

By: Lolita | Date: Dec 3, 2009 |

Thanks Buddy, for the constant vigilance and the updates, for those of us who couldn't make it out to the beach NEARLY as much as we'd like!! let's hope the beach rests and the sand will still be there next spring when the cycle begins again! Happy Holidays!

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Nov 10, 2009 | the end ( for me)

season is now over . all cages are slumbering in thier winter dens . dreaming of covering nests next summer . so this last hear from me in 2009 cya in 2010

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Nov 6, 2009 | two more came out to party

two more from nest 80 came out last night . found tracks this morning . 5 eggs that looked viable were put back in to give them more time . seems it worked for two eggs . now wait for the other three.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Oct 29, 2009 | the answer

for those who didnt attend the recap meeting tonite the answer is loggerheads the bestes of the sea turtles

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Oct 28, 2009 | wonders of wonders

mircles do happen checking the nest today instead of seeing the same old thing I saw 40 plus hatchlings making their way to the ocean.wonders never cease life finds a way etc. by the way if u r wondering about the type of turtle they are announce it at the turtle meeting thurs at tlc . c ya there.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Oct 23, 2009 | been awhile still holding vigil

sorry been so long but nothing much to report . nest 80 is still sitting . no activity. dont know the effect this cold has had on the eggs except to lengthen the incubation time. all hope fpr warmer weather

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Oct 3, 2009 | capital P capital U peeee yewwwwwwwww

forgot to mention nest 71 I inventoried it on tues . 85 hatched 29 unhatched . 28 dead in nest . most likely from raccoon scaring the bejesus out of a ghost crab who went on a killing frenzy . snapping at anything that moved. this was mucho stinko nest worst this year,

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Oct 1, 2009 | we r holding vigil

nest 80 is still sitting . obviously a lot cooler. I have been takiing temp readings at nest depth( outside the cage). sand at 1 1/2 feet has been 79 to 83 degrees . this morning it was 80 . what literature I have found says nests cannot survive if sand gets below 70 . so lets all do a warm front dance .

By: Carol Welch | Date: Sep 26, 2009 | Afternoon at the Sea Turtle Hospital

Just had to share: Alan & I took our daughter and granddaughter to the Sea Turtle Hospital at the Aquarium in Charleston yesterday. We had our own private tour since no one else had made reservations. They had a variety of turtles to observe; Green, Kemp Ridley, and of course Loggerhead. One of the Loggerheads was a 350 lb female. She was so cooperative! She came up to her window and observed us as we lovingly observed her. Our granddaughter (age 3) was very excited. Ava has been to several inventories, so she has seen hatchlings crawl to the water several times, but has never seen a full grown turtle. She was amazed. I know several of you have been to the Hospital, but if you have not, you must. It is a wonderful place to hang out for 45 minutes or so. They do require reservations and payment in advance; very reasonable though, at \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 25, 2009 | sorry

to all the former english teachers out there my apology for yesturdays post , this is what happens when turtle nuts start catching up on thier sleep. nothing new today just the raccoons on nightly vigil .

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 24, 2009 | bitter sweet day

nest 79 inventoried today on two more to go :(  
83 hatched 38 did not no babies live or dead so hip hip hooray that nests emergence success is 100% .  
nest 71 will be done tues we think it hatched weeks ago but never no confirmation ie tracks or hatchlings.  
then long wait till 80 .

By: Carol Welch | Date: Sep 23, 2009 | Wacky Wednesday's last day of the '09 season

Inventory of Nest #57 was done today with 105 unhatched and 17 hatched. No live or dead hatchlings found. This nest was insitu, and according to Buddy and Karen, was washed over several times and actually submerged by an unusually high tide at one point. A beautiful, breezy and very cloudy morning. Alan and I were a bit quiet on our return home this am; I guess we realized this season was coming to an end. Thank goodness we have next season to look forward to! We are all looking forward to Nest #80 - someone keep us all informed. Thanks!

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 21, 2009 | begining of the end part 1

nest 79 hatched last nite, with no raccoon interence. inventory set for thursday after this will be last inventory of a recently hatched nest.

By: Bonnie | Date: Sep 20, 2009 | Sunday Nest #73 Inventoried

I had the rare privilege to inventory with Connie's help a nest that Ken, I, and our grandchildren found and relocated back in July. Nest # 73 in Zone 1 at the campground were 76 hatched, 33 unhatched. We released two live hatchlings that made it safely to the ocean.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 19, 2009 | importance of picking up our trash

today was 2009 international beach/river sweep . Hunting island did its part. with fohi cleaning beach, trails roads etc. an park staff ,with help from navy rotc, removed loads of debris from cabin road. n the rotary club fed this big crowd . thanks to all who helped. trash kept out of the ocean saves sea turtles lives!!

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 18, 2009 | sprint to the finish

busy week 8 nests n 4 days .inventories sun 77,73,75. mon 78 , tues 64, an wed 67 57 58 . gonna be a busy 4 days.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 18, 2009 | nest 78

nest 78 hatched inventory set for mon. nest 78 is a good example of when to relocate and when not to . if 78 had been nest 8 laid n may early june it would have been fine insitu. but it was 78 laid end of july . this morning with the high tide nest 78 orginal location was submerged , not just washed over. real bad if eggs r hatchlings still been there. so kudos to sat team for the relocation. superb job.

By: Laurel | Date: Sep 18, 2009 | Sunday help welcome

Thanks for the offer Bonnie and anyone who wants to help Sunday, you are more than welcome to join us! So far it is just me and Buddy and maybe Connie with 3 inventories to do!

By: Bonnie | Date: Sep 18, 2009 | Happy Birthday Nest 73

Happy Bday hatchlings of Nest 73! My grandchildren discovered and helped with relocation. I would be thrilled to help Sunday's team with inventory:)

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 17, 2009 | dateline : thursday sept 17

nest 73 hatched inventory set for sun . sun will be a busy day 3 nests to inventory. 77,75,n 73. inventory today of nest 72 40 hatched , 49 did not . yes lolita still beach left.

By: Lolita | Date: Sep 16, 2009 |

Thanks TurtleBuddy and all the others who are posting updates on "our" babies!! While I can't be out there with you in person, I'm there in spirit, walking that beach and feeling the weather cooling and knowing our hatchlings are out there in the wate, doing their best to survive...kinda like us?! Thanks for the updates!(is there any beach left?)

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 14, 2009 | monday I missed

72 hatched last nite impatient's mates decided to go . 70 was inventoried succes rate wasnt high but for a nest with multiple washovers it was real good.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 13, 2009 | he couldnt wait had to go bad

one little turtle came out of nest 72 last nite. guess he couldnt wait on the others. we shall call him impatient. he did make it to the water though . his mates probably coming tonite.

By: Cyndi | Date: Sep 12, 2009 | Saturday Nest News

Trudy discovered tracks to the sea at nest #74 (not 75...). Yes, the surviving 38 eggs from the badly predated nest hatched for Saturday patrol to find. Inventory will be Wednesday.  
At #63, the eggs we hoped would hatch were dragged about by raccoons... Nests #67 (Zone 5) and #73 (Zone 1) are still quiet.  
A beautiful morning all up and down the beach.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 11, 2009 | two for one

FINALLY a nest hatched number 70 on thursday morning. beginning to think the cool weather had made duds of nests that are left. inventory for nest 70 is on mon . nothing hatched friday

By: Alam Welch | Date: Sep 10, 2009 |

We inventoried nest # 66 in zone 3 on Wed. morning. There were 20 unhatched and 37 hatched. No babies were found and no dead turtles were found.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 7, 2009 | mon morning blues

nothing new to report but bright side nothing bad to report either

By: turtlebuddy | Date: Sep 6, 2009 |

Nest 66 hatched inventory will be on wednesday

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 5, 2009 | Its sat morning live

nest 64 hatched inventory will be tues

By: turtlebuddy | Date: Sep 4, 2009 | my pal friday

nest 69 hatched inventory on tues sept 8

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 3, 2009 | on a cold thursday morning

nest 38 wasnt pretty 125 eggs did not hatch reason unknow it was relocated n not washed over . nest 59 hatched yesturday wed inventory sun cuz it was washed over needs 4 days instead of 3. nests with blue flagging tape tied around the stake where the nest number is has been inventoried . some of the unhatched eggs thought to be viable ie live babies inside so eggs reburied cage put back down to give them a chance to hatch if they gonna

By: Bonnie | Date: Sep 3, 2009 | Wacky Wednesday team

Nest#53 was inventoried on Wed. by myself and Gretchen. 76 hatched, 46 unhatched and we had

two little ones live that made it to the ocean.

By: Carol Welch | Date: Sep 2, 2009 | Inventory of Nest #56

Nest #56 (insitu), Zone 4 was inventoried this am by myself, Alan Welch and Annette Marchetti: 84 hatched, 15 unhatched, no live hatchlings and no dead. The "cold front" felt like early Fall on the beach, but it was a wonderful morning.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 1, 2009 | tues after mon

nothing new today , but nest 54 will be inventoried on wed at 730 pm . beach in front of the light house.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Aug 31, 2009 | sun nests

nests 52 , 53 , 54 , 56 hatched on sun morning. inventory on wed morning

By: Diane | Date: Aug 30, 2009 |

Nest 51 inventory-134 of 143 eggs hatched and we found 9 live babies, one of whom practically raced down the beach (well, for a loggerhead). A bunch of nests hatched overnight as well, mostly the nests that were all laid in a flurry on independence day. I'll likely get the nest numbers wrong, so I'll let someone else report them. Wednesday will be busy. Thanks Karen W and Buddy for being there for Laurel and me today.

By: Laurel | Date: Aug 29, 2009 | Saturday, not much news

No new hatching to report, Buddy said that 60 will be ready to inventory in Zone 3 on Monday.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Aug 28, 2009 | this day friday

nest 61 hatched unfortunately the 9 turtles had raccoons waiting on them . but it appears nest 61 hatched without us knowing it on a earlier night . so 61 turtles , plus a slothy turtle all made it safely to the water. no wash overs yet from t dan

By: turtlebuddy | Date: Aug 27, 2009 | happen on thursday

nest 51 hatched with a boil inventory on sunday. nest 65 hatched with raccoons catching the end of it. 17 dead hatchlings around the nest. par procedure with a attack . nest relocated ,32 hatchlings released n walked to water safely.

By: Gretchen | Date: Aug 26, 2009 | Wacky Wednesdays Live On!

We had an exciting morning! Expecting to monitor a quiet beach, Karen & Buddy found Nest 55 invaded by raccoons & ghost crabs. They spotted some hatchlings on top, so inventoried the nest. A total of 72 eggs were found and 3 lucky little guys made the trek to the water.

Then things got exciting. Some bike riders told us about a track in Zone 4. We all rushed down to discover

the biggest track that any of us had ever seen. It looked as though the bikers had just missed seeing the mama. It was decided to move the nest - Bonnie, Don, Buddy, Karen & I dug up 133 eggs to be moved to Zone 4 near the bath house. Because of the size of the track Bonnie checked with DNR and it is possible that our big mama is a Green Sea Turtle! This was our 80th nest of the season!

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Aug 25, 2009 | turtles r just a chillin

no new hatchings to report ,so our next inventory will be no earlier then sat. cool weather n wash overs r more then likely the culprit for the slow down .

By: Laurel | Date: Aug 23, 2009 | Weekend news

No hatching this weekend to report. Special visit from Charlotte Hope: meet at the South Beach Bathhouse on Monday at 7am. Inventory for nest 39: 106 hatched, 22 unhatched and 3 live.

For nest 42 82 hatched and 13 unhatched, 1 live.

Thanks for all the extra help this weekend: Karen M. and Jane Ann on Sunday and Karen and Denise on Saturday and especially to Buddy for always knowing exactly what is going on with our nests and being there everyday!

By: Diane | Date: Aug 23, 2009 |

Thanks so much to Karen M and Jane Ann from the Thursday team for helping our Sunday team with inventory. They were rewarded with a live baby on section 3. Laurel found 3 babies in her section 1 nest. Connie and I didn't find any live babies, but our nest 47 produced 116 hatched eggs of 121.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Aug 22, 2009 | Bill comes a callin

H Bill pushed higher tides over 8 of our nests . 52 , 54,55,57,58,59,70,& 74. with nest 55 almost ( to use a surfin term) gettin wiped out. we moved 55 this morning . all 72 eggs were dry. we could even see live turtles. still in their eggs. so im thinkin the other nest made it . cross all fingers n toes. tonite the waves had died down when I left the park at 6. hopefully tonite we be milder.

By: MaryAnn | Date: Aug 20, 2009 |

**SATURDAY TEAM:** There are nests to be inventoried this Saturday, 22 August. Please meet at the Visitor Center at 7:00 AM.

By: Karen M | Date: Aug 20, 2009 | More Nests Hatching

Our awesome Thursday team had 7 regulars plus Denise and Buddy!

New hatchings - get ready Sunday inventory team - zone ? - 39 and 47, zone 3 - 48 (a real stampede) and 55 (just a few tracks out the back??)

Inventories - Bob, Vicki, Pam, Jane Ann and I inventoried nests 12 and 13 in zone 3 with Denise and Buddy while Taylors walked zone 4. Both nests were 80+ days, a little stinky.

nest 12 - 38 hatched, 72 unhatched, total 110 (stick said 99 but all felt unhatched # is correct), 35% success rate

nest 13 - 12 hatched, 100 unhatched, 1 dead turtle, total 112, 10% success rate

By: Bonnie | Date: Aug 19, 2009 | More hatched

Two more nests hatched last night that were discovered on Wednesday morning. Nests #44 and #45 in Zone 3. One of the nests looked like a full blown boil! Wish I could have been there to see the whole gang heading to the water. Saturday's team get ready for a busy morning!

By: Gretchen | Date: Aug 19, 2009 | Nest 41, Zone 4

This morning Carol Welch, Gretchen Blicke & Bonnie Wright inventoried Nest #41 in which was in situ in Zone 4. There were 64 unhatched eggs, 38 hatched, one dead and one little guy who made it to the sea as five-year-old Chloe Prince watched.

Nest #42 hatched last night and will be inventoried on Saturday.

By: Lolita | Date: Aug 19, 2009 |

What great reporting, Laurel! Keep up the good work! Nice to hear how our little ones are progressing!!

By: Laurel | Date: Aug 19, 2009 | More inventories this week

We had 3 hatches last night so Saturday inventories of Nests #42 in Zone 4, Nests 44 and 45 in Zone 3.

Thurs. Inventory #11 in zone 2, #12 and 13 in zone 3. they have all reached their 80 days.

Friday # 14 and #40 these nests are in zone 1 and 2. # 14 has reached its 80 days.

Sunday Nests 19 in zone 4 and 25 in zone 3 they also have reached 80 days. There may be others if anything hatches tonight.

By: Laurel | Date: Aug 18, 2009 | Friday inventory

Nest 40 will be inventoried on Friday in zone 2, practically in line with the beach access dividing zones 1 and 2. I think there is only one person on the Friday team, so if you are available to help check nests and want more inventory experience it is a good opportunity!

By: Laurel | Date: Aug 16, 2009 | more inventories scheduled this week

Nests 41 and 49 in zone 4 are ready for inventories on Wednesday. Nest 41 is in the southern half of zone 4.

Wendy may want to do 49 for the program Wed night because it is close to the bathhouse.

By: Laurel | Date: Aug 15, 2009 | Nesting ends, hatching continues

Today was the last official day of nesting patrols, but don't forget we will be on the beach checking nests

and conducting inventories until the last nest hatches. We will meet daily at 7am at the Visitors Center radio box to walk the beach. Thanks to everyone for your hard work, 79 nests! Just like the turtles, we adapted to make the season a success!

By: Laurel | Date: Aug 15, 2009 | Finally, an inventory to report!

After a wet week and little found in the way of hatching evidence, nest 43 hatched and will be ready for inventory on Tuesday!

By: Ardena | Date: Aug 14, 2009 |

Has #28 been inventoried? Hatch rate?

By: Karen M | Date: Aug 13, 2009 | Nest 36 Inventory

Thursday's team inventoried nest 36 in zone 3, a nest that had been moved. Total eggs - 112, hatched - 68, unhatched - 44, success rate - 61%.

By: Lolita | Date: Aug 12, 2009 | Tuesday Turtle Team A

although the nesting season seems over, it's cool to keep up with the nests as they hatch..it's particularly interesting when people add what nests are up for inventory - and better yet - what zone they're in so IF someone had an opportunity to go out to the beach, they could witness that process. What time ARE the inventory teams going on?

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Aug 10, 2009 | monday monday

nest 36 hatched , from the tracks it was a herd of hatchlings.

By: Diane | Date: Aug 9, 2009 | Good little hatchling

We inventoried 26 this morning and found one little hatchling about half way down. The little flippers tickle your palm. We set her on her way down the beach, attracting a crowd of fans, as we were near the campground. She had quite a long trip but made it successfully into the water and beyond.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Aug 9, 2009 | catching up

nests 32 , 28 in zone 3 hatched .  
zone 4 29 hatched fri night 34 35 hatched sat nite . sad news nest 29 the raccoons were present at emergence. was not a pretty sight for vols on sat morning. six hatchling tracks to the water. rest didnt make it.

By: Karen M | Date: Aug 6, 2009 | Nest 26 Hatched

Nest 26 in zone 2 hatched last night so Sunday team - you have a nest to inventory!



Three nests were inventoried this morning -

Nest 20 - 99 hatched, 5 unhatched, total 104  
success rate 95%

Nest 24 - 98 hatched, 17 unhatched, 1 dead hatchling, total 115  
success rate 84% (this nest had been moved and reported to have 108 eggs so somehow 7 eggs sneaked in...)

Nest 33 - 89 hatched, 26 unhatched, total 115  
success rate 77%

By: Gretchen | Date: Aug 5, 2009 | August 5

Still looking for that elusive #80 nest! No new action on the beach today; some campers saw 15 more hatchlings emerge from nest #31 last night. Bonnie & I inventoried the nest this a.m. Three more babies made it to the sea, unfortunately 14 were dead in the nest. Nest #18 was inventoried by Alan & Carol Welch; they found one more live hatchling in their nest.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Aug 4, 2009 | which nest did what

nest 23 hatched last nite

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Aug 3, 2009 | bout last nite

nests 27 , 33 , 20 , 24,31 (which i was there) hatched last nite. unfortunly raccoons got into 31 . but did not get any eggs or babies.

By: Laurel | Date: Aug 2, 2009 | Nest activity from the weekend

Saturdays Nest 15 inventory found 106 hatched eggs, 19 unhatched for a total of 125, with one live hatchling. Thanks to the Friday inventory team for giving these turtles one more day to make thier way to the ocean on their own - they needed it to be strong!

Nests 18 and 30 hatched Saturday night, found the tracks Sunday AM. And nest 17 had one little track from the nest to the ocean, no new nests 79 is still the count.

By: k | Date: Aug 1, 2009 | k

Sneaky turtle was the smartest of them all

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jul 31, 2009 | a sea turtle hatchling tale

Sneaky the turtle had got left behind by his/her nest mates . then some hungry raccoons came a dug up the nest . they rudely threw sneaky out of the ground. but sneaky is a smart turtle she/he didnt fuss are complain. she /he just left those dumb raccoons behind. headed to the water. to begin the swim to freedom. moral be a smart turtle leave dumb raccoons eating rotten eggs make for the surf.  
sneaky nest was 22 hatched last nite . also 21 n 14 hatched

By: Alan Welch | Date: Jul 29, 2009 |

No activity on Wednesday with either nesting or hatching.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jul 28, 2009 | last two days

nest 10 hatched on mon , nest 15 hatched on tuesday.

By: MaryAnn | Date: Jul 27, 2009 | Hatch rate, nest #5

Please note that nest #5 was the first nest which was moved to higher ground. It had a 95.4% hatch rate! It will be interesting to see the final hatch rate for the remaining nests which were/are moved.

By: Diane | Date: Jul 26, 2009 |

Sorry, we had some confusion this morning about nest numbers. Bruce and John apparently found 79.

By: Diane | Date: Jul 26, 2009 |

Need to give proper credit to Bruce and John. Connie and I offered to relocate the nest so Bruce and John could go to training, but, since they weren't going to inventory training, they ended up relocating nest 78. Nest 13 on section 3 pipped; however, only one set of baby tracks emerged, so the rest are likely to go tonight. Mark that one on your calendars Thursday group. It will likely be yours to inventory.

By: Laurel | Date: Jul 26, 2009 | Nest 79 was found and 2 inventories done

Nest 79 was found in zone 4 by Bruce and John and relocated by Connie and Diane, so that we could get to inventory training on time. Thanks for the team work, as always, on Sunday!  
Inventory for nest #4 found 99 total eggs with 54 hatched, a little better than 50%. Nest #5 was 108 eggs with 103 hatched! And each nest had a little hatchling that remained for us to release on the beach.

By: MaryAnn | Date: Jul 25, 2009 |

Saturday activity was in zones 1 and 4 along with pipping of nests #7 and #4. Zone 4 had a perfect in and out, short crawl. I think she was on the beach when we arrived but it took us a long time to walk that far. The sand was wet and the tracks were fresh. She "decided" with the low tide that she would probably try again tonight and time her crawl much earlier.  
Finally, way to go zone #1 with nest #78!

By: Cyndi | Date: Jul 25, 2009 | Nest #78

We found a crawl with piled and thrown sand just out from the trail at the campground (Zone 1). Partiers and dogs walked over it and left their limes, so it was hard to see what momma did. We poked around for a while, then checked the rest of 1 and part of Zone 2.  
With renewed assurance that we would find the clutch (and MaryAnne to help), she probed and there it was. Relocated to the dunes, 89 eggs! Thanks Susan, Carol and MaryAnne. And Buddy who came later to screen it.

Nests 8,9, and 11 are definitely showing signs...

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jul 24, 2009 | inventory data

nest 2 - 113 hatched , 29 unhatched total 142

success rate - 80 %

1 dead hatchling , 2 live hatchlings

nest 1 - 64 hatched, 60 unhatched total 124

52 % success rate. no hatchlings

nest 6 - 125 hatched , 13 unhatched total 138

success rate 91 % no dead hatchlings , 2 live hatchlings . all nest inventoried have been insitu nests . 5 is the first relocated nest.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jul 24, 2009 | fri happenings

nest 77 found in zone 4 today relocted to dunes in 4 right next to nest 5

By: Karen M | Date: Jul 23, 2009 | Nest #5

Nest 5 in Zone 4 has hatched! There were definite pipping signs and tracks to the water. Raccoons got into nest 75 in zone 3 so Bob, Jane Ann, and I helped Buddy move the remaining 70 eggs to a new nest in zone 3.

By: Mollie B | Date: Jul 22, 2009 | An Amazing Morning

What an experience this has been. With this being my first year on the Patrol, the things I have seen. A momma turtle in broad daylight, such a beautiful sight and then this morning, while on the inventory team, two little ones left behind, but swam strong they did. Makes you appreciate God's Creatures, no matter how small they are.

By: Carol | Date: Jul 22, 2009 |

After Turtle Patrol Wed. Bonnie & Ken stayed at the beach with their granddaughters. One of the girls was stung by a jellyfish and was in definite pain. Lesson learned for all you beach goers - white vinegar in a spray bottle will alleviate pain caused by these stings. If you forget yours, they sell it at the Campground Store.

By: Carol W. | Date: Jul 22, 2009 |

Well, where do I start? Wed. teams had a total of 4 nests, 1 false crawl and a hatching! Not to mention the inventory training that several of us could not make because we were so busy. Nest #72 89 eggs, and 1 FC in Zone 4. Nest moved to higher ground. #73 Zone 1, 109 eggs moved to higher ground. (Bonnie & Ken's granddaughters brought us good luck!) #74 Zone 3 was left insitu. #75 Zone 3 was predated and partially dug up. 58 eggs destroyed outside nest, 38 eggs still in nest but moved to Zone 4 dune area(too close to tide line.) No Mama turtle tracks found and no body pit, and the wrack lying right at the nest appeared undisturbed. Nest #4 hatched!

By: Mary Alice | Date: Jul 21, 2009 |

Nest #6 in Zone 1 hatched last night. One little one was stranded so we assisted by moving grass and sand and off it went. It was moving very fast and being there to help made our morning walk perfect and worth the early morning. Thanks, Jon! We knew you could make it special. We all told you we needed you!

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jul 20, 2009 | they dont care about our numbering

turtles dont know numbers . nest one hatched last nite sunday. this was the mothers day nest. one little one left this morning , betty team, with assit by jessy, had to wake it up an send it on its way . that made for a good morning . no nesting by mommas r crawls

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jul 19, 2009 | finally the pot boils

Nest 2 hatched last nite . from the size of the hole it looked like a boil. babies have started . cigars to all

By: Diane | Date: Jul 19, 2009 |

The little lady with the false crawl Saturday didn't show up Sunday, so watch for her Monday. No new nests or crawls anywhere on the beach. None of the nests on 4 (and there are a bunch of them) show any sign of pipping. Somebody's going to see a lot of babies on the beach one of these nights.

By: Cyndi | Date: Jul 18, 2009 | Webwitch update

I have updated the Day/Zone chart for all 71(!) nests, so far. The mommas do like Zones 3 & 4 this year... and Thursdays, too.

All nests up to #19 will have reached at least 45 days tomorrow and could begin to hatch. 1, 2, 3, & 4 are past 60 days. Check 'em carefully.

By: MaryAnn | Date: Jul 18, 2009 |

Team Saturday had one false crawl at the north end of zone 5. Hopefully she will return tonight for the Sunday team..

By: MaryAnn for Carolyn | Date: Jul 17, 2009 |

Carolyn called this A.M. to let the Saturday team know that they found no crawls, nests, pipping or hatchlings. Hope that my Saturday team has better luck in the morning. MA

By: Dean Hewitt | Date: Jul 16, 2009 | Thursday day leader

The turtle mommas finally found their nest homes on Thursday after wandering the beach early this week. Three false crawls on Monday and five on Wednesday set up Thursday for nests in three zones. Bob Bergen's crew and three guests left nest 70 in situ in zone three. Don Berg's team found and relocated nest 69 in zone 4, and Wendy and Buddy located nest 71 in zone 6 which they relocated to zone 3.

By: karen | Date: Jul 15, 2009 | wednesday

We had a total of 5 false crawls in zones 5 & 6 today. So watch for those turtles to return in two to three days. Hopefully they will try going north to the beach where there is a good nesting area.

By: Carol W. | Date: Jul 15, 2009 |

Wacky Wednesday wasn't so wacky today. Three false crawls were seen between Z5&6, but nothing else reported. We did however, have a beautiful start to our day by walking on the beach; doesn't get much better than that! Hopefully, nest #69 will be found tomorrow.

By: Diane | Date: Jul 12, 2009 | Nature can be cruel

Nest 68, all the way around the curve on 6 was a beautiful crawl ending in an open pit and devastation. Raccoon tracks were everywhere. They left nary an egg uneaten. Sara dug down deep, hoping to find an egg or two had been missed, but not a one was left. She and I counted 121 empty shells. Not so much as a bit of yoke or albumen to be found. It was a very sad find.

By: karen | Date: Jul 12, 2009 | Zone 6 Turtles.

Nest 62 and 65. found on Thursday 9. Nest 62 was lost to racoons with 2 eggs remaining in the nest. Nest 65 produced 120 eggs which were relocated to Zone 4. The 2 eggs from Nest 62 we safely tucked into Nest 65.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jul 11, 2009 | bout last friday

friday had nests 66 an 67. 66 was in zone 3. accoons got to it before volunteers. but they missed 57 eggs. nest 67 was the first nest to be laid in zone 5. dont worry momma crawled up a high dune to lay. nest will be closly monitored. n moved after 30 if need be

By: MaryAnn | Date: Jul 11, 2009 |

Morning patrol yielded only one false crawl in zone 5. As always, we had a lot of trash. Several nests had evidence of racoons and ghost crabs, including nest #64 which had racoon "digs" on top of the screen side tabs.

Reminder...please make sure that you DO NOT re-bury broken eggs. The racoons will be drawn to the area where they were buried. I dispose of them in a plastic bag and thrown them in a trash bin before leaving the beach.

By: Karen | Date: Jul 9, 2009 | Another Awesome Thursday

A busy day in zone 4! We found 3 crawls up past the wrack but in soft unstable dunes, making it very difficult to probe. After multiple probings and diggings, two nests were found and one false crawl (we hated to give up on the fc as there was a definite body pit, you could even see the outline of her shell). Nest 63 - Dean probed, Bob dug the new nest, Andy got the DNR stakes, and Carol and I moved the 89 eggs to the new nest in zone 4. Some weird looking eggs in this nest - 2 were co-joined and another egg looked like it

had 2 misformed eggs attached. Nancy or Terry will blog on nest 64 and someone else will blog nest 65.

By: Sy Commanday | Date: Jul 8, 2009 | Probing for a nest

Betty is probing for a nest that was soon found slightly to her left. I was relocated and contained 128 eggs.

I have tried to attach a photo. Maybe this time it will work. (sent to Cyndi)

By: Jessy | Date: Jul 8, 2009 |

We had one crawl in zone 5 and one crawl in zone 6. Buddy probed and determined the crawl in 6 was false :P

By: Julie | Date: Jul 8, 2009 |

Really waacky Wednesday!! Had three false crawls in zone 2. Momma turtle apparently went up to log then took a left turn along the log to access behind only to find nest #11 had already taken the space. Karen probed all around but found nothing.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jul 7, 2009 | tuesday happenings

nests 59 60 in zone 3 nest 61 in zone 4, plus a momma on the beach

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jul 6, 2009 | all crawls no nests

no new nests for monday. just four false crawls. tues wed thurs better rest up. monday showed excellent team work in probing all the crawls. thanks also to jessy n karen for the help today

By: Roberta | Date: Jul 5, 2009 |

Yes, it was quite a morning. Those mamas were busy last night. Morag and I had the nest on zone 4. We worked and worked, but it took Buddy to find the sweet spot while we helped the teams working on zone 3. It was a greatly satisfying time of everyone helping each other.

We also had a very short false crawl on zone 4. Mama came up against a log and changed her mind.

By: Diane | Date: Jul 5, 2009 |

Wow, what a fourth the mamas must have had. After finding nothing new on 1, we started hearing reports of tracks all over section 3 and one set on 4. Everyone from sections 1 and 2 completed their rounds and drove over to help on 3. As a group, we found a total of 4 nests. Tuesday's false crawls finally found the right spots. Ours was right next to another nest very close to the bath house at the base of the dunes. She must have seen the orange sign and wire box and thought we'd left her directions.

By: MaryAnn | Date: Jul 4, 2009 |

The Saturday team had a good start to the Fourth of July with one nest (#53) in zone 4. We were hoping that more of our "girls" would come to party; however, they may be up tonight for the Sunday team. Our girl today encountered a big log below the high tide mark and went no further as she left 122 eggs for Cyndi to find. The nest was moved above the wrack. We had no other crawls. Weather wise, we finally had a beautiful morning! MaryAnn

By: Bonnie | Date: Jul 2, 2009 |

Wednesday team found nest #51 in zone 4. With all the false crawls this week turtle volunteers be alert for an active 4th of July weekend. Day leaders and volunteers you are doing a wonderful job of looking after our turtles and nests. Keep up the great work. Have a happy and safe 4th of July.

By: Gretchen Blicke | Date: Jul 1, 2009 | Wacky Wednesday again

Waacky Wednesday continues to live up to its name! We had only one crawl in Zone 4; the nest was all the way up in the wrack, but our intrepid Ken Wright found the nest. There were 141 eggs in the nest and 2 about 20 feet away along the high tide line. She must have been in a hurry! With the help of Reed and his Mom, Ann, (campers) we transferred the nest to just N of the first cabin. Reed did a great job counting the eggs and helping dig the trench for the raccoon cage.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jun 30, 2009 | strange tuesday

tuesday had strangest day ever 7 false crawls  
1 in zone 1 , 2 in zone 2 , two in zone 3 , 1 in 4 , 1 in 5 . next two days will be busy

By: mark the intern | Date: Jun 29, 2009 |

one of the volunteers was telling me that every summer the voodoo followers have a sort of giant fruit sacrifice, probably where all the fruit came from! did everyone see the seaturtle.org article in yesterdays gazette?

By: Gretchen Blicke | Date: Jun 29, 2009 | Carmen Miranda dances on HI

I am posting this a little late, but worth mentioning. On Wed., June 10 my team and some of the students from Haywood College had a mystery to solve in Zone 3, south of the lighthouse. The entire beach was littered with fresh fruit - watermelon, strawberries, mangos, cantalope, cucumbers. Obviously fresh as only a few had raccoon bites. AND a small raft made from pine boughs. Where did it all come from? It is a mystery to us.

By: Diane Voge | Date: Jun 28, 2009 |

Sounded as if Laurel found eggs on 4 this morning, although it was hard to hear through the crackling of the walkie. All we found on 2 were thousands of fiddler crabs and lots of trash. I don't look forward to the trash haul next week, the morning after Independence Day. Maybe I'll bring a wheelbarrow instead of a bucket.

By: MaryAnn | Date: Jun 27, 2009 |

We had a very beautiful morning on the beach, including NEST #48!!! The nest was in Zone 3 and was moved to higher ground-112 eggs. Zone 2 had a false crawl north of the cut in the mud flats. Finally, zone 1 had a false crawl. She came up from the creek and ran into the dunes. It was neat to see her flipper carving on the dune as she moved along the side of the dune looking for the "right place." She could not find that right spot to leave her eggs and returned to the creek. Zone one teams need to check very carefully for tracks as this gal's could have easily been missed. Cyndi will be posting pictures.

Good turtling! MaryAnn

By: Turtlebuddy | Date: Jun 26, 2009 | pretty momma on the beach

friday crew got the blessing a turtle on the beach. she was a beauty. lots of pics, hope to see them soon. also three nests three false crawls. unfortunately raccoons got to nest 46 before vols did. ps anyone who got pics I would like some copies r an email please

By: Turtlebuddy | Date: Jun 25, 2009 | then there was 5

one of the false crawls in 3 was a nest. turtle gods smile on thursday . their reward for braving it out during last thursday storm.

to add to Karen's blog,the family that stayed with momma number 40 . are Jeris Rutter,Grandma; Samantha Quinn ,Jimmy Rutter, and Valerie Quinn. They are regulars at the campground . An much liked by the staff. Thanks for thier diligence.

By: nancy June 25 | Date: Jun 25, 2009 |

Nancy's Thursday team scores again in zone 4, 3 nests, a false crawl and another false crawl that Buddy and I think mama was spooked by racoons or a deer, both prints were in evidence. The "girls" thoughtfully placed their nests safely high up in the dunes. Nests 41, 42, & 43 were found in the sweet spot. (ask Buddy) The original location of every nest that was moved in zone 4 was washed over last night with the high tide

By: Karen | Date: Jun 25, 2009 | Nest #40 - Jimmy and Grandma

Zone #1 - We found nest #40 this morning with the help of two campers who saw Momma Turtle come in last night and lay her eggs. They camped out to protect the nest (without flashlights) and waited for the turtle patrol. Thank you, Jimmy and Grandma 💎 great job! Our team, Andy, Vicki, Charlie, and Karen, moved the nest 💎 108 eggs. This nest was extra special as it was Charlie💎s last patrol this season (he is the spring/fall lighthouse keeper) and Andy💎s visiting granddaughter Emma💎s first patrol. There were reports of other turtle activity in zone 1 but also many campers around the turtles with flashlights, possibly disrupting the turtles💎 efforts. We did not find any more nests or crawls.

By: Bonnie | Date: Jun 24, 2009 | No nests for Wacky Wednesday

Large amount of rack grass deposited on the beach from previous extreme high tide, but no new nests. We did have one false crawl in Zone 1, three false crawls in Zone 3 and one false crawl in Zone 4. All appeared small and short turnaround with the next high tide soon to wash all evidence away. Do we have a small momma checking out all the zones first before laying her eggs? Maybe Thursday team will have the answer. Zone 4 had nests 11, 15, 16 and 19 washover.



By: Turtlebuddy | Date: Jun 24, 2009 | moving on up to the deluxe

with the help of Jesse of tuesday group. nests 12 n 13 moved up from zone 6 to zone 3. now they dont have to worry bout being flooded out.

By: Turtlebuddy | Date: Jun 23, 2009 | crazy high tide

nest 14 got washed over last nite, thankfully not washed away . had really unexpected high tide last nite. nest 14 was relocated to a higher dune. eggs look safe n viable. in fact bout 3 inches into the nest we found ants who had survived being flooded over. ants like eggs breath air, so if they didnt drown the eggs should be ok. nest 19, 11, n 3 also got some wash over. not as bad as 14 though

By: Mary Alice | Date: Jun 23, 2009 |

Team A's patrol of Zone 1 did not find any turtle sightings, but we did have an interesting encounter with a horseshoe crab.

The tide evidently flipped the crab upside down and it was not able to right itself. We turned it over and it began it's steady but slow crawl back to the ocean. Just at the edge of the incoming tide, it began to bury itself in the wet sand. None of us had ever actually witnessed the tracks left by the horseshoe crab so we were totally fascinated. Even though there were no turtles to report we did have a good morning and a fabulous sunrise.

By: Mark the intern | Date: Jun 22, 2009 | Nest #39

Nest #39 was located in zone 1 today, and moved up to the dunes where the old hatchery was located.

By: Diane Voge | Date: Jun 21, 2009 | Nests #37 & #38

Zone 4 had Nest #37, left in situ Sunday morning, while we on Zone 3 found tracks quickly, but had a heck of a time finding the eggs. I walked the rest of the zone with a visitor while Connie probed and Sara dug to no avail. Just as we were calling in reinforcements, Connie hit the hole, away from where the body pit appeared to be, Nest #38. Mama may have been young as the tracks weren't very wide, she only made it half way up the beach, and the nest was both shallow and narrow. Buddy thinks the 4 broken eggs we found deep in the nest were likely caused by her weight on a shallow nest. But we successfully moved 125. Way to go, Connie!

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jun 20, 2009 | Nest #36 - Special K finds one

Revise: zone 6 had nest #36 this morning , Kathleen, aka Special K, located it. And called me to assist her in relocating it. Way to go Special K!

By: MaryAnn | Date: Jun 20, 2009 |

The Saturday team had no crawls/nests--just a lot of trash!

I did not receive any communication from Buddy regarding zone 6. The turtles have had two days of relaxation in the ocean so they are overdue to return to the beach very soon!

MaryAnn

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jun 19, 2009 | they deserve a hand

Like viking and highland warriors, thursdays team charged the beach when others would of turned around. They were awarded with two nests. way to go awesome thursday

By: Dean Hewitt | Date: Jun 18, 2009 | Nests #34 & #35

Eight hearty Thursday turtlers waited out lightning, thunder and heavy rain until 7 a.m. and were rewarded by Nests #34 and #35 in a soggy Zone Four. The Taylors, first year team members spotted the fading tracks and also located a false crawl in the same Zone. All eight participated in moving the nests to the dunes.

By: Fran Forcione | Date: Jun 18, 2009 | Little Mommy Turtle

On Wednesday 6/17 morning Annette and I found a false crawl in zone 5. The unique thing about it was this was the smallest track Annette and I had ever seen. It was 29 inches wide. Enjoy

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jun 16, 2009 | Sad news

nest 17 was broken into by raccoons last nite. 70 eggs were lost. 48 made it safe, to be relocated to zone 3. raccoons dug under the flap of the cage. this was a cage from last year, It had 6 in flaps instead of 12" flaps like the new cages. not only turtles nesting more, but raccoon attempts will be multiplying in number an intesity. so as we walk our zones, be sure to check all nests extra good (which we all do).

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jun 15, 2009 | Nests #32 & #33

nest 32 and 33 were found today, both left in situ. nest 32 was in zone 3, a raccoon tried to find the eggs before we got there, but the hard sand kept him out. nest 33 was in zone 4, up in a dune right beside nest 15. two false crawls in zone 2 and 5.

By: Neville | Date: Jun 14, 2009 | docent prestidigitator and novice turtler

The nest marker signs are being attached to the wooden sticks with office staples! Every time I have seen one of these hammered into the ground, those puny staples pulled out of the stick, and had to somehow be re-secured. Buddy has a good, heavy duty stapler that is aligned "upside down" from any other stapler I was familiar with. I used it on the beach yesterday and anchored a staple in my wrist- my fingers are still numb. Please, could signs be re-fastened to sticks in a more secure way, before they go back to the beach. My anatomy would appreciate it, and the incubating babies will be happy to know they have secure signs.

By: Laurel | Date: Jun 14, 2009 | Nest #31

We did have a nest on Sunday, it was so far down the beach that most other zones had left the beach by the time we discovered this nest. It was found in Zone 6, very close to the lagoon, by me, Jerry and Denise, and it was their first nest, ever. We relocated the 112 eggs to Zone 3 with the help of Buddy, Connie, Diane and friend. Thanks for the group effort!

By: Mallory George | Date: Jun 14, 2009 |

No nests this Sunday.

We did find a LOT of trash though. 3+ bags of it. Of course that's only the little bags but there was more that we carried to the dumpster. Everything was very trashy today.

Someone also broke in to a soda machine and Powerade machine out side of the South Beach bathrooms. They took all of the money. I was surprised that they didn't take all of the sodas and such too.

And we also found another beached Jellyfish.

(poor things)

By: MaryAnn | Date: Jun 13, 2009 | Nests #28, #29, & 30!

This was the morning of "3s" .....3 nests and 3 false crawls!!!

Nest #28, Zone 2 was moved to Zone 3

Nest #29, Zone 1 was moved to Zone 4 (101 eggs, with 2 broken eggs on the bottom)

Nest #29 was a great "teachable moment" for this retired teacher! We had a nice group of parents and children.

Nest #30, Zone 4 was moved to higher ground in Zone 4 (93 eggs)

Zone 5 had 3 false crawls- be ready Sunday team!

Since it is 11:20 and I missed breakfast, I am signing off to eat lunch!

By: Cyndi | Date: Jun 13, 2009 | Nest #28

Three nests today makes 30! Ours at the south end of Zone 2 in front of the lighthouse had 107 eggs which we moved to the dunes in Zone 3. Ardena probed. Kelly and Trudy carefully removed and counted the eggs. I dug the new hole. Trudy and Suelyn transferred the eggs. Karen helped us put a cage over the nest. Great job!

By: Mark the intern | Date: Jun 12, 2009 | Nest #27

Fridays team found a nest in Zone 3 today, left in situ. I had an awesome morning and found 2 very long false crawls in zone 6 and a false crawl in zone 5. a big thanks to Jessy and Karen for walking all the way out to 6 to help probe, as one of the crawls had two body pits. One of the body pits had a hole started and then abandoned, and the other one with a very convincing body pit ended up having nothing. Hopefully the mom will come back soon though.

By: Jessy | Date: Jun 11, 2009 |

No nests or false crawls for Thursday, June 11th. A DNR employee and Buddy walked zones 4-6 but found nothing.

And as a note to all volunteers, Mark would like you to know that he rides his bike to zone six and walks it every morning. So no worries! he's got that covered. Also, he walks as much as zone five as possible, even covering the tracks of those who walk zone 4 and part of 5. He's on top of it all!

By: vturtle | Date: Jun 10, 2009 | The Haywood Nest #26 !!

Wednesday's team had lots of guests. 24 from Haywood College, most being fish & wildlife majors. And the two "Lucky Pennies", friends of Bonnie & Ken Wright. Nest #26, was in zone 1 and Mamma Turtle had high hopes for a clutch of athletes - she laid the nest right next to and almost touching the volley ball net post. Karen Whitehead was the nest Prober and the Wrights, along with their "Lucky Pennies" asissted in moving

the 112 eggs to a higher dune near the sand fence.

By: Mary Alice | Date: Jun 9, 2009 | Nest #25 Predated :-)

Team A - Abby, Lolita, Mack, Mary Alice and our visiting turtler, Jon - found a nest in Zone 3. Unfortunately, the raccoons had found it before we arrived and, it appears, had quite a feast. The scene was heartbreaking. They were most likely waiting for mama turtle to finish her nest so they could destroy it.

Luckily, we were able to save 14 of the eggs. Sadly, we lost 96.

While Lolita and Jon patrolled the rest of Zone 3, Mack and Abby dug the new nest high up on the beach. After the nest was finished and marked it was covered by a metal cage. Hopefully the 14 eggs will now have at least a fighting chance.

By: Jessy | Date: Jun 9, 2009 |

Nest #25 was found today in Zone 3. unfortunately some raccoons got to the nest before the volunteers could and destroyed all but 14 eggs. They relocated the nest to the dune area. Hopefully those babies will make it!

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jun 8, 2009 | nest or false ???

probers tip : if you got pushed and/or mounded sand. chances are good you got a nest .

By: Turtlebuddy | Date: Jun 8, 2009 | Mighty monday strikes again -Nests #23 & #24

Even after a late start (due to uncooperative newspapers). Carol n Dave started zone 4 without me. They located two crawls around the Gay cabin. nest 23 n 24 were relocated north of the new patterson cabin site.

By: Diane Voge | Date: Jun 7, 2009 |

June 7 We patrolled section 2 in the rain. The good news is that the rain kept the trash to a minimum. No turtle tracks on our beach but sharp-eyed Barbara spotted an egg shell against the sand cliff near the southern end of the campground. Must have been from an earlier predation as none of the nests on the section had been disturbed. We sent it out to sea.

By: Maria Blair | Date: Jun 7, 2009 | Nest #22 Zone 3

Our team this morning consisted of only myself and our prober, Morag Gibson. We both got thoroughly drenched in the rain but were excited to spot a definite crawl. Morag probed and with a little help from Laurel we found Nest #22 in Zone 3. It contained 121 eggs which we excavated and relocated to the dunes. The pouring rain didn't matter anymore!

By: Mallory George | Date: Jun 7, 2009 |

Today, Sunday, we all had to walk in the rain. It wouldn't have been so bad if it weren't windy on the beach.

We didn't find any new nests, but we did see three beached jellyfish. One of them was blue! I'd never even seen one before. We also saw a starfish! It was only missing the tip to one of his tentacle things. And it wasn't pink, by the way. We also found an anemone like the one Nemo lived in. on the beach. I think our findings were pretty cool.

By: MaryAnn Waldrop | Date: Jun 6, 2009 | Nest #21

My blog this morning evidently did not come through because of user error-sorry. Team Saturday had nest #21 in zone 2 (in situ). It is in front of the campground, close to the sand fence. The team endured the rain and could have used dry clothes and hot chocolate when we finished. Before Buddy and I left the beach, we added the netting to some nests in zone 1. Also, we had a man ask us why there is no date on the stakes. We told him about the problem last year and DID NOT tell him we were using a code. I am sure that that question will be asked as we near hatching dates. Keep up the good work! MaryAnn

By: Carol Rivers | Date: Jun 5, 2009 | June 4 - Nest 18

Team D was thrilled Thursday morning to discover a Crawl as soon as we reached the beach in Zone 2. It was Nest #18 with 126 eggs which we did relocate to higher ground. It was a real team effort with each of us taking part in the egg relocation.

By: Jessie | Date: Jun 5, 2009 |

Nest #20 was found this morning in Zone 1, right by nest #6. The momma turtle laid it right up in the dune so it was kept in situ. Man, our turtles are rocking this year! great job to everyone who found the tracks and the nest this morning :)

By: Wendy Pollitzer | Date: Jun 4, 2009 |

Everyone is doing a great job so far this year! And what a busy season it's been! 19 nests and 13 False Crawls so far! Thanks for keeping up with all the information on the DNR data cards. And, thanks for your dedication to HI and our turtles each and every morning! I'm sending Cyndi a map of our nests on Google Earth now. You should see it posted soon. Thanks again everyone!

By: nancy | Date: Jun 4, 2009 |

Buddy, the man with the x-ray vision into the turtle world, reprobated the Thursday false crawl in zone four and divined nest number 19. Nancy's team of Joann Stovall, Terry Smith, and Pam Morgan helped secure the cage. Kudos again Buddy.

By: nancy | Date: Jun 4, 2009 |

Our Thursday prober wears lucky turtle cut off pants, our radio girl wears turtle underwear. our egg mover wears lucky turtle socks, and you new turtle guy arrived last week with a brand new loggerhead turtle tattoo on his calf. Nancy's team rules

By: vturtle | Date: Jun 3, 2009 | Another

It was like, ask and you shall receive. Gretchen Blickle, was just on the verge of complaining about the fact that she had yet to find a nest this season, and then the "Turtle Jinni" waved her flipper. Much to Gretchen's delight, she, Karen Whitehead & myself found nest #16 and #17 in zone 4. Both nests were left in situ.

By: vturtle | Date: Jun 2, 2009 | Terrific Tuesday -- Nest #14 & 15!!

Tuesday's team may have been the last team to take ownership of a nest, but they made up for it today. They had it all and from one end of the beach to the other. Amy Scott in Zone 2, just across the cut, was surprised with multiple crawls. One left her in disbelief, it was perfect, with a completely dug and exposed egg chamber and no eggs. Mama Turtle must have decided it was less than ideal before starting all over in another spot with Nest #14. Down in Zone 4, Mary Alice Faulkner was claiming Nest #15. With two nests, extra crawls, sharks and pelicans on the beach, Tuesday's team had a terrific morning!

By: Mary Alice Faulkner | Date: Jun 2, 2009 | Nest #15

A Team...Zone 4...One false crawl and one nest. The nest was up against the dune and momma turtle had covered a large area. After extensive probing assisted at the end by Buddy, we found the nest. It was left "in situ."

It seems Tuesday Turtles were really busy today. Yeah for Tuesday.

I will attempt to post a picture later.

By: vturtle | Date: Jun 1, 2009 | Gardner Miller is Monday's Lucky Penny!

Monday's team hit the jackpot today with 3 nests! Gardner Miller broke the no nest spell for his team with nest #11 in Zone 2--the nest was left IN SITU. Buddy Lawrence & Karen Whitehead ventured into the storm surged Zone 6 and found nests #12 & #13--these nests are believed to have been there more than twentyfour hours and were not moved.

By: Mallory George | Date: May 31, 2009 |

Yes we did have a slow start today. Traffic stopped for construction then the bridge was out. We thought we'd never get through!

But we did. Sunday's Team B (#10 in all) found their first nest. We think that if we hadn't been stuck by traffic we would of gotten to see her leave.

It was quite interesting really. She came up, went around a sand dune, went over it, slid down, layed her eggs then went back into the ocean.

By: Laurel | Date: May 31, 2009 | Nests #9 & #10

We found Nests 9 and 10 today, our first nests during patrol! After a slow start...the bridge was stuck and of course they need to call someone from Charleston to fix it, so people started going home. Some of us were hanging out on the bridge watching terrapins and sharks in the water and we got lucky and the bridge came unstuck at around 6:20. Sorry to the Sunday volunteers that missed out!

Nest 9 was found in Zone 2 by Connie Haskell and me. The turtle climbed high up over the beach scarp and nested almost at the sand fence, left in situ.

Nest 10 was in Zone 4 found by Roberta and the Georges, also left in situ.

By: Trudy Messinger | Date: May 30, 2009 | False Crawl (click here for pics)

C team in Zone 3 had a false crawl at the campground. The tracks were sooo sharp--the sand so hard--and there was no place to lay her eggs. But we enjoyed the fantastic trail she left.

By: Cyndi | Date: May 30, 2009 | False Crawl Zone 5

Zone 5 (just south of zone 4 near the green cabin) had a false crawl Friday night. The residents saw the momma at 9:45 PM right below their porch and left her alone to do her thing. Not a good place to lay, she decided. We found the really short crawl above the early AM high tide.

Trudy sent me a link to her great photos of the other false crawl Saturday in Zone 2. (click the title of her post)

By: MaryAnn Waldrop | Date: May 30, 2009 | Nest #8

This morning we were very busy with two false crawls (zones 2 and 4) and nest #8 in Zone 1..yea! I received a call from Beth & Neville Patterson, Carrie Confare, and Susan Reynolds to come on down. Moma turtle had to climb some to nest on the dune. It was not an easy selection for her or us! I think she finally ended up dropping her eggs on the opposite angle of most turtle moms...her head was down and her butt up! The nest is in situ. This morning was our first chance to see the beach at low tide. Please remember to look for track evidence beyond the tide pools. Our gal thought that she was homeward bound but ended up on the sand again before reaching the ocean. MaryAnn

By: vturtle | Date: May 29, 2009 | Turtles trained at last!

You would think that our nesting Turtles are trained. Our project started in 1994, and this is the first time we have left so many nests IN SITU. I am thinking that it is not so much that we have our Turtle gals trained, but that we are finally seeing the results of our new sand. Friday's team of Emily Zapatka, Nancy Swanson & Kathy Ehmig found lucky nest #7 today! And unbelievable, the Turtle nested high up at the sand fence just north of the bathhouse in zone 3. There also was a crawl in zone 4, so maybe tomorrow brings us more!!

By: Karen | Date: May 28, 2009 |

Thursday Team A inspected nest #6 (Zone #1) and found raccoon prints all around. Mama turtle worked hard so we left a note to have this nest caged. We enjoyed seeing a dolphin in the creek near the bridge and many horseshoe crabs on the beach and in the tidal pools - what a beautiful morning.

By: Carol | Date: May 27, 2009 | Nest #6

Wednesday Team B (Tim Bruner (prober), Frances Bruner, Alan & Carol Welch) found nest #6. Left In Situ as Mama turtle nested high on the dune. Tracks indicated Mama turtle was on the beach for a long time. Turtle tracks were measured to be 26" wide. We enjoyed a beautiful, warm morning and as we completed Zone 1, we counted at least 20 horseshoe crab doing their thing. What a day!

By: vturtle | Date: May 27, 2009 | Whacky Wednesday finds Nest # 6!!

The Wednesday team finally owns a nest! Tim & Frances Bruner and Alan & Carol Welch found nest #6 in Zone 1 - just south of the first groin. The nest was left In situ and Mama Turtle did an excellent job of laying her nest high up on a dune.

By: Mark the Intern | Date: May 26, 2009 |

Wendy was telling me that on the white DNR cards, we want to stay consistent and so to use our date codes instead of the normal dates. Also when a nest or false crawl is found, if you could indicate more precisely its location on the yellow legal pad it would help me or Craig find it more easily. Thank you for all of your help, its been nice meeting a lot of you!

By: vturtle | Date: May 26, 2009 | Kudos to Terrific Tuesday!!

Our nest total is holding at "5", but our Terrific Tuesday Turtle team, picked up 52 bags of trash--and hopefully that saved the life of at least one Turtle today. Marine debris last a long time ( plastics for example will float around for the next 400 years ). If you look at the mortality stats, trash ranks as one of the #1 killers of our Sea Turtles and that is something that we all can do our part to prevent!

By: Turtlebuddy | Date: May 25, 2009 |

mystery bout the horseshoe crabs solved, people were throwing into the water. Kathy Ehmig gave them a lesson on horse crab nesting hopefully they will let nature be nature. this is an example of teaching we can do in the mornings even when there is no turtle nesting  
note to grasshopper, flagging tape is staff duty :P

By: Jessy | Date: May 25, 2009 |

Also! forgot to mention....

Those of you who put the cage down on nest five in zone 4, did you remember to wrap it in red tape like the others? If not, volunteers please remember to treat the cages just like the screens! if you did, then someone stole the tape. Not the whole cage.... just the tape. How weird is that?

By: Jessy | Date: May 25, 2009 |

Nothing new to report for Monday's team other than a false crawl at the south end of zone four. Due to the condition of Cabin Road, zones 5 and 6 will be patrolled by staff until further notice.

By: Mallory George | Date: May 24, 2009 |

Still no new nests for Sunday B-team but we did see a couple horseshoe crabs. The strangest thing happened- people STOLE the horseshoe crabs! That's a first! As always the sunrise was beautiful and the water was nice (and cold.) Maybe we'll find one ourselves next week.



By: turtlebuddy | Date: May 23, 2009 | nest 3 info

nest 3--is it safe? to relocate it at this point in incubation is more dangerous than the tide. now that the northeaster is gone FINALLY. things hopefully get back to normal. cya on the beach! viva tortuga!

By: Cyndi | Date: May 23, 2009 | Nest #5

We almost called this one a false crawl in front of the South Beach bathhouse in Zone 4. But after much probing and digging, MaryAnne's first assessment of where the momma must have been turned out to be the exact spot she laid her clutch (thanks Buddy!). 108 eggs were moved up the beach out of traffic and tides.

Raccoon prints all over the body pit made us know we should put a cage over the new nest.

Early morning surfers saw the departing turtle in the waves. A Scout Troop from North Augusta watched us move the nest and learned about sea turtles. A totally awesome morning.

By: Wendy | Date: May 22, 2009 | Sad Turtle News

A Friends member returning from water quality testing at the pier spied a stranded Loggerhead today in the marsh on the north side of the Harbor River Bridge. After SCDNR was contacted, and all information about the turtle collected, we buried the dead Loggerhead. The neck had been severed by a boat propeller. I had the girls with me. It was emotional for them, but a great educational opportunity about what boats can do if the captain isn't paying attention.

By: Patsey Parker | Date: May 21, 2009 |

Tuesday's patrol of zone #1 had us heading out into the 35MPH winds, frosty (not literally, but pretty darn close) temps that felt like spring on the ice flows of Lake Erie, fighting for a foothold just to stand up and move forward toward the end of the peninsula, sand in our faces.... the return trip was swift and enjoyable...amazing what having the storm at your back can do for you. Turtles are great!

By: Turtlebuddy | Date: May 20, 2009 | nest threat by nor'easter

all nests survived High high tide this afternoon. no help from the nor'easter. nest 3 got a complete wash over. now we wait to see if all the research is right about wash overs.

By: Kathy Ehmig | Date: May 19, 2009 | False Crawl

See photos from today. Buddy is the one digging. Denise is holding the bucket and Mark, the intern from Charleston college is the guy in shorts. The lady in the red jacket is a new volunteer. I kept trying to assure her that normally the weather is lovely.

Buddy probed for an hour looking for a nest. We dug more holes than the moles in my yard and found nothing. It's a good thing we have GPS so in 45 days we can keep an eye on this spot. Mama turtle spent time here.

By: Mallory George | Date: May 18, 2009 |

Sunday's B group didn't find any new nests, but the sun was beautiful. The beach was warm and inviting,

and it was like being in a little piece of heaven. What a wonderful place these mommies have chosen to lay their eggs. We can't wait to find our first nest! Doesn't mother nature do a wonderful job?

By: Cyndi | Date: May 17, 2009 |

Saturday, the second day of patrols. No new nests, but a beautiful morning on the beach. Karen, helping out in Zone 3, discovered that Nests #3 and #4 needed to be protected with cages. Raccoons got five eggs out of one and their little prints were found around the other. Pesky critters! Our flags and screens do not mean breakfast.

By: Jessy | Date: May 15, 2009 | Nests #3 and #4

The volunteers on the first official day of patrol got lucky today! There were two nests in Zone 3, both were probed by Buddy. None of the nests needed to be moved. Hurray for the mama turtles going above the tide lines!

Also, two false crawls were found in zones one and two, hopefully those mamas will come back and nest soon!

By: Jessy | Date: May 14, 2009 | Nest #2

The second nest has been found, also in the campground and we have also had a false crawl in Zone 4. The turtles are here and they're ready to nest!

Good luck to the volunteers who start tomorrow! :)

By: Bonnie | Date: May 11, 2009 | Nest #1

Our Turtles are here! First nest of 2009 found on Mother's Day in Zone 2 at the campground beach. Way to go Buddy and Jessy!

By: Cyndi | Date: Apr 10, 2009 |

Prober Training with Charlotte is scheduled for Monday April 20th at the South Beach parking/bathhouse area. For those who cannot attend, another session TBA.

By: Cyndi | Date: Mar 28, 2009 | Friendly Neighborhood Webwitch

The 2009 Turtle season approaches... Day Leaders meet to organize their teams; Park Staff and Friends set up responsibilities and communications; Turtle patrols and Prober training is being scheduled... Some people have even seen turtles in the Sound!

---

