

VELADOR

Using Science-based Sea Turtle Conservation Since 1959

Issue 3, 2010

Good News for Nesting Turtles



Ramón Fernández Francés

While sea turtles have been confronted by challenging survival threats in 2010, there is very encouraging news about the number of loggerhead, green and hawksbill turtles returning to nest at key beaches in Florida and the Caribbean.

For U.S. sea turtles, the year got off to a rough start with unusually cold temperatures in January that gripped the southeast from the Carolinas to Florida. Over the next few weeks, rescuers (including Sea Turtle Conservancy staff) succeeded in treating and

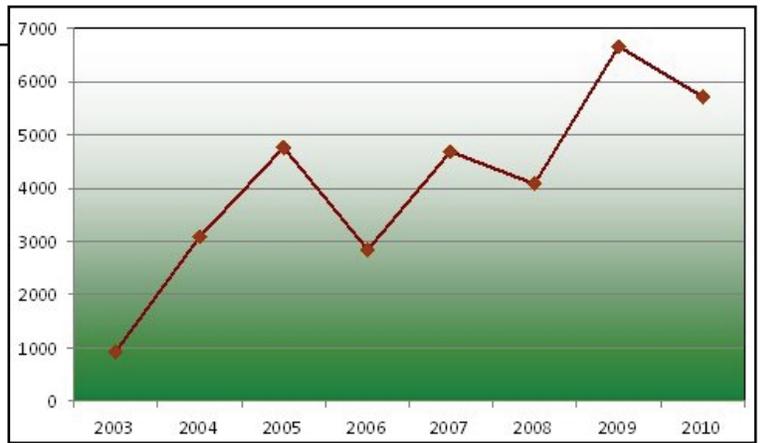
saving the majority of distressed sea turtles that had been stunned by the cold. In Florida, about 4,000 of the 5,000 rescued turtles did survive. Just a few months after the unprecedented turtle rescue, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill evolved into the worst oil spill in U.S. history – right at the start of the sea turtle nesting season and in an area important to five species of sea turtles. As the summer unfolded and Florida’s coasts were largely spared from oil and by hurricanes (though severe storms in Mexico and Texas this year destroyed a large proportion of Kemp’s ridley nests), we began to

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receive reports that, despite all the threats facing turtles in the region, 2010 might be an excellent nesting year. The good reports about nesting levels in Florida and other southeastern states coincided with similar good news from Panama and Costa Rica, where STC conducts long-term monitoring of the region's largest turtle populations.

In Florida the words “good, better and best” encapsulate this year’s nesting season for leatherbacks, loggerheads and greens. While nesting on the same beaches, the long-term nesting patterns for these three species vary widely. Characteristically, the number of females nesting each year fluctuates, but Florida’s small leatherback nesting population has continued to increase steadily over the last 20 years, and 2010 saw relatively good nesting for leatherbacks. Although loggerheads are Florida’s most abundant sea turtle, nesting has declined dramatically since 1998 when the number of females reached an all-time high. However, when nest counts for this summer were tallied, 2010 was far better than expected – in fact it was the best year for

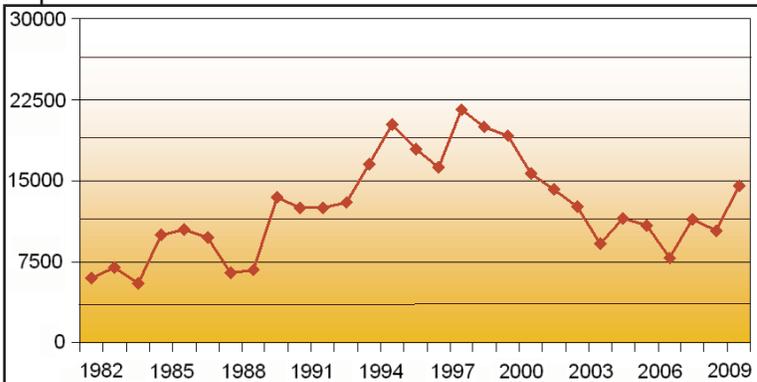


Leatherback nesting at Chiriquí Beach, Panama. While nesting fluctuates from year to year, the overall nesting trend is positive.

• 20 mile long Carr Refuge alone, there were over 4,500 green turtle nests.

Further south, in Tortuguero, Costa Rica, greens are also nesting in significant numbers, though it is too early to present final numbers. In just the northern five miles of Tortuguero Beach, which STC monitors daily, there were over 31,500 nests as of early October. At Chiriquí Beach, Panama, both leatherback and hawksbill nesting is showing an increasing trend. Nearly 6,000 leatherback nests were counted (second highest in recent times) and hawksbills had the highest nesting number on record with over 750 nests, since monitoring began in 2003.

The results we are documenting on the nesting beaches where we work demonstrate the value of long-term conservation and prove that, given the right conditions, sea turtle populations can recover. As exemplified by our sustained programs in Costa Rica, Bermuda, Panama and Florida, STC measures its commitment in decades rather than in years. To successfully recover turtle populations, protection of nesting beaches must go hand in hand with protection at sea and reducing threats from fisheries, habitat destruction, and pollution — issues on which STC focuses in the United States and abroad. While this year’s wonderful nesting results show that our collective efforts to protect sea turtles are working, our work is far from done - - coastal habitats and marine habitats remain very much at risk from development, erosion, overfishing and



Loggerhead nesting in the Carr Refuge, Florida. The trend seen in the Carr Refuge tends to reflect the trend for all loggerhead nesting in Florida.

nesting loggerheads in Florida since 2002. Loggerhead nesting also showed an increase in Georgia and the Carolinas.

The story of green turtle nesting in Florida is nothing short of a major success. Just 25 years ago, statewide nesting rarely exceeded a thousand nests. For example, in the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge, one of the best green turtles nesting sites in the U.S., annual nesting of green turtles rarely passed a few hundred nests. Since then, Florida’s green turtle nesting population has grown exponentially, and in 2010 nesting set a new record statewide. In the



Jim Angy

pollution. The eminent ecologist (and STC Board member) Dr. David Ehrenfeld once wrote “with good science and good will it is possible for both people and sea turtles to use our beaches together.” With the increased turtle nesting documented this year, his words ring truer and more important than ever.

VELADOR {bel.a.dor}

In Caribbean cultures, **Velador** translates as "one who stands vigil" — originally referring to turtle and egg harvesters who waited at night for turtles to come ashore. Now STC claims this title for its newsletter, and around the Caribbean STC's researchers and volunteers are replacing poachers as the new veladors.

The **Velador** is published for members and supporters of the nonprofit **Sea Turtle Conservancy** (formerly CCC).

STC is dedicated to the conservation of sea turtles through research, advocacy, education and protection of the habitats upon which they depend.

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Holiday Catalogue



STC Turtle T-shirt

Wear your support with a 100% cotton STC Logo T-shirt. Available in White with teal logo or Black with white logo. Adult sizes S, M, L, and XL. Children sizes S, M, and L.
Item: LTS - \$19.95



Saving Sea Turtles

Made of 100% cotton, the Saving Sea Turtles Hatchling t-shirt is available in Natural only. Adult S, M, L, and XL. Children sizes M and L only.
Item: STS - \$19.95

Saving Sea Turtles Tumbler

(inset) with logo and sea turtle hatchlings swimming around the tumbler, on black.

Item: STT - \$16.95

Baby Sea Turtles

The original cute hatchling sea turtle design. The hatchlings look great on Metro Blue cotton T-shirts. Adult S, M, L, and XL.

Children S, M, and L. **Item: BTS - \$19.95**



Insulated Tumbler with logo and sea turtle hatchlings swimming around the tumbler, Metro Blue background.

Item: BTT - \$16.95



Holiday Ornament

The 2010 ornament features a hawksbill based on a drawing by wildlife artist, Dawn Witherington. The slogan “Science-Based Sea Turtle Conservation Since 1959” and the year are engraved on the back.

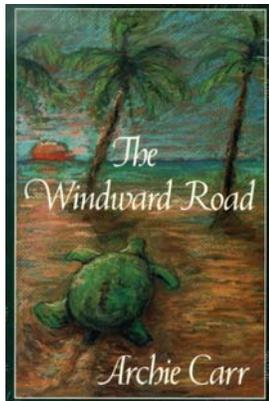
Item: HO - \$9.95



Sea Turtle License Plate

Want an “official” turtle plate for your car, but don’t live in Florida? Get the Replica Sea Turtle license plate for the front of your car.

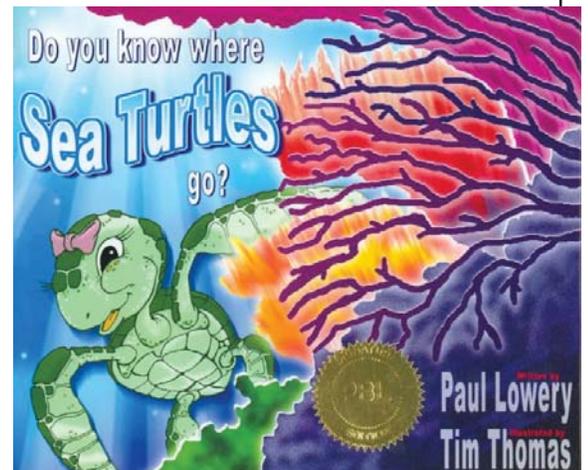
Item: TLP - \$12.95



The Windward Road

Dr. Archie Carr colorfully describes his travels to Caribbean beaches in the 1940s and 50s, where he looked for clues in his effort to unravel the mysteries of the enigmatic sea turtle. This book alerted the world to the decline of sea turtle populations and has won several awards.

Item: WR - \$19.95



Do you Know Where Sea Turtles Go?

Written by Florida author Paul Lowery to be fun and educational. This is the story of Myrtle’s life as she meets challenges and dangers faced by all sea turtles on her journey from hatchling to adult loggerhead. Ages 5-8. **Item: WTG - \$15.99**

Our Wild World - Sea Turtles



Lorraine A. Jay

Our Wild World - Sea Turtles

By Lorraine A. Jay. Teaches nature conservation and makes learning about animals fun. A durable softcover format that includes color photos and illustrations. Kids will discover many things about sea turtles like: Do they have teeth? How many eggs are in a clutch? And much more. Many mysteries of sea turtles are explained in the text and “Fun Facts.” The accompanying illustrations and photographs are excellent. Ideal for children 8-12. **Item: STWW - \$9.95**



Wooden Sea Turtle Magnet

The wooden Sea Turtle Magnet, with the STC logo as its shell pattern, is the perfect way to bring a sea turtle into your kitchen. 2.5" x 2" x 0.16"

Item: WTM - \$5.00



Silver Loggerhead Earrings

A sterling silver loggerhead sea turtle. This sea turtle jewelry comes as a pair of dangle earrings.

Item: LGE - \$14.95

Sea Turtle Bracelet

A row of sterling silver green sea turtles wraps around your wrist to form a bracelet.

Item: STB - \$29.95



Silver Leatherback

This sterling silver leatherback sea turtle is available as a pendant on an 18" silver chain, a pair of dangle earrings, or on the ends of a bangle bracelet!

Pendant & chain: LBP - \$24.95

Bangle bracelet: LBB - \$39.95

Dangle earrings: LBE - \$19.95



Eco-Friendly Logo Grocery Bag

A very sturdy Eco-Friendly Large Grocery Bag featuring our logo. This natural colored bag is made of 22 oz. cotton canvas. Handles and bottom are Forest Green. Great for large items. Measures 22 1/2" wide at top, 11 1/2" high, and 14" wide at the bottom. Washable.

Item: EGB - Liquidation Sale, previously \$19.95, now \$12.95

2011 Sea Turtle Scenes



Sea Turtle Scenes Calendar - 2011

STC's 11" x 17" wall calendar features a new fantastic sea turtle photo each month. Made from sturdy, recycled paper, the calendar is a great way to enjoy sea turtle images all year long. Includes key sea turtle dates and events to keep you updated and involved. More importantly, purchasing the calendar is a great way to support STC's sea turtle conservation and habitat preservation efforts. It makes a great holiday gift! **Item: TSC - \$12.95**

Sea Turtle Clinger

This sea turtle has a magnetic personality, or at least flippers, allowing it to cling to most metal surfaces. 6 1/2" in length. **Item: STC - \$14.95**



Swimming Lessons Jigsaw Puzzle

"Swimming Lessons" is a special shaped puzzle with no straight edges, a great challenge! 1,000 pieces. Not suitable for children under 3 years of age. Approximate size 20" x 42". **Item: SWP - \$19.95**

Quillan Bronze Sea Turtle Sculptures

Joe Quillan's great love for ocean creatures and his skills as a sculptor have made him renowned by private and corporate collectors around the world. He believes that artists have a responsibility to use their abilities to contribute to their world. Through his generosity, STC is able to offer you a selection of his magnificent bronze art sculptures to help support STC's sea turtle conservation and research efforts!

Please note that it can take six weeks for Joseph to make a sculpture if it is not in stock. Shipping is not included in the price, shipping costs will vary depending upon location.

To view a wide variety of turtle sculptures, please visit <http://giftshop.conserveturtles.org>



Cici - Specially designed exclusively for STC. A small bronze of a hatchling sea turtle with a golden-orange shell. Size: 3 1/2" x 3" **Item: JQCC - \$144.00**

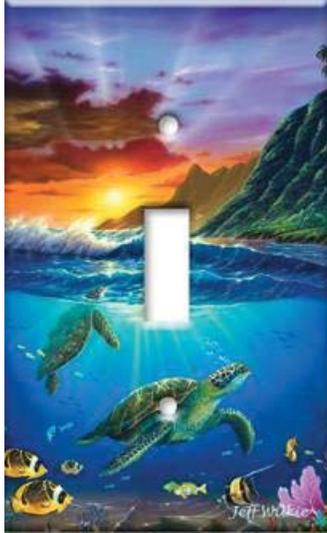


Littlefoot - Beautiful sea turtle hatchling captured in time as it makes its way to the oceans edge. Size: 3" x 3 1/2" **Item: JQLF - \$144.00**

STC Logo Keychain

This Keychain is in the shape of STC's turtle logo and engraved on the back in white. Measures 2" long and comes with key ring.

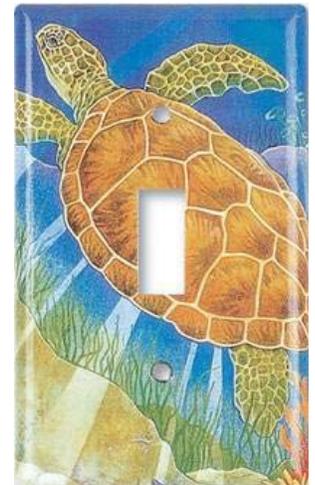
Item: LKC - \$4.95



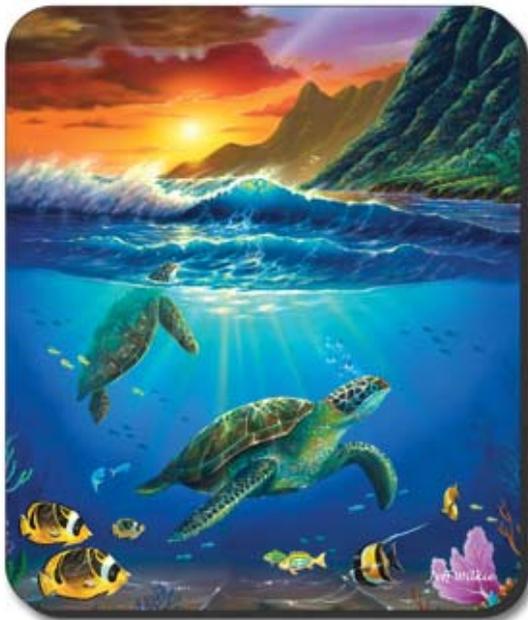
Light Switch Plates

Make covering an electrical switch into a fun expression of your love of the ocean and sea turtles. Light switch plates are an easy, removable, and inexpensive way to brighten or add character to a room. Sold separately. **\$10.95 each**

Ocean - a colorful ocean and sky scene
Item: OSP



Turtle - an artistic sea turtle design.
Item: TSP



Mouse Pad

Make your desk a fun expression of your love of the ocean and sea turtles. Great way to brighten or add character to your desk. Ocean design only. **Item: OMP \$12.95**

Sea Turtle Tagua Nut Carvings

Hand carved from the tagua palm nut, commonly known as "vegetable ivory," in northwest Ecuador. Provides economic incentives for sustainable harvest.

Ornament on golden thread (right): TNO - \$18.95

Necklace on a leather cord (center): TNN - \$18.95

Key chain (left): TNK - \$18.95





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Place Holder - Recycle Logo and associated text

Green Gift Idea

Add a little splash to your gift giving!

Give a meaningful and educational gift by adopting an endangered, satellite-tracked sea turtle. With a tax-deductible donation of \$25 or more, STC will deliver a symbolic sea turtle adoption that includes a personalized certificate of adoption, a logo decal, a hatchling magnet and a detailed sea turtle conservation guide. The entire kit is presented in a beautiful color folder. All adoptions include an annual subscription to the *Velador* newsletter.



Certificate of Adoption



Conservation Guide



Newsletter



Folder



Logo Sticker



Magnet & Cling



Bookmark



Give 2 Turtle Adoptions and give a 3rd Gift for only \$15!

Use the enclosed form, visit STC's website at

www.conserveturtles.org, or call toll free, 1-800-678-7853



Lori Ottlein