

Charting the course for sea turtle survival



2010 Annual Report



**SEA TURTLE
CONSERVANCY**

www.conserveturtles.org

From Our Executive Director

In 2010, sea turtles faced myriad threats, and Sea Turtle Conservancy was up to the challenge.

First, record low temperatures in January caused more than 4,500 sea turtles to become cold stunned in Florida. Thanks to donations from supporters and emergency funding from the Sea Turtle Grants Program, we were able to collaborate with state agencies to save more than 80% of the affected turtles through an unprecedented statewide rescue effort.

Then in April, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill quickly grew into an environmental catastrophe that began polluting the Gulf of Mexico on a massive scale - right at the start of sea turtle nesting season. STC sprang into action and began working with state and federal agencies to minimize the immediate and long-term impacts of the spill on sea turtles. STC staff helped implement one of the largest sea turtle hatchling rescues in history, as some 25,000 turtle eggs were moved from Gulf Coast beaches to oil-free beaches on the Atlantic coast. Staff and volunteers helped with every phase of this rescue by building hundreds of insulated containers for eggs, carefully excavating nests, and transporting eggs to an incubation center at NASA.

STC also coordinated a statewide initiative to distribute funding to turtle rehabilitation facilities across Florida in order to increase their capacity to care for sea turtles impacted by oil and other threats. We launched a program to decrease other causes of sea turtle mortality, including a project to fix problem beachfront lights around Florida that are known to disorient turtle hatchlings. Both of these initiatives will have long-lasting benefits for sea turtles and will help mitigate for some of the harm done to turtles by the oil spill.

In 2010, the organization also underwent a name change from Caribbean Conservation Corporation 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, and the change has been received positively by sea turtle fans everywhere.

While the challenges of 2010 threatened to undo much of the progress we have made for sea turtle conservation in the last 50 years, the year ended with good news. Nesting at almost all of the beaches where STC is monitoring and protecting sea turtles increased, showing that conservation efforts and a long-term approach is making a difference for sea turtle populations.

With your ongoing 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.

Together, we are charting the course for long-term protection and recovery of sea turtles and their habitats!



David Godfrey
David Godfrey
Executive Director

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
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 Debadé - 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



Cold Stun 2010 - January

In January, record-low temperatures left more than 4,500 sea turtles incapacitated and at risk of drowning or boat strikes. Along Florida's coastline, state officials, conservation groups and volunteers participated the largest turtle rescue effort in history. Of the turtles affected by the cold, only 948 died but thousands of turtles were released unharmed after water temperatures warmed up. STC staff participated in the rescue effort at Merritt Island and distributed \$20,000 in emergency funds, provided by the Sea Turtle Grants Program, to help cover the costs of veterinary care and medical supplies for more than 200 turtles in rehabilitation facilities across Florida.



Coastal Workshop - February

In 2010, STC hosted a 3-part Coastal Stewardship Workshop at the Barrier Island Center in the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge. The workshops focused on sea turtle ecology and conservation, coastal ecosystems on the barrier island, beachfront lighting solutions and dune restoration. Participants also learned about native planting and received 96 sea oat seedlings to plant at beachfront residences.

Sea Turtle Grants Program - March

The Sea Turtle Grants Program, funded by sales of the "Helping Sea Turtles Survive" specialty license plate, awarded \$347,500 to 17 nonprofit organizations, research institutions and local governments from across the state to support programs benefiting Florida's sea turtles. The grants program also provided emergency funding in the aftermath of the cold stun event in January.

Oil Spill - April

In response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, Sea Turtle Conservancy assisted federal and state officials in relocating sea turtle nests, mostly loggerhead, from the Gulf Coast of Florida to an incubation facility at Kennedy Space Center on the East Coast. Of the more than 25,000 eggs that were relocated, 14,676 successfully hatched and were released into the Atlantic Ocean. The hatchling success rate of the relocation was better than under natural conditions, with nearly six out of 10 hatchlings surviving.

In addition, STC helped to mitigate the effect of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill by disbursing nearly \$1 million to rehabilitation facilities in Florida and hiring contractors to remove nesting beach predators and shield beachfront lights. More than 40 problem beachfront properties in Florida were retrofitted with sea turtle-friendly lights to reduce hatchling disorientation. The money for rehabilitation and mitigation efforts came from the sale of the oil captured in the cap placed over the Deepwater Horizon well.

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 H. Clay Frick, Jr., long-time STC benefactor.

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

Name Change - June

On World Sea Turtle Day, the nonprofit Caribbean Conservation Corporation changed its name to Sea Turtle Conservancy to more accurately reflect the organization's focus on sea turtles and its broader geographic scope. The organization's historic but quirky name was limiting to increasing public awareness about the group's leadership role on behalf of sea turtles. As the organization embarked on a new half century of turtle protection efforts, Sea Turtle Conservancy was chosen to better communicate the organization's mission.

Tour de Turtles - August - October

STC attached its first satellite transmitter on a leatherback in Puerto Rico as part of the Caribbean Leatherback Tracking & Conservation Project. The beautiful beach of Fajardo hosts between 200 - 460 leatherback nests a year and is part of the Northeast Ecological Corridor. Corona del Mar, an olive ridley from El Salvador, won Tour de Turtles after traveling 2,382 km, while Dawn, a leatherback from Panama, won the Causes Challenge. Combined, the competitors covered 11,806 km, or 7,335 miles, and raised more than \$12,000. More than 30,000 participants from 108 countries logged on to the Tour de Turtles website to follow the migration marathon online. There were also more than 2,000 people in attendance at the Tour de Turtles Kick Off events in Melbourne Beach, Florida.

Semi-Postal Stamp - September

STC played a key role in supporting Congressional passage of a semipostal stamp for wildlife, with a premium dedicated to endangered species conservation. The monies raised by the stamp premium will be directed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to support conservation programs for marine turtles, tigers, rhinos, great apes and elephants without any cost to taxpayers.

Highest Nesting - December

While sea turtles were confronted by challenging threats in 2010, there was encouraging news about the number of loggerhead, green and hawksbill turtles returning to nest at key beaches in Florida and the Caribbean. In Florida, loggerhead nesting levels were the highest since 2002 with more than 73,702 nests. Green turtles had their highest year since 1979 with 13,225 nests. In Tortuguero, there were 180,310 green turtle nests, the highest year on record. This equates to a nesting population of 30,000-60,000 female green turtles. At Chiriquí Beach in Panama, leatherbacks had the second highest year on record with nearly 6,000 nests counted, and hawksbills had the highest nesting number on record with over 750 nests since monitoring began in 2003.



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.

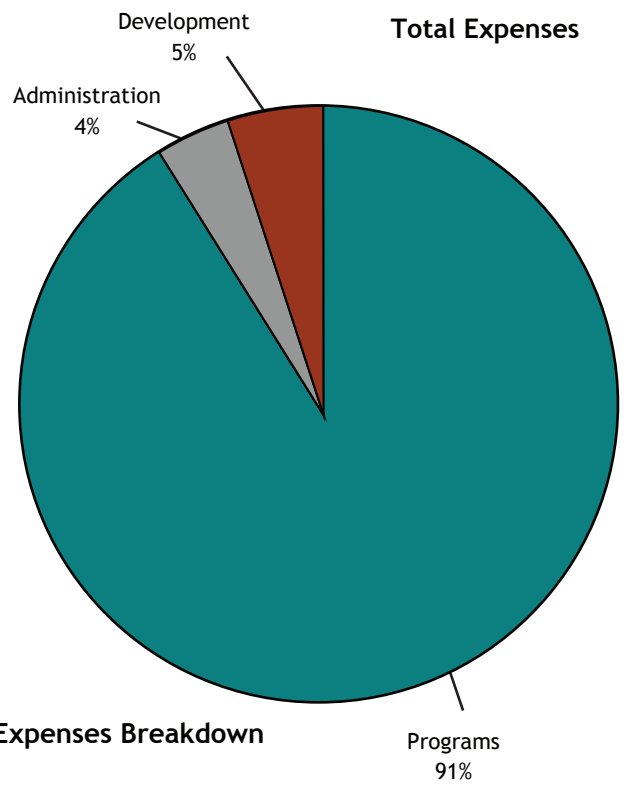
F. Peter Rose - STC Secretary; Ecologist with an advanced degree in environmental science; Member of Board of Advisors of the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, University of Vermont.

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

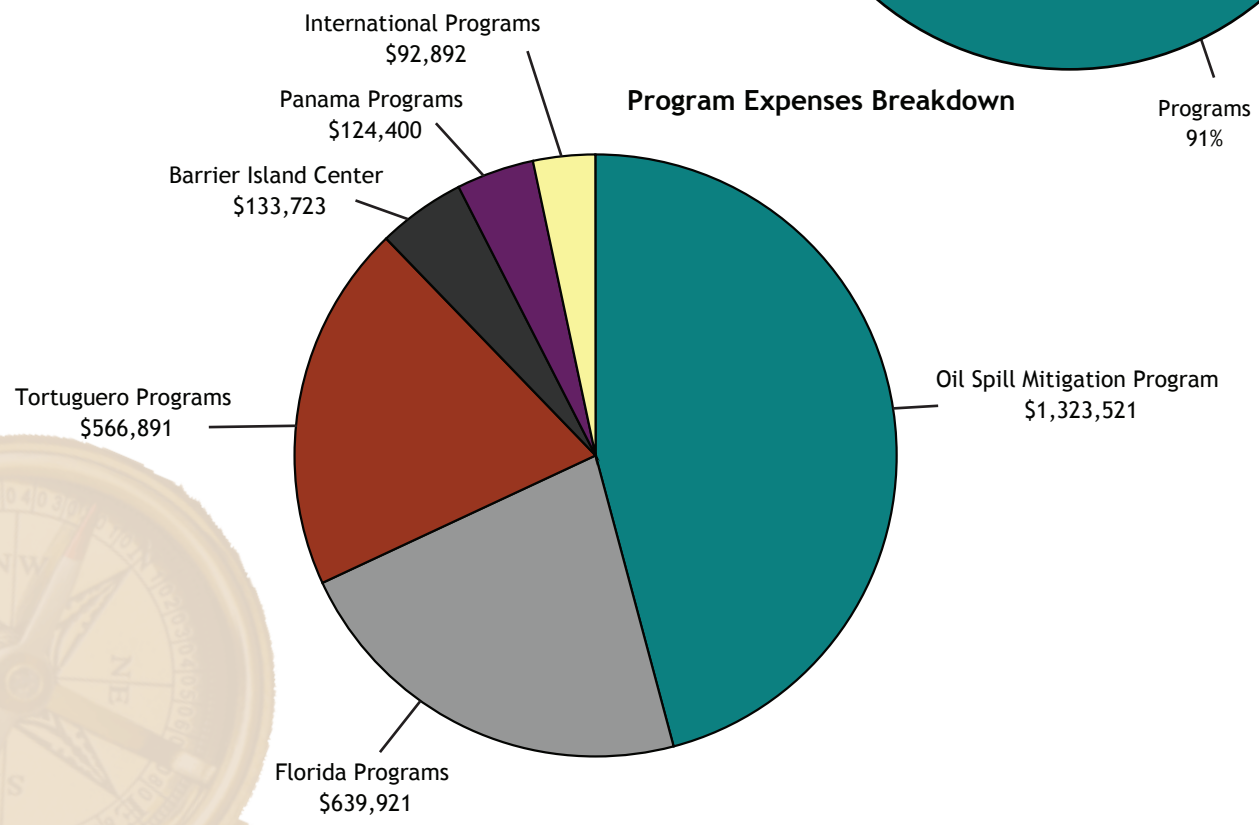
Mark D. Shantzis - Entrepreneur and conservation activist.

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.



Financials & Statistics



Membership

- Total Members - 7,523
- New Members - 5,573
- Renewals - 1,950

Tortuguero Research Station

- Museum Visitations - 24,652
- Field Researchers Trained - 24
- Eco-Volunteers - 166

Barrier Island Center

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

Websites

- Page Views - 2,048,974
- Visits - 489,143
- Unique Visitors - 227,388
- Avg. Daily Visitors - 1,389

E-Communications

- E-mail Subscribers - 7,514
- E-newsletters Sent - 19
- Facebook Fans - 4,552
- Twitter Followers - 1,002

Tour de Turtles Program

- Turtles Tracked - 10
- Release Countries - 5
- Educators Registered - 16,112

Sea Turtle Grants Program

- Total Awarded - \$367,519
- Education Grants - 11
- Research Grants - 12
- Conservation Grants - 4
- Emergency Funding - 5

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



Foundations and Corporate Support

Adventure Kayaking
Arenas Del Pacifico
AT&T United Way
AWC Family Foundation
Bay and Paul Foundations
Beach Aid Benefit Concert
Borders, Inc
Caravan
Casa Tortuga
Coastal Wildlife Club
Code Blue Foundation
Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund
Disney Worldwide Services, Inc.
Disney's Vero Beach Resort
Dreamcatcher Fund
Edward John Noble Foundation
Elinor Patterson Baker Trust Fund
Enrico's Restaurant
Ettinger Foundation, Inc
Fidelity Charitable Gifts
Firedoll Foundation
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Florida Sea Turtle Grants Program
For The Environment Inc.
Four Seasons Resort Nevis
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Gainesville Community Foundation
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National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Network for Good
Panaphil Foundation
Park Foundation
Patagonia
Premier Properties of Brevard, Inc
Ress Family Foundation
Sand on the Beach
Savers Drug Mart
Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay
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The Body Shop Foundation
The Moore Charitable Foundation
Thomas D Mangelsen, Inc.
Thomas P. Waters Foundation
Tourism Cares
Tropical Seas Inc.
Turtle Surfboards
USDA - Forest Service
USFWS Marine Turtle Conservation Foundation
USFWS Coastal Program
Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program
Washington Cultural Exchange
Wellpoint Giving Campaign
Western Carolina University
World Wildlife Fund

Matching Partners

AIG Matching Grants Foundation
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