

TURTLE SURVIVAL ALLIANCE

TRANSFORMING PASSION FOR TURTLES INTO CONSERVATION ACTION



TSA NEWSLETTER

May 8, 2009

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Please help us meet our commitment to zero turtle extinctions in the 21st century. [Support the TSA!](#)

Calling all Students!

The TSA is more committed than ever to engaging students, realizing that they represent the future of turtle conservation! We have launched a new **Student Membership** category, available for only \$25 annually. In addition, students are eligible to receive a **\$50 discount on conference registration** (see below for details on our 7th Annual Symposium, coming up August 5-8). Just enter the coupon code "Student" when registering online. Please bring your Student ID to conference to confirm your student status at check-in.

For students willing to pitch in and help at [conference](#) this year, we are offering **FREE** registration. Student conference volunteers will be asked to help with a variety of tasks, including registration and check-in, silent auction and other duties as needed. Your time will be respected and duties will be divided so that you will still get to attend plenty of presentations and activities. *This special opportunity is limited to three students and inquiries will be answered in the order that they are received.*

To reduce travel expenses, we have also arranged for **student rooms** at the conference hotel which will accommodate up to four students for each room; students will share the hotel expense with the other students in the room. Contact Heather Lowe with questions about any of these opportunities at 817-759-7262 or HLowe@turtlesurvival.org.

Meet us in St. Louis!

Registration is underway for our 7th annual Symposium, generously hosted by the renowned St. Louis Zoo. This event is the largest gathering of non-marine chelonian biologists and captive breeding specialists in the world. We understand that these are tough economic times and are making an effort to keep costs to a minimum. This meeting will be an extraordinary value, with an icebreaker, zoo tour, awards banquet, BBQ and auction, and breakfasts included in the cost of registration. Double rooms will cost under \$100.00 per night. Learn more and register by clicking [here](#).

The conference hotel is the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark, click [here](#) to visit our group page.

Those interested in speaking should contact TSA Program Co-Chairs Chuck Schaffer at chelonian1@aol.com or Andrew Walde at awalde@hotmail.com

For vendor information, or to volunteer, please contact Conference Chair Lonnie McCaskill at lonnie.mccaskill@disney.com.

Educators and other chelonian enthusiasts: this is a perfect venue for students to present their research at a professional conference in a friendly atmosphere. Visit our website for more information at www.turtlesurvival.org or contact Beth Walton at walton.beth@gmail.com for more information on student paper and poster presentations. We hope to see you there!

Animal Management

TSA Holdings Updates

Debbie Forde is continuing her work on updating the TSA's animal records and we still need your help! To avoid the cost of printing and postage, holdings updates are being sent via email and we ask that you return them within two weeks of receipt.

A database of holdings can only be as good the information that is entered into it. Therefore, it is vital that you supply updated information about the specimens you hold not only for the annual update, but throughout the year as transactions take place. Equally important is providing current and accurate contact information.

66 updates have been sent out so far and 21 have been returned. 81 more are scheduled to be sent out in the near future. Instructions will be included with the Excel file; however, if there is anything that is unclear, or if you experience any difficulty with the spreadsheets, please do not hesitate to contact Debbie at dforde@zoatlanta.org OR 404-624-5926 Thank you!

Mauremys annamensis available

0.0.5 captive-hatched Vietnamese pond turtles (*Mauremys annamensis*) are available for breeding loan. These animals were hatched in 2007 at the Fort Worth Zoo and are owned by the TSA. Contact Dwight Lawson at DLawson@zoatlanta.org for more information.

Update on the Yangtze giant softshell turtle



Mr. Yang feeds fish to the *Rafetus* female by hand

The second year of the *Rafetus* breeding program at China's Suzhou Zoo is again underway. Gerald Kuchling is back at the Zoo after a short break and has confirmed copulation between the pair on several occasions. Dr. Kuchling is continuing his work with zoo staff to improve the turtles' diet and enclosure to maximize the chance of successful reproduction.

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