

Jekyll Island

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Georgia Sea Turtle Center to Release Two Loggerhead Turtles *Two cold-stunned sea turtles to be released off Tybee Island*

Jekyll Island, GA – April 23, 2009 –The Georgia Sea Turtle Center on Jekyll Island will release two rehabilitated loggerhead sea turtles, Snowball and Blizzard, off the coast of Tybee Island, GA on Saturday, April 25. The release will be held in conjunction with the 5th Annual Tybee Turtle Trot hosted by the Tybee Island Marine Science Center.

Both Snowball and Blizzard were part of a cold stunning event off the North Carolina coast. Cold-stunned sea turtles become comatose due to a sudden drop in their environmental water temperature, called cold-stunning. Sea turtles, like other reptiles, are ectothermic, or “cold blooded”. For this reason, all of their bodily functions shut down when water temperatures fall below 50° F. They often also contract secondary problems such as fungal pneumonia and bone infections. Snowball and Blizzard arrived at the Georgia Sea Turtle Center on Jekyll Island on November 26, 2008 and were slowly warmed, re-nourished, and treated with antibiotics and other medications. Now back to a healthy condition, the turtles are ready for release back into the ocean.

The public is invited to attend and observe the release which is set for 10:00 AM near the Tybee Island Marine Science Center. For more information on the release and the Tybee Turtle Trot event visit tybeeturtletrot.net. For more information on the Georgia Sea Turtle Center on Jekyll Island visit georgiaseaturtlecenter.org or jekyllisland.com.

About the Georgia Sea Turtle Center

The Georgia Sea Turtle Center on Jekyll Island is an operating department of the Jekyll Island Authority and receives financial contributions through the Jekyll Island Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The Georgia Sea Turtle Center officially opened June 2007 in Jekyll Island, Ga.'s National Historic Landmark District on the site of the original 1903 Power Plant building, much of which has been preserved and incorporated into the new facilities. The ambitious, \$3 million center – offering an outstanding museum-style learning experience and a state-of-the-art rehabilitation center and veterinary clinic, is the first of its kind in Georgia and is one of the world's leading sea turtle rehabilitation, research and education facilities. For more information about the Georgia Sea Turtle Center and its programs, visit www.georgiaseaturtlecenter.org.

About Jekyll Island

Jekyll Island is a barrier island on Georgia's coast – midway between Jacksonville, Fla. and Savannah, Ga. Accessible by car just minutes from I-95, Jekyll Island offers a variety of amenities, including 10 miles of beach, four golf courses, a 250-acre Historic Landmark District, water park, tennis center, an array of lodging options including hotels, cottages and campgrounds. Owned by the State of Georgia, and

managed by the Jekyll Island State Park Authority, Jekyll Island has had development limited to just 35 percent of its available land area. This unique aspect of Jekyll Island serves to preserve the critical barrier island ecosystem, and provide guests with a unique escape from the crowds and complications of other beach resort destinations. The Jekyll Island Foundation is a public 501 (c) 3 organization which operates exclusively for charitable and educational purposes to support the work of the Jekyll Island Authority by assisting in the preservation, conservation and appreciation of Jekyll Island. Please visit www.jekyllisland.com for more information or call 1-877-4JEKYLL.