



Science-Based Sea Turtle Conservation Since 1959

Issue 3, 2017

Holiday decorating with sea turtles in mind



Lighting retrofit at Ariola Beach Club.

This holiday season, Sea Turtle Conservancy's (STC) lighting team is giving sea turtles in the Florida Panhandle a priceless gift: beachfront properties with sea turtle friendly lighting. See page 3 for before (left) and after (right) pictures of properties STC recently retrofitted.

As the 2017 nesting season comes to a close, it's important to understand and make arrangements for marine friendly beaches throughout the year. During sea turtle nesting season, you may know that removing beach furniture and picking up trash before dark keeps the beach safe for

sea turtles. While these things are a great start, there is more that you can do during the winter months. One of the best ways you can help sea turtles and ensure you are adhering to your local lighting ordinance is to change your beachfront lights to wildlife certified fixtures and bulbs. This should be done before the next nesting season.

If your property has unshielded fixtures with white bulbs, nesting females may stay away

continued on page 3...

The Finish Line: Tour de Turtles Update



Shopping Guide: Check out all the sea turtle-themed gift ideas!

The Passing of an Icon

Sea Turtle Conservancy mourns the passing of Landon T. Clay, who served as Chairman of STC's Board of Directors from 1992 until his passing, at the age of 91, on July 29, 2017. Mr. Clay was a World War II veteran, a successful businessman and a renowned investment manager, but he was most well-known as a generous philanthropist and supporter of various intellectual, scientific and conservation causes. A graduate of Harvard University, Landon founded the Clay Mathematics Institute, which encourages and rewards new achievements in mathematics. Mr. Clay enjoyed supporting cutting-edge pursuits in science and biology, and this interest undoubtedly led him to join the Board of STC (known then as Caribbean Conservation Corporation) in 1988. Landon made his mark on the organization almost immediately – establishing STC's first Development Committee in 1989 and working to grow the resources available to support sea turtle research and conservation.

"Landon was the most influential Board member in the history of the organization," said David Godfrey, STC Executive Director. "The organization went through some very challenging times finding its footing after the passing of Archie Carr; if not for Landon this organization would not exist today." Godfrey added, "For me personally, Landon was a guiding force and mentor when I was appointed executive."

Among other things, Landon established the Emily T. Clay Endowment at STC, which provides permanent support for the position of Scientific Director. The endowment was named after Landon's mother, who was a founding member of the organization dating back to the 1950s. Landon's influential presence on the Board will be missed greatly. His spirited guidance and enthusiastic support for the work of Sea Turtle Conservancy will never be forgotten. Given that the Clay family has been represented on the STC Board of Directors dating back 60 years to the organization's founding, a new member of the Clay family will be appointed soon to carry Landon's bright torch. 

*By David Godfrey
Executive Director*

VELADOR {bel.a.dor}

In Caribbean cultures, *Velador* translates as "one who stands vigil" —referring to turtle hunters who waited at night for turtles to come ashore. Now STC claims this title for its newsletter, and around the world 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**. 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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Dr. Roldán Valverde*

*Controller
Pat McCloskey*

*Director of International Policy
Marydele Donnelly*

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... from cover

from it, but if they do nest nearby, hatchlings may emerge and crawl toward your lights instead of crawling toward the ocean. They may even become disoriented and wander aimlessly around the beach for hours, burning up the valuable energy that they need to make it out to sea. This can be prevented by practicing the three golden rules of turtle friendly lighting on your beachfront home:

1. Keep it shielded. Shielding a fixture directs the light downward where it needs to go. Shielding a fixture or bulb also prevents the light source from being seen from the beach.

2. Keep it long (wavelength). Sea turtles are less affected by long wavelength light (560 nanometers and above), which is used by wildlife certified amber or red LED bulbs. White bulbs utilize short wavelength light which gives off violet, green and blue light on



the electromagnetic spectrum. Wildlife certified amber LED bulbs will save you energy, provide a candlelit ambiance and save sea turtles.

3. Keep it low. By lowering a light on your property, it decreases the chance that a sea turtle will see it and become disoriented. Keeping it low also puts light closer to where it needs to be depending on the application, such as on a sidewalk or pathway.

To find out where to buy turtle friendly fixtures and bulbs, visit the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's wildlife certified website here: <http://myfwc.com/conservation/you-conserve/lighting/certified/>.



To learn more about turtle friendly lighting, visit STC's beachfront lighting website at <https://conserveturtles.org/stc-beachfront-lighting-program/>. Conservation Program, has been observing based on flipper tags and genetics.

By Stacey Marquis
Lighting Specialist &
Development Coordinator



Florencia Hotel lighting retrofit.



Holiday Inn lighting retrofit.



Holiday Gift Guide

B.

2018 Sea Turtle Scenes



Front



Back



C.



A. 2017 Ornament - featuring our 2017 Tour de Turtles design. Engraved on back. **\$9.95**

B. 2018 Sea Turtle Scenes Calendar - 11" x 17" (open) wall calendar features some of STC's favorite sea turtles in action. **\$12.95**

C. Sea Turtles of the World Poster - 19" x 27" poster includes illustrations of the different life stages of all seven species of sea turtles found in the world's oceans. Printed on 80# coated stock using fade resistant inks and the highest production values. Illustrations by Dawn Witherington. **\$19.95**

D. Leatherback Sea Turtle Pendant - sterling silver loggerhead sea turtle! Created by Wildthings in Massachusetts, this unique design is also available as a pair of dangle earrings. (18" silver chain is sold separately). **\$28.95**

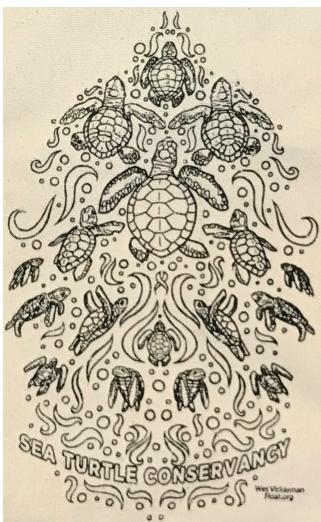
E. Mosaic Loggerhead Sea Turtle Multicolor - beautifully crafted stone resin sculpture by Barcino. Each is hand painted for a unique mosaic porcelain finish. Measures L 5.1" x W 5.1" x H 1.7" **\$19.95**

D.



E.

F.



G.



H.



I.



J.



F. Eco-Friendly Hatchling Tote - a very sturdy eco-friendly large size tote. This bag is made of 22 oz. Cotton canvas. The handles and bottom are forest green in color. Great for those large items and washable. **\$24.95**

G. Save the Turtles Charm Necklace - sea turtle charm made from copper, brass and alpaca silver with stylized STC logo on a 16" silver plate chain w/2" extender. Fair Trade and handcrafted by artisans in their home. **\$20.95**

H. Sea Turtle Baseball Cap - this Sea Turtle Conservancy baseball cap is canvas colored and comes with an adjustable cloth strap. Features the STC turtle logo on the front and "Sea Turtle Conservancy" on the back in embroidered teal. **\$24.95**

I. 2017 Tour de Turtles Shirt - 50% cotton/ 50% polyester t-shirt available in youth and adult sizes SM, MD, LG, and adult XL, 2XL. Only available in yellow. **\$19.95**

J. Sea Turtle Bracelet - row of sterling silver sea turtles. Created by Wildthings in Massachusetts, these turtles will wrap around your wrist to form a bracelet. 7" long. **\$39.95**

Visit conserveturtles.org/shop to shop for these items and other great turtle gear!

K.



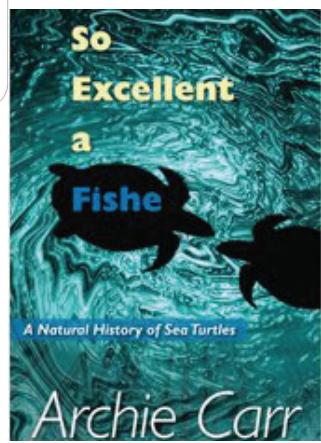
L.



N.



M.



Cause-Related Partners

Strawesome	Pure Planet Club	Divinity LA	RE3
Because of a Case	Turtle Lady Art	A Sassy Glass	Honu Jewelry

K. Vitruvian Sea Turtle T-Shirt - Gildan softstyle ring spun t-shirt made of 65% polyester and 35% cotton. Only available in charcoal. Adult sizes S, M, L, & XL **\$24.95**

L. Replica Sea Turtle License Plate - mock version of Florida's sea turtle speciality plate for the front of your car. Metal, size of a standard American license plate. **\$12.95**

M. So Excellent a Fishe by Archie Carr - groundbreaking book answers many then-unresolved questions about sea turtle behavior and migrations. This new edition captures Carr's gentle humor, passionate fascination with sea turtles, and his love of sharing his knowledge with readers. **\$21.95**

N. Mosaic Sea Turtle Ornament - beautifully crafted stone resin sculpture by Barcino. Each is hand painted for a unique mosaic porcelain finish. Measures L 2.6" x W 3.3" x H 0.7" **\$9.95**

Volunteer Spotlight: Molly Ayers

Molly Ayers began volunteering at STC's Gainesville office almost four years ago as a middle school student. Because of her age, Molly was only allowed to perform low-level office tasks at first. Gradually, however, she took on more responsibilities and was soon invited to accompany staff to the annual Tour de Turtles kick off events at the Barrier Island Center. No matter what she was asked to do, Molly approached the task with eagerness and a positive attitude – proving her dedication to sea turtle conservation. Today, as a junior in high school and with college firmly in her sights, Molly continues to volunteer at the STC – and once again she assisted with the Tour de Turtles launch, now helping to scout for turtles and assist STC's Technology & Research Specialist Dan Evans with the satellite attachment process. We sat down with Molly to talk to her about her experience with STC.

When did you start volunteering at STC?

My first day volunteering was in February of 2014. I was a twelve year old in seventh grade at Howard Bishop middle school.

Why did you want to volunteer?

When I was ten years old, I had the wonderful opportunity of attending an Eco-Explorer summer camp at the Barrier Island Center in Melbourne, Florida. At the end of the week-long camp, we all went on a walk at night looking for sea turtles. I witnessed a Loggerhead sea turtle nesting, and fell in love. It broke my heart to think that these creatures were endangered. I did some research, and contacted the Sea Turtle Conservancy, where they welcomed my enthusiasm.

What is the coolest thing you've gotten to do as a volunteer?

Participating in the annual Tour de Turtles event is by far the coolest experience I've had with the Sea Turtle Conservancy. Getting to interact with turtles is incredible, and they never fail to amaze me. All of the turtles I have had the opportunity to work with have gone on to educate the public, and fuel further conservation efforts. Every year, people who come to the event are surprised by the size, beauty, and prehistoric strength of the turtles. It is my passion to share the awe that turtles inspire with the world.

What are some of your other favorite STC memories?

Working on posters for events has been another fun point of my time as a volunteer. Creating interactive games to help educate people is hard work, but it pays off immensely when I get to see kids and adults having fun while learning. Through my time at STC, I have come to love not only the turtles, but the people behind the conservation.

What are your career aspirations?

I am currently working towards my Associate of

Arts degree, and plan to become a marine biologist in order to work on sea turtle conservation.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication Molly! We are truly appreciative of volunteers like you! To learn more about volunteering with STC please visit <https://conserveturtles.org/barrier-island-center-volunteer-opportunities/>

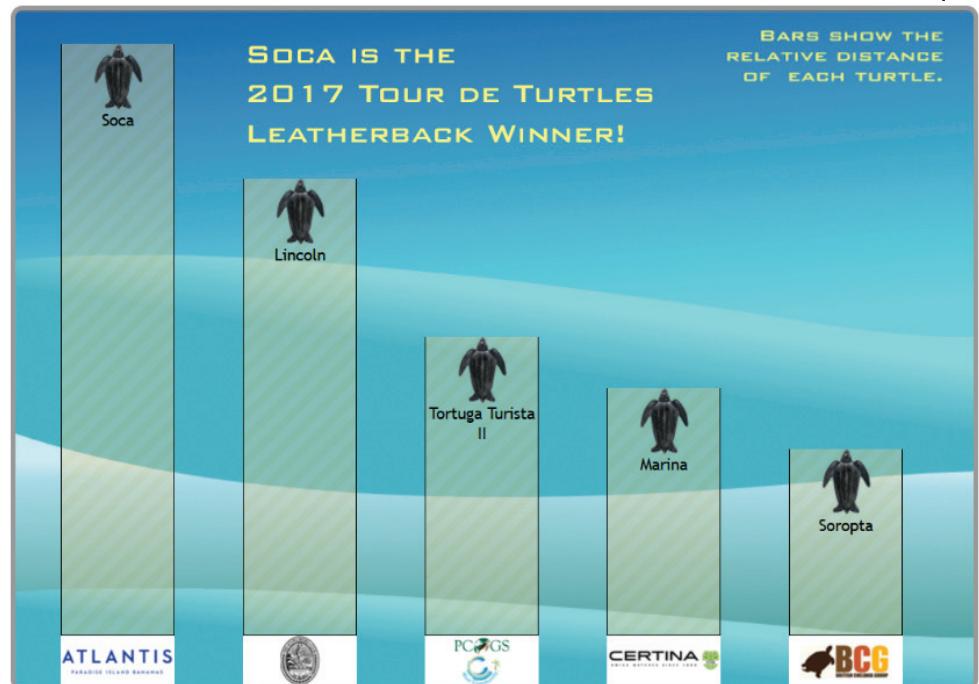
*By Lexie Beach
Communications Coordinator*

The Finish Line: Tour de Turtles Update

After three long months, the Tour de Turtles migration marathon has finally come to an end! Who ended up on the podium this year? In our Leatherback category, Soca from Team Atlantis claimed the crown, swimming an astonishing 5,250 km! In 2nd place was Lincoln from The Explorers Club with an equally impressive 4,050 km. In 3rd place was Tortuga Turista II representing the Patel College of Global Sustainability, with 2,640 km. The remaining two leatherback competitors, Marina and Soropta, put up a good fight but ultimately got washed away by the competition, swimming “only” 2,200 km and 1,640 km respectively.

In the Hardshell category, TdT was a nail-biter down to the very end! Loggerheads Eliza Ann and Cruz had been battling it out (logger)head to head for 1st place the entire race. They finished only 150 km apart, with Eliza Ann earning the ultimate victory and Cruz taking 2nd. Rounding out the podium in 3rd place is green turtle Angel, who just barely pulled ahead of fellow green turtle Reefie at the end. Check out all the turtles’ final migration distances below!

- 1st – Eliza Ann – 2,700 km
- 2nd – Cruz – 2,550 km
- 3rd - Angel - 1,880 km
- 4th - Reefie - 1,850 km
- 5th - Odyssey - 1,320 km
- 6th - Mandalay II - 1,290 km
- 7th - Sanchez - 1,240 km
- 8th - Tartle - 1,145 km
- 9th - Sally - 1,070 km
- 10th - Onda - 1,050 km
- 11th - Caroline - 900 km
- 12th - Argus - 850 km
- 13th - Tina - 775 km
- 14th - Mojito - 740 km
- 15th - Tilly - 365 km



Tour de Turtles racers in the Leatherback category.



Tour de Turtles racers in the Hardshell category.

Rehab green turtle Argus might not have made it very far in the distance competition, but she was the clear

winner in the People's Choice Race, thanks to the dedication of her fans at The Turtle Hospital! Loggerhead Eliza Ann came in 2nd place and Soca the leatherback followed in 3rd place. Thank you everyone who adopted a turtle and supported the turtle competitors online!

Even though the official Tour de Turtles race is over, you can continue to follow the turtles until their transmitters stop working. Just visit the Turtle Tracker on STC's homepage to see their maps at conserveturtles.org/sea-turtle-tracking. adopted a turtle and supported the turtle competitors online!

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Eliza Ann, the 2017 Tour de Turtles Hardshell winner.

the Turtle Tracker on STC's homepage to see their maps at conserveturtles.org/sea-turtle-tracking

Thank you to all of our amazing turtle sponsors who made this year's program possible: Waterline Marina Resort & Beach Club, Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch, Disney Con-

servation Fund, Disney's Animals, Science and Environment, Divinity LA, The Greene Turtle, Ripley's Aquariums, World Nomads, Shark Reef Aquarium at Mandalay Bay, tarte cosmetics, SEA LIFE Trust, The Turtle Hospital, Naked Turtle White Rum, Four Seasons Resort Nevis, Atlantis, The Explorers Club, USF Patel College of Global Sustainability, Certina, British Chelonia Group and Carolina Skiff Boats.

*By Lexie Beach
Communications Coordinator*

Turtle Guardians

As a Sea Turtle Conservancy Member you are already doing so much to help sea turtles through conservation programs in Costa Rica, Panama, Florida, Bermuda and Nevis. Would you like to do more without much effort?

Please consider becoming an STC Turtle Guardian and making your donation go even further.

For as little as \$5 per month (about the cost of your favorite cup of coffee), you can join this small, dedicated group of Members and receive additional benefits such as an annual calendar and exclusive turtle updates. By giving monthly as a Turtle Guardian you can ensure that your gift to STC is used as efficiently as possible. Making regular, monthly donations to STC is the most convenient and efficient way to support our efforts to protect sea turtles.

Visit <https://conserveturtles.org/support-stc-join-this-small-group-of-dedicated-members/> to sign up to become a Turtle Guardian today. Monthly donations can be cancelled or modified any time, by calling Tyler Puckett, STC's Membership Coordinator, at 352-373-6441, or emailing her at tyler@conserveturtles.org. And if you are already a Turtle Guardian, thank you, and please consider recruiting a friend to become one, too!



Credit Adriana Huaman

Special Event Spotlight

Couple hosts plastic-free wedding

When Amber Marcoux brought a group of 5 year olds on a field trip to the Marine Science Center years ago, she experienced her “moment.” She listened to a presentation about how plastic harms sea turtles and looked at a graphic comparing jellyfish to plastic bags. As soon as she got home from the trip, she told everyone she knew about what she learned at the center.

“I came home, and told the story to everyone I knew, and from that moment on knew that this would be something I wanted to do to help out,” she said. “If I can just make one person change the mindset on plastic, I’d be doing my part. To me, small lifestyle changes mean bigger changes as a community.”

So when her boyfriend, Tyler, proposed, Amber knew that she had to incorporate this message into her wedding celebration. The invitations are made of plant material, she gave out reusable bags as part favors, and she made the effort to go 100 percent plastic-free.

Waiting on pictures here!
The wedding is this weekend.

To further educate her guests about marine debris, she reached out to STC to ask if we could provide her with literature to distribute at the event. Executive Director David Godfrey was so touched by her story that he contacted our partners, Naked Turtle Rum, to have a presence at the event. Naked Turtle Rum graciously donated bottles of rum for the reception, and STC provided sea turtle conservation guides to educate the guests.

As for their honeymoon, Tyler and Amber will be spending time in Hawaii, with the hopes of seeing a few sea turtles.

*By Stacey Marquis
Lighting Specialist &
Development Coordinator*

Skip the Straw Campaign

Don't forget to skip the straw during the holidays



The holidays are the one time of the year that extended family and friends gather under one roof, and for some, that means a few cocktails are in order. After you grab your drink, don't forget to skip the straw completely or to use paper or metal straws! Paper straws can be found at most grocery stores, and a pack of four metal straws can be found on Amazon for less than \$10. By keeping plastic out of your holiday celebrations, you'll be keeping the planet safer for sea turtles and other wildlife, giving new meaning to the phrase “Drink responsibly.”

Giving Tuesday 2017

On November 28, Sea Turtle Conservancy (STC) is participating in their 5th annual Giving Tuesday. #GivingTuesday, the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, Black Friday, and Cyber Monday, is a day of charitable giving around the world. This special holiday was created as a day where everyone is encouraged to contribute to non-profit organizations in their communities and around the world. #GivingTuesday provides one day to make a HUGE difference. For the past four years, STC has been very fortunate to feel the incredible support from our friends and donors. Last #GivingTuesday, STC supporters raised over \$40,000 in one day to support the Florida In-Water Project! In 2015, you helped raise nearly \$30,000 for the Barrier Island Center's education and community outreach programs.

STC asks for your help this year to support something close to our hearts, the Tour de Turtles. Started in 2008, the Tour de Turtles (TdT) is a fun, educational journey through the science, research and geography of sea turtle migration using satellite telemetry. Created by Sea Turtle Conservancy, with help from sponsors and partners, this event follows the marathon migration of sea turtles, representing different species, from their nesting beaches to their foraging grounds. Each year, sea turtles are tracked for approximately three months as they leave their respective nesting beaches and race to complete a turtle marathon.



Live sea turtle release at the Barrier Island Center in Melbourne, FL



Satellite tagged sea turtle release in Nevis

The Tour de Turtles competitors will swim with the goal of being the first turtle to swim the furthest distance during the migration marathon. This fun, family event kicks off every July at our Barrier Island Center in Melbourne Beach, FL, with the live release of two satellite tagged sea turtles!

Help STC reach its goal of \$40,000 to support Tour de Turtles educational events and sea turtle outreach by donating to the cause in one of three ways: online at www.conserveturtles.org/GivingTuesday, by calling 352-373-6441 or mailing a check with "Giving Tuesday" in the subject line. All checks received with Giving Tuesday in the subject line, will count towards the campaign, even after November 28th, 2016. Funds raised will be matched one to one up to \$20,000 by STC's Board of Directors.

**Can we count you in for
#GivingTuesday?**

*By Tyler Puckett
Membership Coordinator*



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Holiday Sea Turtle Adoptions

Give the gift of a Sea Turtle this Holiday season! Sea turtle adoptions make a great, green holiday gift idea for the people in your life that want to make a positive impact on our world.

With your tax-deductible donation of \$30 or more, you are making a direct difference in the lives of sea turtles! Sea Turtle Conservancy will send gift recipients a personalized adoption certificate, a Sea Turtle Conservation Guide, a membership window cling, a sea turtle sticker and bookmark, a magnet, and a one-year subscription to the Sea Turtle Conservancy's membership publication, all in a keepsake turtle folder. Please order by Dec. 7 for free guaranteed delivery by Christmas.

For a limited time, upgrade any sea turtle adoption to the \$55 level or above, and STC will include a free 2018 Sea Turtle Scenes Calendar in addition to the adoption premium (we have plenty in stock now, but this offer is valid only while supplies last).

To adopt a sea turtle, please visit <https://conserveturtles.org/support-stc-join-stc-and-adopt-a-turtle/> today!

