

ARTHUR VINING DAVIS LIBRARY

Mote Marine Laboratory  
1600 Ken Thompson Parkway  
Sarasota, FL 34236  
(941) 388-4441, ext. 333  
library@mote.org  
<http://www.mote.org/library>

Mote Marine Laboratory's library, is conducting a digitization project of grey literature from two Florida environmental laboratories dating back to the 1930s. It involves the rescue and preservation of unpublished documents and data, conversion to electronic format, and e-publication of the materials. The project is supported by a Florida LSTA grant.

Available at: <https://dspace.mote.org/dspace/>

Mote Marine Laboratory is an independent, nonprofit marine research facility.

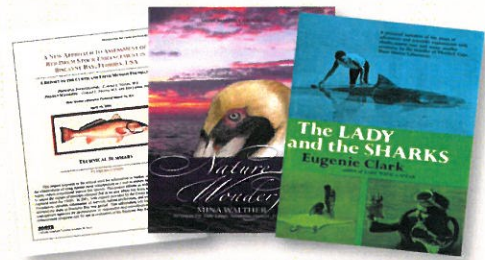
PROJECT GOALS:

- Preserve, archive and digitize historical data and documents from the Bass Biological and Mote Marine laboratories.
- Provide "Open Access" to the digitized materials through Mote's website.
- Enhance and promote knowledge of Florida environmental information through outreach and education.
- Advance the science of the sea.



THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS  
at the

*Arthur Vining Davis Library*



[www.mote.org/library](http://www.mote.org/library)  
<https://dspace.mote.org/dspace/>

Development of the 2009/2010 Bass Biological Laboratory and Mote Technical Reports database is funded under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the Florida Department of State, Division of Library and Information Services.



## BASS BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY



- Located on Lemon Bay in Englewood, Fla.
- Operated during the 1930s and '40s.
- Functioned as the first year-round collecting station in the region.
- Served as the first co-educational research field station in Florida.

**The Bass Laboratory was founded by John F. Bass, Jr. in 1932, when Englewood was only a small outpost of civilization. It was located on 10 acres and had a dozen structures.**

The Lab's *Mission Statement* was to "furnish research facilities to investigators in biological fields where the fauna, flora, and climate play an important role in the problem under observation." In addition to accepting fellows and doing research in the greater Englewood area, Bass scientists were called upon to solve ecology-related disputes throughout the state.

The Lab also had a profit-making subsidiary, or "scientific sales department," called the *Zoological Research Supply Company*. The company supplied specimens to schools throughout the country for research and distributed shark products, including jewelry made of shark's teeth and shark liver oil.

## THE BASS COLLECTION



- Maps
- Telegrams
- Permits
- Photographs
- Invoices
- Correspondence
- Field Notes
- Species Lists
- Ecological Data
- Meteorological Data
- Personal Papers
- and more...

The rescue and ongoing preservation of these documents has been a 20-year process that began in 1989, spearheaded by Dr. E.D. Estevez, director of the Center for Coastal Ecology at Mote Marine Laboratory.

Dr. Estevez notes that "few accounts exist of Florida's pre-development marine environment. The Bass Biological Laboratory records will help ecologists, educators and others interested in environmental conservation reconstruct the natural biodiversity, system structure and function of Englewood and Lemon Bay in the 1930s."

The records also provide valuable information on the socio-economic conditions of Florida during that era.

While the Bass facility is gone, the print and digital record of its innovation and commitment to science remain at Mote, which is dedicated to scientific research, innovation, outreach and conservation.

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The following collections are available onsite at the Mote library:

**“MOTE TECHNICAL REPORTS” & “COLLECTED PAPERS FROM MOTE MARINE LABORATORY”:**

These series reflect Mote research since 1955.

**“PROTECT OUR REEFS REPORTS”:** Research involving the preservation of Florida’s coral reefs.

**BASS BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY:** 1930s and ’40s-era papers, photos, maps and research data from Englewood, Fla., research lab.

**DR. EUGENIE CLARK:** Founder of the Cape Haze Marine Laboratory, now Mote Marine Laboratory. Published papers and books.

**DR. CHARLES M. BREDER, JR.:** Renowned ichthyologist and Dr. Clark’s mentor. Published books and field journals from the early 1900s.

**DR. PERRY GILBERT:** Cornell University professor, shark researcher, Mote Lab director 1967-1978. Published papers, correspondence and photos.

**DR. JAMES E. WOODS:** DePaul University professor, Mote Lab research associate. Biomedical books with specialty in endocrine and chick research.

**MINA WALTHER:** Chicago biology teacher and Sarasota nature writer. Nature books and “Tide Lines,” a newspaper column.

**PAULINE BECKER:** 25-year Mote volunteer. Floridiana-genre books.

**HERMAN GROSS:** Underwater photographer. Collection of 30,000 marine slide images.

## MOTE TECHNICAL REPORTS

The *Mote Technical Reports* are produced by Mote staff and reflect the research performed at Mote since the mid-1950s. There are more than 1,400 print reports, with 400 full-text reports available online through the Mote Library web page. Additional reports are continually added.

*Mote Technical Reports* subject areas:

- Manatee research activities
- Sea turtle monitoring, nest evaluation and protection measures
- Marine aquaculture and stock enhancement in Florida
- Culture techniques to conserve Florida Keys coral reefs
- Florida red tide monitoring and research
- Conservation research for endangered smalltooth sawfish
- Elasmobranch studies (sharks and rays)
- Shark biomedical research
- Coastal ecology studies

