

Matt's Point Living Shoreline

In Memory of Matthew Michael Oyler '05



A Memorable Moment on the Water

During an offshore fishing trip with his Dad, a migrating Palm Warbler landed exhausted and dehydrated on Matt's hand.

Matt fed the bird insects collected from the boat's windshield and gave it water until it regained its strength and safely continued its journey.

The experience reflected Matt's lifelong compassion for wildlife and deep appreciation for nature.

In winter, large flocks of Palm Warblers visit the Sandra Stetson Aquatic Center, finding sanctuary and sustenance among the tall cabbage palm trees and other native plants protected within these grounds.



Citizen Scientist

Matt tagged and released this iconic sailfish. Tagging helps researchers to estimate the age, lifespan, migration patterns, and habitat ranges of recaptured fish.

**Take life as it comes.
Do the right thing to help my family and friends.
Be reliable and work hard in pursuing career and life goals.
While pursuing my goals, spend time helping others and doing the things I love to do (FISHING).
If I do these things, in the end, I will be happy with my life, and will regret nothing.**

*Matt's Personal Mission Statement,
written at Stetson University on February 3, 2005*



Matthew M. Oyler

June 17, 1982 – January 14, 2006

Matt's Point Living Shoreline honors the life and legacy of Matthew M. Oyler, beloved son of Mike Oyler and Beth Roellke Oyler. An only child, Matt was devoted to and loved by his large extended family. As an older cousin, he was a trusted role model to his many younger cousins, and someone whose warmth left an impression on all. Matt is the nephew of Chris Roellke, Stetson University's 10th president.

Florida born and raised in West Melbourne, Matt was known for his humor, intelligence, kindness, and humanity. He proudly graduated from Stetson University in 2005 with a degree in Marketing and a minor in e-Business Technology. During his time at Stetson, he enjoyed intramural sports, was an honorary member of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, and built cherished friendships.

An accomplished fisherman, Matt found his greatest passion offshore fishing with his Dad, spending countless hours on Florida's waters, and competing in statewide tournaments. Matt and his Mom shared their interest in science activities, the culinary arts, and creative art projects. Whether fishing, working, enjoying country music, surfing, or gathering with family and friends, Matt embraced life. Sadly, that life ended when, as a pedestrian, Matt was struck by a driver under the influence of alcohol.

Created through the vision and generosity of Matt's family and friends, the support of Stetson alumni, faculty, and staff, and a grant from the Volusia County ECHO Program, this living shoreline stands as a lasting tribute to the values Matt treasured: a love of the outdoors, a respect for nature, and a commitment to helping others.

Together, these contributions transformed an idea into a place that promotes environmental stewardship, outdoor recreation, and hands-on learning while honoring Matt's enduring connection to the natural world. Matt's Point Living Shoreline will also serve as a space for reflection, and an outstanding location for fishing.

As native plants take root and wildlife flourishes, this shoreline will improve water quality, reduce erosion, and create habitat for fish, birds, alligators, manatees, turtles, and countless other species that depend on healthy freshwater ecosystems. Through the life it sustains and the experiences it inspires, Matt's legacy will continue to grow for generations to come.