

SAVE THE MANATEE® CLUB

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2010

Save the Manatee Club is an award-winning 501(c)3 nonprofit conservation organization, established in 1981 by singer/songwriter Jimmy Buffett, and former Florida Governor and U.S. Senator Bob Graham. The Club's mission is to protect endangered manatees and their aquatic habitat for future generations. To accomplish its mission, the Club works closely with federal, state, and local governments, as well as with the public at the grass roots level, and supports policies that are based on the best scientific data available. The Club raises public awareness; educates; sponsors research, and rescue, rehabilitation, and release efforts; supports land acquisition; promotes aquatic habitat protection; advocates for improved protection measures; and supports education and conservation efforts in other countries. In 2010, Save the Manatee Club:

- Provided funding for heat, veterinary care, and food to Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park to rehabilitate rescued manatees suffering from cold stress.
- Assisted the Clay County, Florida Sheriff's Office Marine Unit with their summer boating safety and manatee awareness campaign.
- Worked with the film crew on an educational documentary about manatees to be used in Colombia.
- Advocated for improved manatee protection measures to the Florida Legislature.
- Helped to stop a 400-slip marina in the Rodman Reservoir. The marina could have prevented the restoration of the Ocklawaha River, which can provide additional winter manatee habitat.
- Reviewed statewide permit requests for coastal developments that could be detrimental to manatees and aquatic habitat, and made recommendations for improved protections.
- Rallied grass roots support for numerous issues, from advocating for a strong federal Endangered Species Act, to securing the public purchase of Three Sisters Springs.
- Provided manatee educational materials to Guadeloupe.
- Actively supported manatee rehabilitation as a member of the Manatee Rehabilitation Partnership.
- Educated the public through a growing volunteer corps at scores of festivals, events, and educational programs in Florida and across the U.S.
- Distributed radio and television public service announcements to national media centers featuring celebrities Jimmy Buffett, Alec Baldwin, and John Lithgow.
- Produced and distributed additional outdoor signage with the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens informing the public about manatee harassment.
- Distributed numerous press releases and opinion editorials throughout the year to national media centers about threats to manatees and the population's status.
- Led the successful effort to preserve full funding for Florida's Manatee Critical Care Program for the rescue and rehabilitation of scores of cold-stressed and injured manatees.
- Helped to develop numeric nutrient criteria for Florida's lakes and flowing waters to reduce nutrient loading into Florida's water bodies.
- Provided recommendations to the St. Johns River Water Management District on water conservation and protecting ground and surface waters.
- Produced revised public awareness waterway signs and distributed them free to shoreline property owners to warn boaters that manatees may be in the area.
- Produced and distributed new boat decals featuring manatee rescue information and distributed them free to boaters.
- Revised the Club's highly regarded Educator's Guide, and expanded classroom activities for all ages.
- Helped with the purchase of the Three Sisters Springs property, adjacent to two manatee sanctuaries, by rallying grass roots support, advocating for state and federal funding, and donating funds.
- Advocated for continued state funding to support the Florida Forever Program, the state's premier land-buying program.
- Supported the implementation of cameras on Florida's waterways that would greatly enhance the on-water law enforcement effort.
- Worked with Good Morning America on their segment about manatees and the Gulf oil spill.
- Provided Esbilac formula powder to the Belize manatee rehabilitation facility, Wildtracks, to help feed orphaned calves.
- Raised funds to assist Wildtracks' infrastructure improvements at their facility.
- Successfully advocated for the adoption of a rule by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for a greatly improved imperiled species classification system.
- Worked with the FWC on the repeal of exemptions for commercial guides and commercial fishing (except for net-setting activities) to protect manatees from high-speed boat traffic exempt from slow speeds.
- Helped to obtain a needed increase in the area protected by manatee speed zones in Sarasota County.



- Actively supported a state constitutional amendment to ban oil drilling off Florida's coasts. Oil spills can be highly detrimental to manatees, seagrasses, and other aquatic species.
- Advocated for the elimination of the high-speed boat zone in Kings Bay in Crystal River, Florida to protect manatees.
- Advocated for the elimination of manatee harassment by divers and swimmers in the Crystal River area, while balancing local business interests with manatee protection.
- Cooperated with a kayak eco-tour guide to offer tours in Crystal River/Kings Bay as an alternative to the invasive "swim with" programs that can lead to manatee harassment.
- Hired Wayne Hartley, upon his retirement from the Florida Park Service, so he could continue with his renowned and vital documentation of the Blue Spring manatees.
- Initiated grass roots support for the passage of the CLEAR Act, which would provide funding for Gulf coast states to recover from the oil spill and prepare for the future.
- Advocated for the adoption of FWC's proposed manatee protection speed zones for sections of the Intracoastal Waterway in Flagler County, and rallied grass roots support.
- Strengthened Broward County's existing boat speed zones by working with the County Commission and local residents.
- Opposed changes to the federal Endangered Species Act, along with conservation partners, that would weaken protections for imperiled species and their critical habitat.
- Facilitated two separate rescues of manatees entrapped upstream of the Nawel River in Senegal, and provided educational materials to local conservationists for outreach efforts in the area.
- Worked with the Gales Point community in Belize to expand local support for manatee protection measures.
- Provided funding to develop and print signage for the Belize River to address increasing mortality associated with tour boats from the port/cruise ships.
- Advocated for legislation that would increase protection of natural springs and include water conservation as an alternative water supply.



Pat Rose, the Club's Executive Director, toured the Gulf coast states after the oil spill to assess the damage first-hand, and to search for manatees and other wildlife in need of rescue.



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