

Conservation group hosts turtle talk

STAFF REPORT

Where does a 300 lb Loggerhead turtle lay her eggs? Anywhere she wants to. As the largest reptile in the world, nobody tells this critter where to put her babies. But the *Caretta caretta* does need a little help navigating our shores thanks to light pollution, sand dredging and man-made beach debris. That's where the Island Turtle Team comes in.

At the Island Club near the Fish Fry Shack, The Sullivan's Islanders hosted turtle team members Barbara Bergwerf and Mary Pringle who spoke to about 50 people including kids of all ages. They shared a slide show about these gentle giants and that each of their nests

averages 126 ping pong ball sized eggs which may take up to 65 days to hatch. The Turtle Team itself is a SC Department of Natural Resources permitted group of volunteers who are specially trained to monitor local beaches for Loggerhead turtle activity. Their efforts are helping the endangered turtle make a comeback thanks to vigilant beach patrols and protecting nests.

The Sullivan's Islanders organization will present a series of educational programs concerning our natural resources and historic heritage. In October they will sponsor its first annual historic Sullivan's Island bus

tour. Author Roy Williams will present historical information about the architecture and histories of significant homes and public buildings on the island. Their first sponsored event was in June, a presentation by Dana Beach

of the Coastal Conservation League about air quality in Charleston. For more information please email Karen Coste at cscharlotte@bellsouth.net or contact Larry Middaugh at larry.middaugh@gmail.com.

Mission Statement

The Sullivan's Islanders are residents of Sullivan's Island whose goals are to maintain and improve the quality of life for all of its citizens through the safeguarding of our lands, maritime forests, and beaches; to prevent the over development of both commercial and private properties; and to protect all historic homes and public structures through conscientious preservation.