

Kathy Guindon, Ph.D. - Tampa Bay Symphony Bio

Kathy Guindon is a fish enthusiast originally from Pennsylvania where she earned her B.S. in Biology at Lebanon Valley College and then spent a few years in Raleigh, NC where she received her M.S. degree from North Carolina State University studying habitat utilization and growth rates of juvenile southern flounder in the Pamlico Sound. She completed her Ph.D. at the University of South Florida's College of Marine Science while working full time as an Assistant Research Scientist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Fish and Wildlife Research Institute.

During her 20 years at the Research Institute, she studied Florida's fish and fisheries to include mangrove and seagrass fish communities, the fishes of Tampa Bay's river systems, and the life histories of Florida Pompano and Permit. She spent 12 of those years observing and researching Atlantic Tarpon, where her projects focused on learning the effects of catch-and-release fishing on Tarpon survival, stress, and movement using acoustic telemetry, physiology and genetics.

Kathy's exciting research experience and breadth of knowledge on Tarpon life history and biology has earned her a few stamps in her passport and has been sought out for assistance in production of and featured on various television shows appearing on the Sportsman Channel, Outdoor Channel, Discovery Channel, National Geographic TV, Mark Sosin's Saltwater Journal, and the World Fishing Network and in various written media such as Guy Harvey Magazine, The Tampa Tribune, and Miami Herald to name a few. She invests considerable time and effort on outreach to explain how results of FWC's research applies to the everyday angler for the conservation of its fishery resources.

Despite this lifetime of research, in October 2014 she switched from research to education to share her passion for fish with youth to inspire and create The Next Generation That Cares™. Dr. "G" currently serves as Director of the FWC's Suncoast Youth Conservation Center in Apollo Beach that opened in January 2017. The center provides hands-on marine science education in three core areas - saltwater fish and fishing, boating, and wildlife discovery - through school field trips and summer day camps.

Through all of this and from the very beginning music remains an integral part of her existence. Kathy started playing violin in third grade to fulfill her dream of one day playing "real classical music" in a full orchestra. She started playing flute in fourth grade once she realized a violin is not in the marching band. She sang in choirs and continued to do all three throughout college. She chose Lebanon Valley College because of its reputation for music and science and played principal flute in the college's symphonic band, wind ensemble, and orchestra as a non-music major. She participated in the wind quintet, a flute ensemble and sang in the concert choir, keeping music as her hobby. She played principal flute and piccolo in the Raleigh Civic Symphony during graduate school from 1992-1994. After moving to St. Petersburg in 1995, she attended the fall Tampa Bay Symphony (TBS) concert, auditioned, and has been playing second violin with the TBS since January 1996. Her flute comes out at churches, weddings, sporadic gigs, and with an occasional student. Kathy currently serves on the TBS Audience Development Committee and is grateful to play in the orchestra since she has no formal violin training. She writes, "Thanks TBS for making my "real classical music" dream come true!"