



# The Bay Watch Leg

A quarterly publication for Tampa Bay Watch partners

Summer 2018



## We're proud to announce the **NEW TAMPA BAY WATCH DISCOVERY CENTER**

Tampa Bay Watch will be opening a second education center and exhibition hall at the new St. Pete Pier™, where our citizen science programs will expand public involvement in scientific discovery.

"Tampa Bay Watch is thrilled to be able to expand our youth education and community outreach programs to the new St. Petersburg Pier," said President and founder Peter Clark. "The new facility will advance our mission to protect and restore the Tampa Bay estuary by involving our kids and the community in stewardship and educational activities."

Opening in fall 2019, the Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center will enhance our education and outreach missions. The 3,000 square-foot facility will open with a soaring exhibition hall that will bring our ecosystem up close and personal to visitors from around the corner—and around the world! The focal point of the exhibit hall is a centerpiece aquarium that showcases many of the species found in our local waters. Touch tanks, interactive

displays, video presentations, and docent-led tours will combine for an unforgettable experience and a newfound respect for our local environment. The public exhibition hall will double as a venue for special events, corporate events, weddings, or other public/private meetings.

The discovery center will offer school field trips inviting students of all ages to explore flora and fauna while learning valuable practices that can help preserve our environment. Eco-tours will focus on Tampa Bay history and species population studies with activities like fisheries trawls and bird species identification.



Tampa Bay Watch has a fundraising goal of \$825,000 to meet for the city by January 14, 2019. Naming opportunities are available for the Discovery Center including the building, exhibition hall, classroom, tank, amphitheater, exhibits, and more. For information about funding needs for the new Discovery Center, contact Pamela Arbisi at [parbisi@tampabaywatch.org](mailto:parbisi@tampabaywatch.org).



### Did you know. . .

Healthy estuaries produce more food per acre than the richest Midwestern farmland, because of the fertile mix of nutrients from land and sea.



### EVENTS ON THE HORIZON:

- August 5:** Last day of summer camp
- August 5:** TBW is beneficiary of First Friday in St. Pete
- August 25:** Great Bay Scallop Search
- September 15-22:** National Estuaries Week
- September 22:** National Estuaries Day Cleanup
- September TBD:** Savor the Bay at Maritana Grille



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*Mission accomplished.*

## OYSTER SHELL RESTORATION AT SPOIL ISLAND "2D"

Our hard-working science crew wrapped up another productive spring restoration season with a major oyster shell project which helped to restore habitat around 2D island.

The 17-day project kicked off in November 2016 and culminated in a grand total of 677 volunteers who shoveled 171 tons of fossilized shell to create 13,514 square feet of new oyster reef!

The project will help to restore lost habitat systems to the bay, prevent further erosion of the shoreline, and improve water quality through natural biological filtration.

Restoring 2D island couldn't have been achieved without the help of our volunteers and sponsors, including Sea World Busch Gardens Conservation Fund, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, CCA-Building Conservation Trust, Citgo, and Mosaic.



*TBW crew gets some "off-duty" beach time!*

## SUNNY STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

Tampa Bay Watch staff enjoyed some fun in the sun on beautiful St. Pete Beach during a recent staff development day. Thanks to **Boucher Brothers** for leading a series of creative team-building activities, including a relay contest, memory game, and "build a boat" challenge! Big thanks also go out to the **Alden Suites** for generously hosting and feeding our well-deserving crew.



*Monofilament Fishing Line news*

## 219 MILES OF FISHING LINE CLEANED AT MONO CLEAN-A-THON!

**Recovered fishing line sent off for recycling**

Thank you to the volunteers who participated in our May Mono Clean-a-thon. We cleaned an estimated **219 miles** of fishing line—vastly surpassing our original goal of cleaning 50 miles of line!

The monofilament fishing line was collected from local fishing docks and will be sent to Berkley Fishing to be recycled into fishing equipment for fish habitats.

It's important to remove monofilament from the environment, as it is a serious threat to birds and other wildlife, and it takes over **600 years** to decompose. Discarded fishing line collects in local bird sanctuaries and colonial nesting areas where birds and other wildlife can easily become entangled or hooked.



*Demonstrate environmental citizenship a*

## TBW CORPORATE MEMBERS

Tampa Bay Watch relies upon corporate members to be active partners in protecting and restoring our estuary. Their support makes Tampa Bay a healthier, more desirable place to work and play by funding essential habitat restoration and education programs.



To become a corporate member, Email Pamela Arbisi, director of development, at [parbisi@tampabaywatch.org](mailto:parbisi@tampabaywatch.org) or call 727-867-8166, ext. 222.

*Thank you to our current corporate members:*

- |                                       |                                         |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 400 Beach Seafood & Tap House         | Mosaic                                  |
| American Strategic Insurance          | MPH Hotels                              |
| Amuni Financial, Inc                  | Mullen Corporation                      |
| Argos USA LLC                         | Paradise News                           |
| Baldwin Krystyn Sherman Partners      | Pascia & Pascia Dentistry               |
| Biltmore Construction                 | Paul J. Skipper Inc                     |
| Bloomin Brands                        | Phoenix Venture Philanthropy Foundation |
| Calhoun International                 | Purchasing Services, Inc                |
| Carmelita's Rum                       | Reef Innovations, Inc.                  |
| Cooper's Hawk Winery                  | Resort Realty / Resort Rentals          |
| Coppertail Brewing Company            | S.A.L.T. Payroll Consultants Inc.       |
| Covanta                               | Sabal Trust                             |
| Directed Capital                      | Salt Pines                              |
| Electric Supply, Inc.                 | Saunders & Walker, P.A                  |
| FairWarning                           | Sea Salt Restaurant                     |
| Ferman Auto                           | St. Petersburg Distillery               |
| Florida Info Guide                    | Sweetwater Brewing Co.                  |
| General Dynamics                      | Tampa Bay Parrot Heads                  |
| Go Black Fin                          | Tampa Bay Pilots Association            |
| Great Bay Distributors                | Tampa Bay Rays                          |
| Greenacre Properties, Inc.            | Teco                                    |
| Healthcare IQ                         | Tennant Special Risk                    |
| Jabil                                 | TJM Property Management                 |
| JL Marine Systems / Power-Pole        | Tradewinds                              |
| Kahuna's                              | TruGreen Commercial                     |
| Kahwa Coffee                          | Wilcox Nursery & Landscape              |
| Kennedy Investments / DAK Corporation | Wiss                                    |
| Konica                                | WRB Enterprises                         |
| Lewis, Longman & Walker               | Xenegrade                               |
| Limelight Photography                 |                                         |
| McNichols Company                     |                                         |



## RESTORING THE BAY WILL BE PART OF THEIR LEGACY

*The Legacy Society ensures a lasting legacy for bay health!*

The Tampa Bay Watch Legacy Society recognizes those who have included Tampa Bay Watch in their will or estate plans to help ensure a healthy bay for generations.

Drs. Eli and Janet Marley Rose, active volunteers and supporters of our mission, tell us why they've chosen to include Tampa Bay Watch in their will:

**"For the past 25 years, Tampa Bay Watch has accomplished extraordinary work in the Tampa Bay estuary to restore and maintain water quality, improve the marine environment and ecosystems, preserve seabird sanctuaries, replace invasive plants with native plants, prevent shore erosion, clean up the shorelines, and educate today's youth on the importance of being stewards of our land and sea.**

**We are very proud to be part of this wonderful organization as volunteers and donors. We have chosen to include Tampa Bay Watch in our will in order to help continue this extremely important work after we are no longer here to help by our own efforts."**

For more information on how you can make an impact at Tampa Bay Watch through a legacy gift, contact Pamela Arbisi at [parbisi@tampabaywatch.org](mailto:parbisi@tampabaywatch.org) or call 727-867-8166, ext. 222.



## Whale shark RHINCODON TYPUS

Gentle giants, whale sharks are filter-feeders that swim with their wide mouths open, collecting plankton and small fish. *Source: nationalgeographic.com; Image source: Abe Khao Lak - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0; commons.wikimedia.org.*

AVERAGE LIFESPAN IN THE WILD: 70 YEARS  
SIZE: 18 TO 33 FEET; ABOUT THE SIZE OF A BUS!

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



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3000 Pinellas Bayway South  
Tierra 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.

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



## RECOGNIZING GENEROSITY IN ITS FINEST FORMS:



Tampa Bay Watch is grateful for the long-term support of **400 Beach Seafood & Taphouse**, a corporate member since 2012. Why owners Steve and Nancy Westphal support our cause:

1. [TBW] works hard to maintain and restore our most valuable natural resource in the Tampa Bay area.
2. [TBW] works to educate and raise awareness for protection to our aquatic environment.
3. [TBW] supports and maintains a minimal-footprint approach to maintaining our resources.

Thank you to 400 Beach Seafood & Taphouse for their support!

### *"\$25k for 25 Years" Donation*

A huge shout-out to **Mary Ann and Gary Renfrow** who chose to commemorate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a donation of \$15,000 from the **Alden Suites**, plus \$10,000 from the Renfrow family—a combined donation of \$25,000!—to support vital efforts to protect and restore Tampa Bay.

The Renfrows have been active TBW supporters for over 15 years—personally through their Tampa Bay Guardian pledge, and as a corporate member through the Alden Suites.

They hope this gift will inspire the Tampa Bay community to support bay restoration and education.



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