

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2008 ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Prevented the state's manatee rescue and rehabilitation programs from being eliminated, and preserved 66 law enforcement positions.
- Partnered with industry and government to ensure the manatees' welfare during the repowering of the Riviera Beach and Cape Canaveral, Florida power plants.
- Cooperated with federal and state officials and stakeholders on the revision of Florida's imperiled species classification system.
- Worked to forestall a 128-slip marina from being built in the Orange River in Lee County, Florida adjacent to a major winter warm-water manatee refuge.
- Paid off-duty law enforcement officers to monitor manatees in and around Blue Spring State Park to ensure limited human/manatee interaction.
- Provided over 1,300 educators' guides and plush toys to 72 inner city elementary schools throughout Florida to aid teachers faced with limited resources.
- Produced outdoor signs on the importance of preserving the manatee's winter warm-water habitat and distributed them to manatee viewing areas.
- Created a new 3-poster manatee display and distributed to businesses, along with the Club's other conservation posters.
- Issued numerous national press releases and press advisories on a host of conservation and education issues.
- Donated a pontoon boat to Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park to educate the boating public and to aid in manatee rescue operations, as well as a flat-screen television and manatee sculpture for their education efforts.
- Distributed national radio and television public service announcements throughout the year featuring Jimmy Buffett, Alec Baldwin, and John Lithgow.
- Provided educational materials to parks, environmental groups, teachers, libraries, government agencies, and others.
- Printed additional public awareness waterway signs and distributed them free to shoreline property owners.



- Raised funds to help purchase the Three Sisters Springs property adjacent to two federal manatee sanctuaries in Crystal River, Florida.
- Initiated numerous grass roots campaigns, including opposition to the weakening of the Endangered Species Act. Supported preserving vital state programs for injured and sick manatees.
- Monitored the development of port expansion plans and worked to maintain a strong Miami-Dade County Manatee Protection Plan.
- Supported the care of orphaned manatee calves in Belize and Brazil.
- Assisted with education, research, and manatee health assessments in Belize.
- Partnered with the Jacksonville Zoo on signage about manatee harassment.
- Assisted with the U.S. Geological Survey Sirenia Project's manatee health assessments in Crystal River, Florida.
- Helped to produce Spanish educational materials for Costa Rica, and French educational materials distributed in Gabon, Togo, Ghana, Benin, Sierra Leone, Chad, Cote D'Ivoire, Senegal, and Mali.
- Obtained a gubernatorial veto of a bad sea grass bill.
- Opposed draft state rules to allow generalized permits for dredging in Lee County, Florida, and for boat ramp development, both of which would eliminate in-depth scientific reviews.
- Opposed high-speed seasonal water sports area in Kings Bay, Crystal River, and worked to reduce diver harassment of manatees.
- Increased events that volunteers participated in by almost 100% over last year. Currently, there are over 1,000 volunteers.
- Produced 1,000 boater banners with a warning that manatees may be present.
- Petitioned the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, along with conservation partners, to expand the manatee's critical habitat designations in Florida.



Save the Manatee® Club

500 N. Maitland Ave. • Maitland, FL 32751
800-432-JOIN (5646) • www.savethemanatee.org