

Official Biography: DEEP DENT

First Identified: 1979 **Mother:** Unknown **Sex:** Male

Deep Dent was an adult when he first appeared at Blue Spring State Park in the winter of 1979. It is unknown where he had wintered in previous years, but since 1979 he has come back to Blue Spring for many winter seasons. Deep Dent received his name based on the deep “dent-like” propeller wound in his tail. He has also received a similar dent-like wound on his head. These scars make him easily identifiable and are a reminder that manatees are no match for fast moving watercraft.

Deep Dent is known to be a little bit shy. When park rangers come out in the early morning to identify and count the manatees, Deep Dent will sometimes swim away and lie very close to the far bank to avoid the research canoe. Other days, though, he doesn't react to the approaching canoe at all – it seems to depend on his mood!

Deep Dent can often be found alone, but this is not that unusual for manatees. They are semi-social, which means they are equally likely to be spotted alone or in the company of other manatees. Manatees sometimes travel in small, informal groups, but they have no leader or real herd structure. When manatees gather, it is mainly due to common habitat requirements like warm water and food, or for mating.



Deep Dent does sometimes travel with companions and has been seen arriving at and departing from Blue Spring with other SMC adoptees including Lenny, Troy, Floyd, and Lucille.

While Deep Dent might be considered a quiet manatee, he has a definite sense of adventure. He has a “wanderlust” that leads him to occasionally skip a winter season at Blue Spring, or to take off early for other destinations. It is not unusual for manatees to occasionally “miss”

a season, perhaps to explore an alternate warm water site. Deep Dent once missed five consecutive seasons at Blue Spring,

only to reappear during the sixth season – much to the relief of the researchers and rangers. Using Photo ID, it was determined that Deep Dent had traveled as far south as the Riviera Beach power plant in Palm Beach County, on the Atlantic coast of Florida, during at least one of his “missing” seasons – quite a long swim from Blue Spring!

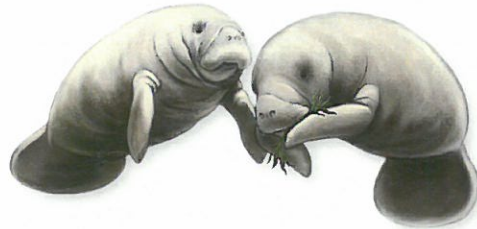
Blue Spring State Park is near Orange City, Florida, approximately 40 minutes northeast of Orlando. The spring's water naturally maintains a year round temperature of 72°F and is an attractive winter refuge for manatees who seek this warm water when the St. Johns River and other surrounding waterways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



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

Photo courtesy U.S. Geological Survey, Sirenia Project.

Certificate of Adoption



The bearer of this document is an Official Adoptive Parent of

DEEP DENT

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

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(Photo courtesy U.S. Geological Survey, Sirenia Project. Artwork by Nancy Blauers.)