

# MANATEES AND MERMAIDS

**DR. JAMES "BUDDY"  
POWELL**

The manatee, a marine mammal in the biological order Sirenia, has a distinctive appearance that probably led to the myth of mermaids. People have long been fascinated by these animals. But their existence in Florida and elsewhere is threatened. This noted biologist will talk about manatees and the efforts to save them.



Dr. James "Buddy" Powell is one of the world's leading experts on manatees. Buddy was a high school student when Jacques Cousteau hired him as a guide to find manatees in Crystal River. Over the following four decades, Buddy's work has led to protections for manatees and their habitats in Florida, West Africa, Central America, and Cuba. While Buddy's lived and studied all over the world, he remains a steadfast Floridian at heart. Buddy has truly found his calling at Clearwater Marine Aquarium, where he serves as the Executive Director of the Research Institute, which functions as the scientific and conservation division of the organization. In 2021, Buddy was appointed President of the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, and served as interim CEO from November 2021 to September 2022.

**GREAT HALL  
FEBRUARY 16TH  
FROM 12-1 P.M.**

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