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FLORIDA WEEKLY
PALM BEACH EDITION

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Unique Monthly Visitors: 20,059
February 20, 2025

Coffee and seagrass

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SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY



Manatee Coffee was inspired by its founders' connection to Florida's waters. MANATEE COFFEE / COURTESY PHOTOS

Friends of Manatee Lagoon is partnering with Manatee Coffee, a family-owned, Florida-based coffee company, to improve manatee protection efforts.

The partnership will help the organization to continue educating people about the critical role of seagrass in manatee well-being. It will also provide volunteer training to create seagrass mats to be planted in the Lake Worth Lagoon to support restoring this vital Florida habitat.

Seagrass restoration is crucial for manatees because seagrass beds are their primary food source. When seagrass habitats degrade due to pollution, boat damage or climate change, it can lead to a reduction in food for manatees and other species.

“We are delighted to partner with Manatee Coffee, a company whose mission aligns so seamlessly with our own,” says Anne Messer, Friends of Manatee Lagoon executive director. “Collaborations like this are vital in expanding the reach of our educational and conservation programs,

and we are excited about the possibilities
this partnership will bring.”



Seagrass restoration is crucial for manatees because seagrass beds are their primary food source. FRIENDS OF MANATEE LAGOON / COURTESY PHOTOS

Manatee Coffee was inspired by its founders' connection to Florida's waters. Brothers Brad and Cary Gutwein boated along the coastal waters. As they learned more about the area's ecosystem, they learned about manatees and their endangered status, motivating them to explore ways to support and protect their habitats.

Manatee Coffee has donated more than \$75,000 to trusted organizations dedicated to marine life and conservation in Florida.

“At Manatee Coffee, our mission has always been to support the preservation of these gentle giants and their habitats,” says Nick Thompson, director of marketing at Manatee Coffee. “Partnering with Friends of Manatee Lagoon allows us to amplify our impact and further engage the community in conservation efforts. Every sip of our coffee is a step towards protecting Florida’s manatees and promoting healthier marine ecosystems.”

For more visit,
friendsofmanateelagoon.org. |



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. Manatee Lagoon is located along the Lake Worth Lagoon estuary south of the Port of Palm Beach in West Palm Beach.