



THE SKIMMER

Spring 2005



Jekyll Island
4-H Center

Jekyll 4-H's Amazing Year!

Jekyll has seen quite a year. We have a new teaching staff, renovated facilities, and some new animals in our teaching labs. As always, we hired the new batch of environmental educators to work August - May. This year's staff came from far and wide as you can see from the staff picture at right. They are a strong group of teachers with an amazing knowledge base and it is obvious they all love their jobs. As you know, our staff live on-site in the dorm facilities. Thankfully, the newly renovated facilities were spared by the multitude of hurricanes that made landfall this year (read more about hurricanes inside). And as you also already know, the staff cares for our collection of teaching animals. We have a few new additions and relocations to report. We moved our sea turtles between the 4-H Center and Tidelands Nature Center. The Department of Natural Resources (who loan us the turtles for educational purposes) released Bob, a six year-old sea turtle who grew up at Tidelands, in October. As a result, Dylan was moved from the 4-H Center into Bob's large tank and two-year old Shelby came over from Tidelands to reside in Dylan's old tank. The move proved good for all as every turtle now has plenty of space to grow. We also have a small corn snake; it's a beautiful snake and a perfect specimen to use in classes. We have many other additions worth mentioning, but we must leave some things a surprise for your next visit. The teaching staff has also been busy working on improving the looks of some of our indoor teaching spaces. You will notice lots of new paint and two wonderful new murals which only adds to the splendor of the labs.

As far as permanent staff goes, we were proud to welcome back Eva Matthews, an EE instructor from 2003-04, as the Assistant Environmental Education Coordinator. Eva came on board in her new position in July 2004 and has done a great job helping to keep our program running smoothly. There are several other permanent staff who have been here for a long time and do a great deal of "behind the scenes" work to keep the program running smoothly. The dining hall employees that keep you well fed during your visits are Winston Drury (kitchen manager) and the cooks Joyce Howard, Lucy Holmes, Robert Ramsey, and Roosevelt Butler. The housekeeping department keeps your accommodations clean and stocked and are Wilma Kersey, Kim Britton, Carol Ducksworth, and Erica Campbell. James Nobles and Aaron Fuller in the maintenance department keep the facilities in good working order. The office and finances are managed by our senior secretary, Sharon Hamilton. Finally, Dawn Zenkert coordinates Tidelands Nature Center's daily operations.

(continued on next column)

We are so thankful for each of these individuals who do so much to keep the entire 4-H center operating smoothly! We look forward to serving you and your students again. As always, thanks for your support!

Melanie Biersmith, Camp Manager & Program Coordinator



Jekyll's 2004-05 EE Staff from left to right:

Dave Suttinger (Augusta, GA), Michelle McClendon (Stockbridge, GA), Eva Matthews (Loris, SC), Emily Rupp (Goshen, IN), Michelle Rabon (Chicago, IL), Mark Van Goor (Grand Rapids, MI), Emily Hewitt (New Orleans, LA), Dawna Gay (Alberta, Canada), Karen Lutsky (Milwaukee, WI), Melanie Biersmith (Brunswick, GA), Cris Ryan (Omaha, NE), Jeff Faletto (Newnan, GA), Mo Kieffer (Stone Mountain, GA).



WAVES OF INFORMATION

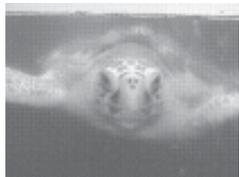
Animal Adoptions for 2004-05 School Year

Last year, we introduced our animal adoption program and we had two classrooms that joined immediately! We are proud to announce the following adoptions for the 2004-05 school year:

Mandarin Oaks Elementary's 4th & 5th grade gifted class (teacher, Ms. Rhoda London) adopted Dylan the sea turtle!

Decatur County's 3rd grade gifted class (teacher, Ms. Carla Dobbs) adopted the American alligators!

We thank both schools for participating in the program. We are excited to report that since the adoptions, the alligators have received a new tank and that a large mural was painted around the sea turtle tank. Use the form on the following page if you or your classroom wishes to adopt an animal and support our program.



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Click Here for Oceans of Fun

Jekyll Island 4-H Center

➔ www.jekyll4h.org

Georgia Coastal Education Group

➔ www.georgiacoastaleducationgroup.org

SouthEast Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence

➔ www.scseagrant.org/se-cosee/

Georgia Association of Marine Education

➔ www.uga.edu/game

Hurricanes & The Georgia Bight

As you are probably aware, the 2004 hurricane season was especially active. While many areas in Florida were hit by multiple devastating storms, the Georgia coast was for the most part spared of any major hurricane activity. Are we just lucky or is there some underlying reason why we seem to be protected year after year from hurricanes? The answer is probably both!

As visiting students learn in our environmental education program, Georgia sits in the approximate center of an area of the southeastern coast known as the South Atlantic Bight (or locally, the Georgia Bight). The bight is a large curvature of the coastline that reaches from the Outer Banks in North Carolina to Miami, Florida. Most of the hurricanes that stay in the Atlantic follow the Gulf Stream which follows the continental shelf. Because the continental shelf is found 80 miles offshore, many hurricanes are steered away from Georgia. Georgia is still vulnerable to hurricanes which make a direct approach from the Atlantic or from those that cross over from the Gulf of Mexico.

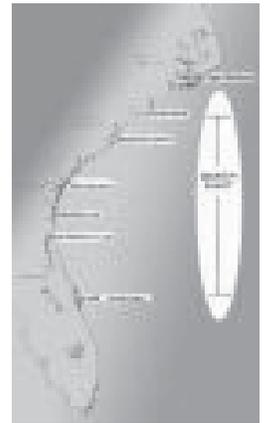


Image courtesy of www.uga.edu/aquarium.

Hurricanes develop in tropical waters and are organized storms that rotate in a counterclockwise direction (in the No. Hemisphere). To be classified as a hurricane, a storm must have sustained winds of 74 mph or higher. In order for hurricanes to form, the ocean water must be at least 81 degrees F, there must be sufficient moisture in the air, and winds must be blowing close to the ocean surface. The warm, moist air rises into the low pressure area and the cooler surrounding air rushes in to replace it. This creates gusty winds and thunderstorms. The warm ocean waters fuel the storm further, and a central spiraling mass is created called the eye. Eyes can range in size from 20-40 miles across and are surrounded by the eyewall. Eyewalls typically contain the fiercest winds and the heaviest rains. The outer portions of the storm system are made up of rain bands which can extend from the eye up to 300 miles! Hurricane season is a long six months, running from June 1 to November 30, but peak season is considered August through October.

For more information about hurricanes, sign up for the hurricanes class during your next field study at Jekyll Island 4-H Center. Hurricanes is taught as an evening class and is one hour in length. It includes a powerpoint presentation, active demonstrations, and the tracking of a hurricane.

ADOPT-AN-ANIMAL PROGRAM

Jekyll Island 4-H Center

The Jekyll Island 4-H Center Environmental Education Program invites you to adopt an animal. Adopting an animal from our education facility helps us design and construct new classroom habitats and provides for the daily care of our animals. Individuals or entire classrooms are encouraged to sign up.

Adopt an animal and you (or your classroom) will receive:

- An information sheet full of fun facts about your animal
- A full-color photograph of your animal
- A listing in *The Skimmer* as a "proud parent" of your new animal
- An adoption certificate with information about your adoption

You can choose from:

_____	loggerhead sea turtle	\$75
_____	gopher tortoises	\$50
_____	alligators	\$40
_____	diamondback terrapins	\$30
_____	yellow-bellied sliders	\$25
_____	snapping turtle	\$20
_____	snake	\$20
_____	touch tank animals	\$15
_____	marine aquarium	\$10



Please fill out the following with the information as you would like it on your adoption forms.

INDIVIDUAL OR SCHOOL NAME _____

TEACHER'S NAME (if school or classroom adoption) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Mail this completed form along with your check (made out to Jekyll Island 4-H Center) to:

Jekyll Island 4-H Center
Attn: Animal Adoption
201 S. Beachview Drive
Jekyll Island, GA 31527

Jekyll Island 4-H Center
Jekyll Island, 912-635-4117
www.jekyll4h.org

Burton 4-H Center
Tybee Island, 912-786-5534
www.burton4h.org

Fortson 4-H Center
Hampton, 770-946-3276
www.fortson4h.org

Rock Eagle 4-H Center
Eatonton, 706-484-2800
www.rockeagle4h.org

Wahsega 4-H Center
Dahlonega, 706-864-2050
www.wahsega4h.org



Important Reminders About Jekyll's EE Program

The reservation books for the 2006-07 school year will open Wednesday, August 17, 2005. Mark your calendars now and call early for your dates! 912-635-4117

-  We are constantly trying to improve our website for you. Please check it occasionally and feel free to give us your feedback.
-  In addition to general information about our program and classes, the trip planner and updated journal questions are found online. There are also pre-trip/post-trip activities and a vocabulary list for your use when preparing students for the field study.
-  Rates for the 2005-06 school year will increase by \$1. Our basic 3-day, 2-night program will be \$81 per person.
-  As Georgia makes the switch from QCC to GPS, so will Georgia 4-H's environmental education program. We are already working on aligning our classes with the new Georgia Performance Standards. Please know that in the meantime, all of classes are aligned with the current QCC standards.



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201 S. Beachview Drive
Jekyll Island, GA 31527