

Island Review May 2022 Article written by Liz Cox and Valerie Rohrig

The DNA from our 2021 turtles has been identified. We had 17 unique females lay the 26 nests on our beach last summer. Three of those females laid 12 of our nests. Of those seventeen females we saw 6 new turtles added to the DNA database. Having new females added each year is positive and shows that more turtles are making it to the gulf stream after hatching. Our nest hatch rate was near 70% and there were 2084 hatched eggs on our beach. We are using our DNA data to track the females that lay nests on Emerald Isle. Many of the females that lay here are laying nests on surrounding beaches and even as far away as GA and FL.

EISTP had mandatory Volunteer Training sessions in late March and early to mid April. The sessions covered topics from turtle species, protection, walking/looking for tracks, our Code of Conduct, DNA information and lots more.

We are pleased and amazed that over 400 people signed up to volunteer this season! It was fun to see the excitement in the room at the Volunteer training sessions. At one of the training sessions one of the new volunteers, Kisha Williams, really got into the turtle spirit with her turtle hat!

Thru the years, visitors to Emerald Isle have asked about buying EISTP t-shirts. We now sell t-shirts that anyone can buy. Our thanks to ACE HARDWARE, in the Emerald Plantation Shopping Center, for stocking and selling these tie dyed shirts for our program! We also want to give a big thank you to LeVerne and Pete Dodson for keeping the shirts at Ace Hardware supplied for us AND for modeling the shirts in the photo below. Sizes range from Child's Small - Adult 3X. Please understand these shirts are souvenirs and not volunteer shirts!! State law doesn't permit visitors inside the trenched area of a nest.

"Tuesday Are For Turtles" is a children's book written by Tom Gill who also happens to be one of our volunteers. He wrote the book several years ago for his grand daughter Maddy. Since then, Tom has completed books for the rest of the week in series entitled: Maddy's Week at the Beach. "Mondays Are For Mermaids", "Wednesdays Are For Whales", "Thursdays Are For Thunderstorms", "Fridays Are For Fish", "Saturdays Are For Seashells" and "Sundays Are For Sand Sculptures".

Maddy's Week at the Beach books can be purchased at Emerald Isle Books and Games

We look forward to the beginning of our walking season on May 1, 2022. Various walkers will cover a total of 13 miles each morning, with different walkers assigned each day. When you see one of our volunteers walking early in the morning (usually wearing an Emerald Isle Sea Turtle Patrol t-shirt) please feel free to greet them and ask them any questions you might have. We LOVE to talk turtle!

Visit us on our webpage: eiseaturtlepatrol.org
or on our Facebook page: Emerald Isle Sea Turtle Patrol

AS ALWAYS. **PLEASE** leave nothing behind in the sand but your footprints.