

Building Connection and  
Community to our Watershed,  
Human and Non-human alike  
Through Intentional Education



Newsletter May 2022  
www.lakeworthwaterkeeper.org



## That's a wrap!

The spring LaGoonies sessions have wrapped up! We had such a blast exploring different places, meeting new friends, and experiencing new things with our partners. We thank each LaGoonie for their participation and we hope to see you at one of our upcoming events! Check out our calendar in this newsletter along with other information and activities that you can do at home. Stay cool out there!

XO,  
Melissa & Alex

## Partner Highlight

This session we were pleased to have our friend Hannah, from the American Shark Conservancy, come talk to our LaGoonies about- what else?- sharks! We learned how researchers catch, tag, and collect data from these apex predators, and why these creatures are so important to the functioning of our lagoon ecosystems. Want to learn more? Check out the American Shark Conservancy's important work on their website [HERE](#).



## Book Highlight

**How to Be a Good Creature**  
by Sy Montgomery

Naturalist Sy Montgomery sees teachers all around her- from tarantulas living in potted plants to wild gorillas to her pet pig, she shares the life lessons she's learned from our animal kin. As LaGoonies, we are always looking to learn from the natural world. What are some lessons you can learn from the animals around you?





# What's Happening Now in the Lagoon?

## Oyster Catcher Season

Four pairs of American Oystercatchers are currently nesting on the spoil islands in the central part of the Lake Worth Lagoon. Oystercatchers are picky and require healthy estuaries for adequate food (lots of shellfish) and safe nesting spots. Their presence in our Lagoon is a good sign!



## Rainy Season

The summer rains are starting! As we move into the rainy summer season, afternoons are often visited by dark skies and rain. While these storms may occasionally ruin your outdoor plans, remember to be grateful for this weather, our lush landscape would not be possible without it!



## Did you know...

The sea purslane (*Sesuvium portulacastrum*) is flowering! If you're exploring our sandy shorelines, keep an eye out for a creeping ground plant with small pinkish purple flowers and plump green leaves. Often called saltwort (though that can refer to a different, also edible plant) or sea purslane, we also call this plant sea pickles because the leaves are edible and salty- reminding us of a yummy, crunchy pickle! As always, be 110% sure of a plant's identity before tasting!

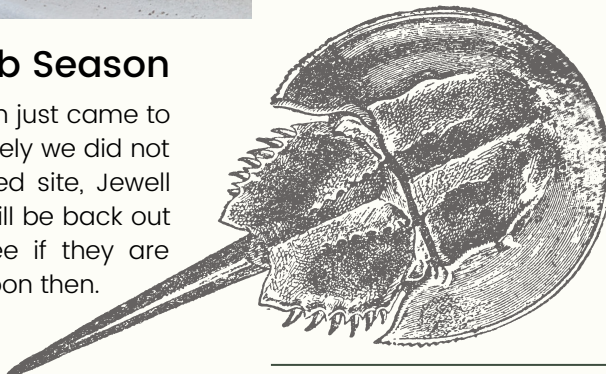
## Mango Season

Mangos are ripening! Don't let them go to waste- you can make ice cream, popsicles, hot sauce, jelly, cold drinks, salsa and more! Or just eat them fresh, maybe with a little chili powder and lime- delish!



## Horseshoe Crab Season

Horseshoe crab season just came to a close and unfortunately we did not see any at our selected site, Jewell Steinhardt Cove. We will be back out there in the fall to see if they are more active in the lagoon then.



# Upcoming Adventures

## Summer Camp

June 13th - June 17th

**Registration Deadline: June 1st**

Tentative Schedule:

Monday: Kayaking/Fishing

Tuesday: Estuary Exploration

Wednesday: Surfing

Thursday: Gardening/Water Fun

Friday: Snorkeling



Every 4th Saturday Morning  
*Starts May 28th*

Annual Club Dues:

LaGoonie Alum - \$25

Non-LaGoonie - \$50



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
FOR MORE DETAILS  
OR TO SIGN UP!**

## Year-long ExEd Program

**Starts August 15th**

(Orientation August 9th-11th)

This year-long enrichment program focuses on the earth and our place in it. We focus on building knowledge and skills so youth may grow into stewards of their community and, by proxy, contributing members of larger global communities of both human and nonhuman alike.

### Program Q & A

**May 18th, 7pm on Zoom**

Join us to learn about our new Minnows and Mangroves Program!



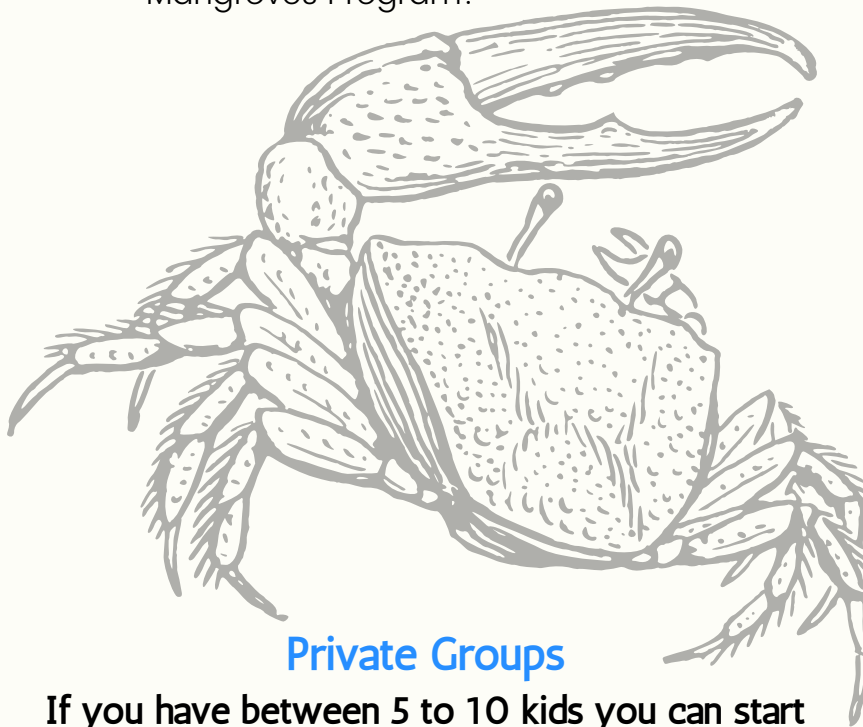
### Family Summer Series:

June 11; June 25; July 9; July 23  
August 5th; August 20

### Fall 10 Week Sessions

(Lake Worth and Jupiter)

September 13th - November 17th



### Private Groups

If you have between 5 to 10 kids you can start your own LaGoonies group! Your group will be able to pick your own time and day slot that works best for you. The private groups are available for our 10-week sessions or labs! Email [melissa.l@lakeworthwaterkeeper.org](mailto:melissa.l@lakeworthwaterkeeper.org) for more information!

### Attention Parents and Educators!

This summer the Lake Worth Waterkeeper staff is working hard to create more educational resources for you to use at home and in your classrooms. Learning bins will be available to sign out to learn more about our watershed and our staff will be available for what we are calling 'labs' which are in-depth lessons. Look out for those in the fall!

# Activities

## Get Involved.

One of the Lake Worth Waterkeeper, and by extension, LaGoonies', main tenants is that we all have a part to play in protecting our environment. Life in South Florida revolves around water, and it is our responsibility to protect that water and all who rely on it. If you want to support a watershed effort to protect our waterways, consider coming out to one of our clean up days. We have them twice a month rotating between Jewell-Steinhardt Cove and Bryant Park. Those who need service or volunteers hours are welcome and on some days we will have Professor Screech to help us learn more about that environment!



Download our blank phenology (the study of seasonal cycles) wheel to get started observing Palm Beach County's unique seasonal shifts. Fill out one slice a day with what you've observed, and soon you'll have a month's worth of observations! There are many different ways to fill out these wheels. We recommend noting the date at the top, the moon phase or weather in the circle, and drawings or notes about what you observed in the slice.

## Get Outside - Scavenger Hunt

Summer storms bring lots of ocean treasures, as well as trash, to our shores. This is a great time to explore the wrack line, or the lines of seaweed and macroalgae that wash up on the beach. Made up largely of free-floating sargassum species, these wrack lines are important sources of nutrients and structure for our beach, even if they can be a bit stinky! It is possible to find all kinds of things in the wrack line- use this scavenger hunt to get you started, and if you find something truly surprising or interesting, let us know!

### Wrack Line Scavenger Hunt



Sargassum

A pelagic (open ocean), free floating algae that forms large mats offshore known as the Sargasso Sea. This is a very important nursery ecosystem for animals such as sea turtle hatchlings



Gooseneck Barnacle

Also pelagic- often found attached to flotsam and jetsam that wash ashore



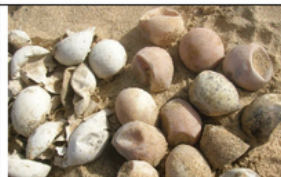
Plastic Bottle Cap

Boo! Please throw away if you find them.



Sanderling

Please don't chase or harass shorebirds.



Sea Turtle Eggs

You may find eggs or nests exposed after a storm, please leave them. They can't be saved and are important food for other animals



Mangrove Propagule

These propagules will float in currents until they find a place to take root



Portuguese Man-o-War

**DO NOT TOUCH**

Often brought to shore by easterly winds and storms. Their crest acts like a sail, catching the prevailing winds and currents.



Discarded Fishing Gear

If possible, please throw it away. Animals can become entangled and injured.



Ghost Crab

They keep our beaches clean by eating debris- Thanks little crab!