Venezuela, seabirds (guillemots and puffins) on uninhabited islands off Scotland and northern California, and conservation work in Tanzania.



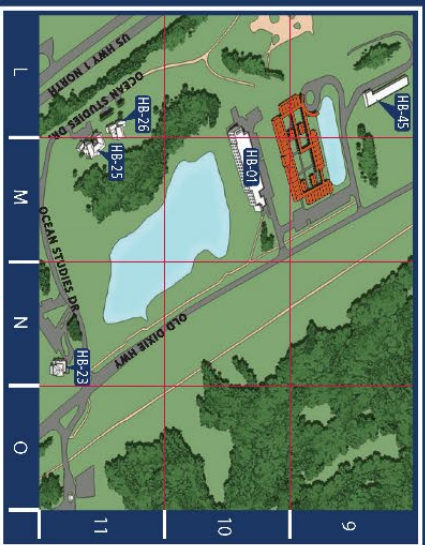
As a Section Leader at the South Florida Water Management District Mark is responsible for leading a multi-disciplinary team of scientists and providing the scientific foundation for the management and restoration of freshwater flows to the Everglades and Florida Bay. For the past 16 years, his research has focused on the restoration and management of birds and aquatic fauna in the Everglades and Florida Bay. It involves understanding the relationships among avian reproduction (storks, herons, ibises and spoonbills), aquatic prey availability (fish, crayfish and apple snails) and

wetland hydrologic conditions, as well as the potential impacts of non-native plant and animal species. His latest research also investigates the role of wildlife in wetland nutrient cycling. Mark has published over 50 manuscripts, book chapters and reports on the ecology of birds, fishes, crayfish and the effects of non-native animal species. He is the editor of the widely reported annual South Florida Wading Bird Report.

Mark is involved in multiple professional and technical advisory committees. For example, he is an active member of the Florida Flamingo and Wood Stork working groups where he helps guide the management and conservation of these rare species. He is also lead scientist and research coordinator for the wildlife research program at the Loxahatchee Impoundment Landscape Assessment (LILA) facility, a 30-ha physical model system of the Everglades used for multidisciplinary studies of its ecology. Mark sits on the science advisor board of the Audubon Society of the Everglades and is a committee member for multiple graduate students.

As his career developed, Mark began to see the critical importance of visual communication, especially photography, in his work. What initially started as documentary evidence to support his scientific work soon blossomed into an artistic passion to highlight the wonder and beauty of the swamp. With his unique understanding of animal ecology and behavior, as well as his access to some wildest corners of South Florida, Mark uses his photography and other forms of communication to educate and inspire a much greater appreciation of our natural heritage with the ultimate goal of effecting its conservation. He has published his scientific images in newspapers, magazines and scientific journals, exhibited his work at galleries, and has won awards in international competitions. Mark regularly communicates his scientific work and images to the public through workshops, presentations, and media events.

WELCOME TO FAU HARBOR BRANCH



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