



“In Their World...  
On Their Terms...”

PHOTO: Wild Dolphin Project

# Reflections on 40 years of Dolphin Research in the Bahamas

Well, here we are in 2024 after just completing our 40th consecutive summer of dolphin observations in the Bahamas. When I started the project in the summer of 1985, I already had decided to commit to 20 years of fieldwork. I knew that some of the naturalists in the field studying apes and elephants (Goodall, Fossey, Moss) noted that decades were important for observations of long-lived species. So many things happened during my first 20 years. We learned the proper etiquette of being in the water with dolphins and gaining

their trust. We were exposed to not only their regular activities of life (babysitting, courtship, play) but also their antics and personalities. After 20 years, I also discovered how difficult it would be to stop observing this resident community of wild dolphins. How would I ever know if Little Gash became a grandmother? Did Romeo and Big Gash really sire most of the young calves in the group? What would their future be like and who would tell their story if we didn't keep doing our research and keep following the 100+ individuals in the community?

It was September 4, 2004 and once again my birthday. It was also the end of our 20th field season in the Bahamas. I had completed 20 years as planned!! I was huddled in a friend's home, awaiting the dreaded arrival of Hurricane Frances. We were in the bullseye of the storm as it traveled across the Atlantic and entered the Bahamas. Then it stopped. Just stopped. And it hovered right over our study area in the Bahamas for 36 hours. Then it hit us in Florida. Of course, I was worried about the dolphins. How would they fare, how would their lives be changed? But at the time I was

hovering in a safe room with a couple cats, waiting for the storm to pass, and to assess our own human damage of life and property.

The next summer of 2005 we went out to the Bahamas and found total disruption and instability among the remaining dolphins. Some families were completely gone (Gemini, Snow, and others) with the exception of their male offspring, who must have had a different strategy of surviving the storm then the rest of the community. But the group was shaken, unstable, not acting normal. And as we can

(continued on page 2)



PHOTO: Wild Dolphin Project

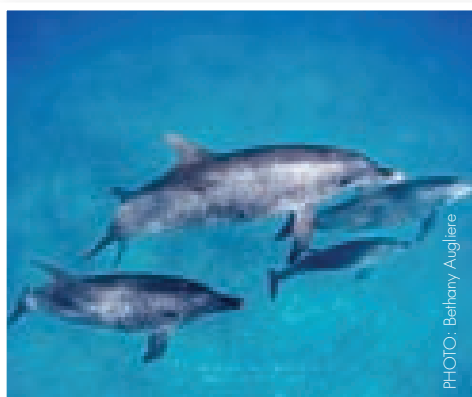


PHOTO: Bethany Augiere



PHOTO: Bethany Augiere

Left to right: RV Stenella; Baelish, Pulsar, Destiny, Duchess; Flying A, Naia & her calf

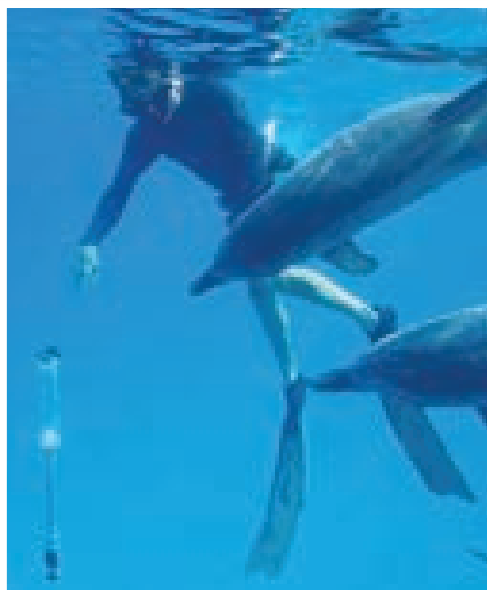
## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I want to Thank You! Yes, You! Even if you are reading about The Wild Dolphin Project here, right now, for the first time or if you have been with our Founder, Dr. Denise Herzing, for over 40 successful years of research and discovery... Thank you. It is you, and many people like you, whose curiosity, interest, and generosity make our caring for, and learning from, the dolphins we study possible. And now that your feet are wet, don't stop here. Come along with us and dive deeper into this exciting journey as we use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to shine a bright new spotlight on the dolphins we've been studying for 4 generations.

### Our Unique 40+ Year Database Is Primed for AI:

Imagine the year is 1985. In the clear azure waters of The Bahamas an adorable newborn calf breaks the surface for its first breath of air. It then rolls under its mother nuzzling to get its first sweet drink of milk. Look at that little bundle of life, frolicking this way and that, in little starts and stops. She's the embodiment of cute! Now roll the clock forward 40 years... that little precocious calf is now a successful great grandmother! She swims with her mature daughter, her busy granddaughter, and now her young mischievous great granddaughter who darts back and forth between them! They and their extended families have grown up alongside Dr Herzing and our researchers, and very importantly... in front of our cameras and hydrophones.

We have cataloged those audio and video recordings into the largest database of underwater wild dolphin behavior and vocalizations in the world. Dr Herzing together with a team at Georgia Tech and other colleagues are unleashing the power of AI on that treasure trove of data to detect patterns in vocalizations and behavior that our human eyes and brains just can't. The more AI can match vocalizations to behaviors correctly and consistently, the more



our researchers can assign clearer meaning to both. You can see where that could lead us, right? Here's a hint, read about "CHAT" on our website and stay tuned!

Related to that, our researchers are also using AI to delve into the intricate components of dolphin vocalizations to reveal how the dolphins assemble their "language" on a foundational basis. That would be very helpful for "CHAT" too.

There are so many more exciting parts to this! You'll want to check our website often, and maybe even join us for a front row seat with our researchers, and an amazing side-by-side introduction to our dolphin cousins!

### All Aboard:

Come see what it's like! Join us on a research trip aboard our at-sea research platform *RV Stenella*! But reserve your spot quickly. Once

we announce our trip dates they fill up fast. And keep up with all our progress by signing up online for a WDP Membership. And please donate large or small. It's easy to do on our website. Your generosity goes a long way.

Dr. Herzing first gave me the amazing opportunity to be immersed in these dolphins' world 20 years ago. That makes me a relative newcomer compared to our early supporters who continue to be our bedrock for inspiration, guidance, and financial support. It is the continued support and participation of these pioneers, and our consistent growth of new supporters over our 40+ years that speaks volumes of Dr Herzing's dedication and integrity. This is mirrored in the culture, standards, and reputation of The Wild Dolphin Project which is unmatched in the field of wild dolphin research worldwide. I'm grateful and honored to be part of this team.

Once again, Thank You! Now come aboard, grab your bathing suit, mask and snorkel... we've got discoveries to make!

**Drew Mayer**, Board of Directors, President

### RESEARCH (from page 1)

only imagine, this is a traumatic event for any society. Perhaps they fought for their own lives, or watched their calves drown. Perhaps they tried to flee but lost track of the rest of the group. We will never know. What we do know is that we have yet to see any of the original missing dolphins return to our area. I remember feeling very grateful for having 20 years of incredible observations of this community, and also feeling sad at such a great loss, 30% of our known individuals were gone.

After that we carried on with our fieldwork the next few summers, watching the community restabilize without their friends and companions. And we gradually watched them add new calves to their community numbers. But with

only about 100 individuals in the community, it takes time to repopulate the group when you only give birth every 3 years. As scientists, it is our job to take data, to make observations, and to make sense of what we can. And it is our job as humans to tell the story, continue to monitor, and notice any other things that affect the lives of free-ranging dolphins.

And sure enough, in 2013 another tragic event was taking place; a food crash. Over 50% of the resident dolphins moved 100 miles south to the next sandbank, presumably to find food. And there most of them have stayed there (only 4 came back to their original home). Yet another chapter to the story was being written. The dolphins we knew so well were entering an area where other dolphins had already made

their residence. So how do immigrant dolphins integrate, or not, with a local group of resident dolphins? We spent the next 10 years watching, observing, noting, analyzing, and interpreting their behavior. A natural, albeit disturbing, experiment most likely due to climate change, we continue to tell the story of this resilient, yet challenged, community of dolphins. And such changes are happening around the globe as environments and habitats shift and change, often without us even noticing until it is too late.

Along the way we have learned so much. We have tracked dolphin life histories, their reproductive cycles, their mating system, and of course their behavior underwater and correlated acoustics. We are so grateful that the dolphins

have allowed us in their lives as much as they do, letting us watch, observe, to take note. And we are so grateful to all our WDP members and supporters who have stuck with us over the decades. We are proud of our research and to be able to share the stories of dolphin trials and tribulations in the wild. But most of all we are grateful to the dolphins who, willingly and unassumingly, opened up their underwater world to a few humans who dared to glimpse the details of their lives in the ocean. And I don't doubt that some things may be unveiled in the next decade or two, and some things may still remain a mystery.

Here's to another 40 years Wild Dolphin Project!

**Dr. Denise L Herzing**

# 2024 WILD DOLPHIN PROJECT: Summer Findings and Season Highlights

The 2024 field season for The Wild Dolphin Project marked our 40th year of observing Atlantic spotted dolphins in the Bahamas. This summer, we had the privilege of exploring both Little Bahama Bank (LBB) and Great Bahama Bank (GBB), reuniting with familiar faces and meeting new dolphins. Each trip brought exciting encounters, behavioral observations, and a few surprises. With 39 total encounters, we were fortunate enough to see 121 spotted dolphins this summer, 79 of which were GBB dolphins and 42 were LBB dolphins. In terms of the population living on GBB, we estimate that we saw about 50% of the population. For the LBB population, it is hard to tell the percentage given the high number of new individuals we saw this summer. We had 5 crater feeding encounters with bottlenose dolphins (which is a rare treat), several mom-calf encounters, and one spotted dolphin male aggression encounter with

at least 35 individuals. We also had 4 interspecies encounters. Without further ado, here's a recap of our key findings and observations from this unforgettable season.

This summer, we had several encounters with mom-calf pairs on both LBB and GBB. There were calves galore! Tristan, Tyler, Aquarius, Arugula, Amanda, Suey, and one of the unidentified LBB dolphins all had new calves this summer. Some of them had interesting skin conditions around the rostrum, but they all looked relatively healthy. We do our best during encounters to sex the new calves; however, this summer that proved to be quite the challenge. With at least 7 known new calves, we were able to identify 4 of them as female. The other 3, however, remain a mystery



Hayley and Allison

until next summer. Hopefully we see them and some other new calves next summer, especially since the first year of life is the most dangerous for a newborn calf.

At this age, they are exceptionally prone to shark attacks, boat strikes, disease, and being separated from their mothers. Speaking of mothers, we saw several pregnant females this summer, one of which was Nassau. Her last calf was born in 2019 (Nugget) and we look forward to meeting the new little one next summer.

As we kicked off our field season, May welcomed us with unusually calm weather, making our first trip a perfect start to the season. We spent our entire first trip on LBB, revisiting areas like White Sand Ridge, the Nursery, and Dolphin Wreck. These

spots had been vacated by dolphins for a few years, but it was thrilling to see them re-inhabited, with the population seemingly on the rise. While we saw several familiar rostrums on LBB, we also found almost 30 new faces that became quite the puzzle. When we encounter a new individual, we spend hours combing through our photo database to try and match the individual to one we already know. Once we can successfully confirm the individual is new, then we name them. This summer we identified 28 new LBB individuals and so far almost all of them have been named. Please welcome Remi, Dublin, Hades, Twix and her calf Toothless, Eeyore, Selkie, Firebolt, Aussie, Borealis, Onyx, and Kansas to the WDP family (just to name a few)!

Throughout the season, we encountered both new and old faces. Dolphins like Poindexter, Navel, Naia, and Flying A made several appearances,

*(continued on page 4)*



PHOTO: Hayley Krapp

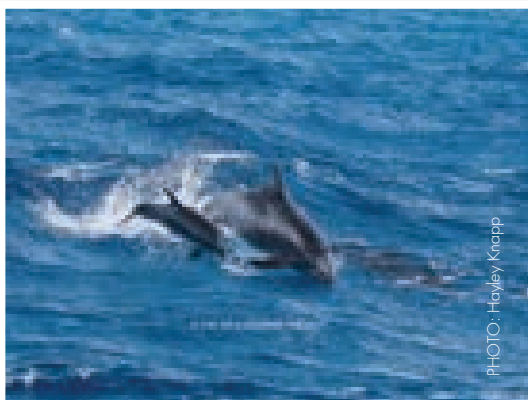


PHOTO: Hayley Krapp



PHOTO: Allison Sanchez

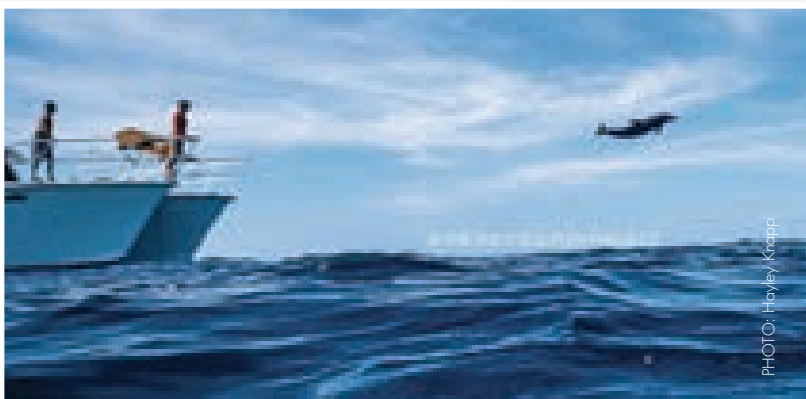


PHOTO: Hayley Krapp



PHOTO: Allison Sanchez

**Top Left to right:** Bottlenose crater feeding, Mom and calf, Suey and her calf Scooter playing with sargassum; **Bottom Left to Right:** Baelish doing an aerial in front of Stenella, Nereide, Tyler, and calf

(continued from page 3)

often with calves in tow. Naia's calf, Nera, born last summer, was particularly playful. Amanda, another of our well-known spotted dolphins, was seen with a brand new female calf on Trip 2. The LBB dolphins, especially juveniles, were abundant, making it a challenge to identify individuals. These youngsters, with fewer spots and changing appearances, kept our photo identification team busy (and occasionally delusional).

One remarkable LBB encounter came early in Trip 6 when a large group of spotted dolphins surrounded our anchored boat at 7 a.m. This long-lasting, playful encounter included plenty of pec rubbing, juvenile play, and even some dolphins chasing a barracuda. We saw familiar dolphins like Flying A, Navel, and Zest, and a host of the new individuals. Identifying the rest of these unnamed dolphins will continue to be a detective task for future seasons, as we work to track their growth and social changes.

Across all of our trips, we documented a wide array of dolphin behaviors. The males were especially active, with Trip 2 featuring the massive encounter involving 35 males engaged in aggressive coalition behaviors. Watching male dolphins go head-to-head in such a large group was awe-inspiring and provided valuable insight into their social dynamics, especially since they kept splitting into multiple subgroups before coming back together. Nautica, a playful juvenile female, was a standout this summer, often initiating playful behaviors and interactions with both dolphins

and humans. She was spotted numerous times, including encounters where she played with sargassum and even tried to start squabbles among younger dolphins. During one encounter, Nautica instigated trouble which resulted in calves disobeying their mothers and Nautica being reprimanded with aggressive tail slaps. Craziness!

Courtship and mating behaviors were also prevalent throughout the season, especially on GBB. Younger males like Nemo and Banshee, sons of Nereide and Bishu respectively, were observed practicing courtship with older females. This is a normal part of their development and they generally practice with their mothers before practicing with receptive females. Nautica, the leading lady this past summer, was one of the females the young males practiced with. She wasn't as keen as some of the other females were.

We also observed parental behaviors, especially with so many mom-calf pairs seen throughout the season. Newborn calves, such as those with Suey, Tristan, and Arugula, were often observed nursing or being closely supervised by their mothers. Others, like Banshee and Bindi, were frequently disciplined for their ornery decisions. Nautica taught them well. One particularly entertaining sight was watching a calf perform aerial jumps (perfect 10 on form, style, and landing) despite rougher seas during trip 6, proving that the dolphins revel in the waves no matter the weather.

While LBB was full of wonderful encounters, GBB encounters were full of lively behavior,

from babysitting and nursing to plenty of sargassum play. Generally, the females, juveniles, and calves are more accepting of the research team in the water. The males tend to swim away quickly or stay on the outskirts of an encounter. It is very rare for them to playfully engage with us. However, this summer a few males on GBB seemed more interested than normal in sticking around for bow rides, sargassum play, and surfing. We had several close-up encounters with dolphins like Zeke, Trident, Lamda, and Evren, who buzzed our fins and rode the waves alongside the boat. We also saw Toad and Baelish who did lots of vertical sinking, playing with sargassum, spyhopping and Baelish even did some impressive aerials!

While bottlenose dolphins were less commonly seen, we did have special encounters with them crater feeding. They dug into the sandy bottom with their heads, leaving behind craters as they searched for prey like razor fish and conger eels. Their behavior is fascinating to observe, and it's a rare privilege to witness such feeding methods in action.

Sharks made several appearances this season, often passing through calmly while dolphins went about their business. On one occasion, we saw an LBB juvenile female spotted dolphin (Dublin) taunt a shark by wagging her tail, enticing it to chase her. Luckily, the shark swam off without incident, but we hope the young dolphin learns to be a bit more cautious in the future. In another encounter, multiple dolphins chased off a shark as it cruised past. While both of

these situations were without incident, that is not always the case. Several dolphins bore fresh wounds, leaving us to wonder what dangers they had recently faced. Sidewalk had a severe injury on her peduncle and her calf, Sidon, bore a new scar. One of the more engaging males, Baelish, had a chest wound. Most concerning was Briny, Burgundy's calf from 2023, whose dorsal fin was almost completely gone. He also deep bore scars across his flank. Despite these injuries, these dolphins continued to thrive, play, and socialize with the others.

As always, fieldwork brings its challenges, and the weather was no exception. Unfortunately, we had to cancel Trip 3 due to inclement weather, and we also had to leave Bimini early on Trip 2 due to storms. Tropical Storm Debby stirred up rough seas during Trip 6, but the dolphins took advantage of the high waves, surfing and jumping in the air, entertaining us all. While these weather conditions can make fieldwork tricky, they're an inherent part of studying wildlife in the open ocean. Overall, the 2024 season was a resounding success, filled with new insights and exciting observations. With a growing dolphin population, new calves, and dynamic social behaviors to study, we are eager to continue our work in the years ahead. We look forward to sharing more discoveries as we build on the legacy of The Wild Dolphin Project for many summers to come!

See you next year!

Allison and Hayley



PHOTO: Allison Sanchez

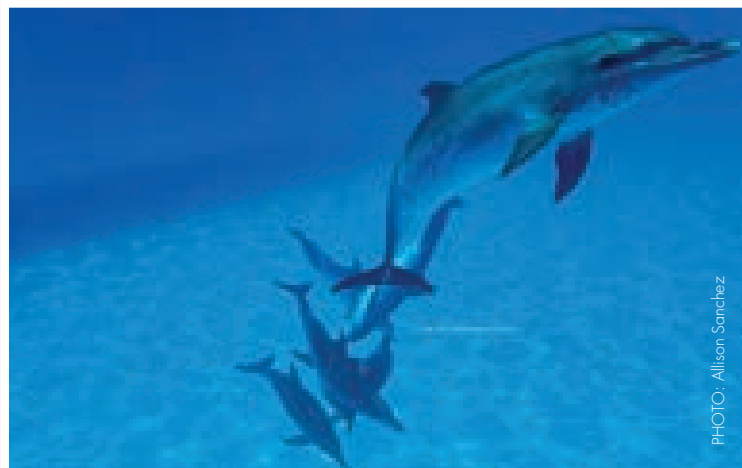


PHOTO: Allison Sanchez

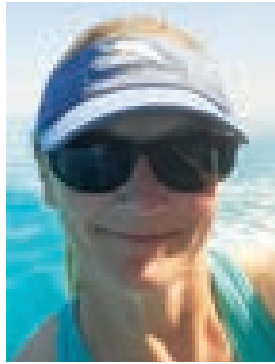
Left to right: Briny with injuries, Zest



## CREW CORNER



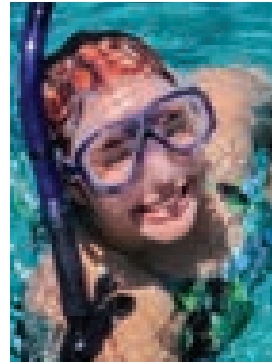
**Captain Dave**



**Cindy**



**Allison**



**Hayley**



**Andrew**

I first came on the boat in 2019 as an intern, and again in 2021. In 2022, right before starting my masters program, I was invited out as a field assistant. Last summer, 2023, was my first full summer on the boat as a crew member. This summer was even more special because of the relationships I formed with our field assistants, cooks, captain, and mate. They have become a family for me and have been so supportive of me while I finish my masters. I have loved having the opportunity to learn about the dolphins, environment, boat, and cooking while aboard the *Stenella*. I look forward to many more adventures with the Wild Dolphin Project!

**Hayley Knapp**

This summer aboard the *Stenella* was an unforgettable adventure. I had previously interned in 2021 and cooked on a trip in 2023, but coming out as a field assistant this season surpassed all my expectations! This incredible opportunity allowed me to learn more than I ever imagined, form connections with amazing people, work alongside the best crew, and spend time in the most beautiful place with the most remarkable creatures. One of my favorite memories happened on Trip 1 when we encountered all the new dolphins on Little Bahama Bank for the first time. It was both impressive and a bit overwhelming to see so many unfamiliar dolphins—we counted 28 new individuals! I loved the detective work of identifying and getting to know these new faces, even though it came with its share of challenges. It was so rewarding to finally name them at the end of the season and give us something to look forward to for next year! The whole experience was truly special.

**Allison Sanchez**

It was great being back on *Stenella* again this year! Once again it was like stepping back in time and the old routines (but new equipment) fell right into place. This trip we spent the whole time on Little Bahama Bank, so it really was like being back in that time before the dolphins moved to Bimini. We cruised around the sandbank going to all the regular places, looking for dolphins, and getting a few good snorkeling trips in when the dolphins weren't around. The snorkeling stops were a nice break, but also important for documenting how the ecosystem is faring. The health of the reefs can tell us a lot about what is happening on the sandbank, and what issues the dolphins that are still there may be facing.

The weather was gorgeous - even having a day of glassy water (where there is just about no wind, and the ocean surface is calm and looks like a pool) - that was such a treat! The dolphins are a little harder to find these days on LBB, but we managed to have a few good encounters with both bottlenose (near and dear to my heart) and spotted dolphins. I was so excited to have an encounter with Flying A, an adult female spotted dolphin I knew when I first started with WDP more than 20 years ago. There are more and more new dolphins that I don't know, so it was extra special getting to hang with one that I remembered well from my days, and that she is still healthy and thriving. As always, the humans on the trip were amazing as well. I treasure getting to be out on *Stenella* again, reconnecting with old friends and making new ones (both human and dolphin alike) and I hope to make it a yearly adventure for many years to come!

**Dr. Cindy Elliser**

So, 2024 was my first season with the Wild Dolphin Project. I joined in March and what a whirlwind of activity it was. We got the 40th Gala done successfully, did a lot of work on the boat to make her more than ready for the season. Summer came quickly, and we rocked it. Had some amazing passengers, a rocking staff and had a wonderful season with the dolphins of LBB and GBB. It was an amazing experience and I am looking forward to next season. We are back to maintenance and getting ready and I feel we will have a more amazing time this next year. Shout out to my crew, Hayley for pursuing her dream and being a rockstar, Allison for learning and growing into the project and being a rockstar, my amazing first mate Drew for working so hard and learning so much, and Liam for keeping us well fed. You guys keep it fun and I appreciate that about all of you. Peace, Love, and Dolphins.

**Captain Dave Montgomery**

Another season filled with incredible encounters, amazing adventures, and captivating guests. Each trip is a unique experience. I consider myself truly blessed to be a part of this team and I'm looking forward to what the future holds.

**Andrew Symonds**

## PASSENGER HIGHLIGHT

## Oxana Fedorova

*A passenger on Trip 6*

Oxana Fedorova

Seeing dolphins in the wild is always special. On our trip in July 2024, we had plenty of amazing encounters with spotted dolphins, but what made this trip truly unforgettable wasn't just the close interactions—it was the opportunity to dive deeper and learn about their individual lives and stories.

I had dreamed of going on a trip with the Wild Dolphin Project (WDP) ever since I read Dr. Denise Herzing's book "Dolphin Diaries" many years ago. As a strong advocate against cetacean captivity, I've always sought to learn everything I could about wild dolphins, reading every book I could find. But "Dolphin Diaries" was different—it wasn't just about the species in general, but about individual dolphins, each with their own distinct personalities and life stories. Dr. Herzing's unique approach, based on trust and respect for dolphins, opened a special window into their fascinating world. During our trip, we had

the chance to peer through that window ourselves.

The nine days aboard *Stenella* flew by far too quickly. Our group was made up of fascinating, like-minded individuals, including Dr. Denise Herzing herself and the renowned writer, scientist, and environmentalist Carl Safina.

Each day was filled with the excitement of searching for dolphins, sharing stories, and learning about the groundbreaking work WDP has been doing in the Bahamas for the past 40 years. I was amazed by the extensive binders of data tracking each dolphin's lineage, how many calves they had, who survived shark attacks, and even some who made surprise reappearances after being unseen for years. Browsing through those thick volumes, you gain incredible insight into the dolphins' lives. It's truly remarkable. We also learned how to identify individual dolphins by their unique spots, scars, and notches—a skill that added yet another layer to this deeply enriching experience.

We were fortunate to encounter some of the same dolphins more than once and began to recognize them in the water. One of the first was a young female named Nautica, who greeted us on our initial encounter along with her two

friends, Spring and Oreo. It's hard to describe the thrill of seeing a familiar dolphin, but what's even more incredible is realizing they recognize you too.

On two separate days, we found the dolphin I most wanted to meet: Nassau, one of the oldest females in the group. Dr. Herzing and her team have observed her since the year she was born. Now 35 years old, Nassau survived a shark attack at just one year old and went on to become one of the group's most prolific females. She's had seven calves—Nautica being one of them—and was heavily pregnant when we encountered her. Nassau's story is a testament to the value of each individual dolphin within the population. It was an extraordinary privilege to spend time with her, and I'll never forget her wise eyes and graceful, deliberate movements. I really hope to see her again one day.

While we didn't find dolphins every day, when we did, the quality of the encounters was remarkable. One unforgettable experience involved an adult female named Sycamore. She was playing with a long piece of sargassum and came right to me. She expertly tossed it from her mouth to her fin, then to her tail, before dropping it in front of me as if inviting me to join the game. I knew the rules and picked up the sargassum. She watched closely. I waved it a little and hurriedly threw it back. Sycamore looked at me and

didn't pick it up. So, I took the sargassum again, swam with it longer this time, and Sycamore followed. After playing a little, I showed the sargassum to her and dropped it, hoping Sycamore would pick it up—and she did! I was in complete awe. Playing fetch with a wild dolphin! How is this even real? I could not have imagined it in my wildest dreams.

But the encounter didn't end there. Nassau joined us, and the three of us swam together in a tight circle for a long time. At that moment, I forgot about the other dolphins around us; the connection with Nassau and Sycamore felt so deep and focused. Then, two more dolphins came in from the other side. I was right between them on one side and Nassau with Sycamore on the other. For a brief moment, it felt like I had been accepted into their group—like I was a part of this incredible dolphin family.

It was an absolute privilege to be part of the Wild Dolphin Project's ongoing work, and I will always be grateful for the experience. I deeply admire Dr. Denise Herzing and her team for their dedication to studying this special group of dolphins and their tireless work to crack the code of dolphin communication. I'm confident that one day they'll succeed, and we'll finally understand what dolphins have to say. I hope to join the team many more times in the future.

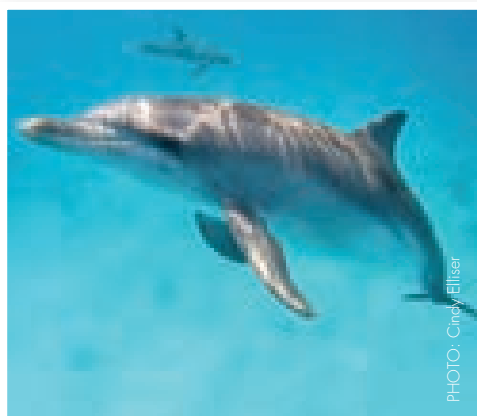


PHOTO: Cindy Elliser



PHOTO: Cindy Elliser



PHOTO: Hayley Knapp

Left to Right: Nautica, Nassau, Sycamore

# BAHAMAS TRIPS

“In Their World...On Their Terms”



## Start Discovering the World of Wild Dolphins

**Join the Wild Dolphin Project** in the Bahamas! Snorkel and observe wild dolphins underwater and learn about their behavior, communication, and ecology. Participants are able to assist WDP staff with dolphin watches, photo ID, and gain field experience.

## 2025 BAHAMAS ECOTOURISM TRIPS

We are looking forward to continuing our work observing Atlantic spotted dolphin and bottlenose dolphins next summer. We invite you to join us aboard our Vessel *Stenella* and learn about the natural behavior and lives of dolphins in the wild. All trips leave from West Palm Beach, Florida on a Tuesday morning and return 9 days later Wednesday afternoon. A full-time cook is aboard ensuring everyone is well fed and hydrated as some dolphin encounters can be lengthy and can happen multiple times throughout the day.

As a perk of maintaining a membership with the Wild

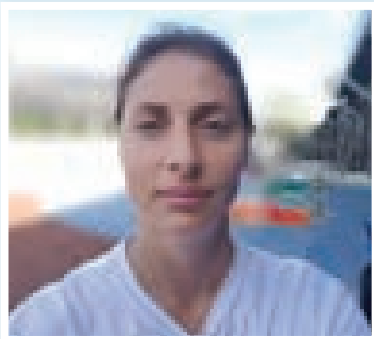
Dolphin Project, members receive the first chance to sign-up. Be on the lookout in December for an email from our trip coordinator with sign-up instructions. In January, those on the inquiry list will be notified of the remaining availability and the updated schedule will also be posted online for the general public to sign up. To be added to the 2025 trip inquiry list, email your contact information along with what state/country you are traveling from and which trip(s) you prefer.

Internship Program: Students currently enrolled in high school or college with an interest in marine biology can participate as an intern.

Include documentation that you are currently a student (i.e. current class schedule, student ID card, unofficial transcript, etc.) with your initial email. Intern responsibilities are to conduct daily dolphin watches on the bridge, assist the team with logging data, underwater photography and photo identification processing. An assignment needs to be completed prior to joining us in

the field. Interns must be at least 18 years of age at the time of the trip.

Are you ready to join us?



**Denise Sammartano**  
WDP Trip Coordinator  
561.575.5660  
wdptrips@wilddolphinproject.org



Student Internship Opportunities



Participate in Bahamas Trip



2024 Trip 6 participants.

2025 FIELD SEASON SCHEDULE		
TRIP 1	May	TBD
TRIP 2	May	TBD
TRIP 3	June	TBD
TRIP 4	June	TBD
TRIP 5	July	TBD
TRIP 6	July	TBD
TRIP 7	August	TBD
TRIP 8	August	TBD
TRIP 9	September	TBD
TRIP 10	September	TBD

## NEW RESEARCH

In our latest research updates at the Wild Dolphin Project, graduate student Hayley Knapp is analyzing the genetics of the dolphin population in Bimini. Her focus is on identifying which males are fathering offspring, expanding upon the earlier doctoral work of Michelle Green, Ph.D., who found that the oldest males were most successful in siring young. Hayley's research will reveal whether this trend holds true today or if younger males are playing a larger role. She is also exploring whether the native Great Bahama Bank dolphins and immigrant population from Little Bahama Bank are successfully interbreeding, which could provide important insights into the genetic health and diversity of the population.

Additionally, research assistant Cassie Volker-Rusche along with Dr. Herzing are revisiting data on the life history of individuals and reproductive success of female dolphins. They are analyzing life history and reproduction data from 1985 to 2021 to determine if trends have remained consistent over the years.

By comparing data from the earlier years of the study to the more recent period (2013-2021), they hope to assess changes in pregnancies, color phases, and overall reproductive patterns among the dolphins. This research will be key to understanding any long-term shifts in the population's reproductive success.

Lastly, founder and director Denise Herzing, Ph.D., along with her collaborators, published a new paper in the journal *Animal Behavior and Cognition*, on two-way communication using the CHAT system. In this study, wild Atlantic spotted dolphins imitated computer-generated sounds, showing their vocal flexibility. Dolphins produced partial accurate matches within five seconds of hearing these sounds, demonstrating immediate and delayed vocal imitation. While the dolphins did not exhibit an understanding of object labels, their vocal mimicry highlights the complexity of their communication capabilities. This work continues to push boundaries in our understanding of dolphin intelligence and communication.



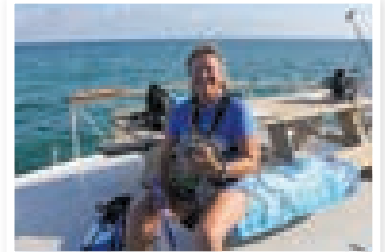
PHOTO: Bethany Augiere



PHOTO: Bethany Augiere



PHOTO: Bethany Augiere



**Left Top:** Potion, Patronus, Duchess and Destiny **Right Top:** young dolphin excreting fecal matter, **Middle Left:** Kelly Moewe collects fecal sample for DNA testing. **Middle Right:** Dr. Herzing wearing the original CHAT **Bottom:** CHAT junior

## MEET THE DOLPHINS

### Meet Nautica



Nautica is a crew favorite for her spunky, ornery, playful attitude and demeanor in the water. Born to Nassau in 2016<sup>1</sup>, Nautica is part of a relatively large family that moved from LBB to GBB during the exodus event of 2013<sup>2</sup>. When she isn't swimming around with her mom or older sister Nereide and cousin Nemo, Nautica can be found frolicking with Oreo and Sycamore. Together, the three of them enjoy playing with sargassum and interacting with us humans. Whether it's stealing scarves, swooping in

and taking the sargassum from us, or buzzing our fins, Nautica keeps us and the passengers wildly entertained. It is hard to believe Nautica is approximately 8 years old (almost considered a young adult) because she is just as energetic and rambunctious as the calves we observe tussling with her. One thing Nautica is known for is her ability to take a tail slap. This past summer, we counted as Nautica caused enough trouble among her fellow spotted to get tail slapped (a form of aggression) not once, but 4 times! It was intimidating to watch but impressive considering she kept up her antics. We look forward to many more entertaining interactions with Nautica during future field seasons.

1 - Brian Skerry's National Geographic: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/photography/article/brian-skerry-finds-the-afghan-girl-dolphin>.

2 - <http://www.wilddolphinproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Herzing-et-al.-2017-plos-EXODUS-reduced-size.pdf>.

### Meet Flotsam



Flotsam, son of Flying A, is one of our LBB residents whom we have found again after so many years away from that bank. The last time we saw him, Flotsam was considered a juvenile dolphin (between ages 4-8). Now, he is a young adult male. These days, Flotsam can be found moseying around the bank with his friends Venti (mottled male) and Zest (speckled female). While Flotsam is a little more mature than the feisty speckleds and calves, he still has his unique personality traits. Flotsam tends to be one of the sassiest dolphins on the bank, keeping us researchers on our toes with his in-water behaviors. From being a camera hog to acting like he wants us to back off, one never knows what Flotsam is actually thinking. There were a few times this summer where we were filming him and he demonstrated some aggressive behaviors and sounds like open mouth displays, bubble blows, and squawks. When those occurred we respectfully backed off and found someone else to observe. However, not 5 minutes later, Flotsam was back in the camera acting upset to not be the center of attention.



## MEET THE TEAM

### Allison Sanchez

#### Research Assistant

Allison, a true Florida native, embodies an adventurous spirit deeply rooted in a love for the environment and a dedication to conservation and education. Growing up in the Jupiter area, she frequented local treasures like DuBois Park and MacArthur Beach State Park, fostering a lifelong passion for coastal ecosystems. From an early age, Allison knew her future would revolve around the ocean and its creatures. Her journey has included projects such as conducting seagrass surveys, participating in coral restoration efforts, and collaborating with the Ocean Research and Conservation Association (ORCA) to enhance their water quality monitoring system in the Indian River Lagoon. A seasoned traveler and avid nature photographer, Allison has explored over 18 countries and holds five SCUBA diving certifications, including Rescue Diver. She is currently a student at Florida Gulf Coast University pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies with a focus on Marine Ecology. Allison began as an intern with the Wild Dolphin Project in 2021 where she was immediately captivated by boat life and thrilled with the chance to observe dolphins in their natural habitat. Since then, she has remained involved, working as the boat's cook, helping out in the office, and learning all she can about Atlantic spotted dolphins. This summer, Allison is excited for the opportunity to continue working aboard *Stenella*, as an intern and research assistant.

### Tom Fitz

#### Board of Directors

Tom Fitz is a multiple Emmy Award winning cameraman whose work has been broadcast by PBS, BBC, National Geographic, Discovery, ABC, NHK, Tokyo Broadcasting, and others. His programs

have also been displayed in museums (including the Smithsonian, in Washington D.C.) and in other non-broadcast venues. Tom has over 35 years of experience in natural history camerawork and his projects have taken him all over the world. In 2004 Tom began producing his own films too, earning numerous awards, and in 2008, with Karina Fitz, he co-founded Schoolyard Films with a mission to educate and inspire, while promoting good stewardship of the planet. In 2021, Tom was also inducted into the "Florida Artist's Hall of Fame," a very exclusive honor. And in 2023 Tom shifted his work to follow his growing passion for environmental education. He now devotes himself full-time to Schoolyard Films, trying to save the world... one film at a time.

### Hussain Aga Khan

#### Scientific Advisory Board

An avid tropical fish hobbyist since the age of five, and a reptile and amphibian enthusiast for nearly as long, Hussain Aga Khan developed a keen interest in conservation at a young age and began scuba diving at 14.

His photography underpins his passion for wildlife and ecosystems, and he uses this medium to inspire people to fall in love with nature and to encourage behavioral change that will have a lasting impact around the conservation of natural resources. Multiple photographic expeditions over three decades have led to the development of extraordinary archives, covering various geographical areas and habitats and many species, both marine and terrestrial.

Through his numerous exhibitions, publications and talks, Hussain has created a global platform to raise awareness around the protection of threatened species and ecosystems. He established his conservation organization—Focused on Nature—in 2014, to support global conservation, advocacy and research efforts to protect biodiversity and habitats. Focused on Nature supports numerous conservation education initiatives

for children and youth and partners with globally renowned organizations around the conservation of endangered species and rainforests.

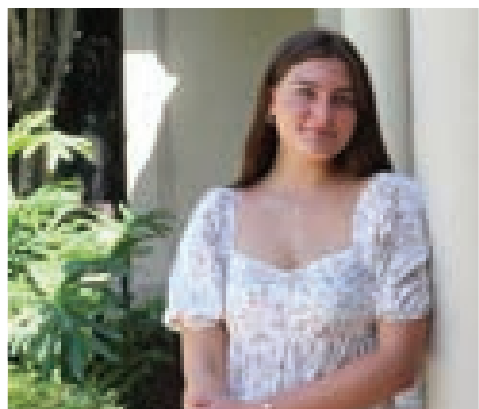
His exhibitions, *The Living Sea* and *Fragile Beauty* have been shown around the world, including at the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco (2015, 2016), the National Museum of Natural History and Science, Lisbon (2019), The Natural History Museum, Venice (2022), the Bahrain National Museum (2022), the Glenbow Museum, Calgary (2023), the Aga Khan Museum, Toronto (2023) and the Nairobi National Museum, Kenya (2024).

He has also exhibited his photography at international conferences including the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference, Kenya (2018), the EAT Stockholm Food Forum, Sweden (2019), the UN Oceans Conference, Lisbon (2022), the World Forum on Enterprise & the Environment, Oxford (2023), and at the UN Conference of the Parties (COP28), Dubai (2023).

Hussain is committed to conservation education and has made presentations to educational and cultural institutions including SIPA, Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs, New York (2004, 2017), the Natural History Museum, London (2022), the Hess Center for the Arts, Deerfield Academy, USA (2023), the Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Center for Culture & Research, Bahrain (2023), and the Universities of Calgary and Waterloo, Canada (2023).

Hussain is a board member of Mission Blue, a member of the Jane Goodall Legacy Foundation's Council for Hope, of the National Geographic Hubbard Council and on The Wild Dolphin Project's scientific advisory board. He is a partner of the Shark Conservation Fund, an Ambassador for the Natural History Museum, London, and one of Mare Vivo's Cavalieri Per Il Mare (Knights for the Sea).

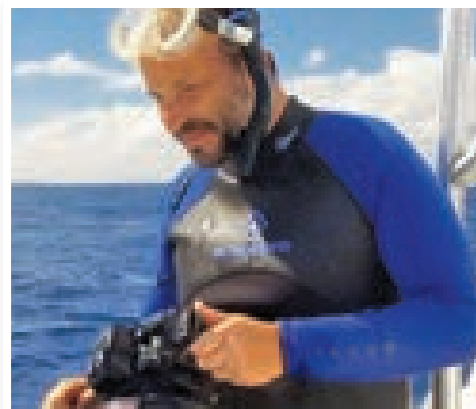
He has published four books, *Animal Voyage* (2004), *Diving into Wildlife* (2015), *Fragile Beauty* (2022), and *The Living Sea* (2022).



Allison



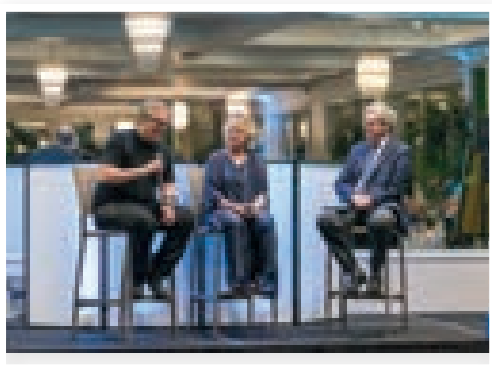
Tom



Hussain

40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION GALA

March 15th, 2024 | Pelican Club | Jupiter florida



Thank You!

IN-KIND SPONSORS





SPONSORS & DONORS

Suzanne Johnson  
Nic Mader  
Kathy Reynolds  
John & Stephanie Pew  
Tracy Siani  
Farley Rentschler  
Tom & Nina Rubio  
Kathy Reynolds  
Ivi Kimmel  
Ruth Petzold  
Dawn Ferguson  
Dr. Howard Green  
Linda Castell  
Chris Traughber, MD  
Michael Hoffman  
Just Gold Jewelers  
Rita Gohlke



10 • Notes From the Field | Fall 2024

## WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL

The Wild Dolphin Project attended the uniquely popular Wild & Scenic Film Festival on Saturday, April 13th, which took place at the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum. This event was hosted by The Loxahatchee River Historical Society. This is one of the nation's premiere environmental and adventure film festivals and approximately 500 guests attended the evening.



Spear, Spatula, Submarine film



WSFF guest using VR to see dolphins



WSFF 2024 at dusk

## Planned Giving – Letting us know your wishes

The Wild  
Dolphin  
PROJECT

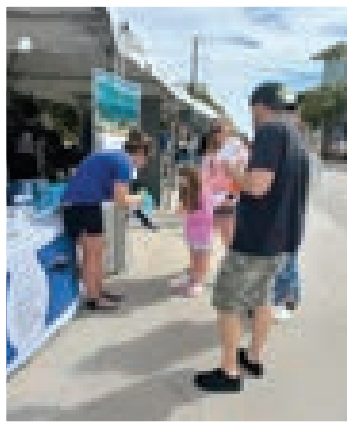
We recently had a long-term WDP member pass away and left us in her will as one of her beneficiaries of her IRA. This generous act is helping us with our boat fixes and other costs of our work. What we didn't know is that unless you have an executor, or personal representative of your estate, an IRA administrator (at a bank for example) is not obligated to contact a beneficiary at the time of death. It can take years for things to go through probate and when a charity is finally notified (if at all), they will often have to show a death certificate or some other document that is difficult to obtain, since we are not "family".

Although there is a great tax advantage by giving an IRA to a charity (that will pay no tax), vs. a relative (that will have to pay taxes), it can create this kind of challenge. So, if you happened to have Wild Dolphin Project or any other charity in your will, make sure you let the charity know the details, so they can follow up with your wishes. Thanks CC!! You continue to make a difference for WDP with your generous donation. And we are naming a dolphin family after you!!

OTHER NEWS - EVENTS

TURTLEFEST

On Saturday, February 24th, The Wild Dolphin Project had a table in the conservation village at Turtlefest where approximately 10,000 guests joined together for a free-admission event that focused on promoting ocean conservation. This year's TurtleFest theme was "Respect the Locals".



Left: Theresa Carlson. Right: Research team member, Hayley Knapp, educating the public.

JOHN D. MACARTHUR STATE PARK FOR NATURE FEST

On Saturday, March 9th, WDP joined other local conservation groups, native plant vendors, and exhibitors at John D. MacArthur State Beach Park for Nature Fest. Over 2,000 visitors attended this educational event to celebrate nature and conservation.



Graduate student & Research Assistant, Hayley Knapp

LOXAHATCHEE RIVER CENTERS FOR THEIR MONTHLY LECTURE SERIES

On Friday, April 5th, the Wild Dolphin Project's graduate student Hayley Knapp presented WDP's 40 years of consecutive field research at the Loxahatchee River Centers for their monthly Lecture Series.



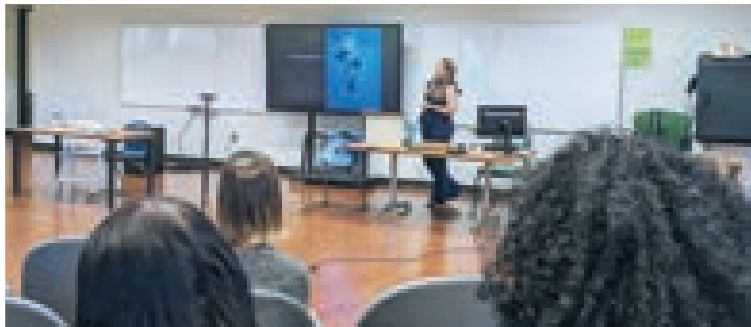
Hayley Knapp



Attendees

KEISER UNIVERSITY

On Wednesday, January 31st, our Graduate student Hayley Knapp presented WDP's past and present research from the last 40 years of being in the field at Keiser University.



Hayley Knapp

Do you have an upcoming event?

If your club, school, or community group is interested in having WDP attend or speak at your event, local talk or community engagement, please call our event coordinator, Denise Sammartano 561-575-5660 or email [media@wilddolphinproject.org](mailto:media@wilddolphinproject.org).



## JUPITER MAGAZINE ARTICLE



In March, Jupiter Magazine did a feature article titled *Social Experiment* in honor of the Wild Dolphin Project's 40 consecutive years of research in the field on the Atlantic spotted dolphin populations in the Bahamas.



Read the full article here:

## INDO BOARD BALANCE BOARD



Indo Board, whose mission is bringing the fun and benefits of balance board training to everyone, from kids to senior adults to professional athletes, who can enjoy the benefits of balance training and balance board exercises. Indo Board is kindly donating a portion of the proceeds from their *wild and free dolphin balance board* to The Wild Dolphin Project. **Check out their Ocean Conservation Series here:**

indoboard.com/ocean-conservation-series



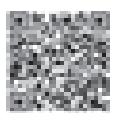
## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ARTICLE

**Social media loves to villainize dolphins. Here's why it's wrong.**

These marine mammals have a bad reputation online, but the truth behind their behavior might surprise you.

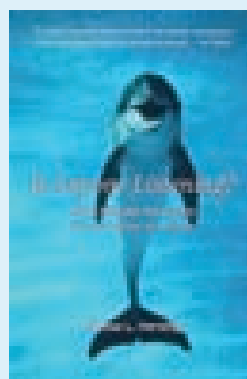


In August, Dr. Herzing was interviewed for a National Geographic article by Liz Langley. The article addresses how social media has recently been calling dolphins "evil" and aims to clear the air on some of the behaviors from multiple experts in the field



# Dr. Herzing has a new book out:

## Is Anyone Listening? What Animals Are Saying to Each Other and to Us



**Publishers Weekly**



**BUY NOW**

*Hot off the University of Chicago press!  
Order your book from the Wild Dolphin Project for the Holidays.  
Let us know if you want it signed too.*

In this entrancing report, marine biologist Herzing (Dolphin Diaries) details her work for the Wild Dolphin Project researching how the animals communicate with humans and one another. Herzing describes her efforts to "talk" with the wild dolphins she encounters while diving in the Bahamas, recounting how she successfully redirected a pod by mimicking the head nods dolphins use to suggest turning. Other strategies are more technologically sophisticated. For instance, Herzing discusses training dolphins to mimic specific whistling sounds to request toys using a "two-way computer system" capable of emitting noises underwater and signaling to researchers when a dolphin's high-frequency whistle matches that associated with a toy. AI promises even more advanced ways to decipher animal chatter, Herzing contends, explaining how algorithmic analysis of dolphin speech suggests that the ordering and repetition of certain noises appears to follow some rules, which indicates the animals might have a primitive form of grammar. The firsthand accounts of studying dolphins in the wild position Herzing as a kind of aquatic Jane Goodall, and her recollections are elevated by philosophical musings on how scientists should think about the minds of other animals ("We should be looking to develop species-specific definitions for 'types' of intelligence, rather than resorting to human comparisons"). Animal lovers will be eager to dive in.

# Ways to Support our Research

**Venmo** - Use Venmo as your digital wallet to safely and securely support The Wild Dolphin Project. Scan the QR code or search "Wild Dolphin Project" in the app to make a contribution using your mobile device.



**Benevity** - Employees can make a one-time or recurring donation to the causes they care most about. Employers can increase impact with a corporate match. Rest assured your donations will get where they're supposed to go — in the most efficient, cost-effective way possible..



**Facebook Fundraising** - Facebook fundraisers make it easy to support causes that are important to you and they charge no fees for donations made to nonprofits.



**Stock** - Make a bigger impact by donating long-term appreciated securities, including stock, bonds, and mutual funds, directly to WDP. Compared with donating cash, or selling your appreciated securities and contributing the after-tax proceeds, you may be able to automatically increase your gift and your tax deduction. Call our office for account information.



## Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is the biggest nonprofit fundraising day of the year. Here are 4 easy ways to support our project:

1. Give a gift.
2. Give your voice.
3. Give a Share
4. Give monthly.

## Text to Give

Support WDP by giving easily from your smartphone. Send a text or scan to donate.



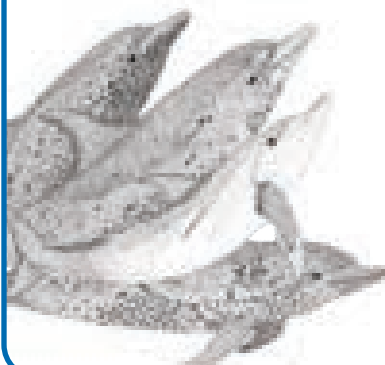
## Membership and Corporate Giving

### Membership Perks

*All memberships receive name recognition in our annual newsletter, subscription to our monthly e-news updates and first notification of upcoming field season trip dates and opportunity to sign up prior to the public\*.*

**Neonate \$35** – Receives everything mentioned above, plus the gift of WDP's soft cover coffee table book.

**Two-Toned \$75** – Receive WDP's soft cover coffee table book plus a WDP t-shirt.



**Speckled \$250** – Receive WDP's book *Is Anyone Listening?*, a WDP sun shirt, plus invites for Florida work day trips.

**Mottled \$500** – Receive WDP's book *Is Anyone Listening?*, a WDP rashguard, invites for Florida work day trips, as well as a meet and greet with project updates

**Fused \$1,000** – Receive WDP's book *Is Anyone Listening?*, a WDP hoodie, invites for Florida work day trips, a meet and greet with project updates, plus invites to an intercoastal day trip aboard our research vessel *Stenella*.

**Steward \$2,500** – Receive WDP's book *Is Anyone Listening?*, WDP shirt alternative options, invites for Florida work day trips, a meet and greet with project updates, plus an intercoastal day trip aboard our research vessel *Stenella*, for 2 people.

**Ambassador \$5,000** – Receive WDP's book *Is Anyone Listening?*, WDP shirt alternative options, invites for Florida work day trips, a meet and greet with project updates, plus an intercoastal day trip aboard

our research vessel *Stenella*, for 4 people.

**Generation \$10,000** – Receive WDP's book *Is Anyone Listening?*, WDP shirt alternative options, invites for Florida work day trips, a meet and greet with project updates, plus an intercoastal day trip aboard our research vessel, *Stenella*, for up to 6 people

### Corporate Support

*All corporate supporters receive name recognition in our annual newsletter, subscription to our monthly e-news updates and first notification of upcoming field season trip dates and opportunity to sign up prior to the public\*. Corporate logos are recognized on "Our Supporters" page.*

**Corporate Supporter \$100** – Receives everything mentioned above, plus the gift of WDP's soft cover coffee table book.

**Corporate Sponsor \$250** – Receive WDP's soft cover coffee table book plus a WDP t-shirt.

**Corporate Patron \$500** – Receive WDP's soft cover coffee table book, a WDP t-shirt, plus invites for Florida work day trips.

**Corporate Benefactor \$1,000** – Receive WDP's soft cover coffee table book, a WDP t-shirt, invites for Florida work day trips, as well as a meet and greet with project updates.

**Corporate Top Sponsor \$5,000** – Receive WDP's soft cover coffee table book, a WDP t-shirt, invites for Florida work day trips, a meet and greet with project updates, plus an intercoastal day trip aboard our research vessel, *Stenella*, for up to 6 people.

*For higher levels of support, we urge you to consider joining our CHAT Society to help us "Crack the Code" of dolphin communication: [www.wilddolphinproject.org/membership/the-chat-society](http://www.wilddolphinproject.org/membership/the-chat-society)*

*Corporate logos will be uploaded to our webpage: [wilddolphinproject.org/about-us/our-supporters](http://wilddolphinproject.org/about-us/our-supporters)*

*\*email address required*

# Thanks to All Our Sponsors, Foundations and Members

## Foundations

Anonymous Foundations  
Focused On Nature  
Fruehauf Family Foundation  
Kuebler Family Foundation  
The Henry Foundation  
The Rorer Foundation

## Giving Platforms

Accenture  
American Online Giving Foundation  
Benevity Community Impact Fund  
Combined Federal Campaign  
Give with Bing  
Google  
Just Give  
Microsoft Rewards  
Network for Good  
Tegna Foundation  
UK Online Giving Fund  
YourCause (BlackBaud)

## Corporate Supporters

Art Instinct by Hollie Berry  
Avid Productions  
Black Raven Designs  
Costco Wholesale  
Geoffrey C. Smith Galleries  
Glenn Pollock  
Indoboard Balance Trainer  
Island Exposure  
Jay Garbose Underwater  
Photography  
Marine Megafauna Foundation  
Ocean Tec Manufacturing  
Ruth Petzold Photography  
Schoolyard Films  
Southeastern Printing  
The Port of Palm Beach  
Total Wine & More  
Vero Beach Portfolio

## Neonates

Diego Aveleon  
Shannon Barber-Mayer  
Hollie Berry  
Monica Butt  
Amy Greenblatt  
Irakli Jishkariani  
Kevin Johnson  
Miriam Lippman  
Mike Marcinowski  
Susan Matthews  
Gina McCord  
Alexandra Morgan  
Berit Mundt  
Amy Parks  
Georgio Paximadis  
William Savino

Amanda Severeid  
Carol Sikorski  
Carl Stearns  
Sydney West

## Two-Tone

Sarah Bartlett  
Eva Darrington  
Kim Dunlap  
Oxana Fedorova  
Neil & Cathy Harley  
Hannah Jasinski  
Hudson Lindenberger  
Debra Knapp  
Michael O'Hare  
Jerry Partin  
Marilyn Samwick  
Lili Samwick  
Audrey Schulman  
Thomas White  
Jon Willis

## Speckled

April Clark  
Jennifer Jacquet  
Speckled Cont'd  
Mary Lynn Jahnke  
Rita Majnerich  
Helen M. Mickiewicz  
& Mario Seidita  
Theresa Thompson  
Keith Twitchell  
Virginia Wallace  
David Waller

## Mottled

James Garbose  
Robert Huet  
Purlen Koksalan  
Dr. Kenneth Pelletier  
Deborah Rybak  
Peter Sugarman

## Fused

Diane Davidson  
Ivi Kimmel  
Steve Kulinski  
Jay & Gail Nelson  
William O'Donnell  
Stephanie Pew

## Steward

Tavener Hall  
Ruth Petzold  
Chris Traughber, M.D.

## Ambassador

Nicole Mader  
Tracy Siani  
Axel Stepan

## Generation

Suzanne Johnson

## 40th Anniversary Gala & Other Donors

Anonymous Donors  
Ginny Bear  
Tanya Burnett  
Linda Castell  
Brett Davis  
Walter & Jane Enterline  
Maus Family  
Dawn Ferguson  
Tom Fitz  
Suzanne Friend  
Grass River Garden Club  
Genevieve George  
Aileen Graef  
Dr. Howard Green  
Lynda Green  
Susie Gurfein  
Sara Hinckley  
Tanya Krochuk  
Steve Kulinski  
Deborah Litwak  
Nicole Mader  
Deborah Mailman  
James Maney  
Sarah Maus  
Liz McKinley  
Vickie Miller  
Dorothea Morgan  
Merle Neidell  
Ryan Nicholson  
Pamela O'Connor  
Steven Pedersen  
Tricia Petzold  
Stephanie & John Pew  
Tim Price  
Christine Rayburn  
Farley Rentschler  
Kathy Reynolds  
Christopher Rorer  
Edward Rorer  
Marshall Rorer  
Joe Rosselot  
Tom & Nina Rubio  
Carl Safina  
Denise Sammartano  
Lee & Andy Schwenker  
Martha Slack  
Penny Tranchilla  
Patrick Traughber  
Randall Wells  
Naomi Zowader

## Board of Directors

Denise Herzing, Ph.D.  
Ivi Kimmel  
Drew Mayer  
Ruth Petzold  
Axel Stepan  
Christopher Traughber, M.D.  
Nicole Mader  
Tom Fitz  
Genevieve George

## Project Staff

Denise Herzing, Ph.D.  
**Research Director**

David Montgomery  
**Captain**

Denise Sammartano,  
**Executive Administrator**

Cassie Rusche  
**Research Assistant**

Michelle Green, Ph.D.  
**Research Associate**

Cindy Elliser, Ph.D.  
**Research Associate**

Bethany Augliere  
**Research Associate**

## Website:

[www.WildDolphinProject.org](http://www.WildDolphinProject.org)

## General Email:

[info@wilddolphinproject.org](mailto:info@wilddolphinproject.org)

## Trip Information Email:

[wdtrips@wilddolphinproject.org](mailto:wdtrips@wilddolphinproject.org)

## Twitter:

[@dolphinproject](https://twitter.com/dolphinproject)

## Facebook:

[www.facebook.com  
WildDolphinProject](http://www.facebook.com/WildDolphinProject)

## Instagram:

[www.instagram.com  
WildDolphinProject](http://www.instagram.com/WildDolphinProject)

## YouTube:

[WildDolphinProject](https://www.youtube.com/WildDolphinProject)

## The Wild Dolphin Project

P.O. Box 8436, Jupiter, FL 33468  
Telephone: 561-575-5660



# IN THIS ISSUE

RESEARCH DIRECTOR UPDATE.....	Page 1
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT.....	Page 2
RESEARCH ASSISTANT REPORT.....	Page 3
CREW CORNER.....	Page 5
FIELD REPORT.....	Page 6
2025 BAHAMAS TRIP.....	Page 7
NEW RESEARCH.....	Page 8
MEET THE DOLPHINS.....	Page 8
MEET THE TEAM.....	Page 9
OTHER NEWS - EVENTS.....	Page 10-13
WAYS TO SUPPORT WDP.....	Page 14
MEMBERSHIPS.....	Page 14
SUPPORTERS.....	Page 15

The Wild  
Dolphin  
PROJECT



Research, Education, Conservation  
*A nonprofit organization*

P.O. Box 8436  
Jupiter, FL 33468  
Tel: 561.575.5660  
email: [info@WildDolphinProject.org](mailto:info@WildDolphinProject.org)  
website: [www.WildDolphinProject.org](http://www.WildDolphinProject.org)

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
WEST PALM BCH FL  
PERMIT NO. 941

Help protect the environment.

**RE** DUCE  
USE  
CYCLE  
THINK  
EACH OUT

Practice the 5 R's

Start by recycling this newsletter, give it to a friend!

## 2025 Individual Membership

All new/renewing members will receive a complimentary coffee table book, newsletter, and first priority when signing up for trips!

- ☐ \$35.....Neonate membership
- ☐ \$75.....Two-toned membership
- ☐ \$250.....Speckled membership
- ☐ \$500.....Mottled membership
- ☐ \$1,000.....Fused membership
- ☐ \$2,500.....Steward membership
- ☐ \$5,000.....Ambassador membership
- ☐ \$10,000+.....Generation membership
- ☐ other \$.....
- ☐ Yes, please send me my membership gifts

(optional) I'd like to make this donation:

- ☐ On behalf of .....
- ☐ In memory of .....
- ☐ Please send acknowledgement of this gift to: .....

- ☐ Please check here if you wish to receive future newsletters by email only

## 2025 Corporate Membership

You can also become a member online! Visit [www.wilddolphinproject.org](http://www.wilddolphinproject.org) and click on "Donate/Support WDP" to sign up as a new/renewing member.

- ☐ \$100.....Corporate supporter
- ☐ \$250.....Corporate sponsor
- ☐ \$500.....Corporate patron
- ☐ \$1,000.....Corporate benefactor
- ☐ \$5,000+.....Corporate top sponsor

As a WDP corporate partner you will:

- be recognized in the newsletter
- be recognized on WDP's website (company logo and website link included)

## Contact Information:

Name: .....

Company: .....

Address: .....

City: ..... State: ..... Zip: .....

Country: ..... Phone/Ext: .....

E-mail: .....

### METHOD OF PAYMENT:

- ☐ Check (made out payable to the Wild Dolphin Project)

Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

### CREDIT CARD INFORMATION:

Card Number: .....

CVW Code: ..... Expiration Date: .....

Zip Code: (associated w/ credit card) .....

### MEMBERSHIP AUTO-RENEWAL:

- ☐ Check here if you would like us to automatically renew your checked membership level each year.
- By checking above, you are allowing us to charge your credit card on file for renewing your membership each year and will provide updated card information should it change.
- If you would like to increase your membership level in the future, please notify us before your membership renewal by emailing [info@wilddolphinproject.org](mailto:info@wilddolphinproject.org).

Donors (names only) will be published in our newsletters, annual reports, etc. If you would like your donation to remain anonymous, please check here: ☐

You can also become a member online! Visit [www.wilddolphinproject.org](http://www.wilddolphinproject.org) and click on "Become a Member / Donate Today" to sign up as a new/renewing member.

Please make checks payable to **The Wild Dolphin Project** and send with this form to P.O. Box 8436, Jupiter, Florida 33468. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.