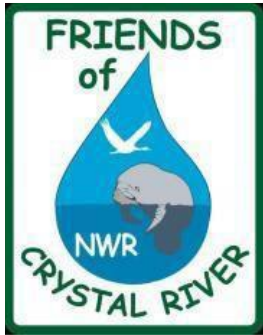


The Friends of Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Inc.
Nature Coast Lecture Series



Crystal River Coastal Region Library
8619 West Crystal St., Crystal River
Tuesday, April 14, 2020
5:30 - 6:45 p.m.

Visit our website: www.friendsofcrystalriver.org



Manatee Rescues

Jim Valade, Assistant Refuge Manager, Crystal River NWR Complex



Florida manatees were first protected through Florida State Law in 1893. Efforts to actively rescue manatees in the United States date back to the 1950s. Today, manatees are protected by the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act and are federally protected by both the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began organized manatee rescue activities in the mid-1970s. Since this time, the Service and partners have rescued hundreds of manatees in Florida, along the Gulf Coast, and in coastal areas of the eastern United States. Jim Valade will give an overview of the National Manatee Rescue Program and activities.

Jim Valade is the Crystal River NWRC's Assistant Refuge Manager. As a wildlife biologist, Jim first started working with manatees in 1978. He worked for many years as a field biologist and subsequently became the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Manatee Recovery Coordinator. One of his many responsibilities as coordinator included oversight for national manatee rescue activities.

