FIRST SEAL!

On March 13th, the National Marine Life Center (NMLC) admitted its first seal patient! NMLC-0710-Pg, nicknamed “Shitate,” was a yearling, 95 cm (3.1-foot), 28.6 kg (63-pound) male harp seal. Rescued from Red River Beach by volunteers and staff from the Cape Cod Stranding Network, the seal was extremely lethargic and suffering from severe dehydration, fluid imbalance, alopecia (hair loss) and patches of cracking, bleeding skin.

Concerned about the dehydration, NMLC veterinarian Dr. Michele Sims and animal care coordinator Brian Moore treated Shitate with lots of fluids - orally through tube-feeding, subcutaneously, and intravenously. Dr. Sims took a blood sample for diagnostic purposes, prescribed antibiotics to address potential infection, continued fluids, and ordered lots of rest. Dr. Rogers Williams brought in his portable x-ray machine to check for possible impactions - harp seals are known for eating rocks on the beach. After several days of critical care, Shitate began to recover.

Once Shitate became more active, he began eating fish and was allowed access to his pool. His condition continued to improve and he soon demonstrated normal feeding and swimming behavior. Dr. Sims took another blood sample to assess the seal’s recovery. Once bloodwork was within normal limits and other diagnostic samples showed the animal was free of known disease, Dr. Sims cleared Shitate for release and NMLC presented a release plan to NOAA.

On April 30th, Shitate was released at Hardings’ Beach in Chatham before a cheering crowd. Hesitant at first, once he saw the ocean he swam off into the sunset. NMLC’s first seal patient was on his way home!
Message from the President

The Power of One.

By Kathryn Zagzebski

In the cacophony of today’s crowded world it’s easy to feel overwhelmed, it’s easy to feel small, it’s easy to feel powerless. And yet, each and every one of us can make a difference that will positively affect our world in some way. I recently represented NMLC at a memorial celebration for Miss Frances Velay, a philanthropist from Philadelphia. The celebration, hosted in Washington, DC by the Ocean Conservancy, included those who had been touched by Miss Velay’s generosity. In a conference room overlooking the Washington Monument, folks from the Ocean Conservancy, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Literacy Council, Johns Hopkins Institute for American Indian Education, the African Wildlife Foundation, World Wildlife Fund and many others were joined in their desire to pay tribute to one individual who made a difference.

Soft-voiced and small of stature, Miss Velay didn’t look like a superhero and yet she was one! I had the pleasure of meeting her twice. On my first visit to her modest Philadelphia apartment, she was busy evaluating entries for a children’s essay contest. It impressed me that, in addition to monetary gifts, she also gave generously of her time. During that visit, we began to converse about the National Marine Life Center and our efforts at sea turtle rehabilitation. Before I knew it, she was asking very astute and pointed questions about our programs and offering ideas and suggestions. I left feeling thoroughly drained, but in a good way. It was gratifying to know she cared so deeply about our mission that she would become knowledgeable about our work and ask vital questions. Miss Velay lived simply, she stayed informed, she gave thoughtfully and critically to causes she believed in. She made a difference.

When I look at the National Marine Life Center’s community, I see many unsung superheroes. The volunteers who work long hours to rehabilitate our patients and to teach visiting schoolchildren, the committee members who give up their weekends and evenings to plan a spectacular Mermaid Ball, the board members who come together to strategize for the future, the staff who work above and beyond their regular work-day, the donors who give gifts both large and small. You ALL are heroes! YOU are making a difference!

In this newsletter, you will find many ways in which you’ve made a difference and many ideas for additional ways to help. Read about our first seal patient and about recent turtle releases. Check out our summer education schedule and make plans to bring the children in your life over to the National Marine Life Center’s Marine Animal Discovery Center. Consider making a bequest to help save marine animals. Join us for a member’s only breakfast and learn more about our programs. Plan to attend our Mermaid Ball on August 17, which is shaping into a spectacular and fun-filled evening. There are many ways in which you can continue to make a difference.

Thank you for your support.
Spring 2007

Turtle Releases!

Claw, admitted 1/20/06, was released 4/4/07 from a boat off the coast of North Carolina.

Townie, Wasabi, and Saffron (see p. 6) were released 6/6/07 in North Carolina with a group of turtles from the Karen Beasely Sea Turtle Rescue & Rehabilitation Center.

The six red-bellied turtles, admitted for head-starting 9/30/06 and having almost quadrupled in size, were released 6/4/07 in Middleboro.

Wish List

Your in-kind gifts help us direct more of our resources into our rehabilitation, science, and education programs. To donate any of these items, please contact Brian Moore, Animal Care & Facilities Coordinator at 508.743.9888 or bmoore@nmlc.org.

Tax receipts available. Thank you!

- Centrifuge to spin blood
- Autoclave to sterilize surgical tools
- 1-Stat handheld diagnostic machine
- Portable ultrasound machine
- Digital x-ray developer
- Medical microscope
- Portable vital signs monitor
- Gas anesthesia machine
- Stainless steel medical exam table
- Rubbermaid storage cabinets
- Rolling handcarts (Rubbermaid)
- Hand trucks (standing and collapsible)
- Latex and latex substitute exam gloves
- 18 inch & 24 inch metal hemostats
- Stainless or plastic boat hook
- Digital video camera
- Closed circuit cameras
- Flat screen TVs to monitor patients
- Bookshelves
- Metal storage cabinets
- Lockers
- Arts and crafts supplies

Thank You...

to the following individuals who donated items listed on our Winter 2006-2007 Wish List.

Pete Holster donated a stethoscope, an oxygen tank, and syringes.
Kyle Nicholson donated four walkie-talkies.
Rob and Rita Pacheco (The Beachmoor) donated a chest freezer.
Judy Glenn donated needles and miscellaneous medical supplies.
Kathy Fucci donated arts and crafts supplies.
Elaine Nardo donated two 10,000-gallon salt water storage tanks!

The Mermaid Ball

National Marine Life Center 2007

One Special Evening This Summer

a host of ocean creatures, mythic and magical, will come ashore for an event to benefit the National Marine Life Center.

Will you be there?

Dancing in a spectacular waterside setting, fabulous entertainment by Four Guys in Tuxes, Cape Cod Canal cruises by R&R Charter Services, live and silent auctions. Creative and elegant dress required - mermaids love to dress up! Prizes for best costumes.

Friday, August 17, 2007, 6-11 pm
$100 per person
At the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in Buzzards Bay

For tickets or information, call 508.743.9888, e-mail mermaidball@nmlc.org or visit www.mermaidball.com

All proceeds benefit the marine animal rehabilitation and science education programs at the National Marine Life Center.

A list of auction items is available online at www.mermaidball.com. Absentee bidding allowed! Call 508.743.9888 for information.
ENCOUNTERS:
Full Circle - Rescue, Rehabilitation, Release

by Mary Albis

The seal was a juvenile harp, one of the yearlings that had come down from Canada to winter around Cape Cod. This one had hauled out on a quiet beach near Saquatucket Harbor in Harwichport on a sunny March afternoon. Lying up against a rock jetty that both blocked the wind and helped to hide him from curious beach walkers, the seal had chosen his resting spot well. He appeared to be sleeping, as he rested on his side and occasionally rolled over onto his back, waving his flippers in the air. I jingled my keys to see if he would respond to the noise, and he raised his head quickly to investigate. This was a good sign, yet something seemed wrong. Several patches of fur were missing and flies buzzed around him. The seal also appeared thin and had pus around a cloudy right eye. Sarah Herzog answered the hotline at the Cape Cod Stranding Network (CCSN) and listened carefully to my report on the seal’s condition and behavior. Because he was in a protected spot and seemed to be in no immediate danger, Sarah decided to put him on 24 hour watch. She asked me to check on him the next morning and report in again.

After a night of restless sleep, I returned to the beach as soon as it was light. A lot can happen to a resting seal during the nighttime hours. Did a coyote get him? Did a kind, but misguided person lure him back into the water? Was his condition worse? Or, perhaps he had rested enough and left the beach on his own initiative.

Arriving on the bluff, I caught sight of the harp and my heart sank. His posture was all wrong. He was lying on his stomach, face down in the sand with his eyes closed. This time, he did not respond to my jingling keys. There were even more flies. Sarah at CCSN decided it was time to collect him. Shitake - so named because his missing fur patches resembled a fungus - was an easy capture. As soon as he was touched, he became cataleptic. A harp seal’s normal stress response is to play dead, and it is fairly easy to load a stiff, unmoving seal into a waiting kennel. Shitake was soon on his way to the National Marine Life Center and would have the distinction of being its first pinniped rehabilitation patient.

Rehabilitating wild animals is an important part of being an environmental steward. This is especially true for species that face so many challenges for survival. Harp seal pups are reported to be dying by the hundreds because the ice floes on which they rest are disappearing. Their mothers have no solid ground on which to nurse them. Due to pollution, there are even more parasites in our waters that can affect seals. The number of harp seals that die at the hands of sealers has increased to the point where Canada is considering a moratorium on hunting them. Many harps are also killed as incidental catch in commercial fisheries. Saving one juvenile harp has become a small, but important conservation measure.

Volunteering for an animal rescue organization is a fulfilling, even life-changing experience. For me, it is a way to give something back to the environment, to help instead of hurt, to make a small difference. It presents an opportunity to spend time outdoors and focus on things outside myself. I always feel privileged to be out on a beautiful, empty Cape Cod beach observing a marine mammal that few see in its natural habitat.

Under the care of the extremely skilled and dedicated staff of NMLC, Shitake was in good hands. I heard that it was touch and go for a while and that the seal’s full recovery was far from certain. He was dehydrated, thin, and suffering from alopecia (fur loss). The staff and animal care volunteers at NMLC spent many hours nursing Shitake back to health. He improved gradually and recovered fairly quickly by rehabilitation standards.

It was seven weeks to the day since the young harp was collected off the quiet beach near Saquatucket. He was now just a few miles from there, on Hardings Beach in Chatham. Shitake had fully recovered and was ready to be released back into his natural habitat. As I helped carry him
in his kennel down to the water. I felt lucky to be witnessing a full circle of rescue, rehabilitation, and release. In my five years of volunteer work, this was the first time. The seal I now looked at was completely different from the one I had monitored. His coat was full and sleek, he was at a healthy weight, and his eyes were clear and bright. Shitake barely looked back once he started toward the water. He took a deep breath and disappeared into Nantucket Sound. I smiled as I heard Kathy Zagzebski comment, “You know, they go off, they don’t write, they don’t call. But it’s all a good thing.”

Save Seals and Sea Turtles by Making a Bequest
To The National Marine Life Center

Occasionally someone will let us know that they’ve included the National Marine Life Center in their will. We are always so grateful to learn that an individual thinks highly enough of our organization and our mission to extend this kind of lasting support. We recognize these commitments with membership in our Marine Life Legacy Circle. Marine Life Legacy Circle members are people from all walks of life who share a desire to provide exceptional support for the marine animal rehabilitation, education, and science programs at the National Marine Life Center. There are many forms of bequests; a gift made through your will is the simplest way to make a charitable bequest.

A gift by will or bequest is deductible for estate tax purposes. Here are two examples of commonly used language for insertion in a will. 1) A residual bequest grants the residue, or portion of the residue, of your estate to the National Marine Life Center after other explicit bequests have been made: “I give to the National Marine Life Center, a non-profit organization located at 120 Main Street, Buzzards Bay, MA 02532 all (or ____ %) of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, both real and personal property of whatever kind and wheresoever situated.”

2) A specific bequest of a stated dollar amount or specific securities:
“I give to the National Marine Life Center, a non-profit organization located at 120 Main Street, Buzzards Bay, MA 02532, the sum of ____ dollars (or describe the specific property or security you intend to give).”

You may choose to specify where your gift should go. Some areas include: animal rehabilitation program, education program, science program, operating fund, building fund, or endowment.

Always consult your attorney when drawing up or revising your will. Although it is not required, we are grateful to receive notification of your bequest so we may thank you properly and ensure we fully understand and can carry out your intentions.

For more information, please call Joanne at 508.743.9888.

Consider....

1 blood test to assess health
   = $53

1 CT Scan to examine lung masses
   = $260

1 month electricity to run life support system pumps & filters
   = $1,800

The opportunity to HELP SAVE an endangered species
   = PRICELESS!

Members-Only Breakfasts

Members of the National Marine Life Center are invited to join President & Executive Director Kathy Zagzebski for a casual breakfast to learn about the latest news at NMLC.

The next breakfasts are August 23, September 27, and October 25. Space is limited. To reserve your seat at an upcoming breakfast, call 508.743.9888 or e-mail nmlc@nmlc.org. Please include “Breakfast with the President” in the subject line.

A special thank you to Flip Flops Café, Main Street, Buzzards Bay for donating pastries to our breakfasts.
Meet Our Patients

On January 16, the National Marine Life Center admitted nine new Kemp’s ridley sea turtle patients to our hospital. Each was suffering from cold-stunning (hypothermia). Each had stranded in November or December, 2006, was rescued by volunteers from MassAudubon Wellfleet Bay, and spent time at the New England Aquarium’s turtle ICU. These animals came to NMLC for continuing rehabilitative care and treatment. Townie, Saffron, and Wasabi were released back to the wild June 6, and the rest are scheduled for release later this summer. To help save them, visit www.nmlc.org.

**Saffron**
Stranded: 11/4/06, First Encounter Beach
Diagnoses: cold-stun, flipper osteolysis

**Jalepeño**
Stranded: 11/24/06, Sandwich
Diagnoses: cold-stun, septicitis, flipper osteolysis, bacterial infection

**Lavender**
Stranded: 11/24/06, Sandy Neck
Diagnoses: cold-stun, flipper osteolysis

**Wasabi**
Stranded: 11/4/06, Sandy Neck
Diagnoses: cold-stun, flipper osteolysis

**Florence**
Stranded: 12/7/06, Knowles Rd., Truro
Diagnoses: cold-stun, flipper osteolysis, bacterial infection

**Hibiscus**
Stranded: 12/7/06, Knowles Rd., Truro
Diagnoses: cold-stun, flipper osteolysis, bacterial infection

**Rosemary**
Stranded: 12/10/06, Great Hollow, Truro
Diagnoses: cold-stun, flipper osteolysis, bacterial infection
Thank You!

January 1 - June 30, 2007

The following have helped support the marine animal rehabilitation and science education programs at the National Marine Life Center with a gift of $50 or more during the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2007. On behalf of the trustees, staff, volunteers, visitors, pupils, and marine animal patients of NMLC, thank you for your generosity!

**Individuals:**
- Rebecca Barber
- Julian Block
- Jessica & Daryl Cantrell
- Robert Ciolek
- James Colonna
- Judith & Richard Conron
- Kathleen Crawford
- Joellyn Crowley
- Thomas Dewitt
- John & Judy Fitzgerald
- Denysa Fredriksson
- Michael & Amy Galbois
- Peter & Gloria Gammons
- Linda Gray
- Joseph Hamilburg
- Douglas Jaffe
- Sylvia Kaneko
- George & Sheila Largay
- Patricia Leighfield
- Ben Leveillee
- William & Noelle Locke
- Richard Malve
- Catherine Maurice
- Diane Mehlman
- John Norton
- Sara Ottomano
- Andrew Pesek
- Jerome Pollitt
- John Pribilla
- Ruth Righter
- Edward Rowland
- Betty Sawyer
- Barbara Pedian Schneider
- Rachel Scollon
- David Seaver
- Robert Stolte
- David Wentworth
- Brown Williams
- James & Ann Marie Zagzebski

**Foundations:**
- The Bilezikian Family Foundation
- Horizon Foundation, Inc.

**Companies:**
- A. J. Marks Jewelers (Mark Chick) (multi-year pledge)
- Entergy
- Purple Turtle Productions (Gregg Seibert)
- Seafiver Maritime
- Walmart

**Organizations:**
- Barnstable-West Barnstable School Parents Group
- Cape Cod Museum of Natural History
- East Dennis Ladies Aid Society
- Quashnet School

**Matching Gift Programs:**
- The New York Times Company Foundation
- FM Global Foundations
- NSTAR Foundation

**In-Kind:**
- The Beachmoor
- Dale Borch
- Buzzards Bay Theater
- Capt. John Boats
- Kathy Fruece
- Pete Holster
- Krua Thai
- William Locke
- Mezza Luna
- James Needham
- Kyle Nicholson
- Nickerson’s Fish & Lobster
- Northern Pelagic Group LLC
- Rob & Rita Pacheco
- Pepsi
- Douglas & Judy Scally
- Seafreeze
- David Smith
- Tellier Plumbing & Heating
- Kathy Zagzebski

**Gifts Were Made In Memory of:**
- Douglas Fletcher
- Elizabeth Hornor
- Townsend Hornor
- Ralph Thompson

Above & Beyond

Please support the following local businesses who have gone above and beyond in supporting NMLC. Thank you!

**Buzzards Bay Theater**
- 105 Main Street
- Buzzards Bay, 508.759.1171
- Donated display space, popcorn for events, and meeting space.

**A.J. Marks Jewelers**
- 1140 Iyannough Road (Route 132)
- Hyannis, 508.775.6900
- Donated portion of profits at grand opening celebration of their Hyannis store.

An exciting new product line is available in NMLC’s Gift Shop! Survival Beachwear® is a unique brand with a compelling mission. The company was founded by two guys from Massachusetts who, in their own words, “believe in giving more.” Survival’s mission is to provide customers with quality products and give 10% of their proceeds to organizations such as NMLC that promote public education about and hands-on preservation of the ocean and marine animals. By purchasing Survival products, customers are helping animals in need.

Survival Beachwear’s products include casual apparel featuring original, illustrated designs of life in the ocean. To learn more, visit www.survivalbeachwear.com.

In choosing to benefit organizations such as NMLC, the company’s founders truly live their motto - “Survival, a way of life...™”
Summer Schedule in NMLC’s Marine Animal Discovery Center:

Sundays, all day: Do-It-Yourself Arts & Crafts - see manager for details
Mondays, 12:00 noon Turtle TLC/Seal SOS - learn about rehabilitation and our current and former patients
Tuesdays, 10:00 am Fins & Flippers Club: Story-time - different themes every week
Wednesdays, 12:00 noon Marine Friends Project - conservation themed program featuring hands-on activities
Wednesdays, 6:00 pm Lecture Series - ocean experts present topics of interest; see website for details
Thursdays, 10:00 am Fins & Flippers Club: Arts & Crafts - craft project mirrors the weekly theme
Fridays, 12:00 noon Turtle TLC/Seal SOS - learn about rehabilitation and our current and past patients
Saturdays, all day: Do-It-Yourself Arts & Crafts - see manager for details

NMLC’s Marine Animal Discovery Center is FREE and open daily, 10 am - 5 pm, Memorial Day through Labor Day weekends. A $2 donation is requested to participate in programs. For info call 508.743.9888 or visit www.nmlc.org.

Upcoming Events:
Friday, August 17, 6 - 11 pm Mermaid Ball benefit event
Location: Massachusetts Maritime Academy,
Buzzards Bay
Tickets: $100 per person, purchase at NMLC or

Monday, September 17, 7 am Douglas J. Fletcher Memorial
Golf Tournament to benefit NMLC
Location: Brookside Golf Club, Rte 28, Boume
For information: e-mail golf@cdsreg.com.

www.nmlc.org
Buzzards Bay, MA 02532-0299
120 Main Street, PO. BOX 269
Caring for Stranded Marine Animals