Caribbean Conservation Corporation Newsletter

VELAIMOR

Protecting Sea Turtles and their Habitats since 1959

Summer 2001

Coastal development & sea turtles—the debate heats up

ndian River County, located on Florida's central Atlantic coast, is at the center of a growing debate on the state's coastal construction and beach protection policies and their impacts to Florida's sea turtle nesting habitat and offshore foraging grounds. Not coincidentally, the county is also a focal point for CCC's "Free the Beach Campaign," which seeks to stop the destruction of Florida's remaining coastal habitat by reforming poorly designed coastal management policies.

Recently, state Representative Stan Mayfield convened a "town meeting" in Vero Beach to address coastal management issues and to inform the public about state and local beach armoring and renourishment policies. Representatives of

CCC's Sea Turtle Survival League (STSL) were invited to the meeting to address the public with our concerns for sea turtle habitat in the area. The hundreds of citizens in attendance asked numerous question and provided a lively, often heated, debate on these controversial issues. CCC commends Rep. Mayfield and his staff for bringing numerous stakeholders together for this public meeting.

Another focus of the town meeting was the county's



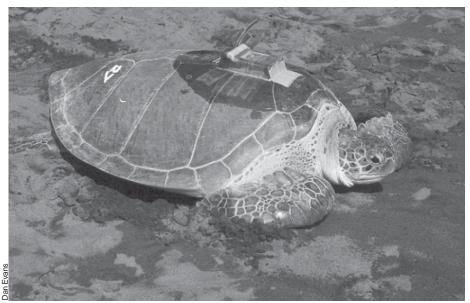
Florida's sea turtles, such as this green sea turtle, are losing nesting habitat through the building of coastal armoring designed to protect houses and property along Florida's

ongoing efforts to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for sea turtles. The HCP is being developed as a result of an agreement between the county, the state and CCC, which was negotiated following a 1999 lawsuit filed by CCC to halt the construction of sea walls that were illegally authorized by the county. The lawsuit alleged that the unlawfully built sea walls were causing a "take" of

see Coasts & Turtles on page 4

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CCC and Volvo sponsor teachers and students in Tortguero, CR



A female green sea turtle returns to the water after having a satellite transmitter attached to her shell by CCC researchers in Tortuguero, Costa Rica.

wo U.S. high school teachers and ten students will travel to Tortuguero, Costa Rica, in September to help save endangered sea turtles. Stacy Gwartney, of Jacksonville, Texas, High School, and Maribel Toledo of Gulliver Preparatory School in Miami, Florida, won a competition sponsored by Caribbean Conservation Corporation (CCC), the world's oldest sea turtle research and conservation organization, and Volvo Ocean Adventure (VOA), the educational component of the Volvo Ocean Race.

The students will assist CCC researchers in monitoring Tortuguero's sea turtle nesting population and participate in the tagging and release of a sea turtle fitted with a satellite transmitter sponsored by VOA. The black sand beach of Tortuguero, located in northeast Costa Rica, is the largest remaining rookery in the world for endangered Caribbean green turtles. The transmitter-tagged turtle will be part of an online education program that uses wildlife satellite-tracking technology and a comprehensive website to teach people about sea turtles.

As the turtle, named "Freija" after the ancient Norse goddess of fertility, is tracked by satellite, her migration route will be plotted on maps as part of CCC's educational program. In addition, the Rotterdam Zoo in Holland and Shark Reef Aquarium at Mandalay Bay are each sponsoring a satellite transmitter that will be attached during the same week. The maps showing each of the three turtles' movements will be posted on CCC's web site; Freija's map will also be posted on the VOA web site.

"This is a great opportunity for the teachers and their students to get a hands-on field research experience," said David Godfrey, CCC's Executive Director. "The students will also get involved in learning about another culture and gain an appreciation for a different way of life."

The turtle tracking and the teacher contest are part of an ongoing partnership between CCC and VOA, formed to provide interactive educational tools to help children, students and adults around the world learn more about the marine environment.

"We plan on using this experience to involve the student body and larger community in tracking the course of the turtles and in sea turtle conservation in general," stated Maria Toledo, the teacher from Miami's Gulliver Preparatory High School.

Volvo Ocean Adventure is the educational outreach component of the upcoming Volvo Ocean Race, a grueling 9-month round-the-world sailing race which begins this coming September and is sponsored by Volvo.

"The program represents a new and exciting platform for world education as well as using a sporting event to bring science alive," says Dr. Simon Boxall of the Southampton Oceanography Centre, one of the founders of Volvo Ocean Adventure.

CCC will be part of the marine aspect of the VOA educational program. During the trans-global Volvo Ocean Race, CCC will provide information about the sea turtles and marine habitats visited by the racing fleet.

"My students are being given the opportunity to see that science is all around them. Science is full of creative individuals who are constantly thinking and wondering 'what if'," said Ms. Gwartney, the teacher from Jacksonville High School. "I want my students to feel this passion."

Each year, CCC conducts sea turtle monitoring and protection programs at its field station in Tortuguero. Through its Sea Turtle Migration-Tracking Education Program, CCC has reached thousands of people with information about sea turtles and threats to their survival.

For more information and to follow the sea turtles and boats during the race, please visit the Caribbean Conservation Corporation web site at http://www.cccturtle.org, the Volvo Ocean Adventure web site at http://www.volvooceanadventure.org, and the Volvo Ocean Race web site at http://www.volvooceanrace.org

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 CCC claims this title for its newsletter, and in Tortuguero, CCC's researchers and volunteers are replacing poachers as the new veladors.

Velador is published quarterly for members and supporters of the nonprofit **Caribbean Conservation Corporation** (CCC) and its **Sea Turtle Survival League (STSL)** program.

CCC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of sea turtles through research, training, advocacy, education and the protection of natural areas

STSL is the US-based public awareness, advocacy and education program of the CCC.

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Participant Programs

Space still available in the Neotropical Bird Program

he bird monitoring team has already made its southerly migration to

Tortuguero in anticipation of the influx of feathery travelers this fall, and it's not too late to join them!

Tortuguero is ideally situated along an important flyway for literally millions of migratory birds making their way from central and eastern North

America to the New World tropics... to say nothing of the spectacular resident birds of the lowland rainforest and waterways!

Annual systematic monitoring of the resident and migratory species is conducted at CCC's John H. Phipps Biological Field Station. The information gained from these efforts helps track the status of bird populations and will ultimately be useful in management planning for wildlife in the area.

Efforts are focused on the fall (August-November) and spring (March-May) migrations and mistnetting and censuses are the primary methods used to monitor bird populations. Several research sites are in primary forest and the rest are in successional habitat, so many of the "classic" rainforest species (e.g. antbirds, antshrikes) are captured along with many species from edge and successional areas. Censuses are conducted at intervals throughout the day, to tally the diurnal migrants streaming over Tortuguero.

Recently, mist-netting was conducted all year long (more than 14,000 net-hours) and a total of 3,675 birds were captured. The combined counts of migrants during the day for the spring and fall migrations exceeded 75,000 individuals. The migrant species captured most often were Traill's Flycatcher, Swainson's



Bird participants help researchers mist net, leg band, and survey both the local and migratory populations of birds in and around Tortuguero, Costa Rica.

Thrush, Prothonotary Warbler, Northern Waterthrush and Veery. Of the resident species, White-collared Manakins, Bronzy Hermits and Longtailed Hermits were the most frequently captured.

For those who love birds and the outdoors, it doesn't get any better than this! Call CCC for more information on how you can become a part of this ongoing research effort enjoying birds in the hand and in the bush! This unique program has you outside every day, learning field study techniques with experienced ornithologists and enjoying the varied and lush tropical landscape. For more information contact Dan Evans at CCC by phone at (800) 678-7853 or by e-mail at resprog@cccturtle.org.

A special thank you to the following people who helped fulfill some of CCC's wishes!

Laurie & Paul Davis -Hand Held CB Radios

Jenevra Georgini -

Portable Solar Power Unit

Chris Hoar -

Night Vision Scope

Janet Leigh -

17" Computer Monitor

Erin Stevens -

17" Computer Monitor

Coasts & Turtles from cover

marine turtle nesting habitat. Through the settlement agreement, the county was forced to stop all permitting of sea walls until it develops an HCP, which must be approved by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Once approved, the HCP would allow the county again authorize certain types sea walls following major storms, but only if strict measures are taken to minimize and mitigate for any harm done to sea turtles or their nesting habitat. The types of mitigation being suggested include beach front lighting regulations, the purchase and protection of beach front properties that would otherwise be developed, the implementation of a sea turtle monitoring program, and more stringent regulations on the construction of coastal armoring. Gary Appelson, STSL's Advocacy Coordinator, used the meeting to support the HCP process and to explain to homeowners how this approach has the potential to providing long term protection for sea turtles, while still allowing some relief to coastal homeowners threatened with erosion.

Appelson declared, "while the HCP process may seem long and arduous, the results will be long lasting and will benefit beach goers, coastal property owners, elected officials, and, of course, sea turtles."

The plan is currently in draft form and should be available for public review in a couple of months.

Events in Indian River County provide the perfect example of how coastal management policies can directly impact the long term recovery of sea turtle populations—and why CCC is so intent on reforming these policies through the Free the Beach Campaign. Of the county's 22 miles of shoreline, 7.6 miles (34%) are designated as critically eroding, meaning coastal erosion already threatens private structures built on the beach. Much of the remaining coastline is in various states of



This extensive sea wall in Indian River County is located about a mile south of the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge.



Above: The pressure to armor is common along Florida's east coast, especially in areas such as this critically "eroding" beach in Indian River County. *Below:* Florida Representative Stan Mayfield and CCC's Gary Appelson, at right, met with local government officials and homeowners to discuss coastal erosion problems and solutions in Indian River County.



erosion. Thus, there is great pressure to either pump sand on the beach or to build sea walls to protect private homes. Both activities can dramatically harm sea turtles (See the *Velador, Winter 2001*). Currently, 8.2% of the county's shoreline is armored and 37% (8.3 miles) is slated for nourishment.

Indian River County's beaches are also critical sea turtle nesting beaches, with over 5,000 turtle nests within the county last year. The county's northern beaches are included in the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge. Additionally, the reefs just off shore are uniquely valuable to juvenile green sea turtles, which migrate to these reefs from throughout the Caribbean to forage and grow. Planned beach nourishment projects, if not revised, could bury 56 acres of these reefs and impact many more. CCC, as part of its FTB Campaign, will continue to influence decision-making in Indian River County and in other coastal counties where beaches are heavily used by sea turtles.

By Gary Appelson

Tortuguero Update

I regret to inform you, but a cat got your turtle

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Carolyn M. Miller

regret to inform you... was how the email began that related the remarkable fate of one of our study animals. The message went on to say that a turtle bearing tag MM013 was eaten by a jaguar on the nesting beach at Tortuguero on June 16, 2001. A carcass with this tag was encountered by the Tortuguero National Park guards Jorge and Noldán, and the information reported to the CCC field station at Tortuguero. We had first captured this adult female green turtle in a net off the Zapatilla Cays, Panama, on June 22, 1990, as part of a study of the ecology and migrations of marine turtles of Bocas del Toro Province. With funding from the Wildlife Conservation Society, my husband Peter and I have been investigating the biology and migrations of the adult green

turtles captured in Bocas during the reproductive season. Based on tag return data, genetic data, and satellite tracks, we know these are Tortuguero green turtles en route to the nesting beach, or mating in the nearshore waters of Bocas.

The tagging records revealed that this turtle had been seen at Tortuguero

once before — about one month after we had tagged and released her in Panama in 1990. She had nested at Mile 6 1/8, where she would not normally have been observed, but there was a special project being conducted that year by the Center for Field Studies. Researchers watched her nest, recorded her tag number, and allowed her to return to the sea.

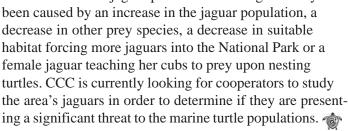
It is likely that she visited the nesting beach at Tortuguero other times during the 11-year interval between her last two sightings, but she would have been unlikely to

be observed because that part of the 22-mile beach is rarely monitored at night. Green turtles typically exhibit a high degree of site fidelity to their previous nesting sites. The final detail in the email reporting the turtle's demise was chilling, all the same – the guards had found her on Mile 6!

Jaguars have been documented as predators of nesting turtles at Tortuguero on numerous occasions, killing at least 31 green turtles, 2 hawksbills and one leatherback turtle in 2001 alone. There has been an increase in the number of marine turtles killed by jaguars at Tortuguero, with four documented kills in 1997 and 60 recorded in 2000. Most of the kills have been encountered far into the National Park, where night patrols are only occasionally conducted.

> Nevertheless, as soon as CCC realized that the Research Assistants were sharing the beach at night with a large predatory cat we contacted jaguar researcher for more information. To our great relief, they all informed us that jaguars in the wild have never been documented as attacking

The increase in jaguar predation in Tortuguero may have been caused by an increase in the jaguar population, a decrease in other prey species, a decrease in suitable habitat forcing more jaguars into the National Park or a female jaguar teaching her cubs to prey upon nesting turtles. CCC is currently looking for cooperators to study the area's jaguars in order to determine if they are present-



By Dr. Anne Meylan & Sebastian Troëng

International Sea Turtle Update

Mexican Environment Ministry rejects the hotel development project in Xcacel, Quintana Roo, Mexico!

One of the most important sea turtle nesting beaches in Mexico was sold in late 1997 to Sol Melia, one of the five largest hotel chains in the world. The sale violated a 1994 ecological ordinance agreement through which land in Xcacel was only supposed to be sold to non-governmental organizations (NGOs), so it could be turned into a protected reserve. Despite the setback, for nearly four years conservation organizations, including the Caribbean Conservation Corporation, fought to stop the construction of a 1,453 room mega-resort in the area. The fight seemed lost late last year, when the Environment Ministry gave the the developers authorization to proceed with construction. This prompted renewed appeals by NGOs from around the world. Under great public pressure, a new administration made a landmark decision earlier this year by revoking, for the first time in Mexican history, an environmental permit authorization construction of a hotel. After the permit revocation, the Environment Ministry opened a new public review process in which 90% of the opinions received were against the project. The project was finally rejected on July 28, 2001 by the Environment Ministry! Congratulations to everyone who participated in saving Xcacel!

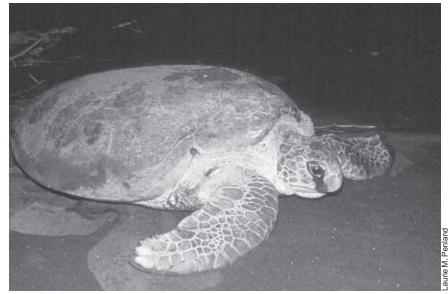
Notes from the Field —

Competition for the title of "Old Faithful"

When CCC Research Assistant Daveka Boodram from Trindidad and Tobago on the night of 12 August 2001 encountered a green turtle carrying tag No. 80968 on the Tortuguero beach, little did she realize this female turtle was very special. The following morning CCC Field Coordinator Catalina Reyes entered the previous night's data into the computer and checked on the history of turtles that were seen. Imagine her surprise when she found that the turtle carrying tag 80968 was originally tagged in Tortuguero with tag No. 17139 on the night of 28 July 1978! Daveka's sighting was the 13th observation of that green turtle spanning an impressive 23 years between the most recent sighting and the date of first tagging.

In 1983, Dr. Archie Carr published an article about the feats of Tortuguero green turtle No.3438 (Animal Kingdom 85:49-50), a turtle he named *Old Faithful*. Turtle No. 3438 got its honorary name from its remarkable tagging history at Tortuguero where it was observed on 26 occasions during seven nesting seasons in the 17 years between 1965 and 1982. After the 2001 Green Turtle Program, turtle No. 3438 may have to give up its *Old Faithful* nickname to green turtle No. 17139.

No. 17139 is now carrying her sixth and seventh tags after having lost tags and having them replaced several times over the years (see Table 1). The female was first



The Caribbean Conservation Corporation has been monitoring the Atlantic green sea turtle nesting population at Tortuguero, Costa Rica for over 40 years.

oddity but her history emphasizes many aspects of sea turtle biology and research. For example, it shows that turtles are long-lived animals. Green turtles become sexually mature around 25-50 years of age and adding to that 23 years of intermittent nesting we are talking about a turtle 48-73 years of age, minimum.

Turtle No. 17139 is also a good example of how faithful Tortuguero green turtles are to their nesting sites. All the sightings of No. 17139 have been along a three and one quarter mile stretch of the 18 mile Tortuguero

continued on next page

seen nesting at
Tortuguero during
the 1978 nesting
season (once) and
has since been
observed by CCC
taggers during the
1982 (twice), 1986
(three times), 1989
(twice), 1992
(twice), 1995
(once), 1998 (once)
and 2001 (once)
nesting seasons.
Turtle No.
17139 is important

Date	Mile section	Comments		
28 July 1978	3 7/8	Tag 17139 applied.		
3 September 1982	4/8			
15 September 1982	1 1/8			
11 August 1986	2 5/8	Tag 37659 applied.		
21 August 1986	7/8			
10 September 1986	6/8			
6 August 1989	1 2/8			
6 September 1989	1			
17 August 1992	6/8	Tag 17139 lost, tag 57232 applied.		
30 August 1992	5/8	Tag 57232 lost, tag 57454 applied.		
30 August 1995 1 1/8		Tag 57454 lost, tag 59661 applied.		
12 July 1998	1	Tag 59661 lost, tag 37659 replaced by tag 80968		
12 August 2001	1 4/8	Tag 90622 applied.		

not only as an

beach and 12 of the 13 sightings have occurred along only two miles of beach (see Table 1).

Green turtle No. 17139 was of only average size, suggesting that female green turtles probably grow little once they have reached sexual maturity. Once they become reproductively active all their energy may go towards building up reserves to migrate, to mate and to lay eggs.

Old Faithful No. 17139 has been sighted during eight nesting seasons which means that the female must have migrated between Tortuguero and her feeding grounds at least eight times. She has dodged turtle fishermen, shrimp trawls, boat propellers, lobster nets and poachers along those migrations and during her time near the nesting beach. Turtle No. 17139 must either be a very

international conventions and conservation programs.

The many encounters with No. 17139 also highlight the importance of long-term projects such as the Tortuguero turtle programs. The only reason we know about No. 17139's impressive life history is because CCC has had turtle taggers patrolling the beach every year since 1955. Without the hundreds of volunteers and research assistants walking the beach over the years, we would never have been able to record turtle No.17139 as many times as we have. Hopefully CCC's continued commitment to the Tortuguero turtle programs will result in some of the newly tagged green turtle females from this year being seen again in 23 years time.

The database records for turtle

No. 17139 show that she was checked for papillomas in 1995 but found to have none. Optimist that I am I think turtle No. 17139 will remain healthy and will stay away from those trying to catch her.



Nesting females are tagged with metal tags that let researchers identify individual turtles. *Old Faithful* has had many different tags that have allowed Caribbean Conservation Corporation researchers to follow her nesting cycles for over a quarter of a century.

lucky turtle or she lives in a place where turtle fishermen and shrimp trawls are scarce.

Turtle No. 17139 may also reflect the success of sea turtle conservation in the Caribbean in recent decades. It is possible that female No. 17139 has survived all her migrations because improved protection given to turtles through

I hope that in three or four years time, maybe after the 2004 or 2005 green turtle nesting season, I will be able to report on the triumphant return to Tortuguero of our new *Old Faithful* No. 17139, for a record nine nesting seasons spanning over 26 or 27 years!

By Sebastian Troëng Research Coordinator

STSL Educational Update

Since being designated the only entity, other then the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service itself, authorized to conduct guided walks to see a nesting turtles in the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge (ACNWR), the Caribbean Conservation Corporation, through its Sea Turtle Survival League (STSL), has finished its third year of conducting intimate, highly educational walks that are targeted especially to educators and students. Through these walks, STSL is inspiring strong support for sea turtles, their nesting habitat (especially in the ACNWR) and creating future naturalists and sea turtle advocates. The educators who participate in the walks also become ambassadors for sea turtles and their protection, spreading their knowledge and support to countless children.

During this past June and July, the months the turtle walks are conducted, STSL lead over 200 students and educators to witness a nesting loggerhead sea turtle on the beach. One walk was conducted especially for a girl scout troop from Miami. The ten girls represented nine different countries, mostly Central and South American. They got to see a turtle nest and had a great time.

In addition, the very last walk of the season included a group of teachers and students from the Florida Online High School Science Club, a virtual school where students and teachers communicate over the internet. It was the first time many of the teachers and students had ever met face to face.



Getting the chance to witness a sea turtle laying her eggs can be an emotional and inspiring experience.

STSL Update

Workshop to look at Environmental Impacts of Beach Renourishment

On September 13-14 the Florida Department of **Environmental Protection's** Office of Beaches and Coastal Systems will be sponsoring a workshop on beach nourishment entitled, Environmental Design of Beach Nourishment Projects in Florida. Currently the design of a renourished beach is primarily based on economics and engineering efficiency. This workshop will consider the design parameters needed to build a more natural or environmentally sensitive beach and hopefully lay the groundwork for environmental rules and procedures that encompass the breadth of environmental concerns impacted by beach rebuilding projects.

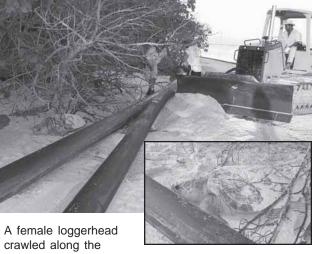
CCC will be attending the workshop, advocating that renourished beaches consider the needs of nesting turtles and their off shore foraging habitats utilized by hundred of marine species. We have been seeking input from marine turtle experts and coastal engineers on how best to build a turtle friendly and environmentally healthy beach. Merely pouring vast quantities of sand on an

eroding beach does not automatically improve nesting habitat. In fact, it can result in lower nesting densities and success, and may be an economically unsustainable state policy. CCC has often reported on the real and potential harmful impacts to sea turtles resulting from these projects.

Beach renourishment is big business in Florida. The state is currently spending \$30 million a year to dig sand from the ocean bottom and pump it onto eroding beaches. The federal government more than matches this with federal tax dollars. There are dozens of large beach dredging projects planned. Because the life of a rebuilt beach can be anywhere from 5 to 7 years, the state is







upland side of a beach renourishment pipe on Hide-away Beach in Collier County, Florida. The pipe is used to pump sand onto the beach (top, left). The loggerhead was eventually trapped behind the pipe in the dense vegetation and was unable to nest. Renourishment workers found the turtle while spreading feshly pumped sand on the beach with a bulldozer (top, right and insert). When the crawl was closely observed, it was noticed that the loggerhead had expelled several eggs onto the sand while trying to get around the pipe (bottom, left). The loggerhead was lifted over the pipe and allowed to returned to the water (bottom, right). Photos by Maura Kraus.

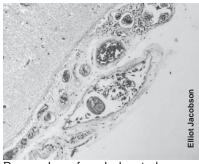


literally embarking on a never ending cycle of massive and expensive beach rebuilding. According to one study, over 40% of Florida's most densely nested beaches are recommended for renourishment. Consequently, Florida's sea turtle populations are and will be significantly impacted.

Hopefully this workshop will lay the foundation to minimize negative impacts to sea turtles and other marine species from these large sand pumping projects. Ultimately, state laws may need to be changed and new regulatory rules may need to be written requiring a better approach to beach building. CCC commends the DEP for organizing this workshop, even if it is long overdue.

Parasites are linked to recent loggerhead outbreak

A devastating illness that left at least 140 loggerhead sea turtles dead over the last six months was most likely caused by trematode parasites, according to researchers at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine. Although the parasites are normally found in low



Researchers found elevated numbers of parasites, as seen here in the tissue of a sick turtle.

levels in loggerhead turtles, researchers found much higher levels of the parasites in the dead and dying loggerheads they studied. Researchers believe that the elevated parasite levels overwhelmed the turtles, causing life-threatening symptoms and death.

Now, with funding provided in part by Caribbean Conservation Corporation, UF researchers are trying to determine what caused the increase in parasites. Possible factors include pollution, weather, and changes in ocean temperature. Researchers are also looking at the pathology of sea turtles and the natural history of the trematode.

Late last year, dozens of loggerhead turtles began washing ashore in Florida, mainly in the southern part of the state, exhibiting extreme lethargy, pneumonia and acute musculature failure in the eyes and throat. Most of the

turtles found alive were dying soon after being taken to rehabilitation facilities. In all about 150 dead and sick turtles washed ashore between October 2000 and March 2001. Because not all of the sick and dead turtles washed ashore, there is no way to know how many other turtles were afflicted with the illness and died at sea.

Of the 50 turtles found alive, 35 were taken to the Hidden Harbour Marine Turtle Hospital in Marathon, Florida.

The facility's staff worked desperately to save each turtle, racking up \$3,000 a month for medicines and other supplies. To help offset these costs, CCC raised and donated \$7,000 toward the care and rehabilitation of these sick turtles. Through the valiant efforts of the hospital staff, four of the 35 turtles were saved. Of the remaining 15 turtles treated at other facilities, no more than six survived.

Earlier this year as the numbers of dead and dying turtles found along the shore grew, the situation became a

crisis. Florida-based rehabilitation facilities were quickly overwhelmed and began scrambling to find money to pay for treatment of the sick turtles. Veterinarians and scientists with several state agencies and universities also found themselves short of resources to conduct the pathological and toxicological studies needed to learn more about what was causing the outbreak. Compounding the problem further, the state government had no mechanism to provide emergency funding to assist either the rehabilitation facilities or the researchers.

Realizing the gravity of the situation, CCC approached several foundations for emergency funding. The Bernice Barbour Foundation was the first to respond, providing \$10,000 toward the medical investigation and treatment of turtles. CCC quickly disbursed this grant to the Hidden Harbour Marine Turtle Hospital in Marathon and to the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine. This grant, along with the publicity CCC generated about the crisis, helped researchers secure additional funding from state and federal sources. Other foundations that answered CCC's call for assistance include the Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund, the Moore Charitable Foundation, the Ahimsa Foundation, and the Lobo Fund.

Although Florida's environmental agencies eventually were able to respond to this emergency, several uncertain weeks passed while agency personnel and researchers wrung their hands wondering how to pay for an appropriate

response to the crisis. In hindsight, it is clear that precious time was lost during the early phase of the disease outbreak, when leads to a cause might have been fresher and more turtles might have been successfully treated. The breakdown was not anyone's fault, but it does point strongly toward the need to establish a reservoir of funding that is available for similar crisis in the



Staff at the Hidden Harbour Marine Turtle Hospital in Marathon Key, Florida, tube feed sick loggerhead sea turtles. They were able to save four of the 35 sick turtles.

future. Such a reservoir does exist for emergencies affecting whales, dolphins and manatees in Florida, and it is time to add sea turtles to the list. Toward that end, CCC is organizing an initiative to ensure the passage of a state law in 2002 that would make emergency research and rehabilitation funds immediately available for sea turtles in crisis cases. For more information or to help with the campaign, please contact Gary Appelson, CCC Advocacy Coordinator, at (352) 373-6441.



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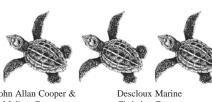
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February 2001 through July 2001



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Turtle Heros

A newsletter for young sea turtle activists!

Girl Scouts Travel From Miami to See a Sea Turtle Nest in the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge

By Kyla Rivas-Zehtab for Junior Troop 812, Miamia Beach, Florida.

Thanks to having sold boxes and boxes of cookies, my girl scout troop (Junior Troop 812 from Miami Beach) and I were able to participate in a CCC turtle walk in the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge, where we saw massive sea turtles deposit 75-100 eggs in sandy spots where they thought their hatchlings would survive. When

we arrived at the small boardwalk, we were a little bit nervous, not knowing what to expect. When we reached the end of that boardwalk, we felt that we were on a secret mission because of the way we had to approach the beach-like spies. We were crouched as we walked; there was absolute silence. Only the wind and tall grasses were whispering. Our instructions from the CCC guide were to look for a moving rock coming out of the ocean. In 5-10 minutes, we saw a moving blob appearing out of the crashing waves and



Junior Troop 812 at breakfast the morning after the walk. From left to right, Saskia Lascaris, Jessica Pauley, Laura Torres, Noelia Morini, Kyla Rivas-Zehtab, Catalina Villacura, and Sofia Varas-Formica.

moving faster than we had ever expected. Although it was a great sight, the sea turtle returned to the ocean. We felt bad because we thought we had scared it away, but our guide told us that turtles can change their minds for many reasons.

One of the guides that was scouting ahead on the beach had called in on the walkie talkie and said: "Sea turtle making a body pit." We knew that meant that in a few more minutes of walking all schrunched up, we would soon get to see what we had come for. When we got there, a huge loggerhead turtle was already busy laying her ping-pong-ball-sized eggs. We had a special red light, aimed at her back end, which let us see what was going on without disturbing her concentration. The actual event took about 45 minutes in all. I started to think about how people could ever hurt such beautiful animals. It made some of us sad. Although we enjoyed seeing the process, it was soon time to go-for both the turtle and our troop.

On behalf of Troop 812, please help these beautiful animals and their precious young live long, happy lives.

Are you a Turtle Hero? We want to hear your story! Maybe you helped clean up beach litter, or worked with a local turtle watch group. Send us a letter or email that describes what you did to help save sea turtles. Your story might be printed in a future issue of Turtle Heros. If you like to write poems, songs, or draw pictures of turtles, send those, too!

Turtle Heros is a newsletter for young sea turtle activists. Send your letters to: Turtle Heros, 4424 NW 13th St., Suite A-1, Gainesville, FL 32609. Or email: ccc@cccturtle.org.

THANK YOU!

Our warmest thanks go to the following who gave a generous donation of \$100 or more from February 1 through July 31, 2001.

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Ann Bohman

Bill & Marcia Brant Joseph Briggs

K. Susan Brown

Brownie Troop #21361

Helga Burrell-Sahl Bruce Campbell George Campbell

Kathy Castle &

J. Tom McCullough Tom & Peggy Cavanaugh

Nicholas Chew Gladys Cofrin

Francis I.G. Coleman

Christopher Collins

Craig Colvin

William Conway, Ph.D.

Coral Reef Club Matthias Cramer Daniel Crouch Tricia Crow

Beth Curry

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Natasha Dewhurst

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William Dudziak Frank Durand William Edelstein

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Jordan Ensen

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Laura Forte &

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Davy & Annick Goethals-Vermeersch James Graybill & Ugo Sap

Joseph Greenberg

Molly & Gordon Gr

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Deborah Hebblewhite

John Hedley
Kellie Hedrick
Kathy Heffelfinger
Dale Henderson
Amy Hernke
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George Higgs Michael Hoffacker Martin Hope Frank Hopkins

Charles Hubschmied Annick Huijbrechts Bud Hunsucker

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Lucinda Lohr Roger Longhorn Jo Dell Lynn

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Troop 1692 Michael Martin Marymount Middle School Charles Mast Eric & Carolien Maynard

Carmel Mc Gill Renee McCullen Judge Michael &

Norma McKinley

William Matthew Montanes

Michael Meeks

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Stephen Reynolds
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Leslie Elizabeth Roos
R. Thomas Ross

Gayle Russell Edmund Ryan Ryland Heights Elementar

Ryland Heights Elementary Penny Sampson

Tom Santos

Marty Rouse

Elin Satory, MD

Warren & Virginia Schwerin

Pearl Seidman

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Henk Sirks
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Jane Smith
Sue Ellen Smith
Nicole Snyder
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Need a gift for a special event, birthday or other occasion? Adopt an endangered sea turtle as a unique gift, and support CCC's work to preserve these ancient creatures.

With a \$25 (\$35 outside the U.S.) tax-deductible donation, CCC will send your gift recipient a personalized adoption kit that includes: a full-color adoption certificate with their name and the name of their turtle, a colorful logo magnet, a 1-year subscription to the Velador and a sea turtle fact sheet.

Call and let CCC take care of all the details.

1-800-678-7853

Leave a legacy through CCC's Planned Giving Program

Caribbean Conservation Corporation's scientific founder, Dr. Archie Carr, dedicated his life to protecting sea turtles and their habitats. His lifelong commitment to and enthusiasm for the natural world inspired generations of scientists and conservationists. In short, he left a legacy. Through a planned gift to the Caribbean Conservation Corporation, you too, can leave a legacy to future generations, while receiving significant tax advantages!

Your legacy gift can be made through any of the following vehicles:



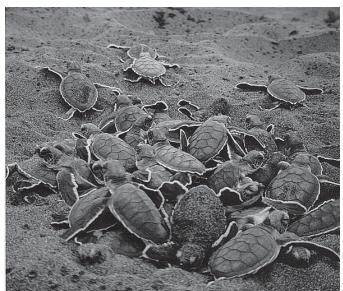
Trusts. A common planned giving instrument, a Trust offers substantial tax benefits to the donor and provides a steady source of income to either a charity or the donor, depending on the type of trust the donor selects.



Gift Annuities. Through gift annuities, you can make a gift to CCC and, in turn, receive lifetime income for you or your survivors.



Stock Gifts. Donating appreciated stock to fund a planned gift provides an income tax deduction equal to the fair market value of the stock on the date of the gift. Giving stock also avoids capital gains taxes on the growth your shares enjoyed since you purchased them.



sebastian Troëng



Wills. Perhaps the most important document to you and your loved ones, a Will also is an appropriate and common instrument for leaving a planned gift to a charity such as CCC.

To learn more about how you can leave a legacy for future generations, call or write for a free copy of CCC's Planned Giving guide. The guide (available online at www.cccturtle.org/giving/guide.htm) gives brief descriptions of the major Planned Giving tools and offers examples of the tax benefits of each. For more information about any of the options described within the guide, contact us or your attorney. If you don't have an attorney, we can help find one suitable for your needs. **Please contact:**

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