

BHI Conservancy Interns: 2003-2008

Where Are They Now?

Ever wondered what happened to some of the interns after their summer on BHI? Thanks to social media like Facebook, it has been wonderful to reconnect with interns from the past several years and learn of their great successes since they left the island. Here is a look at what several of our former interns have been up to since their BHI Conservancy Internship. (Note: some interns could not be contacted, so this is not a complete list!)



2003



2004



2006



2007



2008

Lauren Smith, 2003 Sea Turtle Intern

Lauren completed a Master's degree at Southeastern Louisiana University studying sea turtle physiology for her thesis. She is currently employed as the wildlife research fellow at Disney's Animal Kingdom which includes coordinating Disney's sea turtle monitoring program. She also worked in the following areas prior to her Master's degree: as a sea turtle technician on Jekyll Island, GA; a reproductive biology and wildlife monitoring intern at Disney's Animal Kingdom; an aquatic research intern at Disney's the Seas at Epcot; an Americorps volunteer at the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward, Alaska.



L to R: Caitlin, Katie, Eric, Jen, Lauren & Matthew



Tim Malacarne, 2004 Sea Turtle Intern

According to Tim, he was emotionally shattered at having to leave Bald Head Island, and nearly immediately fled to Spain where he holed up for a year. He eventually returned and graduated from Georgetown in 2006. Over the next couple of years he worked at two different non-profits in DC before realizing he no longer got a month off for Christmas and decided to go back to school. He is now in his third year of a PhD program in sociology at Yale. He studies meaning structures and life decisions.

Caitlin Fritz, 2004 Sea Turtle Intern

Since her summer at BHIC, Caitlin has worked at the Philadelphia Zoo and the Wildlife Center of Virginia as an Environmental Educator. She switched gears a bit and went to Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts to get her Masters in Community Development and Planning. While in Massachusetts, she started a school/community garden and worked as a community organizer. She is now back in Philadelphia working as a Grant Writing and Nonprofit Consultant and works on getting involved in sustainability and green initiatives in Philadelphia.



Anya Joseph & Clark Rushing 2004 Sea Turtle Interns

Anya and Clark met during their summer internship at BHIC and their bond grew stronger in their time after they left the island. They were married back on BHI in 2008 and just welcomed a beautiful baby boy in October 2010. At the moment, Anya and Clark are both attending the University of Maryland. Anya is currently getting her masters in Sustainable Development and Conservation Biology, and Clark is getting his PhD in Behavioral Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics. His focus is on migratory birds and is specifically studying dispersal patterns in American Redstarts using isotope ratios as an indicator.



Melissa Hedges, 2004-2006 Sea Turtle Biologist

After finishing her Master's at Virginia Tech in 2007 she moved to Baton Rouge, LA to pursue a PhD in Oceanography and Coastal Sciences with Dr. Joseph Powers at Louisiana State University. She received the Sea Grant / NMFS Marine Population Dynamics Fellowship which funds her current research exploring changes in the fish communities in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico. She has also had the opportunity to continue pursuing her other passion, environmental education, by helping to start a chapter of EnvironMentors at LSU. EnvironMentors is a college access program sponsored by the National Council for Science and the Environment. Melissa married Josh Monk in July, 2009 and enjoyed a honeymoon in Alaska.



Lori Moll, 2004 Sea Turtle Intern

Lori earned Bachelor of Science degrees in Biological Sciences and Botany from N.C. State University and a Master of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Ecology from the University of Florida (2008). She was a Community Specialist for the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program from 2008-2010, leading education & outreach efforts for the program. She now manages their web site part time so that she can spend more time with her daughter. She also currently serves on the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission's Sea Turtle Advisory Committee.



Karen Sullam, 2004 Sea Turtle Intern

Karen is currently a PhD candidate at Drexel University in the Environmental Sciences program. Her research focuses on the feeding ecology of fish. For her dissertation, she is studying the gut microbial communities of Trinidadian guppies.

Greg Queen, 2004 Wildlife Intern

After Bald Head, Greg returned to NC State to get his high school science teaching degree. He taught biology at Sanderson High for a year but missed being outside. After a year, he got a job with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission managing southern Piedmont GameLands. He lives in Troy, NC and gets paid to play in the woods. His job entails prescribed burns, planting wildlife food plot, banding animals, etc. on public lands. He still does talks for groups like Duck's Unlimited and the Turkey Federation. He enjoys having a job conserving our natural resources and hunting heritage. Greg wanted to extend a special thanks to everyone at Bald Head for a great summer and fond memories.



Samir Majmudar, 2005 Sea Turtle Intern

Since the summer at BHIC, Samir joined the Army and began medical school. Currently, he is a Second Lieutenant in the Army, and in his 3rd year of medical school at the University of New England. Right now he is living in Watertown, NY and will be spending the year there doing rotations.



Elisa Livengood, 2005 Sea Turtle Intern

After Elisa left BHIC, she enrolled at University of Florida and graduated with her Masters in Interdisciplinary Ecology. She then continued on at the University of Florida for her PhD in Interdisciplinary Ecology. She studies the sustainability of the aquarium fish trade in Colombia South America and south Florida.



Ashleigh Martin, 2005 Education Intern

Ashleigh is currently teaching Marine Science & Biology at Berea HS, obtaining her certification through the PACE program. She also celebrated her 5th wedding anniversary in August.

Zach Sheller, 2005 Sea Turtle Intern

Since leaving the island, Zach finished up his Bachelor's degree in Marine Biology at the University of Maine at Machias. Post-college, he has held a series of seasonal field jobs in Maine, ranging from tagging flounder in the Gulf of Maine to canoeing and swimming down rivers to restore native Atlantic Salmon runs.



Crystal Stokes, 2005 Wildlife Intern

Crystal graduated with a BS in Wildlife Conservation/Biology Science and Pre-Med concentration at NC State. She is a current student at the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology in Palo Alto CA, working towards her Masters in Counseling Psychology. For the past 8 years she has worked as a personal trainer and a physical therapy technician. Crystal is a full-time trainer at Equinox Fitness and the owner of Crystal Clear Results, private training in fitness and living mindfully.



Anna Huntley, 2006 Sea Turtle Intern

Anna just finished her Master's degree at William and Mary. Her thesis focused on the effects of salinity on a parasitic dinoflagellate of blue crabs in Chesapeake Bay. She was awarded a year-long Knauss Fellowship in Washington, DC where she will be working for the Department of Energy on their Water Power team. This includes working on developing sustainable technology for renewable wave and ocean thermal energy. Anna also had a beautiful wedding in the Fall of 2010.

Jeff Edge, 2006 Wildlife Intern

Jeff has been working as an aquarist for over 3 years and has recently found his way back to the Oklahoma Aquarium where they are taking care of two of their own loggerhead sea turtles. Jeff also recently celebrated his engagement to Mandy.



Aric Payne, 2006 Sea Turtle Intern

After his summer on BHI, Aric went back and finished his undergraduate work at Berea College and earned a B.A. in Biology. He entered grad school in August of 2007 at Eastern Kentucky University and finished with an M.S. in Biology with an emphasis in aquatic biology in May of 2009. He landed a job with the Kentucky Division of Water as an Environmental Biologist that summer and has been there ever since. On the personal side, he got married in August of 2006, about a week after leaving BHI, and he and his wife now have two kids (3 and 1 1/2) and reside in Georgetown, KY.



Lindsey Merriman, 2006 Education Intern

After leaving BHI, Lindsey ended up at Duke University to get a Master's in Environmental Management, studying Environmental Economics and Policy. Currently she works for a small environmental consulting company out of Gaithersburg, MD called PRIZIM Inc. Responsibilities include environmental auditing, sustainability, and energy efficiency work. She loves the company, and is able to do a good bit of traveling as they work with the National Park Service. Otherwise, Lindsey is living life and trying to figure out how she can get back to the coast sometime soon!

Sharon Becker, 2007 Sea Turtle Intern

Since leaving the island, Sharon wrapped up her undergraduate degree and is now in her second year of her master's project at NC State in the Fisheries, Wildlife & Conservation Biology program. She also got married in August 2009 back in Southport.



Lauryn Cannon, 2007 Wildlife Intern

After her internship with BHIC, Lauryn finished her undergraduate degree at the University of Florida and graduated with a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation and minor in Agricultural Communication. She spent a year with AmeriCorps in Taholah, Washington living on the Quinault reservation and working with the National Society for American Indian Elderly to initiate a community garden project. She is currently beginning her second semester at the University of Maryland in DC as a graduate student in the Sustainable Development and Conservation Biology masters program. Her interests are community based conservation, public outreach, the role of traditional knowledge and indigenous co-management in conservation, and promoting environmental literacy.



Evan Ross, 2007 Sea Turtle Intern

Evan finished up his Bachelor's Degree after his summer on BHI and since June 2009 has been working for the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management - Office of Water Resources working on aquatic invasive species issues. This mostly consists of monitoring for invasive plants (and occasionally animals) in freshwater rivers and lakes and mapping their distribution across the state. He also helps with water chemistry monitoring and macroinvertebrate sampling. He is currently writing a rapid response plan to implement in the event of a zebra mussel introduction as well as helping to draft regulations for an aquatic invasive plant ban. Grad school is in his future but what program and where have yet to be confirmed.

Merissa Baxter, 2007 Education Intern

Merissa graduated from Elon in 2008 and went on to work for the US Environmental Protection Agency. She is currently completing an NIH funded Post-Baccalaureate Research Program at Wake Forest University.





L to R: Shannon, Katie

Katie Lusk, 2007 Sea Turtle Intern

Katie is currently a librarian at the Madison Library District in Rexburg, Idaho. She also teaches a medical ethics class and an Intro to Anatomy and Physiology class at a local community college. She is applying to grad school for a masters in Library and Information Science. Katie shared that “I am also always working on my life bird list and think of my summer at BHI as one of the best of my life! I wouldn't give up that experience for anything.”

Ian Turner, 2007 Wildlife Intern

After his summer on the island, Ian spent the summer of 2008 interning at the Clark Fork Coalition in Missoula, MT. Since then, he has worked in Knoxville (his hometown), and just finished up a position at the Tahoe Resource Conservation District in South Lake Tahoe, CA (working on aquatic and terrestrial invasive species detection and removal). Next fall, Ian will be starting graduate school at Auburn University in the department of Agronomy and Soils. He will be working on an EPA funded project to characterize the soils, morphology and riparian vegetation of headwater streams in the Alabama Piedmont.



Beth Alexander, 2007 Kayaking/Education Intern

Since BHI, Beth completed her B.S. in Conservation and Wildlife Management and is now researching possible grad schools for the near future. She is currently interning through The Student Conservation Association at Valley Forge National Historical Park (PA) as a Natural Resources Intern, where she has been a counselor for their summer camp, rebuilt fenced riparian buffers, controlled invasive species, and helped create and implement multiple new protocols at the park including a deer management action. She is absolutely loving it and is hoping for a full-time position very similar to this internship in the future.



Chris Rice, 2007 Sea Turtle Intern

After leaving the island, Chris went back to Oberlin where he graduated with a degree in environmental studies in 2009. He now lives in Philadelphia, PA where he works as a research associate at a health economics consulting firm. This spring he'll be traveling to Thailand before starting the graduate school application process. He plans to earn his masters in Sustainable Urban Design.



L to R: Jared, Chris, Ian, Evan



Devon Lang, 2007-2008 Sea Turtle Biologist

Upon leaving BHI in the fall of 2008 Devon headed west and took a job with the US Fish and Wildlife Service's California Condor Recovery Program in southern California. More than two years later, she is still residing in Ventura, CA and thoroughly enjoying working for the Recovery Program and monitoring their population of 49 wild condors. When she is not tracking condors she tries to spend a few days a month pouring wine in the tasting room at Old Creek Ranch Winery.

Kat Lillie, 2008 Wildlife Intern

Kat went on to be the Education Director for Sea Turtle, Inc., a non-profit sea turtle hospital in South Padre Island, Tx. The organization's mission is sea turtle rehabilitation, conservation, and education. In 2010, they rehabilitated over 100 sea turtles (loggerheads, greens, hawksbills, and Kemp's ridleys) and had 32 Kemp's ridleys nest on South Padre Island. Their facility is completely open to the public (even the ICU) and sees over 80,000 guests a year, about 5,000 of which are school groups from all over Texas. She is so happy to continue working with sea turtle conservation! Kat added that "I am very thankful to BHIC for everything I learned during my 2 internships which led me to my dream job!"



Andy Adams, 2008 Wildlife Intern



Since being an intern in summer/fall 2008, Andy has done research with the PA Game Commission involving white-tailed deer populations and was an environmental educator for Shaver's Creek Environmental Center in State College, PA and for Pickering Creek Audubon Center in Easton, MD. Last summer (2010), he was lucky enough to return to Bald Head Island as the Conservancy's interim Sea Turtle Biologist. Currently, he is a graduate student at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, CT earning an M.A. in Ecology and Environmental Science. He is also teaching undergraduate biology classes as a graduate assistant at the university. In the future, he hopes to incorporate a passion for both teaching and wildlife (notably herps) into a successful career.

DJ Manfre, 2008 Education Intern

DJ just finished grad school (University of New Haven) for secondary science education in December. She say it was a crazy program where she was in New Britain middle school everyday for a year and then took classes at night. Now she is working with a special education student in Vernon and looking for a science job.



Reid Nelson, 2008 Sea Turtle Intern

Reid graduated in May 2010 with a B.S. in Marine Biology, with honors from UNCW. He worked for Audubon NC as a field technician monitoring nesting shorebirds in summer 2009 and 2010. Currently he is working as a field technician for Audubon FL studying fishes in the Big Cypress Swamp.

