



# "On Effort"

Newsletter  
June 2011

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Volunteers-Special Events

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

## FROM THE HELM

Ahoy there Crew!

In the last newsletter I referred to the weather warming up.... what an understatement!!!

We've had very busy spring with Education Outreach. Thanks to Don Bender and his Atlanta crew TDP is expanding the EDU program inland. We have several more programs to deliver this summer including joining the GA-DNR on Tybee for their one of their "Beach Week" sessions on June 28th. We could still use some volunteers so contact me if you can help.

Dr. Eric Montie is looking for TDP members with survey experience to help him with his dolphin acoustic research in the HHI area this summer. If you have time for this exciting opportunity, see the article within.

Mark your calendars for the quarterly dinner at Johnny Harris Banquet Hall on July 23rd. Dr. Bill Savidge from the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography will be speaking on "How Salt Marshes Work". Our salt marshes are the birthing ground for life in the Atlantic Ocean and protect our coast. I'm looking forward to learning more about how valuable they are to all of us. Details about the dinner, menu and speaker are noted within this newsletter. Don't forget to sign up for the survey that day too.

Sorry - no pictures in this issue. I'm composing this from Wisconsin. I hope to get recent photos on the website when I return home.

Stay cool!,  
Peach  
gadolphin@comcast.net

Comments? Ideas? Critiques? We're open to it all:  
[info@thedolphinproject.org](mailto:info@thedolphinproject.org)

## Donate Travel Points to TDP...

The Dolphin Project will be sending one or two Board members to the **19<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Biology of Marine Mammals**. ...an international symposium that will be in Tampa in November 11/26 – 12/2. It is held in countries all over the world. Last time it was in Montreal. Next time it will be in South America. It is only held in the U.S. every 5 years or so. TDP has never sent a representative to the Biennial before. Having it in Tampa is a HUGE opportunity for TDP to learn more about dolphins and meet renown researchers in order to enhance our Training and Education Outreach programs. We are able to share a ride with Dr. Tara Cox of Savannah State to minimize cost. To help defray further expenses, we are looking for donations of travel points. The event will be held at the Tampa Convention Center. Lodging will be at the adjacent Marriott Tampa Waterside Hotel & Marina. **We are asking our members for a donation of travel points that could be used to defray the cost of the Marriott Hotel.** If any of you would like to donate your points to TDP, please contact Peach. We can provide a document noting your donation.

## SEAMAMMS 2011 ...

Peach Hubbard and Gayla Jones attended the annual SEAMAMMS conference held at Coastal Carolina University in Conway SC, April 1-3rd. It was a wonderful conference, CCU is a charming campus and they were great hosts. CCU has the largest undergraduate marine science program on the East coast. It was good to see Dr. Rob Young, head of CCU's Marine Science Department and his student Adam Fox again. They graciously shared their mudding video with TDP last year which has been a huge hit for our training and EDU programs. It was also good to rekindle our friendship and talk with Charlie Potter of the Smithsonian Institute—who has offered TDP a dolphin skeleton! At SEMAMMS, university students give oral and poster presentations about their research. These students range from bachelor to post-doctorate degrees.

TDP friend Brian Balmer gave an oral presentation on his research in Brunswick—"Seasonal abundance, site-fidelity, habitat use, and ranging patterns of bottlenose dolphins along the southern coast of Georgia, U.S.A." We hope to have Brian speak at one of our future dinners to update us on his Brunswick-Sapelo research.

Several Savannah State students gave oral presentations, including Robin Perrtree who spoke at our May Dinner about her study: "Spatial distribution of begging behavior by common bottlenose dolphins in the waterways of Savannah, Georgia."

Sabrina Bowen (SSU): "Foraging behaviors of bottlenose dolphins near Savannah, Georgia"

Kelli Edwards (SSU): "Composition of bacterial communities from the spleen of stranded bottlenose dolphins from the Atlantic Coast of the United States". Kelli was given an award for her program. She delighted us with her humor and personality, especially during the award presentation.

C.Kovaks (SSU): "Interactions between bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) and shrimp trawlers in Savannah, Georgia"

Other interesting programs included:

- A Characterization of Bottlenose Dolphin Interactions with the Commercial Shrimp Trawl Fishery of South Carolina,

## SEAMAMMS continued...

- There's an app for that—smartphone software for estimating the total length of Bottlenose dolphins.
- “Locomotor muscle of cetaceans-A comparison of deep vs shallow divers
- Association patterns and long-term strand-feeding behavior of dolphins in a South Carolina salt marsh
- Foraging interactions between birds and strand-feeding bottlenose dolphins in a South Carolina salt marsh

Some presentations are chemically technical IE: “The lipid and fatty acid composition of cetacean blow”, Quantifying the rate of fission-fusion in Bottlenose dolphins.

We also learned about new research on the pygmy sperm whale, Florida manatees, Hawaiian Monk Seals and neonate Right Whales.

For more detail information about the presentations, go to:  
<http://bccmws.coastal.edu/stranding/seamamms/schedule.pdf>

SEAMAMMS rotates venues annually. Next year it will be held at NOVA SouthEastern University in central Florida. Dr. Tara Cox has volunteered Savannah State University as the host for 2013. The Dolphin Project will offer our assistance.

## SAVOXX

Speaking of offering assistance... The Dolphin Project has been asked to participate in the **Savannah Ocean Exchange** to be held 9/7-8/2011. It is an international organization started by NOAA to garner new ideas to help save the ocean. They are meeting in Savannah and the winner with the best idea will get \$100,000 from Gulfstream. They get representation from all over the world at the meeting. On September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> they want a public outreach on Tybee and have invited TDP to participate. Mark your calendars to volunteer. The SAVOXX schedule is still being organizes and there may also be other participation opps for us during this event. This is another wonderful opportunity for TDP to gain recognition in the international marine science community and do local education outreach as well.

For more information about the Savannah Ocean Exchange go to:  
<http://www.savannahoceanexchange.org/>

## i-GIVE

**i-GIVE** is a web site that when you buy online and go thru **i-GIVE** there is a percentage of the cost of the purchase that will be donated to the Dolphin Project if you designate that to be your cause. It is a very easy way for TDP to get additional funding. TDP gets \$5 just for signing on and another \$5 for the first time you actually use it. What an easy way to help TDP! The list of participating companies is quite lengthy. You register and then when you are interested in buying something online, go to the **i-GIVE** website and click on the store and purchase that way. A percentage of your purchase will then be donated to TDP. Please check into it and inform your friends. This could turn out to be a beneficial fundraiser for The Dolphin Project with everyone participating.

## Acoustic Research on dolphins...

Dr. Eric Montie of South Carolina University-Bluffton will be studying the acoustics of the estuarine Bottlenose dolphins in the Bluffton-Hilton Head area this summer. If any **survey-experienced TDP members** are interested in helping him, please email him: **emontie@uscb.edu** ...In the subject line, type in: **The Dolphin Project-volunteer/acoustic study**. This is a great opportunity for TDP members to contribute to dolphin research in an aspect other than photo-ID.

FYI: Dr. Montie was scheduled to speak at our May dinner but was delayed in Florida setting up acoustic equipment there. He has promised to speak at our October dinner and give us an update on his research.

## Captive dolphins

The Dolphin Project is often asked for its opinion on captive dolphins. At the Board meeting in May, the TDP Board discussed the subject, composed and approved a statement to use as needed. We will post it on our website....

**“The Dolphin Project protects wild dolphins and their environment. There is no way for man to duplicate the natural environment and behavior of wild dolphins in captivity”.**

This will now be the official TDP stance on captive dolphins. Of course anyone can have their personal opinion and may expound on it but if you do, please do not represent yourself as a representative of The Dolphin Project

## TDP Internship

Many high school juniors and seniors (and/or their mothers) have contacted TDP over recent years to see if they can get involved in TDP. Some of these students have already paid to be “apprentice trainers” at places like SeaWorld and the Marine Mammal Center in the Keys. These kids feed captive dolphins and pay for the privilege. We need students learning about wild dolphins, not captive dolphins.

The TDP Board has approved an Internship Program for High School Seniors and Juniors. Before implementing the program TDP will need to obtain a grant to fund the program. Ideally we would like to start the internships in the fall of 2011. The costs include Team Leader kits, fuel and boat lift fees, certificates, misc postage and reproduction costs. If you know of a potential grant source, please let Peach know about it.

If anyone would like to chair the Internship Committee, please contact Peach (gadolphin@comcast.net)

Some of the features would be as follows:

- Students (**and ‘optional’ parent**) must attend a training session
- Parent must sign agreement to allow child to participate in program

## Internships continued....

- Wavers would have to be signed by the student and parents to be on the boats.
- Students would submit a paper – a proposal as to why they want to do this. If we get a large number, we could have a small committee to review and choose from the papers who would be eligible. Seniors would have priority.
- TDP would provide a (volunteer) boat large enough to hold 4-6 students plus the skipper and one experienced TL and Photographer. The students would go out for one day just like a regular survey but not on a survey date.
- Each student would use a TL kit to record the events.
- Students could bring cameras to use although we would have to provide the camera cards or film.
- Interns would have a follow-up meeting to review the sightings and photos.
- A report would be submitted by each intern to TDP about their experience.
- Interns would be required to help at one or more outreach festival.
- This 'internship' could be conducted 3 times a year.

TDP would promote this internship program through the schools, newspapers, radio and the Environmental Educators website.

At SEAMAMMS, the NOAA permit folks were approached about this idea and they saw no problem with it; that it would link to our present permit.

This is an exciting addition to our Education Outreach program. It's hands-on science for students. This program can serve to enhance the resumes of college applicants. We look forward to implementing this program as soon as funding is achieved. If anyone has an ideas to add to the internship program or would like to help, please contact Peach or Gayla.

## Bottlenose Boutique

The Bottlenose Boutique is streamlining it's inventory. You can't please all the people all the time. We often get suggestions of items to sell, but due to the minimum order requirements and multiple sizes needed, it's often difficult to please everyone. We are focusing on caps, shirts and books which are always in demand. Thanks to TDP member Linda Porras of Premier Embroidery in the Atlanta we are now able to secure TDP caps with our logo on the front and our website printed on the back for a reasonable price. TDP has great colors available. Come to our July dinner to check out the Bottlenose Boutique.

## Reminders...

- Register for the July 23rd survey
- Renew TDP membership
- Invite your friends to training...Savannah - July 15th....Atlanta - June 18th
- Make your reservations for the July 23rd dinner-social at Johnny Harris

# JULY DINNER-MEETING...

We're having a change of date and venue for our quarterly dinner-meeting. Our Dinner-meeting will be held on **JULY 23, 2011** in a private banquet room at **JOHNNY HARRIS RESTAURANT** on Victory Drive in Savannah.

A fixed price buffet will be served and reservation are required to insure a minimum attendance requirement.

Come socialize around 6:30pm, dinner at 7:00pm, speaker around 8:00pm

## MENU

Salad Bar

Low Country Buffet Boil: Steamed Shrimp, corn, sausage, new potatoes (cooked separately)

Savannah red rice

Fried Chicken

Pecan Pie, Banana Pudding

Coffee & Iced Tea included

Cash Bar

**\$26.00 per person includes tax and tip**

The seafood is local. We will have the banquet room all to ourselves, so external noise will not impose upon our conversations, guests and speaker. Guests are always invited. Directions to the restaurant will be posted on our website.

Please make your reservation by making your check to The Dolphin Project and mail it to

**TDP Dinner c/o Dolores Engle, 621 East 51st Street, Savannah, GA 31405**

**RSVP deadline: May 14, 2011**

Don't wait until the last minute to RSVP. Space is limited.

Our speaker for the evening will be Dr. Bill Savidge of Skidaway Institute of Oceanography who will speak to us on "How Salt Marshes Work". Salt marshes not only protect our coast from hurricanes, they are the birthing ground of the Atlantic Ocean

Ph.D Chemical Oceanography, North Carolina State University; M.S. Biological Oceanography, Oregon State University  
B.S. Zoology, Duke University

## CURRENT WORK:

- >Partitioning of organic inputs among organic and mineral phases during early diagenesis. American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund.
- >Collaborative Research: Interactions Among Deposit-Feeding, Organic Matter Diagenesis and Animal Nutrition. NSF Chemical Oceanography (with Tamara Pease, UT-Brownsville).
- >Benthic Observatory and Technology Testbed on the Mid Shelf – Understanding Processes. NSF OTIC. (with D Savidge, J Nelson, R Jahnke, A Gargett [ODU], G Voulgaris [SC], T Short [SRI]).
- >Effects of canal discharge on oxygen cycles on marsh platforms and its potential consequences for nekton use of marsh habitat. NOAA Coastal Incentive Grant. (with J Blanton).
- >Funds in support of geochemistry symposium. Geochemical Society
- >Symposium: Unknown Knowns and Known Unknowns, Chemical Oceanography in a Changing World. NSF Chemical Oceanography (with Jay Brandes)
- >MRI: Acquisition of an Isotope-Ratio Mass Spectrometer Facility for East Georgia. NSF MRI (with Jay Brandes, S Wakeham, M Frischer)
- >FSML: Acquisition of Controlled Environmental Spaces for Skidaway Institute of Oceanography. NSF FSML. (with J Sanders).