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News of the beach

In December 2014 and January of this year an amazing number of people took part



in demonstrations and even a 24/7 camp was created to observe what ever would happen at the beach.



As a result, the beach seems to be "saved" -for now. The actual situation is described in an article on page 2.



This shows us, that with the participation of locals and networking you can actually achieve something. Bravo to all who helped in this effort!

Heartfelt
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Newsletter

"Here's your captain speaking"

My Diary

Issue 13

May 2015

Hello Dear Friends,

my diary starting in the new year as very eventful, winter in Dalyan as like hibernating almost all shops and restaurants are closed, summer staff are gone as are most English expats.

January; I returned from Berlin on the 4th after a delightful x-mas and new year there. Saw many friends there and enjoyed the x-mas decorations and general holiday sport.

February; brought some days of storm here in Dalyan with occasional welcome of sunshine and pleasant walks on the beach with my dogs.

March; spring begins with brighter skies and some colour on the trees, wild flowers showing themselves in fields and forests.

March 25th I leave for a 2 week visiting to Switzerland a country for which I lived for more than 20years. Part of which was spent in a famous ski resort. Exciting to be met at Geneva airport by my god-daughter Juliet Daher. A happy reunion one of many we have enjoyed.

March 26th; drove to Gstaad with Juliet as snow began to fall, a fantastic visiting on the way to Gruyeres, a famous visiting place with it's ancient perched on a hill with city walls and cobbled streets and of course the famous Gruyeres Cheese served in its picturesque cafe. All together a delightful 2 and a half hour journey to Gstaad with lovely views of snow covered trees, chalets and mountain tops.

After 5 days in this glamorous winter resort Juliet drove us back to Geneva.

April; a very busy time as we enter Spring in Dalyan, some rain, some sun and the village coming to life for the summer season and a very special event keeps me busy.

The International Sea Turtle Symposium at Dalaman Hilton. 600 delegates from 80 countries. I and my team are representing the Kaptan June Sea Turtle Foundation and participate in this meeting... what a week back and forth to Dalaman with gala dinner on the last evening and a fabulous surprise for me. To hear my name called what a thrill, (for unique devotion to Iztuzu and its sea turtle summer visitors). Sir David Bellamy and his dear wife Rosemary, old friends, share this week as guest at my house in Dalyan. David was warmly welcomed at the symposium and we enjoyed our beautiful Dalyan surroundings.

May; this month is a delight for gardeners and as I write this to you now, I look out at the beautiful colour, mauve wisteria, yellow forsythia, white and red roses and brilliant geraniums showing off.

Looking forward to meeting many of you this summer cheers to everyone, Kaptan June



Would YOU like to be volunteer or do you know someone else who would ...

Without volunteers, we could not run our centre at the beach, distribute flyers, organize events and do all the little things that have to be done and that you don't see. PLEASE

contact us: kaptanjunesearthurtleconservationfoundation@gmail.com

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**





Cooperation with Thomas Cook

Julia Holmes, who is working for Thomas Cook Travel Magazine in London contacted us, because in the new issue of their magazine they will have an article about June and our foundation's work. Very nice publicity right to our target group, thank you for that! A great group of Marmaris Thomas Cook Office visited us as well, to get information and make plans for the coming season.

On May 16th, a group of about 40 children and adults enjoyed a visit to Kaptan June's Hut. Kaptan June gave a short talk on the original "fight for the beach and the turtles", then spent some time answering the children's questions.



The children then made drawings to illustrate the problems of litter and its effect on turtles and the environment.



They also handed out a donation raised by a competition where they were making sand models of turtles.

The Situation of Iztuzu Beach as of May 15

During the winter— especially on December 30 and January 5 – when heavy machinery was sighted at the beach, very impressive demonstrations were held on Iztuzu Beach. In bad weather conditions hundreds of people gathered to watch out for the beach and protest against the lease to a private entrepreneur. People stayed there 24/7 to make sure nothing illegal would happen. A great number of riot police 'participated' as well. Luckily no clashes occurred, all went peaceful and quiet. After widespread national and international protests, petitions, court cases and powerful demonstrations and a lot of different statements by involved or not involved parties, the lease was cancelled and Iztuzu Beach finally has been officially handed over to Mugla University on March 19. According to the head of University Prof. Dr. Mansur Harmandar, The beach will stay open for the public and research and protection of the biodiversity will be in the Universities responsibility. According to recent statements, no buildings will be added and the present bars and coffee shops will be run by either the university or operators under surveillance of the university. Due to the late handover, as of May 15 there is only one bar working at the river mouth. None at the far end of the beach, where our centre is situated. No sun beds or umbrellas are available for the moment, but work seems to be in progress....



PR-work in Winter

During winter and spring time, when there are no or only a few tourists, we represented our foundation again on occasions like markets and special events. Thus we can reach the locals in the region and the x-pats who never miss to visit these places in the uneventful winter time. On the right, our stand in Köygeyiz at the monthly second hand sales market.



Symposium participants visited Iztuzu Beach and our hut

On April 23rd the participants of the 35th International Sea Turtle Symposium visited the famous turtle beach, the research centre and our foundation's hut.

June, board members Nursel Kaykusuz and Serpil Aran, our manager Affan Özcaner, Hatice Dilek and volunteers Anne, Michelle, Judy and Eddie, Will and Marianna helped in handing out brochures and other material concerning our work.

In difficult weather, bright sunshine but very strong winds, it was very interesting and inspiring to meet these people from all over the world (more than 1,000 people from approximately 80 countries were invited), who care and work for research, protection and conservation of the sea turtles.



Garden party at June's

After all the official items of the symposium's program were finished, on Friday evening June organized a small party for her visitors Sir David and Rosemary Bellamy and friends of the foundation in the garden of her house in Dalyan.

Everybody was as excited as exhausted from the last five days, full of impressions and newly made friends and contacts. For June it was a very special week to have this big meeting actually at her home town in Turkey and getting the attraction of the "Turtle World" to her so much loved Iztuzu Beach.



Who are we?

In this part we introduce to you people that are active in our Foundation. This time, we will tell you about Hatice Dilek Akbalik, who is our expert for law. She successfully represents our foundation in court cases or other legal issues



I was born in 1949, in the village of Araphis in the province of Çine. I was told that my mother died shortly after my birth. Thus, the task to raise me and take my mother's place was left to my uncle's wife. Her name was Aisha. In those years she took care of me like a natural mother, in these difficult years of shortage she brought me up with tarhana (a very nutritious soup made from egg, yoghurt, wheat and starch), which she prepared in a small coffee pot. That way she was able to keep me alive. I never felt like an orphan in my childhood.

As far as I recall I spent my early years in Aydın. I visited Gazipaşa Primary and Secondary School, then completed girls high school, got married the same year and settled with my husband in Istanbul.

For 33 years I stayed in Istanbul. Besides bringing up my two children I built up my own transportation company. These years for me were a process of continuous learning and developing myself. For twenty-five years I had the chance of meeting and dealing with very interesting people in the textile sector in Osmanbey/Istanbul. While I was working in my job, they supported me to find my own way, opened many doors for me and added quality and colour to my life. For me, they were not customer's but helpers and experts in the art of living.

In 2002 I moved for personal reasons to Çandır, a village very close to Dalyan. There, one day, sitting in the shade of a big Sycamore Tree in a tea garden I was invited to join the foundation that Kaptan June and her friends were going to establish. Their enthusiasm and energy was stirring and so inspiring that I agreed without hesitation. The perspective of working with a team of inspired and persistent people for a good cause seemed well worth the effort. I was looking forward to contribute with my abilities.

At that time I realized that instead of spinning around my own axis, I could look closely at environmental problems and contribute volunteering to this subject. We can help to the protection of the Carettas by approaching the problems in a sincere way using all legal possibilities.

This activity pleases even my grandchildren, it has improved my joy to do useful work as well as it gave me a kind of inner peace. I saw that our common ideas, our responsibility and what we want to achieve, shared with people who visit Dalyan and the turtle beach, lead to a more aware approach for many people.

I share my efforts with my neighbours in the village, they support me in my activities. So, the Caretta Turtles have helped to create a wonderful new environment for me with their quiet support. I feel more alive. If you're ready to explain, you can see that there are people ready to contribute.

This joy is giving me the feeling of being a part of a big family. Like I already said, I feel no more like an orphan. Now is the time to show our love and compassion to all beings.

Among success and failure in life I sincerely embrace optimism and the ability to strive for a good cause. I am grateful to my friends for strengthening my part in the work our foundation.

Stay healthy and in peace. Hatice



35th International Sea Turtle Symposium, 19th to 24th April 2015, Hilton Hotel, Dalaman

More than 600 delegates from many countries attended the international sea turtle symposium. Organiser Prof. Dr. Yakup Kaska welcomed the guests in the Hiltons impressive theatre conference hall. Important Turkish dignitaries of Mugla province delivered speeches all translated into English.

This began a week long program of conferences, meetings, presentation and workshops devoted to sea turtles conservation. Research data and planning for future protection of sea turtles and their nest/hatching beaches.

Iztuzu/Dalyan was much mentioned as being a rare example of a long term protection status and its importance as second largest number of Caretta caretta sea turtle nests in the Mediterranean. June was in her element meeting many old friends known from earlier sea turtle conferences.

Together with friend Nursel she manned a display table giving brochures, general information and representing the Kaptan June Sea Turtle Conservation Foundation.

The ISTS President's Award was given to Dr Flegra Bentivegna, Lily Venizelos and June for their "Lifetime of accomplishment toward the study and conservation of Sea Turtles"

Sir David Bellamy and his wife Rosemary were affectionately greeted as were other Environmental luminaries such as Lily Venizelos (Medasset Greece) Dr. Flegra Bentivegna (Naples, Italy).

Turkish universities were much- represented and again it was a great pleasure to exchange views past and present.

On April 23rd symposium participants visited Izuzu beach and our Hut. June, Affan, Nursel , Serpil, Dilek ,Anne, Michelle, Judy and Eddie, Will and Marianna were all there to meet the visitors.

Altogether a fascinating event which can only emphasize the importance of sea turtles and the urgency to protect them and their needs- notably-clean seas and safe beaches.





THE KAPTAN JUNE
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FOUNDATION

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On TWITTER:



YouTube:

Just search in YouTube for "Kaptan June" and you will find many videos concerning June's and the Foundation's work



Portrait by Barbara Trottnow



All that is vulnerable needs to be protected

Visit to Chamber of Commerce on 26th March

June and board member Nursel Kaykusuz went to Muğla to attend an evening event organised by Muğla Chamber of Commerce and Trade (MUTSO). MUTSO celebrated the 130th anniversary of their foundation together with the celebration of 100th years of Gelibolu wars.

This year all around Turkey the Government had initiated a project "100th years / 100 Women Writers". Under this heading each city had organised their own project. Muğla University together with MUTSO undertook a project for the Muğla region for choosing women who left their mark on all walks of life (not just writers). They prepared a book last year which presentation took place on this night.

June was sent an invitation and personally called. They were received with friendly faces of Prof. Dr Yasemin Yalçın (Dr of Internal Medicine) and Dr Müesser Özcan who are the consultants for the Committee for 'KAGIK'Kadın Girişimciler Kurulu (Women Entrepreneurs Council).

June was asked to give a brief speech of her feelings and what she has done for the Carettas in Dalyan. Speeches and presentations took couple of hours and then finally June was called on to the stage to receive her certificate of honour. These were very touching minutes.

The cocktails gave opportunity to meet with the Governor, Amir Çiçek who was very friendly. He stated he would like to visit us in the summer. He also said that he tried to do his best to correct the mistakes made by the previous Governor referring to İztuzu Beach.

Osman Gürün, Mayor of Muğla and Bulent Karakaş, Head of Muğla Chamber of Commerce were also interested in meeting with June and promised to visit us.



Work with young people

60 students of IICS Istanbul international Community School visited the hut on April 7 on their a few days trip at the area. This school educates expat students between the age of 3 to 18 of parents who don't hold a Turkish passport. The age of this group was between 12-14 years. June, Nursel, Serpil and volunteers Judy and Eddie were there to meet and talk to them.



We consider it very important to reach the younger people, as they are the future and some of them may well be in responsible places one day. What is a better place for this than a school? The Ortaca Atatürk Primary School gave us opportunity to hold a conference. June and Nursel introduced the foundation and handed out a lot of information material. The youngsters were very interested, asked a lot of questions and Nursel and June were happy to be able to give all the answers.



Interview with June

Özgen Yılmaz from Akdeniz Koruma Derneği (Mediterranean Conservation Society) visited us in January to write a report about June and the foundation's work in Dalyan, which was published in the societies monthly. There was an immediate understanding about the common cause and both, Özgen and Kaptan June enjoyed this time thoroughly.



Breeding numbers of sea turtles

The Ministry of Conservation and City Planning produced an interesting report about the number of Sea and Nile Turtles nesting and how many actually reach the sea. The Project started in 2006 and follows the development until 2013 including. Starting from left with 2006, it shows the nesting places (see at the right) and the development in egg numbers (bars) unsuccessful (red) and successful breeding (blue) of sea turtles at İztuzu Beach. The success rate changed from 19,23% in 2006 more or less continuous to 68,11% in 2013, which is a very pleasing development. Although the number of hatchlings that reached the sea from İztuzu in 2013 accounts to about 25.000, scientific research indicates that the proportion of eggs surviving to adulthood lies only between 0.0009 and 0.0018. That means, that of all the 25.000 hatched eggs in Dalyan only a number between 20 and 100 may reach adulthood and possible breeding.

