



# Parque Hawaii Newsletter

September 2006



## Hola Amigos!

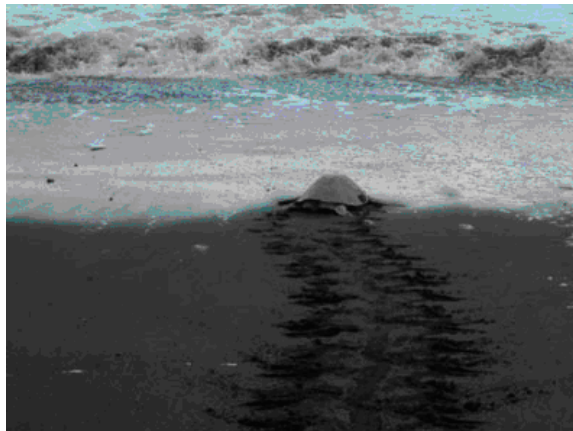
Greetings from Parque Hawaii! This is the first of a new newsletter we have put together to keep you guys informed about all the turtle goings-on here on the beach! Firstly, we wanted to thank you very much for all your hard work! Every time you were rudely awoken by your alarm clock (or by Sarah!), every hour you spent on the beach, every egg you buried and every tiny hatchling you released has played a really important part in the conservation of Guatemala's sea turtle population. This project really couldn't happen without the help, support and enthusiasm of all you fantastic volunteers, so a big **thank you** from all of us here at Parque Hawaii.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF  
EGGS BURIED SO  
FAR THIS  
SEASON.....  
  
10,357!!!!!!**

### **Congratulations to all you new mums and dads!**

All the hundreds of eggs you helped to bury are now coming up in force as tiny hatchlings ready and raring to race to the Pacific. So far we have released more than 500 tortuguitas, who hatched from eggs lovingly buried in the hatchery by:

**Kieran, Rosie, Emma, Abby, Kate, Isabel, Rumen, Team Challenge, Diane, Steve, Dan, Sylvia, Matt, Rebecca, Danell, Luke and Brent, Anja.** Many more yet to come!



**The Olive Ridley nesting season** has finally reached its peak! We have had some very busy nights with up to 20 turtles nesting! Some strong winds from El Salvador have also brought us some day nesting tortugas.....a beautiful sight!

**Nidos Encontrados.....**Thanks to all your hard work walking the beach, we have managed to find 25 nests, (nearly 2500 eggs) so far this season! The lucky turtle hunters....**Isabel & Rumen, Abby & Kate, Henry & Jennifer, Diane, Steve & Dan, Emma, Sylvia & Matt, Ysabel & Anne, Gail, Coreen, Alice, Sam & Derek, Scott, Stephanie, Bex, Becky, May, Magnus & Cheryl, Sarah, Tasha & Kevin, Claudia & Peter, Eduardo & Sarah, Colum (Jefe Supremo), Taro.**

**Sponsor a nest** Many many many thanks to all of you who have donated money to buy nests to help us save over 3500 eggs already this season...  
*John Baragiola, Steve, Julie, Jesse Apotheker/Kerby family, Lerch/Walters family, Apotheker/Meisenhelter family, Boone & Lottie Rush, Hudson, Austin, Tracey Apotheker, Jillian Rhodes, Chris & Bob New, Dorothy & Lynn Meisenhelter, The children and families of the Buckman Elementary Summer School, Nicole Heinrichs, Debbie Murray, West Wickham BSAC, Kelly Grosset, The Stone Family, Haden Building Management, Matt Eggers, Jenifer Eggers, Rob & Kay Eggers, Heidi Von Allmen, Sarah Chieco, Scott Garland, Scott Handy, Sarah Lucas, Sue & Paul Hewitt, Ray & Shirley, FTWoneseven, Marie Hewitt, Leeroy & Emma, Angelworld, Tina & Stephanie Handy, Tapely Park Health & Harmony Festival, Margret McElroy, Homestart Calderdale, Ken Huang, Steven Holl, Ben Judd, Claudia Rodenfels, Alistair Cruickshank, Lorna Pye, Sarah Goodfellow, Natasha Bagley, Kevin Pilgrim.*



The price of eggs has dropped to Q15 per dozen now, so for the price of a few beers you can save a nest of endangered sea turtles. If you are interested in organising any fundraising events or donating any money to Sponsor a Nest to help us protect the amazing sea turtles, please visit our website at [www.sponsoranest.com](http://www.sponsoranest.com). The website is currently in the process of being updated with nest statuses etc and will be ready asap.



Scott giving his Project Parlama Presentation

**Compartiendo Experiencias.** In July, ARCAS co-sponsored the Latin American Sea Turtle Workshop at the Naval Base at Puerto Quetzal. The meeting was well attended by representatives from projects in Guatemala, Mexico, Costa Rica etc, as well as by DIPRONA, CONAP and the Naval Base. The aim of the meeting was to share experiences, strategies, problem areas and scientific methodology in sea turtle conservation in Latin America. Colum, Rob and Scott

presented well-received presentations, focusing on Project Parlama and the work at Parque Hawaii, El Rosario, El Gariton and La Barrona.



**Ysabel** (a volunteer from CENFOTUR, Peru) has been busy working in Environmental Education program. She has been teaching (with the help of willing volunteers) local children a series of lessons on mangroves, turtles, rubbish and the ocean. The children have been very responsive and well behaved so far, apart from the occasional table dance and the odd bike ride around the classroom. My personal favourite response to the question "What do the volunteers do in the Park?" **"They eat lots of coconuts!"** Keep up the good work Ysabel!

**Independence Day** was celebrated in turtle style in El Rosario September 15th with Fran, Luis and Jacques. All the local children were invited to the "turtle headquarters" to enjoy a magic (or "la mafia" as the locals call it!) show, courtesy of the very talented Luis followed by some specially written sing along songs!



Up in **El Rosario**, Fran and her band of extreme turtle hunters are doing fantastic work this season! For her thesis work, Fran is conducting hourly crawl counts to find out exactly when and where the turtles are nesting throughout each night. Their great work means that they are finding heaps of nesting turtles and that their donation system collaboration rate is almost 100%!!!! All eggs collected (so far over 5000) are being buried in the lovely new hatchery, sponsored by the Alianzas Project ([www.iucn.org/mesoamerica](http://www.iucn.org/mesoamerica)) and painted courtesy of the World Team Challenge kids earlier this year.



Many thanks to Jacques after all his hard work up in El Rosario this season. **We will miss you very much Jacques...** especially your wonderful guitar playing! The turtles salute you!

We are all still sleep deprived and turtle mad! Lots of new volunteers too, so there is always a good number of us out on the beach, looking for turtles, collecting donations, buying nests, collecting data and releasing all those hatchlings! **Taro** is busy as ever with all his community projects, working with local groups, comities and co-operatives. We can hardly keep track of him! That's about it for now.....**thanks again** for all your hard work. We would love to see you again one day!



*Hope you enjoyed this first Parque Hawaii Newsletter! If you have any questions, comments etc, please drop us a line. We would be very happy to hear from you! Hasta pronto! Sending you all lots of Guatemalan sunshine!*

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