



# Annual Report

2022



# A Message from our Executive Director



As we close the 2021-2022 season, I am so very proud of this organization, its mission, and staff that are the very heart of it. With most of the difficulties of the pandemic behind us, I want to thank those of you who came back and who continue to make plans for the future. We are a small organization in a sea of bigger tour companies and gap year programs and we rely on word of mouth and those who know that the magic of Forfar can be transformative for their students.

**"WITH MOST OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE PANDEMIC BEHIND US, I WANT TO THANK THOSE OF YOU WHO CAME BACK AND WHO CONTINUE TO MAKE PLANS FOR THE FUTURE"**

I have an amazing staff both at the field station and in our home office in Ohio and appreciate all the patience and perseverance everyone has shown. It is paying off as we are on track to have a great 2022-2023 season! We have even started up our cabin remodels again with Cabin 2 in the process of being updated. We offered a teacher workshop for those looking to get into field studies with their students in July 2022 and will be offering a similar workshop in 2023. We have plans to purchase a generator for the station to help with the unplanned blackouts and a fourth boat to add to our mini-fleet!



We continue to change and grow with each new challenge and our adaptability is one of our greatest strengths as an organization.

Thank you again for your continued support of IFS!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Lindsey Christ". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lindsey Christ, Executive Director  
International Field Studies

# Programming



## FORFAR FIELD STATION

The main operation of IFS is running week-long field studies for middle school through graduate level students at Forfar on Andros, Bahamas. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we had to adjust and make accommodations to host groups safely. We began welcoming back more week-long groups this season and hosted 16 groups. We are looking forward to next season as our schedule continues to fill up!



## GAP YEAR - FMSP

Our 6-week Forfar Marine Science Program gives students the chance to learn how to scuba dive, take hands-on marine science courses, kayak, and gain wilderness first aid certifications. This past season, we safely and successfully hosted 3 cohorts, reaching 45 students.



## WEEK-LONG FMSP - ONLINE COURSE

In the Fall of 2021 and Spring of 2022, we offered our online courses again with a travel immersion component. Vivienne Main taught 3 sessions of "Intro to Marine Ecosystems." Students that participated in this weekly online lecture and discussion also had the opportunity to visit Forfar in June of 2022 for a travel immersion trip to learn marine field skills, master hands-on field based research techniques, enjoy a beginner discover scuba diving course, and more! We had 21 students participate in the online course, 13 of which took part in the optional travel immersion experience.



## GUIDED TOURS

In December of 2021, we hosted 12 people on our first "Sea Kayaking and Camping in The Exumas" trip, lead by Forfar's Sea Kayak Instructor, Steve Harrington. We are offering the same program this December with 12 confirmed participants. We have also added two more tours for Summer 2023 - Hawaii off the Beaten Path and a Thailand Elephant Conservation Tour.



## TEACHER WORKSHOP

In July of 2022, we hosted our first Teacher Workshop at Forfar in recent history. We welcomed 18 educators from the US, Canada, and The Bahamas to the field station and provided them with the foundational knowledge and skills needed to conduct field studies and incorporate meaningful travel experiences into their teaching and learning practices.



## ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

In December of 2021, 14 alumni volunteers visited Forfar to participate in our Work Week. Some projects they completed included trimming trees, painting cabins, burying pipes, and roof repairs. We also hosted 20 participants for our Alumni Week in July of 2022. They had the opportunity to revisit Forfar while bringing along their friends and family members to enjoy the week with them.

# Giving Back

## ANDROSIA SCHOLARSHIP

Since 2016, the sale of Androsia wares and IFS branded merchandise has raised over \$18,000 for our Androsia Scholarship Fund. The scholarships are awarded to graduating Seniors from Andros to help fund their future educational path. In 2022, IFS awarded three scholarships. Isaac Barr received \$1,000 as the 2022 Valedictorian of Huntley Christie High School and Paige Louis, also a graduate of Huntley Christie High School, received \$1,000. Rodneal Hanna, daughter of one of our employees at Forfar, received \$500 to further her education at the University of Bahamas.



## THE DR. WALTER 'BEN' BOHL SCHOLARSHIP

In honor of Ben, IFS has started a scholarship fund to directly support both local and international students with the ability to attend life-changing field study experiences at Forfar and experience the magic for themselves that Ben held near to his heart.

The Dr. Walter 'Ben' Bohl Scholarship program awarded \$3,500 in need-based scholarships to 2 Bahamian and 2 American students during the 2021-2022 Season.



## FORFAR MARINE SCIENCE COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

As part of our Forfar Marine Science Program (Gap Year), each cohort participates in a service learning project as part of the course work. Students work with our various on-island partners (Bahamas National Trust or Forestry Unit) to give back to the local Andros community. Some of the projects include assisting with local trail maintenance, invasive species control, mangrove restoration, and litter clean-ups. Students in our program have donated 1,810 person-hours since 2016 to the local community! Pictured are the Gap Year Cohorts from last season.



# A Letter from our Board Chair



As we are completing our 52nd year, we are celebrating the fact that groups are beginning to return to the field station at levels close to those before the shutdown. To help this, we have reinstituted teacher workshops, welcoming teachers from around the world that are new to Forfar or are new to offering field study experiences to their students. In addition, our 6-week gap year program is again attracting more students from around the world and we are also expanding our programs by offering guided tours to Hawaii and Thailand.

Our efforts to improve the facilities are ongoing. The cabin renovations are continuing and we are planning a storage facility for equipment, as well as, an emergency generator. To make the facility more sustainable we are looking at adding solar panels to produce renewable energy.

Although our founder Dr. Ben Bohl is not with us anymore, his legacy lives on through the scholarship established in his name. It is enabling students who would otherwise not be able to afford to attend, come and learn at Forfar.



The board would like to thank the staff and friends of IFS for their efforts and help in bringing our programs back better than ever.

Jack Hedge, Board Chair

## IFS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair - Jack Hedge  
Vice Chair - Jerry Hutton  
Secretary - Bill Somerlot  
Treasurer - Cecilia Go  
Justin Bezner  
Dr. Jeff Fowler

Elizabeth Maag  
Jamie Musacchio  
Vivienne Main  
Sam Shim  
Robert Singletary  
Advisory Member - Degee Wilhelm

# Financial Statement of Activities

	2021	2020
<b>INCOME</b>		
Contributions	5,741	21,093
Earned Income	654,556	315,630
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program Services	540,836	419,623
Supporting Services	109,501	83,569
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>529,244</b>	<b>451,349</b>

