



The Bay Watch Leg

A quarterly publication for Tampa Bay Watch partners

Spring 2019



Discovery Center News:

MILKEY FAMILY FOUNDATION IS ANNOUNCED AS NAMING RIGHTS SPONSOR OF THE TAMPA BAY WATCH DISCOVERY CENTER



Did you know...
The new St. Pete Pier will provide five new acres of green space and 500 more trees to the waterfront.



EVENTS ON THE HORIZON:

- May 31:** Tarpon Rodeo
- June 1:** Castaway Soiree
- June 10:** First day of summer camp
- June 5:** Camp Ice Cream Social
- August 24:** Great Bay Scallop Search

Tampa Bay Watch is thrilled to announce the Milkey Family Foundation is the naming sponsor for our Discovery Center at the new St. Pete Pier. The official name of our building will be the **Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center presented by the Milkey Family Foundation**, which will honor the \$1 million donation by Kevin and Jeanne Milkey.

As Mr. Milkey stated during the Discovery Center Dedication and Appreciation Day on April 2, "We really support [Tampa Bay Watch's] mission of protecting and restoring Tampa Bay waterways and the education programs that [they] provide. Jeanne and I are passionate about protecting the environment. I think that the way we need to do that—and Tampa Bay Watch is doing that—is through education."



The Discovery Center will expand public involvement in scientific discovery and 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!

Tampa Bay Watch is offering exclusive sponsorship naming opportunities at the Discovery Center to include exhibition hall, classroom, media wall, exhibits, and more. To learn more, contact Peter Clark at pclark@tampabaywatch.org.



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April 22, 2019

EARTH DAY CLEANUP X2!

Tampa Bay Watch, in partnership with Florida Conservation Voters, celebrated Earth Day at Bartlett Park with a press conference and coastal cleanup.

Speakers included **Lindsay Cross, Florida Conservation Voters, Congressman Charlie Crist, St. Pete Mayor Rick Kriseman,** and members of the **Pinellas County Commission** and **St. Petersburg City Council.**

A big thanks to our 25 volunteers who removed **272 pounds of trash** from the mangrove fringe of Salt Creek afterward—in just over an hour!



Who do we appreciate?

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Tampa Bay Watch hosted our 8th annual **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner** on March 29 in an effort to express our gratitude to everyone who supports our habitat restoration projects, education programs, community outreach events, and fundraisers throughout the year.

Around 100 active volunteers were in attendance—all of whom enjoyed a dinner catered by Smokin' J's Real Texas BBQ in Gulfport, a free raffle, some volunteer camaraderie, and a beautiful sunset.

Congratulations to our volunteers of the year: Frank Gallant, David Price, and Jenna & Gail Davenport.



Tampa Bay Watch staff congratulate volunteer Frank Gallant for his lifetime achievement award.



TAMPA BAY GUARDIANS

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. To become a member of the Tampa Bay Guardians, contact our director of development at 727-867-8166, ext. 222.

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
Michael & Sharon Mikuliza
Jim & Leslie Parent
Douglas & Joellen Sokolowski
Steve and Mary Stanley
Bill and Dyrese Sweeney
Larry Weiner & Yvonne Grimm
Mike & Rita Wilson



923

Pounds of debris removed



436

Volunteer hours contributed

YARD WASTE IN THE GOAT

How many pieces of Styrofoam do you think we found in this 25g mulch sample we scooped from the Goat?

20 polystyrene pieces (plus 6 unidentifiable plastic pieces)



TOP ITEMS REMOVED

1. Polystyrene (aka styrofoam)
2. Single-use plastic water/drink bottles
3. Smoking devices (cigarette filters and cigar mouth tips)



Meet the new Chair of the Tampa Bay Watch Board of Directors:

MARY ANN RENFROW

We're excited to introduce **Mary Ann Renfrow as the new Chair** of our Board of Directors! Mary Ann is Director of Community Relations at The Alden Suites. She has participated in many of our habitat restoration projects and has raised \$10,000 for Tampa Bay Watch as Team Captain in May 2016 for the Cure on Wheels Cure the Bay Challenge.

"Having come to South Pinellas County as a child in 1963, I have lived through the transformation of Tampa Bay, from a polluted body of water, choking the marine life within it, to what it is today: a healthy estuary, creating life support for marine life.

I recognize and am so very grateful that I have been blessed to lead such an enriched life, being able to be a part of a successful tourism based business on the Gulf. I attribute this in part to the work that Tampa Bay Watch has done over the past 26 years. My involvement in Tampa Bay Watch is born out of my desire to be a part of this solution, working to restore and protect Tampa Bay, as I contribute to supporting educational programs that are dedicated to provide that there will be a legacy of future guardians of this beautiful bay long after I am gone."



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

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 ball cap!

One entry per person.



Atlantic Tarpon

MEGALOPS ATLANTICUS


HABITAT: SHALLOW COASTAL WATERS AND ESTUARIES LIKE TAMPA BAY
SIZE: UP TO 8 FEET IN LENGTH; CAN WEIGH UP TO 280 POUNDS
LIFESPAN: CAN BE 50+ YEARS

THE ATLANTIC TARPON IS NICKNAMED THE "SILVER KING." Source: myfwc.com




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TAMPA BAY WATCH MISSION:
 Tampa Bay Watch is dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Tampa Bay estuary through scientific and educational programs.

WANT TO GO PAPERLESS?
 If you wish to receive an electronic copy of this newsletter to save paper, time, and resources, please notify Rachel Arndt at rarndt@tampabaywatch.org to request electronic-only delivery.




**TAMPA BAY WATCH
 TARPON RODEO**

HONORING ED ALBER

Castaway Soirée

PRESENTED BY



MAY 31 & JUNE 1, 2019



Join us May 31 & June 1 for our
**14TH ANNUAL ALL-RELEASE
 TARPON TOURNAMENT**

You're invited! Make a splash at the 14th annual all-release tarpon tournament on beautiful Tampa Bay, which will benefit the restoration and education mission of Tampa Bay Watch!.

The all-release tarpon **tournament kicks off Friday, May 31 at the Fort De Soto Park boat ramp.** Winners will be announced the next day, **June 1, at the Castaway Soirée after-party** at TradeWinds Island Resort.

Thank you to GEORGE & ISABEL ADAMS and ESI for their sponsorship of the 2019 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.

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