



# The Skimmer



Spring 2009

## From Donna's Desk

I barely believe a year has passed since I returned to Jekyll. I traded the red clay of Rock Eagle for the sand of the beach. I really miss my former co-workers at the Rock, but I love marine science and Jekyll has an amazing beach and a great staff. One thing both centers share is a terrific environmental education program.

The current economy has caused some concerns, but our schools know the importance of a quality field study and student numbers have stayed strong. We appreciate the hard work and dedication of the teachers that put these learning experiences together for their students. When a child runs up to you at lunch (with black

mud on their nose) to tell you about detritus and estuaries, you know it is all worth it.

Please read though our current newsletter to learn about our new offerings, our incredible staff, and other fun things concerning the Jekyll 4-H Center. Check out our website at [Jekyll4h.org](http://Jekyll4h.org) to see a new pre-trip planning idea concerning tides. Graphing the tides at Jekyll for your upcoming visit is a great way to teach a difficult topic and practice some basic graphing skills.



Donna Stewart

**Mark your calendar that our books for the 2010/11 season will open August 25, 2009 at 9:00 am. Please call 912-635-4117 and have your school schedule handy.** I will not accept faxes, e-mails or messages. Phone calls only.

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  
**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**  
Colleges of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences

### Contributors to Newsletter:

- Erin Mugge
- Alice Tipton
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- Richard Chewning
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**Environmental Education Office:**

**912-635-4117**

**[www.jekyll4h.org](http://www.jekyll4h.org)**

## Tidelands Nature Center Update

## Sea Superstitions

*The Ocean Almanac* by Robert Hendrickson

Many superstitions surround life on the sea.

We would like to welcome Bryan England to our Jekyll 4H/Tidelands staff. Bryan, wife, Abi, and new baby girl, Anna, moved to Glynn County from South Carolina. Bryan has taken on the role of caring for live exhibits/aquaria, leading kayak tours, developing exhibits, working with visitors, etc. at Tidelands.

He attended the College of Charleston with a major in biology and minor in geology and philosophy. Bryan recently worked as a curriculum specialist for the Environmental Education Center at YMCA Camp Thunderbird in Lake



Bryan, Abi, and daughter Anna

- When walking to your ship, avoid people with red hair for they bring bad luck. If you speak to them first, you can avoid misfortune.
- It is unlucky to start a cruise on Friday. The British navy attempted to dispel this superstition in the 19th century by building a ship named the H.M.S. Friday. They laid the keel on a Friday, launched her on a Friday, and set sail on a Friday. Neither the ship or crew were ever heard from again.
- Dolphins near your boat are good luck and it is bad luck to kill one.
- Killing an albatross is very bad luck (they are a signal that land is near).
- It is bad luck for a black dog to be seen near fishing tackle.

## Jekyll's Environmental Education Staff - 2008-2009



**Back Row:** Erin Mugge, Curtis Titter, Carrie Anderson, Susan Heisey, Richard Chewning, Milton G Newberry III, and Louise Todd

**Front Row:** Donna Stewart, Natalie Gerblich, Jessica Samson, Alice Tipton, Lean Allen, Elise Diffie, and Lindsay Abiouness

## Jekyll 4-H's Year Round Staff

Facilities—Larry Weldin, James Nobles, Kim Britton, Carol Ducksworth

Tidelands Nature Center—Dawn Zenkert, Bryan England

Administration—Sharon Hamilton, Richard Chewning, Donna Stewart

Kitchen—Winston Drury, Lucy Holmes, Joyce Hutchinson, Roosevelt Butler, and Sprawley Washington



## Paying it forward at the Jekyll 4-H Center

What do Tattnall County 4-H and Girl Scout Troop 30344 from Glynn County have in common? They both spent part of a day at the 4-H Center making the best better. Tattnall County cleaned up trash from around center and off the beach. The Girl Scouts cleaned up trash and re-painted the life size right whale drawing that is in our parking lot. They also painted some posts around our field.

We truly appreciate the hard work and dedication that these young people exhibited while making the 4-H Center cleaner and brighter. Thanks!



*Tattnall County 4-H beach clean up*



*Girl Scouts re-painted the life-size right whale at the Jekyll Island 4-H Center*

A big congratulations to Sharon Hamilton who was recently recognized as State Outstanding Secretary by the Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Agents.

## New Class: CSI Cetacean!!!

There is a new and exciting hands-on class being offered at the Jekyll Island 4-H Center called CSI Cetacean. A Cetacean is a scientific order including baleen and toothed whales. In this class, students perform a “necropsy” (animal autopsy) on a Cetacean that has “stranded” on Jekyll Island’s coast. When an animal strands on the beach, researchers perform a necropsy to determine species, age, and cause of death. Through this class, students will determine possible ways humans can impact these Cetaceans while performing this mock necropsy on an inflatable dolphin by examining external and internal clues.

CSI Cetacean will contain general information about marine mammals and our impact on their lives. The majority of the class time is then spent investigating the stranded dolphins, making this a great hands-on class. The students will learn what necropsies entail, including looking for parasites, examining stomach contents and teeth, taking measurements and much more! Students of all grade levels will enjoy this unique experience, designed as an hour-long evening lecture. This class curriculum is aligned with Georgia Performance Standards for grades 5 through 8.



*Students spend this evening class investigating what happened to these stranded Cetaceans.*

## Adopt-an-Animal and Support the 4-H Center

Thank you to everyone who adopted an animal in 2008-2009!

- **Burroughs-Molette Gifted Class** - Snake and Marine Aquarium
- **Rachel Barnes (Sprayberry High School)** - Loggerhead Sea Turtle
- **Jarred Hall from Fayetteville, GA** - Snake (corn snake) and Marine Aquarium (Seahorse)
- **Mrs. Howard’s 7th Grade Class (Calhoun Middle School)** - Alligator

- **Maria Spartis’ 4th Grade Class (Galloway School)** - Alligator, Loggerhead Sea Turtle, Gopher Tortoise, Diamondback Terrapin, Yellow-bellied Slider, Snapping Turtle, Corn Snake, Touch Tank Animal (Hermit Crab), and Marine Aquarium (Sea Horse)

If you would like to adopt an animal, visit our website and download a form: [www.jekyll4h.org](http://www.jekyll4h.org).

## Snapping Turtle

*Chelydra serpentina*



**Turtle Fact:** The snapping turtle pulls its head into its shell by curving its neck vertically, in an S-shape.

## Invasive Species around Jekyll Island

When a plant or animal first arrives in a new area it is considered exotic. Exotic species can be introduced for a variety of reasons: hogs for hunting, the Chinaberry tree as an ornamental plant, kudzu for erosion control. Marine species like the green mussels are accidental stow-aways in ship ballast water. Exotic species will occasionally naturalize and begin to threaten the native species. At this point they are invasive.

Jekyll Island houses many examples of invasive species including: mimosa trees, porcelain crabs, titan acorn barnacles, and Cherokee rose. Redbay

(*Persea borbonia*) trees on Jekyll Island, and throughout the south, are falling victim to another invasive species, the redbay ambrosia beetle (*Xyleborus glabratus*). First discovered in 2002 in Port Wentworth, GA this Asian beetle most likely arrived in the United States in wood packing material. This beetle causes extensive mortality of the redbays by chewing the bark and exposing the tree to a fungus (*Ophiostoma sp*). The invasion has spread into Florida and continues to cause a significant decline in red bay populations. This decline also poses a threat to animals that depend on the redbay, such as the painted bunting

and species of swallowtail butterflies as well as trees closely related to the redbay, including the avocado (*Persea americana*) and sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*).

Invasive species can be a wonderful teaching tool. For information or lesson plans for your students, visit:

- [www.gainvasives.org](http://www.gainvasives.org)
- [www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov](http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov)
- <http://www.nps.gov/invspcurr/alienhome.htm>
- [http://www.nps.gov/invspcurr/docversions/Aliens\\_Textbook.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/invspcurr/docversions/Aliens_Textbook.pdf)
- <http://www.stoller-eser.com/>



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*Jekyll Island 4-H Center*  
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The University of Georgia and Fort Valley State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and counties of the state cooperating. The Cooperative Extension Service offers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. An equal opportunity / affirmative action organization committed to a diverse work force.

## From the Mountains to the Sea, There is a Georgia 4-H Center for you!

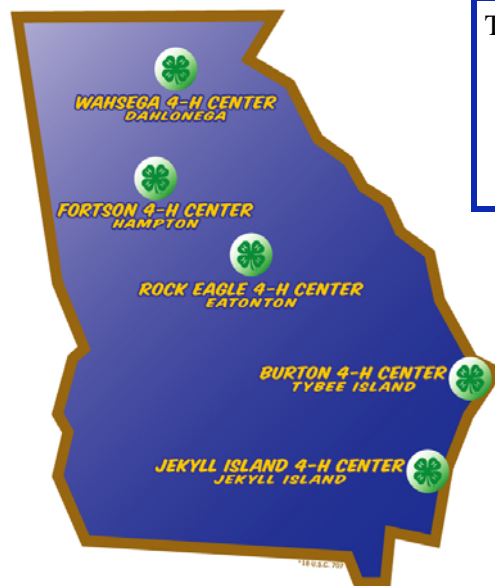
**Wahsega 4-H Center**  
Dahlonega, 706-864-2050  
[www.wahsega4h.org](http://www.wahsega4h.org)

**Fortson 4-H Center**  
Hampton, 770-946-3276  
[www.fortson4h.org](http://www.fortson4h.org)

**Rock Eagle 4-H Center**  
Eatonton, 706-484-2862  
[www.rockeagle4h.org](http://www.rockeagle4h.org)

**Burton 4-H Center**  
Tybee Island, 912-786-5534  
[www.burton4h.org](http://www.burton4h.org)

**Jekyll Island 4-H Center**  
Jekyll Island, 912-635-4117  
[www.jekyll4h.org](http://www.jekyll4h.org)



The reservation books for the 2010-2011 school year will open Tuesday, August 25th at 9 a.m.  
**Phone calls only.**

The fees for our lunch to lunch program for the 2009-10 school year will be \$96.

There are still limited openings for the 2009-10 school year. Tell your friends to call now to schedule their field study.

[www.georgia4h.org/ee](http://www.georgia4h.org/ee)