

The Dolphin Project

On Effort

December 2009
P.O.Box 60753
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912-727-3177

TDP Board of Directors

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Principal Investigator

All members in The Dolphin Project are volunteers and receive no compensation

FROM THE HELM

Ahoy there Crew!

It's been a busy year for TDP....Our 20th Anniversary was a huge success; the Education Outreach program is growing; TDP published a children's educational-activity book "Georgia's Wild Bottlenose Dolphins"; Adopt A Dolphin certificates exceed previous years' sales; training workshops break attendance records... Take a deep breath folks, we're looking forward to another busy year in 2010: our Education Outreach Program is in great demand; TDP has been asked to mentor a similar organization on the coast of South Carolina; the demand for surveys is more critical than ever due to the threats to our coasts and the South Carolina "Protect Wild Dolphin" tag is available for sale and there is an exciting development for the Georgia tag. The TDP Board is eager to get the started on these projects with your help. Welcome Aboard!

Peach

TDP President

ELECTIONS

Several Board members had expiring terms at the end of 2009 but the recent elections resulted in the continuation of the Board staying intact for another year. They all work well together and look forward to moving ahead with several exciting projects, continued surveys and education outreach. **Deepest Thanks to all Board Members** for their continued dedicated service. Deep gratitude is also extended to our VIP Staff members for their tireless efforts. Please take note of these special people listed to the left. We still have positions open for grant writing and publicity (which involves sending out group emails to publications about our 4 training workshops with minimal time & effort). If you can assist in these departments, please contact Peach.

DUES

To simplify membership dues dates, the Board has voted to have a specific annual date for dues collection – **July 1st**. All dues will be due on that date. Any renewals and new memberships prior to that date will be pro-rated. This will simplify the process for our membership chairpersons, Treasurer and general record keeping. Hopefully this will make things simpler for you too!

2009 HONOR ROLL

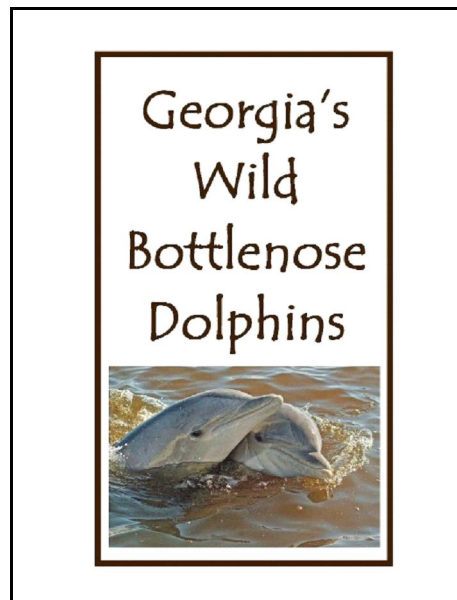
Many thanks to all our research and outreach /special event volunteers during 2009; extra thanks to those who repeatedly offer their time to help with our numerous surveys and events.....

Gayle Aitken	Reed Engle	August Kroken	Phyllis Preston
Joyce Albrecht	Jackie Estes	Lydia Labouliere	Kirby Pruett
Linda Asher-Murphy	Sheri Estes	Robert Littman	Richard Puljung
Faren Avret	Marty Fall	Augusta Livingston	Kate Radigan
Don Bender	CW Fetter	Robert Livingston	Karen Reinhard
Maurenn Bozovich	Dana Gardner	Albie Malphrus	Judy Rice
Margaret Ann Brown	Nancy Geller	George Manners Jr.	Walter Runck
M.Tucker Brawner	Joe Ginett	Ellen Maureen Morales	John Scanlon
Jim Buchanan	Kathy Ginett	Cecelia Morett	Amy Lee Schneider
Heather Bulloch	Ted Henning	Lori Muskat	George Scuorzo
Dejah Burcham	Ed Higgenbotham	Don Nelson	Shawn Smith
Ian Burr	Edwina Hoyle	RK Nelson	Marilyn Sobwick
Donna Calendine	Peach Hubbard	AlanNutes	Elen Sperling
Robert Calhoun	Roy Hubbard	Barbara Ogden	Cheryl Tilton
Ron Campbell	Jackie Huffman	Joe Olive	Patricia AnnTucker
Becky Carter	Maryann Jashinske	Katie Olive	Gary Udinsky
Laurel Casciato	Herb Joe	Heather Orcutt	David Valent
Barbara Conway	Dawn Johnson	Gregg Parker	Marilyn Valent
Amanda Coward	Laurel Johnson	Dylis Paterson	Tracy Wallen-Fuhrman
Walter Coward Jr	Gayla Jones	Steven Paterson	Ashley Whittington
Audra Crosky	Beth Josefyk	Stacey Pommerenck	Sandy Workman
Catrina Dickinson	Kim Junis	Linda Porras	Tom Workman
Dolores Engle	Charlotte Keenoy	Joe Powers	<i>If we missed your name, please let us know.</i>

Dolphin Activity Book

The Dolphin Project's new Dolphin Edu-Activity book for children is a HIT! Thanks to Jay & Edna Watson of Document Support, publishers of our book, we can teach children about our wild dolphins and how to protect them. These books are offered to school children when the EDU-Outreach program is presented at their school. We sell them at special events to raise money for the Outreach programs.

Our current book focuses on Georgia's wild dolphins. We'll be



revising it shortly to feature South Carolina's wild dolphins. If you know of anyone who would be willing to sponsor/publish the SC book, please contact Peach.

TDP has applied for a copyright for "Georgia's Wild Bottlenose Dolphins"

TDP was invited to participate in the Savannah Children's Book Festival in November. Our booth beside Forsyth Fountain featured our inflatable Bottlenose Dolphin which attracted the crowds. 37 books were sold that day!

2010 TDP CALENDAR

January	16 - Training 23 - Survey & Dinner 26 – May Howard Elementary School Science Night (SAV)
February	20 - Survey
March	20 - Survey
April	4 – <i>Easter</i> 17 – Savannah Earth Day-EDU 24 – Survey & Dinner
May	1 – Training 15 – Survey
June	19 – Survey
July	17 – Survey & Dinner
August	21 – Survey
September	4-6 <i>Labor Day weekend</i> 11 – Training 18 – Survey
October	2 – CoastFest – EDU Outreach 16 – Survey & Dinner
November	6 – Training 20 – Survey 25 - <i>Thanksgiving</i>
December	<i>– Enjoy the Holidays!</i>

DOLPHIN SKULL

The Dolphin Project is thrilled to have a real dolphin skull to use for displays, special events and Education Outreach programs. We submitted a request in 2008 to National Fish & Wildlife Service (keeper of confiscated endangered specie bones and specimens). We were contacted late this year with the offer of a Bottlenose Dolphin skull (upper mandible only) Unfortunately we don't have any information on the skull - age, where found or sex.

SPECIAL EVENTS

You may notice that on the 2010 TDP calendar, we listed May Howard Science Night, Savannah Earth Day and CoastFest. These are three of the several special events that occur during the year which offers TDP an opportunity to reach the public. At the TDP booth, a condensed version of the dolphin power point program is show, the inflated dolphin is on display as well as our real dolphin skull. We have brochures to handout to the public with information on how to protect our wild dolphins. At some events we are able to sell merchandise to raise funds. These events need volunteers. There's a little work involved, but it's mostly fun. Coming up in January is May Howard Elementary School's Science Night. It's always fun talking to school children about dolphins. Come join us. To volunteer, contact Joe Powers: jpowers020@comcast.net. If you know of an event in your area that offers an opportunity for TDP to spread the word about protecting dolphins , please contact Joe.



Young visitor to the TDP booth at the 2009 May Howard Science Fair, playing the Dolphin Fin Board Game



DONATIONS

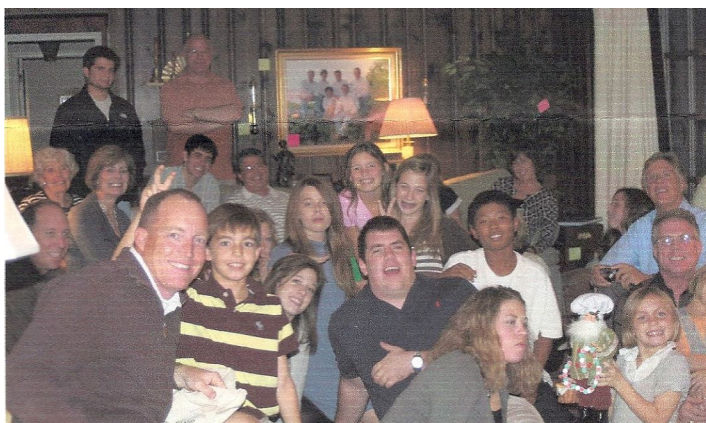
Many thanks to the following for their generous donations:

Joe Powers \$250

Joni Chastain \$100 + matching funds from employer

Tim & Gayla Jones, new TDP members, approached Peach recently for some of the dolphin info that we present at our training and outreach programs. It seems that at the Thanksgiving gatherings of the Jones clan, the six Jones siblings take turns each year giving presentations focusing on a favorite charity. Donations are made by all to that charity for that year in lieu of Christmas presents. Gayla's presentation was on behalf of The Dolphin Project and she was obviously quite impressive! Many thanks from all of us to all of the Jones-Collins-Little-Webermier Families for their generous donation of \$600.

What a great idea!!!



WEBSITE

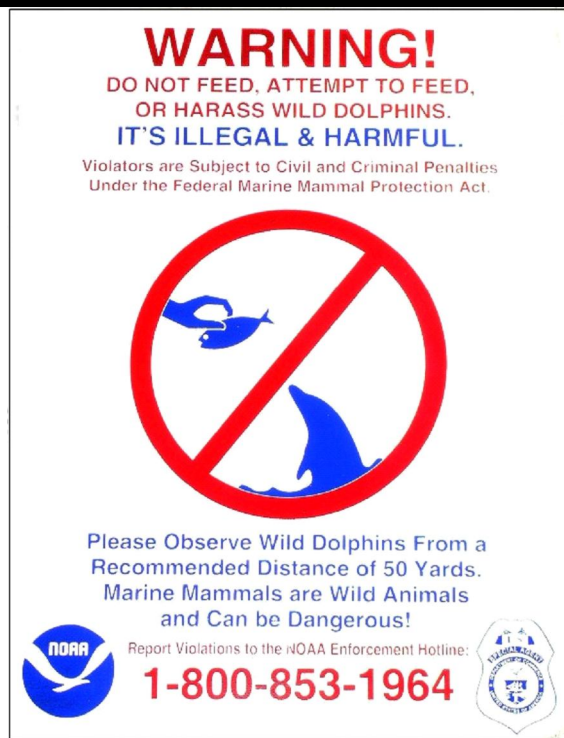
Check out the new look of our website: www.thedolphinproject.org. If there is anything that we can do to enhance it, please let us know. Let us know too if you see any mistakes or misspellings. Our goal was to give as much information as possible to those browsing the site and to our members as well. More info was also added for our current members – especially in regards to surveys – charts, forms, etc.

Membership and registration forms can be sent online and fees and dues can be paid using PAYPAL.

The 'Bottlenose Boutique' will be activated online shortly with limited merchandise.

We'll be posting some videos on the site, so stay tuned!

DOLPHIN SIGNS



NOAA has new signs for marinas and boat ramps that warn against feeding and harassing dolphins. Regrettably they don't have the manpower to distribute or set them up. The Dolphin Project has been helping NOAA with this project for over a year now. If you know of a private or public marina, boat ramp or public dock that needs a dolphin sign, contact Roy Hubbard: 2skipperhub5@comcast.net. He will coordinate getting the signs to you. Holes are predrilled in the sign and TDP provides the bolts.

EDUCATION OUTREACH

Besides the dolphin research, the mission of TDP also includes education and conservation. We achieve those goals through our Education Outreach programs...going into schools with our dolphin program and speaking to clubs and organizations. A power point program with embedded video and sound is presented, brochures are distributed and the dolphin skull is on display. Our inflatable dolphin is brought into schools to the delight of students. We're excited about Gayla Jones and Lydia LaBouliere joining the Outreach Committee. If you'd like to help, need a speaker for your group or would like us to come to your school, contact Peach.

Dolphin Stranding

From Joe Powers:

While fishing near Wassaw Island last week I noticed a dead dolphin along the bank of Old Romerly Marsh Channel. I reported the sighting to the Hubbards who then alerted the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Clay George of DNR called on Dr. Tara Cox, Professor in the Marine Science Program at Savannah State University, to investigate the stranding. The next day I took Dr. Cox and one of her graduate students, Sabrina Brown, to the dolphin so they could determine its sex, measure it, take tissue and tooth samples and try to determine an obvious cause of death. It turned out to be a female, 247 cm long with no wounds, gashes or fishing gear attached to her, so at this time the cause or death is still unknown.

Follow-up from Peach:

According to Clay George, the Wassaw Island dolphin was one of four dead dolphins found in just two weeks on the GA coast. The other three were found in the Brunswick area where the waters are terribly polluted.

To report a dolphin stranding:

Georgia DNR: 800-241-4113 or

912-262-3336

GA DNR-Coast/**Clay George:**

912-269-7587

South Carolina DNR: (bus hrs) **843-953-**

9015 or (after hrs) 800-922-5431

These numbers are also posted on our website on the MMPA page.

SURVEYS

Our 2010 survey schedule is posted in this newsletter and on our website. Be sure to register for a survey at least 4 weeks in advance of the survey date and register for each survey separately. Herb Joe does an amazing job of organizing our teams. Your timely registration will help make the process a little easier for him and less stressful for all involved..

'The COVE'

The movie 'The COVE' is now available at Blockbusters. It's an award-winning film which shows a film team going to great lengths to expose the facts about the dolphin slaughter in Taiji Japan. While this is not a slaughter documentary, but more of an undercover adventure, it is not recommended for small children. For more information: <http://www.thecovemovie.com/>

Seafood Advisories

Glynn County has issued a seafood advisory. This applies to the Brunswick, St. Simons, Jekyll area. As you may recall from hearing Brian Balmer speak at our dinner meetings, his research in these areas has determined that the waters are much more polluted than previously expected. The highest concentration of PCB's in the United States is in the Brunswick area. A blubber sample from one male dolphin in this area had the highest concentration of PCB's ever documented *worldwide!!!* It is recommended that shrimp from certain areas are not be eaten more than once a month. Many fish from some areas are not to be eaten more than once a month and the 'Spot' is not to be eaten at all. If you would like a chart with the seafood advisory, you can contact the Glynn County Health Department or email Peach for a pdf file-copy: [gadolphin@comcast.net](mailto:gadolpin@comcast.net)

The Georgia coast population is expected to increase to over 27 million people within the next 15 years. The work of The Dolphin Project is more critical than ever. Since the dolphin as the sentinel species of its environment, this animal needs to be monitored for its health – which will monitor the health status of its environment and offer alerts to our well-being as well. TDP would like to develop a base of action in the Brunswick/Sapelo area. You can help by letting us know about organizations that need speakers and by organizing your friends into teams to survey the area. Brian's study will be completed soon and the dolphins in Brunswick and Sapelo need to be continually monitored. TDP needs your help.