

ISTS Board Retreat

August 12-14, 2008

National Conservation and Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV, USA

Discussions during the meeting focused on financial issues, preparation for the upcoming Symposium in Brisbane, developing the identity of the Society and elevating its profile as a leader in global sea turtle conservation. Another focus of the Board's discussion was responding to member interests and concerns and ensuring decisions are transparent. To help ensure the continuity for ISTS activities and development, the Board voted to re-appoint Michael Coyne as the Interim Chairman of the Board until 2010.

Financing & Fundraising

The ISTS is currently on sound financial footing; in recent months a number of proposals have been submitted to past and potential ISTS sponsors to support the 29th Annual Symposium. Within Australia, fundraising is successfully underway. Since 2007, Elena Finkbeiner has been hired part-time as the ISTS Program Officer to address fundraising and develop promotional materials.

Travel Grants for Brisbane Symposium

To provide greater lead time for travel planning and visas this year, the President has already allocated funds for the Travel Committee. More information will be coming soon from your Regional Travel Chair. As always, please complete your travel application with your online registration (deadline is 15 September 2008).

Annual Election

Members are encouraged to nominate colleagues for the President, Treasurer, Secretary, Board of Directors, Nominating Committee, and Awards Committee positions. The nominating process for the 29th Symposium is currently open through 1 October 2008.

Elevating the ISTS profile

Before the end of the year, the ISTS website will be reorganized and established with its own website at: seaturtlesociety.org; this website will be hosted by seaturtle.org. A number of items will be added to the website, such as the Treasurer's official annual report, condensed minutes of Board meetings since the 26th Symposium, an article that provides an overview of the Society, the complete and impressive list of winners of the Archie Carr Student Awards, etc. We will be having a contest for a new ISTS logo, with the winning design announced in Brisbane. Check the new Society website frequently for updates!

2011 Symposium & Future Venues

The Board recognizes and supports the interest of many members to hold the 2011 symposium in the United States. ISTS members are encouraged to submit President-Elect nominees to the Chair of the Nominating Committee. In the future, the membership may vote on multiple nominees for President-Elect, provided they meet the selection criteria. As part of the Board's efforts to develop a strategic plan for the ISTS, we

encourage anyone interested in hosting a Symposium in the next several years to contact a Board member.

Members in attendance: Ana Barragan, Jean Beasley, Lisa Campbell, Michael Coyne, Marydele Donnelly, Ed Drane, Nancy FitzSimmons, Naoki Kamezaki, Colin Limpus, Wallace J. Nichols, Kartik Shanker, and Manjula Tiwari
Observers: Elena Finkbeiner and Shigetomo Hiram