

The Skimmer

Spring 2010



Fresh Catch

We are very excited to announce the development of fun, new classes coming this fall including Invasive Species and Saltwater Fishing!

Invasive Species allows students to examine the economic, ecological, and public health effects that introduced species have on native ecosystems. This interactive approach to discussing modern day environmental issues will not only allow students to learn about invasive species, but also use their creativity and critical thinking skills to discuss an invasive species issue right here on Jekyll Island.



Saltwater Fishing is a product of a collaborative effort between Jekyll 4-H and the GA DNR. In addition to surf fishing with their own rod and reel, this class aims to give students an opportunity to learn about proper fishing techniques and regulations. This Jekyll instructor-led day class will be complemented with an evening class that will teach students about fishery management practices such as calculating stock assessments and sustainable catches. Look for more information on our website about these classes soon!

Save the Date! Open Season!

Registration:

- ☛ The books for fall 2011 and spring 2012 will open **AUGUST 25th at 9:00am.**

Prices:

- ☛ The cost of the Mon.-Wed. or Wed.-Fri. program will be \$102.00/per person.

Availability

- ☛ There are still dates available for next year. Please call to schedule a date soon.



From the Director's Tackle Box

Greetings from Jekyll! As the sand gnats and pollen swirl through the air, students and teachers anticipate summer, night walks head out at dusk, and seining class is back on the agenda; its spring time! The Jekyll 4-H Environmental Education Program continues to enjoy a busy season and is planning for another great fall. Please read through our newsletter to see what is new at the beach, some cool information, and important dates to mark on your calendar.

Register Today!

Jekyll offers a large selection of classes, but if we can tailor something for your students please inquire when you start your class selection. Call us at (912) 635-4117 if we can help you plan a Jekyll 4-H field study. We can assist you in picking the right classes for your students. We look forward to

seeing you at the beach.

Overarching Achievements



On February 20, some of our Environmental Educators participated in Brunswick's annual Sydney Lanier Bridge Run. Our very own Amanda Daws placed first in the overall women's division with a time of 20:17! When asked what she did to prepare for the 5K race, she simply replied, "I showed up 15 minutes before". She continued bridging communities when she ran in the Dolphin Day 10K race on St. Simons and placing first in overall women's again! We are very proud of all who participated.



Valentine's Day Animal Art Show

“It must be love”

The 8th Annual Tidelands ‘Art Inspired by Nature Sale’ was held on Sunday, Feb. 14, 2010. With love in the air as spring draws nearer, some of our Jekyll 4-H Center’s educational reptile residents were inspired to produce a display of their affections. The exciting showcase presented beautiful designs painted by our resident box turtles and snakes.

The reptilian artists created their work in a safe manner with the coordinated efforts of 4-H Environmental Educator, Alex Vandermeys, along with a helping hand from fellow educators. Our natural artists in residence made an appearance at our Tidelands/4-H art sale booth to supervise full enjoyment of their art with the help of the Jekyll 4-H Director, Donna Stewart.

The winter tradition continued with an eclectic array of local artists, displaying and selling their coastal inspired art. Local favorite artists from Jekyll, St. Simon’s, Brunswick, Camden, and McIntosh included; Tyler Dominey, Laurel Johns, Debbie Mumford, Buddy Hale, Kristen Pickett, the Jekyll Potters, Lydia Thompson and more!



The Jekyll 4-H Center, its Environmental Educators, and Tidelands thoroughly enjoyed interfacing with the local community. An ideal exchange of knowledge and awareness through the universal medium of art made the connection between the 4-H center and the community stronger.

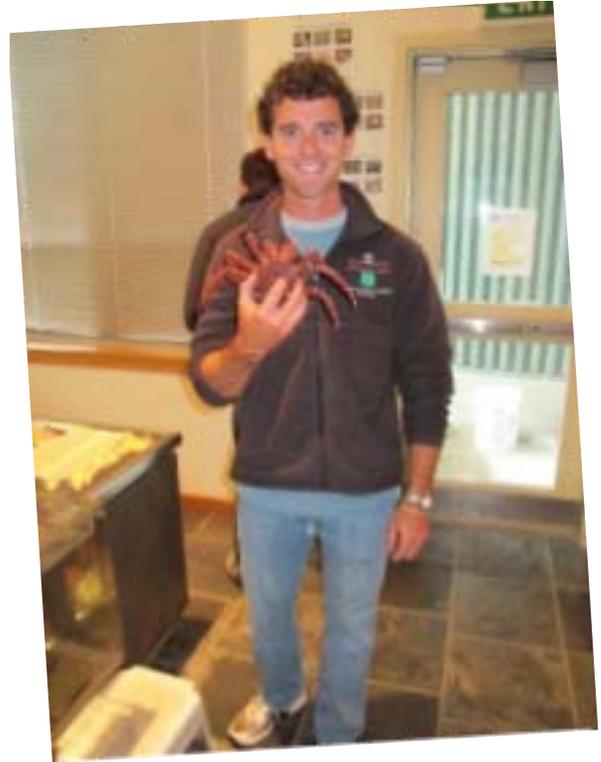
Dawn Zenkhert of Tidelands Nature Center contributed excerpts to this article.

Out to Sea

Our very own Program Coordinator Richard Chewing has earned the prestigious honor of participating in NOAA's Teacher at Sea program. NOAA's Teacher at Sea Program (TAS) aims to increase the public's awareness and knowledge of NOAA science and career opportunities by having educators work alongside NOAA offices, ship's crew, and shipboard scientists. Richard spent three weeks on the Bering Sea sailing with the NOAA ship *Oscar Dyson* studying walleye Pollock.

For those who do not know, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is a federal government agency charged with studying all aspects of the ocean and atmosphere. As you can imagine, these are broad areas of study. While large in scope, the work of NOAA affects everyone, whether you live on a coast or not. Have you ever heard of The National Weather Service or The National Hurricane Center? Both are NOAA divisions.

You can check out Richard's pictures and logs @ <http://teacheratsea.noaa.gov/2010/chewing/index.html>.



Quite a Catch! Richard Holding a Baby King Crab!

Making Waves

Any guest of the Jekyll 4-H Center that has been served a meal at Jekyll has met Roosevelt. His warm smile and friendly greeting make the Jekyll experience complete. All of Jekyll dining hall staff offer amazing service, but this season we put the spotlight on Roosevelt.

Roosevelt started in the dining hall in 2003. His duties include serving, cooking, and cleaning. Not content to just work in the dining hall, he also gardens and paints. Recently Roosevelt repainted our signs and the exterior of the dining hall and interior of the pavilion. He assists with landscaping around the dining hall and, when time allows, the flowerbeds in front of the office.

Roosevelt's great attitude and willingness to go the extra mile make him one of the treasures found at the Jekyll 4-H Center.

Thanks!



Keystone Accolades

Meet the people behind the clover

The Jekyll 4-H Center is a wonderful educational outreach facility that enables students to learn more about and make connections with the world around them. However, without the dedication and hard work of the seasoned professionals that have served behind the clover and respected its goals, this center would not be able to continue reaching out to the hundreds of children and adults that we see here



Feeding Frenzy

The thousands of students and adults that come through the serving line at the Jekyll 4-H center are served with a smile by our fantastic staff. Winston Drury, Lucy Holmes, Joyce Howard, Roosevelt Butler, Sprawley Washington, Norma Fields, and Al Pate all work together to make the food and the experience worth cheering for!

Maintenance Mayhem

Its no easy task to keep this place running with the lovely salty air, eager students, and Murphy's Law at work. Larry Weldin and James Nobles do a great job at keeping the grounds and maintaining a refreshing and safe environment.



Hardworking Honeys

Jekyll 4-H would not feel like home without the meticulous cleaning that our lovely housekeeping staff provides. Carol Ducksworth and Kim Britton-Hite devote themselves to making sure all of the students, adults, and staff feel right at home.

Office Osprey

For being so passionate about the outdoors, indoor office work is hands down the hardest part of the job. However, without the great logistical planning, receiving phone calls of eager parents and teachers, and advance planning, none of our wonderful programs would run as smoothly as they do. A big thanks to Sharon Hamilton, Richard Chewning, and Donna Stewart for keeping your "inner" child alive so that the rest of us can let ours out.

Good Oats!



Just as sea oats provide stability to the dunes on Jekyll, so do the exceptional long-term staff at the 4-H Center.

This year Sharon Hamilton and Donna Stewart were recognized for 20 years of service with Georgia 4-H. Sharon started as Jekyll 4-H Center's secretary in September 1988. Donna filled the program coordinator role in January of 1989.

Winston Drury, our dining hall manager, and James Nobles in maintenance received their 15-year certificate.

We sure appreciate all their years of service and look forward to many more!

Sea-lebrity Student



Sydney Brock is a 4th grader at Westwood Elementary who enjoys science and learning about the coast. Sydney discovered an island treasure, a beautiful glass ball, during her North End class on Jekyll. She remembers, "At first, I thought it was a beach ball that someone had left. Then I saw a note attached to it that said: 'Congratulations you have found an Island treasure!' I showed my 4-H instructor and they said I was very lucky. I could not believe it when they said I could keep the beautiful artwork. Now it sits in our computer room on a shelf with other breakable things. I enjoy looking at it every day and thinking of my trip to Jekyll Island."

As The Tide Turns



“Wow, it really is low tide.” This quote is from a surprised sixth grader observing the beach and comparing the tide to a graph she made in school several weeks earlier. Graphing tides is a great way to prepare your students for their Jekyll field study and teach the abstract concept of tides at the same time.

Vocabulary

Spring tide- Extra high and low tides that occur twice in the moon’s 29-day orbit when the sun, moon and earth are in a straight line. This is on new and full moon.

Neap tide- Lower than average high tide and low tide when the moon is at right angles to the earth (first and third quarter moon).

Tides- A “wave” caused by the gravitational attraction between the earth, the moon, and to a lesser extent, the sun. Tidal bulges form as the gravitational attraction of the moon pulls the earth’s water toward it. The earth’s rotation results in centrifugal force that creates another bulge on the opposite side of the earth. The area under the bulge as it moves across the earth is high tide, the area not under the bulge is low tide.

Semi-diurnal tides – Two high and two low tides of similar magnitude, which occur slightly more than 6 hours apart. Most of the east coast, including Jekyll, experience semi-diurnal tides.

Tidal Range- The vertical difference between low and high tide. Georgia’s average tidal range is 7 feet, but spring tides may reach 10 feet.

Fun Facts and Odds and Ends on Tides

High tide is about 50 minutes later each day because in the 24 hours it takes for the earth to rotate once, the moon has moved about 12 degrees in its orbit. The moon is orbiting in the same direction as the earth is rotating, thus there is a 50-minute lag time.

The tides are heavily influenced by landmass. Tides forced into bays may reach 50 feet as in the Bay of Fundy, Nova Scotia or be unnoticed in the Mediterranean where the tide fails to enter the Strait of Gibraltar.

Tidal waves have nothing to do with tides. Tidal waves are the result of earthquakes or massive land slides. Waves are caused by wind and tides are caused by the gravitational pull of the moon and sun.

Ocean water really does not move in and out with the tide except in areas where the water is constricted in a narrow passage or inlet and a tidal current is produced. The sea ebbs and flows because its level goes up and down in response to the gravitational pull of the moon and sun.

The earth’s entire surface responds to the pull of the moon and sun. The Great Lakes experience a very small tide, as does the land. The open ocean tide is 3 to 4 feet depending on the phase of the moon. Tides are actually slowing down the earth, making our days longer each year.

As The Tide Turns

Materials Needed for Graphing Tides

A tide chart for the month you are visiting Jekyll. This can be found online at NOAA tides and currents. Click on tide tables, then the year you want, then Georgia and use St Andrews Sound and then click on predictions. The entire year pops up and you can print the month you want. Tide tables can be tricky to read at first and NOAA tables are easier to read than many others.

Calendars for the month you are visiting Jekyll with phases of the moon are displayed.

A diagram of the phases of the moon in relation to the sun and earth.

Graph paper with $\frac{1}{4}$ inch squares.

A ruler

Procedure

Discuss the concept of tides with your students.

Assign each student to be a 24-hour period in the month you are visiting Jekyll. For example, one student is the first day of the month, the next the second day, and so on. You may need to have students represent several days depending on the number of kids you have in your class.

Have each student take a piece of graph paper and do the following:

Mark the graph paper with the day of the month that is represented.

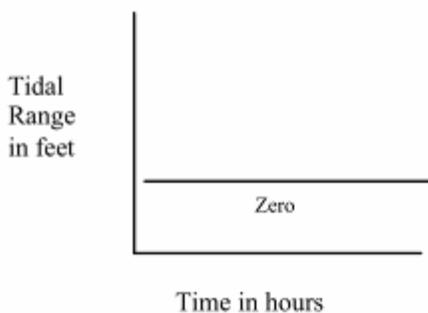
Place the paper so the x-axis is the long axis. The x-axis represents the 24 hours in a day.

The first line is midnight. Mark the axis so each hour is represented. It works best if you can have 2 graph squares between each hour. All students must use the same system.

The y-axis is tidal range in feet. On the far left hand side put 9 feet at the top of the graph (2 squares from top) and go down the side counting backwards (9, 8, 7,...) to negative 2 feet. Leave 2 squares between each number.

Mark zero with a line across the x-axis.

All students must have the same graph format.



Hand out Jekyll tide table for the proper month and have students highlight their assigned dates.

Graph the date by hour and feet. There will be 2 high tides and 2 low tides on each graph unless the last tide is past midnight, which puts it on the next 24-hour period.

Have the class line up showing their graph by date. This should show the entire month with the same scale. You can go online and find examples of tide graphs.

Using the calendar with phases of the moon, challenge the students to find the correlation between tidal range and phases of the moon. The highest tides should occur a day or two after full and new moon.

Check out the times your school is visiting and compare it to your class schedule. Will you have a high tide marsh or low tide beach?

Summer Camp Corner



This summer Jekyll 4-H Center hosts 4-H Junior Camp for 5 weeks starting June 7th. Summer camp offers some of the same educational experiences as the 4-H Environmental Education Program, but also features a trip to Summer Waves, Saint Simons Island, an expanded boat trip and lots of chances to dance and make new friends. If you have a child that may be interested in summer camp at any of our centers please go to <http://georgia4h.org/> to find your county 4-H agent for more information.

2009/10 Environmental Education Staff

As the season comes to a close we bid farewell to a terrific staff. I have had the privilege of working with many amazing educators and this group has been one of the best. Keeping up a high level of excitement and enthusiasm for nine months in sun, rain and sand gnats is a testament to their dedication and devotion to outdoor education. Ben is off to law school, Alice and Milton are on the way to graduate studies; Louise, Alex and Becky have found permanent jobs in the environmental field; and the rest are waiting on full time positions and heading off for summer fun. Amanda and Matt are returning for another season in August. We wish them all well and will miss them greatly.



4-H Centers Across Georgia

From the Mountains to the Sea...

Wahsega in Dahlonega: (706) 864-2050
<http://www.wahsega4h.org/>

Fortson in Hampton: (770) 946-3276
<http://www.fortson4h.org/>

Rock Eagle in Eatonton: (706) 484-2899
<http://www.rockeagle4h.org/>

Burton on Tybee Island: (912) 786-5534
<http://www.burton4h.org/>

Jekyll Island: (912) 635-4117
<http://www.jekyll4h.org/>



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