

2009 annual report

EVOLVING



SEA TURTLE
CONSERVANCY

www.conserveturtles.org

From Our Executive Director

In 2009, Caribbean Conservation Corporation celebrated its 50th anniversary. At times, it seemed impossible that the organization would reach this milestone. But thanks to the dedication and skill of our staff and Board of Directors, combined with the generous support of our members and financial contributors, CCC not only survived for a half-century - it has thrived.

As you read this 2009 Annual Report, it is important to note that in 2010 the Caribbean Conservation Corporation formally changed its name to Sea Turtle Conservancy. After thoughtful consideration by our Board and staff, we concluded it was time to give the organization a name that accurately describes our mission and our broader geographic scope.

Today, Sea Turtle Conservancy conducts the world's longest-continuous sea turtle research projects at Tortuguero, Costa Rica, and Bermuda. Over the last decade, we have expanded our research to include critical nesting sites in Florida, Panama, El Salvador and the Eastern Caribbean. Sea Turtle Conservancy has pioneered modern turtle research methods now used around the world, including the use of satellite technology to unlock the mysteries of sea turtle migration. Using scientific knowledge and modern technology to guide conservation initiatives, Sea Turtle Conservancy is successfully restoring sea turtle populations and eliminating threats to their survival.

Since this report is being published in 2010, following the worst oil spill in our nation's history, I would be remiss if I did not address Sea Turtle Conservancy's role in responding to the crisis. Sea Turtle Conservancy staff have assisted state and federal biologists in an initiative to relocate all of the sea turtle nests from the north Gulf Coast to an incubation facility on Florida's east coast. Through this rescue effort, thousands of turtle hatchlings have been released into the clean waters of the Atlantic. As a result of this disaster, Sea Turtle Conservancy is also leading a policy initiative in Florida to prevent the planned opening of nearshore waters to oil drilling.

Sea Turtle Conservancy is the most accomplished and effective sea turtle conservation group in the world. Our efforts have achieved phenomenal successes on behalf of marine turtles and their habitats at each of our project sites, and our policy initiatives continue to steer sea turtle protection efforts around the world. Unfortunately, as we have been reminded by the Gulf oil spill, decades of progress on behalf of sea turtles can be undone rapidly through the careless actions of mankind. Sea Turtle Conservancy's role in safeguarding these amazing animals has never been clearer or more needed. With your continued support, Sea Turtle Conservancy will continue carrying on its mission to ensure the survival of sea turtles through research, education, advocacy and protection of the natural habitats upon which they depend.

Thank you for your support and dedication!



David Godfrey
Executive Director

Above: Executive Director David Godfrey searches for oil-impacted sea turtles off the coast of Louisiana.

Staff

U.S. Staff

David Godfrey - Executive Director
Marydele Donnelly - Director of International Policy
Dan Evans - Technology & Research Specialist
Gary Appelson - Policy Coordinator
Pat McCloskey - Controller
Kim Aslan - Office Manager
Rocio Johnson - Public Relations Coordinator
Merna Wimsatt - Membership Coordinator
Donna Lee Crawford - Community Stewardship Coordinator
Audrey Kennedy - Accounting Assistant
Karen Shudes - Sea Turtle Specialist

Costa Rica Staff

Roxana Silman - Costa Rica Director
Dr. Emma Harrison - Scientific Director
Clare Atkinson - Tortuguero Field Coordinator
Dagnia Nolasco - Outreach & Education Coordinator
Xavier Debade - Tortuguero Station Manager
Mónica Duarte - Tortuguero Visitor Center Coordinator
Maria Laura Castro - San José Office Assistant

Panama Staff

Cristina Ordoñez - Chiriquí Beach Field Coordinator
Genaro Castillo - Field Research Assistant

Programmatic achievements

Research

Tortuguero Project Honored by Smithsonian – STC’s sea turtle research and conservation program at Tortuguero, Costa Rica, is the longest continuous and most successful sea turtle protection effort in the world. In 2009, the Smithsonian Natural History Museum honored this program as being one of the world’s greatest marine conservation success stories. The project has achieved a nearly 500% increase in what is now the largest green turtle nesting colony in the Western Hemisphere.

Nesting and Monitoring Update – STC developed many of the sea turtle research and tracking methods now in use by scientists around the world, and the organization conducts the longest sustained sea turtle monitoring programs anywhere. In 2009, STC researchers and volunteers conducted thousands of hours of sea turtle monitoring at critical nesting sites in Costa Rica and Panama. Between these two sites our scientists documented more than 109,000 green turtle nests, over 8,000 leatherback nests and over 800 hawksbill nests. While our nest surveys revealed a decline in poaching of green turtle nests, we did observe a slight increase in illegal poaching of leatherback and hawksbill nests.



Satellite-Tracking Research Reveals New Migrations – Sea Turtle Conservancy has been a pioneer in the use of satellite-telemetry as a research method for revealing important information about sea turtle migrations and habitat use away from the nesting beach. Information obtained from this research is helping guide our conservation efforts and providing valuable tools for marine resource and fisheries managers. In 2009, STC tracked 11 sea turtles from five different locations representing four species: green, leatherback, loggerhead and olive ridley. One leatherback named Naya migrated from the Caribbean coast of Panama to Prince Edward Island in Canada. This is the first time STC has tracked a turtle from Panama traveling from the south Caribbean to the far North Atlantic. Pacifica, an olive ridley turtle tagged in El Salvador, traveled over 4,000 miles during a migration that took her all the way to the Galapagos Islands in just seven months. The map on the left shows Naya in pink and Pacifica in yellow.

Education

STC Launched the Second Annual Tour de Turtles – STC’s turtle tracking and education program, Tour de Turtles, expanded in scope and popularity during 2009. This free, online program was utilized by tens of thousands of sea turtle enthusiasts around the world, while thousands of teachers registered to use the program in the classroom. Tour de Turtles also attracted new corporate partners in 2009. During the mock turtle marathon, eleven individual turtles were monitored via satellite to determine which would be the first to complete a sea turtle version of a marathon (26.2 hundred kilometers). Pacifica, an olive ridley tagged in El Salvador, started the marathon late, but still managed to complete the distance first. Online observers were asked to make donations toward the cause supported by their favorite race participants. In this “Causes Challenge,” a loggerhead named “Squirt” won by raising more than \$2,500 in support of her cause—sea turtle bycatch in commercial fisheries.

Board of Directors

Mario A. Boza - Conservationist, Founder of Costa Rican National Park System, Former Vice Minister of Natural Resources, Recipient of the J. Paul Getty Wildlife Conservation Prize.

Michael P. Bruyere, Esq. - Attorney with Fields Howell LLP in Atlanta, GA office.

Archie F. Carr, III, Ph.D. - Senior Conservationist, Wildlife Conservation Society; son of founding scientific director Dr. Archie F. Carr, Jr.

Peggy M. Cavanaugh - Broker/Owner of Premier Properties of Brevard, Inc.

Sing Chan - Vice President, Marketing and Communications for Goldman Sachs, New York.

Landon T. Clay - STC Chairman; East Hill Management, Providence, RI.

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

David Ehrenfeld, M.D., Ph.D. - Professor of biology, Dept. Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources, Rutgers; received Ph.D. under Dr. Archie Carr; writer of books and articles on conservation and related subjects.

Laura Forte - STC President; Retired Managing Director and Former Director of Latin American Equity Research, Citigroup.

H. Clay Frick, III - Owner, Alaskan salmon fishing operation; Son of Dr. Clay Frick, Jr., long-time STC benefactor.

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

Barrier Island Center Expands Educational Programs – In 2009, STC greatly expanded the educational events and programs offered to guests at the Barrier Island Center (BIC), a facility located within the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge that is jointly managed by STC and Brevard County. In addition to our summer sea turtle walks, coastal stewardship-building workshops and daily events and programs for walk-in guests and school groups, STC offered a new Eco-Explorers Summer Camp. The camp, which was filled to capacity, included daily outdoor learning activities designed to expand knowledge and appreciation of sea turtles and the entire barrier island ecosystem. Participants experienced guided nature hikes, bird watching, kayaking in the Indian River Lagoon, snorkeling trips, mangrove restoration projects and numerous other activities.



Advocacy

STC Sues Federal Fisheries Agency to Protect Turtles - In 2009, STC led a small coalition of groups in filing a lawsuit against the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for its failure to adequately protect loggerhead sea turtles from being killed in the shallow-reef commercial longline fishery on Florida's Gulf coast. This legal action came after a NMFS study confirmed the fishery had exceeded its allowable take of loggerheads by more than ten fold. This evidence, combined with the tragic decline of loggerhead nesting in Florida over the last 10 years, led STC to take legal action when it became clear the agency was not going to remedy the problem on its own. As a result of the lawsuit, NMFS ordered an immediate closure of the fishery within 50 fathoms (the region most frequented by turtles) until a new biological opinion could be developed assessing the fishery's potential long-term impacts on the species.

STC Helps Shape Florida's Future Beach Management - In 2009, STC Policy Coordinator Gary Appelson participated in several influential government panels reviewing Florida's coastal management policies and making official recommendations for improvement. The Florida Legislature established the Beach Management Working Group (BMWG) to review the state's beach nourishment program and identify ways to improve regulation of these massive but important coastal projects. STC served on the BMWG and played a pivotal role ensuring that permit streamlining and other changes to the program do not compromise environmental protections. STC also began serving on the Steering Committee of a multi-agency group developing a Habitat Conservation Plan to guide all future permitting of activities that impact Florida's beaches. The Steering Committee is guiding a multi-year process to assess the impacts of Florida's coastal development activities on marine turtles and to develop policies that minimize and mitigate negative impacts to habitat and federally protected sea turtles.

STC Works to Prevent Weakening of Coastal Armoring Laws - STC joined other beach management stakeholders and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to prevent the manufacturers of an experimental shore hardening technology from weakening state regulations of such devices. Known collectively as "coastal armoring," these devices pose a serious risk to sea turtle nesting and can worsen the effects of erosion. The proposed legal changes, which were defeated due largely to STC's informed opposition, would have opened Florida's beach to rampant construction of these habitat-harming devices that in reality do little to protect homes from erosion. The changes being proposed would have dramatically compromised environmental protections and regulatory oversight designed to protect marine turtle nesting habitat.

Anthony D. Knerr, Ph.D. - Managing Director, Anthony Knerr & Associates, strategic consultants to leading nonprofit institutions. Previously Exec. VP for Finance & Treasurer of Columbia University.

Tara MacIntyre - Director of Public Relations, Four Seasons Resort Nevis.

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

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

Rafael Morice - Retired. Former Chairman of the AMANCO companies in Central America, former CEO of ECOS Group, and former Director of MarViva Foundation.

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

Chris Rajczi - Computer industry consultant and business networking specialist.

F. Peter Rose - STC Secretary; Ecologist with an advanced degree in environmental science; Member of Board of Advisors of the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, University of Vermont.

Leonor Sardinha - Interpreter for European Parliament; marine conservation activist and volunteer researcher.

Rainey Sellars - Managing Director, International Private Client Group.

Mark D. Shantzis - Retired entrepreneur and conservation activist.

Nicholas A. Shufro - STC Treasurer; Director of Sustainability & Climate Change Advisory Services, Pricewaterhouse Coopers.

Jordan Urstadt, Esq. - Attorney for a Swiss investment company. Grandson of STC co-founder Joshua Powers.

Membership

- Total Members - 6,634
- New Members - 2,284
- Renewals - 1,211

Tortuguero Research Station

- Museum Visitations - 34,805
- Field Researchers Trained - 28
- Eco-Volunteers - 148

Barrier Island Center

- Visitors - 28,729
- Turtle Walk Participants - 613
- Volunteer Hours - 2,623

Websites

- Hits - 38,700,000
- Page Views - 85,279,237
- Visitors - 1,506,313
- Avg. Daily Visitors - 4,126

E-Communications

- E-mail Subscribers - 6,745
- E-newsletters Sent - 20
- Facebook Fans - 5,149
- Twitter Followers - 870

Tour de Turtles Program

- Turtles Tracked - 11
- Release Countries - 4
- Educators Registered - 16,000

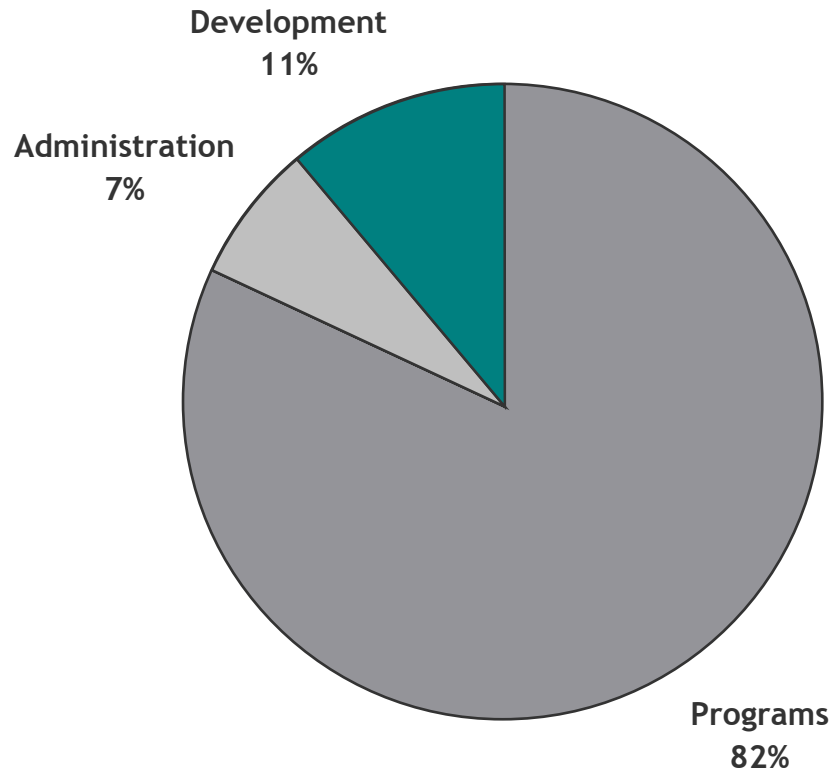
Sea Turtle Grants Program

- Total Awarded - \$392,527
- Education Grants - 11
- Research Grants - 12
- Conservation Grants - 4

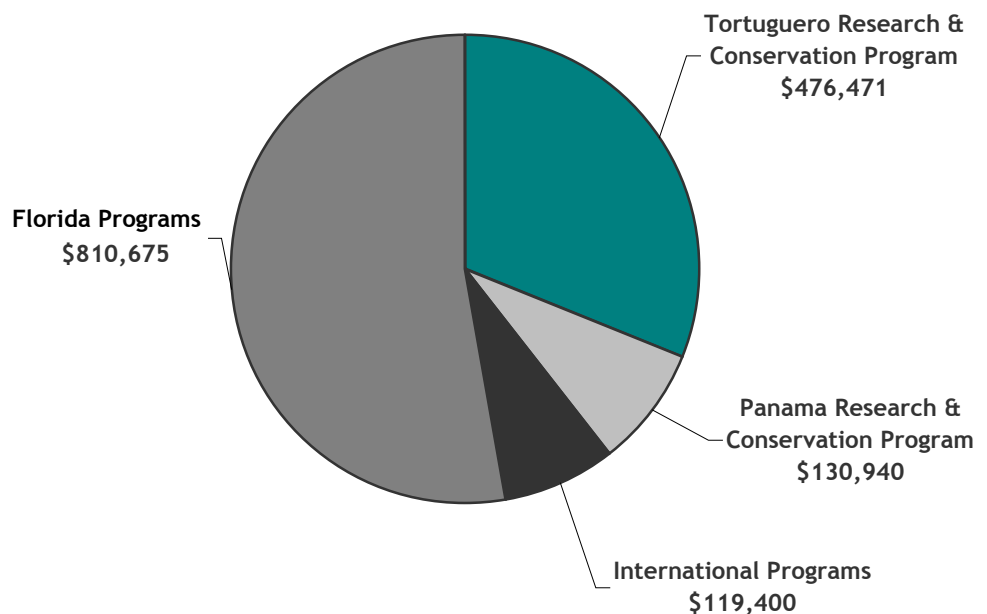


STC received a 4-star rating for the 6th consecutive year!

Total Expenses



Program Expenses Breakdown

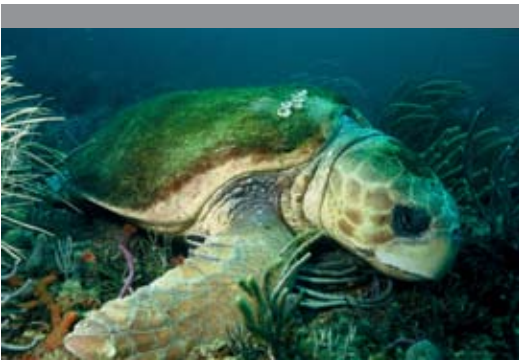


2009 foundation and corporate support

Academy at Ocean Reef
AIG Matching Grants Foundation
Arenas Del Pacifico
Casa Tortuga
Charity Motors
Cherokee Enterprises
Code Blue Foundation
Florida Department of Environmental
Protection/NOAA

Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund
Elinor Patterson Baker Trust
Elizabeth Ordway Dunn Foundation
Ettinger Foundation, Inc.
Fidelity Charitable Gifts
Firedoll Foundation
For The Environment, Inc.
Foundation for International
Aid to Animals
Four Seasons Resort Nevis
Gainesville Community Foundation
Helen Clay Frick Foundation
InterContinental Hotel San Juan
ISTS Sea Turtle Symposium
Jelks Family Foundation
Kaleny Enterprises
Latir Energy Consultants
Locke, Lord, Bissell & Liddell, LLP
Lynn Chase Wildlife Foundation
Margret A. Cargill Foundation

Marisla Foundation
Michele & Agnese Cestone Foundation
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Ress Family Foundation
Florida Sea Turtle Grants Program
Shark Reef At Mandalay Bay
Sue Berman & Michael Zamkow
Foundation
Sun Hill Foundation
The Bay and Paul Foundations
The Dreamcatcher Fund
The Lanzillotti Family Foundation
The Martin Foundation, Inc.
The Park Foundation
Thomas P. Waters Foundation
USDA Forest Service
USFWS Marine Turtle
Conservation Foundation
World Wildlife Fund
Western Carolina University/ EFA



A

Archie Carr fellow (\$5,000 & above)

Andrew & Marion Barnes
Gladys Cofrin
Henry Clay Frick, III
Laura Forte
James French

Jeanne Lee Memorial
Manci & George Ohrstrom
Suzanne B. Phillips
Colin S. Phipps
Jeffrey Phipps

F. Peter Rose
Maria Leonor Sardinha
Pearl Seidman

K

Kemp's Ridley level (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Pamela Achenbach
Patricia Broderick
Peggy & Tom Cavanaugh
Dave Cleveland
Coastal Wildlife Club
Frank & Pam Deavours
Wesley & Margaret Forte
Curt & Diane L. Fuhrmann

John Galbraith
Jenevra Georgini
Michael Goodman
Dr. Maureen Hackett
John M. Hlavacek
Joseph Holmes
Earl Killian
Anthony D. Knerr

Tom Kubit
Tabea Mastel
Carmel McGill
Amy & Joseph Morel
Russ Sampson Family
Mark & Mora Shantzis
William F. Truscott
J. Jordan Urstadt

H

Hawksbill level (\$500 - \$999)

Michele Alexander
Patricia Barry
Catherine Bettcher
Michael P. Bruyere, Esq.
Thomas D. Carr
Richard Chatellier
Kathleen Duda
Cheryl Fineman
Jared & Chandani Flinn
Linda Ford
Kenneth Anthony A. Hale

Douglas B. Hart
Deborah Hebblewhite
Quinn Hiaasen
Judd Howell
Bobbi Hunter
Kerry Judd
Barbara Kraus
Tom & Karen Latsko
Carolien & Eric Maynard
Heather McDermott
Monique Miller

Paul G. Nelson
John W. Olver
Alice Samy
Ann Sheffield
Hilde Siebke
Ray & Helen Smith
David & Jordan Smith
Nancy Stegens
Jennifer Warren
Kennard Watson
Keith Winchester