Introduction

Blue Spring is one of the most important natural warm-water manatee refuges on Florida’s East Coast. Hundreds of manatees return year after year during the winter months to take refuge from the cold temperatures of the St. Johns River, which can drop into the 40s during a severe cold snap. The Spring, however, remains a constant 72 degrees Fahrenheit year-round.

Since 1978, Wayne Hartley, first as a Blue Spring State Park Ranger and Park Ranger Specialist with the Florida Park Service, and now as Save the Manatee Club’s Manatee Specialist (since 2010), has meticulously and lovingly recorded the life histories of scores of manatees at Blue Spring, including births, deaths, and their relationships. The research data he has collected comprise one of the world’s longest running manatee databases.

The vast majority of living manatees have been hit by boats and other watercraft and bear scars from these collisions – many have been hit multiple times. The scars left by these sub-lethal encounters are the way Wayne identifies one manatee from another. Each winter since 2011/2012, he has identified or re-identified over 400 individual manatees from their scar patterns!

Every winter when manatees return to Blue Spring, Wayne takes morning Roll Call and records who is present in the Spring Run that day. He also updates his hand-drawn scar sheets by recording any new scars that manatees received since their last visit. He must do this in order to be able to continue to identify and track individual manatees from year to year. He also names each manatee he can identify, and more than 20 of these manatees make up our Blue Spring Adopt-A-Manatee® program (Note: manatees in other parts of the state may be given similar names by other researchers). For information about adopting, go to savethemanatee.org/adopt.

Having first visited Blue Spring in the late 1960s, I remember feeling strongly that it would play a vital role in the manatee’s survival. The critical importance of Wayne’s research cannot be overstated. In fact, because his research is so unique, he has few counterparts doing similar research on other species – especially for the length of time his research spans. The remarkable life history data he has compiled over decades has greatly contributed to our knowledge of the species. Through his indispensable work, Wayne has memorialized hundreds of individual manatees and endeared them to people all around the world.

I am extremely proud to share some of Wayne’s personal observations and experiences with you in his inimitable style in the following pages. Truly, his has been a labor of great love, and our admiration for him knows no bounds!

– Patrick M. Rose, CPM, Aquatic Biologist, Executive Director of Save the Manatee Club

Document contains some sensitive information about the lives and deaths of manatees.
I am often asked what it feels like to work with the manatees as I do. One season I tried filming a Roll Call. The camera was on my chest, and you could hear my running commentary. As I reviewed the film I could hear myself chuckling the entire time! How many people laugh as they work?

Every season I watch animals I regard as friends return. I worry about the missing and exult when they finally show. There is a feeling of excitement when a manatee comes in again after an eight-year absence.

I get the same feeling when I am shown a picture of a manatee at Riviera Beach and I realize where one of the missing has gotten off to (some Blue Spring manatees travel to Jacksonville and into the Intracoastal Waterway, and have been recorded as far south as Riviera Beach in southeast Florida).
Some Random Prime Moments

In 1991, rumors that a manatee had been seen in Lake Beresford (not far from Blue Spring) traveling with newborn twins were confirmed when Phyllis came in with Bertram and Bartram, our first Blue Spring twins! Twins are rare – most manatee mothers give birth to only one manatee calf at a time. Then, in 1998, Phyllis surprised me again. I was sitting in the research canoe saying over and over to Phyllis, “What have you done?” when it was obvious what she had done! Overnight Phyllis had given birth to the little black prune beside her in the Spring Boil. We named him Phire.

During another Roll Call I was prodded in the back by a tree limb. I reached back to push off from it and found myself holding “hands” with a manatee.

Two different seasons I had the pleasure of welcoming Zuzu back when I had been sure he would die during the summer and never be found because of boat strikes suffered at the age of one, and then again at two.

Life Histories

Like everything concerning manatee studies at Blue Spring, genealogies start with life history. With photographs and sketches it was determined that the same manatees tended to return to Blue Spring every year. As the manatees were tracked from year to year, questions were answered. For example, females can calve successfully at four years old, but five or six is more common and pregnancy lasts around a year. Males mature around nine.

One question was about calf survival. Are calves surviving long enough in enough numbers to maintain and hopefully increase manatee numbers? At Blue Spring many do, which gets us back to genealogies. As information piled up and as the years passed I realized we had enough to build family trees. I tried a genealogy program made for people, but people go backwards, starting with themselves, then mom, then grandmother and so on. With manatees, I go forward, starting with mom, then daughter, the daughter’s daughter and so on. Where are the males? Well we cannot track fathers so the males get the short straw in this project. To qualify for my genealogies, we must know at least three generations. No two generation genealogies allowed! As each genealogy starts with a single female, I call them matriarchies and use the lead female as the title. So let’s get started!

Calista Matriarchy

Calista was released at Blue Spring in 2001 from the Miami Seaquarium. She had been successfully treated for severe cold stress. In 2003, she gave birth to C.C.

Zuzu is the grandson of Lucille, an adoptee. He was named by a Club member in a donation drawing and belongs to the Luna Matriarchy. Photo © U.S. Geological Survey, Sirenia Project.

All jobs, however wonderful, have their memorable but unpleasant side. I have suffered pain in my fingers no gloves can stop from the coldest mornings. I have been thrown from the canoe, with all my equipment, by a startled manatee. I have received phone or radio calls announcing a dead manatee was under tow to a nearby boat ramp and have found Sweetgums, Felicity, Landry, Polaris, Logan, Tiffaney, or some other friend when I arrived.

My first season at Blue Spring, I saw 35 manatees. During the winter season of 2021-22 I saw 842. When I first started back in 1978 one calf was good and four were extraordinary. Now we average over 70 each season. What is next?

Calista had another calf in 2009, but the calf was not named – as was the case for C.C.’s 2008 calf (if a calf has no distinguishing markings, it is not named).
Ann has brought in additional calves in 2008, 2012, 2014, 2017, and 2021. While Amber was at SeaWorld for nine years (she was rescued by SeaWorld staff after being abandoned in the Spring Run by Ann - a common occurrence when a mom has twins), Amanda had calves in 2005, 2007, 2009, and one in 2011, to join Aunt Amber and Squeaky. Amber had a still birth in the Spring Boil a year after release so we were especially happy with Squeaky. The twins also calved together in 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017. Amber adopted a calf in 2018. In 2019 Amanda calved and Amber was pregnant but Amber was found dead of unknown causes in February. Amanda had another calf in 2021.

**Georgia Matriarchy**

Georgia has a small matriarchy, but a large book could be written about her activities. She was known at private docks and marinas from Lake Monroe to Lake George. We saw less of Georgia during warm winters. Most manatees spend more time at the Spring as there are no swimmers in the winter. Georgia spent less time at the Spring as there were no swimmers in the winter! Georgia was out with her human friends begging for food and petting. She would say this is OK. It is not! It is illegal to feed a manatee.

Georgia was an orphan calf from Brunswick, Georgia in 1991. SeaWorld released her at Blue Spring in 1997. She had Peaches the next year and had calves in 2000, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2011, and 2013. From the time May had her first calf, her behavior changed from a manatee of no special note to one who appears to charge the canoe with hostile intent. She also drives researchers to distraction by approaching them and pushing at them. May was last seen in 2016.

**Mona Matriarchy**

The founder of the Mona matriarchy was identified in 2000. She gave birth to a manatee named May the next year and had calves in 2006, 2008, 2012, 2016, 2018 and 2021. May calved on schedule in 2006, 2008, 2011, and 2013. From the time May had her first calf, her behavior changed from a manatee of no special note to one who appears to charge the canoe with hostile intent. She also drives researchers to distraction by approaching them and pushing at them. May was last seen in 2016.

**Ann Matriarchy**

Matriarch Ann was identified in 1996. Her granddaughter, Squeaky, was born in the Blue Spring Run on June 13, 2011. After the twins Amber (Squeaky’s mom) and Amanda in 2000, Ann had Al in 2004 and Anita in 2006, but I lost track of both (they could not be re-identified). Ann’s next calf was in 2008 seen by the radio-tracking researchers. As the calf was born just before the 2008/2009 season at Blue Spring and did not come in with mom, the calf was presumed dead.
Destiny-Kaitlyn died of a liver abscess in December 2011. Georgia died on April 22, 2015 at SeaWorld, where she had been taken for care after she was observed in failing health at Blue Spring. Cause of death was birthing complications. She was 24 years old.

**Caroline Matriarchy**

Caroline was identified in 1994 with her calf Cora. Caroline skipped three seasons then returned for two. After that we haven’t seen her at Blue Spring, but she was at Riviera Beach either side of her two seasons at Blue Spring. Cora was gone two seasons and then came back. I saw her a lot during the 2011/2012 season. Now she is gone again. Cora had Rita in 1999, Chet in 2002 (we lost track of him in 2005), and unnamed calves in 2005 and 2007. Rita is hard to recognize. Many times I have decided to drop her only to get a good identification of her one more time. Rita had an unnamed calf in 2005.

**Millie Matriarchy**

Millie is the largest manatee I believe we have ever had at Blue Spring. She arrived in 1991, but had been photographed up and down the East Coast for twelve years. A researcher who had suffered a knee injury when a large manatee rolled on his leg during a rescue called her a real knee breaker. Our research indicates female manatees tend to stay put for the winter, but Millie is a traveler. She will take off in the middle of the season, even if she has a calf, subjecting them both to some very cold water! Millie brought Murphy in with her and later had Michelle in 1993, Milford in 1998, and Mo in 2001. Murphy and Mo were lost track of right away (they could not be re-identified). Michelle was last identified in 2014. Milford is still with us. Milford was named after a very unsuccessful Civil War general (I got the name wrong. It should be Milroy). Michelle gave us Michael, Betty, Mull, and three unnamed calves. All were quickly lost track of except Michael. Michael was with us until 2006. He could be somewhere else, but I have a bad feeling.

**Judith Matriarchy**

Judith came into Blue Spring in 1998 as the season was winding down. She had calves in 1990, 1993, 1995, 1999, 2002, 2004, and 2006. They were Julie, Easter, Jip, Jim, Jemal, Jinx, and an unnamed calf. Judith died in 2008 of unspecified natural causes. Julie, Easter, and Jim are still with us. Easter was born on Easter and the people living along the canal and watching out for him and his mom asked to name him. Julie had calves in 1994, 1997, 1999, 2002, 2004, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2017, and 2020. They were Jolly Mon, Jake, Jerry, Josh, Jaco, and six unnamed. Josh was with us until December 2020. He was suffering from a terrible boat strike but his cause of death was recorded as unknown. Jolly Mon was a Parrot Head thing (Parrot Heads are fans of Jimmy Buffet’s music), and I tried hard, but could only keep track of him for four years.

**Jane Matriarchy**

Jane was Plain Jane when she came in as a large adult in 1980. By the time she stopped coming back in 1988 we had given up using names like Plain Jane or Mr. Clean. Mr. Clean was Flash’s first name (Flash is one of our adoptees). He got the name Flash for dashing across the channel and slowing outside, where there was less boat traffic, leaving him free of scars. Eventually his dashing proved unsuccessful and he is no longer Mr. Clean.

Jane had Lennon (named for John Lennon) in 1980, Jolly in 1983, and June in 1986. The first two were lost identifications as calves, but June was around for twenty-one years. She had bad cold stress about three years before she disappeared. June came in late that year and spent her days near the swimmer/diver entry. She had eight calves at two year intervals starting in 1991, excepting 2001 when she probably lost a calf. She had Jessica, Jethro, Juan, John, Sarah, Sherry, and two “no names.” June was the first manatee we knew to give birth at four years of age. She nursed Bertram with her calf Jessica when Bertram was abandoned in the Spring Run by his mother, Phyllis. Jethro, Juan, and John are good boys and still with us. Jane has been easily spooked ever since drunks snuck into the Spring Run one night when he was a calf. Sarah was a lost identification as a calf, but we kept track of Sherry long enough for her to calve.

I think, but cannot be sure, that a calf found dead in the Run of unknown causes was Sherry’s. As a calf, Jessica had a curiously forked left flipper due to a genetic anomaly. We found this out when we captured her and her calf Mossback to remove monofilament fishing line from Jessica’s left flipper. The line was so deeply embedded her flipper came off in the capture net.
Jessica was the star of a segment on a TV show called “Animal Rescues.” For the 2011/2012 season she came in with another entanglement on her right flipper. After careful observation it was declared self-healed. Manatees who suffer entanglement often go out and get entangled again. Mossback entangled a flipper, and before she was captured, she entangled the other. Mossback is back in the wild, but with one shortened flipper and a damaged flipper. (Just a note, flippers are called pecs, for pectorals, in the scientific world, and tails are called flukes.)

Jessica did a two year birthing interval like her mother. She had nine calves starting in 1996. Their names are Jen, Mossback, Jill, Janice, Jogger, and four unnamed. Janice had five unnamed calves born in 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015. She did a two year interval like her mother and grandmother. She was last identified in 2016. Mossback has six calves as well: Cheryl born in 2003; Eve born in 2008 (but died of cold stress near Palatka in 2010); and Maisey born in 2011. Maisey has not returned to Blue Spring. Mossback had unnamed calves in 2013, 2015 and 2017. In 2016 she adopted an orphan.

In 1985 Elaine was born. She became an adoptee, but left us in 1999. In the fall of 2003, we made the decision to drop her from the adoption program. The next day I made a quick call to cancel the drop because she’d shown up after a four-year absence! She is not our most dependable adoptee, but she is going strong with four calves: Ester in 1990, Elsie (not the one in our adoption program) in 1993, Yip in 1995, and Eon in 2006. Yip was lost track of in 1997. Elaine is again among the missing since 2005.

Elise had Eddy in 1997, and Gordon in 1999. Elsie was killed by a boat in Lake Woodruff in 2000. Eon, first wrongfully identified as a male, has had unnamed calves in 2010, 2012, and 2014. Eon was killed by a boat while carrying a full term fetus.

Emma Matriarchy

Emma was identified in 1970 when Jacques Cousteau came to film at Blue Spring. That film spurred the creation of Blue Spring State Park in 1972. Emma was an original adoptee, and it was sad when she died in 1986. We knew a manatee had died in Shell Creek, but were told no pictures were taken. It turned out pictures were taken, and I was able to recognize her. The symptoms were similar to those of a manatee who died of encephalitis, but cause of death had to be put down as unknown as Emma was too decomposed to find a cause of death during her necropsy. When Cousteau filmed at Blue Spring, Emma had a calf named Fodderwing – what a wonderful name.

Emma had five more known calves. Quinton was born in 1975 and lost track of right away. In fact Quinton got his name when we went back and named the ones who only had numbers.

Not many years ago, every manatee got a name and number even if we knew we would never recognize them again. The research system was chaotic with many different systems and researchers. In 1977 the word came down that there would be one unchanging number system. Researchers could play with names if they wanted to, but no messing with the numbers!

Emma gave birth to Boomer in 1979 and he was a most popular adoptee due to his name. He was killed by a boat at Buffalo Bluff Railroad Bridge near Palatka in 1994. Emma next gave birth to Shane in 1981. He was an adoptee killed by a boat south of the Spring near High Banks Marina in 1998. Emmett was born in 1983, but only stayed around for two years.

Cheryl has had unnamed calves in 2009, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2020 making this a six-generation matriarchy! The trace is Jane to June to Jessica to Mossback to Cheryl to Cheryl’s unnamed. I do not believe I shall ever see or hear of June again. In the summer of 2015 Jessica was killed by a boat near Jacksonville.

Eon was Elaine’s daughter and the granddaughter of Emma. She died from a boat strike in 2016. Photo © Wayne Hartley, Save the Manatee Club.
Gordon is always in for the season. He loves to go up the Run, but is a scaredy-cat whom I count as he flees the Run. Eddy has not been seen since 2008. I think he has decided to live elsewhere. Ester birthed Eustis in 1996, Eric in 1998, Esso in 2001, E-mail in 2003, “no names” in 2005 and 2009. Echo in 2011, and another “no name” in 2014. Eric, E-mail, and the “no names” cannot be recognized, but Eustis and Esso are easy to recognize.

Eustis got a series of propeller cuts down his right side that went necrotic between the cuts. He now has a four foot long by six inch wide raggedy white scar down his side. Esso has two distinctive prop slashes on his back. Echo is an easy female to recognize and her fifth generation calf Ean has a scar that looks just like mom’s.

**Dawn Matriarchy**

The Dawn matriarchy is the first seven generation family tree at Blue Spring. The path is Dawn to Donna to Dana to Amy to Alice to Volusia to Volusia’s twins. The twins were born in Hontoon Dead River during the summer of 2014 and were our first documented of opposite sex. Volusia did our seventh generation in style!

![Volusia is Alice's first calf and the great-great-great granddaughter of Dawn. Photo © Wayne Hartley.](image)


Della was picked up with a boat injury in 2009 and was treated at Zoo Tampa at Lowry Park. I identified her from pictures and said she was probably pregnant. An excited email the next day announced the birth of Pal! It was hoped Della would live long enough to give Pal a good start. After a month in treatment Della was released with Pal and an orphan, Kee, she had nursed during treatment. Pal was lost track of and Kee kept turning up with other Blue Spring mothers. Kee came in for one season and then moved to a spring to our north where she is seen with calves of her own. Della has gone on to have five more unnamed calves. Delain had Dillon in 1995, Doris in 2000, Dobbs in 2005, and Duffy in 2008. The first three wandered off, but Duffy has such a terrible wound to the left side of his peduncle that I think we will be able to keep track of him. Delain added another “no name” in 2014 but has been among the missing since.

Dana, who died from a boat strike in July 2012, had Dianne in 1993, adoptee Whiskers in 1996, Amy in 1999, Brooke in 2002, and then Ditch and three “no names” in 2004, 2007, and 2010. When Amy came in she was so badly wounded in the left rear and tail I kept trying to record her as a sub-adult. My mind did not want to accept that such a young calf was so mutilated. Amy survived and had Alice in 2004, and six “no names” since. Alice’s first calf was Volusia in 2009. The same year she received a terrible boat strike of nine propeller wounds in her left side. Alice has had four more calves. She loves the upper run like her mother and Uncle Whiskers. Dianne has had five calves. Kipp in 2000, Decaf in 2002, and “no names” in 2008 and 2013. Brooke has had seven “no names.” Dianne had her tail cut into ribbons in 2019. Unfortunately, Dawn died from a boat strike near Palatka in 1989 and Decaf died from a boat strike in Volusia County in the summer of 2016.

**Sweetgums Matriarchy**

Sweetgums was a much-loved adoptee identified in 1974. She died in 1991. She was recognized by a rope scar on her right flipper. The boat that killed Sweetgums in Norris Dead River, not too far from Blue Spring, severed her spine in three places. The greenery she was chewing was still between her teeth. O’Shea, her nursing yearling, came back to the Spring run alone and continued coming back to the Run until his death of undetermined causes in Lake County in 2014. Sweetgums would leave the Run pregnant and bring back no calf. Success was her first successful calf in 1982. Success nursed for two years and suffered a terrible boat strike each of those years. The first left her looking deformed because so much of her back was missing, and the second in the same place left the upper and lower ends of rib bones sticking out of her side. I would get reports of a dying manatee in the swim area in the summer, and I would go down and say it
was only Success, and she didn’t get any better. She, too, was a beloved adoptee. In spite of her injuries she had four calves. Sweetgums had two more calves: Chris, born in February 1986, named for Christa McAuliffe the Astronaut/Teacher; and Bubblegum, born in 1987. With Bubblegum being born the year after Chris it is thought that Chris must have died shortly after the season was over, living only a month or two. Success had Destiny in 1988 who died in 2003, probably from an intestinal blockage caused by fishing line. She would fatten up while at SeaWorld for rehabilitation, but waste away in the wild. Destiny had Doyle in 1993 and Doom in 2000. Doyle was a live wire as a calf and people-friendly as a sub-adult, but is more normal now. Doom got his name from his mother’s troubles, but has done well for himself. He loves the Spring Boil, but also spends time at other springs.

Success’s next calf was Chuck in 1991. Success’ girls were very friendly like their mom, but the boys are nervous and stand-offish. As a calf, Chuck and mom were feeding on hyacinth at the Run mouth when an egret landed on Chuck’s head. What a panic! The other boy is Cinna, born in 1996 and doing well. Rachel was born in 1993 and was killed by a boat in Lake Monroe in 2001. She had a healing wound that would have been received about the same time a calf was killed in Lake Dexter not far from Blue Spring. I have always thought that the Lake Dexter calf was Rachel’s Ruby, born in 2000. Rachel’s boy Rodney was born in 1998. He lives in the Silver Glen/Salt Spring area of Lake George and drops in from time to time. He has even been photographed at DeLeon Spring (just north of Blue Spring).

Success went missing in 2000 and is presumed dead. The Sweetgums Matriarchy is closed – only males remain!

Phoebe Matriarchy

Phoebe was one of the eleven filmed by Jacques Cousteau in 1970. For many years she was the largest manatee coming to Blue Spring, weighing over 2,000 pounds. Her calves were Dexter in 1971, Beetle in 1975, Floyd in 1978, Felicity in 1980, Philip in 1982, Phyllis in 1985, and Phud in 1988. Dexter, a lost calf, was named retroactively. Floyd, Felicity, Philip, and Phyllis joined mom in the adoption program. All of them were very friendly. Floyd, Phyllis, and Philip are still going strong.

Floyd sleeps pointed downstream while nearly all the others sleep pointed upstream. He has a huge dent in his left flank to identify him, but that wasn’t enough. A few years ago half his tail was cut off by a boat.

Beetle was a manatee who had enormous shoulders and looked kind of like a large beetle lying in the Run. He disappeared in 1992. I’ve always had a bad feeling about that as well. Phud is a smallish manatee like Floyd and, though awfully beat up, is around and about.

Felicity had two calves, sort of. Fredrick was born to Felicity in 1985. In 1987, I found him in the run with bubbles coming out of his side. I had invited a media photographer along who happened to show up, and when we found Fredrick I canceled the photo shoot to make a phone call. The photographer made one also, and soon people from Germany to Panama were concerned about Fredrick. They never plugged the hole that a boat had made in his lung, but it was the infection that killed him. Felicity died in 1988, probably from trying to give birth to her second calf, Macduff (I named him after the character in Shakespeare’s play Macbeth), but we will never know for sure. Macduff died along with Felicity.

Phoebe’s daughter Phyllis has had sixteen calves. She started with our first twins, Bertram and Bartram, in 1991; then Phollie in 1994; Pepper in 1996; Phire in 1998; Phalcon in 1999; Pipi in 2001; Tonka in 2003; Biker in 2005; Blue in 2008; and many “no names”. All but Phalcon, Pipi, and the twins soon joined the animals with lost IDs.
Phalcon used to be shunted to one side by juvenile manatees stealing Phyllis' milk meant for the baby and it worried me. Phalcon has had seven calves now and is getting big. She had Patty in 2004. Patty is among the missing but now we have Pear, born in 2010, and Favor, born in 2012, marked well enough to keep track of. The rest are “no names”.

Phire, Biker, and Blue were born in the Spring Boil, I believe. Blue was never numbered as I could not ID him, but popular acclaim gave him a name. Pipi died in the Spring Run as a calf and cause of death could not be determined. Bartram was steady, but Bertram got left in the Run alone and was rescued from Lake Monroe. Bertram was popular at SeaWorld during his stay. I have not seen Bartram since 2013.

Phoebe died on arrival at SeaWorld in 1992. She was picked up in Lake Monroe, with a calf (which was actually her grandson Bertram), in obvious trouble. It turned out she had failed to birth a one hundred ten pound calf, and it was dead inside her and poisoning her and her Bertram who was nursing. Phoebe is still my favorite manatee!

**Lily Matriarchy**

Lily was identified in 1974 and was thought to be a young matron. She did not bring in a calf until 1979. This was Luther and then came Margarito in 1984, Lillith in 1988, Loomis in 1990, Cowabunga in 1992, Chase in 1994, Lars in 1996, Louie in 1998, Lacy in 2000, Lawton in 2002, and a “no name” in 2009. Lily would try to play with people in the Run while keeping Luther away from them. Later, when she lost a calf, her long-weaned son Luther started nursing again. Luther disappeared during a severe cold spell in 1984. He is presumed dead, but not from the cold. He left to feed one afternoon and was never seen again. Since he was never found we had no chance to know his cause of death. But he would not have gone far, and he would not have migrated in such cold.

Margarito is an adoptee like his mother. He had an entanglement on his left flipper so bad that he was taken to SeaWorld for three days so they could make sure they got it all. Margarito looked good for a year, but then he came in with the flipper gone. He is the first male manatee we have had with the problem (read about his sister, Lillith below). Loomis was killed by a boat near Palatka in 1997. Cowabunga, named in a contest, died in Lake Woodruff in 1996, cause unknown. Lars is hard to recognize and I was last sure I saw him in 2008. Lacy got a terrible boat strike in 2010 that makes him easy now, but Lacy is not a regular. The rest of the Lily tribe except Lillith were soon lost track of (they could not be re-identified).

**Lillith went to SeaWorld with a line entanglement on her right flipper. Soon SeaWorld staff were fighting for her life. She had been hit by a boat that cracked a rib over a kidney causing it to get infected. A difficulty of veterinary medicine is not being able to talk to the patient! Lillith was soon back home, and a year later she had her first calf. Lillith has now had eleven calves. I got a picture of her first calf and the healed flipper and sent it to SeaWorld. They don’t often hear back from their patients! That first calf was Laurie in 1994, followed by Livy in 1996, Daphne in 1998, Lotto in 2000, and Lax in 2004. All are lost track of but Laurie who has given birth to Sailor in 1999, Lawson (who is among the missing) in 2002, Liam in 2004 and seven “no names”. Sailor was named by Save the Manatee Club staff. Liam died in Lake Monroe of unknown causes in 2011.

**Luna Matriarchy**

Luna was an adoptee. She was identified in 1978 and died in 1997 in Lake Monroe. She had not brought in a calf since 1990, but was lactating when found. Lenny was born in 1978, then Lucille in 1980, Lunatic in 1983, Liza in 1986, Lester in 1988, and Lucretia in 1990. Lenny is an adoptee affectionately known as “Lenny the Sleepyhead” or “Lenny the Runt.” Lunatic was a brat who did not listen to his mother. Liza died in 1990 from a boat impact. We knew something was wrong so she went to SeaWorld where they found four...
broken or dislocated ribs. These had already healed, but a one centimeter square bit of rib had entered her lung and the infection was beyond treatment.

Lester was hit by a boat and swam in circles until he bumped into an anchored house boat and sank to his death. When his body was recovered he was found to have a cracked skull from a spinning propeller. Lucretia birthed Lip in 1995, Law in 1997, Leech in 2000, Lash in 2002, and seven “no names.” All have been lost track of but Law.

Law has brought in six calves. There is a scar pattern consisting of a row of triangles, and I call these dragon’s teeth. The first calf had a very large set of these and was named Dragon. Years later a manatee named Snorty, rescued in Jacksonville, was ID’d as the lost Dragon. He kept the name Snorty but was given Dragon’s number. The others were lost. The last calf, I think, was an orphan Law picked up shortly after weaning her own yearling. The orphan never did well and was found dead just north of Blue Spring State Park. Unfortunately, Snorty died at the Buckman Lock in Putnam County in July 2022.


Lance was captured when an attempt was made to get a fishing line entanglement off his mother Lucille. He was then “used as bait” to capture mom. He would call her to the bag net where he was being held. When this strategy was given up he went straight to the mouth of the Run where Lucille must have been saying something like, “Oh no, you come to me!” Lucille was eventually captured and the line removed, but the groove left by the injury soon attracted more line and the flipper was lost.

Lucille was friendly when young, but the more we helped her the less she liked us. Loopy was soon lost track of as were Leep and the three “no names.” We still have Peek-a-boo. Peek has had five “no name” calves. She often nurses non-relatives.

Lili brought in a calf named Lolo in 2007, but it did not even make it to 2008. Lili went out one cold winter morning with the tiny calf. Lili came back, but the calf did not. Lili has had four “no name” calves that have done well.

Lola, in a spirited effort to keep up with her mother, had eleven calves: Precious in 1992, Logan in 1996, Zuzu, named in a contest by a Club member, came in with buoyancy problems from a boat strike when he was a year old. He had trouble surfacing. It looked bad, and a major effort to capture him failed. To our delight Zuzu came back next season chasing girls and almost normal in all ways. Then at the end of the season he was hit again. This time he could not submerge! Again capture was attempted, but he got away. Again we waited to identify his body, but instead he came back healthier than ever and is even losing the “comma shape” he acquired when he was hit as a one year old.

Finally there is Precious. She has given birth to Polaris in 1998, Kevin in 2000, Landry in 2002, Latta in 2004, Zuzu in 2006, and “no names” in 2008, 2010, 2012, and 2014. Logan was killed by a boat in Lake Monroe in 2008. David had very few marks and I am amazed I kept track of him until 2006. Kevin was lost track of in 2008. Landry was found dead of unknown causes by Hontoon Island State Park in 2010. Lola’s calving contest with her mother was ended by a boat impact that caused a pyothorax causing infection in her lung. She was rescued, but died at Miami Seaquarium in 2017.

Zuzu, named in a contest by a Club member, came in with buoyancy problems from a boat strike when he was a year old. He had trouble surfacing. It looked bad, and a major effort to capture him failed. To our delight Zuzu came back next season chasing girls and almost normal in all ways. Then at the end of the season he was hit again. This time he could not submerge! Again capture was attempted, but he got away. Again we waited to identify his body, but instead he came back healthier than ever and is even losing the “comma shape” he acquired when he was hit as a one year old.

Finally there is Precious. She has given birth to Polaris in 1998, Peteena in 2000, Potts in 2002, Penn in 2006, and seven “no names”. Potts, Penn, and the “no names” were soon lost.

Polaris was a boat impact kill near Astor in 2001, and I believe Peteena was a boat propeller kill in Lake Monroe in 2001, though we will never know for certain. Peteena was named Pete or Peter, but I had bad gender info and she became Peteena!
More About Wayne Hartley

Wayne became a Save the Manatee Club staff member in 2010. Before joining us, he was a Park Ranger and then a Park Service Specialist with the Florida Park Service. For over three decades he has served as Principal Investigator for manatee research conducted at Blue Spring State Park. Wayne’s expertise and personal knowledge of individual manatees have been the basis of Save the Manatee Club’s Adopt-A-Manatee® program. Through the adoption program, Wayne’s observations and experiences have been very instrumental in helping the public understand the manatees’ needs, the threats to the manatees’ long-term survival, and what actions members of the public can take to help. Through the years Wayne has been interviewed countless times by television and print media and has received many honors from his peers. Wayne has a degree in history from the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. Between school and the Park Service he spent almost six years in the U.S. Army Infantry. He earned the Ranger Tab and was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge. For more information on the Blue Spring adoptees, be sure to read Wayne’s excellent updates in The Manatee Zone – the official quarterly newsletter of Save the Manatee Club. For information on adopting a manatee, go to savethemanatee.org/adopt

Blue Spring State Park

Directions: Blue Spring State Park is located west of SR 17-92 in Orange City, Florida. The park is about 30 miles north of Orlando.

The Park plays a vital role in the survival of manatees. During the winter, usually November through March, manatees leave the St. Johns River for the warm waters of Blue Spring, which maintains a constant 72°F temperature. A boardwalk and nature trail along the length of the Spring Run provide good views of the manatees.

Here are some things you might want to remember when you visit Blue Spring:

• Manatees normally move into the spring in late November and remain until February or early March, depending on the temperature.

• While most of the adoptees usually winter at Blue Spring regularly, there is no guarantee that a particular manatee will be in any place at any time. Some come late and leave early and occasionally certain manatees skip a season. Please keep in mind that your adoptee is a wild animal with individual behavior.

• During the winter months, staff at the park provide an excellent interpretive program about manatees. It is a good introduction to your visit and is highly recommended. You can contact Blue Spring State Park directly for scheduled times.

• Manatees are most active during the morning hours when they move in and out of the Spring Run to feed. During the afternoons, they often rest along the bottom, surfacing to breathe and occasionally swimming along the Run.

• Blue Spring State Park is open from 8:00 a.m. until sundown. Call the park for current admission rates at (386) 775-3663, or visit them online at www.floridastateparks.org/bluespring for more information.

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Watch manatees on Save the Manatee Club’s live webcams at ManaTV.org