

Palm Beach County

Fishing Foundation

*The charitable affiliate
of the West Palm Beach Fishing Club
- Est. 1934 -*



*“Creating a Legacy of
Education, Historic Preservation
& Marine Conservation for
Future Generations”*



INTRODUCTION

The Palm Beach County Fishing Foundation (PBCFF) was established to serve as the charitable affiliate of the West Palm Beach Fishing Club (WPBFC). For much of its storied history the WPBFC, founded in 1934, has fulfilled many important roles in the sport fishing community and been a tireless voice for conservation. However, the WPBFC's tax status limited the organization's ability to raise funds for its educational and conservation initiatives. In 1990, the board of directors took action to solve this dilemma by establishing a tax qualified 501(c) 3 charitable affiliate. As an extension of the fishing club, the PBCFF was created to address specific educational outreach needs and issues related to fishing and the health of our resources. There are few privately funded, locally based organizations which address all these issues. To accomplish its mission, the PBCFF conducts a variety of marine related programs and has achieved many significant conservation and educational milestones since inception. The following is a description of some of our current programs.



**THE MISSION OF THE
PALM BEACH COUNTY
FISHING FOUNDATION IS TO
FILL A COMMUNITY NEED
BY SUPPORTING EDUCATION,
CONSERVATION AND HISTORIC
PRESERVATION PROGRAMS
THAT HAVE A LASTING
BENEFICIAL IMPACT ON THE
YOUTH, MARINE RESOURCES
AND HISTORY OF PALM BEACH
COUNTY AND BEYOND.**

JOHN RYBOVICH ENDOWMENT

In 1992, the PBCFF Board of Directors approved the creation of the John Rybovich Endowment. This special fund was established to help ensure the financial stability and growth of the institution. To date,



over \$500,000 has been contributed. The principal is invested with a long-term balanced strategy. Funds are professionally managed and regularly audited. Only earnings are used to help support board approved projects. Our goal is to raise over one million dollars. Reaching this financial milestone will help perpetuate educational and conservation initiatives and will give the foundation the ability to launch new programs.

One way you can help grow the PBCFF's endowment is by becoming a member of the Rybovich Fellowship. Individuals or businesses can become a 'Rybovich Fellow' by making a contribution of \$1,000 or more specifically earmarked for the John Rybovich Endowment. Donors are recognized on the Rybovich Fellowship plaque displayed at the West Palm Beach Fishing Club. We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the individuals listed below and their interest in following the path John Rybovich began. We are honored to continue the Rybovich legacy of conservation through this endowment.

Rybovich Fellowship Members

**Howard & Sally Altizer • Stuart D. Baker
James D. Bishop, Sr. • Howard Bubis • Dawn Burkhead
Robert J. Callaway • Allan J. Carlton, Jr.
Frances Doucet • Sam Evert • The Family of Jim Ewing
Joe Fearnley • The Fleming Family Foundation
Bob Frevert • Kenneth Groves • Ken Hart
Arthur M. "Pro" Herbert • Catherine Jennings
John Jolley • Linda Jolley • Patrice Kaupe
Peter Kaupe • Sandra Kaupe • Dan Kleiser
Phil & Maryellen Lewis • Dr. Charles 'Buddy' Moore
Larry Mullins • R.E. "Ted" Naftzger
Capt. Al Nathan, III • Justine Nathan
The Nora Family • Howard & Nancy Paul
John J. Rybovich • Kay Rybovich • Bill & Sally Watson
Wes & Suzi Watson • F. Thomas Westcott
Don A. "Hap" Wilson • Serena S. Wilson
Shari Taylor Wilson • Gilbert & Betty Walker
Ethan, Sandie & Lyle Weitz • Marlin Younker**

SCHOLARSHIPS

The PBCFF annually awards marine biology scholarships at area universities. Since 1994, the PBCFF has presented a marine biology scholarship to a deserving undergraduate student at Palm Beach Atlantic University (PBAU). For well over a decade, the foundation has enjoyed a longstanding and positive relationship with PBAU's Biology Department faculty members.



In 2003, the PBCFF expanded its scholarship program by establishing the Capt. Al Nathan Memorial Scholarship for a marine biology graduate enrolled in Florida Atlantic University's (FAU) Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. Capt. Al Nathan

was a lifetime member of the West Palm Beach Fishing Club and active in many of the club's programs. We are thrilled to continue his legacy through this meaningful scholarship program.

In addition to our FAU and PBAU scholarships, we also contribute annually to other local educational institutions like the Riviera Beach Maritime Academy, a vocational school preparing students for work in the marine industry.

RODS & REELS FOR KIDS

Dedicated in memory of Jim Ewing



The PBCFF's *Rods & Reels for Kids* program was developed in 2001 under the leadership of the late Jim Ewing. The goal of this program is simply to place fishing tackle into the hands of kids and local youth groups that do not have adequate resources to obtain their own gear. To date, more than 1,200 rod and

reel outfits have been donated to kids from throughout the region including Boys & Girls Clubs, Cub Scouts, and municipal recreation departments. The PBCFF collects used fishing tackle year-round from the public and fishing club volunteers refurbish the gear for distribution. New tackle is also purchased when necessary.

EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS



A variety of youth groups regularly visit our historic facility to learn about the marine environment. Grade schoolers to college students use our facility as a field

trip destination because of the impressive collection of fish mounts and historical memorabilia. The PBCFF also conducts specialized fishing seminars that promote new conservation techniques, such as proper catch & release methodology and the use of circle hooks. Promoting ethical angling practices is one of the PBCFF's priorities.

ADVOCACY & SUPPORT

The PBCFF/WPBFC is an active advocate for issues relating to sustainable fishery management practices and habitat protection. We are frequently solicited to submit comments to fishery managers and government agencies on a variety of issues. We also host meetings with various resource managing agencies. Additionally, the PBCFF supports other organizations like the Coastal Conservation Association, National Coalition for Marine Conservation and The Billfish Foundation.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Founded in 1934, the West Palm Beach Fishing Club is one of the oldest and largest institutions



of its kind in the country. Our facility was added to the West Palm Beach Register of Historic Places in 1998. The building has become a repository of sport fishing memorabilia, trophy game fish mounts and historical photographs which document the evolution of fishing in the region. As the curator of archives, the PBCFF is taking steps to preserve the history of sport fishing in the region and our unique role in Florida's history. National historic site designation is being pursued.



KID'S FISHING DAY

This is all about introducing kids to fishing and our marine environment! Since 1988, the Palm Beach County Fishing Foundation, along with the assistance of volunteers and important community partners like the Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County, has conducted an annual *Kid's Fishing Day* program. Each year, hundreds of less fortunate, at-risk and special needs children from throughout Palm Beach County experience what most of us take for granted, a day of boating and fishing on the ocean. It takes three days and 12 separate drift boat trips to get all the kids on the water. More importantly, because of this program's strong educational component, the

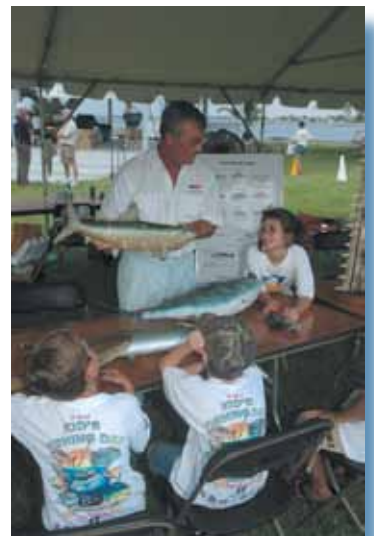
kids learn all about our marine environment and why we need to protect it. This is accomplished through a variety of hands-on educational stations based on land, which includes the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission's Marine Touch Tank.

To date, over 11,000 special kids have participated in this heartwarming community outreach event. The program is free of charge to those who participate and is made possible each year through the generosity of many sponsors and volunteers. Each child receives an event t-shirt, lunch, drinks, dessert, and an official certificate of participation. If that wasn't enough, every kid goes home with a brand new fishing rod and reel. Of course, each child walks away with special memories of a fun day on the water and a better understanding of our unique marine environment.

For many, this ocean adventure is a first time experience. Seeing flying fish, sea turtles and large oceanic predators like sharks is a thrill not soon forgotten! We believe programs like our *Kid's Fishing Day* help build better citizens and environmental stewards for the future.

“Your Kid's Day is the model for the rest of the United States.”

- Mr. Bill Cole
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 1996



HABITAT INITIATIVES



Palm Beach County has experienced tremendous coastal growth over the last sixty years. As a result, loss of natural marine and estuarine habitat, increased fishing pressure and other environmental stressors have all contributed to a depletion of biodiversity and abundance. The PBCFF has identified and helped initiate specific projects designed to help improve our marine environment. In the 1960's, under the leadership of John Rybovich, it was the West Palm Beach Fishing Club that first launched Palm Beach County's artificial reef program. Today, the PBCFF continues to be actively involved in the program and members serve on the Artificial Reef Committee. We continue to partner with Palm Beach County's Environmental Resources Management Department on reef-building projects. One area of particular focus has been habitat enhancement in the Lake Worth Lagoon. Over 85% of this area's mangrove fringe, mud flats and oyster & sea grass beds have been destroyed or altered due to bulkhead development, dredge and fill operations and degraded water quality. The PBCFF

regularly assists with mangrove and oyster enhancement projects. This program aiding local governmental efforts to improve the Lake Worth Lagoon represents cooperation with the private sector to benefit all taxpayers. The PBCFF has also established a coral reef restoration fund supporting response efforts to damaged reefs and the addition of mooring buoys that serve to limit impacts on the reef system. The potential to mitigate environmental damage and increase healthy habitat is significant. The PBCFF will continue to play an important role.

***“The old ideas
on how we
manage,
protect &
restore marine
resources haven't
always worked.
We're interested
and willing to
try new ideas
that will.”***

*- John Jolley,
PBCFF Scientific
Advisor*

METHODS OF GIVING:

Your support is needed. The Palm Beach County Fishing Foundation (PBCFF) depends upon donations to fulfill its mission. Contributions can be specified to fund current programs & projects, or can be earmarked to support the endowment fund. Charitable gifts can be made through several methods:

Cash Donations

This form of donating is the most popular and familiar. Simply write a check made payable to the PBCFF. This is the most popular form of giving for programs like *Kid's Fishing Day*.

Memorial Contributions

Create a lasting legacy in memory of a friend or family member by making charitable contributions on their behalf. Donations can be earmarked to support specific PBCFF programs.

Bequests of Wills & Living Trusts

By naming the PBCFF as a recipient in a Will or Living Trust, estate tax exposure may be reduced. The PBCFF has a standard Codicil to Will form that can be furnished to donors who are interested in amending their Will to support the PBCFF.

Stocks, Bonds & Mutual Funds

Donations of securities are an excellent way to support the PBCFF. This form of giving can be particularly beneficial for donors if they have stocks that have appreciated in value. The full current market value of the stock is tax deductible, not just the original investment. Thus donors can avoid capital gains taxes. Consult your tax advisor and broker regarding this type of contribution.

Property

Both real estate and personal property qualify. Year-round donations of unwanted fishing tackle and marine related items are what support the annual *Marine Yard Sale*, a PBCFF fund raising event. Donations of old fish mounts, antique tackle & other fishing memorabilia support ongoing historic preservation efforts.



PALM BEACH COUNTY FISHING FOUNDATION
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