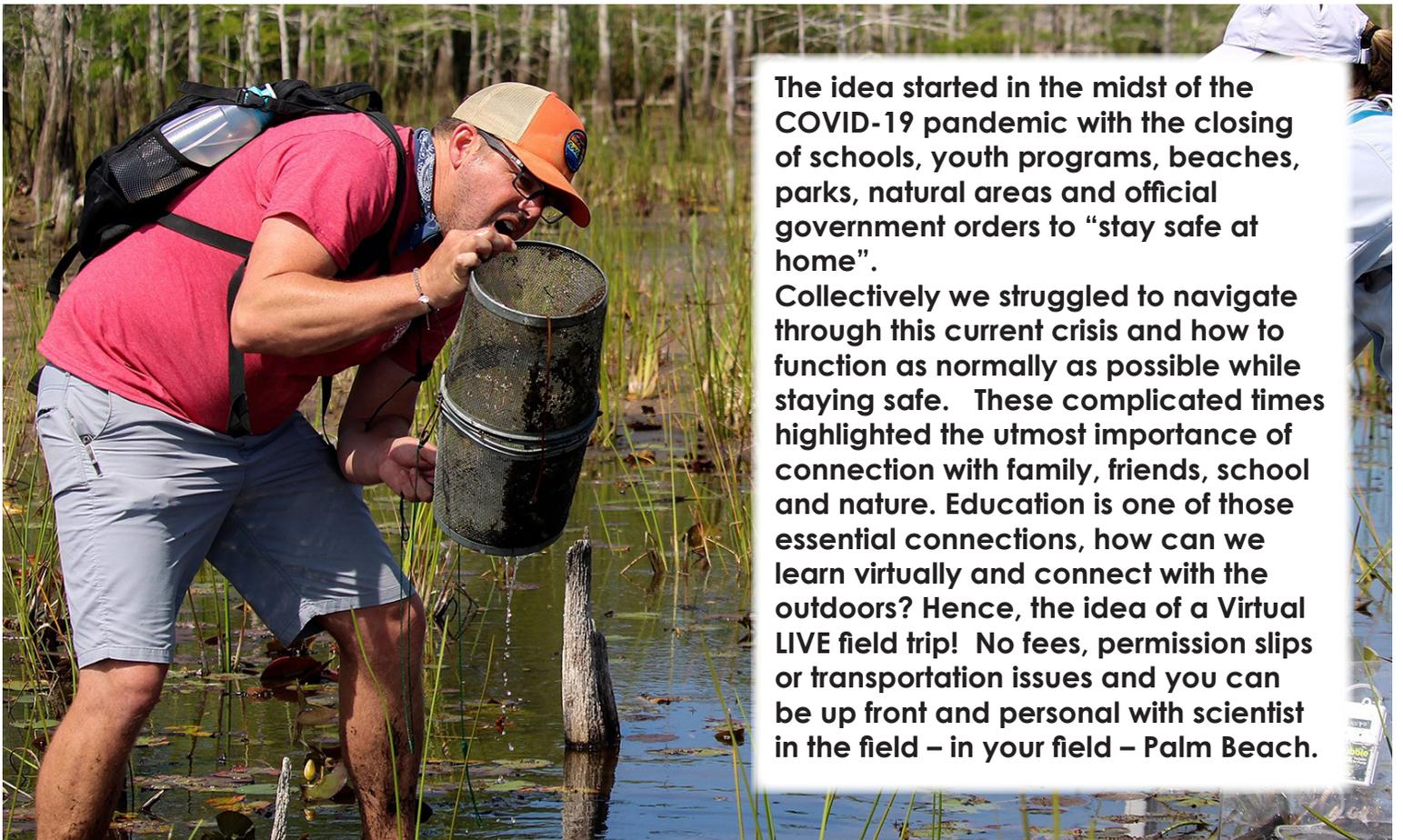


ADVENTURE INSPIRED...LIVE!

Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management (ERM) joined with PB County's School District (PBCSD) to experience and connect with the diverse Natural Area ecosystems in Palm Beach County. Together exploring the preserved, restored and protected local habitats. Whether Sunny or Shady // Wet or Dry // Natural or Restored - always WILD!



PALM BEACH COUNTY
**NATURAL
AREAS**



The idea started in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic with the closing of schools, youth programs, beaches, parks, natural areas and official government orders to "stay safe at home". Collectively we struggled to navigate through this current crisis and how to function as normally as possible while staying safe. These complicated times highlighted the utmost importance of connection with family, friends, school and nature. Education is one of those essential connections, how can we learn virtually and connect with the outdoors? Hence, the idea of a Virtual LIVE field trip! No fees, permission slips or transportation issues and you can be up front and personal with scientist in the field – in your field – Palm Beach.



How did it work?

A valiant science teacher volunteered and allowed ERM to connect “LIVE” into her Google Classroom; then the camera was turned on ERM scientists in the field guiding us through our amazing, local wildlands. Students were able to join the journeys through swamps, coastal scrub, estuaries, mangrove forests, freshwater wetlands and a shady canopy of hardwood trees all with an abundance of charismatic organisms. It’s a discovery journey! ERM scientist bring students through various local habitats each trip that brings alive scientific concepts learned in the classroom. Students and teachers are right there with us, they ask lots of questions, sometimes to “relook” or go a different direction, or request a “close-up” of a plant or animal we just found. We “discover” together and never actually know what will turn up during our field days. The interaction makes an enjoyable experience on both sides of the screen!



lake worth
LAGOON



Since our first adventure, and the positive feedback from the teacher and students, we continued with one each week until the end of the school year. The PBCSD audience grew from one teacher with 20 students to 5-6 teachers with 50 to 60 students, a handful of PBSD Administrative Staff and even parents! Check out pictorial highlights of the field trip locations with PBCSD on ERM’s Facebook page @pbcern.

If you are a teacher and would like more information about these virtual field adventures, you can connect with Ms. Heather Magill via her twitter handle: @STEMagillPSMS.

