



Artwork by Nancy Blauers

Official Biography: PHYLLIS

First Identified: 1988 **Mother:** Unknown, Possibly Phoebe **Sex:** Female

On November 3, 1988, a new manatee, estimated to be between two and three years old, arrived at Blue Spring State Park. The rangers named her Phyllis. It was noted by the park's rangers that she had a very similar shape to another manatee named Beebe, along with a similar scar on her tail. She was also the right age. Beebe was born to Phoebe in the fall of 1985, and Phoebe brought her calf to Blue Spring for the winter. After that time, Beebe was never seen again at Blue Spring. Is Phyllis the missing Beebe? No one knows for sure.

In general, the reproductive rate for manatees is low. One calf is usually born every two to five years, and twins are rare. For this reason, it was very exciting when Phyllis arrived at Blue Spring on November 5, 1991 with not just one, but two calves! Her twin boys were named Bartram and Bertram after two famous explorers of the nearby St. Johns River. Both calves are quite grown up now, and they are known for being playful and active. Phyllis has had at least 10 other calves since that time: Phollie, Pepper, Phire, Phalcon, Pipi, Tonka, Biker, and Blue. Phyllis has actually given birth to two of her calves right in the spring run at Blue Spring, and she also has two "grandcalves" by her daughter Phalcon. (Please note that Phyllis' children and grandchildren are not in the SMC adoption program.)



When her own calves are not keeping her busy, Phyllis regularly nurses other young manatees. This is not unusual, as female manatees will often look after and nurse the calves of other mothers. One of Phyllis' adopted calves was the grandson of a fellow Save the Manatee Club (SMC) adoptee named Lucille. Phyllis has been known to care for up to two other calves at a time in addition to her own little one.

Phyllis is a regular visitor to Blue Spring during the cold winter months, and she often comes in more times than the other manatees. In fact, she has earned the title of "attendance champion" several times. That means she put in more appearances at morning "roll call" (when the rangers count and identify the manatees) than any other manatee that season. Phyllis has been known to put in 40 to 50 visits each winter. From time to time, she will even come to visit the spring during the summer months.

Phyllis is a playful, friendly manatee who likes to socialize with other manatees. She has often been spotted in the company of fellow SMC adoptees Lucille, Doc, Floyd, Nick, Philip, Flash, Merlin, Robin, Lily, and Howie.

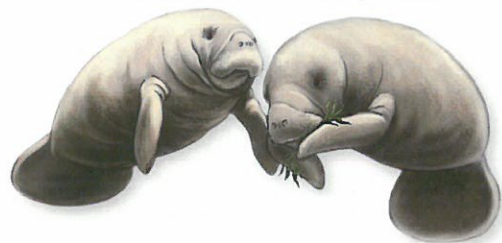
Blue Spring State Park is near Orange City, Florida, approximately 40 minutes northeast of Orlando. The spring's water naturally maintains a year-round temperature of 72°F and is an attractive winter refuge for manatees who seek this warm water when the St. Johns River and other waterways become too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



Look for updates on Phyllis 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

PHYLLIS

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.)