Tampa Bay Veg Fest’s 8th annual celebration of all things plant-based and vegan at Cotanchobee Fort Brooke Park! Featuring nationally renowned speakers, 100 veg-friendly vendors/exhibitors, animal rescue groups, vegan food, raw/cooking demonstrations, humane education, live music and entertainment, yoga classes, film screenings, a scavenger hunt appropriate for all ages, and activities for children and families, the event offers a diverse experience for all to learn about healthy, compassionate, and environmentally sustainable living.

Goals for Veg Fest

The goals of VegFest are to support people on their journey of learning about vegan living and to promote a vegan lifestyle in a non-judgmental, empowering, and positive environment. VegFest also supports people who have already chosen a veg lifestyle by offering validation and information to reinforce their healthy and compassionate choices.

Features for this Year

We are excited to announce that John Corry, the producer of Forks Over Knives and PlantPure Nation will be facilitating a discussion and film screening at the Tampa Bay History Center. Information about parking & transportation and more details about activities at the event will be available on the TBVF website soon (the new site will be mobile-friendly)!

Volunteers Needed

We are grateful for volunteers who wish to participate in setting up and breaking down the event, sharing info to attendees, assisting with parking, taking photos, helping at the kids’ zone, and other volunteer tasks!

New Friends

Tampa Bay Veg Fest is presented by Florida Voices for Animals. This year, FVA has partnered with the non-profit organization Solutionary Events, an educational outreach organization committed to creating healthy, compassionate, and regenerative communities through helping with coordinating socially responsible vegan events, focused on solutions.
FVA Events

Florida Voices For Animals has adopted Al Lopez Park and we get together every quarter to clean it up. Not only does FVA care for the animals, but we also care for the animals’ habitat—that includes the environment.

By removing trash which could potentially be hazardous or lethal to the wildlife, we intend to leave the earth better than we found it.

Help Needed! At least to help feed some homeless kitties

There are 2 colonies of homeless kitties (total: 14-15) in Al Lopez Park (near the Stadium) that a few compassionate FVA members have been feeding for many, many months now but we could use a little help with feeding these kitties. Luckily, all have been neutered or spayed, but most are essentially unadoptable.

Presently a FVA member stops by the Park, once daily—usually between 5-8 pm.—to drop off some food for the cats. But we certainly could use some more help with this life-sustaining activity. If anyone thinks they might be able to stop by the Park once a week, or even 1-2 times a month—any day of the week -- to leave some food for these homeless victims please contact Tom Bird, FVA member, (813) 287-0468; email: clarencebird@gmail.com. Free cat food is available for these kitties. It only takes about ½ hour of your time to feed the homeless ones but it means life or death to them.

Thanks to all,

Tom Bird

MESSAGE FROM THE ORGANIZERS OF THANKSVEGAN: WE ARE TAKING A BREAK THIS YEAR

For the first time since 2005, we are not able to organize a ThanksVegan event in Tampa Bay. Each of us has a personal challenge – medical, financial or familial – requiring intense focus and time. We need a break.

What began as a simple potluck for a few friends has grown into a grand feast for 350+ people involving months of planning and preparation, over 60 volunteers, and a lot of hard work before, during and after the event. It has become a big production!

Is it time to rethink ThanksVegan? Has the vegan community grown so much that we need more than one event in Tampa Bay? We are open to new ideas and new leadership.

If you are interested in organizing a vegan Thanksgiving event this year, we’ll be happy to share all that we’ve learned and, for sure, all of the “stuff” we’ve been storing in our garages for many years.

So, this Thanksgiving, invite your friends and family, cook some good vegan food together, and celebrate compassion in your own special way. Don’t forget the Coco Whip!

To reach us, e-mail: thanksvegan@gmail.com.

Joan Zacharias

FVA’s BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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Shark Dragged by Speeding Boat

In late July, a video surfaced online, garnering widespread national attention overnight. This video featured a shark, tied by the dorsal fin to the rear of a fishing boat, being dragged full-speed through the wake. The shark was alive and conscious, and experienced every agonizing second of this sick ordeal until it finally gave out. The video also featured four men aboard the boat, who had obviously intentionally orchestrated this horrendous spectacle. These men looked back at their design – a living, feeling creature enduring unimaginable torment in the last moments of its life – with a bizarre and terrifying amusement, their eyes and smiles and laughter indicating clearly that they were keenly aware of the suffering the shark was enduring by their hands, and that this apparent suffering brought them enjoyment, and pride, and a disgusting sense of camaraderie.

Public outrage over this video swelled quickly, with many thousands of people demanding that these horrible men be brought to justice for their crimes. And as public attention grew, new information came to light, which elucidated not only a long history of barbaric animal abuse by these men, but also an all-too-common example of high public office serving as a family-wide license to act in the manner of the depraved and the deplorable.

Two of these men were identified via social media as Michael Wenzel and Robert Benac of Manatee County. Thanks to the institution of social media, photographic evidence of numerous previous instances of animal abuse were uncovered and shared with the world. These instances included pouring beer into the mouth of a grouper and the gills of a shark, manhandling a terrific pelican, fishing for and killing an spotted eagle ray (a protected species), and posing with what was self-alleged to be a dead dog to be used for “bait”. In each photograph of each instance, the same joy, bloodlust, and satisfaction were plainly visible on the vile faces of these vile men, as well as in the comments on these photographs among them and their vile friends.

Thanks to Florida public record availability, it was also revealed that the mother of Robert Benac is the chair of the Manatee County Commission, and that Michael Wenzel has previously been under FWC investigation regarding the aforementioned manhandling of a pelican, with no charges filed despite apparent photo evidence. The high connections these men appear to enjoy have been the object of considerable suspicion regarding the lack of substantial sanction for the animal abuse publicly, consistently, and frequently committed by these men. We are of the resolute opinion that these men are a menace to every animal they encounter and to the local society in which they reside. We are also of the informed and empirically justified understanding that people who exhibit this manner of sadistic behavior toward animals will likewise exact this same sociopathic violence toward people in their lives – most often toward those unable to adequately defend themselves, namely women and children. We, therefore, formally and unanimously call for legal sanctions to be levied against Michael Wenzel, Robert Benac, and the two other men in the referenced video at a magnitude commensurate with not only the magnitude of their crimes, but also with the intensity of the pleasure generated by said crimes, as well as the likelihood that such behavior will continue in the future. We stand by the plainly obvious fact that these men are degenerate sociopaths and must receive incarceration as punishment for their many crimes, not only in pursuit of justice for the animals they mercilessly tortured, but also as an appropriate safety measure for the community they currently infect.

Please do your part to stand up to these monsters. A petition demanding appropriate punishment can be found on Change.org – please submit your name. Additionally, please write to the FWC and the Governor’s Office and respectfully declare your position on this issue. We will never bring back the lives of the animals caught in the hateful wake of these men’s pleasure pursuits, but together we can demand justice for the lives they stole.

Brian Brown
Hurricane Irma hits Tampa Bay area, September 10, 2017

Hurricane Irma signaled its approach by causing the waters to recede away from the shorelines. This is Bayshore Blvd with downtown Tampa skyline in the distance.

In the wake of Hurricane Irma, looters targeted the Humane Society of Tampa Bay (HSTB), 3607 N Armenia Ave, Tampa. They took over $2000 worth of equipment and supplies from their shed. If you would like to help donate to HSTB, please visit http://give.humanesocietytampa.org
Hurricane Irma, continued

The Humane Society of Pinellas (HSP) 3040 State Road 590, Clearwater, got damaged by Hurricane Irma. Estimated cost is $15000. If you would like to help donate, please visit their website www.humanesocietyofpinellas.org and click on the Hurricane Irma Relief button or call 727-797-7722

Sarasota in Defense of Animals (SDA) Animal Sanctuary also got damaged by Hurricane Irma. They have posted a GoFundMe with a goal of $5000. If you would like to help donate, please visit their website www.gofundme.com/sdahurricane-com
FVA In Action!

Dear FVA members, friends & readers, once again we would like to share with you our activities, scheduled on our FVA meet-up for the 3rd Quarter this year. We now have almost 2,827 people signed up as interested in our group and activities. Again, you can see, we do have a variety of opportunities for you to become involved in and get to meet us. Again, many people sign up, but often only a few show up. Please join our meetup, please sign up for events that you are interested in, then PLEASE attend the events and help the animals. If for some reason you find that you are unable to attend an event, would you be kind enough to change the RSVP? This will help us to better know what type of attendance to expect and what events are more supported. THANK YOU from FVA and the animals.

FVA in the News this year!

4/3 -Cathy Unruh & Myriam Parham interviewed by former Tampa Mayor, Dick Greco on the News Hour with Dick Greco WWBA 820 AM News Radio Show produced & co-hosted by Dan Maduri. Discussed FVA, many animal issues, including the ending of Ringling circus, Veg Fest and more including eating vegan for health, the animals & the environment.

Other Media by Ellen Jaffe Jones that mentions FVA:
Weekly: Facebook Lunch Dates Live With Ellen Jaffe Jones Wednesdays 3 pm EST & The Dr. Don Show Vegan Myth Busters Segment Tuesdays 3:30 pm MST Live streaming KAAA/KZZZ.

FVA in the Community/Tableings:
6/17 - FVA Tabling at Solutionary Peace Walk & Festival, Eola Park, Orlando - Jenna Bardroff, Kevin Layton, Brian Brown, Diane Koon, Suzanne House, Marie Galbraith
6/24 - Free "Energy Healing" for Advocates & Caregivers by Maria Bott at New Leaf Elementals, donations collected to help with FVA's annual Thanksvegan
6/25 – FVA tabling at St Pete Pride Festival – Diane Koon, Marie Galbraith, Jim Janolek, Chris Katz & Jackie Grimes attended & helped
6/28 – Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners Meeting RE: dog training ordinance, Suzanne House attended this meeting and 1 other related to this topic.
7/8 - Vegan Heat: Summer Sweets Pop Up Shop, put on by The Brown Bag Cookie Co. – Board members Diane, Marie, Trevor & Suzanne joined by attendees
7/24 - FVA & Nutrition S'mart Carrollwood showed Cowspiracy – Kristen, Jenna, Marie
7/29 - Vegan cheese launch party at Doormet! – 10 attendees joined Board members Kim, Brittany & Trevor.
8/21 – FVA & Nutrition S'mart Carrollwood showed Peaceable Kingdom the Journey Home - Kristen, Jenna & Myriam
8/26 & 8/27- Eco Friendly Florida Festival, Palm Harbor – Diane Koon, Marie Galbraith, Myriam Parham, Tom Bird, Teresa Carlton, Chris Katz, Jackie Grimes, Jeanna Jacob, & Laura Jacob at FVA table, Jenna Bardroff & Kevin Layton at Solutionary Species table
9/16- Hillsborough River & Coastal Cleanup at Al Lopez Park-Tampa 107 Community volunteers joined FVA Board members Diane, Marie, Brittany, Suzanne and Advisory Bd member Tom Bird and picked up over 45 bags of trash! Great Job!
9/16 & 17– Eco Friendly Florida Festival Sarasota – Myriam & Bill Parham, 9/16 FVA table; & 9/16 & 17 Jenna Bardroff, Kevin Layton, Brian Brown & Tom Bardroff at Solutionary Species table.

FVA Demos for the Animals:
7/9 - Sea World Protest at Florida State Fair Grounds – Approximately 15 attendees joined BDiane, Marie, Suzanne, Hussein & Denise, Zulema, Family
8/5 Justice for Snoopy! Bradenton - South Florida Museum – organized by Denise Anderson of Silverback Peace Group, attended by FVA Board members Diane, Marie & Kim and many activists from Sarasota area.

In addition to all these activities, several FVA board members & others activists usually attend monthly vegan brunch, lunch, dinner activities at several local vegan restaurants. These include: New Leaf Elementals Cafe, Loving Hut, Café Hey Brunch & Lotus Vegan Buffet. Please check our FVA calendar to join us at these events so we can get to know each other.
You can receive this newsletter via e-mail or download it from the FVA website. To go paperless please email fvaonline@yahoo.com and let us know. You will not only help the environment, but will allow FVA more financial resources to help animals.

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YES, I want to support Florida Voices for Animals, Inc.

Enclosed is my annual membership fee or donation:
- $300 Lifetime
- $100 Patron
- $50 Family
- $30 Individual
- $15 Student
- Other ______

NAME: ___________________________ PHONE: ___________________________ FAX: ___________________________

ADDRESS: ___________________________ CITY: ____________ ST: ___ ZIP: ____________

E-mail: ___________________________

I would like to volunteer for:
- Phone Tree
- Attending Demonstrations
- Staffing Outreach Tables
- Website
- Newsletter
- Investigations
- Other

I prefer to receive my Newsletters: □ Electronically via e-mail ✔ Regular Mail

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GOOD NEWS

☆ Sep, 2017: Creative Loafing’s Hurricane Relief. After Hurricane Irma hit Florida September 11, 2017, Creative Loafing created a Hurricane Relief GoFundMe to help raise money for two local organizations going above and beyond to help local companion and wild animals despite limited resources, an already packed workload and their own Irma-related issues: The Humane Society of Tampa Bay and the Suncoast Animal League. Every cent raised through this campaign was split evenly between HSTB and SAL, and presented to both at CL’s annual Best of the Bay Awards Party at St. Pete’s Mahaffey Theater on Sept. 27th.
Our mission is to educate the public about animal abuse and exploitation. Please renew your membership if it has expired. Check your label.

M Paid membership and renewal date  L Lifetime member
X Newsletter exchange C Courtesy

FLORIDA VOICES FOR ANIMALS, INC.
P.O. BOX 17523
TAMPA, FL 33682

A NON-PROFIT, TAX-EXEMPT,
GRASSROOTS, ANIMAL ADVOCACY
ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Every Tue & Thu at 10:30am – WUSF Ch 16.3, Christina Cooks cooking show with Christina Pirello
Every Wed at 10am – WMNF 88.5FM, Talking Animals radio show with Duncan Strauss
Every Fri at 11am — WUSF Ch 16.1, Jazzy Vegetarian cooking show with Laura Theodore
Check out the Vegan Myth Busters radio show hosted by Ellen Jaffe Jones anytime by visiting https://www.facebook.com/groups/1667198786868267/

10/7, 11/4, 12/2 (Sat) - Loving Hut Vegan Buffet Sat 11am-9pm (Meetup at 6:30pm), 1905 E Fletcher Ave, Tampa FL 33612, 813-977-7888 This is posted on our Meetup Calendar, so if you haven’t signed up for our meetup, go to www.meetup.com, search for Florida Voices for Animals, then sign up. Loving Hut’s website is http://www.lovinghut.us/tampa_01/ This all-vegan buffet is on the 1st Saturday of the month.

10/1, 11/5, 12/3 (Sun) - New Leaf Elementals Brunch, 11am-1pm 11813 N Armenia Ave, Tampa, FL Enjoy an all-vegan all-organic brunch which takes place 1st Sunday of the month.

10/21, 11/18, 12/16 (Sat) - Lotus Vegan Meetup Buffet, 11am-9pm (Meetup at 6pm), 6575 Park Blvd, Pinellas Park, FL Enjoy an all-vegan buffet at Lotus Vegan Restaurant (beverage not included.) This buffet takes place 3rd Saturday of the month.

10/28 (Sat) - FVA Tabling at Central Florida Veg Fest, 10a-6p, Orlando Festival Park, 2911 E Robinson St, Orlando, FL 32803 ADMISSION: FREE. Myriam Parham will be giving presentation on “Diabetes and a Vegan Diet.” Companion animals on leashes are welcome Enjoy speakers, food preparation demonstrations, a veggie kids zone, a humane education center, an animal haven, an artist corner, music on an acoustic stage, lots of other activities (including parades, performances, workshops, and a drum circle presented by Earth Sponsor and special guest Ibex Puppetry!), and many veg-friendly vendors. Volunteers needed. Please contact us at fvaonline@yahoo.com or 727-656-8368

11/4 (Sat) - FVA Tampa Bay Veg Fest, 10a-5p, Cotanchobee Ft Brooke Park, 601 Old Water Street, Tampa, FL 33602 ADMISSION: FREE. Companion animals on leashes are welcome We have lots of great vegan food with over 20 food vendors coming this year. Our Food Court will be expanding. So be sure to bring a big appetite. Our Veggie Kids Zone is going to be loads of fun with lots of new activities for the kiddies. 5 cooking demos and 6 speakers! Volunteers needed. Please contact us at fvaonline@yahoo.com or 727-656-8368

10/29, 11/26, 12/31 (Sun) - Café Hey Brunch, 11am-2pm 1540 N Franklin St, Tampa, FL Enjoy an all-vegan brunch which takes place last Sunday of the month.