



LOCAL GROUP RAISES FUNDS FOR TWO NEW EXHIBITS

AT THE GEORGIA SEA TURTLE CENTER

JEKYLL ISLAND, Ga. (Jan. xx, 2007) – The Jekyll Island Foundation announced today that Sea Turtles and Residents Together (START) contributors have donated \$19,175 to the new Georgia Sea Turtle Center for the creation and installation of a “Hatchling Tank” within the educational exhibit, as well as an Archelon skull for an exhibit detailing sea turtle anatomy. The Archelon is the largest turtle that ever lived on earth and is the pre-historic ancestor of present day, endangered sea turtles. These creatures measured 15 feet from beak to end of tail and weighed an estimated 4,500 pounds when alive. The skull alone measures more than two feet long and wide.

START was organized In November 2004 for the purpose of raising money for the Georgia Sea Turtle Center. “The goal was to develop funding for a project that would have a lasting impact on the Center and demonstrate the commitment of Jekyll Island residents to support this new island attraction and leave a special legacy for the people of Georgia and around the world who will visit the Center,” said Jean Poleszak, START committee chair.

“These exhibits will make a positive impact on the Georgia Sea Turtle Center and its guests,” said Bailey IZard, Chairman of the Jekyll Island Foundation. “Since today’s sea turtles are struggling for survival, we are especially gratified to have the hatchling tank and this impressive reminder of their massive forebears who once ruled the oceans.”

The Georgia Sea Turtle Center opens to the public on June 16, 2007. A state-of-the-art medical treatment and research facility, the Center will treat turtles found on Georgia’s coast as well as those from surrounding states. The \$2,600,000 facility will be housed in the 1903 Power Plant within the Jekyll Island National Historic District. The Center will be open year-round, and will give visitors an opportunity to observe conservation in action. The sea turtle’s story will be told through three-dimensional sculptures, dramatic photographs and hands-on exhibits, interactive games, and aquariums

housing a sea turtle hatchling and other marine life. Educational initiatives for schools will include field trips and an outreach program.

In anticipation of its Summer opening, donations are still being accepted for the Hatchling Tank and other exhibits at the Center. As a thank you for these generous contributions, each donor will be considered a member of START and will be given special recognition within the facility. Another initiative is an impressive brick-paved entrance entitled “Walkway to Wonder.” Personalized, engraved bricks may be purchased for a \$50 donation to the Jekyll Island Foundation. Supporters and contributors may purchase the Legacy Bricks through the website at www.JekyllIslandFoundation.org or www.GeorgiaSeaTurtles.org. Bricks can be inscribed with up to three lines of information with 15 characters per line. For the convenience of contributors, tax-deductible donations can be made by personal check, VISA, MasterCard, American Express and Discover. There is no minimum of or limits on bricks to purchase. For those who would like to make an additional contribution, donations may be made in any amount. Additional naming opportunities are available and information may be obtained by contacting the Jekyll Island Foundation by telephone at (912) 635-4402 or by email at Foundation@JekyllIsland.com.

The Jekyll Island 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 Foundation is a tax exempt, public, non-profit that offers participatory opportunities in planned giving, private donation, corporate support, and philanthropic foundation support.

Further information about this project and other works of the Jekyll Island Foundation, please contact the Foundation at (912) 635-4402 or by visiting www.JekyllIslandFoundation.com or www.GeorgiaSeaTurtles.com.

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Link to Photo 1: Full Fossil http://foundation.jekyllislandauthority.org/arch_big.jpg

Caption:

Archelon fossil discovered in South Dakota in the 1970s and on display at the National Natural History Museum in Vienna, Austria.

Photo credit: Black Hills Institute of Geological Research, Inc.

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Link to Photo 2: Fossil skull

[http://foundation.jekyllislandauthority.org/archelon skull_785.jpg](http://foundation.jekyllislandauthority.org/archelon%20skull_785.jpg)

Replica of fossil Archelon head which will be displayed at the Georgia Sea Turtle Center.

Photo credit: Black Hills Institute of Geological Research, Inc.