

# News Splash

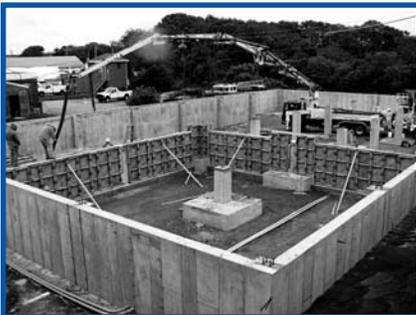
The National Marine Life Center Newsletter © www.nmlc.org © Vol. 13, No. 1, Fall, 2009

## Our Dreams Set In Concrete

On March 20th, workers began pouring the concrete foundation of the National Marine Life Center's new marine animal hospital. With the rumble of the concrete mixer against a cement-gray sky, NMLC's dream of building an animal hospital on Cape Cod began to be realized!

Foundation work continued for three months as workers laid the support structure necessary for this type of construction in a flood zone. In July, steel beams arose above Main Street providing the framework for the hospital building. In August, walls and roof panels were added. In September, walls and roof were insulated and concrete floors were poured. In October, we added the Extech® façade. Now in November we are completing the necessary plumbing and electrical work to open our new sea turtle ward.

The hospital was designed by cosestudi (Rochester, MA). W.W. Reich, Inc. (Mashpee, MA) is our general contractor. Visit [www.nmlc.org](http://www.nmlc.org) for the latest building progress!



*Above: pouring footings  
Left: pouring the foundation wall  
Middle: erecting the frame  
Right: installing walls  
Bottom Left: finishing the concrete floor  
Bottom Right: installing Extech® façade*



### Inside This Issue

Message from the President .....	2
Join the Conversation.....	2
Under the Microscope .....	3
Mermaid Ball Thank You.....	3
Wish List .....	3
Volunteer Spotlight.....	3
Animal Updates.....	4



Printed on recycled paper.  
Please recycle!



P.O. Box 269, 120 Main Street  
 Buzzards Bay, MA 02532-0269  
 phone 508.743.9888  
 fax 508.759.5477  
 www.nmlc.org, nmlc@nmlc.org

### Mission Statement

*Dedicated to rehabilitating for release stranded sea turtles, seals, dolphins, porpoises, and small whales, and to advancing scientific knowledge and education in marine wildlife health and conservation.*

### Board of Trustees

*Chair:* Sean Randall  
*Vice Chair:* Robert Brennan  
*Treasurer:* Jeffrey Luce  
*Clerk:* Lauren Freed  
*Members:*  
 Kevin Farr  
 Rita Pacheco  
 Michael Ryer, D.V.M.  
 Linda Sandhu  
 Joy Surprenant

### Founding Chairs

Elizabeth S. Hornor  
 Townsend Hornor

### Staff

Bridget Dunnigan, D.V.M.  
*Associate Veterinarian*  
 Brian Moore,  
*Animal Care & Facilities Coordinator*  
 Joanne Nicholson,  
*Exec. Asst. & Outreach Coordinator*  
 Sea Rogers Williams, V.M.D.,  
*Science Director & Assoc. Veterinarian*  
 Kathy Zagzebski,  
*President & Executive Director*

## Message From the President

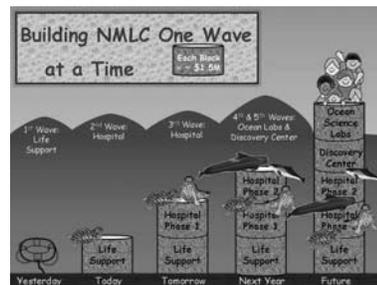
*By Kathryn A. Zagzebski*

We have a dance in the office we call the concrete mixer dance. It involves arms outstretched with asynchronous gyrations of lower and upper body. It's not particularly skillful, but it is joyous!

Over the past several months, I've witnessed with great excitement our founders' dreams of a new marine animal hospital becoming a reality. Each step of construction from prepping the foundation to pouring concrete to erecting the frame to installing walls to adding plumbing and electricity to last week's marvel of putting up the translucent Extech® façade has been an event to celebrate. As we stand on the verge of welcoming our first marine animal patient to our new hospital, I can't help but feel grateful to those whose support brought us this far.

We still have a long way to go to complete our vision. NMLC's project is being completed in discrete phases we call "waves" so we can deliver critical capacity as quickly and sustainably as possible. We completed the first wave last year with our new Life Support System Building. This second wave completes the hospital structure, critical infrastructure, and the first medical ward which can house sea turtles or seals. We are embarking on capital fundraising for the third wave to add pools for dolphins and pilot whales, a seal ICU ward, and additional program space.

Please join us on this journey with your gift of support today. Together, we will save marine animals, advance conservation science, and inspire conservation for generations to come. Thank you!



## Join the Conversation

NMLC has a new website! Designed by Penguin Digital Designs using a WordPress platform, the site allows for real-time updates as well as feedback and comments from our virtual visitors. Visit [www.nmlc.org](http://www.nmlc.org) and let us know what you think!

Have updates delivered right to your Inbox! Subscribe to "E-Splash", NMLC's electronic newsletter for monthly updates, breaking news stories, and invitations to special events. Sign up at [www.nmlc.org](http://www.nmlc.org).

Friend us on Facebook! Follow our Tweets on Twitter! View our Videos on YouTube! Meet up with us on MySpace! Let's connect on LinkedIn! You can find the latest news, information, photos, and videos about the National Marine Life Center on all these websites. Simply log in to your account and search for "National Marine Life Center." Or, for a direct link, visit [www.nmlc.org](http://www.nmlc.org) and scroll down to "Connect".



# Under the Microscope

By Dr. Sea Rogers Williams, V.M.D, Science Director & Associate Veterinarian

The new research equipment made possible by a donation from Entergy® has been put to use to document two parasites collected from a leatherback sea turtle that stranded on Martha's Vineyard in January, 2008. A report on this animal's death - likely caused by being struck in the head with a boat propeller when the endangered turtle surfaced to breathe - is finally complete. Case studies with gross pathology, histopathology, and supporting laboratory studies - in this case involving CT - can take a year to complete. I worked closely with Drs. Innis and Hirokawa of the New England Aquarium on the gross necropsy of this animal. Dr. Ketten of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution provided the CT analysis of the head, and Dr. Frasca and graduate student A. Nyaoke from the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory provided the histopathology. I took the lead on the gross necropsy and CT of the head and provided the parasite identifications.



Above: Dr. Williams and veterinarians from the New England Aquarium prepare to necropsy the stranded leatherback.

Another Vineyard animal provided parasites for examination at NMLC. This was a first year Northern gannet that was rescued from the beach, evaluated at the Vineyard Veterinary Clinic and flown to the Cape Wildlife Center for rehabilitation. The bird had neurologic impairment, no obvious signs of external trauma, and was swarming with lice. Northern gannets are common sea birds in our area but are seldom presented as "stranded" on the Island. Fortunately, bird lice tend to be host species specific so I don't think I brought any home with me!



Left: Lice found on a rescued Northern Gannet.

## Mermaid Ball ~ Thank You ~

Thanks to the following sponsors, NMLC's 2009 Mermaid Ball celebration was our most successful fundraiser to date!

- Luke's Super Liquors (\$5000)
- Business Solutions (\$500)
- Pesce Engineering, Inc. (\$500)
- W.W. Reich, Inc. (\$500)
- All Cape Recycling Inc. (\$250)
- All Cape Container Inc. (\$250)
- Jeff Luce (\$250)
- R & H Construction (\$250)
- Simmons Concrete (\$250)
- TD Bank, Buzzards Bay (\$250)
- Cape Cod Times
- Massachusetts Maritime Academy
- Beachmoor Inn & Restaurant
- Image & Mail Factory
- Pairpoint Glass
- Michelle Bosch Photography
- Paul McAlduff Photography
- Olson's Garden Center
- Comcast
- Brianne Hayden

## Volunteer Spotlight on... Kyle Nicholson

A "Jack of all Trades," Kyle Nicholson has been invaluable



to NMLC for many years. He's volunteered for everything from cooking at volunteer appreciation barbecues to checking out guests at the Mermaid Ball to wiring the phone system to assisting with fairs and festivals. Kyle's greatest efforts, though, have been in maintaining NMLC's computer network. With his technological expertise, Kyle spends a great deal of his free time keeping our server up and running. When we have computer, printer, or server questions, Kyle is just a phone call away and quickly responds to our requests. Over the years, Kyle has saved NMLC tens of thousands of dollars in network services.

**Thank you Kyle!**

## Wish List

### We urgently need for education:

- ~ glue, glue sticks, & rubber cement
- ~ construction paper
- ~ tempura paint

### We can always use:

- ~ Latex & latex substitute exam gloves
- ~ Medical supplies (unused, in-date)
- ~ Stethoscopes (new or gently used)
- ~ Laundry detergent & bleach (unopened)
- ~ Trash bags (all sizes, recycled plastic)
- ~ Copy machine paper (recycled)
- ~ Office supplies

### For our new hospital, we need:

- ~ Autoclave to sterilize surgical tools
- ~ Portable ultrasound machine
- ~ Digital x-ray processor
- ~ A low-temperature "minus 80" freezer

### Volunteers needed to help with:

- ~ Data entry and filing
- ~ Education programs
- ~ Headstart turtle care

For more "Wish List" items, please visit our website at [www.nmlc.org](http://www.nmlc.org) and click on "How You Can Help." To donate, contact Brian or Joanne at (508) 743-9888 or [nmlc@nmlc.org](mailto:nmlc@nmlc.org). Thank you!

## Animal News

**Patty** is an adult female diamondback terrapin, an endangered species of turtle that lives in salt marshes. She was found on St. Patrick's Day suffering from severe cold-stunning, paralyzed, and bleeding from her eyes and mouth. Don "the Turtle Guy" Lewis, terrapin researcher, brought Patty to the National Marine Life Center. Her eyes have healed and she can once again walk, although she still lacks the ability to swim.



She has a severe shell infection which we are treating with antibiotics. We hope Patty will recover so she can be released back into the wild!

**Eight red-bellied cooter hatchlings** recently arrived at NMLC. An endangered species of fresh water turtle, the tiny hatchlings are part of a headstart program run by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. NMLC volunteers will care for the cooters until they grow big enough to compete successfully in the wild. Next June, they will be released back into the wild along with dozens of other headstart turtles.



## Calendar

**November 27-29, 10 am - 5 pm daily ~ Harvest Splash.** Offering refreshments and "do-it-yourself" arts & crafts for the kids while you get a head start on your holiday shopping! **FREE.**

**December 12, 10 am - 2 pm ~ Holiday Splash.** Join us for a holiday open house. Featuring tours of our new marine animal hospital, the opportunity to make your own marine animal-themed ornament or snow globe, refreshments, and more! \$5 non-members, MEMBERS FREE.

*Planning ahead? NMLC's Marine Animal Discovery Center will be open 10-5 during February Vacation Week and April Vacation Week. Come visit!*



**NATIONAL MARINE LIFE CENTER**  
*Caring for Stranded Marine Animals*  
 120 Main Street, P.O. Box 269  
 Buzzards Bay, MA 02532-0269  
 www.nmlc.org

Non-Profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Buzzards Bay, MA  
 Permit #32