

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Oct 26, 2011 | end of 2011 season

last nest 65 was inventoried on the 19 of oct. only 3 of 53 had hatched. this marks the end of 2011 turtle season. :(only 7 months till start of next season . hope to cya all there

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Oct 7, 2011 | not as lucky as 63

long time updating but was nothing to update. today took up nest 60 . this nest was buried under 6 - 8 inches of sand by hurricane Irene. sadly no turtles came out of this nest. 79 out of 85 eggs showed development(you could see it was a turtle). this would have been a great hatching . mother nature can be loving and cruel.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 27, 2011 | another nest with just one turtle

no new activity but nest 50 was inventoried in zone 6 . was a rough going getting down there. but no need to go down there till next year. just 1 turtle hatched out of this next another casualty of irene

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 26, 2011 | no news

still no activity looks like nest 62 was our last hatching for the year.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 22, 2011 | updates

no activity the last two days

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 20, 2011 | nest 64

no new activity today. inventoried nest 64(cliff nest see prior blog entry) 38 turtles hatched , 85 didnt.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 19, 2011 | nest clean up

no new activity on nests. but took up nest 41 after 81 days. only 2 of 36 eggs hatched. this nest was a partial predation nest.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 18, 2011 | one more nest that suvived irene (kinda)

no activity today or yesturday with the nests. we did inventory nest 62 today. 21 turtles hatched out of this nest. another nest washed over by irene. suprise there was two live turtles . campground visitors got to see them to the water. an get a sea turtle education

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 16, 2011 | nest 64 got into the hatching mode

nest 58 inventoried results not so good only 21 hatched. no development in most of the eggs. bright side nest 64 hatched . look like a good hatching . intersting side fact the heavy washovers from irene did not slow down incubation time on nests.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 15, 2011 | miraculous results

71 hatchlings left nest 63 (the miracle nest). for those needing the math that's a 82.5 % hatch rate (71/86 total eggs). totally awesome for a nest that got washed over 5 times in 3 days. an last time almost got washed out.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 14, 2011 | another nest shucks off irene n hatches

nest 62 in zone 2 hatched . this was another washed over nest . not as bad as nest 63 . these little guy n girls r survivors .

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 13, 2011 | mon tues update

nest 58 hatched mon morning. no tues morning

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 11, 2011 | miracle nest

nest 63 hatched with a boil last nite. this was a next thought ruined by irene. but these turtle were just destined to hatch. we this nest was found again after the storm passed . the top eggs were showing. a huge log would've crushed the eggs but just enough of a rock was exposed to stop the log. happy time

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 10, 2011 | whats up

inventory of nest 30 after day 80 , only one turtle out of 44 hatched . rest of the eggs had no development. 8 nests left.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 7, 2011 | update

no activity for the 6 or 7

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 5, 2011 | turtles dont worry bout percentages

no activity but inventoried nest 57 . inventory was 47.8 % . but it would have been 0 had we not relocated . so 44 turtles got into the ocean . so this nest was still a success.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 4, 2011 | nother day of nothin

nothing but checking nests

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 3, 2011 | nothing to report

nothing happen nope not nuttin

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 2, 2011 | return of the cut

a cut or washout has reformed in zone 2 . a hundred yards south of it old location. thanks irene . more hatchlings out of nest 57 no other activity.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Sep 1, 2011 | rise of the hatchlings

nest 57 hatched . this was one of the nests that got washed over and almost washed away. we relocated it . hatched last nite.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Aug 30, 2011 | tally of the lost

sorry bout not updating last two days. final tally of the lost nests is 8 nests. 10 nests remain

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Aug 27, 2011 | nightmare on the beach

lost 3 nests to huge swells of irene last nite.6 other nests got bowled over. every thing got washed . beach got beat up pretty good but its still standing. still have 9 nests left .

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Aug 26, 2011 | the lucky n the unlucky

lost 3 nests today to Irene . but saved one nest 64 was close to be evicted. with the eggs showing on the side of the dune. we relocated the nest to hopefully higher ground. but with the swells growing its a wait n see. nests in zone 4 hung on with few not even getting damp(till the down pours). nests in zone 6 were all ok . same for nests in two . dont know what I will find in the morning. inventory of nest 47 in 6 was GREAT!! 92 %

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Aug 25, 2011 | wed & thurs update

no activity today just two inventories nest 46 and 34 . both good inventories. Irene generated swells wreaking havoc in zone 3

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Aug 23, 2011 | tues 8/23

nest 47 and 43 hatched , must got the memo bout possible landfallin Big storm. little ones be ridin waves ahead of the storm. alos inventoried nest 37 2 live ones released to the surf

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Aug 22, 2011 | mon 8/22

nest 46 hatched today , inventory of nest 38,40, and 68. all had hatch rates of 90 or higher. 68 the 2nd wild nest , was 95.5 %

By: Diane | Date: Aug 21, 2011 | Nest 33

Inventoried nest 33 left in situ. 97 eggs, 90 hatched. Nice. If you haven't seen the fantastic mud sculptures just south of the camp ground, go see them before a rainstorm gets them. Two Ukranian/Asheville artists did some wonderfully whimsical work.

By: Cyndi | Date: Aug 21, 2011 | Nests #37 & #39 Hatch

Sorry I didn't post yesterday.

The little tracks were everywhere out of #39...#37 not so much, but definite. No dead ones.

Beautiful morning, I'm glad to be back on the beach!

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Aug 19, 2011 | ugh more rotten eggs but wait whats this???

little un epextant suprise . two of the leatherback eggs did hatch. so there was only 50 rotten eggs. uknown when the two came out of the nest , but better then last year. two is better then none.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Aug 18, 2011 | when non nest becomes a nest

another wild nest non nest crawl from 6/20 was a nest after all. two probers probe this one for an hour . still missed it one of the probers was me . 2nd year in a row must be losing my touch time to retire?? this nest (68) was right up against a prickly pear cactus. this mom found some natural nest protection.

By: Karen | Date: Aug 18, 2011 |

Nest 40 in zone 2 hatched - looked like a really good hatching and very near the high tide so hopefully a lot of babies made it to the water! Also were some very cool sculptures on some tree trunks just south of the campground in zone 2.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Aug 17, 2011 | un expected suprise

nest 33 hatched . this nest is located at south end of the campground right up against a small palmetto tree. A family (grand parents and grand kids) went out on the beach to watch the moon rise. when G ma felt something crawling across her feet. she looked down saw hatchlings . everyone froze and watch over 50 turtles crawl to the water(high tide). the say it made thier summer

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Aug 16, 2011 | Thars she crawls the white turtle

no activity today , but nests 32&35 were inventoried . both had hatch rates of 94 %. update on the white turtle hatchling. I nicknamed him/her Moby turtle. Ranger Carl (unofficial turtle ranger) was working the late shift. so I had him check on ghost . Carl reports he saw moby crawl to the water . yolk sac asorbed. he/she was a little hesitated but finally found her way an swam off. who knows 25 or 30 years might be white turtle nesting.

By: Tina | Date: Aug 15, 2011 | Mondays update

Our Monday team rocks! We had 10 wonderful volunteers show up for turtle patrol but not much activity to report. Nest 39 in zone 3 pipped and that was about it. No inventories today.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Aug 13, 2011 | sat 8/13

nests 32 & 35 hatched . inventoried nest 10,11,and 28. not good hatches.

By: Bonnie | Date: Aug 12, 2011 | Not much happening

No new nests for Friday. We had 7 guests walk with our volunteers. Inventoried Nest (27) Zone 2 in front of campground with a large crowd of campers, pets & guests. Great educational opportunity but with a disappointing hatch rate.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Aug 11, 2011 | yes Diane a white turtle

nest 31 hatched no other activity nest 29 inventoried not good numbers butr one baby released to the sea . yes we have had quite a few albino , mostly found dead with lots of deformities. this hatchling might be a form called Leucism . this turtle had black eyes healthy n strong cept for its white color

By: Diane | Date: Aug 11, 2011 | White Turtle

A white turtle, Buddy. Have we had or heard about albinism in loggerheads before?

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Aug 10, 2011 | whats happening on wed 8/10

no activity today but inventoried nest 26 2 babies including one all white turtle.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Aug 9, 2011 | tues 8/9

nest 28 hatched no other activity

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Aug 8, 2011 | mon 8/8 update

nest 29 hatched no other activity

By: Abby Morris | Date: Aug 7, 2011 |

Has nest #10 been inventoried?

By: Diane | Date: Aug 7, 2011 | Why being first isn't always a good thing

No new nests. Nest 26 hatched. Nest 27 has pipped and we saw a few hatchling prints under the netting along with bird tracks (gulls?). No sign of hatchling prints outside the plastic screen, so we think a bird got the one or two that emerged.

By: Bonnie | Date: Aug 5, 2011 | Wild Nest and Four Guests

Correction! Today's "Wild Nest" in Zone 2 was Nest 67.
With this heat and humidity, volunteers please take care when patrolling the beach in the mornings.

By: Pat Rice | Date: Aug 5, 2011 |

Nest # 68- a wild nest in Zone 2, just SE of nest #43. Located by discarded egg shells. It was pristine and had NO EFFECT from #43. Nest must have hatched in rain storm on previous night. Ranger Ken and Karen did inventory.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Aug 4, 2011 | whats in a name

castaway cabin is aka cabin 36 or some call it the Gay cabin cuz Gay family (some of the family) own it or use to. 2nd cabin in zone 4 heading south

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Aug 4, 2011 | Pred problem bothers nobody more than me

other places have bigger problems with predators. some places have none . we fall somewhere in the middle. it not pleasant thing but sea turtles have dealt with land predators since dinosaurs not raccoons were on the beaches. this is why turtles lay so many nests. If we think about it raccoons are not to blame it is another animal . thinks its not a animal.

By: Lolita | Date: Aug 4, 2011 | Doggone raccoons!

Doggone it, we gotta do some about those hungry racoons..hasn't anyone seen some workable solution elsewhere?? surely some areas must be doing something???(and Karen, which is the Castaway Cabin?)

By: Karen | Date: Aug 4, 2011 | Nest 66 - Only Eggshells!

We found nest 66 in zone 4 in front of the Castaway cabin. Unfortunately raccoons and ghost crabs got there before us and ate all 110 eggs. There were even shells on top of a ghost crab hole! We must have just missed Momma as her tracks were very close to the low tide. This nest was very near nest 49 where raccoons got most but not all of the eggs.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Aug 3, 2011 | wed 8/3

nest 22 hatched more (lot more) came out of nest 25. one turtle came out sat night . nest 14 was inventoried.

By: Morag Gibson | Date: Aug 2, 2011 |

Oops!! It was 14 not 10 that hatched in Zone 2.

By: Morag Gibson | Date: Aug 2, 2011 |

We found a dead hatchling on the top of Nest 10 on Sunday. Laurel carefully checked it and found 9 dead and 5 live hatchlings; one was rescued from the clutches of a ghost crab. We guarded them on their journey to the water. One hatchling had wandered back among the dunes on the other side of the beach entry, no sign that it turned back toward the beach.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Aug 1, 2011 | mon update

nest 24 hatched no known hatching from nest 10

By: Abby Morris | Date: Aug 1, 2011 |

Has nest #10 hatched yet???

By: Roberta M Gunderson | Date: Aug 1, 2011 |

Addition to Karen's entry about nest #65. She and I found it very soon after the momma turtle left it. But a predator had already started destroying it. I think we scared the raccoon away, and we managed to save more than half of the eggs. Raccoon: 51, good guys 53. Guess that shows us why nature has the momma lay so many eggs!

By: Mommakaren | Date: Jul 31, 2011 |

Nest #65 found in zone 4 today.

By: Cyndi | Date: Jul 30, 2011 | #16 Hatched - 5 Visitors

Nest 16 in Zone 4 hatched! Good spotting, Susan, Suelyn, & Barbara. Otherwise quiet. We had a great group of visitors on Zone 3. They say they will be back and join Friends for next year. Cool!

By: Bonnie | Date: Jul 29, 2011 | No new Nests for the TGIF Team

What a bummer, No new nests. Could it be our turtle mommas are done nesting for the season????? :(Inventoried Nest#15 in Zone 3. Zone 4 had Nest#21 hatch. We had 4 turtle volunteer's family visitors.

By: Karen | Date: Jul 28, 2011 | Quiet Thursday

No nests or crawls on Thursday. Nest 19 in zone 2 was inventoried but will need to get hatch rate from Karen W.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jul 27, 2011 | turtle volunteers is crazy crazy dedicated

wed group is a dedicated bunch . showing up to patrol in a down pour. unfortunately nothing was found.

unless it was washed away.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jul 26, 2011 | tues 7/26

nest 15 hatched no new nests or crawls

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jul 25, 2011 | friday has hope

no new nests or crawls, but nest 19 hatched with 16 hatchlings. mondays team in zone 2 and 1 helped and guarded them as they walked to the water.

By: Tina | Date: Jul 25, 2011 | Happy campers

No new nests for Mondays team:(I may be wrong but I think we are still ahead of Fridays team. Team B did have nest #19 start to hatch out. 16 hatchlings were escorted to the ocean in Zone 2 by our turtle teams and quite a few campers that assisted in keeping our little guys safe. Nest five was inventoried this AM and had a pretty good hatch rate!!!

By: Diane | Date: Jul 24, 2011 | And still done by 8

Thanks to Cyndi and Roberta for supplementing our tiny group Sunday. All the activity was on my section though. One new nest about 500 yards north of the bath house. mama dug right under a fallen tree. Too wet to leave so we moved 124 eggs to a dune. 4 eggs broken because the chamber was too shallow. Inventoried nest (was it 6?) In situ nest with a good hatch rate. No live babies to release.

By: Cyndi | Date: Jul 23, 2011 | Another nest for Saturday

Nice morning with a bit of a breeze. Karen & Christopher found a crawl and Nest #63 in Zone 3. But it got HOT by the time we inventoried #8. Good hatch rate, and one last little guy looked up at Skyler and said "Save me!" So she and Karen made sure he got to the water. Nest #13 also good hatch rate.

By: Bonnie | Date: Jul 22, 2011 | No Catching up for theTGIF Team

Boo Hoo :-(No Nests for Friday, but 11 enthusiastic guests help patrol the beach this morning. Thank you all for helping the TGIF Teams.

Inventoried Nest #9 in Zone 4 with a good hatch rate. Unfortunately no hatchlings for our visitors to see. Monday's team...it's not over until the last turtle momma comes ashore.

By: Karen | Date: Jul 21, 2011 | Nest 62 - Thursday has a long way to catch up!!

Nest 62 was very close to the line between zones 1 and 2 but the zone 1 team got to the beach first! A cigarette butt on top of the nest led to some some speculation - a litterer or momma having a smoke after laying her eggs (hopefully not!)?? Dick, Larry, Mary Ann, and 2 guests from the beach moved the 116 eggs back from the high tide line.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jul 20, 2011 | wed 7/20

no nests but 2 non nesting crawls in zone 1 maybe thursday have a nest tomm. nest 8 and 13 in zone 3 hatched.

By: Ardena | Date: Jul 20, 2011 |

checking in from NH. Glad the ladies are still finding our beach. And congrats on sending those babies on there way.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jul 19, 2011 | tues happenings

no new nests or crawls inventory nest 6 and 7. five hatchlings found live in two nests. released into the water to the joy of the crowds.

By: Vicki Anne | Date: Jul 19, 2011 |

Whew whoo!!!!!!!!! Monday's team has more nest than Friday's team. Nah nah nah nah nah!!!!!!!!! Try to catch us if you can.

By: Tina | Date: Jul 18, 2011 | Mondays team

Mondays team had 3 nests. #59 was in zone 3 and moved to higher ground. #60 was in zone 2 and was laid by one determined Mama!She went up and over a fallen tree. Quite impressive!! Her nest was left in situ. Zone 4 had #61 with another completely predated nest.No hatchlings.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jul 17, 2011 | sat update on sun night

no new nests 6 nests got washed over with the spring high tide an noreaster. hopfully they will be ok. nests 6 and 7 zone 2 and zone 1 respectively hatched

By: Diane | Date: Jul 17, 2011 | A Beautiful Day for Turtles and Humans

One new nest (58) with 81 eggs about half-way down 4. Must have just missed mama as the tracks went right down to the water's edge on an outgoing tide. Moved higher to the dunes. Inventoried #3. Good hatch rate. 4 live babies released and made it to the water on their own. 14 visitors got a good education this a.m.

By: Cyndi | Date: Jul 16, 2011 | Late entry for 7/9

Ranger told us a nest hatched near the volleyball court on campground beach. Confirmed it (#6), and Ardena found another hatched in Zone 1 (#7). All other zones clear. Hide tides washed over nests in Zone 2 south, 2 visitors asked great questions. Great teamwork again on Saturday.

By: Bonnie | Date: Jul 15, 2011 | Wet & Wild

No new nests.... two lady campers were our guests. Inventory Nest#3 postponed til Sunday 7/17. Storm passed, but all got soaking wet!
TGIF team needs our lucky charm 'Charlie' back! Monday and Friday tied for most nests so far this season :-)
GO TEAMS!

By: Karen | Date: Jul 14, 2011 | Turtles 1, Raccoons 0 today!

Nest 57 - in zone 3 and was left in situ. There were some raccoon tracks around but no evidence they found the nest.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jul 13, 2011 | wed 4/13

nest 56 in zone 4 but lost again to raccoon

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jul 12, 2011 | cause everyone else is soooooo busy

mon 7/11 nest number 54 in zone 4. BIG foot did not get this one.
tues 7/12 big foot returns gets all of nest 55 in zone 5. northern most end of 5. nest 3 also has hatched. didnt hear anyone call that one.

By: Diane | Date: Jul 10, 2011 | Pitter patter but no little feet

Unless Buddy found something on 5 or 6, looks like the girls took Sunday off or did a really good job of hiding nests in the evening rain.

By: Cyndi | Date: Jul 9, 2011 | Finally! Nests on Saturday...

Zone 4: Karen came in at the south end right to a badly predated nest (all gone to raccoon party). Zone 3: Susan and Barbara followed quickly with a perfect body pit, and then Buddy saw another nest just south of them. Both left in situ. From 2 to 5 in one morning! Thanks to all the teams working together.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jul 8, 2011 | another nest in six makes three

nest 50 today in zone 6 turtle crawled bout 40 yards to the dunes(whats left of them) and nested . left nest in situ.

FYI this date last year we had 86 nests and 105 non nesting crawls (for the season)when we left the beach.

By: Karen | Date: Jul 7, 2011 | Nest 49 - Good News, Bad News, and a Tennis Ball???

First the good news - thanks to the turtle dances, Bob's turtle shorts, or our guests Anna and Shane - we found nest 49 in zone 4. The bad news - raccoons got 88 eggs. We moved the 11 that were left. One surprise - Don pulled a tennis ball out of the nest - maybe a decoy? Shane took a lot of great pictures so will try to upload them later.

A false crawl was also found in zone 3.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jul 6, 2011 | emergence day on wednesday

nest tues that raccoon got to first (nest 48).

nothing wed . in other news the terripin nest I found on mothers day hatched one baby was seen

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jul 4, 2011 | mon update

nests in zone 4 nest 45 and 46 . and one nest in zone 6 plus two non nesting crawl.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jul 3, 2011 | could be could be

possible Diane , I say she is desperate to lay her eggs. this probably the same turtle who as been non nest crawling in 5 the last 2 days.

FYI last years leather back DNA has come back . our leather back also laid a nest on HHI . she did not produce hatchlings in that nest either.

By: Diane | Date: Jul 3, 2011 | Must have been snoozin'

No nests but two crawls--one on 5, the other we'd have missed because the team on 4 had completed their walk and Roberta headed to take the equipment back to file a "clear" report when beachgoers ran to catch John to tell him a turtle had just emerged from the water. He accompanied them to the new crawl but by the time he got here, she had already turned around and was back in the water. Wonder if she's the lady who dug her nest at dawn in May?

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jul 2, 2011 | sat update

nest number 44 today , plus 2 non nesting crawls in zone 5 .

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jul 1, 2011 | knew it would happen one day

turtle that laid nest 43 this morning laid it right behind nest 24 . only a foot seperates the cages. she crawled up went around the cage of nest 24 and laid her nest just to the right. so when you are in the south end of zone 2 . check it out. might be the same turtle that laid both nests.

By: Greta Buyck Holt | Date: Jul 1, 2011 | Happy Fourth of July weekend, turtles and friends!

On this hot and humid first day of July, we located two nests. Nest 43 in Zone 2 did not have to be relocated. Emily, Nancy, and Greta were greeted by some folks in Zone 4 who reported seeing a nest just beyond their cabin with egg shells around the periphery of the nest. We hurried down the beach and found 25 eggs that had been destroyed by a predator, and 56 unharmed eggs still in the nest. We relocated nest 42 further up the beach. Also false crawl in Zone 4.

By: Jeremy | Date: Jul 1, 2011 | Start Dancing

I do believe a turtle dance is needed. No nests no nothing today, again...

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jun 30, 2011 | close just not close enough

Island close to us got a nest not just any nest a leather back nest . it was an island with no one living on it . well raccoons with sea turtles being the "summer tourists". nest was caged or screen maybe both

By: Karen | Date: Jun 30, 2011 | Ho-hum Thursday

No nests or crawls - do we all need to do the turtle dance again?

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jun 29, 2011 | 3 in one day OMG didnt think it happen anymore this yr

nests in zone 3 (39) zone 2 (40) and zone 4 (41). also two non nesting crawls. congrats job well done to wed group

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jun 28, 2011 | sorry forgot to blog knew i forgot something

monday had two nests 36 and 37 36 in zone 2 , 37 in zone 3. Tues had nest in zone 4 and non nesting crawl in zone 3. hopefully she be back tonite.

UPDATE on 28 of 2010 we had 61 and 2009 we had 50. but in 2008 on this date we had exactly 38 hmmmmmmmm

By: Diane | Date: Jun 28, 2011 | Here turtle turtle

Just did a cross check. This date last year we had 60 nests and in 2009 we had 49.

By: Diane | Date: Jun 26, 2011 | 35 and Holding

We're beginning to suspect Fripp and Harbor have a whistle only loggerheads can hear, as they all seem to be heading to their beaches instead of ours. Nothing again today, not even tracks.

By: Cyndi | Date: Jun 25, 2011 | 1 False Crawl

Teams were off the beach early. Karen & I probed the turnaround crawl near the south end of the campground, but no eggs to be found.

Buddy, the widget link already goes to Hunting Island Beach, but the text link below goes to the main seaturtle.org page.

By: Gretchen | Date: Jun 24, 2011 |

Nest # 35 was found in Zone 2 on Wednesday, June 22 by Gretchen Bickle, Ted Temple, and Marilyn & Calvin Smith. The nest is straight out from the lighthouse with another nest only a few feet away.

Question: Could both nests be from the same female?

By: lolita | Date: Jun 24, 2011 | what the heck???

Did everyone see the message from Dubose about 34 nests on Cape Island in one night alone!! Plus an unfortunate mama that got confused and went away from the water after nesting...what with the mamas coming up during the daytime...sure makes me wonder what's going on out there!!

By: Bonnie | Date: Jun 24, 2011 | No nests but lots of guests

Bummer....No turtle activity for the TGIF team today. Had lots of guests with us this morning. Could it be a turtle solstice? :-(Maybe it's time for the weekend teams to do a turtle dance on the beach!

By: mommakaren | Date: Jun 23, 2011 |

they are burning GA and FL. Has Sherman come back?

By: Karen | Date: Jun 23, 2011 | Quiet Thursday

Hot and smoky, muggy and buggy - shrimp boats but no signs of turtles...

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jun 22, 2011 | its voo doo thats who

Nest 35 in zone 2 which has now become the hot zone . Guess it close to harbor is why. an its voo doo . zone 3 has always been a holy site to them.

By: Diane | Date: Jun 22, 2011 | VooDoo, HooDoo, or Wicca?

It's the summer solstice crowd, Frances. There's a ceremony on the beach every year.

By: Frances | Date: Jun 22, 2011 | Wacky Wednesday Fruit Salad

Zone 3 - no nests, no crawls, but we did find fruit salad! Looked like it washed in on last night's high tide. We had peaches, strawberries, grapes, bananas, pineapple, mangos, coconuts and 4 watermelons. Maybe the raccoons will eat that instead of robbing nests!

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jun 21, 2011 | OMG a nest in zone 5

smart turtle found the only sand suitable for nesting in zone 5. right in front of cabin 88 on the point . right at the end of zone 5 . nest 34 was left insitu

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jun 20, 2011 | mon 6/20

two nests in zone 2 today 32 & 33 . 3 more false crawls . 1 in 2 and 2 n 4 . the false crawl in 2 was a long one .

By: Diane | Date: Jun 19, 2011 | Update Update

Buddy reports 2 more false crawls Sunday on section 5. Somebody out there really wants to lay some eggs.

By: Diane | Date: Jun 19, 2011 | No more for Sunday

Nope, nothing on 3 or 4 on Sunday. With all the false crawls on 2, Monday may be busy though.

By: Diane | Date: Jun 19, 2011 | Happy Camper

Sometimes campers are our best allies. Clay from Hampton showed us where a mama came in at 9:30, laid her eggs at the south end of the campground, and left before high tide. We never would have seen it without his help--tracks were extremely short and covered by onlooker traffic. Plus, it rained after. 2 also had 3 false crawls--2 in the boneyard, one near the usetobe cut. Nest moved north about 50 yards. Section 3 may have had a false crawl. Waiting for report.

By: Greta Buyck Holt | Date: Jun 17, 2011 |

Today we located nest #30 in Zone 4. Unfortunately it had almost been completely destroyed by racoons. We lost 102 eggs, but managed to relocate 44 eggs! There was a false crawl in zone #5.

By: Karen | Date: Jun 16, 2011 | Nest 29

A very windy day! We let the thunderstorms pass by then headed out to walk the zones. An alert ranger found a nest Wednesday night in zone 2 near the campground and put a screen over it to keep out predators until a team got on the beach (thanks!). Momma had laid her nest close to the volleyball net but unfortunately the nest was fairly shallow due to the hard ground in the area she chose to nest. So Larry's team relocated the 126 eggs to higher ground.

By: Jeremy | Date: Jun 15, 2011 |

Nest # 28 today. She layed in zone 2 between camp ground and bone yard. Left in situ.

By: Jeremy | Date: Jun 14, 2011 |

2 false crawls in zone 2 today. Nest # 25 in zone 6 (near mouth of lagoon) had to be relocated higher in the dunes due to high tides and dune erosion.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jun 13, 2011 | we shall see

nothing day this week will determine if we have BIG season or normal season. we are 4 nests behind last year. both fripp and harbor or having huge seasons. this week be 2 or 3 nests a day or 2 3 nests in a week time will tell.

By: Diane | Date: Jun 12, 2011 | We can dig it

Numbers 26 and 27 Sunday. Sounded like the nest on 3 was a bit tricky to find but we were having our own problems with one right by the campground entrance on 2. Mama found a spot between two Palmetto stumps and dug into a tough layer of shell. 7 eggs broke in the laying process making for a messy nest. Several attempts digging a new nest in very dry sand before success.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jun 11, 2011 | just crawls no nests

3 non nesting crawls today 1 zone 3 , zone 5 and zone 6. sun or mon might be busy.

By: Bonnie | Date: Jun 10, 2011 | Crazy False Crawl

Not much happening for the TGIF team this morning except a crazy false crawl in zone 3. Several of us probed, but this mamma must have been frustrated with all the logs she encountered and just gave up! Maybe she will be back this weekend!

By: Karen | Date: Jun 9, 2011 | Nothing...

Nothing for Thursday's team, just a walk on the beach!

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jun 8, 2011 | no runs hits or errors

nothing today no crawls nests nothin

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jun 7, 2011 | THANK UUUUUU thought never happen

FINALLY nest in zone 6 ,nest 25. momma came up at or before high tide left no tracks. so still no crawl in 6 but have a nest. 36 days going solo in 6 . first day with 2 guests (Karen and Lisa Scarano from DNR) yields a nest. company must help. also had nest 23 in zone 4 , nest 24 in zone 2.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jun 6, 2011 | facts i forgot to mention in first post

seaturtle.org has a leaderboard (like golf) and we (hunting island) are number two behind fripp.

other facts

zone 4 -11 nests

zone 3 -5

zone 2 -4

zone 1- 2

zone5/6 big 0

6 (the one ive walked for 37 days) has not even had a crawl (false or nesting). them girls like to tease me.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jun 6, 2011 | girls cant make up their minds

non nesting day zone 3 and zone 5 both had non nesting crawls.

in other news our neighbor islands or having a BIG banner year. Harbor has 24 nests (only had 30 all last year) fripp has 22 (27 in 2010). dont think they or taking our ladies cuz we are still 2 days ahead of last year.

By: Diane | Date: Jun 5, 2011 | Beach Party

A busy day on 4 today, Roberta called it chaos on the beach. 3 nests in very close proximity--maybe it was time for a little turtle gossip. Nest 20 near the Patterson cottage, was, unfortunately, completely raccoon predated. 21 and 22 were side by side nearby. Most of Sunday came down to help get the remaining nests moved up the dunes a bit. False crawl on 2.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jun 4, 2011 | thats all folks

non nesting crawl in zone 3 all else clear.

By: Bonnie | Date: Jun 3, 2011 | Busy TGIF (turtles groovy in Friday)

Kudos to the TGIF team for super radio communications and assists by all!
Nest(19)zone 2 campground must have been dug by a super mom as the sand was hard as stone. A false crawl in zone 3.

Unfortunately, nests (17 & 18) in zone 4 were totally destroyed by raccoons :-(

Good job TGIF team!

By: joel | Date: Jun 2, 2011 |

Video of the turtle on 5/28

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jun 2, 2011 | big foot attacks

nest 16 laid zone 4 raccoon unaffectionately named big foot . took 37 eggs left 99 5 more non nesting crawls in zone 3 (3) zone 2 (2). look out fri or sat

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: Jun 1, 2011 | false day on wednesday

Non nesting crawls in zones 2 and zones 4. both crawls were at or below the high tide line. indication of turtles not yet but close to nesting next few days maybe busy

By: AHunt | Date: Jun 1, 2011 | Volunteer Available Next Week

I will be visiting next week and would love to get involved! Please give me a call if I can tag along on a patrol or come along to observe any other turtle activity. My dream is to retire and move to the beach and be an "official" volunteer. For now, all I can offer is three days. (864) 752-5012 - Angie Hunt

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: May 31, 2011 | tues 5/31 update

nother non nesting emergence in zone 5 other than that all clear in zones 1,2,3,4,and 6

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: May 30, 2011 | memorial monday

nest in zone 3 number 15

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: May 29, 2011 | spoke too soon zone 5 was not clear.

we spoke to soon zone 5 had a false crawl. just past Cabin 40 (the green cabin). ive also saw man o war in zones 1 and 5. the on shore wind is blowin them in.

By: Diane | Date: May 29, 2011 | Nada, Nichts, Nope

Not so much as a fresh turtle track on the beach today. We did find a Portuguese Man of War, though, so be careful if you're headed into the water for the holiday.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: May 28, 2011 | HOORAY for saturday

nest right at the zone 1 zone 2 split. tossed a quarter zone 2 got it. nest number 14 in zone 2. non nesting crawl in 3. GOOD job to the prober for not giving up. She probed for over hour. didnt find any nest. but still excellant effort.

By: Cyndi | Date: May 28, 2011 | Saturday's Turtle is full of...EGGS!

Teams D & A saw Momma turtle heading into the surf. Campers who saw her longer were helpful with details of her nesting. Still took a while, but we found the eggs. Moved up to the dune. Saturday has a nest!!

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: May 27, 2011 | thanks momma turtle

nest 13 in zone 3 right at the entrance to the zone making it easier for the surveyors. good luck sat pulling for ya

By: Karen | Date: May 26, 2011 | Zone 2 Critters

We didn't find any nests or gators in the parking lot, but we did find a couple interesting creatures in zone 2....
(hope the download works)

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: May 26, 2011 | semi quiet day

only 1 non nesting crawl today. it was in zone 5 just past cabin 40 (green cabin). first activity in 5

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: May 25, 2011 | Happenings for 5/25

Nest in zone 4 makes nest 12 for the year.

Now for those who like stats:

5 nests in zone 4
3 nests in zone 3
2 nests in zone 2
2 nests in zone 1
nadda in 5 or 6

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: May 24, 2011 | tired mom

nests in zone 1 (11) and zone 2 (10) 10 was the nest everyone saw the turtle lay it. she was on the beach an estimated 3 1/2 hours. one tired momma

By: Tina | Date: May 24, 2011 | Coincidence??

Now heres a coincidence for you. Mondays turtle team found a turtle and an alligator near the campground only thing was they were sand sculptures that some very creative person had done. If I am not mistaken Saturdays team saw a live alligator crossing the road and now a live mama turtle! Coincidence or a little magic? I will send picture to web witch

By: Tuesday rocks!! | Date: May 24, 2011 |

Unfortunately I wasn't present BUT the Tuesday team found a mom on the beach this am...near the campground..."SOME FOLKS" have pictures so I'm sure they'll get around to posting...Hooray for Tuesday (boo-hoo for me!)

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: May 23, 2011 | Mon gets two

nests in zone 3 and zone 4 nest 8 and nest 9 respectively. now only tues and sat have not had a nest is the pressure on???

By: Diane | Date: May 22, 2011 | Two Turtles, One Gator

The ladies partied Saturday night. 2 false crawls on 1 and 3 and 2 nests. Nest 6 is on section 2 just below the volley ball net at the campground. Number 7 is about 1/3 of the way to the north end on section 1. Both left in situ. Sara and I also encountered the Visitors Center Alligator on our way back to return all the stuff. It crossed the the parking lot entrance right in front of my car.

By: Ardena | Date: May 21, 2011 | Sat is not their day

short handed today but non-Sat. volunteers made it possible to patrol all four zones. Unfortunately there was nothing to find. The ladies aren't choosing saturday. Not yet anyhow

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: May 20, 2011 | May not be the last

I would not be surprised if we have one or two more leatherback nests. word might be out among the leatherback girls that Hunting Island is the place to nest.
Nest 3 and nest 5 was in zone 4. nest 4 was in zone 3.

By: Carol Welch - Wed. Team | Date: May 20, 2011 |

Hi Friday team, congrats on the 3 new nests. Would you please post where they are located. Thanks!

By: Jenn | Date: May 20, 2011 | Leatherback Nest on Hunting Island

We had an exciting morning! Three new nest on Hunting Island, two loggerheads and one Leatherback.

By: Karen | Date: May 19, 2011 | Nest #2 - with eggs!

The turtle dances must have worked! Just north of the zone 3 bath house, we found a false crawl walked over with many animal tracks. Then a little further north we found a crawl with fox tracks everywhere. From her tracks, it looked like we just missed her. Momma was pretty smart and outfoxed the fox! She made 2 body pits with a palm log between them so the fox and at least 2 ghost crabs did some digging but didn't find the eggs. She didn't fool our super prober - great job Don B!

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: May 19, 2011 | finally a nest we got to first

Nest number 2 laid in zone 3. this time predators left it alone. eggs are caged and incubating.

By: Ardena | Date: May 19, 2011 |

I hope we don't have to wait for the 27th. Hey girls, find our beach!

By: TurtleLovingFam | Date: May 18, 2011 | Turtles - We are coming!

Well we are coming on the 27th and our 9 yr old is going to fly the turtle kite. It worked on Edisto a few years ago and she's convinced it will work. There were many stars on their chart of egg laying and false runs the next morning. Hopefully it will work for HI... :)

By: Frances | Date: May 18, 2011 | First nest of the season

The good news - Wacky Wednesday (TEAM B) found the first nest of the season. The bad news - the raccoons found it first. No eggs left to move. The nest was in Zone 4.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: May 17, 2011 | this is gettin deeeepressin

still nuttin all clear no activity

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: May 16, 2011 | Got sea turtle nests???

We still have no activity no nests no crawls
all zones clear

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: May 15, 2011 | high tide sunday

I would like to congratulate sun group for dealing with a high tide and absence of team members. extra thanks to those volunteers that came out when it was not their day. to Bonnie might of found your turtle song.

By: Diane | Date: May 15, 2011 | Hardly any beach to walk

The tide was so high this morning section 3 was impassable, and we nearly had to walk across sleeping campers to get through the north end of section 2. We could only reach a hundred yards or so past where the cut no longer is before meeting heavy surf and boneyard. Unless Buddy finds another terrapin, we are nestless yet again. And we've read Fripp's had 5 nests and 6 false crawls. If today was any indication, mamas are going to have a hard time finding dry sand on HI.

By: Diane | Date: May 15, 2011 | Hardly any beach to walk

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By: momma karen | Date: May 13, 2011 |

Plan of attack; Buddy - form search party, Diane - find turtle whisper person, and Bonnie - form dance team. I will say a turtle prayer.

By: Bonnie | Date: May 13, 2011 | Unlucky Friday the 13th

Guess the turtle mommas didn't hear about the TGIF prediction. Darn, NO turtle activity again this morning:-(Saturday & Sunday teams just might find that our turtle mommas are weekend gals. If not, everyone better dig out their turtle dancing shoes!

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: May 12, 2011 | turtle dance

if we don't have a nest by June 1st. we are going to choose a volunteer to do a turtle dance on the beach.

By: Karen | Date: May 12, 2011 | Thursdays - No Nests

Alas, still no sea turtle nests...

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: May 11, 2011 | like waitin for xmas

alls quiet on the turtle front no nests no crawls no nuttin

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: May 10, 2011 | all our turtles are tiny

another diamond back nest same zone zone 6 .with surrounding islands fripp and harbor now having nests(3 and 1). seems OUR girls leave a party late . one day we will have a sea turtle nest . learning alot about terripin though.

ps all zones no activity for tuesday and monday.

By: Diane | Date: May 9, 2011 | Buddy the turtle whisperer

Only the turtle whisperer would find a terrapin nest, Buddy. I guess it was on 6 since we didn't have anything on 1-5. Our record is sort of intact.

By: TurtleBuddy | Date: May 8, 2011 | yes Diane there was a turtle mom and a nest.

there was a turtle nest on mothers day. it just was not a loggerhead sea turtle. or any other sea turtle.it was a diamond back terripin. she crawled out of the ocean, nested then crawled close to 100 yards back into fripp inlet.nest was staked an screen

By: Diane | Date: May 8, 2011 | No Moms on Mother's Day

Our record is broken. No nest on Mother's Day. Perhaps a turtle will come in tonight before midnight to keep our record intact. We heard Fripp already has 3 nests. They probably couldn't find enough sand on our zones 5 and 6 and drifted over.

By: Cyndi | Date: May 7, 2011 | First Saturday

Well, no turtles, but after the drippy, foggy beginning (and a good training session by Buddy, Mitch and Karen) Mitch and I sent a tired momma horseshoe crab back into Johnson's Creek. Maybe she will let the turtles know we are ready to help!

By: turtlebuddy | Date: May 7, 2011 | nadda saturday

no activity today all zones clear

By: Bonnie | Date: May 6, 2011 | Friday, May 6th

Sorry to report the TGIF team had NO turtle activity this morning. Coud it be we are going to have our first nest on Mother's Day again this year? If not, I'm going to predict the TGIF team will see the first nest on Friday the 13th :-) What say y'all?

By: Karen | Date: May 5, 2011 | May 5, 2011

A cool and breezy first day for the Thursday team. No turtle tracks yet and the only wildlife we saw was one lone dolphin feeding at the very north end of zone 1.

By: Cyndi | Date: May 3, 2011 | Training Week

Looking forward to a great season. Thanks for your post, Diane. And thanks to Tina for prober training day photos.

By: Diane Voge | Date: May 1, 2011 |

Happy May Day. First day filled with training, some new volunteers, and a walk on the beach. A beautiful day for a walk but a little early for the mamas. Lots of cannonball jellies though so be careful walking.

By: Cyndi | Date: Apr 9, 2011 | Friendly Neighborhood Webwitch

The 2011 Turtle season approaches... The Turtle Committee: Buddy, Karen, Gretchen, Denise, and Laurel, as well as Dick and Mitch: have been organizing responsibilities and communications. Watch this space...