

**From:** Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation <CTURTLE@LISTS.UFL.EDU> on behalf of Roderic Mast <mast@OCEANICSOCIETY.ORG>

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 2:34 PM

**To:** CTURTLE@LISTS.UFL.EDU <CTURTLE@LISTS.UFL.EDU>

**Subject:** [CTURTLE] Passing of Dr. Nat Frazer

Echoing Ray, Jeanette, Sally, Tony and all the others whose tributes are sure to roll-in over the coming days, Nat Frazer will be fondly remembered as an active and passionate member of our sea turtle family.

I was with Nat when he saw his first loggerhead, and began one of the illustrious chapters of his life and career as an outspoken ecologist, academic, and sea turtle conservationist. Nat and I were "Georgia turtle boys" together on Little Cumberland Island in the late 70s - for both of us it was our first turtle job, and we were beyond lucky to have landed with the LCI loggerhead project, one of the longest continually operating sea turtle monitoring efforts on Earth (led by our dear friends, Jim and the late Thelma Richardson, and Rebecca Bell). Jim trained me at the start of the season, then I trained Nat. Together, seven nights a week for about 4 months, we walked the beach from sunset to sunrise looking for crawls, measuring and tagging female loggerheads, transplanting nests, and shooing-off greedy raccoons that were scheming to eat our carefully protected turtle eggs. We never missed a turtle that season.

Between turtle beach runs, we told jokes, stared at the stars and passing satellites together, pondered the meaning of life, wondered what it would be like to see a leatherback, and discussed how sea turtles had been here on the planet for longer than our species and would likely outlive us. We shared countless tuna and macaroni one-pot meals at Rebecca's house, and argued hard over who had eaten the last Oreo and whose turn it was to gas-up and repair our finicky motorized trike that we had named "Little Deb." We caught mullet with a cast net when the groceries ran out, and blue crabs with a trap that had washed-up on the beach. We saw a painted bunting. He was there when I smoked my first cigar, offered up by one of the island's residents (Pieter Borkent, also a lifelong friend), and Nat laughed at/with me when I got sick on the beach after. We slept in a decrepit trailer with a couple of wet mattresses and a broken AC, where we kept company with lizards, roaches (big enough to eat the lizards), spiders, and stinging millipedes from sunrise until whenever it became too hot to sleep every day [~11 AM]. In other words, heaven.

Thus began a long friendship that landed us together on sea turtle business dozens of times over many years, from SE Workshops/STS gathering, W.A.T.S. in Costa Rica, right up until the creation of the State of the World's Turtles (SWOT) program in the early 2000s for which Nat participated in our brainstorm sessions. We did our best to stay in touch after his career path took him in a different direction as a professor and dean at USU - [https://qcnr.usu.edu/news/frazier\\_nat](https://qcnr.usu.edu/news/frazier_nat), but alas we had not hugged one another for several years.

I will always cherish my time with and memories of Nat. Ours was the type of brotherhood that can only be earned on a sea turtle beach. You turtle folks know what I mean.

Godspeed, Nat. Love. Rod



Rod Mast, Rebecca Bell, and Nat Frazer circa 1979, Little Cumberland Island GA.

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Roderic Mast

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jeanette Wyneken** <000002d810748e08-dmarc-request@lists.ufl.edu>

Date: Tue, Dec 15, 2020 at 10:32 PM

Subject: Re: [CTURTLE] Passing of Dr. Nat Frazer  
To: <CTURTLE@lists.ufl.edu>

This is sad news about a truly amazing colleague. I remember many thoughtful conversations with Nat. His perspectives will be missed by science both with sea turtle science and well beyond.

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**From:** Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation <CTURTLE@LISTS.UFL.EDU> on behalf of Carthy, Dr. Raymond R. <ngosi@UFL.EDU>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:46 PM  
**To:** CTURTLE@LISTS.UFL.EDU <CTURTLE@LISTS.UFL.EDU>  
**Subject:** [CTURTLE] Passing of Dr. Nat Frazer

**EXTERNAL EMAIL :** Exercise caution when responding, opening links, or opening attachments.

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I'm saddened to share news of the passing of Nat Frazer. Many of us knew Nat as a vital member of our sea turtle community. He presented and published prolifically from the '80s through the '00s, with a strong focus on growth and population modeling for loggerheads. After serving as Chair of the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Florida from 1999 – 2006, he moved to Utah State University where he was Dean of their College of Natural Resources through 2011 ([https://qcnr.usu.edu/news/frazier\\_nat](https://qcnr.usu.edu/news/frazier_nat)).

Some of you may share a fond memory of Nat from the Nineteenth Annual Workshop on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, when he showed us another side of the serious, dedicated, and enthusiastic scientist in his keynote address entitled, "Zen and the Art of Sea Turtle Conservation". The presentation is available in the 1999 meeting proceedings (<https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/4730> , p. 1-2), and although it earned him the irreverent but affectionate nickname of "Dr. Cosmic", it is worth reading today as a contextual meditation on ourselves and our efforts on behalf of sea turtles.

Thanks for your friendship and contributions Nat, and may your final sleep be full of turtle dreams.

Very best,

Ray

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Raymond R. Carthy, Ph.D.

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