

Fall 2022 Issue

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Green Tree Frog at the Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center's Ribbit Exhibit.

Hop on Over to The Ribbit Exhibit!

LEARN ABOUT THE FROGS AND TOADS OF TAMPA BAY

The frogs and toads of Florida have landed at the Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center. Our newest exhibit features five native and non-native species, and is designed to educate visitors about amphibians, their role in the ecosystem, and how to identify them.

In addition to observing live animal ambassadors in a beautifully landscaped display crafted by Tampa Bay Watch's animal care team, viewers can explore the threats posed by invasive species and learn what steps to take if they are found in the wild.



Leah Biery, Discovery Center Director, and Nicole White, Animal Husbandry Specialist, in front of Ribbit Exhibit.

"It can be difficult to tell harmful and helpful frog species apart," said Nicole White, the Discovery Center's Animal Husbandry Specialist. "For example, cane toads and southern toads look alike, and green tree frogs are easily confused with Cuban tree frogs. If you want to protect the environment, learning to differentiate is a great first step."

A QR code on the exhibit signage links to a website that provides species identification tips and audio files of frog calls. There is also information about invasive species reporting tools and how to protect your pets from toxic toads. A series of related daily programs and activities are included in admission.

The Discovery Center is Tampa Bay Watch's public education space on the St. Pete Pier, open daily. To learn more, view schedules, and purchase tickets, visit tbwdiscoverycenter.org.



Did you know...

Florida's native frogs and toads are increasingly threatened by invasive species. Knowing how to identify nonnative species and alert wildlife authorities can help protect the Tampa Bay ecosystem. This knowledge will also help you protect your pets from toxic southern and cane toads (pictured above).

Upcoming:

- OCTOBER 27** Pumpkins on the Porch
- OCTOBER 28** Reef ball installation at MacDill AFB
- NOVEMBER 5** Evening for the Bay
- NOVEMBER 9 & 10** Lassing Park Oyster Shell Project
- NOVEMBER 17 & 18** Oyster Shell Project at 2D Island
- DECEMBER 12** Mono Clean-a-thon
- DECEMBER 14 & 15** Lassing Park Oyster Shell Project



Honoring Captain Steve

Tampa Bay Watch is saddened by the recent loss of Captain Steve McCreary. Captain Steve was a long standing board member and became instrumental to the success of the organization.

An avid angler and advocate for the health of Tampa Bay, Steve helped organize volunteers in the early days and had a strong connection to CCA Tampa. After retirement, he became an Emeritus board member, valued advisor, and Legacy Society member. He even has a lure named after him—the CSTS (Captain Steve Trout System) which won the CCA tournament for many years.

Tampa Bay Watch staff fondly remember his infectious laugh, uplifting spirit, and early mornings disrupting the sheepshead under the TBW dock. Always seen with a fishing pole in one hand and a hug from the other, he will be greatly missed by all of us. Captain: thank you for creating a lasting legacy through your lifetime of giving back to what you loved most!



experience, helping kids make memories and feel enthusiastic about science, without the hurdles of budget and travel logistics.”

Thanks to generous donors, a new van called the Bay Bus will be delivered soon. Funding is available to subsidize *Marine Science on the Move* for Title I schools in Pinellas County. We are incredibly grateful for support from:

Francis & Gertrude Levett Foundation
Margaret E. Dickins Foundation
Rays & Rowdies Foundation

Marine Science on the Move!

We are excited to announce the launch of *Marine Science on the Move*, a mobile education program that will deliver hands-on programs to local students.

Recognizing resources for field trip experiences and transportation to an off-site facility may be limited to many teachers, Tampa Bay Watch educators are addressing the need by providing meaningful marine science education directly to the region's classrooms.

Get ready, Tampa Bay! Activities, animal encounters, and lessons that support Florida's Sunshine State Standards are headed your way.

Says Leah Biery, Discovery Center Director, “Our goal is to recreate the traditional field trip

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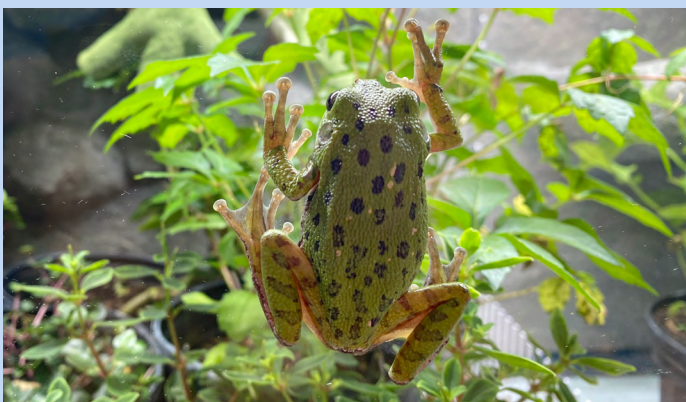
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27th Annual Great Bay Scallop Search Results

Participants in this year's annual Scallop Search counted a grand total of 167 scallops—our best result since 2015! The bay scallops were identified in widespread locations throughout Boca Ciega Bay. This annual event provides a good indication for overall bay health, as the bay scallop is an “indicator species.”

Thank you to our event participants! A special thanks to our sponsors, including Tampa Bay Estuary Program, The Florida Nomad, Privateer's Party & Catering Services, and the Tierra Verde Fire Department.



Barking Tree Frog

HYLA GRATIOSA

SIZE: 2-2.5 inches in length, with a short, stout body

COLOR: Dark brown, pale gray, yellowish, or green. Squarish brown spots are usually visible, but sometimes missing.

Barking tree frogs are Florida's largest native tree frog. Their call is said to resemble a barking dog, and males often call while floating in the water. This sensitive species is one of the first to disappear when wetlands and forests are polluted.



Tailoring Your Tampa Bay Guardianship

Annual restoration projects and marine science education programs are supported by the generosity of members. By auto-renewing your desired level of Guardian Membership, we are able to recognize your gift and guarantee it will *Restore the Bay Every Day* without the year-by-year paperwork. Guardians Memberships above \$1,000 annually can be tailored to fit your giving style by emailing myepez@tampabaywatch.org.

A shout-out to these Tampa Bay Guardians!

Eric Hull and Bryan Baldwin
Dana and Frank X. Dalton
Drs. Janet and Eli Rose
Bobby and Elena Bussey
Jeff and Linda Carbiener
Jerry Fletcher and Liza Carter
James T. Pascia, DDS
Kathy and Roger Herrnsteen
Mary Ann and Gary Renfrow
Pat and Paul Brown
Peter and Sharon Dagostino
Jonathan and Nikki Day

John and Beth England
Christopher French
Kathryn Boeckman Howd and Edward Rucks
Janet and Harold Hurwitz
Craig Jordan and Elaine Koziar-Jordan
Erik Lieberman
Steve and Mary Stanley
Bill and Dyreese Sweeney
Pat and Tom O'Brien
Susie & Russell Bolton

Guardian Spotlight: Dana and Frank X. Dalton



We would like to share a special thank-you to Tampa Bay Guardians Dana and Frank Dalton!

The Daltons have expressed why they've chosen to support us in this significant way: "We live on the bay; someone needs to watch over it and make sure it's clean and healthy. We are grateful that TBW makes it their number one priority."

Discover Dolphins!

Board the Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center's eco-vessel for a unique opportunity to learn about one of our favorite marine mammals!

In January 2022, Tampa Bay Watch was permitted by NOAA to provide an updated account of the common bottlenose dolphin population that utilizes the bay. Through a photo identification study and behavioral observations, we submit data to support management and conservation efforts. During



research outings, the eco-vessel crew has learned an enormous amount about local dolphins, and can identify most individuals by name.

Discover Dolphins is a themed eco-vessel trip that highlights bottlenose dolphin biology and how they exist and thrive in the bay.

In addition to dolphin-spotting, educators will share stories about their favorite research experiences, lead interactive activities, and provide tips to help protect our waters for dolphins and other marine life.

This program is scheduled weekly. Learn more and purchase tickets at tbwdiscoverycenter.org/eco-tours.



3000 Pinellas Bayway South
Tierra Verde, FL 33715
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tampabaywatch.org

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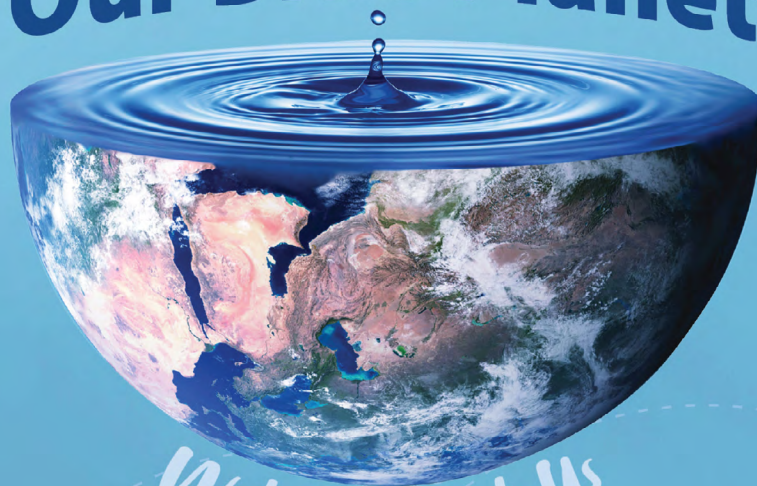
OUR MISSION:

Tampa Bay Watch is dedicated to fostering a healthy Tampa Bay watershed through community-driven restoration projects, education programs, and outreach initiatives.



Thank you to
George and Isabel Adams for
their sponsorship
of the Bay Watch
Log!

EVENING FOR THE BAY Our Blue Planet



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tampabaywatch.org/eflb

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