

Transformational Learning at the GTMNERR

Dr. Kelly Smith



What is Transformational Learning?

- **Transformational Learning should fundamentally impact and hopefully enhance student personal development, intellectual growth, and professional achievement.**
- **Can occur in the classroom, but often happens outside the traditional framework**

GTMNERR Use for College Students

- **Habitat diversity is excellent**
- **Field and laboratory support**
- **Monitoring and research activities enhance learning**



Student Activities

- **Weekly meetings with staff**
- **Developed field sampling skills**
- **Carried out team-based sampling programs based on common interests**



Diversity of Benthic Fauna

- How does the dam impact benthic fauna?
- Kick-net sampling
- Compared diversity among Guana Lake sites & a Guana River site



Shore shrimp abundance and parasitism

- What were relative parasite loads?
- Counted and measured shore shrimp
- Counted parasites



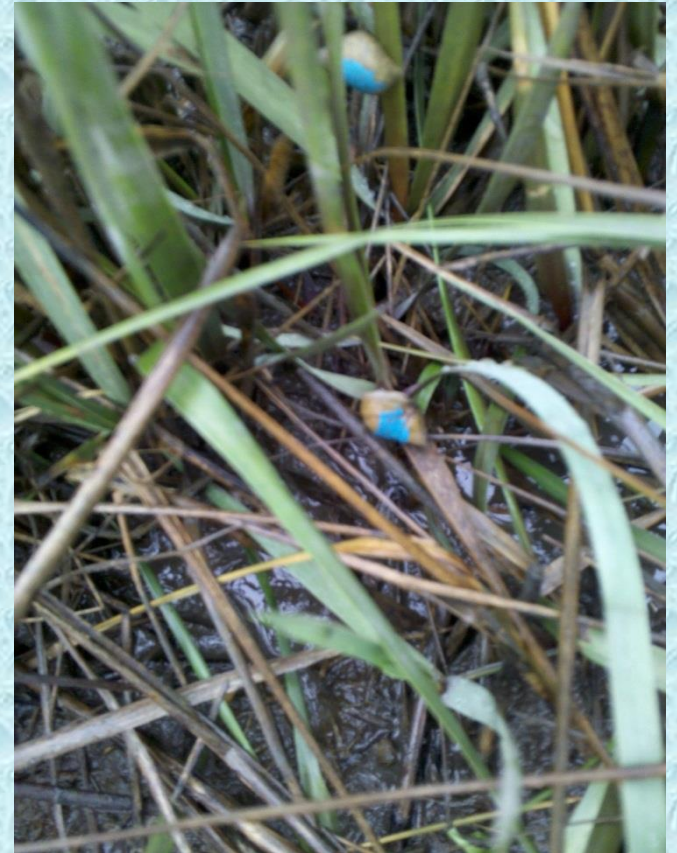
Water quality study

- **Impact of the dam on water quality?**
- **Monitored nutrients, chlorophyll a, salinity and DO**
- **Compared above & below the dam**



Salt marsh periwinkle abundance

- How abundant are periwinkles at GTMNERR?
- Mark recapture study & transect analysis



Student Outcomes

- **Research skills**
- **Career information**
- **Presentation skills**



Student Outcomes

- **Student Empowerment....**

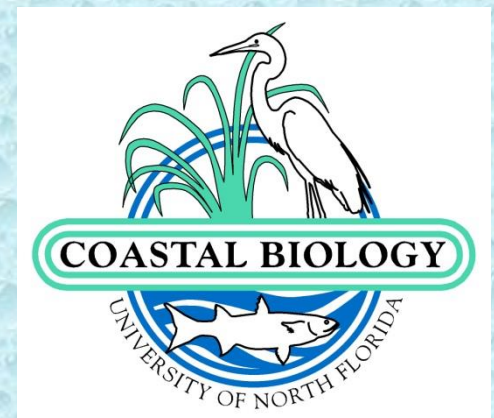


Future Outlook

- **Student interest is strong, but**
 - **Expense is an issue**
 - **Travel time can eat into class time**
- **Perhaps... more intensive class over a shorter time period**
- **Inter-collegiate interaction – undergraduate research symposium??**

Acknowledgements

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Thank you.

