



The Bay Watch Leg

A quarterly publication for Tampa Bay Watch partners

Spring 2016



Local Parks Get Some Help from Oysters

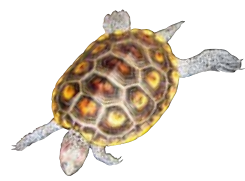
Tampa Bay Watch recently wrapped up a series of oyster shell projects at local City of St. Petersburg parks. The city was concerned with erosion along the shorelines of Maximo Park, Abercrombie Park and Bay Vista Park, so they partnered with us to install oyster shell bars. For instance, the southwestern shoreline of Maximo Park is located along a busy boating channel that serves the parks' boat ramp, an adjacent marina, and is a connection to Middle Boca Ciega Bay and Gulfport, so the



shell bar will be especially beneficial. Overall, the installment of oyster habitats will help with erosion of all three of the park's shorelines and promote oyster habitats to improve water quality to these parts of the bay.

Did you know. . .

Estuaries and coastal waters provide essential habitat for 75% of America's commercial fish catch and 80 to 90% of the recreational fish catch.



EVENTS ON THE HORIZON:

- May 1** Cure the Bay Challenge bike ride event
- May 3** Give Day Tampa Bay
- May 13** Potluck on the Porch
- June 2-3** 11th Annual Ed Alber Tarpon Rodeo
- June 13** Summer Camp Begins
- July 9** Mid-Summer Coastal Cleanup

Volunteers of the Year

Around 100 Tampa Bay Watch volunteers attended our 5th Annual Volunteer Appreciation event on Friday, March 18. The event featured a St. Patrick's Day theme and provided a buffet dinner, awards for outstanding volunteers, and a fabulous free raffle.

special events, Ron Forbes for monofilament, Stephanie Mole for education, and Tim Nugent for restoration. Each winner received a beautiful canvas print and a stay at the Sirata Beach Resort.

Congratulations to this year's award winners: Shannon Fest for *Bay Grasses in Classes*, Rick Powell for restoration, Gabe Jensen for



Thank you to our event sponsors: Great Bay Distributors, Sirata Beach Resort, Norman's Liquors & Fine Wines, Fresh Market St. Petersburg, Bob Harris, Cigar City Brewing, and Island Massage.



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Successful Crab Trap Removal Event

On March 5, Tampa Bay Watch recovered 32 derelict crab traps from the areas of the Little Manatee River and the Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve. This event was made possible with the help of five volunteers airboats from the Florida Airboat Association and 22 community volunteers and generous funding support from the SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund.

The primary objective of the project is to remove abandoned traps from the environment and to reduce unnecessary entrapment of marine organisms, such as blue crabs, stone crabs, small commercial and recreationally important fish, and brackish water turtles. The traps were collected by a partner organization called ReelCycle who upcycled the traps into a renewable resource as opposed to being discarded in a landfill.



Summer Camps

Registration is Open!

Send your kids to Tampa Bay Watch this summer for some fun in the sun with our marine ecology summer camps where they will learn about amazing Tampa Bay, the ocean, and its inhabitants!

We offer two options for fun-filled week-long day camps: Sea Monkeys Camp is for kids ages 6-8 and Tampa Bay Discovery Camp is for kids ages 9-14.

Learn more about our camp and see available sessions at **TAMPABAYWATCH.ORG**. Be sure to act quickly since three sessions are already sold out!



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 and win a TBW visor! **One entry per person.**

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



What is a VOG?

Tampa Bay Watch recently installed 60 Vertical Oyster Gardens (VOGs) along the CITGO terminal in downtown Tampa. It's an innovative technique to improve water quality in an urbanized commercial setting.

VOGs are suspended from docks to create a hard substrate where juvenile oysters can attach and develop. Oysters are natural filters, cleaning up to ten gallons of water per hour. More oysters mean a cleaner bay!



Cure the Bay's Challenge

Join Team Tampa Bay Watch to compete on Sunday, May 1!

Tampa Bay Watch is hosting the *Cure on Wheels* bike ride event on Sunday, May 1. Come support two great causes: the fight against cancer, and the fight for a healthier bay.

All rides start and end at Tampa Bay Watch, including a 7-mile All Children's Family Fun ride, a 20-mile Tour De Moffitt ride, and a 40-mile YMCA Pedal For A Purpose ride.

The cycling routes will take in the beautiful surroundings of Fort De Soto Park, Tierra Verde, and the Sunshine Skyway

trail. There is a family-friendly post-ride party at Tampa Bay Watch with a catered lunch, beverages, and a waterfront concert by The Black Honkeys.

Ten dollars of your registration fee will go to Tampa Bay Watch, and each rider will receive a free one-year membership to our organization.

Visit CUREONWHEELS.ORG to register.



Bay Guardians Support Bay Restoration and Education

The Tampa Bay Guardians support Tampa Bay Watch's mission to restore and protect the Bay with a three-year pledge of at least \$1,000 annually. If desired, Tampa Bay Guardian gifts can be designated for habitat restoration programs or the Estuary EDventures environmental education program. To learn more about the Tampa Bay Guardians, call Jamie Serino at 727-867-8166, x222. Tampa Bay Watch thanks the following members of the Tampa Bay Guardians for their very generous support!

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

Captain Eric Hull & Bryan Baldwin

Leaders (\$1,000 to \$4,999 annually):

Pat & Paul Brown

Matt & Joanne Bisset

Bobby & Elena Bussey

Pete & Sharon Dagostino

Dan & Elaine DiLoreto

Genevieve Dimmitt

Bill & Patricia Griffiths

Andrew Harris

Dr. Bill Heller

Kathryn Howd

Janet & Harold Hurwitz

Joan & Dick Jacobs

Kevin & Amy Kelso

Debbie Kraujalis & Doug Williamson

Brightman & Nan Logan

Michael & Sharon Mikuliza

Chuck & Glory Moore

Jim & Leslie Parent

Mary Ann & Gary Renfrow

Amory & Dessie Sanders

Douglas & Joellen Sokolowski

Robert & Terry Stote

Larry Weiner & Yvonne Grimm

Baldwin Krystyn Sherman Partners

Biltmore Construction

TJM Property Management

United Capital Funding

United Capital of Tampa Bay



Wood Stork

MYCTERIA AMERICANA

WINGSPAN: 4-6 FEET
HABITAT: SWAMPS OF SOUTH-EASTERN STATES
FUN FACT: IT'S THE ONLY STORK THAT BREEDS IN THE U.S.

An average nesting pair of wood storks with two fledglings may eat over 400 pounds of fish during a single breeding season!



Restoring the Bay Every Day

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



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.



an ESOP company

Thank you to **GEORGE & ISABEL ADAMS** and **ESI** for their sponsorship of the 2016 *Issues of the Bay Watch Log!*

THE THRILL of the HUNT
with the MISSION to RESTORE.



JUNE 2-3, 2016

THE ED ALBER TARPON RODEO IS AN ALL-RELEASE TARPON TOURNAMENT WITH TAMPA BAY ESTUARY.

Tampa Bay Watch invites your fishing team or business to join the hunt. Sponsorship available; includes entrance to the Captain's Banquet and Auction at TradeWinds Island Resorts on June 2 and fishing tournament on June 3, 2016.



Contact Michelle Tepper for more information at (727) 867-8166, x234 or mtepper@tampabaywatch.org. Proceeds of the Ed Alber Tarpon Rodeo benefit the mission of Tampa Bay Watch.



Sponsored by:



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.
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