

Using Scars to Identify the Blue Spring Manatee Adoptees

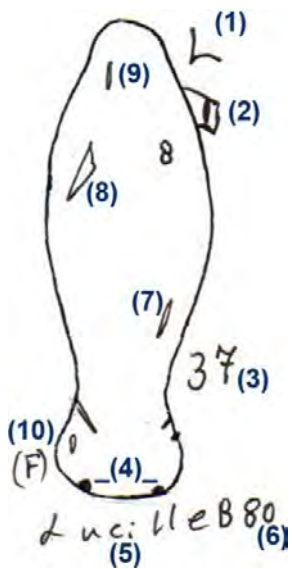


Photo © Thuuyi Gates

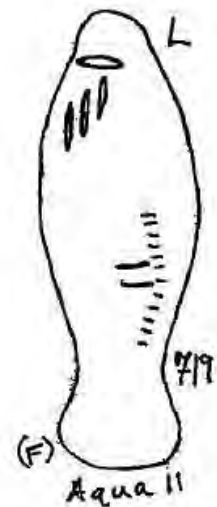


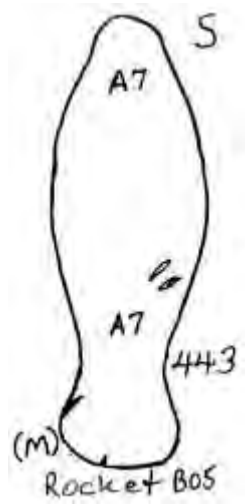
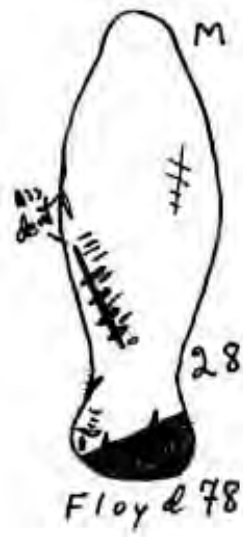
During a morning Roll Call, Manatee Specialist Wayne Hartley records scars and markings in his notebook.

Historically, more manatees have been killed from collisions with watercraft each year than from any other identifiable cause. Further, the vast majority of living manatees have been injured by watercraft and bear scars from these collisions - many manatees have suffered such strikes multiple times. The scars left by these collisions are the way Wayne Hartley identifies each manatee and distinguishes one Blue Spring manatee from another as he studies and records their behaviors. Some scars are also from entanglement with fishing lines and ropes. Other markings can be from natural causes, such as infections that have since healed. Following are Wayne's hand-drawn scar identification sheets for each manatee adoptee at Blue Spring. For more information about these manatees, go to www.savethemanatee.org/adopt.



- (1) Size (Small, Medium, Large)
- (2) Flipper drawn to show damage or to show relation to scarring.
- (3) I.D. #
- (4) Section missing from Tail
- (5) Name (not as important as I.D. #)
- (6) Year first I.D.'d ('B' = Born)
- (7) Visible, but healed (grey - sometimes deep)
- (8) White
- (9) Cut
- (10) Gender, if name is not obvious ("?" if unknown)





Save the Manatee Club thanks the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks, with special thanks to the staff & management at Blue Spring State Park.



Use your Smartphone to adopt a manatee today!

Save the Manatee® Club - 500 N. Maitland Avenue, Maitland, FL
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