



Dauphin Island Sea Lab's MANATEE SIGHTING NETWORK

Spring 2013 Newsletter



MSN's First Alabama Manatee Naming Contest



This spring, to thank our supporters and ask for their continued support in 2013, MSN held its first ever manatee naming contest! We asked MSN supporters to give us their ideas on the perfect nickname for one of our newly tagged Alabama manatees. Our MSN Facebook fans then chose the naming contest winner!



Brodie the manatee and his namesake
Brodie the pug

Congratulations to our winners, Donna and Kelly Page and their lovable pug "Brodie" who inspired the name for our manatee! And a huge thank you to everyone who supported the naming contest, raising over \$2,000 for manatee research and outreach.

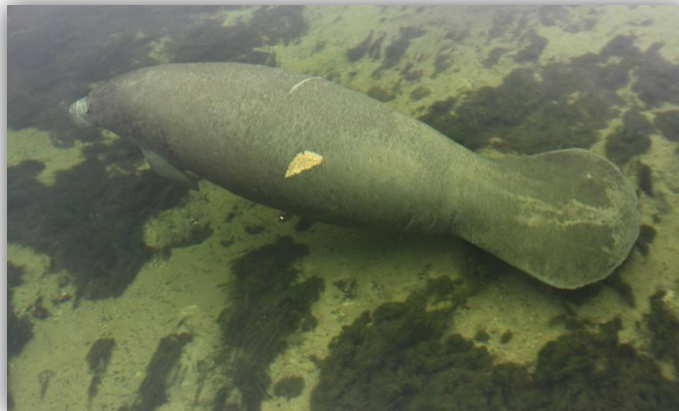
Highlights

- *Manatee Naming Contest*
- *Tagged Manatee Update*
- *MSN Outreach Events*
- *Welcome New Volunteers*
- *Record-breaking Red Tide Outbreak*
- *MSN Adds a New Face*

Tagged Manatee Update

MSN is currently monitoring four manatees tagged in August 2012 in Mobile, AL. MSN recently checked in on **Aven** and **Wilson** in Apalachicola, FL. Both manatees were feeding on the abundant vegetation in the area. A third manatee, **Serge**, is now in transit from wintering grounds in Tampa, FL. The fourth tagged manatee, newly named **Brodie**, may be in the Crystal River area or panhandle of Florida. His tag stopped transmitting in mid-April, and we are asking the public to help locate him. Please call 1-866-493-5903 if you see a tagged manatee.

The MSN team is also following manatees previously tagged in Alabama. **Zewie** was spotted in Crystal River, FL late in 2012, and **Bama**, the first manatee ever tagged in Alabama, spent the winter in Wakulla Springs, FL.



Bama in Wakulla Springs Credit: Patty Wilbur



Manatee sighting season is NOW!

Report all sightings online or by phone!

**Manatee.disl.org
1-866-493-5803**

**Like! Us on Facebook:
Mobile Manatees Sighting Network**

MSN Outreach Events

Mobile Boat Show

In February, MSN raised awareness among the local boating community at the Mobile Boat Show. Look for us again next year! 7-9 February 2014.

Discovery Day

On April 20, MSN and our sister network, the Alabama Marine Mammal Stranding Network (**ALMMSN**) participated in **DISL's** annual **Discovery Day open house**. It was a great day to educate the public, especially kids, about local marine mammals. Mark your calendar for this event on the same weekend next year!

Cocktails with the Critters

Thanks to the **DISL Foundation** for inviting MSN to be a part of the annual fundraiser at **Tacky Jack's** on the Causeway. Visit <http://sealabfoundation.org> to learn more.



MSN volunteers talk with visitors at Discovery Day

Record-breaking Red Tide Outbreak

This spring in south Florida, a massive red tide outbreak is suspected in a record 256 manatee deaths. Red tide is a common term for large concentrations of red algae species, which give affected waters a reddish appearance and may be toxic. The toxin affects the nervous system of animals exposed to the red tide or that consume fish and plants that were exposed. Manatees exposed to the toxin may drown because nervous system failure makes it impossible for them to surface to breathe. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) have worked to rescue and rehabilitate affected manatees and other marine animals. So far no Alabama manatees are known to be affected by the red tide.

Welcome New Volunteers

In March, MSN's sister network, ALMMSN, hosted its 2nd annual training seminar at the University of South Alabama. The event brought new volunteers to ALMMSN and MSN. Thanks to all of our volunteers for your hard work throughout the year!

Help Support MSN

- **Buy a Card for a Cause!**
Tacky Jack's gift cards available online.
- **Manatee T-shirts** available in child and adult sizes online
- Sign our pre-commitment forms for the **Alabama Manatee License Plate**



Go Green! Receive our newsletter via email! Contact manatee@disl.org.

Introducing....

Elizabeth Hieb, MSN's new Sighting Network Manager and Research Technician.

Elizabeth is originally from Pensacola, FL, but moved to Mobile several years ago.

Elizabeth completed her M.S. in Biology at the University of South Alabama.

