It is June 16 in the morning. The sun is hot since the early morning and the humidity feels sticky on the skin. At the Sea Turtle Conservancy Biological Station, in Tortuguero, we wake up early to the screeching sounds of green macaws. It is an important day and we need to prepare. We want to celebrate it in style.

Yes, today is June 16th: it is the birth of the famous herpetologist Archie Carr, a man who knew Tortuguero very well and who dedicated his life to the study of wildlife. Today is...

That day we were able to share our love for these incredible creatures with the community and visitors through knowledge, games, the shared experiences and everything that unites us. It was an incredible day full of exciting moments.

Thank you so much for visiting us!
I was lucky enough to work with two leatherback turtles with STC in Tortuguero. I think my favorite moment was with my second meeting. It was after a long night. We had walked around 14 km. The beach felt magical, I had never seen so many stars in the sky. Around 1am, walking back to the station, we came across a turtle trail and found it cleaning the area. I had to work with her on that occasion; it was an experience I will never forget. Feeling the weight of her eggs fall into my hand, the sound of her labored breathing and the waves crashing behind me, the smell of seaweed and the irritating sand flies stinging me. I put a metal tag on its right rear flipper. I nicknamed her Stella Maris (Ocean Star).

I will never forget the privilege of sharing with this amazing and ancient creature.

Kirsty Thomasson, England

I would like to share the time I saw a jaguar for the first time. It was my first long track survey and I was still getting used to the heat. I was starting to get tired, even though we were halfway there. Then, we saw a flock of vultures and an orange shape moving among them. I saw the jaguar rip into the leatherback it had just killed and it completely ignored the vultures. We then saw the cub running among the birds and bothering its mother.

It was magical and a great introduction of how life would be in Tortuguero.
LEATHERBACK Season 2023

In 29km in total of beach, we’ve counted...

111 nests
Leatherback (Dermochelys coriacea)

745 nests
Green (Chelonia mydas)

17 nests
Hawksbill (Eretmochelys imbricata)

And what happened in the 8km of Public Beach?

39 nests
Leatherback Turtle (26% total nesting)

133 nests
Green Turtle (18% total nesting)

8 nests
Hawksbill Turtle (18% total nesting)

We worked a female that was tagged in 1998. Since then, we’ve seen her 6 times!