

Notable this week



Dr. Debra A. Schweiss, Palm Beach Atlantic University President (2019-2022)

Palm Beach Atlantic University 41st Annual American Fine Enterprise Day EVENT PREVIEW, 20



Sarah Marmion, Executive Director Friends of Manatee Lagoon (2019-2022)

Friends of Manatee Lagoon Annual Soirée for Seagrass is Nov. 14. EVENT PREVIEW, 20

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EVENT PREVIEW



Mark and Mika Clarifella (TRACY SIMON)

Oceans of fun for a sea of change

Friends of Manatee Lagoon (FOML) is entering a new chapter under the leadership of Sarah Marmion, its recently appointed executive director. With nearly two-decades of experience at Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) and a passion for environmental conservation, Marmion will guide the organization's mission of protecting manatees and their coastal habitats.

FOML is a nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding environmental education opportunities for all ages in Palm Beach County and beyond. Through enhanced exhibits and experiential learning programs, the organization raises awareness and funding for initiatives that inform the community about the environmental challenges manatees face in Florida.

Located in Riviera Beach along the Lake Worth Lagoon estuary, FOML works closely with environmental partners to conduct research and present information that supports healthier coastal ecosystems.

Marmion's connection to Manatee Lagoon runs deep. She played a pivotal role in designing and opening the FPL Eco-Discovery Center in Palm Beach County, managing for six years the award-winning environmental education venue that now welcomes close to 200,000 visitors annually.

"I feel like my history with the center and the more recent work with FPL managing education outreach, led to this moment," said Marmion. "My predecessor, Anne Messer, who has

joined the FOML board, did a terrific job creating awareness for the nonprofit, and now we're ready to spread our wings even more. We want to step-out into the community and work with like-minded organizations to protect the ecosystems that our beloved manatees depend on."

Marmion's first major event as executive director will be the fourth annual Soirée for Seagrass on Friday, Nov. 14, at Manatee Lagoon. Guests will gather along the scenic Lake Worth Lagoon waterfront to enjoy "Seagrass Sprints," dinner by the bits, music, and elegant live and silent auctions. Jay Cashmore will host the evening, highlighting the growing impact of FOML's programs.

"The Soirée is a celebration of our community with people who want to make a difference," said Marmion. "Our goal is to turn that momentum into measurable progress for seagrass restoration, manatee protection, and environmental education throughout South Florida."

Last year's event set a fundraising record and proceeds directly support conservation projects that protect manatees and their habitats.

IF YOU GO

When: Friday, Nov. 14, 6 p.m.

Where: Manatee Lagoon 6500 N. Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach

Tickets: \$250

Contact: 561-943-7989 or friends@manateelagoon.org