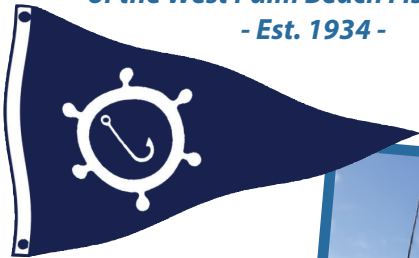


Palm Beach County

FISHING FOUNDATION

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



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



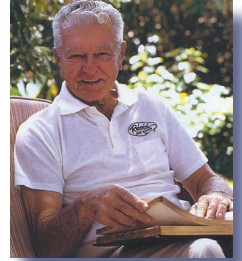
INTRODUCTION

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 has 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 and focused, organizations which address 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 its inception. The following is a description of current programs.



**THE MISSION OF THE
PALM BEACH COUNTY
FISHING FOUNDATION IS TO
FILL CRITICAL COMMUNITY
NEEDS THROUGH FISHING
RELATED EDUCATION,
CONSERVATION AND HISTORIC
PRESERVATION 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. The principal is invested with a long-term balanced strategy. Funds are professionally managed and regularly audited. Only interest & dividend earnings are used to help support board approved projects. To date the balance is over \$1,000,000. A new goal of \$2,000,000 has been set. Reaching this financial milestone will help perpetuate educational and conservation initiatives. Continued growth will give the foundation the ability to launch new programs and respond to community needs as they arise.

You can help grow the PBCFF's endowment by becoming a member of the Rybovich Fellowship. Individuals or businesses can become a 'Rybovich Fellow' by making a contribution of \$2,500 or more specifically earmarked for the John Rybovich Endowment. We are honored to continue the Rybovich legacy of conservation and education through this endowment.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION



Founded in 1934, the venerable and award winning WPBFC 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 U.S. Department of Interior listed the WPBFC on the National Register of Historic Places in 2016. The building has become a repository of sport fishing memorabilia, trophy game fish mounts and historical photographs documenting the evolution of fishing in the region. As the curator of archives, the PBCFF is taking steps to preserve the history of sport fishing and our unique role in Florida's history.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The PBCFF annually awards scholarships at area universities and high schools. The PBCFF has presented a marine biology scholarship to a deserving undergraduate student at Palm Beach Atlantic University (PBAU) since 1995. The foundation continues to enjoy its longstanding and positive relationship with PBAU's Biology Department faculty members.



In 2003, the PBCFF established the Capt. Al Nathan Memorial Scholarship for a marine biology graduate student enrolled in Florida Atlantic University's (FAU) Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. Capt. Nathan was a lifetime member of the WPBFC and supported many of the club's initiatives. In 2019, the PBCFF further expanded its scholarship program with the creation of the Dennis G. Punches Marine Science Fund at FAU. This special fund provides an annual \$10,000 gift for FAU graduate students conducting studies and/or related projects involving marine fish data collection using acoustic telemetry. This award at FAU embodies Mr. Punches spirit of helping students pursue their educational goals and expanding our knowledge of the marine environment he loved so much.

In addition to scholarships at area universities, the PBCFF also contributes annually to the City of Riviera Beach Scholarship Fund and the Forest Hill High School - Friends of the Gale Academy of Environmental Science and Technology program in memory of Leah Schad.

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, over 2,000 rod and reel outfits have been donated throughout the region including Boys & Girls Clubs, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and municipal recreation departments. Aside from purchasing new rods and reels to outfit these groups, the PBCFF collects used tackle year-round from the public and fishing club volunteers refurbish the gear for distribution.

ADVOCACY & SUPPORT

The PBCFF/WPBFC is an active advocate for issues relating to fair and sustainable fishery management practices and habitat protection. We frequently submit comments to fishery managers and government agencies on a variety of issues. We also host meetings with various resource managing agencies and other marine related organizations and businesses to further encourage communication and cooperation. Additionally, the PBCFF supports other organizations like the Coastal Conservation Association, Wild Oceans, The Billfish Foundation, and IGFA. Members continue to serve on various local, state and federal boards and advisory panels.

GAME FISH RESEARCH



The WPBFC and PBCFF has a long history of collaboration with the scientific community and game fish research efforts. In fact, a state operated marine laboratory was once housed inside our historic facility. Our ties with the marine science community remain strong. Through the years the WPBFC/PBCFF has supported various cooperative game fish tagging efforts for snook, dolphin, sailfish and more. In 2019, the PBCFF embarked on a new game fish research partnership with the FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) lab in Tequesta, Florida. The PBCFF supports ongoing game fish research by purchasing acoustic telemetry receivers and transmitter tags which are donated to the lab. The PBCFF is helping expand an acoustic array that monitors the movements and behavior of tagged species of fish and other marine animals like sea turtles. Some receivers are stationed at our *Reef Dart* locations to assist with the monitoring of these artificial reefs. Our support is contributing to a coast-wide data collection effort being conducted by numerous researchers all along the Atlantic seaboard. The PBCFF continues to collaborate with the FWRI lab to increase the number of acoustic receivers stationed off our coast and the number of fish tagged with transmitter tags. These efforts help gather important data that is used to sustainably manage marine species.

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Produced in Memory of Don A. 'Hap' Wilson

The PBCFF is cultivating the next generation of knowledgeable and responsible saltwater anglers through a hands on instructional fishing experience called S.A.L.T.Y. (Saltwater Angling Lessons & Techniques for Youth). The program targets area youth, ages 12 to 15, who participate with a parent or adult chaperone in the two-day course. Recognizing that there



was a community need, the PBCFF developed this program for kids who have the desire to get into saltwater fishing, but their parents just don't know how to get started. The S.A.L.T.Y. program was created to fill that void.

The two-day course consists of a Friday evening introduction and hands-on rigging session at the historic West Palm Beach Fishing Club, followed the next day with on the water



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"I could not wait to express our gratitude. Our grandson came home so excited to share all that he learned and enjoyed during the S.A.L.T.Y. program. His dad also has an interest in fishing but does not know much about it, so this was an awesome experience for both of them"

*– S.A.L.T.Y. participant
grandparent*

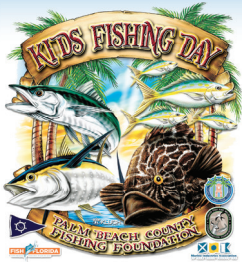
instruction and fishing aboard a chartered drift boat offshore. A nominal program fee includes personalized instruction, various supplies, t-shirt, meals, snacks, drinks and a new Penn rod and reel. Additional S.A.L.T.Y. programs that offer instruction on more advanced angling techniques are planned for the future. The S.A.L.T.Y. program helps strengthen the bonds between parent and child by teaching them valuable skills they can use in the life-long activity of fishing.



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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, including a marine touch tank.

To date, over 14,000 area youth 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 vol-

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

*- Mr. Bill Cole
Former U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Fishery Manager & Scientist*

unteers. 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 and barracuda is a thrill not soon forgotten! We believe programs like our *Kid's Fishing Day* help build better citizens and responsible environmental stewards for the future.



HABITAT INITIATIVES



Palm Beach County has experienced tremendous coastal growth over the last seventy-five years. As a result, loss of natural marine and estuarine habitat, diminished water quality, 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 1960s, under the leadership of John Rybovich, the West Palm Beach Fishing Club created Palm Beach County's first artificial reef. Today, the PBCFF remains actively involved and is a frequent partner with Palm Beach County's Department of Environmental Resources Management on reef building projects. Another area of 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.

Rybovich Endowment Reef



REEF DARTS



In 2017, the PBCFF initiated its *Reef Dart* program, an innovative reef building effort using repurposed concrete utility poles and culverts that might otherwise end up in area land fills. Surplus materials are donated by local contractors, utility companies, municipalities and the county. Financial donations from the private sector cover engineering, construction, monitoring and other costs. Palm Beach County, a project partner, handles permitting and deployment costs. When deployed, *Reef Darts* settle in a vertical orientation on the sea floor creating high profile marine fish habitat where none previously existed. Each *Reef Dart* weighs approximately 8 to 10 tons, some measuring over 45 feet in height. *Reef Darts* provide critical fish habitat and fishing reefs that can be deployed in all depths of water. Baitfish, amberjack, barracuda, snapper and grouper, along with invertebrates, are among the species benefitting from previous deployments.

Reef Dart sites have been established in two locations offshore Palm Beach County. Our goal is to continue to experiment and develop the *Reef Dart* program creating new habitat not only in shallow depths, but also deep water environments where additional hard structure habitat is

“The potential biological benefits in deep water are tremendous. The Reef Dart concept could become a template for other coastal communities.”

critically needed for a variety of overfished species of fish. The PBCFF's *Reef Dart* program is filling the need to develop a cost effective program that repurposes readily available material into valuable fish habitat thereby reducing pressure on natural reefs.

- Jim Barry, former Palm Beach County Environmental Director



EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

The PBCFF conducts specialized fishing seminars that promote new conservation techniques, such as proper catch and release methodology and the use of circle hooks. Promoting ethical angling practices is one of the PBCFF's priorities. The development of our snook sling, which enables anglers to ethically weigh and release fish, is one example.

Additionally, 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.



TAKING VETERANS FISHING

The PBCFF assists the West Palm Beach Waterfront Warriors organization annually by coordinating a blue water fishing excursion off the Palm Beaches for visiting military veterans, their families and support staff. With generous support from Fishing Club members who donate the use of their sportfishing boats as well as the Miss Blue Heron drift fishing charter boat, these vets are able to enjoy a unique outing with family and friends in an atmosphere far removed from the stress associated with their recovery from military service. For many of the participants, this is a first time experience.



The PBCFF is honored to be able to give something back to veterans who have sacrificed so much for our country.

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 or donate online at www.westpalmbeachfishingclub.org. 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 (including unwanted fishing gear)

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

the charitable affiliate of the West Palm Beach Fishing Club

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