



2022 Annual Report

This document details how Tampa Bay Watch collectively worked and made progress in propelling our mission forward to ensure Tampa Bay remains a healthy, sustainable ecosystem for future generations.

Our mission:

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

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Out of the pandemic: a new normal, a renewed vision

This year Tampa Bay Watch adjusted to the "new normal" post-pandemic and pressed forward with our habitat restoration and environmental education initiatives. Unfortunately, the bay area continued to see negative effects from the Piney Point environmental disaster which happened last year. Excessive nutrients in the bay resulted in macro algae blooms in the summer and through the winter months, but thankfully the water quality didn't prevent our summer campers from getting in the water. We were excited to host a record thirty-one boats in Tarpon Rodeo and hold the annual Great Bay Scallop Search for the first time in person in three years.

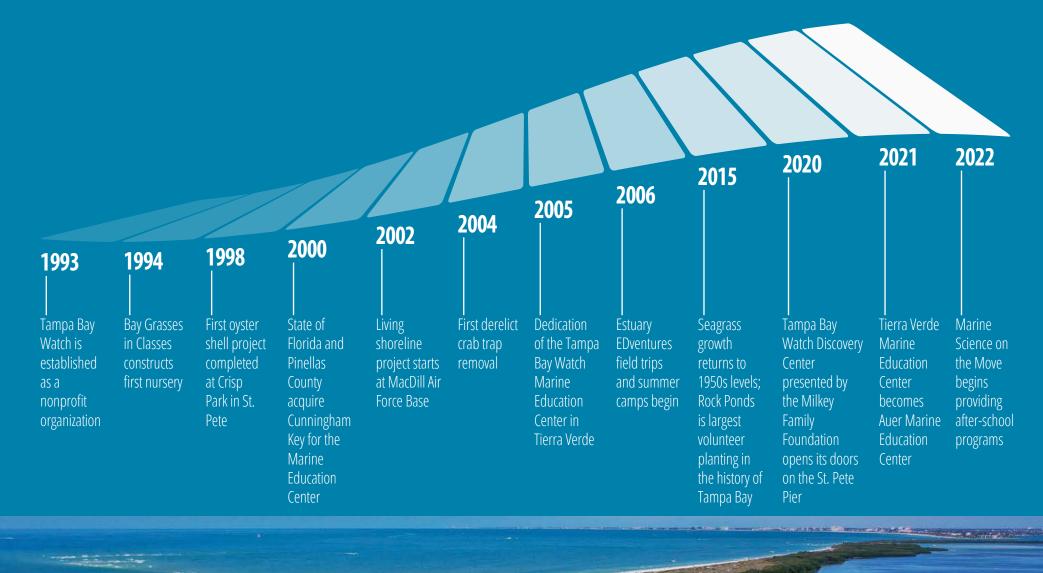
The Tampa Bay community dodged a bullet in October and were minimally affected by catastrophic Hurricane lan, with the exception of Manatee County being affected by heavy winds and flooding. Although Red Tide creeped into our area later in the year as a result of the storm with excessive nutrients in the bay.

Community-based restoration activities of Tampa Bay Watch play a significant role in maintaining water quality and buffering Red Tide blooms. Controlling our fertilizer use, cleaning up after our pets and installing Florida friendly plants all play a role in reducing nutrients and supporting water quality and habitat goals in Tampa Bay. And above all we must educate and involve our children. They will inherit the bay we leave them — and face a growing challenge to mitigate the effects of continued water quality issues, red tide, and an anticipated rise in sea level, all of which will affect the health of Tampa Bay.

Now more than ever, we need your help to invest in the protection and restoration of Tampa Bay in order to prevent further deterioration. Each volunteer, member, partner, and sponsor play a key role in the important work that we do at Tampa Bay Watch. Thank you all!

Sincerely,

Peter A. Clark,
President and Founder





Our organization strived to make progress in the first year of our 2022-2026 strategic plan with a goal to enact impactful change in support of the organization, our community and the environment. The intent of this plan is to take Tampa Bay Watch to the next level of growth, addressing needs and infrastructure to ensure it will be an environmental mainstay for many generations to come. Here are some achievements for each of our strategic goals:

Restoring a Healthy Tampa Bay

The restoration team launched a successful pilot year of a new Oyster Shell Recycling program which resulted in 49,087 lbs. of shell recycled in 2022 from Island Grille and Raw Bar, The Oyster Bar, Morgan Mae's Oyster House! The recycled oyster shell is used to create vertical oyster gardens structures suspended from docks to create a hard substrate to which juvenile oysters can attach. The shells will also create oyster shell bars to restore lost habitat systems to the bay, prevent further erosion of the shoreline and improve water quality through natural biological filtration.

Engaging and Immersive Educational Programs

Foundation and St. Petersburg
Rotary allowed the Tampa Bay Watch
Discovery Center to expand afterschool offerings with the launch
Marine Science on the Move, a mobile
education program that delivers
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.

Continued on next page.



Engaging and Immersive Educational Programs (cont'd)

Education team returned to pre-pandemic staffing, moved away from virtual programs, and returned to in-person field trips and summer camp programs.

Expanded our reach to the under-served community by
hosting 32 programs for Title I and
academically at-risk schools at no
cost to the school itself.

Community outreach, stewardship, and volunteer engagement

New members joined our Corporate Membership program in 2022:



New community partnerships resulted in TBW being the beneficiary of the Tierra Verde Business Partnership Car Show, The St Petersburg Rotary Salty Sands Run, TECO's Run for the Manatees, the Fort DeSoto Run Series, and the VW Beach Bash!

Restoration and Earth Week

We commemorated Earth Day this year with an opportunity for the community to build a living shoreline at our multi-year project at Lassing Park, in partnership with the City of St. Pete.

55 volunteers shoveled 10 tons of shell to create approximately 200 square feet of reef, deployed 97 oyster reef balls, and planted 2,000 smooth cordgrass plugs.

Overall, the project is designed to help stabilize approximately 700 feet of severely eroding shoreline.

During avian migration season, Lassing Park is a feeding ground and rest stop for many species of shorebirds, including the federally threatened Red Knot. Lassing Park is one of the few remaining undeveloped shorelines in St. Petersburg. It has been part of the St. Pete park system since 1924! But over time, the shoreline of Lassing

Park has seen severe erosion due to decades of impacts from large wind-driven waves and wake from passing boats and ships. The park is also bordered to the north and south by hardened concrete shorelines that amplify the intensity of waves and wakes hitting the shoreline.

Creation of a living shoreline project, including oyster reef balls, oyster shell reefs, and coastal wetland plants will prevent further erosion of Lassing Park, restore lost habitat systems to the bay, and improve water quality through natural biological filtration.







Flooded with Generosity

Our sincerest thanks to Neptune Flood for awarding us with a grant to support our oyster habitat program.

Neptune is committed to protecting the environment and giving back to our community. Their team has already started volunteering on restoration projects throughout Tampa Bay!

Headquartered in downtown St.
Petersburg, Neptune's CEO Trevor
Burgess stated, "Tampa Bay Watch was
a natural fit to receive our first grant
of \$50,000. We look forward to our
partnership and making a difference for
current and future generations of bay
neighbors."

Restoration by the Numbers



Oyster Shell Bars

Improving water quality, reducing shoreline erosion, and promoting oyster habitats.

466 volunteers created oyster reefs with 129 tons of fossilized oyster shell.



Oyster Reef Balls

Stabilizing shorelines, building hard-bottom habitats for wildlife, enhancing water quality. **956** volunteers created **1,140** oyster reef balls and installed **695** reef balls in Tampa Bay.



Coastal Cleanups

Protecting wildlife and people from trash and marine debris that floats onto shorelines. **154** volunteers collected **2,754** pounds of debris.



Native Plantings

Strengthening healthy shorelines to withstand effects of storms and provide essential habitat. 13,720 plants installed by 234 volunteers to restore 13,740 square feet of shoreline.



Fishing Line Recycling

Helping protect wildlife from unnecessary injury or death by collecting and recycling monofilament fishing line. **630** miles of fishing line recovered and recycled from **217** monotubes.



Great Bay Scallop Search

Monitoring and documenting the health and status of the bay scallop population. 112 volunteers counted 167 scallops which were widespread throughout Boca Ciega Bay.



Lightning Community Hero!

Katie Mastenbrook, Tampa Bay Watch Director of Education, received the Lightning Community Hero award on April 4, 2022. This signature philanthropic initiative of the Tampa Bay Lightning Foundation honors local heroes who make positive impacts on their community through good works and volunteerism.

Katie received a \$50,000 grant from the Lightning Foundation and the Lightning Community Heroes program, presented by Jabil, which will solely support our Estuary EDventures program at the Auer Marine Education Center in Tierra Verde.



Watch the award presentation here.

Lightning Community Foundation

Tampa Bay Watch used the generous funding from the Lightning Foundation to support the strategic expansion of the Auer Marine Education Center in Tierra Verde through curriculum development and the renovation of our wet lab to expand the capacity of our programs. The remodel provides a more dynamic and interactive teaching space and new field trip programs centered on the remodel. The creation of new teaching space in our outdoor wet lab included a new paved area, additional picnic tables for student seating, and a brand-new heater and chiller for a 4,000-gallon observation saltwater tank. We are modifying existing tanks to provide an oyster biodiversity holding tank and lab. We envision this lab tying together our organizational restoration efforts throughout the bay with the oyster population, and bringing it to life in a hands-on lab format where students can be scientists for the day.

Additionally, the Lightning funds allowed

Estuary EDventures to facilitate 53 meaningful environmental hands-on field trips to a total of 1,250 bay area students, teachers, and chaperones. Estuary EDventures field trips include immersive

hands-on activities ranging from our classroom boat otter trawl activity, seining, and squid dissection lab as examples. All field trip experiences connect students with the importance of the Tampa Bay estuary in their daily lives, the biodiversity of the animals and

habitats within the estuary, as well as giving them an opportunity to participate in a hands-on field experience utilizing scientific tools and techniques.

We thank the Lightning Community
Foundation for the opportunity to build upon
our mission of fostering a healthy Tampa
Bay watershed through community-driven
restoration projects, education programs, and
outreach initiatives.

Education by the Numbers







Field Trips

The Auer Marine Education Center & Discovery Center engaged **1,927** local school children on **122** immersive field trips.



Summer Camps

291 campers had the best summer ever at 35 days of camp at the Auer Marine Education Center and Discovery Center.



Bay Grasses in Classes

School-based native plant nursery program growing native plants. **7,600** plants installed by **700** students to restore **14,009** square feet of shoreline.



iSeahorse

A database for monitoring global seahorse populations and conservation efforts. Students identified **87** seahorses.



Earth Echo

147 students collected local water samples and contributed their findings to Earth Echo's database monitoring the health of the world's oceans.



Florida Microplastics Awareness Project

Supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Students were educated in FMAP program and submitted **807** water samples.

Overcoming Transportation Challenges: Marine Science on the Move

Arranging transportation for field trips is an ongoing challenge for teachers in our region. School bus availability is limited and the cost to hire a private company is high. In 2022, the Discovery Center launched Marine Science on the Move to remove this barrier. With our new mobile education initiative, we bring meaningful lessons directly to local students at schools, partner organizations, and community outreach events via van.

Led by Zoe Caraffi, the Discovery Center's Education Coordinator, our educators have designed a set of transportable programs that offer engaging activities, labs, and interactions with live animal ambassadors. "Our goal is to recreate the excitement and value of a traditional field trip experience, but make it accessible to a much larger audience," said Caraffi.

A first-of-its-kind, iPad-based virtual lionfish dissection introduces participants to fish

anatomy and physiology and the threats posed by invasive species. Herpetology 101 and Estuary Encounters bring learners face-to-face with species from the Discovery Center's animal collection. The response from teachers has been positive, and we are working with them to create additional lessons aligned with classroom goals.

While Marine Science on the Move visits are available to any class or group that wants to participate, our priority is to serve Title I

schools and underserved communities in the Tampa Bay region. Looking ahead, strong partnerships with educational institutions and fellow nonprofits will lead to the expansion of this initiative and the opportunity to inspire thousands of future leaders to connect with and protect Tampa Bay. Our sincerest thanks to Shields Family Foundation and the Rotary Club of St. Petersburg for leading funding for this amazing program!



Discovery Center

The Discovery Center's unique location on the St. Pete Pier provides a platform to share educational exhibits and experiences with visitors from our community and around the world. Guests can explore our exhibit gallery, participate in a sustainable dissection, or take an eco tour led by knowledgeable educators. Our reach will continue to expand as we add new programs and partnerships designed to inspire good stewardship of Tampa Bay.



37,882 visitors



12,868 public program participants



5,300 people experienced **650** educational eco-tours



Nicole White, Animal Husbandry Specialist

Nicole White provides outstanding care for the Discovery Center's collection of invertebrates, fish, reptiles, and amphibians. Our menagerie supports a variety of engaging programs designed to educate visitors about the local ecosystem and how to care for it. "Interacting with animals really helps people connect with the environment," said White. Behind the scenes, she researches each animal's needs and coordinates care, feeding, and enrichment. "It's rewarding to see guests' excitement after watching a terrapin feeding or visiting the touch tank, especially knowing the animals are happy, healthy, and making a positive difference for Tampa Bay!"



And the winner is...all of us in Tampa Bay!

Thanks to everyone who supported the 2022 Tarpon Rodeo, Tampa Bay Watch will continue to protect and restore the waterways of Tampa Bay, as well as educate thousands of locals and visitors each year of the importance of our watershed so that wildlife like the majestic tarpon continue to thrive.

Congratulations to Sport Division Team Sierra Family Foundation, who brought home the trophy. Overall, eight fish were safely caught and released between 34 teams.

A huge thanks to Great Bay Distributors, Directed Capital, Bonefish Grill, and all Bronze, Silver, and Gold Teams for making it possible to raise \$110,000 for the mission!



Sierra Family Foundation accepting the 2022 winner's trophy.



Silver reef ball trophies were awarded to the top teams.





Guests enjoyed a beautiful al fresco dinner.



A gorgeous sunset was enjoyed by all.

A ripple effect was made across the globe from our local watershed

Evening for the Bay: Our Blue Planet presented by Honest 1 Auto Care on November 5 was a huge success thanks to the Tampa Bay community!

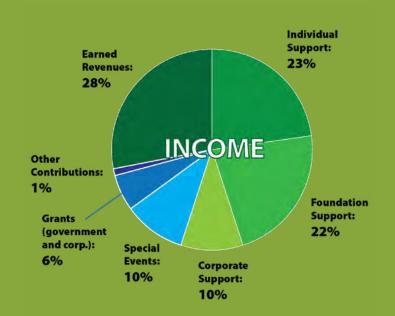
Guests dressed in their finest blue attire to dine on the Tampa Bay Watch Marine Center lawn with dinner by Bonefish Grill, bar service by Great Bay Distributors, Kozuba & Sons Distillery, and CB Lundy's, and auctions featuring exclusive trips across the globe. The night was complete with a 360-degree photo booth, VIP meet and greet with TBW's infamous diamondback terrapin, and a live painting by artist and educator Reagan Fennessy.

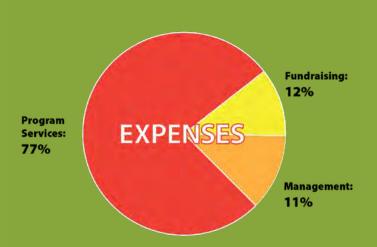
Thank you very much to all of the sponsors, guests, vendors, auction donors, and volunteers who contributed to the success of the event!





Financials Salt Marsh Restoration in Progress Place and Legisland Place and Legisland









Transparency in Reporting



Tampa Bay Watch is committed to the highest level of transparency. We have earned a four out of four-star rating from Charity Navigator and the 2022 Platinum Seal of Transparency showcasing the progress and results we're making toward our mission!



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. Our sincerest thanks to all of our generous Tampa Bay Guardians.

2022 Guardians:

Russell and Susie Bolton
Pat and Paul Brown
Bobby and Elena Bussey
Jeff and Linda Carbiener
Frank X. and Dana Dalton
Jonathan and Nikki Day
Kathryn Howd and Edward
Rucks
Beth and John England
Christopher French

Kathy and Roger
Herrnsteen
Janet and Harold Hurwitz
Erik Lieberman and Family
Jerry Fletcher and Liza Carter
Dr. James Pascia
Drs. Eli and Janet Marley
Rose
William and Dyreese
Sweeney
Mike and Rita Wilson



Guardians: The Daltons

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."



Our corporate members support the programs and projects vital to Tampa Bay Watch. The Tampa Bay watershed drives the local economy and is a primary factor in the quality of life for the region. Thanks to these Corporate Members who Restore the Bay Every Day.

2022 Corporate Members:

4th Street Family Dentistry Affinity CPA, P.A. Amuni Financial Argos USA LLC Bloomin' Brands Dolman Law Group Don CeSar Hotel **DSK Law ECOmersion Kavak and Paddleboard Edge Marine Construction Elite Watersports** Freedom Boat Club **General Dynamics GPZ Services Inc Grand Central Brewhouse Great Bay Distributors** Greenacre Properties, Inc. **Gulfeagle Supply** HH Insurance Group, LLC

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Wireless Time Partners



Freedom to Make a Difference

In addition to Freedom Boat Club of Tampa Bay being a corporate member, their staff frequently volunteers with us, as seen in picture of our Earth Day living shoreline project! Freedom Boat Club is an affordable alternative to boat ownership with over 650 boats and 30+ locations. They've expressed why they've chosen to support us: "As we continue to grow, we understand the impact that boating has on our waterways, and we want to do everything that we can to minimize that impact. We look forward to continuing to work with Tampa Bay Watch to help protect the bay for generations to come."

By including Tampa Bay Watch in your Legacy planning, your stock, IRA, or bequest gifts will directly contribute to coastal restoration and marine science education for generations. As our gift to you, a Legacy Reef Ball with your inscribed message will become part of a living shoreline in Tampa Bay.

Through a provision in your will, you can make a simple yet significant gift that will provide for the future of Tampa Bay Watch's work to protect and restore the Tampa Bay estuary and create a lasting legacy.

2022 Legacy Society Members:

Anonymous donor
Peter & Marion Clark
Norman Englert
Al Donn & Dorothy Holle
Stephanie Green
Joan & Dick Jacobs
Donald James Lyons
Captain Steve McCreary
Drs. Eli and Janet Marley Rose
Dr. Patricia Schmieg
Rosemarie Williams



Captain Steve McCreary, a Legacy to Tampa Bay

Tampa Bay Watch is saddened by the loss of Captain Steve McCreary. Capt. Steve was a long-standing board member and was instrumental to the start of the Tampa Bay Watch 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!





Tampa Bay Watch couldn't accomplish our habitat restoration projects, special events, or outreach initiatives without our amazing volunteers!

We survey our volunteers to maximize our communication effectiveness and to ensure the happiness of our volunteer partners!

97% feel prepared for the project based on our reminders

98% feel welcomed and appreciated at the project

99% anticipate volunteering again



Mike McNulty: What it Means to Volunteer

"I've always loved nature and the outdoors and when I discovered TBW over 20 years ago, I thought 'what a great way to do my part to help restore the bay (and help spread the word among family and friends about the importance of what we do)'. There's a sense of purpose in the volunteer activities and meeting and working with like-minded volunteers and staff is the extra bonus. The volunteers are always energetic and enthusiastic, and the staff are always friendly and eager to answer questions we have about the ecosystem of the bay. It's truly a welcoming 'community family' atmosphere that keeps me coming back", states Mike McNulty.

Donors and Contributors

All funds help protect and restore our most precious natural resource, and give all of its wild inhabitants a fighting chance in an everchanging world.

We apologize for any inadvertent omissions from this list.

Our sincerest thanks to all donors who have made a significant impact to the 2022 bay restoration and education programs:

Special Recognition of Contributions \$25,000+

Bernard and Norton Wolf Family Foundation Brenda Ann Tate **CITGO Petroleum Corporation** City of St. Petersburg Cynthia Fletcher **Duke Energy Foundation** Honest 1 Auto Care Hough Family Foundation, Inc. John and Sheila Auer Lightning Community Hero Mike Schutt Milkey Family Foundation **Mosaic Company Foundation Neptune Flood Insurance** Randy and Sharon Cochrane

Raymund Foundation, Inc.
Rays Baseball Foundation and
Rowdies Soccer Fund
Restore America's Estuaries
Program
Rob and Diane Klingel
Rotary Club of St. Petersburg, FL
Shields Family Foundation
Scotts Miracle-Gro
Tampa Electric Company (TECO)
The Estate of Rosemarie Williams
The Spurlino Foundation
US Fish and Wildlife Service

Recognition of Contributions

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