

## SEA TURTLE BREAKTHROUGH FOR SEAWORLD SAN DIEGO

For the first time in the park's 39-year history, aquarists at SeaWorld San Diego have successfully incubated and hatched sea turtles. The green sea turtle hatchlings are in good health and are on exhibit at the *Aquarium de la Mer*.



© SeaWorld San Diego

There are only two other aquariums known to have successfully hatched sea turtles. Assistant Curator of Fishes Carl Jantsch notes that the attempt at reproduction was successful because aquarists simulated the natural breeding environment found in the wild. On 1 April, aquarists noticed that one of the female turtles at the *Sea Turtle Beach* display had dug a pit and deposited her eggs. Staff collected 105 eggs from the nest and incubated them behind the scenes in coral sand over a water bath at the park's freshwater aquarium. Between 4–10 June, the turtles began to hatch and surface. In the wild, newly hatched sea turtles head directly for the ocean. At SeaWorld, aquarists took the 21 surviving hatchlings from the nest, put them in water and began feeding them a diet of squid, krill, shrimp, fish and a special turtle "chow." After monitoring the turtles' progression for several weeks, aquarists deemed them healthy and put them on display in late June.

## BREEDING AND BOATING IN DALLAS

The Dallas Zoo chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK) launched a new rhino conservation effort with the first "Sailing for Rhinos" event on 4 June at the Corinthian Sailing Club at White Rock Lake in Dallas, Texas. The sailing event was organized as an additional fundraiser to the established annual "Bowling for Rhinos" event. A silent auction, featuring paintings by the Dallas Zoo's artistic animals, Zoo photos and a behind-the-scenes tour of the Zoo, were held during the event. Following a buffet dinner, keepers from the Zoo signed on to sail unofficial races with Corinthian Sailing Club members. Approximately 125 people attended the event, which raised \$1,862 for rhino conservation. The 13th Annual "Bowling for Rhinos" event was held 24 June and raised approximately \$7,500.

The Dallas Zoo is also pleased to announce the arrival of six new members of the Zoo family. Two rhinoceros hornbill chicks (*Buceros rhinoceros*) hatched in an off-exhibit nest in early May and are being parent-reared. The female remained in the nest from 12 March through 24 June. The captive-reared male, a six year old on loan from the Audubon Zoo, also tended the nest. The Species Survival Plan (SSP)-managed hatchlings are a first for the Dallas Zoo, one of only five U.S. zoos to successfully breed this species of hornbill, which rarely breeds in captivity. Zoo staff is also celebrating the 14 June hatching of a kori bustard (*Ardeotis kori*). The wild-caught dam is on loan from the Caldwell Zoo and the hand-reared sire is on loan from Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. The Dallas Zoo is the first North American zoo to reproduce this species, and is currently incubating several other kori bustard eggs. Finally, three ocellated turkey chicks (*Meleagris ocellata*) hatched on 7 June. They are from a flock of captive-raised Mexican imports and are currently being hand-reared in an off-exhibit area. Ocellated turkeys are threatened in the wild and rare in captivity.

## NEW RESEARCH CENTER AND BREEDING SUCCESS IN SAN DIEGO

For more than 25 years, the San Diego Zoo's Center for Reproduction of Endangered Species (CRES) has celebrated significant breakthroughs in conservation and science for various endangered species such as giant pandas, cheetahs and California condors. Beginning this year, CRES will celebrate the next step in maintaining its leadership role in endangered species research with the construction of the new Arnold and Mabel Beckman Center for Reproduction of Endangered Species, a \$22 million state-of-the-art facility located adjacent to the Paul Harter Veterinary Center at the San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park. The Center will serve as the main facility for international scientists to learn and collaborate on conservation research projects. In addition, the facility will bring forth the latest scientific technologies to overcome challenges relating to the conservation, health, genetic management reproduction and general well-being of endangered animals.

Expected to be in operation in late 2004, the new Beckman Center will be a two-story, 50,000-square-foot facility that will accommodate the personnel and equipment of CRES' ten divisions, including behavioral biology, analytical chemistry, ecology and evolution, applied conservation, reproductive physiology, genetics, endocrinology, pathology and virology/immunology. It will also include 6,000 square feet for future renovations and 24,000 square feet for offices, a library and a conference room.

The San Diego Zoo also added to their conservation success record with three Guatemalan bearded lizard hatchlings in April. The hatchlings signify the first successful breeding of this species in a U.S. zoo. The Zoo already houses five adult lizards in a non-viewing area. The species is considered threatened in its native region due to habitat loss.

## AMUR TIGERS APPEAR IN TOLEDO

On 29 May, 1.2 Amur tiger cubs were born at the Toledo Zoo. Four-year-old and first-time mom Sasha, on loan from the Saint



© Toledo Zoo

Louis Zoo, is taking good care of the cubs. Father George, originally from the Bronx Zoo, came to Toledo in May 2001 under a breeding recommendation

from the Tiger Species Survival Program (SSP), and their first litter is also the first litter of tiger cubs to be born at the Zoo in 20 years. Tigers are endangered in their native habitats due to human encroachments, habitat loss and poaching of the tigers and their prey.

## OREGON COAST CONTINUES AVIAN BREEDING SUCCESS

The Oregon Coast Aquarium's aviculturists' consistently high quality of seabird husbandry has proved beneficial for their pigeon guillemot (*Cephus columba*) colony as they welcomed eight new chicks in late July. In the wild, these chicks fledge at about five weeks, but usually leave the nest one-by-one at night, and walk or flutter to the sea. To better replicate their natural