



# Dauphin Island Sea Lab's MANATEE SIGHTING NETWORK

Fall/Winter 2016 Newsletter

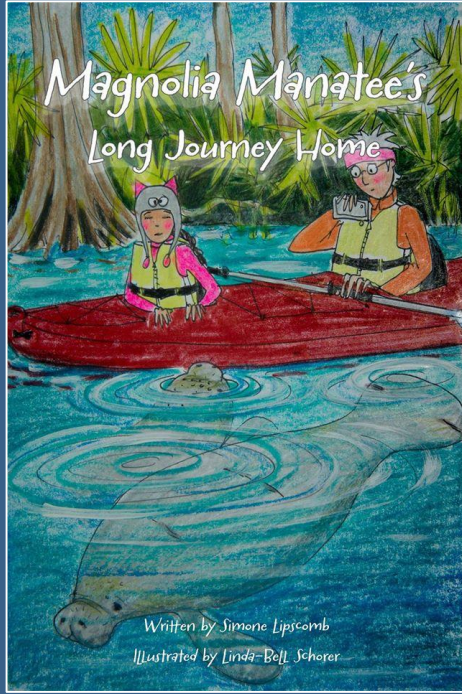


## New children's book tells story of manatee rescue!

The Manatee Sighting Network (MSN) is featured in a newly released children's book *Magnolia Manatee's Long Journey Home*, based on the true story of a manatee known as Magnolia, who was the first manatee in Alabama history to be successfully rescued after she became stranded in cold Alabama waters in January 2015.

The author, Simone Lipscomb, is a long-time MSN volunteer and was an integral member of Magnolia's rescue team. The book is illustrated by Linda-Bell Schorer. A portion of the proceeds from each sale will be donated to support MSN!

Get your copy today at [manatee.disl.org](http://manatee.disl.org)!



## Highlights

- *Magnolia Manatee's Long Journey Home*
- *Ellie manatee mortality*
- *New research presentations*
- *Manatees and cold-stress*
- *Upcoming outreach events*
- *Support MSN!*

## "Ellie" the manatee dies in Alabama waters



Credit: DISL/MSN

This July, MSN recorded a rare warm-season mortality in Alabama with the death of Ellie, a female manatee whose sighting history dates back to 1979, making her at least 39 years old.

Ellie was the first manatee ever captured in Alabama waters in 2009, and her frequent visits to Alabama during the last decade helped establish the northern Gulf of Mexico as important manatee habitat. She was often photographed in the company of other manatees and is known to have given birth to at least 10 calves since she was first identified in Crystal River, Florida.

Her death was reported by local fisherman near the mouth of Dog River, an area she was known to frequent. Following a necropsy at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Ellie's cause of death remains undetermined.



Credit: DISL/MSN



Credit: MSN Contributor

**Waters are becoming too cold for manatees in Alabama!**

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

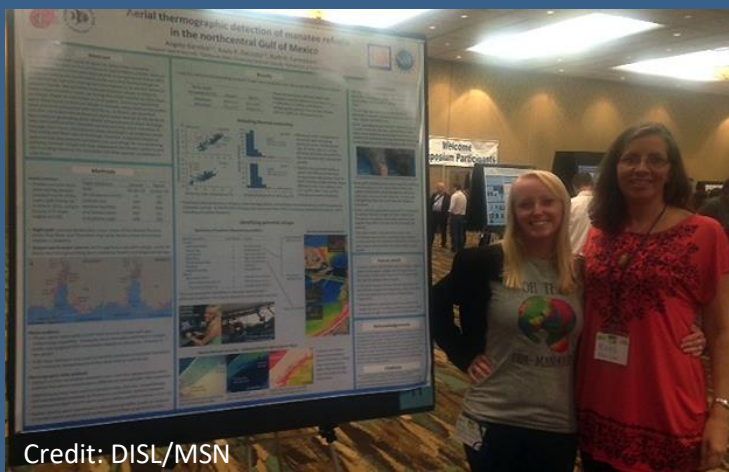
**Manatee.disl.org  
1-866-493-5803**

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

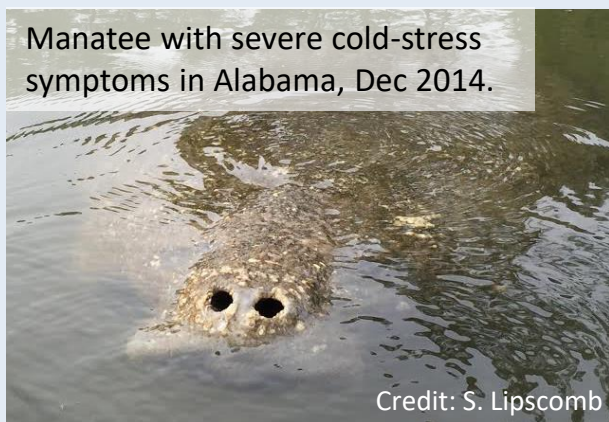
# MSN team presents new research

This fall, members of the MSN team traveled to two regional scientific meetings to present new research findings – the Gulf Estuarine Research Society (GERS) meeting at Pensacola Beach, FL and the Bays and Bayous Symposium in Biloxi, MS.

Presentation topics included manatee sighting demographics in AL and MS (MSN Manager *E. Hieb*), manatee use of shipping channels as travel corridors (MSN Director *R.H. Carmichael*, below right), using ear bone chemistry to understand manatee migration (PhD student *K. DaCosta*), and using thermal imaging to identify warm water refugia in AL (REU student *A. Garelick*, below left).



Manatee with severe cold-stress symptoms in Alabama, Dec 2014.



## Manatees and cold-stress

As water temperatures drop along the northern Gulf of Mexico coast, it is more important than ever to immediately report local manatee sightings to MSN. When waters cool below ~68°F (20°C), manatees can begin to experience cold-stress, which is the leading cause of death for manatees in this region. Symptoms of cold stress include skin discoloration and lesions, weight loss often characterized by a bony or “peanut-shaped” head, and presence of epibionts like algae due to decreased movement by the manatee. Typical stranding season begins Nov 15. Sightings after this date should be urgently reported at 1-866-493-5803.

## Help Support MSN

Tacky Jack's gift cards, T-shirts, Manatee plush toys, and NEW can huggers!

All available at [manatee.disl.org](http://manatee.disl.org)



Go Green! Receive our newsletter via email! Contact [manatee@disl.org](mailto:manatee@disl.org).

## Upcoming outreach events!

Mark your calendars to visit the MSN team & learn more about our work!

- Jan 31 **GCRL Science Café**  
Oceans Springs, MS
- Feb 10-12  
**Biloxi Boat Show**, Biloxi, MS
- Mar 23-26  
**The Wharf Boat & Yacht Show**  
Orange Beach, AL
- Mar 31 - Apr 2  
**Mobile Boat Show**, Mobile, AL
- Apr 8 **Discovery Day**  
Dauphin Island, AL
- Apr 29 **Delta Woods & Waters Expo**  
Spanish Fort, AL