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STETSON UNIVERSITY

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Stetson University's Gillespie Museum Presents Science Cafe on the Ecology of Port Royal Sound

Stetson alumna Kristen Mattson to discuss area's rich and diverse marine life

DELAND, Florida, Jan. 28, 2020 – The pristine, coastal waterway [Port Royal Sound](#) is part of the South Atlantic Bight salt marsh ecosystem and renowned for its rich and diverse marine life in Okatie, South Carolina. Learn more about this inlet during a free Science Café, featuring Stetson University alumna, Spring Island Trust environmental educator and naturalist Kristen Mattson, who will be discussing “The Ecology of Port Royal Sound” on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 7-8:30 p.m., at the [Gillespie Museum](#) on [Stetson University's](#) campus. The event also will include an opportunity to view the museum's current exhibits and light refreshments.

Mattson received her Bachelor of Science in environmental science with a minor in biology and Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from Stetson in 2005. She earned a Master of Science in interdisciplinary ecology with a focus on botany from the University of Florida in 2006. She has been employed with the Spring Island Trust since 2008.

“The Spring Island Trust is one of the leading environmental education and conservation organizations in the Lowcountry region of South Carolina,” said Mattson. “My role there is to teach residents and visitors about Port Royal Sound's unique ecology.”

Mattson's presentation will include various species and area conditions that create high productivity and biodiversity at Port Royal Sound and the significance of marine ecosystems.

“I'm very excited about returning to my hometown and my alma mater to speak to the community about the ecology of a region that is extremely special to me,” said Mattson. “Stetson University is the place that first inspired me to be passionate about the environment and conservation, and it is an honor to share the conservation story that I've been involved with for the past 12 years.”

About Stetson University

Founded in 1883, [Stetson University](#) is the oldest private university in Central Florida. Stetson focuses on intense learning experiences in a supportive community that allows students to develop their voice in a connected, inclusive environment. Stetson University ranks No. 5 on U.S. News & World Report's 2019 list of Best Regional Universities (South), and has been recognized as one of The Princeton Review's 385 Best Colleges, 2020 edition. [Stay connected](#) with Stetson on social media.

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