



25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION!

Viva la Tortuga!

NEWSLETTER OF THE SEA TURTLE RESTORATION PROJECT OF TURTLE ISLAND RESTORATION NETWORK SEATURTLES.ORG

Gulf Sea Turtles at Risk

Turtle Island Mobilizing Advocates Locally and Nationwide

THANKS TO THE SUPPORT OF members and activists for a quarter century, Turtle Island Restoration Network has helped endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtles in the Gulf of Mexico recover from near extinction levels in the 1980s. Efforts including our successful campaign to close 100 miles of Texas Coast to shrimping during peak sea turtle migration season, a bi-national sea turtle hatchling protection and others, helped the nesting population climb to more than 5,000 mother sea turtles by 2010.

Unfortunately, after the BP oil spill that year, sea turtle nesting declined 30 percent.

The population has yet to bounce back. **Gulf sea turtles need our help now.**

That's why Turtle Island is working to expand Kemp's ridley sea turtle conservation efforts in the coastal city of Galveston, Texas by opening our first Sea Turtle Action Center to serve as an education and hands-on conservation hub.

Turtle Island has reached thousands of Galveston residents through events like 'Shell-e-bration' in honor of the first anniversary of the Kemp's ridley sea turtle becoming an official Texas sea turtle symbol, and through recruitment and coordination of more than 100 volunteers for the Upper Texas Coast Nesting Beach Monitor Program to ensure nesting turtles' safety.

Turtle Island continues to gain support in the Gulf and beyond, engaging more than 150,000 activists nationwide in our Gulf policy reform campaigns. This spring, Turtle Island Program Director Teri Shore and Associate Gulf Campaign Director Joanie Steinhaus traveled from Houston to New Orleans on a Turtle Tour and briefed more than 10 environmental organizations and hundreds of citizens, and garnered signatures on petitions to save sea turtles from shrimp nets.



Oppe Elementary Green Team at the Shell-e-bration.

New Website Brings Turtle Island's Work Together



Turtle Island Restoration Network is proud to announce the rollout of our new, visually stunning website —SeaTurtles.Org, *which brings together our campaigns to protect sea turtles, as well as salmon, sharks, marine mammals and more.* Now, taking action to protect our blue-green planet is even easier.

Visit today to learn about the scope of our programs—from our work in Galveston, Texas monitoring sea turtle nesting beaches to our work in the San Francisco Bay Area restoring creekside habitat for endangered salmon—in one easy to use website.

Though our website look may be new, our overall vision remains the same: to respond rapidly to environmental threats to our oceans, streams and marine wildlife.

Explore our new website and make a donation today to help us continue our important work!

Letter from the Director

OUR TWENTY-FIVE YEAR ANNIVERSARY! Time to Celebrate *(and Then Get Back to Work)*

IT WAS 25 YEARS AGO when I founded the Sea Turtle Restoration Project, initially to protect one of the world's only "arribadas" or arrivals of olive ridley sea turtles on nesting beaches in Nicaragua.

"Arribada" is a Spanish word for the rare, near-simultaneous, mass nesting behavior of sea turtles. In Nicaragua, the government instituted a plan to let the local community harvest a small proportion of the sea turtle's eggs (as many are destroyed by subsequent nesting turtles) in exchange for community protection of the nests. This innovative plan convinced the locals that it was in their best interests to regulate harvests for their long-term economic benefit and for the survival of the endangered sea turtles.

When I first traveled to Nicaragua, it was a time of dangerous political upheaval. The US-backed Contra War was threatening to tear apart the new Sandinista government, which for all its imperfections, was actively working to implement programs to protect its natural resources. It was also a time of electrifying environmental activism back home, with direct-action climbers hanging from trees to protect old growth forests and protesters invading corporate stockholder meetings calling for better protection of oceans, forests and endangered species.

Over the past quarter century, we have expanded our mission and our conservation tool box to protect a wide array of marine species, oceans, endangered salmon habitat and public health. To reflect this expansion, our organization's name is now Turtle Island Restoration Network. This name reflects our historic focus on sea turtles, and refers to a Native American myth that our entire earth is actually a turtle's back. We are proud to connect to our work for the oceans to cultural traditions of harmony with nature.

We have grown from an all-volunteer group of activists to a professional staff of 12, supplemented by a remarkable Board of Directors, an inspiring parade of recent college graduates that participate in our residential internship program, hundreds of amazing volunteers. All this is possibly only with the help of thousands of members—and tens of thousands of dedicated activists like you—who heed our call and take action on behalf of the planet.

Our list of accomplishments over 25 years, thanks to you, is many. We celebrate these on the new victory section of our website at SeaTurtles.Org/Victories. But we also see now as a time to act.

An "arribada" of a new paradigm to protect the world's oceans, marine mammals and inland rivers and streams is desperately needed. Thankfully we are as eager now as we were 25 years ago to make the world a better, healthier place for future generations and all living things. And with your help and continued support I know we will!

Sincerely,



TODD STEINER, Executive Director
Turtle Island Restoration Network

Then, at April's International Sea Turtle Symposium in New Orleans, our staff and Executive Director Todd Steiner kicked off a campaign calling for shrimping closures in sea turtle swimways and demanding that Louisiana reverse outdated state laws banning enforcement of "escape hatches" called Turtle Excluder Devices in shrimp trawl nets.

These strategic efforts to ensure protection for the Gulf ecosystem and its sea turtles are only possible with the support of members like you. Learn more, take action and our email list at SeaTurtles.org.



IRENE AMIET



IRENE AMIET

Hundreds of on-lookers at Turtle Island's Shell-e-bration watch two rehabilitated Kemp's ridley sea turtles be re-released back to the sea.



Salmon Swim to Victory

THIS SPRING, TURTLE ISLAND'S Salmon Protection And Watershed Network (SPAWN) made significant progress in our work to protect wild, endangered California salmon when we won a legal battle and received state funding for two large-scale habitat restoration projects.

In March, the California Court of Appeals ruled unanimously in favor of salmon and affirmed SPAWN's position that Marin County failed to do proper environmental analysis when it approved a 2007 Countywide General Plan. The 2007 plan allowed significant future development along salmon-bearing streams, and the County unlawfully determined that those impacts would be less than significant. Now, the case will move to the lower courts with a strong mandate to ade-

quately protect California's endangered coho salmon.

Following the legal victory, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife highlighted the importance of these coastal salmon by awarding four grants totaling more than half a million dollars to salmon restoration projects in Marin County. Two of those grants went to SPAWN. The first focuses on designing an improved fish migration passage at Roy's Pools (once the site of a dam). The second involves working with Point Reyes National Seashore to develop a restoration and enhancement plan for a mile-long stretch of stream. Both will significantly improve salmon habitat.

"SPAWN's members and salmon advocates first came together 15 years ago when we discovered that endangered coho salmon were unable to get over Roy's Dam and worked in partnership to begin to take out the dam and create Roy's Pools. Today it is gratifying to be working once again to continue to improve this key fish passage issue," said Todd Steiner, biologist and executive director of Turtle Island.

Selfies for Sea Turtles— Be a Sea Turtle Hero



DID YOU KNOW that endangered Pacific leatherback sea turtles swim off the California coast each year? These gentle giants are highly endangered and they need our help to survive.

To raise awareness about how to protect Pacific leatherback sea turtles and

encourage everyone to enjoy the beautiful California coast, Turtle Island Restoration Network and the California Coastal Conservancy are sponsoring California Sea Turtle Hero Photo Contests this summer. Snap a selfie for sea turtles and you could win one of our fabulous prizes like three-night stay at La Jolla Coves Suite, a guided kayak trip for two with Santa Barbara Adventure Company, a whale watching adventure with Condor Express or one of our other coast-inspired prizes!

Visit CAsSeaTurtleHero.Org to find out how to enter your California Coast snapshot, find out simple steps you can take today to help protect sea turtles and learn much more.



Students pose with Teddy the sea turtle at BioBlitz

Bio Blitz Bonanza

TURTLE ISLAND sees the critical need for a new generation of ocean stewards who understand and care about protecting marine wildlife. Our members help us reach over 5,000 students each year with in-person presentations and lesson plans. In March, 2014, we were invited to attend the National Geographic BioBlitz at Crissy Field in San Francisco's Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The fun event brought thousands of citizen scientists, members of the public and students to catalog a myriad of species and learn about biodiversity in the BioBlitz tent.

Over the weekend event, we guided over 500 elementary students through marine educational coloring and mapping activities, and informed guests about our work to end deadly driftnet fishing practices off California's coast and protect sea turtles.

Teddy, our stuffed animal sea turtle mascot, was "the talk of the tent" and a hit on social media. Teddy posed for selfies and helped spread a message of ocean conservation. By the end of the two-day event Turtle Island had hundreds of new allies and a stack of letters to deliver to California assemblymembers in support of marine wildlife.



A Green Sea Turtle rests on Australia's sandy shores.

Hammerhead Shark Pendant



SHOW YOUR LOVE of sharks with our newest addition to the Turtle Island Store, the Hammerhead Shark Pendant. Approximately 2" long and made of genuine, lead-free pewter. Comes on an 18" braided black vinyl cord with solid brass clasp and clear lacquer finish. Price: \$18.00 (incl. shipping).

Hammerhead sharks are a subject of Turtle Island's research in the Cocos and Galapagos Island regions, along with tiger, silky and blacktip sharks. This research is shedding light on where these species migrate in order to better protect them.

You can order the pendant and other cool items at SeaTurtles.org/Shop, call us during business hours at 1-800-859-7283 or send a check to Turtle Island Restoration Network, PO Box 370, Forest Knolls, CA 94933.

Safeguarding Australia's Sea Turtles from Industrialization

WITH THE CRITICAL SUPPORT of Turtle Island members, we worked to protect vulnerable flatback sea turtles and other species in Australian waters. Here, massive fossil fuel and coal projects inside the Great Barrier Reef in Australia have already caused irreversible harm to sea turtles and marine wildlife. In response to this environmental disaster, Turtle Island Restoration Network and the International Sea Turtle Society (ISTS) passed a resolution calling on the Australia government and Queensland to halt all industrial development until a strong protection and management scheme for sea turtles is implemented.

nesting and feeding haven for sea turtles in the Great Barrier Reef will push these vulnerable marine animals ever closer to the brink," said Teri Shore, program director of Turtle Island.

Building natural gas refineries and coal ports and allowing dredging and sea dumping (a process that deepens the sea floor to allow large ships to pass through previously shallow channels) in one of the seven natural wonders of the world is morally and environmentally irresponsible. An independent review by Australian environmental minister Greg Hunt has already found that the Gladstone Harbor dredging project leaked toxic sediment into the harbor and was "not consistent with industry best practice." A moratorium must be put in place now to stop further industrialization of the Great Barrier before it loses its status as a World Heritage Site and Australia's sea turtles end up as collateral damage.

In addition to urging for a moratorium, Turtle Island and ISTS is recommending a dozen specific actions to further safeguard the Great Barrier Reef's globally important populations of sea turtles. Read more online at SeaTurtles.Org/SaveReef.



"Giving the green light to dirty energy companies to industrialize this critical

Saving Sharks Starts with Knowing Where They Swim

WHERE DO SHARKS GO? This basic question is one that is rarely considered when creating protected ocean or marine reserves, yet it is central to truly protecting sharks in the Eastern Tropical Pacific. With membership support we are increasing our focus on saving sharks and other ocean wildlife that swim our world's oceans. Turtle Island in partnership with OCEARCH, the Galapagos National Park Service and the Charles Darwin Foundation are beginning to glean insights into this and other research questions by tracking the movements of more than 60 fish of a variety of species, from the top predator tiger sharks down to skipjack tuna, in the Galapagos Marine Reserve.



The Reserve covers an area of over 85 square miles and includes a 130-foot belt of protected waters surrounding a baseline, which joins the farthest points of each of the 13 major islands. The team is using underwater acoustic receivers and satellite tags to learn where sharks go and how they move between these islands and marine protected areas.

The multi-use reserve allows certain types of small-scale fishing (including some experimental longlining vessels). Longlines are deadly fishing lines with hundreds of baited hooks that can accidentally catch non-target marine life like sharks.

The results of this research will help determine what types of fishing restrictions and protections are needed to safeguard sharks (and the wide range of species that swim alongside them). The long-term hope is that this much-needed research will spur the creation of an Eastern Tropical Pacific protected shark swimway to shelter these often misunderstood species as they journey between feeding and birthing grounds.

Cocos Island Research Dive Expedition

JOIN AN EXPEDITION to Cocos Island in Costa Rica, and work alongside scientists tagging sea turtles and sharks at one of the world's premiere scuba diving sites. These once-in-a-lifetime expeditions provide participants with the opportunity to help gather data that will be used to create a protected swimway for ocean wildlife in the Eastern Tropical Pacific.

"Being involved with ocean conservation and having an opportunity to assist with the shark and turtle tagging was pure joy," said two-time participant Janet. "I came on this trip not knowing anyone, and left with lifetime friends, beautiful pictures, and stories that I will be sharing back home."

Divers travel for days for the privilege of exploring the Cocos Island National Park waters to swim with and photograph hammerhead sharks, marbled rays, bottlenose dolphins and a wide array of spectacular marine wildlife.

But neither the beauty of this underwater world nor the World Heritage



status has not stopped commercial fishers from setting illegal hooks and lines in this wild ocean in ruthless pursuit of swordfish, tuna and big fish. In an effort to protect the Park, Turtle Island is now requesting that Costa Rica outlaw fishers and expand the boundaries of the no-fishing zone.

Divers on the expedition will collect important scientific data that will aid

Turtle Island in our efforts to create this much-needed protected swimway that could connect all the way to Ecuador's waters, northeast of the Galapagos Islands, and create one of the world's largest protected ocean zones.

Trips are scheduled in December 2014, and February and July 2014. Learn more at SeaTurtles.Org/Cocos.

Shop at the Sea Turtle Store

New Carabiner Thermal Travel Mugs



NEW! 12 oz. Carabiner Thermal Travel Mug \$25 (incl. shipping):

Stainless steel travel mug with carabiner handle clips. Made with two layers of heavy gauge, food-grade stainless steel with double-wall insulation. The threaded, stainless steel top features a BPA-free, polypropylene interior seal that prevents spills and minimizes leaks. Metal carabiner handle clips to just about anything, making it easier than ever to hydrate on the go. Choose the Turtle Island logo or the SeaTurtles.org logo.

Order online on our secure server at SeaTurtles.org/Shop, call us during business hours at 1-800-859-7283 or send a check to TIRN, PO Box 370, Forest Knolls, CA 94933.

Adopt a Nest of Sea Turtle Hatchlings

Adopt-a-Nest Package Includes:

- Personalized adoption certificate
- Sea turtle window decal
- Sea turtle fact sheets
- *Viva La Tortuga!* newsletter
- Optional Antique Brass Pendant or Felted Wool Hatchling

Regular Nest—\$45 (\$55 outside U.S.)

Special Nest with Antique Brass Pendant—\$60 (\$70 outside U.S.)

Special Nest with Felted Wool Hatchling— \$75 (\$85 outside U.S.)

When you order online, you can download a gift certificate immediately to give to your loved one so they know their Adopt-a-Nest package is on the way. Order online at SeaTurtles.Org/Adopt.



Leave a Legacy for the Sea Turtles

THROUGH A BEQUEST to the Sea Turtle Restoration Network in your will and other estate plans, you can leave a legacy for sea turtles, sharks, salmon and the oceans.

Visit SeaTurtles.org/Bequests or contact us at info@SeaTurtles.org or 1-800-859-7283 for information on including a bequest to Turtle Island in your will, adding a simple codicil to your existing will, and other ways to give through your estate. Any information discussed is confidential.

A professional financial advisor may be able to help you identify additional ways to provide you with tax benefits, as well as help protect the earth's oceans and wildlife. Thank you for considering this important way to give.

Volunteer Spotlight

Seventh Grader Lauren Hamilton Advocates for Oceans

SEVENTH GRADER Lauren Hamilton is already an advocate for oceans and marine wildlife. Lauren, who is one of Turtle Island Restoration Network's youngest



members, set up a Turtle Island table at her local grocery store this spring and encouraged shoppers to take action to end harmful fishing practices and save sea turtles.

She was able to garner signatures for our current campaigns, inform people about our organization, and reach out to a new audience with materials that we sent her in our 'Activist-On-The-Go' kit. If you'd like to get involved and follow Lauren's example please email info@seaturtles.org. Thank you Lauren for your work!



Barbara D. Andrews Joins Turtle Island Board of Directors

TURTLE ISLAND is pleased to welcome Barbara ‘Barb’ Andrews to our board of directors. Barb not only has a wealth of nonprofit, legal and board experience, she also has a passion for saving sea turtles and our oceans.

“My first encounter with sea turtles was in 2000 as part of an Earthwatch project in Baja California. We were primarily focused on the foraging habits of the Eastern Pacific green sea turtles in Bahia

de los Angeles, and I’ve been working to protect them ever since,” she said.

Barb grew up with a deep love of nature, nurtured by childhood summers spent in the remote Caribou Wilderness in Lassen County, and later by sea kayaking trips in northern California. Barb has a BA in Geography from the University of Oregon and a Paralegal Certification from Cal State Hayward.

In the ‘90s she volunteered as docent for the California Academy of Sciences, the

oldest scientific research institution in the western United States, and soon thereafter joined its staff. She currently holds the position of legal manager at the Academy. Barb has also served on the boards of the conservation organizations of WildCoast and Pro Peninsula.

“I am excited to join the Board of Turtle Island, and look forward to supporting and participating in its great projects, as well as continuing my personal efforts to conserve sea turtles and marine wildlife.”

Meet the Interns

TURTLE ISLAND is proud to work with and help train the next generation of environmentalist through our internship programs. Get to know each of our interns:

TORY JOHNSON, Shark Conservation Intern—B.A. Environmental Studies and Marine Biology, University of Washington

NICHOLAS GEIER, Fundraising and Communications Intern—B.A. Environmental Studies/B.S. Ecology, University of California, Santa Cruz

CASEY HOWLEY-BRIGHAM, Sea Turtle Advocacy Intern—B.S. Animal Behavior, University of New England

WILLIAM BONE, Habitat Restoration Intern—B.S. Marine Biology, University of Alabama

JEREMY A. RICH, Habitat Restoration Intern—B.S. Agricultural Management/Range Land Resources, University of California, Davis

FIND INTERNSHIPS AT SeaTurtles.org/Intern.



Interns Nick, Jeremy, Tory, Casey & Simba the Golden Retriever.



Join Turtle Island’s Monthly Giving Program

HELP US TAKE SWIFT, sustained and innovative action by joining our by participating in our Monthly Giving Program. By making a monthly recurring donation to Turtle Island Restoration Network you can make a huge impact! Choose a species or program to support, or let us use your contribution where it is needed most.

Donate just \$5 a month or more and we will thank you with a Turtle Island baseball cap made from 100% organic cotton.

You can cancel or change the amount of your donation anytime. Use the enclosed envelope to join, or go online to SeaTurtles.org/STARS.

Turtle Island Restoration Network
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GRACE C.



PHOTO CREDIT

in this issue:

Protecting Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtles

Saving Galapagos Sharks

Cocos Island Dive Expedition

Safeguarding California's Salmon

25 Years of Conservation

ABOUT THE SEA TURTLE RESTORATION NETWORK

TURTLE ISLAND is a leading advocate for the world's oceans and marine wildlife.

Our work is based on science, fueled by people who care, and effective at catalyzing long-lasting positive change that protects the likes of green sea turtles and steel-head trout.

Our mission is to mobilize people in local communities around the world to protect marine wildlife and the oceans and inland watersheds that sustain them.

We accomplish our mission through grassroots empowerment, consumer action, strategic litigation, hands-on restoration, environmental education, and by promoting sustainable local, national and international marine policies. Learn more at SeaTurtles.Org.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Donna Howe (Chair), Carole Allen, Barb Andrews, Randall Arauz, Rick Misuraca, Wallace J. Nichols, Debbie Sivas, Dr. Jim Spotila, Todd Steiner (Executive Director).

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