

Nesting Stats

LEVERA BEACH

Activities: 1249
Confirmed Nests: 914
Possible Nests: 147
Total Eggs Counted: 92,008

BATHWAY BEACH

Activities: 198
Possible Nests: 168

FLIPPER TAGS APPLIED

Leatherbacks: 342
Hawksbills: 1
Greens: 1

PIT TAGS INSERTED

Leatherbacks: 128

LARGEST TURTLE

Length: 170.2 cm
Width: 130.1 cm

SMALLEST TURTLE

Length: 120 cm
Width: 73.6 cm

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Our Project Manager Kester Charles received the Euan McFarlane Caribbean Leadership Award for his outstanding accomplishments in conservation work over the years, he was then featured on Grenadian TV and in the press.

Ocean Spirits represented Grenada at the International Sea Turtle Symposium in Peru.

Jet Blue Airlines joined us to film an inflight PSA about endangered species in the Caribbean and illegal trade.

At Ocean Spirits we hold a strong sense of community. We would not be able to protect the local environment without the help of surrounding communities and we've been pleased to give back through school visits, learn to swim and cleanups.

We hosted several wonderful Grenadian interns who are studying for a future in Marine Biology who took time from their summer jobs to gain hands on research experience.



RESEARCH



MONITORING

Data collection is a vital component of our research efforts. It allows us to monitor the Grenadian leatherback population trends. Egg counts, biometrics, nest locations, beach profiling, monel and microchip tagging, identification of individuals, and injury reports all allow us to assess the health of the Grenadian leatherback nesting population. This year we expanded our conservation efforts to protect the Levera Ramsar wetland ecosystem though a UNDP-ICCAS funded project aimed at identifying the flora and fauna and their habitats to create a management plan to protect them. We have success



DISCOVERY

been working on studies into plants, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians to improve the conservation of Grenada's only Ramsar site. Beach erosion caused Levera Beach to lose approximately half of the nesting area early in the season but this did not stop us from having a very successful season with over 900 confirmed nests and 1,200 activities recorded. In the first phase of this new Ramsar project we partnered with Hermitage Government School to plant 350 Almond and Sea Grape trees to combat the habitat loss and stabilize the sand and soil with the aim of preserving the second largest leatherback nesting site in the Caribbean.



SUCCESS

Studying nest success rates, we excavate 10% of nests after a minimum of 75 days incubation. This time is to ensure all possible natural development would have occurred. It is an exciting time to see how many hatchlings successfully hatched by counting remaining empty shells and studying remaining eggs for any signs of anything that may have been detrimental to the process of development or survival of the nest. Often this is enough to keep a researcher elated but one special day we discovered an anomaly, the above pictured a very rare Albino Leatherback hatchling. To our knowledge this is the first to have been recorded in Grenada.

SCHOOL TIME

School visits, field trips and summer camps make up the core of our education program. Over the 2016 season we have been busy working with a number of schools and groups including Mt. Parnassus Alpha Junior School, Rose Hill Pre-Primary School and Hermitage Government School, Sustainable Grenadines Jr Ranger Program, Marti Expeditions and Fisheries MPA Camp just to name a few. In our visits and classes we focus our efforts on combining a preliminary basic education followed by interactive games to reward students for paying attention and reinforce lessons through role play and trivia. Such games as Turtle Jeopardy, Trash Dash, Poachers vs Researchers, Relocation Relay, and many more were just a few examples of some of the fun and exciting ways children learned all about the life cycle of turtles, environmental issues, and the importance of the work we do.



PUBLIC OUTREACH

Aside from our lesson plans we strive to raise the general awareness in the communities through larger public events often partnering with fellow NGO's. Bio-diversity Education Day, CLiC Hawksbill Awareness March, Project AWARE Shark Conservation Day amongst others are just some of the events Ocean Spirits reached out to people on a grand scale showing the impacts of our everyday decisions and showing ways we can help through small efforts such as reducing litter, sustainable fishing practices, and making smarter choices as to the seafood we eat.



NATIONAL LEARN TO SWIM WEEK

Living on an island the sea has a strong influence on residents but few know how to swim. After a drowning incident it sparked needed awareness to this issue. Ocean Spirits backed the National Learn to Swim week and hosted the program to teach people of all ages and backgrounds from doctors to small children the basic skills of how to feel confident in the water and what to do in an emergency situation in Bathway. The initiative was a great success and we continued it as an after school activity.

CLEAN UP

In a joint education and involvement project we organized a full school clean-up after a presentation on the effects of litter on the environment in the Hermitage community. Within only 30 minutes we managed to fill countless bags and bring the school's surroundings back to a safe and clean atmosphere.

PAINTING FUN

We teamed up with Marti Expeditions for a third year, a Caribbean Company that organizes transformative travel for students of 15-18 years. This year we painted the entirety of a local school, ceiling to floor covering up graffiti and the mess left behind from a carnival event. In addition we added a brand new logo, series of educational murals, and door identification signs for each room. The school looks bright and welcoming for the start of the new school year.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to the following for your vital support each season.

Without you we could not continue our efforts.

International and local Research Assistants

Grenada Fisheries Division

Grenada Tourism Authority

Ramsar Focal Point in Forestry Department

SGU Exotics and Wildlife Society

SGU Significant Others Organization

Sauteurs Police Department

WIDECAST

Milwaukee Zoo

Community Veterinary Clinic, Florida



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WIDECAST

Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network