

Dauphin Island Sea Lab
Foundation Annual
Overview
2024-2025

The Foundation office has been opened 7 years and is located at 4513 Old Shell Road. The Assistant Director, Angie Gaillard and Assistant to the Director, Daphne Marcum are still with the Foundation while Helene Hassell remains Executive Director of the DISLF.

The Foundation held Cocktails with the Critters, MEAL, and Employee Campaign in person and the auction remained as a Virtual Fundraiser. The office has continued sending letters and emails to donors. It has been a successful year. I want to thank the Board of Directors and Advisory Committee for all they have done to promote the DISLF.

Projects Funded at the Sea Lab through funds
raised by DISLF: Discovery Hall Programs K5-12

- BayMobile - All In Credit Union
- High School Scholarships - funded by the Jenny Cook Memorial Fund
- ROV competition -Partial funding from Thompson Engineering , Curtis and Edith Munson Foundation and DISLF
- Sea Stars - Funded by Rotary Club of Mobile, Glaze Foundation and Donors
- Computers - Munson Foundation, Crampton Trust, Bedsole Foundation, Caring Foundation, Hearn Chandler
- Discovery Lab – The Daniel Foundation, Gulf Coast RC&D, The Caring Foundation

University Programs Undergraduate, Masters and PhD candidates

- New Microscopes - Regions Bank
- UP Scholarships – CWC and Individual Donors, Employee Giving
- Bays and Bayous Symposium - deGruy Scholarship
- George Cline Scholarship
- Marine Mammal Stranding Network - Anonymous Donor, Fleet Feet
- UP Computers – Donors, RC&D Grant
- New Van for UP – Bedsole and Crampton Grants
- New Hydrophones – Powers Lab – Alabama Power Foundation

Campus Wide

Sun Sail Shades for Campus – Alabama Dermatological Foundation

Financial Information:

DISLF's year ended 9/30/2025 with Total Checking of \$1,213,835.44. The Community Foundation of South Alabama had the DISLF Fund at \$3,140,612.70 and the George Crozier Fund at \$295,305.03, for total assets of \$4,653,683.82.

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Goals for FY2025:

Fundraising goals were established at the beginning of the fiscal year. These goals were based on a three-year rolling average of the DISLF donors, gifts and dollars.

Total active donors:	Goal: 751	Actual:752
New Donors:	Goal: 216	Actual:192
Total Gifts:	Goal: 1285	
	Actual:1219	
Total Giving:	Goal: \$535,313	Actual:\$561,212

The Foundation has two funds at the CDSA; The George Crozier Endowment Fund which was established with a matching grant from the Kresge Foundation, which is governed by the restrictive rules, established by Kresge. The second fund is the DISLF Endowment Fund, which has been funded through the fundraising efforts of the Foundation and is a donor directed fund. The DISLF Fund ending 9/30/2025 was \$3,140,612.70 and the Crozier Fund balance ending 9/30/2025 was \$295,305.03 for a total of \$3,435,917.73.

Grant Request for FY25

Total Requests - \$332,000 Total Funded - \$195,000

Grants 2024-2025:

The Caring Foundation
J.L. Bedsole Foundation
Regions Bank Foundation
Rotary Children's Foundation
Thompson Holdings
Foundation
Crampton Trust
Moorer
Foundation
Curtis and Edith Munson
Alabama Dermatology Society

Special Events and Outreach:

The DISLF hosted four special events: Marine Environmental Awards Luncheon, Cocktails with the Critters Virtual Auction, Cocktails with the Critters Party

Marine Environmental Awards Luncheon (MEAL) 2024

The 12th Annual Environmental Awards Luncheon was held on Wednesday, October 30, 2024 at the Battle House Hotel. The event was a wonderful success with 325 Reservations with 38 Tables. This year Oakworth Bank was \$5,000 Sponsor. Keynote Speaker: Dr. Larry Madin Director Emeritus and Senior Science Advisor at Woods Hole Institute. Area schools in attendance were USA Grad Students, ASMS, and Fairhope. The first ever Statewide Sessions-Brown Conservation Leadership Award went to **Chris Blankenship – Commissioner of Alabama DCNR**.

Gulf Coast Marine Environmental Excellence Award-Recognizes an individual who has made outstanding contributions to marine environmental sustainability in the Alabama Gulf Coast Region. **Winner: Mimi Fearn**

Gulf Coast Marine Environmental Leadership Award-Recognizes a business or organization whose efforts have resulted in the improvement of marine environmental sustainability in the Alabama Gulf Coast Region. **Winner: Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries**

Cocktails with the Critters:

The Virtual Auction was held April 27, 2025 – April 30, 2025. The date for the in-person event was May 1, 2025. The Auction site Betterworld was chosen and used for this year's online auction. Everything went great with the site.

Sponsors: 406 Corporate sponsor letters were mailed on Nov 9th, 2024, and 395 on Jan 23, 2025. The number of corporate sponsors was 58. The number of individual sponsors was 9.

Ticket Sales: Actual ticket pre-sales

\$7,322.10 Donations: Totaled \$2,144.98

In-kind sponsor Gwins Printing

Silent Auction: This year's auction generated a gross revenue of \$16,890.83 from 130 items with a FMV of \$64,000.00.

Foundation staff uploaded pictures and descriptions of all the Auction items to Betterworld. Betterworld was very user-friendly with excellent reporting. We had a total of 54 Bidders sign up for the Auction. The ability to sign up for the auction ahead of time however was not offered. Once the Auction live the Bidders could register. A formula was used to determine starting bids (40% FMV) and bid increases were uniform based on the item's value. We had 6 trips that did not sell.

	Actual 2025	Actual 2024	Actual 2023	Actual 2022
Total Income	\$97,732.17	\$116,464.00	\$117,272.00	\$106,763
Expenses	(\$22,449.26)	(\$23,856.00)	(\$26,936.33)	(\$21,642.34)
Net Income	\$75,282.61	\$92,608.00	\$90,335.67	\$85,120.80

Fundraising

Friends of the Sea Lab

FOSL membership this year. FOSL had 138 renewals and 95 new memberships

2023-2024

2022-2023

2021-2022

260 Members \$31,423.90
\$27,180

250 Members \$32,917.40

185 Members

Annual Appeal:

The Annual appeal grossed \$50,341.45 with expenses of \$1,306.00 for a net profit of \$49,035.45 1,345 letters were mailed.

	2024	2023	2022-
Gross	\$50,341.45	\$52,326.	\$31,534.0
Expenses:	\$1306.00	\$1210.00	\$724.25
Net income:	\$49,035.45	\$51,116.0	\$29,863
Letters:	1,345	1,210	1,366
Donors:	113	105	104

Employee Campaign:

The employee campaign was held again this year and was well received. The duration of the campaign was two pay periods. The kickoff was an ice cream social on Sept 14, 2024 – Oct 15, 2024, at the conclusion we celebrated with Smokin'Gringo taco truck. The campaign was well received and all the departments having 100% participation, which was the goal. The total amount raised was used to build a held over project and UP Scholarships, and Jenny Cook Scholarships. The total amount raised was \$6,597.00. Margaret VanLoocke, John Valentine and Ben King made matching donations. The Employee Campaign will remain an annual event

Officers

Margaret VanLoock, Chair
Eliska Morgan, Vice Chair
George Davis, Treasurer
Bestor Ward IV, Secretary

Trustees

John Bell
Scott Browning
Catherine Burton
Susan Carley
Karen Chambliss
David England
Charlie Gray
Scottie Green
Robert Greer
Lee Hammons
Jeff Luther
Donna Mackin
Patrick Murphy
Ralph Neal
Jeff Schock
Tiffany Seibt
Burley Shedd
Jim Smith
Sean Sullivan
George Talbot
Richard Tremayne
John Valentine
Sarah Watkins
Garrett Williamson
Claire Wilson

Honorary

Trustees

Dr. George Crozier
Dr. John Dindo

DISL

Representatives Dr.

John Valentine

David England

Advisory Board

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Bart Briggs

Joe Busta

Allen Chapman

Bob Collins

Tom Gaillard

Bill Haffner

Fred Hardman

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Ben King

Ernest Ladd

Beth Lyons

Jimbo Meador

Jay O'Brien

George Oswalt

Jocko Potts

Tommy Sirmon

Jason Smith

Chuck Stapleton

Marty Stapleton

Amy Thompson

Alan Tolson

Chris Tracy

Bud Urquhart

Marc Whitehead

Patrick Wilson

Respectively Submitted,
Helene Hassell Executive Director