

For Immediate Release

Contact: Sharon Kraun
Cohn, Overstreet & Parrish
404-961-2242 – skraun@co-p.com

'Georgia' Arrives at Georgia Sea Turtle Center

Rescued sea turtle arrives Mother's Day

Jekyll Island, Ga. (May 17, 2007) – The Georgia Sea Turtle Center on Jekyll Island received an unexpected first patient on Mother's Day. Named "Georgia," the sea turtle was found by boaters in waters near Blackbeard Island. Georgia was delivered to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and later transferred to the Georgia Sea Turtle Center (GSTC).

According to GSTC officials, Georgia was critically injured after being run over by a boat. The turtle has 5 deep propeller wounds and x-rays show fractures in at least 10 of the bones in her left flipper.

"The mission of the Georgia Sea Turtle Center is to protect sea turtles and other marine animals through rehabilitation, research, and education," said Dr. Bill Irwin, Director of the GSTC. "While we are saddened to see Georgia with such severe injuries, we are pleased that the Center is here and able to provide the critical care Georgia needs."

While the Georgia Sea Turtle Center does not officially open until June 16, 2007, Georgia will have company. On May 15th, Dylan, a loggerhead sea turtle, joined Georgia at the Georgia Sea Turtle Center following a stay at the Georgia Aquarium. The 7-year-old sea turtle was a straggler hatchling found on Jekyll Island. After outgrowing the tanks at the Tidelands Nature Center on Jekyll, Dylan was transferred to the Aquarium. Over the coming weeks, the GSTC staff will wean Dylan off of hand feeding, and will make sure the sea turtle is able to detect, pursue and capture live prey items on his own. Dylan is expected to be released back into the ocean this summer.

Visitors to Jekyll Island will be able to preview the Georgia Sea Turtle Center during Jekyll Island's Sixth Annual Family Weekend June 15-17th. The weekend's activities will include a

private tour and celebration of the Georgia Sea Turtle Center as well as a variety of family activities around Jekyll Island.

For more information about Jekyll Island and the Georgia Sea Turtle Center, visit online at www.jekyllisland.com and www.georgiaseaturtlecenter.org. A blog has also been created chronicling activities at the GSTC and can be viewed at <http://gstc.blogspot.com>.

About the Georgia Sea Turtle Center

The Georgia Sea Turtle Center officially broke ground in Jekyll Island, Ga.'s Historic Landmark District in early 2006 on the site of the original 1903 Power Plant building, much of which will be preserved and incorporated into the new facilities. The ambitious, \$2.6 million center – offering an outstanding, museum-style learning experience and a state-of-the-art rehabilitation center and veterinary clinic – will be the first of its kind in Georgia. The Center will officially open this summer. For more information about the Georgia Sea Turtle Center and related 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, as well as provides guests with a unique escape from the crowds and complications of other beach resort destinations. Please visit www.jekyllisland.com for more information or call 1-877-4JEKYLL.

About the Jekyll Island Foundation

The Jekyll Island Foundation is a tax exempt, public, non-profit that offers participatory opportunities in planned giving, private donation, legislative education, corporate support, and philanthropic foundation support. The Foundation serves to raise, receive, manage and disburse funds for the stewardship of the historic and natural resources of Jekyll Island. This stewardship includes preservation and improvement of historic sites, conservation of the undeveloped portion of the island and development and improvement of amenities for visitors to the island. The Jekyll Island Foundation's current project is a major capital campaign to help fund the construction of the Georgia Sea Turtle Center. Activities include the Georgia Sea Turtle Center "Walkway to Wonder" program, where personalized bricks can be purchased for \$50 and placed permanently in the walkway outside the Center. For additional information on the Jekyll Island Foundation or to learn more about the "Walkway to Wonder" commemorative brick program, please visit www.JekyllIslandFoundation.org or call (912) 635-4402. The Foundation office is located in Villa Ospo at 381 Riverview Drive, Jekyll Island, Ga., 31527.

