Shuck & Share
Community Based Oyster Recycling Program

Jessy Wayles
Marine Discovery Center

Dr. Linda Walters, University of Central Florida
Adam Klingenberg, Brevard Zoo
Celena Cline, Florida Park Service
Jim Behuniak, Halls River Alliance, Inc.
Kendra Cope, Coastal Connections, Inc.
Established in Volusia County in 2014 to provide a stable source of shell for shoreline and oyster restoration projects.

- Marine Discovery Center in New Smyrna Beach provided the location, volunteers, and staff to develop the program.
Program Overview
Volunteers

- Heart and soul of the program!
- Collection of shells, creation of restoration materials, deployment of materials, monitoring
  - Some volunteers participate in the entire process
- They enjoy giving back to their community, and furthering our mission
Partners

• Partnerships allow for bigger and better projects
• Ability to share materials and ideas
• Stronger community influence

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.”
- Helen Keller
Expanding to counties all over the state
- In 6 counties and counting....
shell recycled: 525,000 lbs

citizens engaged: 4,500

cumulative hours: 9,000

potential to restore: 6,000 m
Brevard County
’est. 2015

BREVARD ZOO

shell recycled: 3,500,000 lbs

citizens engaged: 4,500

cumulative hours: 11,000

potential to restore: 39,000 m

est. 2015
Flagler County
est. 2016

shell recycled: 74,000 lbs

citizens engaged: 1,000

cumulative hours: 2,000

potential to restore: 825 m
Orange County
est. 2017

University of Central Florida

- Local oyster catering company donates shucked shell straight to University of Central Florida

  shell recycled: 2,500 lbs
  potential to restore: 20 m
Halls River Alliance Inc. has partnered with UF/IFAS to begin recycling bi-valve shells on the nature coast.

Currently working on permits for a 150’ shoreline restoration project.

Will begin collecting shells from 3 restaurants in January 2019.

Goal is to capture shells from the scallop season to supplement oyster restoration methods.
A new non-profit, Coastal Connections Inc, has received grant funding to begin recycling oyster shells from restaurants in 2019.
shell recycled: 4.1 million pounds
Recycled shell has been used on 16 sites for multiple projects.
• **Home Page**
  - Overview of the program
  - Interactive State Map
  - Promotional video

• **Oysters 101**
  - Basic information about oysters

• **Get Involved**
  - Contact information for participating partners and oyster recycling programs in Florida
  - Calendar of events (beta)

• **Our Partners**
  - Shuck & Share partners & oyster recycling organizations
  - Participating restaurants

• **Projects**
  - Overview of shoreline projects around the state of Florida that use recycled oyster shell
Lessons Learned

- Not everyone wants to participate... and that’s ok!
- It’s really hard to find stable funding for this project
- What works for one county may not work for another county
- Communicate, communicate, communicate.
Moving forward…

• Find a stable source of funding
• Continue growing the Shuck & Share program state wide
• Create a standard program packet for new organizations
• Keep restoring Florida’s coastal ecosystems
Questions?

Jessy Wayles
Conservation Science Coordinator
Jessy@MarineDiscoveryCenter.org