

Official Biography: ROBIN

Artwork by Nancy Blauers

First Identified: 1980 **Mother:** Wonder Woman **Sex:** Male

Robin was born to a manatee named Wonder Woman on April 15, 1980. He stayed with his mother for two years, and he even continued to spend a great deal of time in her company after he was weaned (no longer nursing). At the time of his birth, Wonder Woman was being monitored in a radio-tracking program. That is why Robin is one of the few manatees born in the wild with a known birth date.

When a manatee is radio tagged, a belt is placed around the base of the manatee's tail, which is called the "peduncle." The belt attaches to a flexible nylon tether and a transmitter device that floats at the water's surface. This transmitter emits a signal that allows researchers to track the manatee's location so that they can follow that individual and learn important information about manatee behavior and habitat use. (This device is designed to break away if it becomes entangled.) The tag's location can only be determined when it is above the water's surface. Therefore, if a manatee is in deeper water, the signal cannot be located. Like his mother, Robin wore a tag for awhile, and he enjoyed sleeping in the deep water in the middle of the run, which left his tag submerged. The only time his tag could be detected was when he surfaced for air, which made him more challenging for researchers to locate.

Robin has a noticeable scar on his back, which is a deep gash he received from a boat hit when he was only three years old. Like most manatees

in the wild, Robin bears a number of scars all over his body from boat strikes. Due to the many scars on his tail, he has even been given the nickname of "Rag Tail." Though Robin's wounds have healed, these scars will always remain. Despite his past injuries, Robin remains a playful and active manatee, and he visits the spring regularly to enjoy the warm water during cold months.

Manatee season is officially November through March, but Robin is often "fashionably late" and arrives in December some years. He likes to travel, rest, and play with other manatees. As a rule, manatees are semi-social, somewhat solitary animals. But Robin seems more social than semi-social, and he is often seen in the company of fellow Save the Manatee Club adoptees Phyllis, Floyd, Philip, Merlin, Brutus, Dana, and Lily.

However, Robin is not a follower. One day, a group of manatees in the spring were startled by a loud noise, and they all headed downstream quickly toward the river. In the middle of them, undaunted, was Robin — working his way back upstream!



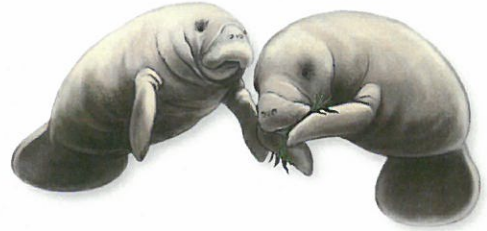
Blue Spring State Park is near Orange City, Florida, approximately 40 minutes northeast of Orlando. The spring's water naturally maintains a year-round temperature of 72°F and is an attractive winter refuge for manatees who seek this warm water when the St. Johns River and other surrounding waterways become too cold for them to tolerate.



Look for updates on Robin in the **Save the Manatee® Club** quarterly newsletter and visit www.savethemanatee.org for more information.

Photo courtesy Walker Stanberry.

Certificate of Adoption

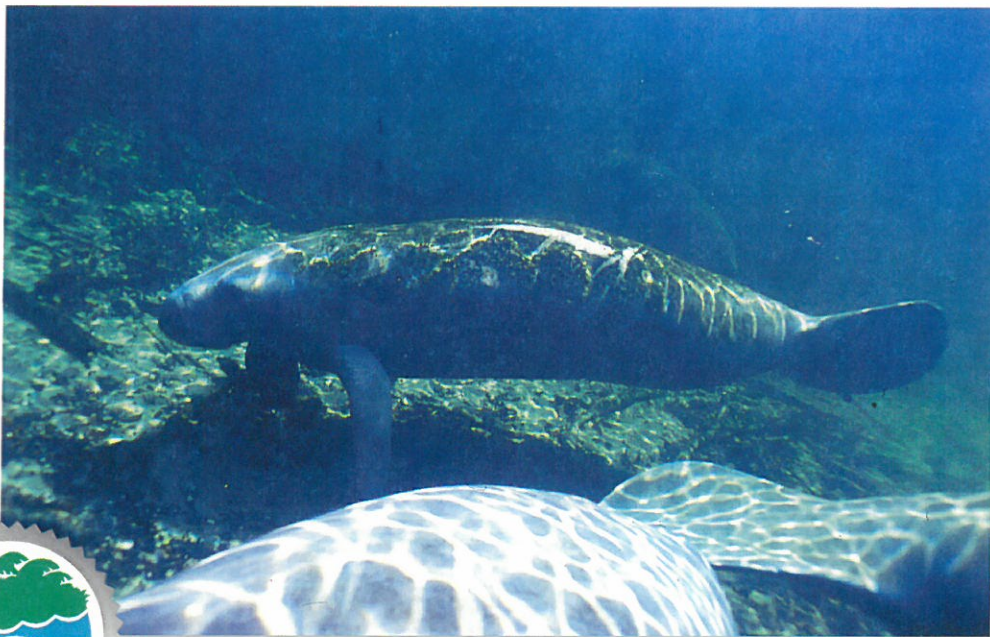


The bearer of this document is an Official Adoptive Parent of

ROBIN

an endangered West Indian manatee

at Blue Spring State Park



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jimmy Buffett".

Jimmy Buffett, Co-Chairman,
SMC Board of Directors

Save the Manatee® Club • www.savethemanatee.org

(Photo courtesy Walker Stanberry. Artwork by Nancy Blauers.)