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Jekyll Island Set to Host 4th Annual Turtle Crawl Benefiting the Georgia Sea Turtle Center

-- Registration Begins for USAT-Sanctioned Triathlon and 5 km. Fun Run/Walk --

Jekyll Island, Ga. (Feb. 27, 2006) – Jekyll Island, Ga., once again invites casual and serious athletes alike to participate in its 4th Annual Turtle Crawl events, scheduled to take place on the island May 6-7, 2006. Proceeds from the weekend's activities – which include a USA Triathlon (USAT)-sanctioned triathlon and a 5 km. Fun Run/Walk – will benefit the Georgia Sea Turtle Center, a \$2.6 million Sea Turtle rehabilitation center set to open on Jekyll Island in the spring of 2007.

The weekend's premiere event, the Triathlon, features the standard format consisting of a 1.5 km. swim, 40 km. bike and a 10 km. run that spans the entire island and showcases its natural beauty. The triathlon is open for individual participants, as well as relay teams of two or three (with each relay team member participating in one leg of the event). Start time for the event is 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 6, 2006, with the awards ceremony taking place immediately afterward (at noon).

For athletes seeking a less strenuous way to help benefit the Georgia Sea Turtle Center, Jekyll Island also is hosting a 5 km. Fun Run/Walk, which is open to people of all ages and athletic abilities. The 5 km. Fun Run/Walk begins at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 6, 2006, with awards for the top three finishers to be presented at noon.

The athletic events serve to kick off an entire weekend of activities, including concerts, educational seminars, games and activities that will continue through Sunday, May 7. A full list of the weekend's activities, as well as a full list of special hotel packages for the Turtle Crawl Weekend, will be available in early spring.

"Since we first created the Turtle Crawl event in 2003, the event continues to grow – both in terms of participation, as well as contribution to the Georgia Sea Turtle Center," said Eric Garvey, senior marketing director for the Jekyll Island Authority. "With the addition of a dedicated, experienced race organizer and the sanctioning by USA Triathlon, our 2006 Turtle Crawl promises to be the most successful one ever."

Registration Information (entry fees and deadlines):

NON-USAT MEMBER

\$64 Postmarked **by** 4/24/06
\$74 Postmarked **after** 4/24/06

NON-USAT MEMBER 17 or under

\$70 Postmarked **by** 4/24/06
\$80 Postmarked **after** 4/24/06

USAT MEMBER

\$55 Postmarked **by** 4/24/06
\$65 Postmarked **after** 4/24/06

USAT MEMBER 17 or Under

\$55 Postmarked **by** 4/24/06
\$65 Postmarked **after** 4/24/06

RELAYS

(All team members must be USAT members, or add \$9 per person who is not a member)

\$100 Postmarked **by** 4/25/06
\$120 Postmarked **after** 4/25/06

5K RUN / WALK

\$20 Postmarked **by** 4/24/06
\$25 Postmarked **after** 4/24/06

Pre-registration is available online at www.active.com, or by sending entry and payment (checks only) via mail (no later than May 1, 2006) to:

GSTC Turtle Crawl
c/o Catherine Arning
381 Riverview Drive
Jekyll Island, GA 31527

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 in spring 2007 and will be free to the public (with the option of paid guided tours). For more information about the Georgia Sea Turtle Center and related programs, visit www.georgiaseaturtles.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.

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