

The Bay Watch Leg

A quarterly publication for Tampa Bay Watch partners

Summer 2020



Now Open:

TAMPA BAY WATCH DISCOVERY CENTER PRESENTED BY THE MILKEY FAMILY FOUNDATION

Come explore with us at the St. Pete Pier!

The Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center at the St. Pete Pier is now open. There has been a great turnout so far with lots of wonderful comments from folks visiting for the first time.

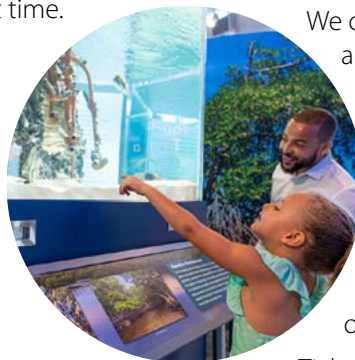
Located on the over-water walkway approaching the Pier head, the Discovery Center presents all you need to know about Tampa Bay's unique ecosystem in a way that's entertaining and hands-on.

The indoor Exhibit Gallery features an Estuary Habitat that showcases a variety of species found in local waters. Visitors can also experience interactive displays, video presentations, a touch tank, and docent-led tours. Additionally, interesting marine science educational

programs are offered on a daily basis from kids' activities, date nights, and Science Saturdays—there's something for everyone!

We celebrated the grand opening with a limited sneak peak to our generous sponsors and partners with whom this exciting new chapter for our organization would not have been possible. A special thanks to our presenting sponsor, Kevin and Jeanne Milkey. Congratulations to everyone that worked so hard to make our new facility a reality!

Tickets are available at the Discovery Center for \$5 per adult, \$3 for children ages 4-12, and **free for kids 3 and under and for Tampa Bay Watch members.** We cannot wait for you to experience our beautiful bay in a new way.



Did you know. . .

The Tampa Bay area ranks in the top ten globally for most vulnerable cities to sea level rise. A small amount of natural coastal habitat can result in huge savings when it comes to storm protection. Our native planting program has evolved as restoration priorities are changing to accommodate for future sea-level rise and increased storm activity.



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TARPON RODEO 2020:

Annual catch-and-release fishing tournament results!

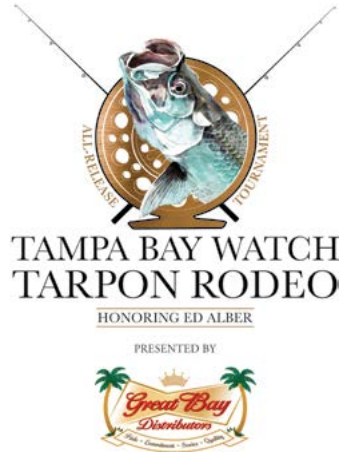
A slightly modified event format didn't cast any shadows on this year's participating fishing teams!

The 15th Annual Tarpon Rodeo presented by Great Bay Distributors raised more than \$40,000 in support of our programs and mission. With 22 teams competing this year, a total of eight tarpon were caught and released successfully in

the tournament on Friday, July 17.

Congratulations to the Hancock Whitney team and Capt. Kyle Applefield for winning first prize in the Guardian Division!

We'd also like to thank all of our sponsors, donors, and volunteers who made Tarpon Rodeo a success!



Showing how DIY is done!

JULY DIY CLEANUP RESULTS

Thank you to all of our community volunteers who participated in the July Do-it-Yourself (DIY) Neighborhood Cleanup! Through the hard effort they exhibited, **149 volunteers removed 870 pounds of debris!**

The most commonly found trash items were plastic beverage bottles, plastic pieces, and smoking products. It's amazing to see what we can do, even while socially distanced. Keep working toward a cleaner future!



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



Supporting the place we live, work, and play:



CORPORATE MEMBERS DEMONSTRATE ENVIRONMENTAL CITIZENSHIP

Tampa Bay Watch corporate members' 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 Nina Ardlé, Acting Director of Development at nardle@tampabaywatch.org or call 727-867-8166, x249. **We'd like to thank the following corporate members for their very generous support!**

Trace This Place



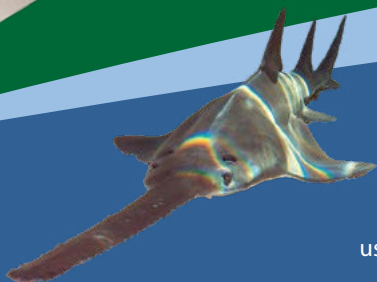
Does this place look familiar?

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.



- 400 Beach Seafood & Tap House
- Alden Suites
- American Strategic Insurance
- Amuni Financial, Inc
- Argos USA LLC
- ARS Wealth Advisors
- Baldwin Krystyn Sherman Partners
- Bloomin' Brands
- Calhoun International
- Carmelita's Rum
- Catalina Marketing
- COMANCO Environmental Corp
- Cooper's Hawk Winery
- Coppertail Brewing Company
- Courtesy Valet
- Covanta
- Directed Capital
- Diversified Telecom Services, Inc.
- Don Cesar
- Drift Local
- Electric Supply, Inc.
- Elite Watersports
- FairWarning
- Ferman Auto
- Florida Info Guide
- Florida Pure Sea Salt
- General Dynamics
- Go Black Fin
- Great Bay Distributors
- Greenacre Properties, Inc.
- Gulf Eagle Supply
- Healthcare IQ
- Jabil
- Kahuna's
- Kahwa Coffee
- Kennedy Investments / DAK Corporation
- Konica
- Lewis, Longman & Walker
- Limelight Photography
- McNichols Company
- Mosaic
- Mullen Corporation
- Paradise News
- Paradigm Learning
- Pascia & Pascia Dentistry
- Paul J. Skipper Inc
- Phoenix Venture Philanthropy Foundation
- Reef Innovations, Inc.
- Resort Realty
- S.A.L.T. Payroll Consultants Inc.
- Sabal Trust
- Salt Pines
- Sand Dunes Beach Services
- Saunders & Walker, PA
- Southpoint Financial Services
- St. Petersburg Distillery
- Sweetwater Brewing Co.
- Tampa Bay Parrot Heads
- Tampa Bay Pilots Association
- Tampa Bay Rays
- Tampa Bay Yacht Management
- TECO Energy
- Tennant Special Risk
- TJM Properties
- Tradewinds
- TruGreen Commercial
- uDream Events
- Wilcox Nursery & Landscape
- Wiss
- WRB Enterprises
- Xenegrade



Smalltooth Sawfish
PRISTIS PECTINATA

Sawfish swim like sharks but are actually a type of ray, with gill slits on the bottom of their bodies. The sawfish has a long, flattened, toothed rostrum, often referred to as the "saw," used for feeding and defense against sharks, their only known predators. Source: fisheries.noaa.gov

HABITAT: SHALLOW, COASTAL WATERS, AND SOMETIMES FRESHWATER RIVER SYSTEMS
PROTECTED STATUS: FEDERALLY PROTECTED ENDANGERED SPECIES



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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.



2021 Tampa Bay Watch Wall Calendar Photo Contest:

CALLING ALL SHUTTERBUGS!

We are seeking your best photos of the bay's natural wonders for our 2021 wall calendar.

Each Tampa Bay Watch wall calendar features stunning images of native wildlife and breathtaking shots of our precious skylscapes and waterways.

Tampa Bay Watch is proudly dedicated to the protection and restoration of Florida's largest open water estuary and its most photogenic residents. So show us what you've got and your image(s) may end up representing a month of restoration and education in 2021!

Each entrant may submit up to ten photos. Deadline is 9/14/2020.

Visit tampabaywatch.org/photocontest for contest rules, submission guidelines, or to submit your entries today!



Thank you to GEORGE & ISABEL ADAMS and ESI for their sponsorship of the 2020 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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