

Turtle Nest Update

By Peggy Sagmiller

Turtle nests bring both disappointment and joy

Nest #2 at Trinity Center (Turtle City) was severely overwashed during the last month of incubation. The escarpment originally protecting the nest washed away, leaving the nest vulnerable to high tides. All the early August rain didn't help, as our volunteers do not sit in rain or thunderstorms. As far as we could tell, this nest should have hatched near the end of the first week of August. Nest #2 was excavated on Friday, August 14, by Peggy Young and Jan Corsello. Meghan Dinneen of Trinity Center performed the inventory. In the nest were 101 unhatched eggs and one shell. The emergence success for this nest was a very disappointing 1%.

Nest #3, the last of our Trinity Center nests, caved in on August 12 in the pouring rain. In the early morning of August 13, a dead hatchling covered with ants was found on the surface of this nest, as well as a bowl-shaped depression, indicating the hatch had occurred. Nest #3 was also excavated on August 14 by Liz Mauser and Martha Edwards, with Danny Frye performing the inventory. In the nest were 83 shells and 11 unhatched eggs. The emergence success for Nest #3 was 77%.

Nest #4 caved in at 9:30 p.m., on August 21. A nice boil occurred two hours later, with many hatchlings making their way into the ocean. Volunteers Jan Corsello, Suzanne Deneau, Freddie Nelon and Linbe Blackford were all in attendance; unfortunately, so were many biting bugs. No bug spray seemed to work, and everyone was eaten alive, but they enjoyed witnessing the boil nonetheless. This nest was excavated by Linbe Blackford and Freddie Nelon, with Peggy Young performing the inventory. In the nest were 110 shells and one unhatched egg. Emergence success for Nest #4 was 98%—a really fabulous result.



From left: Jan Corsello and Peggy Young excavate Nest #2; Danny Frye performs the inventory while Martha Edwards and Liz Mauser excavate Nest #3; and Linbe Blackford and Freddie Nelon excavate Nest #4 while Peggy Young does the inventory.—Photos by Suzanne Deneau



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