

# Jekyll Island

[www.jekyllisland.com](http://www.jekyllisland.com)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Beth Burnsed, Event Marketing Coordinator  
Jekyll Island Authority  
[bburnsed@jekyllisland.com](mailto:bburnsed@jekyllisland.com) <> 912-635-4189

## **Jekyll Island Celebrates the Spring Season with the First Annual Mother Nature Festival**

*Festival highlights outdoor activities while encouraging eco-friendly behavior.*

**Jekyll Island, GA –March 25, 2009** - Celebrate Spring on Jekyll Island with the first annual Jekyll Island Mother Nature Festival on Saturday, April 18, 2009. The festival boasts numerous activities for families to enjoy the outdoors and explore Jekyll Island while being green-conscious.

"Jekyll Island is an environmentally rich vacation destination with numerous amenities that allow our guests to get an up-close, non-invasive look at the eco-systems that make our island unique," said Beth Burnsed, Event Marketing Coordinator for the Jekyll Island Authority. "The Mother Nature Festival showcases those amenities while educating children and their parents on how to be more eco-friendly."

The Georgia Sea Turtle Center is the main hub of event festivities. From 10 AM – 4 PM, the Center will host an eco-friendly exhibitor area, eco-craft zone, outdoor entertainment and silent auction. In the exhibitor area, environmental organizations, artists, and shops will exhibit their eco-conscious and nature-related wares. Simultaneously, in the children's eco-craft zone, kids can practice being environmentally friendly by making recycled-art projects while learning about Sea Turtles and their habitat.

Other activities include a Family Fishing Day sponsored by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, an Eco-Book Fair at Jekyll Books, a kite buggy demonstration on the beach, and a herpetology session at Tidelands Nature Center. All of these events are free and open to the public.

For added adventure, families can choose from a variety guided excursions. Tours include Helicopter Rides, Dolphin Tours, Eco-Tours, Off-Shore Fishing, Kayaking, Bird Rambles, Beach Ecology Walks and Horseback Riding. Advanced registration for the above excursions is highly recommended.

As an eco-friendly incentive, the Jekyll Island parking fee will be waived on April 18 for all guests driving a hybrid vehicle to the festival. For more information on all Mother Nature Festival activities and excursions visit [www.jekyllisland.com/mothernaturefestival](http://www.jekyllisland.com/mothernaturefestival) or call 1-877-4JEKYLL. Get regular updates on the festival by being a fan of the Jekyll Island Mother Nature Festival on Facebook.com

---

### **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](http://www.jekyllisland.com) for more information or call 1-877-4JEKYLL.

### **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 the world's leading sea turtle rehabilitation, research and education facility. For more information about the Georgia Sea Turtle Center and its programs, visit [www.georgiaseaturtlecenter.org](http://www.georgiaseaturtlecenter.org).