



CARIBBEAN  
4424 NW 13th St., Suite A-1  
Gainesville, FL 32609  
ph: (352) 373-6441  
fax: (352) 375-2449  
e-mail: [ccc@cccturtle.org](mailto:ccc@cccturtle.org)  
website: [www.cccturtle.org](http://www.cccturtle.org)

CONSERVATION  
CORPORATION

# *Annual Report 2005*



CONSERVATION  
CORPORATION

## 2005 CCC Staff

### CCC Headquarters - Gainesville, Florida

David Godfrey, *Executive Director*  
Dan Evans, *Education Coordinator*  
Gary Appelson, *Policy Coordinator*  
Pat McCloskey, *Controller*  
Kim Allen, *Office Manager*  
Kimberly Johnson, *Membership Coordinator*

### San Jose, Costa Rica, Office

Roxana Silman, *In-country Director*  
Ileana Vargas, *Office Assistant*

### Tortuguero Research Station (Only managerial staff listed)

Sergio Campos, *Manager, John H. Phipps Biological Field Station*  
Teresita Alfaro Salas, *Museum and Visitors Center Coordinator*

### Tortuguero Research staff

Sebastian Troëng, *Scientific Director*  
Dr. Emma Harrison, *Field Coordinator*  
Enrique Vargas, *Track Surveyor*

### Panama Research staff (Paid track surveyors not listed)

Cristina Ordonez, *Field Coordinator*

### Green Turtle Program

*Research Assistants:*

### Leatherback Turtle Program

*Research Assistants:*

### Neotropical Migratory

#### Bird Program

Pablo Herrera, *Field Coordinator*  
*Research Assistants:*



*Illustrations by Peggy Cavanaugh & Deirdre Hyde*  
*Cover photograph by Schrichte's Underwater Photography (all rights reserved)*  
*Back photograph by John Moran*

## 2005-2006 Scientific Advisory Committee

- Karen A. Bjorndal, Ph.D.** -- Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research, University of Florida.  
**Alan B. Bolten, Ph.D.** -- Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research, University of Florida.  
**Milani Chaloupka, Ph.D.** -- Ecological Modelling Services, University of Queensland, Australia  
**David W. Ehrenfeld, Ph.D., M.D.** -- Department of Natural Resources, Rutgers University.  
**Llewellyn M. Ehrhart, Ph.D.** -- Department of Biological Sciences, University of Central Florida & Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute  
**Anne B. Meylan, Ph.D.** -- Florida Marine Research Institute.  
**Jeanne A. Mortimer, Ph.D.** -- Turtle and Tortoise Project, Conservation & National Parks, Division of Environment, Republic of Seychelles.  
**Larry H. Ogren** -- National Marine Fisheries Service (retired).  
**Peter C. H. Pritchard, Ph.D.** -- Chelonian Research Institute.  
**J. Perran Ross, Ph.D.** -- Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida.  
**Barbara Schroeder** -- National Sea Turtle Coordinator, National Marine Fisheries Service  
**Sebastian Troeng, Ph.D.** -- Marine Programs, Conservation International

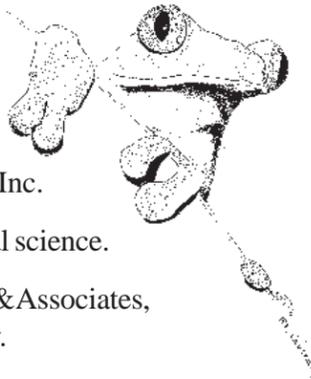


## Table of Contents



**Executive Director’s Statement**..... 1  
**About the Caribbean Conservation Corporation** ..... 3  
**Research and Conservation at Tortuguero, Costa Rica** ..... 5  
**Research and Conservation at Chiriqui Beach, Panama**..... 8  
**Sea Turtle Survival League**..... 9  
**Bermuda Turtle Project** ..... 13  
**Membership** ..... 15  
**Foundation and Corporate Support**..... 18  
**Audited Financial Reports** ..... 19  
**Tortuguero Program Participants** ..... 21  
**Board of Directors** ..... 22  
**Scientific Advisory Committee** ..... 23  
**Staff**..... 24

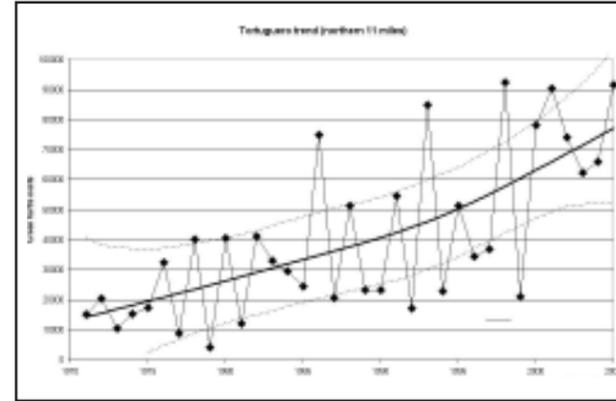




**Executive Director's Statement**  
*by David Godfrey*



In reflecting on the many accomplishments and events that stand out from 2005, by far the most significant is the trend in green turtle nesting in Tortuguero, Costa Rica, the site of CCC's renowned sea turtle research and conservation program. During 2005, endangered green turtles returned to nest in the greatest numbers we have seen in 50 years of monitoring. Most importantly, these results mark the continuation of an upward trend in nesting at Tortuguero, which since 1970 has seen a 400% increase in green turtle nests. During the height of the nesting season, CCC researchers and volunteers recorded a whopping 3,000 nests deposited in a single night! When nesting dwindled to a halt in November, a record number of nests (over 140,000) were documented at this globally important nesting beach. This is an achievement worth savoring and celebrating!



It's not that sea turtles are entirely out of trouble, but the results seen in Tortuguero prove that CCC's approach to sea turtle conservation works. We have maintained a single-minded dedication to protecting sea turtles by safeguarding their nesting beaches and working to eliminate direct threats. In the face of incredible odds, our small organization and its supporters have achieved a conservation success story for the ages. The largest remaining green turtle rookery in the Western Hemisphere was dwindling toward extinction when CCC and its scientific director, Dr. Archie Carr, established the Tortuguero program in the mid-1950s. Five decades later, these amazing animals are showing remarkable signs of recovery.

If we have learned one thing in all these years, it is that saving sea turtles takes perseverance. As CCC nears its 50th anniversary, a complex array of challenges threatens to undo the progress we have made toward ensuring sea turtle survival. For example, in Florida, where over 90% of all sea turtle nesting in the United States takes place, hurricanes, sea level rise and coastal erosion are driving beachfront residents to build hundreds of sea walls in last-ditch efforts to save poorly sited coastal property. These walls, many of which are illegal, are being built in some of the world's most important turtle nesting habitat, and government agencies seem unwilling or unable to enforce regulations designed to protect beaches and dunes. This situation poses a long-term threat to sea turtle recovery. In response, CCC is spearheading a campaign to reform Florida's entire coastal construction and management policies. It's a daunting but necessary task, and results already can be seen.

In reaction to CCC's coastal management reform campaign, in mid-2005 Governor Jeb Bush issued an Executive Order establishing a study commission charged with reviewing the effectiveness of Florida's coastal policies. CCC Policy Coordinator Gary Appelson was appointed by the Governor to serve on the new commission as the sole representative from the conservation community. This appoint-

**Landon T. Clay** - CCC Chairman; East Hill Management, Boston.

**Peggy M. Cavanaugh** - CCC President; Owner of Premier Properties of Brevard, Inc.

**F. Peter Rose** - CCC Secretary; Ecologist with an advanced degree in environmental science.

**Anthony D. Knerr, Ph.D.** - CCC Treasurer; Managing Director of Anthony Knerr & Associates, Previously Executive Vice President for Finance and Treasurer of Columbia University.

**Mario A. Boza** - Advisor to the Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica; first director of Costa Rican National Park System; former vice minister of natural resources for Costa Rica.

**Mike Bruyere, Esq.** - Attorney with Lord, Bissell & Brook LLP in Atlanta, GA office.

**Archie F. Carr, III, Ph.D.** - Director of Wildlife Conservation Society's Meso-American program; son of founding scientific director Dr. Archie F. Carr, Jr.

**William G. Conway, Ph.D.** - Senior Conservationist, Wildlife Conservation Society, New York. Former President and CEO of the Wildlife Conservation Society.

**Carlos Manuel Rodriguez Echandi, Esq.** - Regional Vice President for Conservation International. Former Minister of Natural Resources, Costa Rica

**Dr. David Ehrenfeld** - Professor of Zoology at Rutgers University; received Ph.D. under Dr. Archie F. Carr, Jr., and conducted sea turtle research in Tortuguero.

**H. Clay Frick, III** - Owner of a private commercial salmon fishing operation in Alaska. Son of long-time CCC Board member Dr. Clay Frick, Jr.

**Elise Frick** - Daughter of H. Clay Frick, Jr. and past volunteer with the Bermuda Turtle Project.

**Jenevra Georgini** - Assistant General Counsel for AIG in New York.

**Dr. Charlie Magal** - Managing partner in a Maryland-based radiology practice.

**Carolien P. Maynard** - Daughter of CCC co-founder Mr. Joshua Powers.

**Carmel McGill** - Partner, Engenium Group, an environmentally sensitive development firm.

**Rafael Morice** - Chief executive officer, Grupo ECOS, Costa Rica.

**Jeffrey S. Phipps** - Owner, Growth Innovations; grandson of CCC co-founder John H. Phipps.

**Chris Rajczi** - Computer industry consultant and business networking specialist.

**Nicholas A. Shufro** - Environmental Affairs Advisor, Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP.

**Rainey Sellars** - Managing Director, International Private Client Group.

**Mark D. Shantzis** - Founder of the Conservation Education Foundation. Inventor and former owner of Hi-Rise Recycling.

**Jordan Urstadt, Esq.** - Attorney with an investment fund company in Switzerland; grandson of CCC co-founder Joshua Powers.

## 2005 Tortuguero, Costa Rica, Research Volunteers

*Caribbean Conservation Corporation offers unique volunteer opportunities at its John H. Phipps Biological Field Station in Tortuguero, Costa Rica. Volunteers Research Assistants help CCC's staff collect data on Tortuguero's sea turtles and neotropical birds, while they gain valuable field research experience. In 2005, 38 volunteers participated in CCC's research programs.*

### Leatherback Turtle Program:

Andrea de Haro, *Field Coordinator*  
 Philip Antman (USA)  
 Vidal Castillo (Mexico)  
 Pablo Garcés (Ecuador)  
 Christopher Frohlich (USA)  
 Angerline Marin (Costa Rica)  
 Inés Palomares (Spain)  
 Linda Reinhold (Australia)  
 Alejandro Sagone (Guatemala)  
 Enrique Vargas (Costa Rica)



### Green Turtle Program:

Andrea de Haro, *Field Coordinator*  
 Alberto Abad (Spain)  
 Ramon Becker (Panama)  
 Mauricio Contreras (Chile)  
 Victor Huertas (Spain)  
 Stacey Kennealy (USA)  
 Richard Lawrence (UK)  
 Ewan Macdonald (UK)  
 Yazmin Monroy (Mexico)  
 Ricardo Morales (Panama)  
 Aaron Norwood (USA)  
 Mariela Pajuelo (Peru)  
 Inés Palomares (Spain)  
 Alejandro Paz (Colombia)  
 Oriol Peñalver (Spain)  
 Marcela Rodríguez (Colombia)  
 Jonathan Quan (USA)  
 Anastacio Tugri (Panama)  
 Jesús Tugri (Panama)  
 Enrique Vargas (Costa Rica)

### Neotropical Bird Program:

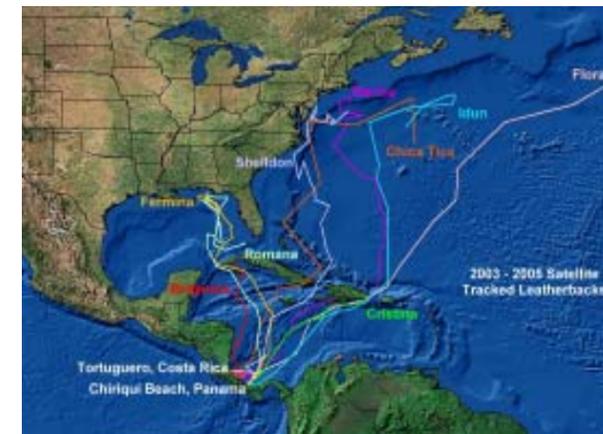
Bob Frey  
 Alejandro Solano  
 Andrea McManus  
 Jora Rehm-Lorber  
 Mark Fogg  
 Ian Thompson  
 James Melton  
 Susie Knoll  
 Nicole Michel  
 Stacey Kennealy

ment presented a unique opportunity for CCC to help shape the direction of future coastal policies in Florida so that sea turtles and their nesting beaches are given far greater protection.

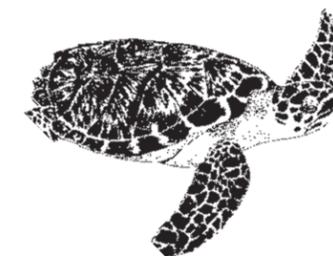
Despite complicated challenges such as those described above, CCC is energized by the good news from Costa Rica. Green turtles also are nesting in unprecedented numbers at the Florida nesting beach where CCC has worked for nearly 20 years—the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge. The trick now is to repeat this success with other sea turtle species and other nesting colonies, which is exactly what we are doing through a new program launched at Chiriquí Beach in Panama. Using the strategies developed at Tortuguero and in Florida, we are working with local communities to monitor, protect and eventually recover important populations of both leatherback and hawksbill turtles. We know this new initiative will be successful, if we can maintain the project long enough to give sea turtles a chance to come back.

Beach surveys conducted over the last two years have documented that Playa Chiriquí is the most important nesting site for leatherbacks in the Caribbean—and one of the top four leatherback beaches remaining in the world. In an effort to learn as much as possible about this newly discovered leatherback rookery, in 2005 CCC employed the use of satellite telemetry to track the movements of a

handful of Chiriquí's leatherbacks. The results not only are fascinating, they are helping us shape international efforts to protect these critically endangered animals throughout their range. To our surprise, two particularly intriguing leatherbacks left Panama in the summer of 2005 and swam directly to foraging areas in the Gulf of Mexico, located very near the area where energy companies are seeking permission to set up new oil and gas drilling operations. CCC now is making sure the presence of these critically endangered species in the vicinity are being considered by decision-makers reviewing the case for more drilling in the Gulf.



CCC's results in 2005 prove that sea turtle conservation programs do work. We are making measurable progress, and there is much success to celebrate. Within this 2005 Annual Report, CCC presents the specific accomplishments in each of its programmatic areas. You will also find CCC's audited financial statements, which demonstrate the organization's stable and healthy financial performance. I thank you for your interest in CCC's work, and I invite you to call me personally if you have any questions.



*David Godfrey*

David Godfrey  
 CCC Executive Director

*About the*  
**Caribbean Conservation Corporation**



In the early 1950s, Dr. Archie Carr, a zoology professor and natural history writer at the University of Florida who was fascinated with sea turtles, began searching the Caribbean for clues to their life history and biology. His quest took him to the black sand beach of Tortuguero, a remote, 22-mile beach on the northeast coast of Costa Rica that Archie quickly realized was the site of the largest remaining nesting colony of green turtles in the Western Hemisphere. But while the turtles were coming ashore in large numbers, so were turtle hunters. Easy prey, the turtles were killed and their freshly laid eggs taken. Archie realized that humans were hunting this rookery to extinction, as had occurred at so many other nesting beaches throughout the Caribbean. He set up a makeshift research station to study the nesting green turtle population, and each year Archie, his family, students and colleagues would make this rustic outpost their summer home. Through the annual turtle monitoring and protection program, they set out to learn about the turtles with the goal of eventually restoring dwindling turtle populations throughout the Caribbean.

In 1956, Archie published his now classic book, *The Windward Road*, which detailed his travels throughout the Caribbean while searching for clues to sea turtle biology. A brilliant scientist, Archie was also a gifted writer. His tales of sea turtles and the threats to their survival deeply touched Joshua B. Powers, a New York publisher's representative. *The Windward Road* so moved Joshua to try to save sea turtles that he sent copies of the book to several dozen friends with an invitation to join the "Brotherhood of the Green Turtle." On Dec. 4, 1959, several members of the "Brotherhood," including John H. Phipps, attended a meeting where they established the Caribbean Conservation Corporation as the first organization in the world dedicated to the study and protection of marine turtles. Now approaching its 50th anniversary, CCC conducts sea turtle research, conservation, education and advocacy projects in Central America, the Caribbean, and the United States.

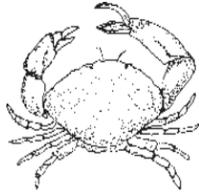
CCC concentrates its conservation activities in areas containing globally significant sea turtle populations and habitats. The organization uses research, education and advocacy to achieve its mission. For example, these basic tools were used to help establish Costa Rica's first national park, Tortuguero National Park, as well as the first sea turtle refuge in the United States, the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge in southeast Florida. CCC also mobilized a statewide network of sea turtle researchers and volunteer groups as part of a campaign to establish the Florida sea turtle license plate. This successful program now provides a permanent funding source for the state's Marine Turtle Protection Program, as well as funding the Sea Turtle Grants Program, which is administered by CCC.

## 2005 Financial Reports

### STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2004

	2005	2004
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash	\$ 372,693	\$ 282,691
Advances	2,167	1,424
Receivables	83,259	69,189
Prepays & Deposits	7,917	4,609
Inventories	19,111	16,456
Assets Restricted to Long-Term Purposes:		
Cash and Equivalents	234,819	203,801
Investments	133,881	134,569
Structures and Equipment, Net	373,426	386,974
Land	20,300	20,300
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>\$1,247,573</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,120,013</u></b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 16,696	\$ 17,820
Accrued Liabilities	19,900	16,633
Line-of-Credit	98,000	109,000
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>134,596</b>	<b>143,453</b>
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted:		
Board Designated	24,250	--
Undesignated	337,144	332,421
<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	<b>361,394</b>	<b>332,421</b>
Temporarily Restricted	407,133	305,769
Permanently Restricted	344,450	338,370
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b><u>1,112,977</u></b>	<b><u>976,560</u></b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b><u>\$1,247,573</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,120,013</u></b>





## 2005 Financial Reports

### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
<b>Support</b>				
Contributions	\$ 106,006	\$ 5,000	\$ 11,350	\$ 122,356
In-Kind Contributions	6,600	--	--	6,600
Non-Government Grants	143,007	135,824	--	278,831
Government Grants	66,206	438,958	--	505,164
Membership Dues	172,282	--	--	172,282
Net Assets Released from Restrictions:				
Purpose Restrictions	483,688	(483,688)	--	--
Donor Restrictions	--	5,270	(5,270)	--
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>977,789</b>	<b>101,364</b>	<b>6,080</b>	<b>1,085,233</b>
<b>Revenues</b>				
Program Revenues	100,420	--	--	100,420
Sales and Rentals	109,786	--	--	109,786
Interest and Dividends	6,771	--	--	6,771
Royalties	2,107	--	--	2,107
Other	1,793	--	--	1,793
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>220,877</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>220,877</b>
<b>Total Support and Revenues</b>	<b>1,198,666</b>	<b>101,364</b>	<b>6,080</b>	<b>1,306,110</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Program Services:				
Tortuguero Research and Conservation	354,002	--	--	354,002
Panama Research and Conservation	134,624	--	--	134,624
Wider Caribbean Programs	24,185	--	--	24,185
Sea Turtle Survival League	431,038	--	--	431,038
Support Services:				
General and Administrative	104,638	--	--	104,638
Development	96,418	--	--	96,418
Costs of Merchandise Sales	27,608	--	--	27,608
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,172,513</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1,172,513</b>
Excess of Support and Revenues Over Expenses	26,153	101,364	6,080	133,597
Net Investment Gains	2,820	--	--	2,820
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>28,973</b>	<b>101,364</b>	<b>6,080</b>	<b>136,417</b>
<b>Net Assets, January 1, 2005</b>	<b>332,421</b>	<b>305,769</b>	<b>338,370</b>	<b>976,560</b>
<b>Net Assets, December 31, 2005</b>	<b>\$ 361,394</b>	<b>\$ 407,133</b>	<b>\$ 344,450</b>	<b>\$1,112,977</b>

CCC's geographic focus includes all of the Wider Caribbean, including the southeastern U.S., because of the region's unique importance to the world's remaining sea turtle populations. The colonies of green turtles, loggerheads, hawksbills and leatherbacks that nest at Tortuguero, Costa Rica; Chiriqui Beach, Panama; and in Florida are among the largest remaining in the Western Hemisphere. CCC's international programs include the longest running sea turtle research and conservation program in the world, conducted at CCC's John H. Phipps Biological Field Station in Tortuguero, Costa Rica. In Bermuda, CCC coordinates one of the longest running in-water studies of juvenile green turtles. Recognizing the need for a permanent advocacy and education program to protect sea turtles and their habitats in Florida, where 90% of all sea turtle nesting in the United States occurs, CCC launched the Sea Turtle Survival League Program in 1993.

Over the years, CCC's strategies to protect the sea turtles of Tortuguero, combined with the dedication of the Costa Rican people, have worked. Shortly before his death in 1987, Archie Carr wrote, "Without any doubt whatever, the CCC program has saved the Tortuguero green turtle colony—by far the most important population in the Caribbean—from the total destruction that it faced in the 1950s. It is chilling to think what shape the green turtles would be in today if there had been no Caribbean Conservation Corporation." His statement is supported by ongoing analysis of CCC's long-term nest monitoring project at Tortuguero, which has documented a 400% increase in the number of green turtle nests laid on the beach since 1970.

Along with this success, which is one of the environmental movement's most notable, the efforts of Archie Carr and the CCC brought the plight of endangered sea turtles to the attention of the world and sparked a sea turtle conservation movement that now spans the globe.



## Costa Rica and Panama Research and Conservation Programs



Initiated under the leadership of Dr. Archie Carr in the mid-1950s, the Tortuguero Research and Conservation Program remains the cornerstone of CCC's international sea turtle conservation efforts. Since 1970, the program has documented a 400% increase in the number of green turtles nests, making Tortuguero the most robust green turtle nesting colony in the world. In 2005

CCC conducted the 51st consecutive year of green turtle research and the 11th consecutive year of leatherback research at Tortuguero. In 2003, CCC strengthened its presence in Central America by expanding its sea turtle research and conservation programs into Panama. Both the Tortuguero and Chiriqui Beach projects were carried out successfully during 2005. Critical new information was collected about each nesting site, and CCC's conservation work in both areas is helping protect and recover several sea turtle species. The sections to follow report on the major activities, findings and successes from these two projects during 2005.

### 2005 Leatherback Program (February through June)

#### Survey Effort:

-  CCC conducted a total of 29 additional track surveys between the Tortuguero and Parismina rivermouths between February and July 2006.
-  Nesting surveys of the entire 18 miles of Tortuguero Beach, between the Tortuguero river mouth and the Jalova Lagoon, were conducted 26 times during the season.

#### Statistical Findings for 2005:

-  Peak nesting was recorded on April 9, when 16 fresh leatherback nests were recorded. A total of 157 leatherback turtle encounters were recorded during 1,018 hours of night patrols between 5 March and 6 June, 2005.
-  Overall hatching success for monitored leatherback nests was about 25% and overall emerging success was about 26%. It is possible that low rainfall and high sand temperatures may have affected the hatching success of leatherback nests.
-  The incubation period for leatherback nests for which emergence was observed (n = 7) ranged from 55-87 days with a mean of 64 days.
-  Leatherback nesting increased slightly from 2004 numbers in 2005; however, the overall trend continues to decline.

#### Documentation of Illegal Poaching and Predation:

-  Poaching was estimated to a minimum of 17.1 % of leatherback nests and 4.0 % of green turtle nests. One leatherback was killed by poachers, north of the Tortuguero rivermouth, during the 2005 Leatherback Program. Poaching levels within Tortuguero National Park are much lower than those outside the park limits.
-  A total of ten green turtles and a hawksbill turtle were killed by jaguars.

## 2005 Foundation and Corporate Support

### Foundation and Government Support

Elinor Patterson Baker Trust Fund  
 The Bay and Paul Foundations  
 Sue E. Berman & Michael J. Zamkow Foundation  
 The Catesby Foundation  
 Michele & Agnese Cestone Foundation  
 Arthur & Elena Court Foundation  
 The Dreamcatcher Fund  
 Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund  
 Earth Share  
 The Educational Foundation of America  
 Firedoll Foundation  
 Helen Clay Frick Foundation  
 Hubert Foundation  
 Gainesville Community Foundation:  
 Gladys Cofrin Fund  
 Marisla Foundation  
 Jelks Family Foundation  
 The I Do Foundation  
 The Lemmon Foundation  
 The Martin Foundation  
 MeGotta Foundation  
 Messengers of Healing Winds  
 Moore Charitable Foundation  
 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
 The Edward John Noble Foundation  
 The Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Inc.  
 The Ocean Foundation  
 Ohrstrom Foundation  
 Elizabeth Ordway Dunn Foundation  
 The Panaphil Foundation  
 The Park Foundation  
 Sea Turtle Grants Program  
 United Nations Environment Program  
 Vanguard Charitable Endowment  
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
 World Wildlife Fund

### Matching Gifts

AIG

### Corporate Contributors

Audubon Society  
 Disney's Vero Beach Resort  
 Four Seasons Resort-Nevis  
 MeGotta, Inc.  
 Minnesota Aquarium  
 National Aquarium in Baltimore  
 PursePal, LLC  
 Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay  
 Tortuguero Hotels





**Leatherback Turtle Fleet (\$100-\$249) continued...**

Lisa Fragassi  
 Michael Franco  
 George Fultz  
 Jeffrey Gibb  
 Michael Godzinski  
 Beth Golden  
 Joseph Goldstein  
 Katie Goolsby  
 Hugh Grant  
 Christina Green  
 Joseph Greenberg  
 Jennifer Groppe  
 Maggie & Paul Grupposo  
 Richard Guarnieri  
 Darwin Harris  
 Kymberlee Haynes Castillo  
 Kathy Heffelfinger  
 Robert House  
 Elliot Jacobson  
 Ross, Lil & Andrea Judd  
 Michelle Kane  
 Stephen Kattell  
 Robin Kilbane  
 Athena Kosinski  
 Barbara Kraus  
 Marcia LaFlair  
 Vincent & Denise Lamache  
 Howard Lammons  
 Steve Lane  
 Janet Lawrence  
 Leo Nickerson Logos Kindergarten  
 Amanda Lewis  
 J. Casey Lindstrom & Family  
 Lucinda Lohr  
 Magic Brush, Inc  
 Pamela Maher  
 B. J. Maloney  
 Catherine Ake & Margaret Keener  
 Curt Matlin  
 Peter Matthiessen  
 Kim McGowan  
 Noel McGriff  
 Perry McGriff  
 Judge Michael & Norma McKinley

Megan McQueen  
 Megan McQueen  
 Jean Messex  
 Barbara Meyer  
 Ms. Moe's Science Class  
 Gail & Philip Moloney  
 John Montagna  
 John Moran  
 Mrs. Neuman's 2nd Grade Class  
 Mrs. Thompson's 5th Grade Class  
 Jack Mudd  
 Scott Murray  
 Lindsay Nevalainen  
 Linda Nies  
 Helle & Anders Northeved  
 Jay Nunes  
 Jim Olsen  
 Paul Paulochik  
 Jay & Jan Peace  
 Ms. Tara Penny  
 Sara Pittman Balthazor  
 Joe Pond  
 Joanne Poss  
 Douglas Powless  
 Jay Rain  
 Temple Reynolds  
 Ed Robb  
 Brian Roberts  
 Stephen L. Roming Jr.  
 Kalista Mae Routh  
 Marcie Rowe  
 Ed Ruzic  
 Adam Sachs  
 Amy Sarmiento  
 Paul Schwartz  
 Jordan Schwed  
 Arthur, Ruby & Valentine Scott-Geddes  
 Michael Seltzer  
 Hilde Siebke  
 Stephen Sirrico  
 Cathie Skoog  
 Aaron Slifka  
 Peter, Sue, & Beccy Smith  
 Katie Smith

South Carolina Aquarium  
 Volunteers  
 James Stevenson  
 St. Luke School, Class 6A  
 St. Luke School, Class 6B  
 Jackie Stolze  
 Allen Stuart  
 Shiloh Hills Elem. School  
 Gayle Stuebe  
 Janette Stuhrke  
 Judy Sturgis  
 Hannah Swanborg  
 Vicky, Alexandraer, & Eric Tartter  
 The Hollemans  
 The Smith Family  
 Dale Theurer  
 Barbara B. Tilley  
 Carrie Treadwell  
 Michele E. D. Turner  
 Homer Vaughan  
 Victoria L. Vela  
 Alice Verano  
 Harry Vines  
 Stender Von Oehsen  
 Richard & Glenda Voss  
 Karen Walker  
 Bob Walker  
 Elizabeth Wall  
 Janet Weber  
 Marlaine White  
 David Wilke  
 Steve Wilson  
 Wilson Elementary School  
 Lauren Yanouzas  
 Robert Zoellner, Jr. & Family



**Miscellaneous Findings from the 2005 Leatherback Season:**

-  Rainfall was heaviest in January (1187.2 mm) and June was the month with least rain (128.6 mm). Monthly mean sand temperatures ranged between 25.2 - 32.6°C. Sand temperatures were higher in the open zone than in the border and vegetation zones.
-  A total of 81,457 visitors paid to enter Tortuguero National Park in 2004. Visitation at the CCC Natural History and Visitors Center decreased during the 2005 Leatherback Season. Overall, during the first eight months of the year, 20,712 tourists had visited the facility, an average of 85 visitors/day.

**2005 Green Turtle Program (June through December)**

**Survey Effort:**

-  During 2005, CCC Research Assistants conducted nightly and morning patrols of the entire northern section of Tortuguero Beach (a length of approximately 5 1/2 miles). The research team reported just over 2,020 hours of survey effort during the season.
-  Nesting surveys of the entire 18 miles of Tortuguero Beach, between the Tortuguero river mouth and the Jalova Lagoon, were conducted 50 times during the season.

**Statistical Findings for 2005:**

-  Green turtle nesting began on April 2, and the last nest was reported on December 3, with a peak in nesting recorded on July 31, when 4,071 nests were laid in a single night. The vast majority of green turtle nesting was observed between 15 June and 1 November.
-  CCC located and tagged 1,071 green turtles that had not been previously tagged. An additional 615 green turtles with existing tags were encountered. Nine green turtles from other projects were encountered nesting in 2005 -- all located in Costa Rica.
-  A total of 213 green turtle nests were marked and the fate was determined for 189 nests. Overall hatching success is estimated at 70.7% and overall emerging success at 68.1%. The mean incubation period for undisturbed green turtle nests (n=28) was 57 days.
-  Hawksbill nesting density was very low throughout the season, with 0-2 nests/night recorded between May and October. Five hawksbill turtles were newly tagged, and one previously tagged hawksbill was encountered during the 2005 Green Turtle Program.
-  A total of ten green turtles representing 4.7% of 211 carefully examined individuals were recorded as having fibropapilloma tumors. Tumors were less than 3.5 cm in size and were located on the neck and shoulder area (six turtles), on the front flippers (three turtles) and on the right rear flipper (one turtle).

**Documentation of Illegal Poaching and Predation:**

-  CCC recorded the illegal take of 32 nesting green in 2005. Six nests were documented as having been poached by humans. Illegal take of green turtle eggs continued throughout the nesting season although the levels of take appeared greater during the first part of the season.
-  Jaguars killed a minimum of 24 green and one hawksbill turtles in 2005. The number of green turtles killed by jaguars is very small in comparison to the number of nesting green turtles and is

not likely to represent a serious survival threat to the Tortuguero green turtle population.

 Data from the daily track surveys suggest that illegal take of eggs along the northern 5 miles of beach was greater during the first half of the nesting season.

### Miscellaneous Findings from the 2005 Green Turtle Program:

 A total of five albino, one twin, one triplet and twelve deformed embryos were observed in unhatched eggs in undisturbed, flooded and unhatched nests, accounting for 0.11% of eggs.

 November was the wettest month of the 2005 Green Turtle Program (674.3 mm) and June was the month with least rain (128.6 mm). Mean monthly sand temperatures were highest in June and lowest in November.

 A total of 28,252 persons visited the CCC Natural History and Visitors Center in 2005. Tourist visitation to Tortuguero National Park (TNP) increased in 2005, to 87,083 paying visitors.

 A total of 36,856 tourists were issued permits to go on guided turtle walks in 2005. A new visitation system, began as a pilot project in 2004, was implemented during the first part of the 2005 nesting season.

### Sea Turtle Satellite Tracking

 During 2005, CCC expanded its satellite telemetry research to include eight newly tracked sea turtles. A total of eight transmitters were deployed. One hawksbill was tracked from Chiriqui Beach Panama, and seven leatherbacks were tracked from Panama and Surinam (the latter was conducted with WWF)



### Outreach, Publications, Talks, Media

 CCC was appointed by the parties of the Inter-American Convention on the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) to serve on the IAC's Consultative Committee. This permanent position represents one of only three seats on the committee held by non-governmental organizations. As a member of the Committee, CCC will be able to help guide sea turtle conservation policy decisions in the region.

 In February 2005, CCC hosted an Atlantic-Wide Leatherback Strategy Retreat on St. Catherines Island, Georgia. Over 20 of the world's leading leatherback experts were gathered to prepare a regional strategy and recommendations for the study and protection of leatherbacks in the Atlantic. The results of the workshop were presented to the 2005 International Sea Turtle Symposium held in Savannah, Georgia.



 Also at the annual Sea Turtle Symposium, CCC Executive Director hosted a special session on the Florida Sea Turtle Grants Program, during which a variety of grant recipients reported on the success of research, conservation and education programs funded through a sea turtle license plate grant.

## 2005 Turtle Fleet Contributors



**Archie F. Carr Fellow  
(\$5,000 and up)**  
Sue Berman & Sam Zamkow  
Jenevra Georgini  
Gladys G. Cofrin Fund  
Charles Magal  
Manci Ohrstrom  
Colin Phipps  
Jeff Phipps  
F. Peter Rose  
Pearl Seidman

**Kemp's Ridley Turtle Fleet  
(\$1,000-\$4,999)**  
Richard Boote  
Ronald Boss  
Sarah Bruyere  
Tom & Peggy Cavanaugh  
James French  
John Galbraith  
Jenevra Georgini  
Kenneth Hale  
Douglas Hart  
Anthony Knerr, Ph.D.  
Caroline Reeves  
Mark & Mora Shantzis  
Hooker Talcott, Jr.  
Anne Von Rosenstiel

**Hawksbill Turtle Fleet  
(\$500-\$999)**  
Samy Alice  
Catherine Cahill & William Bernhard  
Thomas & Glenna Carr  
William Conway  
Ronald Eisner  
Curt & Diane Fuhrmann  
Maureen Hackett  
Margaret Hayllar  
Hillside Elementary School  
Sven Krogius  
Robert & Patricia Lanzillotti & Kevin Clifford  
Mrs. York's Second Grade Class

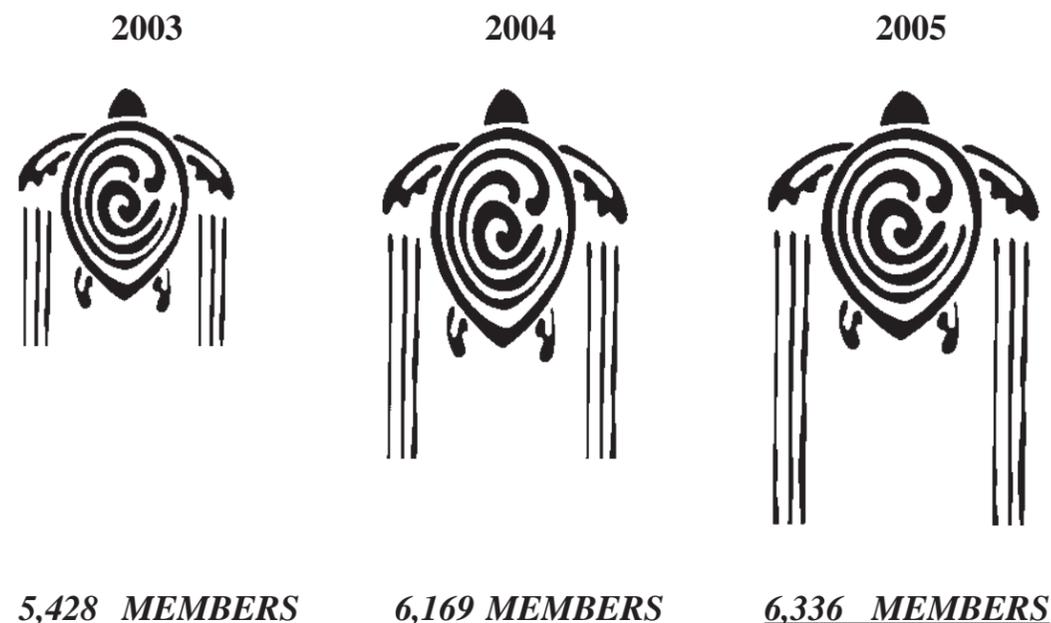
Paul Nelson  
Ryan Rosenberg  
Jay Von Saalfeld

**Loggerhead Turtle Fleet  
(\$250-\$499)**  
Jenna Alley  
Barvarian International School  
Alice Cave & Rick Fletcher  
Tricia Crow  
Emma Dettelbach  
John Fafinski  
Reanette Frobouck  
Birchwood School  
Problem Solvers  
Georgian College RATS  
Mr. and Mrs. Georgini  
Bill Hartel  
James Kilbane  
Sharon Livingston  
Nancy Macaulay  
Mackenzie-Shevick Family  
James & Elizabeth Matzinger  
Caitlin McAvoy  
Lonia Merte  
Miss Manthey's 1st Grade  
Karen Moyer  
Jay Nunes  
Deborah Poppel  
Ayrton Pryor  
Jessy & Sandy Reaves  
River Springs Elementary  
Warren & Virginia Schwerin  
Nicholas Shufro  
Steve & Cynthia Slocum  
St. Mary Magdalen School  
David Taylor  
Anne Taylor  
Joyce Taylor Wood  
Gary Thomas  
Charles & Pam Trippe  
Eugene Walton  
Ron & Joan Wideman

**Leatherback Turtle Fleet  
(\$100-\$249)**  
Douglas Allara, DVM  
Walter Allen  
Allison Noel Anders  
Tinya Anderson  
Sara Arno  
Harry Arnold  
Harry Arnold  
Melissa Ayers  
Irene Balagot  
Alexis Balinski  
Henry Batty  
Peter Benedict  
Peter Benedict  
Karen Benner  
Jadon Bernhardt  
Warren Bicknell III  
Ray & Gloria Bilodeau  
Sylvia V. Blazina  
Zach Bohson  
Richard & Jan Braun  
Gregory & Linda Card  
Archie Carr III, Ph.D.  
Kathy Castle & J. Tom McCullough  
Tom & Peggy Cavanaugh  
Maureen Chassy  
Nancy Cheek  
Marie & Mike Collins  
Columbus School For Girls  
Doris Coney  
Alexis Cristo  
Susan Cronyn  
Robin Cuthbertson  
Daniel Ortiz Jr. Middle School  
Deer Valley Summer Adventure Camp  
Samuel DePrimo  
Marie Devey  
Dina & Hunter Elkins  
Shannon Endersby  
Cyric Enright  
Julia & Matthew Espy  
Faul Family  
Laura Forte & Ken Kharbanda

Future

## 2005 Membership



### MEMBERSHIP RELATED INCOME

Average Dues for Renewals .....	\$56.24
Average Dues for New Members .....	\$34.08
Overall Dues Average .....	\$40.62
Income from New Membership .....	\$75,640
Income from Renewals .....	\$52,593
Income from Annual Appeal .....	\$6,875
Extra Member Donations .....	\$4,654
Monthly Donations .....	\$13,048
Corporate turtle adoptions .....	\$19,500

### MEMBERSHIP SIZE

Number of Renewals .....	875
Total New Members .....	2086
Number Lapsed .....	1919

**2005 Year-End Membership.. 6,336**

**TOTAL MEMBERSHIP-RELATED INCOME . . . . . \$172,282**



## Panama Program Highlights

### 2005 Chiriquí Beach Sea Turtle Research/Monitoring Program

The 2005 Hawksbill Program at Chiriquí Beach was implemented under the leadership of Cristina Ordoñez. Drs. Anne and Peter Meylan of Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission and Eckerd College monitored nesting at the Zapatilla Cays.

#### Results from 2005 Leatherback and Hawksbill Programs

-  Monitoring of Chiriquí Beach and the Zapatilla Cays was carried out nearly every day during 2005. During the year, a total of 695 hawksbill nests were documented; a total of 4,775 leatherback nests were documented; and 20 green turtle nests were documented.
-  Research Coordinator Cristina Ordoñez gave an oral presentation about the project results at the International Sea Turtle Symposium in Savannah, Georgia, USA, in January 2005. The paper "Chiriquí Beach, Panamá, the most important nesting beach for leatherbacks in Central America", by Cristina Ordoñez, et. Al. was approved by the Chelonian Conservation and Biology magazine.
-  During June to September 2005, four Chiriquí Beach monitors traveled to Tortuguero, Costa Rica, and participated as research assistants in CCC's 2005 Green Turtle Program. They learned about monitoring and conservation techniques and observed sea turtle tourism first hand.
-  In coordination with WWF, CCC hosted a film crew from the Animal Planet Channel, which came to Playa Chiriquí to film the tagging and release of leatherbacks fitted with satellite transmitters. The show broadcast on the European Animal Planet Channel.
-  CCC and the Panamanian government worked together to control the illegal taking of turtles. Four live green turtles were confiscated from fishermen, along with 48 harpoon poles.
-  Preliminary results for Chiriquí Beach suggest that predation of nests by domestic and wild dogs remains the major threat to hatchling survival with poaching of eggs by humans representing a minor threat. In some cases, hatchling tracks indicated that dogs dug up the nest after the hatchlings had emerged.
-  Satellite transmitters were attached to five female leatherbacks and one female hawksbill turtle. Results from the satellite telemetry study demonstrate the need for regional cooperation and management of the hawksbill and leather back populations that nest on the Caribbean coast of Panama. Movements of the turtles can be tracked on CCC's website at [www.cccturtle.org](http://www.cccturtle.org).



## Sea Turtle Survival League

Established in 1993, CCC's Sea Turtle Survival League (STSL) program is the US-based education and advocacy arm of the organization. The STSL works to ensure the continued survival of sea turtles and their habitats in the U.S., especially in Florida, where more than 90% of all sea turtle nesting in the country takes place. The STSL uses education, advocacy and networking as its basic tools. Widely recognized as Florida's most effective sea turtle conservation initiative, the STSL distributes a wealth of information about sea turtle biology and conservation, and is one of the most effective advocates for sea turtles and their habitats in the U.S.



### 2005 STSL Highlights *Environmental Education*

#### Sea Turtle Migration-Tracking Education Program

Educating people about sea turtles and the threats to their survival is paramount to the STSL accomplishing its mission. The Sea Turtle Migration-Tracking Education Program is the STSL's most effective and most popular education initiative. Launched in 1996, the program uses an award-winning website ([www.cccturtle.org](http://www.cccturtle.org)) and wildlife satellite tracking to teach people, especially children, about sea turtles and the threats to their survival. To date the Education Program has reached hundreds of thousands of children and adults with accurate, fun and timely information about sea turtles and what people can do to save them.

#### Among the Education Program's accomplishments in 2005:

Website visitation. From January 1, 2005 to January 1, 2006, more than 640,000 visitors accessed the website, for an average of 1,753 visitors per day. In comparison, the daily average of new visitors in 2004 was 1,426, while in 2003 the daily average was only 610. These visitors represented over 16 million hits to the website during 2005.

Teacher/student participation continues to grow. The number of teachers that have registered to use the Education Program continued to rise in 2005, bringing the total number of registered teachers to nearly 14,500 educators representing about 507,500. However, since the program's online resources, including the downloadable Educator's Guide (now available in Spanish as well as English), are free even to those who do not register, we know from the website's visitation that the number of people using the program is far greater than just those who have registered.

**Corporate Sponsors:** The popularity of the Education Program led to additional corporate support in 2005. Funding for satellite transmitters and related expenses was contributed by the Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund, the World Wildlife Fund and Shark Reef Aquarium.

**Turtle Walks:** In 1999, guided turtle watches for Educator's and students in Florida's Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge became a regular component of the Education Program. CCC is the only non-governmental group permitted to conduct walks within the boundaries of the Carr Refuge. Each turtle watch is preceded by an educational PowerPoint slide presentation on sea turtles. In 2005 CCC hosted nearly 300 people on its guided sea turtle watches.

Over the nine years during which the Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles course has been offered, it has served 87 students from the Caribbean and North Atlantic. Participants have been drawn from Anguilla, Belize, Bermuda, Bonaire, the British Virgin Islands, Canada, the Cayman Islands, Costa Rica, Cuba, Grenada, India, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, St. Lucia, the Turks and Caicos Islands, the U.K., the United States, and Venezuela. The course is sponsored by the Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo and the Caribbean Conservation Corporation, and is provided free-of-charge. Funding for a few of the 2004 participants came from Chevron Texaco International and the Friends of the Bermuda Aquarium (FOBA).

Descriptions of the Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles course were published in the *Marine Turtle Newsletter* (No. 103, January, 2004) and in the *Velador* (Newsletter of the Caribbean Conservation Corporation 2004(1)). The course was also the topic of an oral presentation by Jennifer Gray at the 24<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation in San Jose, Costa Rica, in February 2004.

The Bermuda Turtle Project again directed some sampling effort towards the waters around Cooper's Island in 2004, in an effort to gather information about the importance of this area for marine turtles. The flora and fauna of Cooper's Island is being assessed to aid in future decisions about land use there. Two sets were made at Annie's Bay, yielding a total of 12 green turtles.

Information about the Bermuda Turtle Project is available on the website: [www.cccturtle.org/bermuda/](http://www.cccturtle.org/bermuda/), which is maintained by CCC. During 2004, the BTP site received 71,099 page visits. BTP activities are often featured in the Bermuda newspapers. An article published in the Royal Gazette in August 2004 brought attention to entanglement threats posed to marine turtles by fishing line. A 150-pound green turtle entangled in fishing line was rescued from the main boat channel at the Salt Kettle ferry stop.

Environmental education goals of the Bermuda Turtle Project were furthered by the involvement of volunteers in the program. In 2004, 79 volunteers donated a total of 1,424 hours of their time, and learned much about these endangered animals. The volunteers included international students, FRIENDS interns, BAMZ registered volunteers, and a number of professionals including lawyers, doctors, nurses and policemen.



## Bermuda Turtle Project



The Bermuda Turtle Project completed its thirty-seventh year in 2005. Launched by Caribbean Conservation Corporation Board Member Dr. H. Clay Frick, Jr., in the 1960s, the project's in-water studies of juvenile green turtles continue under the scientific direction of CCC Research Associates Drs. Anne and Peter Meylan. CCC provides financial and logistical support for these studies, which are the longest continuous studies of their kind in the world. The work is carried out in partnership with the Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo (BAMZ). In 2005 the project included field research, participation in Caribbean regional conservation issues, training of international and local students, and public education.

### Summary of 2005 Project Activities

- 🌀 Sampling of sea turtle populations in Bermuda using an entrapment net was carried out on 17 days in 2005 by Jennifer Gray (Project Coordinator & BAMZ Head Aquarist), Drs. Anne and Peter Meylan (Principal Investigators), 14 other staff members of the Department of Conservation Services, and 79 volunteers.
- 🌀 A total of 173 green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) captures were made in nets at 15 sites around the island. The turtles ranged in size from 23.9 to 70.4 cm in straight carapace length. Eight hawksbills (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) were handled as part of the project this year, ranging in size from 20.2 to 44.9 cm. A subadult loggerhead was captured at Flatts Bridge and released after being tagged. All turtles captured in 2004 were immature.
- 🌀 Of the 173 net-captured green turtles, 37 (21.3%) were recaptures. This compares with 22% in 2002 and 24% in 2003. The longest interval between the original tagging date and the date of latest recapture was 13 years, with one 11-yr interval, and one 10-yr interval also recorded. These long-term recaptures give us information about the length of time individual turtles are resident in Bermuda waters.
- 🌀 Fifteen international tag returns of green turtles tagged in Bermuda were logged in during 2005. These included nine from Nicaragua, three from Cuba and three from the Guajira Peninsula of Venezuela. The distance from Bermuda to one of the capture sites, Cusia, represents a minimum straight-line distance of 1,523 miles.
- 🌀 Ongoing genetic studies are helping us determine if the genetic makeup of green turtles migrating to Nicaragua is different from those migrating to Venezuela. One of the international tag returns involved a turtle originally tagged in Bermuda in 1989 and recaptured in Nicaragua in 2003 after an interval of 14 years.
- 🌀 The Bermuda Turtle Project offered its International Course on the Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles for the ninth time on August 2-13, 2005. The two-week course consisted of lectures, class discussions of assigned readings, a necropsy session, and eight days of field work. This year's eight participants were drawn from Bermuda, Canada, Jamaica, the United Kingdom and the United States.

## Neighbors Ensuring Sea Turtle Survival (NESTS)



- 🌀 Begun in 2004, this STSL-coordinated initiative is a cooperative effort with Disney's Animal Kingdom and The Ocean Conservancy. The NESTS program provides coastal residents with incentives to make changes to how they interact with Florida's sea turtle nesting beaches and surrounding habitats, through a three step award program. Each level of certification outlines activities that must be undertaken before participants can be recognized and move to the next level. The first level activities are geared toward becoming more informed and taking simple actions that make a big difference in protecting nesting turtles and hatchlings. The second level activities involve sharing information with others and making choices to reduce coastal pollution and support sea turtle conservation efforts. The activities at the final level require wide community involvement to bring other coastal residents into the program. STSL received funding from the Sea Turtle Grants Program to continue and expand this program in 2005.

### Sea Turtle Grants Program

- 🌀 Sales of the Florida Sea Turtle License Plate fund Florida's Marine Turtle Protection Program and the Florida Sea Turtle Grants Program. CCC drafted and sponsored the original legislation in 1997 to establish the Sea Turtle Specialty Plate. CCC now administers the grants program and oversees the independent Committee that reviews and award grants. Grants are awarded annually to Florida coastal governments, Florida non-profit groups and education and research institutions that conduct marine turtle research and conservation activities in Florida. In March 2005, the Grants Committee awarded nearly \$260,000 in grants to 23 different applicants. Of the 23 projects, ten were research based, four were conservation & rehabilitation based and the remaining nine were education based. A special website has been established to describe the grants program and present information on each of the projects that receives funding. See [www.helpingseaturtles.org](http://www.helpingseaturtles.org).



### Sea Turtle Advocacy

The issues addressed by the STSL in 2005 included:

#### Protecting Florida's sea turtle nesting beaches and near shore reef habitats from the impacts of poorly designed coastal management policies:

- 🌀 The siting of homes and condos on the frontal dunes of eroding beaches has resulted in a frenzy of sea wall construction, threatening sea turtle nesting habitat throughout the state. In response, STSL has become the leading organization working to change Florida's 20-year-old coastal management policies in order to ensure the protection of sea turtle nesting beaches and near shore foraging habitats. During 2005, STSL met with legislative leaders, the Governor's staff, and the heads of Florida's resource protection agencies to highlight the state's failure to protect beaches from improperly sited high risk coastal development, the failure to address climate change and associated impacts to the coastal environment, and threats posed by increased reliance on coastal armoring. STSL is developing and offering concrete recommendations for coastal policy reform, submitting progressive legislation, and taking its powerful message to venues around the state.

- ❁ Prior to the 2005 Florida Legislative Session, STSL drafted a joint letter to Governor Jeb Bush and legislative leaders calling for a comprehensive reassessment of coastal management policies. Partly in response to this appeal, Governor Bush issued an Executive Order establishing a Coastal High Hazard Study Committee of 19 appointed representatives of various agencies and interest groups. STSL's policy coordinator, Gary Appelson, was selected to fill the only "environmental advocacy" position on the committee.
- ❁ CCC drafted a "Coastal Hazard Notification" bill and then worked with legislators to introduce it in the 2005 legislative session. The bill passed the Florida Senate but stalled in the House (*It was introduced again in 2006 and passed overwhelmingly*). The bill requires that the seller of coastal real property provide a disclosure to the buyer that the property may be subject to erosion and directs the buyer to where erosion rate information can be found. It also notifies the buyer that sea turtle protection laws may impact future construction activities on the property.
- ❁ STSL routinely comments on permits for sea walls that may be issued in violation of state law or do not fully consider impacts to turtle nesting habitat. When construction of a ½ mile long sea wall was proposed on one of most important nesting beaches along the Gulf coast in Sarasota County, STSL galvanized opposition to the permit. At the request of local property owners opposed to the wall, STSL produced a "white paper" on the impacts of sea walls to nesting habitat and offered expert testimony to the County Commission at the formal hearing for the permit. STSL's involvement was instrumental in the County's decision not to allow the wall.
- ❁ Florida has embarked on a controversial policy of beach nourishment to combat erosion. TSL worked to ensure that these dredging projects do not adversely impact nesting beaches. For example, STSL is the only non-governmental organization participating in a state funded multi-year research project to develop and test new "sea turtle friendly" alternative beach nourishment designs. Actual implementation of the designs on Florida's beaches should begin in 2006.

**Working to Protect the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge:**

- ❁ Following the 2005 hurricanes, STSL staff toured the hard hit beaches in the Refuge. STSL focused attention on the need to address the erosion in an environmentally sensitive manner. STSL worked with the local county environmental office, state officials, and the Army Corps of Engineers to that ensure adequate safeguards were in place to protect the Refuge's important nesting beaches from the impacts of increased armoring.

**Shedding light on the lighting problem:**

- ❁ STSL actively supports the passage of lighting ordinances in Florida coastal counties and opposes the weakening of existing ordinances. When the Bay County Commission (Panama City), at the urging of local developers, began debating rescinding its two year old lighting ordinance, local sea turtle advocates and federal biologists asked STSL to help convince the Commission to abandon its effort. STSL contacted Commissioners and utilized its Sea Turtle Action Network to generate letters and emails to Commissioners. By shining state attention on the County's ill conceived attempt to weaken turtle protection laws, STSL was effective in convincing the County to leave the lighting ordinance intact.



CCC research team pose with a leatherback fitted with a satellite transmitter.



A turtle's eye view of leatherback hatchlings emerging from their nest at Tortuguero.