

**From:** George Balazs <itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 1:56 AM

**To:** George Balazs <itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com>

**Subject:** Announcement/Fact Sheet DRAFT A Cultural Treasure: A Special Get-Together: 47 Years of Captive Breeding Hawaiian Green Turtles

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**From:** George Balazs <itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Saturday, November 4, 2023 12:42 AM

**To:** George Balazs <itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com>

**Subject:** A Cultural Treasure: A Special Get-Together: 47 Years of Captive Breeding Hawaiian Green Turtles

47 Years of Captive Breeding Hawaiian Green Turtles: A Cultural Treasure.

**Meeting Title:** 47 Years of Captive Breeding: Sea Life Park's Role in Hawaiian Green Turtle Conservation.

**Convened In Memory of Jeff Pawloski,** Sea Life Park Curator of Turtles 2004-2022.

**What and When:** A 6-hour session (9am to 3pm with an hour for lunch) on Friday December 1<sup>st</sup> 2023, at Hawaii Pacific University's Aloha Tower Marketplace Campus. The meeting will be devoted to informal information exchange, presentation of viewpoints, issues, and future potentials and possibilities to achieve the best cultural and science-based conservation use of the turtles and their offspring, while always keeping in mind the best interests of the turtles themselves.

**Organizers:** George Balazs, Retired NOAA & Independent Sea Turtle Scientist, and Dr. Thierry Work, Leader, USGS National Wildlife Health Center, Honolulu Field Station.

**Host:** Dean Brenda Jensen PhD, Hawaii Pacific University.

**Brief Background and Rationale:** Forty-seven years have now passed since Sea Life Park at Makapu'u in Waimanalo first bred Hawaiian green turtles in captivity. Hatchlings have been produced and released into the sea nearly every year since the initial success in 1976. In addition, hatchlings and juveniles displayed and reared at Sea Life Park have been made available for other educational, cultural, and scientific endeavors. Prominent players have included the Maui Ocean Center since 1998, the Mauna Lani Resort since 1989, and the Kahala Hotel (~2006-2019). It can be safely said that, over the years, millions of children and adults have been favorably influenced for conservation and cultural understanding by the breeding colony and offspring Sea Life Park holds in trust for the people of Hawaii. A major goal of the session on December 1<sup>st</sup> will be to create greater awareness, both locally and globally, of Sea Life Park's 47 years of contributing to the conservation of the Hawaiian green turtle.

**Note-** The meeting is invitational, but observers will be warmly welcomed. Question & Answer opportunities will be made available. Please email: Itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com

**Virtual Participation-** Zoom will be made available for invited participants mainly from outside of the Hawaiian Islands. We hope that all those invited from within Hawaii will recognize the significance of this meeting and attend in person for the greatest benefit to all.

### **Links to some of the many Background Papers/Articles-**

Bourke, Balazs and Shallenberger (1977) Breeding of the Green Sea Turtle at Sea Life Park.

Balazs et al. (2002) Adaptation of captive-reared green turtles released into Hawaiian coastal foraging habitats, 1990-99. ISTS-20 Orlando, Florida.

Morris, Balazs, Spraker, Work, and Levine (2003) Pharyngeal nodules in the Hawaiian green turtle. ISTS-22 Miami.

Wu (2011) With a little help from their friends. HSA.

Frey et al. (2012) Where are the green turtles in the Main Hawaii Islands coming from? ISTS-31.

Owen and Blanvillain (2013) Captive reproduction of sea turtles: an important success story.

Balazs, Morris and Palowski (2013) An effective and safe technique to PIT tag hatchling green turtles captive bred at Sea Life Park. Baltimore ISTS.

Frey, Dutton and Balazs (2013) Insights on the demography of cryptic nesting by green turtles in the main Hawaiian Islands from genetic relatedness analysis. JEMBE.

2015- Sea Life Park PIT-Tagged and Released Captive-Bred Hatchling 9/3/2011; Resighted 10/17/2015 39.5 SCL, 15 LBS.

Balazs et al. (2015) Settling Down in Hawaii: Adaptation of Captive-bred Green Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) Released from the Maui Ocean Center.

Shaw et al. (2020) Trace Element Concentrations in Blood and Scute Tissues from Wild and Captive Hawaiian Green Sea Turtles. Environmental Toxicology.

Jeff Pawloski and Turtle Tech Trainee in 2014

