



# Seattle Turtle & Tortoise Club



[www.seattleturtleandtortoiseclub.com](http://www.seattleturtleandtortoiseclub.com)



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- 8.) Detection of Mycoplasma ssp.

## Contact STTC:

### Email:

[seattleturtleandtortoiseclub@live.com](mailto:seattleturtleandtortoiseclub@live.com)

### On the web:

[seattleturtle@tortoiseclub@live.com](mailto:seattleturtle@tortoiseclub@live.com)

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## Mailing Address:

Seattle Turtle & Tortoise Club  
1728 29th Ave S.  
Seattle, WA 98144

## Monthly Meetings:

**USUALLY on 3rd Sunday of each month**

3:00PM to 4:30PM

Everyone is welcome

## Next Meeting Location: August 21st

4400 88th Avenue S.E.

[Mercer Island](http://www.kcls.org/mercerisland/), Washington 98040

<http://www.kcls.org/mercerisland/>

## Our next meeting is:

**July 17<sup>th</sup>, the annual picnic!**

**Juanita Bay Park**

**1:PM at the park, then to PNW**

**Turtleworks. Directions below:**

This is a reminder that there will not be a regular meeting this Sunday. Instead we will be having our annual picnic/bbq at Juanita Bay Park.

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=Juanita+Bay+Park,+Market+Street,+Kirkland,+WA&hl=en&ll=37.0625,-95.677068&sspn=28.196369,48.427734&z=14>

This is a link to a map.

We are meeting at the park at 1 PM. Here we will walk the boardwalk and do a turtle count/watch. This is an excellent place to watch/photograph wildlife so remember to bring cameras and binoculars. After this we will mosey up the hill to Jerry and Julies house and eat bar b q and check out the turtles and tortoises at PNWTurtleworks. Here is that link:

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=15215+84th+Avenue+Northeast,+Kenmore,+WA&hl=en&ll=46.551305,-122.178955&spn=3.052403,6.053467&ll=47.696332,-122.21177&sspn=0.023339,0.047293&z=7>

Please send me back an email if you are planning (and how many) to attend so we can get the right amount of food. We are asking attending members to bring some kind of side dish or beverage for sharing. Main entrees will be pulled pork sandwich and BBQ roasted chicken (or some kind of chicken). Please remember it is at 1 PM not 3 PM but if you can't get there until 3 we will probably already be at PNWTurtleworks. Yes you can bring family or friends, but please plan on help.



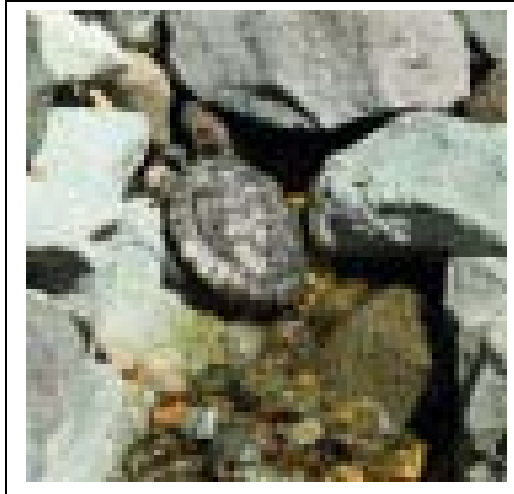
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June 4, Release of RES by Seattle T&T to Seattle backyard pond





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## Order your STTC Calendar

[seattleturtleandtortoiseclub@live.com](mailto:seattleturtleandtortoiseclub@live.com)

Or call Monica (425) 591-2263,

This Calendar has most of our upcoming events listed, plus photos of our meetings and members and, of course, TURTLES!!! (tortoises too)



### For Sale: 1 adult breeding pair, plus

CB hatchling R.P.Manni, CA ornate wood turtles.

Julie Lindell 206 890-0554

**For Sale:** Assorted hatchling and juvenile turtles and tortoises

**PNWTurtleworks,**

**Jerry Novak: 425 478-9960**

(425) 591-2263

Monica  
Frazier



**REPTILES**  
Specialty Squamates  
In-Home Service  
**Exotic Pet Sitter**  
Climates/Feeding/Sanitation  
Education & Rescue

Single Visit or Extended Away  
Emergency Vet. on Call

Located in Duwall

### FOR SALE: UVB LIGHTING

Zoo Med Reptile Florescent Light Blubs

- (1) 48" Repti Sun 2.0 Florescent Bulb (.5" dia) 30W
- (2) 36" Repti Sun 2.0 Florescent Bulb (.5" dia) 30W
- (2) 36" Repti Sun 5.0 Florescent Bulb (1.0" dia) 30W
- (1) 36" Iguana Light 5.0 Florescent Bulb (1.0" dia) 30W
- (2) 15" Repti Sun 5.0 Florescent Bulb (.5" dia) 14W
- (1) 15" Repti Sun 2.0 Florescent Bulb (.5" dia) 14W
- (1) 15" Iguana Light 5.0 Florescent Blub (.5 dia) 14W

**Surplus Prices, Call for Availability**

**Monica (425) 591-2263**

### Adoption Report: **Contact Julie Marsall:**

Email: [sttc.adoptions@gmail.com](mailto:sttc.adoptions@gmail.com)

<http://www.adoramapix.com/tctriunguis/gallery/juliejerryjune5/GAx6RPOVMMf68wc>

8950 and 8951 are map turtles hatching at PNWTW

8951 is 2 week old map turtles - PNWTW 4sale

8955 and 8957 are female chicken turtle available for long term breeding loan- PNWTW

8960 is long term captive 3 toed male- STTC adoption

8962 and 8963 are a large male Russian with shell deformity - STTC adoption

8969 is female Reeve's Turtle with beak deformity (under bite) - STTC adoption

8971 is male and female Chicken turtle available for long term breeding loan- these are nice turtles that are friendly and get along well with each other.

8973 is a female 3 toed - PNWTW adoption (available)

8978 and 8981 are an immature yellowbelly - STTC adoption

8982 is the same female chicken turtle

8986 is 6 month old CB ornate box turtle - PNWTW 4 sale



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## **Armies of painted turtles are coming out of hibernation with the end of winter, bobbing to the surface of the countless lakes and ponds that dot the Inland Northwest.**

For Bill Bernstein, 40, this might have been the time to pursue a pastime he's enjoyed since his childhood: collecting snakes and turtles from their aquatic sanctuaries. Or, it could have been the time to reignite his side business of selling those turtles.

But for now, it's neither. He's just awaiting trial.

"If it's a crime, it's funny, but it's not funny," he says of a state law that prevents him from possessing Washington's native painted turtle. (The law protects the turtles because they're native to the region, like marmots, not because they're endangered.) Last Friday, he was arraigned on a \$271 citation he received last month after the state's wildlife veterinarian saw him with two painted turtles at a Boy Scout show-and-tell day.

Bernstein says he didn't know he was doing anything wrong. And he refuses to pay the fine.

"This is going to cost the state \$8,000," he says of the forthcoming battle. He says he refused a plea deal and is prepared for a juried trial. "You know, I'm not going to stop. I didn't do anything wrong."

**Fish and Wildlife Officer Lenny Hahn issues a lot of warnings** during his rounds in Eastern Washington's wild lands.

"A fair amount of people collect turtles," he says. "I tell them usually to put them back."

But with Bernstein, Hahn had a different story on his hands. Last August, Hahn was alerted by the Cheney Police Department of a near-scuffle at Fish Lake that involved two men comparing pistols, Hahn says. One man was drunk. The other was selling turtles — the reason Hahn was notified.

“On August 30th, 2010 at 1200 hours I seized a painted turtle from Bernstein at his residence,” Hahn writes in an incident report. “Bernstein said he didn’t realize they were protected.” Bernstein had been selling them.

Alison Beernink, who works at Northwest Seed and Pet in east Spokane, says people come in all the time trying to sell painted turtles.

“I say, ‘That is a Western painted turtle and it is illegal to possess them, you should go back and release them,’” she says. “Most of them have had them for a pet and realize they’re not very good as pets. And they’re hoping to get some money out of them.”

Hahn left Bernstein’s house that August without issuing a fine. Instead, he gave Bernstein a verbal warning, as well as a copy of the law.

Early last month, Bernstein was at his 7-year-old nephew’s Boy Scout meeting with two turtles. It turns out, so was Kristin Mansfield, the state’s wildlife veterinarian and the mother of a Boy Scout. At the meeting, Bernstein’s nephew told her son there were nine turtles at Bernstein’s house.

At the office, she found Hahn. “She came to me and said, ‘There was this guy showing off painted turtles,’” Hahn says. “I said, ‘What’s his name?’ She tells me. Bill Bernstein. And I say, ‘Really?’” Hahn went to find Bernstein and ended up at an old address, where he ran into people who knew Bernstein. And by the time he arrived at Bernstein’s Cheney residence, Bernstein was turtle-less. (Hahn suggests Bernstein had been tipped off by the residents at the old address.)

“It was apparent that he had just got rid of them and that was why he was outside when we arrived and was so willing to let us in his house,” Hahn writes.

This time, Hahn was there to issue a fine. But, according to the report, Bernstein played dumb.

“He didn’t think they were painted turtles,” Hahn writes. “I told him that was about the only turtle we had around here.”

Hahn was skeptical.

**The way Bernstein tells it**, he was not comparing guns at Fish Lake but was wary of the drunk man with a pistol who wanted to get some turtles for his handgun.

And there were not two painted turtles at the Boy Scout meeting, he says, just *one* red-eared slider.

“Myrtle the turtle,” he calls the (alleged) slider. And now the state’s trying to squeeze him for almost \$300 because the state veterinarian misidentified his reptile.

“It’s all hearsay,” he says. “Yeah, we had a turtle. My neighbor bought it from PetCo. Or PetSmart.”

Shortly after the Boy Scout meeting, Bernstein gets a knock on his door.

“It’s Lenny again,” Bernstein says. “I’m here for the turtle,” he says Hahn told him. “We don’t have the turtle. You can look around my house.

Feel free.”

“I’m going to cite you. I warned you once before.” “Are you going to arrest me?” “No, I’m not going to arrest you. I’m just going to fine you.

You don’t even have to show up to court. It’s not the crime of the century.”

“The crime of the century?” Bernstein says, unhappy that Hahn even uttered the words. “For what? I’ve been catching snakes since I was a kid. There’s over 50, 60 different varieties of turtles in the United States alone. ... I don’t want to harm anything. I don’t want to hurt wildlife. I like to educate people.”

**Bernstein will fight the issue in court in a few weeks**, and if it goes the way he wants it to, the ability of Kristin Mansfield (the state wildlife veterinarian) to identify different turtles will be questioned.

Charlie Powell, spokesman for WSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine, wouldn’t speak directly about the case. He did say Mansfield was very sharp.\*

“Wildlife vets have an uncanny ability to identify different species at a distance that is startlingly accurate,” he says.

Hahn agrees. Vets “all have their specialty. Hers is wild animals,” he says. “I’m not saying her specialty is turtles but she knows the difference between [painted turtles and sliders].”

Regardless, the trial is going forward. At the arraignment, the judge found enough probable cause to retain the charges against Bernstein. In a handwritten note, he scrawled one last condition for Bernstein before trial. Do not “possess any painted turtle.

## **Longville turtle races break previous participant records (823 racers)**

**July 8, 2011 - 10:36am, Submitted by Tenlee Lund**

(The Documentary on Turtle Derbys still needs money- 1/2 of what it needs before. Almost

there. <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1288526416/turtle-derby-documentary-Any> amount is appreciated. Also any amount you donate is matched by an anonymous donor.)

Hannay Pellet, Jack Bedor and Nathaniel Walton took home top honors at the 4th of July Turtle Races. They are pictured with Hannah's mother, Renae Pellett, and race officials.

A record-breaking 823 racers took part in this week's Longville Turtle Races. With 218 racers on July 4th and an all-time high 605 racers on July 6th, the turtle race crew was scampering as fast as the turtles themselves, just to keep up.

On July 4th, the Chamber Resort Race was won by James Weber, age 8, of St. Paul, Minnesota. There was a tie for Grand Champion honors between Hannah Pellett, age 8, of Watertown, Minnesota, and Nathaniel Walton, age 10, of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Grand Slowpoke title went to Jack Bedor, age 10, of Chicago, Illinois.

On July 6th, the Chamber Resort Race was won by Courtney Reistad, age 15, of Elk River, Minnesota. Grand Champion honors went to Samantha Cockayne, age 2½, of Des Moines, Iowa, while the Grand Slowpoke title went to Jake Leonard, age 5, of Madrid, Iowa.

Pre-race activities both days included hula-hoop contests, the Chicken Dance, the YMCA dance, the Macarena and the Hokey-Pokey, along with the many turtle race games, designed to provide fun for all ages.

The Longville Turtle Races are held every Wednesday, rain or shine, from now through Aug. 24. Registration, games and contests begin at 1 p.m. The Chamber Resort Turtle Race is held at 1:45 p.m., with regular racing heats beginning at 2 p.m. Bring your own turtle (the shell must measure at least 4 inches) or you can rent one at the races.

All proceeds benefit community activities sponsored by the Longville Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce.

## **Sea turtles nesting at record rate in Georgia**

Savannah Morning News, July 9, 2011, Mary Landers

Sea turtles are nesting in record numbers on Georgia beaches this summer. As of Friday, 1,590 nests, almost all from loggerhead sea turtles, had been recorded from Cumberland to Tybee islands.

That's ahead of the pace of 2010, which was also a stellar year for turtles. There are about three weeks remaining in the nesting season, which typically begins here in May. Georgia Sea Turtle Program Coordinator Mark Dodd predicted the total number of nests could reach close to 2,100. "We expect to go way beyond last year," said Dodd, a senior wildlife biologist with the Department of Natural Resources. "And last year was a great year."

Georgia recorded 1,771 nests last year.

Most of the state's nests are from loggerhead sea turtles, but 11 have been identified as leatherback nests, three are green turtle nests, and another nine are undetermined. Leatherbacks are a tropical species finding its way farther north as ocean and global temperatures increase, Dodd said.

Chatham County's Ossabaw Island has recorded 372 nests, putting it far ahead of the much larger and usual leader, Cumberland Island. Dodd can't say why.

"I would have never expected that many nests on Ossabaw," he said.

Most nesting beaches in Georgia are patrolled daily, some by paid staffers hired for the summers to live on remote barrier islands as "turtle interns." But there are also legions of volunteers that look for nests, protect them from predators and guard hatchlings when they emerge. Their efforts and other conservation measures, such as turtle excluder devices that keep turtles from drowning in shrimp nets, appear to be making a difference, Dodd said.

"We're hoping that the long-term decline has bottomed out," he said. "The last couple years they've started to increase their nesting. And it's going to be another good year. We're hopeful this is the beginning of the recovery."

Tybee found solid evidence this month that its efforts to attract nesting turtles are paying off. Over the winter Chatham County retrofitted the lights on the Tybee pavilion to make them more turtle-friendly. Bright lights can disorient turtles.

Recently a turtle volunteer discovered loggerhead sea turtle tracks that led directly up the beach under the pier. That turtle didn't actually lay eggs, instead looping up and back in what turtle researchers call a false crawl.

"Although there were no eggs, it was nice to see a crawl near the pier," wrote Tybee sea turtle project coordinator Tammy Smith in an email announcing the crawl. "It is evident that the new lights have helped darken the beach."

As of Friday, Tybee had seven nests recorded.

As nesting winds down, hatching gears up. The first three nests hatched Tuesday on Sea Island and Ossabaw. Hatching typically continues through October.

## **2) PCR Prevalence of Ranavirus in Free-Ranging Eastern Box Turtles (*Terrapene carolina carolina*) at Rehabilitation Centers in Three Southeastern US States ( Infection is highly fatal in turtles, and the potential impact on endangered populations could be devastating)**

Journal of Wildlife Diseases, 47(3), 2011, pp. 759-764

Matthew C. Allender<sup>1,6,7</sup>, Mohamed Abd-Eldaim<sup>2,3</sup>, Juergen Schumacher<sup>1</sup>, David McRuer<sup>4</sup>, Larry S. Christian<sup>5</sup> and Melissa Kennedy<sup>2</sup>

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**ABSTRACT:** Ranaviruses (genus Ranavirus) have been observed in disease epidemics and mass mortality events in free-ranging amphibian, turtle, and tortoise populations worldwide. Infection is highly fatal in turtles, and the potential impact on endangered populations could be devastating. Our objectives were to determine the prevalence of ranavirus DNA in blood and oral swabs, report associated clinical signs of infection, and determine spatial distribution of infected turtles. Blood and oral swabs were taken from 140 eastern box turtles (*Terrapene carolina carolina*) that were presented to the wildlife centers at the University of Tennessee (UT; n=39), Wildlife Center of Virginia (WCV; n=34), and North Carolina State University (NCSU; n=36), as well as a free-ranging nonrehabilitation population near Oak Ridge, Tennessee (OR; n=39) March–November 2007. Samples were evaluated for ranavirus infection using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) targeting a conserved portion of the major capsid protein. Two turtles, one from UT and one from NCSU, had evidence of ranavirus infection; sequences of PCR products were 100% homologous to Frog Virus 3. Prevalence of ranavirus DNA in blood was 3, 0, 3, and 0% for UT, WCV, NCSU, and OR, respectively. Prevalence in oral swab samples was 3, 0, and 0% for UT, WCV, and NCSU, respectively. Wildlife centers may be useful in detection of Ranavirus infection and may serve as a useful early monitoring point for regional disease outbreaks. **Key words:** Eastern box turtle, PCR, Ranavirus, *Terrapene carolina*.

<sup>6</sup> Present Address: Department of Comparative Biosciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Illinois, 2001 South Lincoln Avenue, Urbana, Illinois, USA;

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**3) Detection and Characterization of Mycoplasma spp. and Salmonella spp. in Free-living European Tortoises (Testudo hermanni, Testudo graeca, and Testudo marginata)**  
**Journal of Wildlife Diseases, 47(3), 2011, pp. 717-724**

Roberta Lecis<sup>1,7</sup>, B. Paglietti<sup>2</sup>, S. Rubino<sup>2</sup>, B. M. Are<sup>3</sup>, M. Muzzeddu<sup>4</sup>, F. Berlinguer<sup>5</sup>, B. Chessa<sup>1</sup>, M. Pittau<sup>1</sup> and A. Alberti<sup>1,6</sup>

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**ABSTRACT:** Free-living and captive chelonians might suffer from upper respiratory tract disease (URTD), a pathology primarily caused by *Mycoplasma agassizii*. Wild tortoises can also be an important reservoir of *Salmonella* spp., which are commensal in the host reptile but are potential zoonotic agents. Between July 2009 and June 2010, we screened free-living European tortoises (spur-thighed tortoises *Testudo graeca*, Hermann's tortoises *Testudo hermanni*, marginated tortoises *Testudo marginata*) temporarily housed in a wildlife center in Italy. We molecularly characterized 13 *Mycoplasma* isolates detected in all *Testudo* spp. studied, and three PCR-positive animals showed typical URTD clinical signs at the time of sampling. Three *Salmonella enterica* serotypes (Abony, Potsdam, Granlo), already related to reptile-associated human infections, were also identified. These results highlight the potential role played by wildlife recovery centers in the spread and transmission of pathogens among wild chelonians and to humans.

**Don't miss the annual picnic this weekend!**

*Turtle watching at Kirkland Bay Park and then a rare tour of PNW Turtleworks. It is a great opportunity to learn how to successfully keep turtles and tortoises outside in this climate. Also see water turtle set ups that are easy to keep clean and are large enough to make the turtles happy. Details on the front page of this newsletter. Hope to see you all there! STTC*