



LEATHERBACK TURTLE NEWS[©]



Volume 4 Issue 1

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Mar 15, 2010



Welcome to the 1st issue of our 2010 Leatherback Turtle News Letter. Our wishes for a Great Christmas just past and for a wonderful 2010. So many events are developing that to take time to stop our on going activities

to communicate our activities and pending news developments is daunting. This edition of the Leatherback News Letter presents a review of 2009 significant events and news and a forward look at 2010. We have many things planned for this year, including two Expedition voyages to the Leatherback nesting beaches in Papua and expanded on the scene research to gain, hopefully a complete season of nest data to reinforce our 2009 findings that indicate strongly... "YES WE CAN!!!". Our exciting progress depends entirely on YOUR support.

Contemporaneous with this issue we are going as wide and to as many as we can locate to ask for a one time Donation of \$100. or more to be members of our Leatherback 1,000 Club. Read more in this News Letter. Your support in this request is critically important to solidify the successes we have achieved to actually Reverse Extinction of this endangered species.

Larry McKenna

Editor's Note: The following is an extract from a dynamic and intense article which can be read in full (4 pages) in our web site: www.leatherbackturtles.org. We recommend reading it.

REVENGE OF THE JELLY FISH ©

(Or...How WE are allowing our oceans to die ©)

I used to predict the severe loss of the Pacific Leatherback turtles as a prime reason



Fish Nets Filled to Breaking. No Fish; Just Jelly Fish. A 10 Ton Trawler Capsized

why some day, the Pacific food fish supply would be almost exhausted. **That day is here!!!!** Now I write to alert you of the existing situation as the days of reckoning of the health of the Pacific Ocean as a supplier of food fish is in serious question. **Consider this article as YOUR wake up call to get involved...**



One 513 lb Bluefin sold for \$177,000. (Photo by Scantu)

THERE ARE TWO SANTAS!!!



We are again surprised with the generosity and support we receive; the surprises make the efforts all the more worthwhile.

A personal note arrived from Mr. Knopf, the Director of the Knopf Family Trust recently which enclosed news clipping about Leatherbacks off Florida beaches. Inputs as to Leatherback news is always needed so we can keep abreast of happenings to the species. INCLUDED in his note was another Donation check to help us along. Goose bump time again for us as the gift was not expected AND was so timely (he did not know this) because of a sudden expense on the beach was needed immediate funds to cover.

We are now “ramping up” to logisticize our 2010 efforts for the beach research. Our data from 2009 shows us the way to Reverse Extinction by continuing to do that we have developed on the beach to put more hatchlings (especially those who were doomed to never seeing a star) into the sea. We need a full season of activity out there to include hiring more men and doing lots more. Mr. Knopf, THANK YOU from us all and especially from the Leatherbacks who have no voices except ours.

In February, I went to Dallas to meet Mark Henry, the CEO of a .org company who was scheduled to be on a 2009 Expedition, but a sinus infection interrupted his plans. He will be on a 2010 Expedition. My offer to brief him on our activities was accepted. During our chat over lunch, Mark presented us with his personal check to help our ef-



forts. Again, Goosebumps time. His Donation was totally unexpected. Another total surprise!!! Mark, your kind help will take us further toward our objectives in 2010 and beyond. For the Leatherbacks and all in our Volunteer Foundation... THANK YOU for your needed and welcome support. In August you will be able to meet and greet your own Leatherback face to nose on

LARGE TUNA IN PACIFIC VANISH

(Ed. Note: See accompanying summary of article... "Revenge of the Jelly Fish" on page one.)

The large tuna (big eye, blue fin, etc.) in the Pacific Ocean are in extremely short supply because of continued overfishing and no enforceable quotas on the Nations who are part of the United Nations Pacific Treaty Agreement. The USA long line industry is regulated; but is the only one who tries to keep faith with that Treaty. There are many parts to the answers of ‘why have they disappeared’, including the killing of the tuna fingerlings and larvae as they emerge into the oceans by jelly fish swarms now prevalent in every ocean as a direct result (a cause and effect) of the rampant slaughter of the Leatherbacks.

Recently a 513 lb. blue fin was sold in Japan for a heady price...\$177,000. The top price reported by wire services is \$220,000 for a 440 pound big eye. Some Japanese sushi bars, as reported by the New York Times, now sell raw horsemeat as a tuna substitute. Fishermen have almost wiped out the northern and southern blue fin. The yellow fin and big eyes are not far behind. “In a few years there will be nothing left for us to fish” said Atusushi Sasaki, a Japanese blue fin fisherman of 20+ years.

“Where you have politicians arguing for a share of the quota beyond the agreements, that quota will be inevitably inflated” reports Callum Roberts, a marine conservation biologist at the University of York in England. “That kind of decision making guarantees the collapse of the population”.

Those who do the most environmental damage to our oceans are the 1st to scream for help.

PLEASE JOIN THE LEATHERBACK TURTLE 1,000 CLUB ©

We ask your help in a most important issue; that of assisting our non profit, public, charity Foundation in its continuing efforts to actually reverse extinction of this magnificent and critically necessary turtle species in our oceans.

In 2009, we finally put together a combination of activities that DOES reverse extinction. We must now gather at least another full season of research so our Marine Biology volunteer scientists can evaluate the information and then disseminate our findings and methods to the World community in plain, easy to understand language.

Because of our research, many of the baby Leatherbacks would *never have seen a star or a sun rise* had we not found simple ways to significantly increase the hatch out percentages and to give life to baby turtles which were already written off as crab food.



YOUR help is needed *right now*. We have applied for many

Grants to also assist. The timing of each award (if we are funded) comes too late to allow us to prepare equipment and train villagers to begin the work on May 1. If a Grant does fund, we then can and will do more. Two hundred dollars pays a villager researcher for one month, including food.

We have established the Leatherback 1,000 Club for this singular purpose. We hope and plea to each who read this appeal, to donate \$100. or more, (tax deductible) to the Foundation – and to contact your friends who also care about preserving the ocean environment to do the same. The Leatherback Turtle is the key, or lynch pin to a healthy sea by keeping expanding jelly fish under control.

IF we are successful we can help put the oceans' relationship back together and save our environment for your children and grandchildren. We are asking your



help to protect the future of our oceans and that of wild fishes we depend upon for food. **PLEASE**

Respectfully,

Larry McKenna, PhD, Founding Director

Web: www.leatherbackturtles.org

Contact: info-saveourleatherbacks@earthlink.net

You can donate by mailing us a check or money order/ bank draft to

Save Our Leatherbacks Operation
4582 East Kingwood Drive, Suite # 143
Kingwood, Texas 77345

OR look on our web site to the pull down-DONATE- and do so via Pay Pal by Credit Card.

Any questions or a need for more information???
Contact us at the above e-mail address.

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Editor's Trip Report

Indonesia is a LONG ways from the U.S. but oh my, it was worth the trip! The “marina” such as it was had a lot of what appeared be mostly homemade boats cobbled together from old boats that were modified for whatever service the owners needed. There was quite a bit of trash in the water. The Raja Ampat Explorer is a large boat, no way to “dock it” so they ferried us from the dock to the boat in the Zodiacs we would be using to get to and from the dive sites for the next 10 days.

Our first day was spent getting to know the boat, stowing our stuff and getting to know the crew. Then we traveled to the Village where we brought things to the villagers and picked up the tribal people that were going to the Turtle Beach with us. Then came the traditional “turtle calling” ceremony.



While waiting to hear the first turtle sighting, we got a call that there was a nest of turtles hatching so we all headed over to see them.

There was a swarm of them! If someone with a light got behind them, they headed away from the water so we were careful to stay on the water side of them.

They followed us all the way to the water. I couldn't believe how small they were – and fast! Then we settled in to wait for an adult to appear.

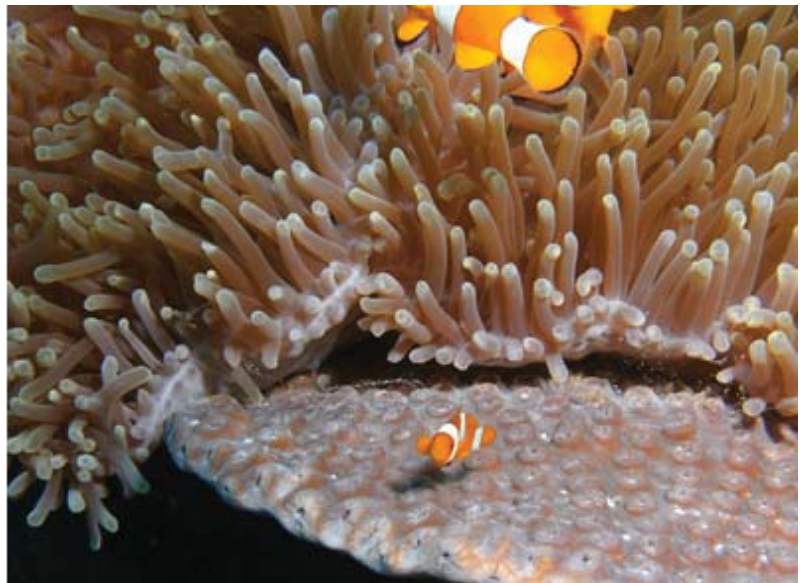


I must admit that while I was excited to see the hatchlings the first night on the beach, I was a little disappointed to not get to see an adult Leatherback nesting. Larry said it was the first time they had been skunked and not seen an adult. The next morning we were told that only two females came ashore – both after 2am and only one laid eggs. Then I found out they didn't see any on the next trip either. I began to realize that NOT seeing an adult was an even bigger event than getting to see one would have been. It just pointed out the seriousness of this situation and made it clear to me how few are left. That realization has made me even more determined to get the word out and do what I can to help S.O.L.O. pull these magnificent animals back from the brink of extinction.

While the beach was the point of this research trip, what followed was some of the best diving I've ever experienced, and I got to see creatures I've only seen in books and on TV. I think there were 28 dives available, I only did 18. Some dives were tranquil and calm – like at Manta Point. No current and we just swam around to see what we could find. Others required the use of a reef hook. Without hooking into the rocks and walls we would have ended up in Australia! I had always wanted to see Nemo in person – and I found him!

The sailing made for nice sleeping. The Captain was amazing. I awoke one morning to find us moored between two small islands. During the night, as we slept, he had parallel parked the 109' Wooden Schooner! What a feat! The 13 man crew was amazing. We were catered to and our every need was attended to.

They even took items from the boat to make a small “village” for us one evening on a beautiful white sand beach Larry named “Red Orchid Beach”. The music was great. The food was amazing and Captain Komodo did a



little fishing from the bridge, landing several large fish that we got to eat within hours of the catch.

Our cabin and dining room attendant was a trained dancer from Bali named Made (MAH-day) Several evenings he wore his traditional garb and on our last night he did a little dancing. It was sad that the 10 day trip had to end – but there’s always next year!

The 2010 trips MAY BE THE LAST - don’t miss your opportunity to see a real live dinosaur - or their babies! Reserve your spot now!



Wawan



Konmang



Putu



Capt Komodo



Agus



Mado



Niko



Abdul



Paul



Tole



Herry

Luis (Leo)

2010 LEATHERBACK EXPEDITIONS OPEN FOR RESERVATIONS

All arrangements for the two Expeditions in CY 2010 are set. Reservations are now being accepted. A full five page description of the trips may be seen in the Foundation web site: www.leatherbackturtles.org Added information may be obtained by an e-mail to us... info-saveourleatherbacks@earthlink.net.

The Expeditions are set for July 20 to 30 and again on August 3 to 13, ex Sorong, Papua, Indonesia. The owners of the high quality live aboard vessel, The MV. Raja Ampat Explorer has held the price line close to that of last year at USD\$2,950.p.p., double occupancy. Those who have been aboard a Grand Komodo vessel in the past will receive a \$100. discount as a "frequent returnee".

At this early offering, we have 6 beds remaining on trip 1 and 6 beds left on trip 2. If you and friends wish to join us, you should do so very soon. A \$500. deposit confirms a bed. These two Expeditions MIGHT be the last of the six year series. If you want the experience of sitting by a Dinosaur and to also dive the best of the best in any international location, these trips are for YOU; but only if you sign up before the available beds are taken.

LEATHERBACK BOUTIQUE NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS



Boutique Logo

When you click on our Foundation web site (www.saveourleatherbacks.org) you will see this logo on the right hand side of the home page. Click on it. Then you will find a wide assortment of gifts for you, family and friends. Most of the gifts are hand made in Indonesia and by our Aboriginal villagers. Prices per item range from \$3 to over \$4,000; orders of \$10 or more will include shipping in USA domestic. Rest assured that these items are exclusive to S.O.L.O. and were made for us to use as a source of Donation funds.

You can pay us by mailing a check or Bank money order OR by Credit Card (Master and Visa) through the Pay Pal link also shown in the web site. We ship (cost of postage and handling is included in the prices shown) when we receive payment. The article(s) will be shipped including a Tax claim certificate. ALL moneys donated are tax deductible. Questions? Ask us by e-mail ...info-saveourleatherbacks@earthlink.net

NANCY BLAUERS JOINS OUR EXCLUSIVE GROUP OF VERY TALENTED ARTISTS



If you have driven through Florida, this license plate shows on thousands of cars. Ever wonder WHO created it???

Meet Nancy Blauers, a very talented artist who lives with husband Greg on their ranch near Geneva, FL. Nancy designed the Manatee plate above.

I met Nancy and Greg walking around at DEMA, 2009 in Orlando. From a distance of about 30 to 40 yards, her amazing, sparkling eyes were compelling to just go say "howdy". From the conversations which ensued, we established a friendship which is lasting. Nancy is an amazing artist in several media applications. When she visited our exhibit (which at times resembles an art gallery with the noted artists donations on display), she quickly asked if SHE could join the displayed ranks of WYLAND, HILLER and ROGEST.



Nancy did not then know that earlier I had visited her web site as a recommendation from a friend. www.blauersart.com I was amazed then at her talent. When she asked IF she could assist the Leatherback cause, there was a ready agreement. At some point between the "then and DEMA 2010" Nancy will show us a most unique creation and donate it to our Foundation to help raise funds. You may see it 1st in a subsequent News Letter and have an opportunity to maybe OWN a "Blauers original".

DEMA 2009; BEST EVENT YET FOR
S.O.L.O.; OUR WORLD UNDERWATER ---
EVEN BETTER

The Dive Equipment Manufacturers Association (DEMA) 2009 exhibits in Orlando, Fl. was an event of mixed blessings. The global recession caused many attendees to not travel to Orlando. Several exhibitors also pulled out due to costs. Exhibitors who in past years were flush with give away items, travel trips and an unending keg of beer after closing hours were scaled back lots. The Aussie ballad...The Pub with NO Beer... came to mind.



Our display toward the back end of the hall experienced a steady stream of visitors; many were returnees with new Leatherback turtle sightings and to share experiences and to pan on participating in future Expeditions to the nesting beaches. One visitor, Bob Mercer of Bob's Sea & Ski; New Bedford, MA. purchased the WYLAND original oil painting of the Leatherback turtle. Others acquired a wide range of Leatherback related gifts for friends and family. Two beach workers hand painted sun hats sold.

When all was tallied, we actually made a profit and had a record number of visitors. Thanks to all who helped. Our hopes are high that the attendees at OWU and BTS will be as supportive. DEMA will be in Las Vegas. We will be there to meet you again.

***** On notice to WYLAND that his original sold for a donation, he quickly replied that he would now provide a new art selection. WYLAND is a terrific supporter and a friend.

S.O.L.O. exhibited for the 3rd year near Chicago (Rosemont, IL). This, unlike DEMA, is a public ev-

ent where kids and pets are allowed to stroll through about 600 exhibits as a respite from the deep freeze outside. This weekend is a family event of those interested in diving and it's off shoot products. Many attendees came by wearing their Leatherback shirts and hats to pause and renew friendships, as an extended family.

More people attended our updated presentations than at any other previous event. Very gratifying as many asked probing questions as to our exciting progress. This exhibit is one S.O.L.O. will continue to appear as long as they invite us. When all the action was tallied, our Foundation even posted a small profit. Thank You Chicago. We will be there in 2011. Our thanks to Captain Randy Weiderman of the B.A.D. Dive club for helping us man the exhibit at critical times.

A DONATION FROM 

A few weeks ago, we were surprised to receive a check to the Foundation for \$16. which represented purchases by some who are aware of our project and decided to help by shopping on line via either www.goodsearch.com or www.goodshop.com. They are linked to over 1,300 top quality shopping places from Amazon to Staples. More can be learned about how they provide a portion of the profits to some 85,000 nonprofits, including us by checking either web site. PLEASE consider logging in with GoodSearch or GoodShop and listing S.O.L.O. as a recipient. If you do, then maybe in 2010 their donation gift thanks to YOU will be larger.

**TEEN AGE VOLUNTEER DESIGNS A
LEATHERBACK LOGO**

Justin Howard, a 12th grader student in Ipeka International Christian School, Jakarta, Indonesia is a young man with a decided future in science, perhaps as a Marine Biologist. He contacted S.O.L.O. two years ago to inquire of the Leatherback crisis and to gain knowledge. Along the way Justin and his family have become quite supportive of our objectives. Justin created this design. We will meet with our printers to see how best we can use his art to further awareness of the extinction crisis. THANKS, JUSTIN!!! Please encourage in your peer groups to also assist us.



A SALUTE TO PETER & GUINED SYMES OF COPENHAGEN

We are most fortunate to have the assistances of an internet magazine dedicated to international diving enthusiasts and severe environmental issues. X-Ray Magazine (www.x-raymagazine.com), Owned and created by Peter and Guined Symes of Copenhagen, Denmark. The gem of an idea to create X-Ray Magazine evolved from Peter's highly active and creative genius in a back room of their home. Now, it has moved to the front room. X-Ray is challenging the space of the entire home.

We 1st met in Chicago during the 2009 Our World Underwater exhibit. Peter took an immediate interest in our Foundation goals and objectives. Since then, X-Ray has become an easy decision to be our "Publisher of Choice" for news releases, articles and issues of global environmental concern.

The X-Ray Magazine circulation, because of strong reader interest has expanded to be the largest dive related magazine within the industry, topping over 250,000 monthly readers with more ad copy requests than space permits. The lay outs and colors of the articles present a unique combination to present. The print media can not duplicate their "patented" methods of the almost 3 dimension display of photos.

Thank you, Peter & Guined for such continuing strong support. (The photo is of Peter while meditating)



Editor's Corner: Liz Logan

Larry has asked me to write something in each issue and this issue I was honored to be able to write the trip report. It starts on Page 4 of this issue. Please pass the word about these magnificent animals and help us get some support. Dive photos in the gallery at www.followliz.com under Raja Ampat. Many thanks to my best spotter Roland St. John!

Contact Liz with your comments and suggestions on our News Letter activities. travel@followliz.com



Where's my Leatherback??

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