



# The Bay Watch Leg

A quarterly publication for Tampa Bay Watch partners

Fall 2018



## Vote Yes

### TO ALLOW A TEN-YEAR LEASE FOR TAMPA BAY WATCH DISCOVERY CENTER

Tampa Bay Watch urges City of St. Petersburg residents to vote YES for the Charter Amendment in November 2018 election that will allow Tampa Bay Watch to have a 10-year lease agreement with St. Petersburg to lease, operate, and manage the new Discovery Center on the St. Pete Pier. The Discovery Center will offer dynamic, interactive exhibits that will educate the public and showcase the Tampa Bay estuary, as well as classroom space for school field trips and summer camp programs.



does not include nor does it impact in any way the uplands area of the St. Pete Pier district, including Spa Beach.

Voting "YES" on the charter amendment will provide Tampa Bay Watch a lease term that is consistent with all of the approved leases of the three other buildings on the new St. Pete Pier. It will also enable Tampa Bay Watch to continue to raise funds to prudently invest in the Discovery Center and further its mission for the advancement of environmental education programs to a broader segment of St. Petersburg and its visitors.

**Please vote YES during the November 2018 election.**

Tampa Bay Watch will invest approximately \$2 million into the Discovery Center. In order to justify this investment and better amortize the costs, Tampa Bay Watch has asked the City to increase the lease term to ten years from the current five-year agreement. The lease extension will also bring our lease term in line with the other leases the City has approved for the Pier.

The charter amendment pertains solely to the overwater portion of the new St. Pete Pier where the Discovery Center structure will be located. It



### Did you know. . .

Estuaries act as storm buffers that help protect residential areas from hurricanes. During a storm surge (rise of water due to a storm) a coastal estuary can absorb extra water and its energy without damaging its environment.



### EVENTS ON THE HORIZON:

- October 29:** Pumpkins on the Porch
- November 1-2, 16-17:** McKay Bay oyster shell project
- November 3:** Evening for the Bay
- November 7:** Election Day
- November 24:** Festival of Trees to benefit TBW
- November 28:** Salt marsh harvest
- November 30:** Salt marsh planting at MacDill AFB
- December 6-7:** Oyster dome installation at MacDill AFB
- December 14:** Oyster shell project at MacDill AFB



### IN THIS ISSUE

- ☞ Vote YES for Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center
- ☞ Bloomin' Brands Employee Community Service Day
- ☞ Tampa Bay Guardians
- ☞ BGIC is growing
- ☞ Savor the Bay recap
- ☞ Trace this Place
- ☞ Watergoat results
- ☞ Evening for the Bay: Wave of the Future

## Watergoats on duty:

# STOPPING TRASH BEFORE IT REACHES TAMPA BAY

Have you seen a watergoat around town? Perhaps you've spotted this one at Dell Holmes Park on Lake Maggiore that is managed by Tampa Bay Watch.

*What's the purpose*, you ask? To stop trash! Since March, we've already cleaned out 644 lbs. of trash from this watergoat alone.

The trapped debris is scooped up by staff and volunteers to be properly disposed of, while collecting valuable marine debris data.



*This TBW watergoat is installed at Dell Holmes Park on Lake Maggiore.*

## Annual Employee Community Service Day:

# BLOOMIN' BRANDS EMPTIES SKYWAY MONOTUBES

Thank you to an outstanding group of 23 **Bloomin' Brands employees** who emptied all 46 monotubes (AKA, fishing line recycling stations) on September 14 at the south Skyway fishing pier!

The group collected an estimated 120,000 feet of monofilament fishing line from the "mono" tubes, helping prevent countless injuries or deaths to

waterbirds and other creatures. After the crew finished early, they spent additional time picking up 15 bags of trash from just outside the pier.

The monofilament line will be sent to Berkley Fishing to be recycled into fishing equipment or fish habitats.



## Bay Grasses in Classes program

# KEEPS ON GROWING!

Our Bay Grasses in Classes program is continuing to transition their nurseries at local middle and high schools to grow new species of plants to better meet the restoration needs of our partners.

A number of school nurseries are now growing *Juncus roemerianus* and *Spartina patens*, which tend to occupy high-elevation marsh areas. This is important since some of the new planting sites, such as Robinson Preserve, are large enough to encompass a whole coastal ecosystem of wetland plants, from low marsh to higher-elevation ecosystems.

Thank you to the teachers and students for taking on the challenge of raising these new species at your school!



*Help us protect Florida's largest open-water estuary!*



## TAMPA BAY GUARDIANS

The Tampa Bay Guardians support our mission to restore and protect the bay with a three-year pledge of at least \$1,000 annually.

*We would like to extend our thanks to our current Guardians:*

### Stewards

**(\$5,000 - \$9,999 annually):**

Eric Hull & Bryan Baldwin

### Advocates

**(\$2,500 - \$4,999 annually):**

Bobby & Elena Bussey

Mary Ann & Gary Renfrow

Dr. James Pascia

### Leaders

**(\$1,000 - \$2,499 annually):**

Matt & Joanne Bisset

Paul & Pat Brown

Peter & Sharon Dagostino

Dr. Bill Heller

Kathryn Boeckman Howd

Harold & Janet Hurwitz

Kevin & Amy Kelso

Craig Jordan & Elaine Koziar-Jordan

Deborah Kraujalis & Doug Williamson

Michael & Sharon Mikuliza

Jim & Leslie Parent

Douglas & Joellen Sokolowski

Steve and Mary Stanley

Bill and Dyreese Sweeney

Larry Weiner & Yvonne

Grimm

Mike & Rita Wilson

# SAVOR THE BAY

*Sunday,  
September 16  
at the Don  
CeSar*

## SAVOR THE BAY GUESTS TREATED TO FOOD ARTISTRY

We would like to thank our 64 guests for attending the Annual Savor the Bay fundraiser at the Don CeSar's Maritana Grille on Sunday, September 16.

Chef de Cuisine Emily Ferrari created food artistry with a perfect blend of flavors partnered with wonderful wines from Etoile/Cloudy Bay/Terrazas during the five-course dinner.



Our thanks also goes to The Don CeSar staff for the excellent service they provided.

In addition, we are truly appreciative of the The Don CeSar's gift of becoming a Corporate Member.



Trace This Place



*Does this place look familiar?*

**Be the first to name this place in an email to Rachel Arndt at [rarndt@tampabaywatch.org](mailto:rarndt@tampabaywatch.org) and win a TBW ball cap!**

*One entry per person.*



## American White Pelican

PELECANUS ERYTHORHYNCHOS

WINGSPAN: CAN EXCEED 9 FEET

WEIGHT: UP TO 30 POUNDS

LIFESPAN: 15-20 YEARS  
(IN THE WILD)

Unlike our native brown pelicans, white pelicans do not plunge-dive to feed. They feed while swimming, and work together in groups to encircle and trap their prey—usually small fish or crustaceans. *Source: Nature Conservancy*



3000 Pinellas Bayway South  
Tierra Verde, FL 33715  
**TAMPABAYWATCH.ORG**  
727.867.8166

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
ST PETERSBURG FL  
PERMIT NO 182



**TAMPA BAY WATCH MISSION:**

Tampa Bay Watch is dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Tampa Bay estuary through scientific and educational programs.

**OUR VISION:**

To support healthy populations of fish and wildlife resources, Tampa Bay Watch envisions restoration of the Tampa Bay estuary to its 1950s levels.

**OUR VALUES:**

Strong leadership, community-driven, hands-on, science-based, impactful.

**EVENING FOR THE BAY**

# WAVE OF THE FUTURE

JOIN US!

PRESENTED BY **ASI** **PROGRESSIVE**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2018**  
FROM 5-9 PM

**Join us for an Evening for the Bay: Wave of the Future!** Say cheers to 25 years by transporting to year 2525. Glimpse into the future where the innovations of tomorrow are beyond your wildest imagination.

Enjoy ingenious cocktails, dinner, live music, revolutionary entertainment, complimentary valet, and auctions that are sure to redefine your future. **Tickets are \$90 for Tampa Bay Watch Members with discount code and \$100 for non-members. Sponsorship packages starting at \$1,250.**

**Contact Michelle Andersen for more information at 727-867-8166, x234 or Email [mandersen@tampabaywatch.org](mailto:mandersen@tampabaywatch.org).**

Thank you to GEORGE & ISABEL ADAMS and ESI for their sponsorship of the 2018 issues of the **Bay Watch Log!**



The Bay Watch Log is a quarterly newsletter designed to inform and educate the volunteers, members, partners, and sponsors of Tampa Bay Watch about environmental events, restoration opportunities, agency activities, and other environmental stewardship information.

Tampa Bay Watch, Inc. • 3000 Pinellas Bayway South • Tierra Verde • Florida . 33715  
Tel: 727-867-8166 • Fax: 727-867-8188 • TAMPABAYWATCH.ORG