



Dauphin Island Sea Lab's MANATEE SIGHTING NETWORK Summer 2015 Newsletter



Alabama's First Rescued Manatee

Sister networks MSN and ALMMSN (Alabama Marine Mammal Stranding Network) started out 2015 with the first ever manatee rescue attempted in the state of Alabama. Local residents reported three manatees in the “cold hole” in the Magnolia River, Baldwin County, AL in late December. One manatee, exhibiting signs of severe cold stress, was rescued on January 1st, but died during transport to a rehabilitation facility in Florida. A second manatee was rescued on January 4th and successfully transported to Sea World Orlando. See more on this manatee’s careful rehabilitation and release below. The third reported manatee was not relocated. The MSN and ALMMSN teams thank the Audubon Nature Institute, Sea World Orlando, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and dozens of local volunteers who made these rescues possible!



Credit: J. Moore



Credit: C. Cowles

Highlights

- *First AL Manatee Rescued, Rehabilitated, & Release*
- *Marine Mammal Research Center Opens*
- *Marine Mammal Outreach Notes*
- *New T-shirt Styles*

Manatee Rescue Leads to Successful Release

On March 17th, the MSN and ALMMSN teams traveled to Crystal River, FL to assist with the release of Alabama’s first rescued manatee. Nicknamed “Magnolia” after the river where she was rescued, this young female manatee quickly recovered from symptoms of cold stress and propeller wounds after her rescue. During rehabilitation at Sea World Orlando, Magnolia gained close to 200 lbs, a sign of her improving health. In collaboration with Sea to Shore Alliance, a non-profit based in Florida, the MSN team fitted Magnolia with a satellite tag with GPS capabilities, so we can continue to monitor her progress. We hope to see Magnolia back in Alabama this summer!



Credit: S. Lipscomb



Credit: N. Wingers



Credit: J. Steele

**Manatee season
has begun in
Alabama!**

**Report all
sightings online
or by phone!**

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

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

Marine Mammal Research Center Opens at DISL

On May 22nd, MSN Director and DISL Senior Marine Scientist Dr. Ruth H. Carmichael led the ribbon cutting of the new Marine Mammal Research Center (MMRC) at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. Both the MSN and ALMMSN teams will use this space to enhance marine mammal stranding response as well as research and educational opportunities at DISL.

The new research center features a necropsy lab, clean lab for genetic, trace element analysis, and other diagnostic analyses, and office space. The new facility will allow for more rigorous sample collection and in-house analyses not previously possible for our field-based response team.

The MMRC and associated research is funded by multiple agencies.



Outreach Notes

Thank you to our many MSN and ALMMSN volunteers for a hugely successful spring outreach season (Right: Students learn about manatee research at DISL's Discovery Day).

We look forward to more exciting events this summer!

Upcoming Outreach Events

Bellingrath Gardens Kids Gulf Discovery Day:

9am-12pm July 22, 2015



Help Support MSN

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



Introducing MSN adult t-shirts in new styles! Support MSN by purchasing an MSN t-shirt at manatee.disl.org.



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