

News Splash

The National Marine Life Center, Inc. Newsletter @ www.nmlc.org @ Vol. 11, No. 1, Spring/Summer 2007

FIRST SEAL!

On March 13th, the National Marine Life Center (NMLC) admitted its first seal patient! NMLC-0710-Pg, nicknamed "Shitake," 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 Shitake 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, Shitake began to recover.

Once Shitake 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 Shitake for release and NMLC presented a release plan to NOAA.

On April 30th, Shitake 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!



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 www.nmlc.org, nmlc@nmlc.org

Mission Statement

Dedicated to rehabilitating and releasing stranded whales, dolphins, seals, and sea turtles, and to advancing scientific knowledge and education in marine wildlife health and conservation.

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Message from the President

The Power of One.

By Kathryn Zagzebski



Kathy holding "Jalepeño" at admit, 1/16/07

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.

Turtle Releases!

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



Claw's release boat.



Claw on release day.

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



Saffron on release day.



Kids made a banner for the sea turtle release.

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.



Redbelly turtle being weighed on 9/30/06.



Redbelly turtle being measured on 6/1/07.



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.

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
- ~ I-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
- ~ Gift cards from: Home Depot, PetCo, PetSmart, Walmart, Shell, Exxon, Citco, Stop & Shop, Trader Joes, A.C. Moore, Oriental Trading Company, Staples

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 Frucci donated arts and crafts supplies.

Elaine Nardo donated two 10,000-gallon salt water storage tanks!

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 Herzig 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.

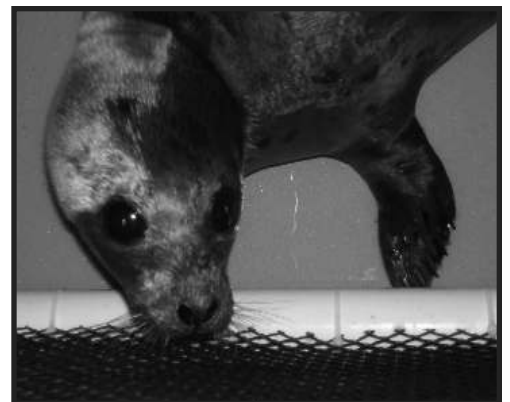
Arriving on the bluff, I caught sight of the harp and my heart sank. His posture was all wrong. He was lying on his stomach, face down in the sand with his eyes closed. This time, he did not respond to my jingling keys. There were even more flies. Sarah at CCSN decided it was time to collect him. Shitake - 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

ENCOUNTERS, cont.

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."



Left to right: Volunteers Sarah MacLeod, Richard Lergay, Juan Baegalupi, & Mary Albis carry Shitake to the beach for release.



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 pro-

gram, 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, steatitis, 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



Panaphil

Stranded: 12/7/06, Days Cottages, Truro
Diagnoses: cold-stun, bacterial infection



Townie

Stranded: 12/7/06, Beach Point, P-town
Diagnoses: cold-stun, flipper osteolysis



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
 Jullian Block
 Jessica & Daryl Cantrell
 Robert Ciolek
 James Colonna
 Judith & Richard Conron
 Kathleen Crawford
 Joellyn Crowley
 Thomas Dewitt
 John & Judy Fitzgerald
 Denyse Fredriksson
 Michael & Amy Galibois
 Peter & Gloria Gammons
 Linda Gray
 Joseph Hamilburg
 Douglas Jaffe
 Sylvia Kaneko
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 Barbara Pedian Schneider
 Rachel Scollon
 David Seaver
 Robert Stolte
 David Wentworth
 Brown Williams
 James & Ann Marie Zagzebski

Gifts Were Made In Memory of:

Douglas Fletcher
 Elizabeth Hornor
 Townsend Hornor
 Ralph Thompson

Foundations:

The Bilezikian Family Foundation
 Horizon Foundation, Inc.

Companies:

A. J. Marks Jewelers (Mark Chick)
 (multi-year pledge)
 Entergy
 Purple Turtle Productions (Gregg Seibert)
 Seariver 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 Boch
 Buzzards Bay Theater
 Capt. John Boats
 Kathy Frucci
 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

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:

Mondays, 12:00 noon

Tuesdays, 10:00 am

Wednesdays, 12:00 noon

Wednesdays, 6:00 pm

Thursdays, 10:00 am

Fridays, 12:00 noon

Saturdays, all day:

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.

Do-It-Yourself Arts & Crafts - see manager for details

Turtle TLC/Seal SOS - learn about rehabilitation and our current and former patients

Fins & Flippers Club: Story-time - different themes every week

Marine Friends Project - conservation themed program featuring hands-on activities

Lecture Series - ocean experts present topics of interest; see website for details

Fins & Flippers Club: Arts & Crafts - craft project mirrors the weekly theme

Turtle TLC/Seal SOS - learn about rehabilitation and our current and past patients

Do-It-Yourself Arts & Crafts - see manager for details

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
on-line at www.mermaidball.com.

Monday, September 17, 7 am

Douglas J. Fletcher Memorial

Golf Tournament to benefit NMLC

Location: Brookside Golf Club, Rte 28, Bourne

For information: e-mail golf@cdsreg.com.



www.nmlc.org

Buzzards Bay, MA 02532-0269
120 Main Street, P.O. Box 269

Caring for Stranded Marine Animals

