 ****

 Teachers on the Estuary

Georgia Sea Turtle Conservation Teacher Workshop

July 8-10, 2024

The beaches and estuaries of the southeastern coast provide critical habitat for five of the seven species of sea turtles. Though these magnificent creatures have traveled the planet for millions of years, not only witnessing, but adapting to climate change time after time, many of today’s populations are in decline due to current threats and challenges. All are listed as threatened or endangered, including Georgia’s primary nesting turtle the Loggerhead.

Join the Sapelo NERR along with biologists and scientists from Georgia DNR, and Armstrong Atlantic State University to learn about the role of sea turtles in the vast estuarine and ocean habitats. Lectures and activities will address the Estuary Principals and Concepts and include life history, anatomy and morphology, threats and rehabilitation, and current projects relevant to marine turtle and estuarine research; followed by nightly walks to look for nesting mother turtles along Sapelo’s Nannygoat beach.

**On-Island Accommodations:**  UGAMI (University of Georgia Marine Institute) dorms, 2 beds per room, central A/C, community kitchen, extra fridge space for snacks, beverages, etc.  All meals are included.

**Physical Activity:** nightly beach patrols for nesting turtles, transportation: open, flatbed truck with board seats

**Cost:**  $265 includes on island accommodations at UGAMI, all meals and resources.

The Georgia Sea Turtle Conservation Teacher Workshop is open to current formal and non-formal educators of all grade levels. Record of attendance, formerly PLU credit, is available and participants receive curriculum and resource materials.

For questions or if registration materials are not included please contact:

Georgia Graves, georgiabeachwalk@gmail.com

**Please register by May 1, 2024**



Teachers on the Estuary

2024 Sea Turtle Conservation Teacher Workshop

Agenda Highlights

**Monday, July 8**

8:30 Ferry departs for Sapelo

Welcome, Island Orientation

10am Introductory Lecture on Marine Turtles of Georgia

Lunch

The Role of Estuaries for our Georgia Sea Turtles & Classroom Resources

Population Estimates Activity with Adam Mackinnon, Education Coordinator, Sapelo NERR

Epibiont Lab- at SINERR A Closer Look at the thriving ecosystem on the back of a Loggerhead. Utilizing an estuarine dock lab to explore sessile organisms typically found on a nesting female’s carapace

Dinner

To the beach!!~~ for a closer look at the nesting beach, nest site monitoring, and our estuary’s role in maintaining healthy dune systems

9:00 Night patrol for nesting turtles at Nannygoat beach

**Tuesday, July 9**

Breakfast: Breakfast is self-serve and includes coffee, tea, juice, cereal, bagels, fresh fruit

9:00-11:30 Lecture, Dr. Kathryn Craven, AASU: Georgia’s 5 species, Sea Turtle Anatomy and Special Senses, Research on Embryonic development

12:00 Lunch

1:00-2:15 Anatomy lab utilizing preserved unhatched eggs and hatchlings from the previous nesting season to observe anatomy and identify various stages of arrested development

3:00 To the beach--low tide seining for loggerhead feeding resources

6:30 Dinner

Classroom activity session

9:15 Night patrol, Nannygoat beach

**Wednesday, July 10**

Breakfast see above

9-10:00 Dr. Brian Shamblin: Genetics Analysis-Mothers, Daughters, and Granddaughters Nesting along the SE Coast!

Wrap-up,pack-up, clean-up!

11:30 depart for Noon ferry off island



**2024 Georgia Sea Turtle Conservation Teacher Workshops**

**July 8-10**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name:

Male: \_\_\_ Female:\_\_\_

E-mail Address: (Please enter email address for end of school year accessibility)

School or Educational Facility Name:

 Address:

 County:

 State:

 Grade Level(s):

 Subject(s) Taught:

Home Mailing Address:

 City and Zip Code:

Phone:

Emergency contact & phone:

 **Make check for $265 payable to: Friends of Sapelo and mail to:**

**Friends of Sapelo**

**Sea Turtle Workshop**

 **P.O. Box 20453**

 **St. Simons Island, GA 31522**

 **ATTN: Sea Turtle Teacher Workshop**

**Fee is due at the time of registration; payment confirms your reservation.**

**Registration Deadline May 1, 2024**