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Our 9th General Assembly in November

In the first days of November, our 9th general assembly will take place. On the agenda will be the evaluation of the past year's activities and financial management. Some changes will be made in the board as well due to personal changes in the situation of some board members.

Of course, June will stay on the bridge of our ship commanding the course for the next years.



Snorkelling at Iztuzu Beach is worth while!



Jennifer sent us this lovely pic

Mandi Sherrat did not even had to snorkel, she made one beautiful turtle from sand!



Newsletter

“Here’s your captain speaking”

My Diary

Issue 14

September 2015

Hello Dear Friends,

it is hard to believe that the last time I wrote to you was in the beginning of May. Time has flown and now we are in mid August. This Summer has been extremely hot touching 40 in Dalyan at times...

May saw Dalyan beach much in the news, rumours flew that this magnificent stretch of sand would be under new management. That it would be left to its natural state and those of us who are keen beach goers did express concern over a threat to forbid sun beds umbrellas and even the Café. Fortunately sanity prevailed and Muğla university, the newly named management of our beach wisely called all the necessary beach necessities. Our foundation beach hut was beautifully repainted and opened up and all friends began to arrive.

For myself, early morning swims in the sea began again. A great joy.

June, my favourite month, saw me in another setting. Berlin, where I spent 2 weeks organizing the publication of my first "Captain June and the Sea Turtles" book in German. Now the second book is translated into German by an old friend and collaborator, Claudia Preuschoft.

July brought many interesting visitors to the beach, hut as well as day trips on boats, picnics, and welcoming friends to my Dalyan home, the 'Peaceable Kingdom'. I embarked on another traditional summer. visit. This time to Umbria, Italy, at the home of my dear friends Paul and Anna Biesta.

Now the temperatures are still in their high thirties. Our Sea Turtle visitors are coming to nest in the darkness at Iztuzu Beach. Foundation work continues as we share information about these iconic shy creatures of the ocean and we lobby the authorities to ensure that turtle feeding trips will be banned from Dalyan and propeller guards will be obligatory for all local boats.

And now we are in mid August. This summer has been extremely hot. Touching 40 degrees at Dalyan at times. Dear friends, help us in our task by speaking up for the sea turtles. Have a happy summer.

Cordially Captain June



Umbria, Italy, at the home of my dear friends Paul and Anna Biesta



June in Berlin with the Berlin Bear

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: kaptanjuneseaturtleconservationfoundation@gmail.com





Cooperation with Çağlar Tours

Eylül Davran from Çağlar Tours spent a visit with us to update the companies brochure concerning Dalyan. As the operator of the beach changed, some of you might be interested her comment of the new management rules: "Car Parking is free. The beach has approximately 200 sun beds shaded with straw parasols: the use of these beds have to be



paid for. Visitors can also take their own deck chairs and beach paraphernalia should they prefer. There is a marked area in front of the sun loungers where you are not allowed to lay down towels or dig for fear of upsetting the turtle nests.

The beach is not commercialised and there are no hotels or fancy



restaurants. A small beach café is stocked and managed by Mugla University which serves a range of refreshments, ice cream, burgers and pancakes. To the rear of the refreshment area are toilet, showering and changing facilities."

Visit from Denizli

In July, Damla Dilci from Denizli Social Sciences High School came to see our foundations work, because she is considering to introduce her students in conversational work. She and her colleague discussed the possibilities with June and our volunteer Zergün. We were happy to offer them special meetings, where June or our volunteers could explain the life circle and living conditions of the Sea Turtles at Dalyan Beach and in the Mediterranean. Explaining to the coming generation the threats our nature faces is one of our main aims. We hope for a fruitful cooperation.



Renewal of Hallmarks

As every year, we checked the boats that have (or should have) a propeller guard mounted. We found that some boats (7) still had a hallmark, but no prop-guard! So we decided to have made new hallmarks with the year printed on them. From now on, every year a diver will check for the renewal of the hallmarks. Boats that have a "rightful" hallmark this year are: (Boat name– cooperative number)

Karyali - Coop.Nr. 32, Erkenler - Coop.Nr. 44, Tugrul - Coop.Nr. 53, Denizci - Coop.Nr. 73, Gümüşoğlu - Coop.Nr. 123, Ufuk 5 - Coop.Nr. 126, Denizoğlu - Coop.Nr. 127, Utkum - Coop.Nr. 174, Mega - Coop.Nr. 190, Selale 5 - Coop.Nr. 232.

Please prefer these boats on tours and tell your friends!



Turtle baiting becoming common practice again?

Despite of several written official complaints to the authorities and pretty high legal fines for executing the baiting of Sea Turtles, this ill-fated practice has started again. Friends saw that a private boat pulled up at a small boat that has been parked at the same location for a couple of weeks. It was assumed that they were just fishing, but in fact they were turtle baiting. The fishermen dangle a crab from a line, throw it out, pull it in again and repeat this a number of times to attract the turtles. In August, we again went to see the officials, which said they were not aware of this.

Well, we made them aware once again, especially as Ahmet Yener, a Turkish tourist, in August was bitten in his thigh while swimming in Dalyan River opposite of the famous rock tombs. Turtle bites are very uncommon, so the presumption that this might be caused by a turtle used to be fed or baited in the river seems not far fetched.



The Sea Turtle Rescue Centre (DEKAMER)

Very often we are confronted with the situation that visitors or want-to-be volunteers are confused about the difference between DEKAMER and our foundation. As we assume that you are aware of what we do, here a brief description of DEKAMER.

DEKAMER were established in 2009 in Dalyan, Mugla-Turkey after a protocol was agreed upon between the Directorate of the Conservation of Nature and National Natural Parks and the Environmental Protection Agency for Special Areas of Turkish Ministry of Environment of Forestry, the Municipality of the Dalyan, and Pamukkale University. Later in the year, the Higher Educational Council of Turkey officially recognized the rescue centre and its constitution was published in the Turkish Official Newspaper. Driving force for this activity was our foundation's co-founder Prof. Dr.



Yakup Kaska who is since the beginning the head of the centre's management.

Despite having nesting and foraging grounds along the Mediterranean coast of Turkey, only one turtle rescue centre has been established following the RAC/SPA (Regional Activity Centre/Special Protected Areas) guidelines (RAC/SPA, 2004). This centre is to be set up for year-round activity and to help educate the public about conservation efforts. DEKAMER acts as the regular monitor of the Dalyan beach for nesting activities. Any injured turtles found along the Mediterranean coast of Turkey are brought to the centre and they are taken care of their necessary medical treatment and rehabilitation. Besides caring for injured turtles, DEKAMER is involved in scientific studies and projects concerning marine life.

The centre can be visited every day from 10am to 6 pm and you'll see turtles being treated for injuries by fishing hooks and nets as well as by boat propellers. Each turtle has an information board stating name, cause of injury and recovery progress.

Who are we?

In this part we introduce to you people that are active in our Foundation. This time, we will tell you about Zergûn İlseven, who is one of our committed volunteers.



Zergûn İlseven was born in Ankara in 1962. Her parents were both English teachers. She grew up vegetarian and close to animals and nature. During her school years, she had dancing lessons for almost all the folk dances of Turkey.

She had her education in Ankara and started to study English and French at the age of eleven.

After high school, she went to France to study natural sciences and continued in METU (ODTÜ) University in Ankara where she graduated as a Molecular Biologist.

She worked in various companies in Turkey and France and worked in Turkey as a teacher for about 10 years, until she retired. Her teaching activities were mainly in sciences, but also in English and in French. For her whole life she was always active and sportive.

Here is what she tells us about herself:

I'm starting by saying "hoş bulduk" (Welcome) to the foundation.

In fact, I've always been here, in İztuzu, in the surroundings of the turtles. My love to İztuzu, is a love of childhood, which has started in summer '72 and never ends since then.

The single memory of a happy child in me is the day I had in İztuzu that summer. And the rest of my life I've been travelling all around my country, Europe, America.... I saw so many beautiful places, I visited very interesting geographies. But those were all a part, Dalyan was a part.

So, I came back to Dalyan, to my childhood love, in summer 1999, right before the big earthquake that happened in that August in the Marmara region. Since then, I'm here, as all the other Dalyan addicted people, Dalyan lovers. The biologist and environmentalist in me, pushes me always, to fight to protect nature, with all her components. I cannot stop doing this. That's the reason why I choose to become a teacher at the age of 38, after having worked for very different national and international companies; medical ones, banks, water treatment plants and some other.

All those jobs were a deep experience for me, then I decided to become a teacher with the aim to transfer my experience to new generations. I've been teaching science for young pupils, English and French, for young and adult learners. But still, my only objective was to create an awareness in them about the environmental protection and environmental facts.

Now, since this July, time has come and I'm helping at Kaptan June's Hut. Talking about all the work she's done for the turtles, for İztuzu and for Dalyan and the surroundings is a big pleasure for me and also a big honour. We need new people, new generations to follow the objectives of the foundation.

When people introduced me to Kaptan June, about 10 years ago, I didn't know much about her activities. But, I always followed closely all the work done for Carettas. I was in contact with students of Denizli University and with their volunteers. I also met Kaptan June several times, in several different occasions.

Working personally for the foundation and being physically present there is totally different. I feel myself much more involved in my objectives and my commitment is getting stronger every day.

I'm trying to integrate myself to Kaptan June's and the foundation's objectives.

And I'm trying to inspire our visitors to that special feeling that "we have to do something" for the environment and for the future of this environment in which we are living and we are able to do something, everybody can do something.

With the hope that the foundation will always be strong and we will have many, many volunteers with us.



Zergûn at the Hut at İztuzu Beach



Zergûn with June at the Hut at İztuzu Beach

Heartfelt
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!



THE KAPTAN JUNE
SEA TURTLE
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION

Our e-mail address is:
kaptanjuneseaturtlefoundation@gmail.com

See our website:
www.dalyanturtles.com



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

The story of Ayşen and Demir Kocakabak, who came to Dalyan and first volunteered at the turtle hospital of 'Dekamer' before they got involved with our foundation.

We are Ayşen (20) and Demir Hüseyin Kocakabak(22); sister and brother. We grew up in a small city called Sarıgöl, which is 2 hours away from İzmir. Sarıgöl is famous for its seedless grapes called Sultaniye Grapes. Because of the vineyards around the area we had the chance to spend very much time in nature. We learned from our parents that everything we need is provided by nature. When we grew up we kept in touch with nature by school based community services. We recycled waste, composted organic waste from the school cafeteria and also participated in a project called "çöp(m)adam".



Çöp(m)adam started as an experimental project in Ayvalık, addressing the issues of women's employment in Turkey and the importance of recycling/re-using. Çöp(m)adam aims to utilize waste in a creative, aesthetically and unique way. (çöp(m)adam items are produced from the packaging that would be or has been thrown away, by women who have never previously earned a salary. All the products are one-of-a-kind and signed by its producer. Web: www.copmadam.com)

This project employs village women aged 40 or more to make coin purses by hand from recycled materials. The purses are sold and the women benefit. In addition, the women are given training in education and health care.

Last summer on a family trip to Dalyan, coincidentally we met with Sema Hanım. She told us about the Sea Turtles and the importance of propeller guards. And this summer we decided to help the sea turtles.

We spent around 20 days at İztuzu beach as volunteers at Dekamer (The turtle research centre at İztuzu Beach). It was a great experience for us. We learned so many things about the Sea Turtles. The most important thing we learned was an incredible fact about baby Sea Turtles: Did You know that out of 1000 hatchlings only 2 or 3 reach sexual maturity? Well, we didn't.

There are so many natural predators for them. When they are still as eggs in the nest, foxes and badgers are after them. They smell the eggs and dig to reach them. To protect the eggs, our job was to locate the nests and put cages over them. One of our duties, too, was checking the nests. Just in case any baby got stuck inside the nest or the cage. After birth, when the hatchlings are trying to reach the sea, there are crabs and traps which are dug by foxes. If they are lucky enough after all to reach the sea, there are big fish hunting for them. Natural selection is so merciless. After the turtles have reached a certain size, there are no natural enemies for them any more, because their shells are thick and big enough to withstand attacks. After they reach sexual maturity (25-30 years), their main enemy is us, mankind. We witnessed many deaths of sea turtles. The main injuries were propeller cuts, swallowing of fishing hooks, plastic bags and even hammer smashes (!) on their heads.

Many times people bring hurt turtles too late to the research centre, because they don't know they could have called the phone number 158 (a 24/7 line for reporting turtles that need medical or other help), when they see that there is something wrong with a sea turtle .

After all we decided that we should do something to prevent these injuries to happen, because curing a sea turtle after an injury is very difficult and sometimes needs a miracle. As we were willing to help sea turtles more efficiently, we decided to work with local people of Dalyan and ship owners.

We found out that Kaptan June was already working since years on this issue and what we were planning to do was already started by the foundation of Kaptan June. This is how we met with June.

We took an action apart from our work at Dekamer and so we went to Dalyan to talk with the locals of Dalyan explaining the threats the turtles face, supported by our scientific data. We surprisingly found out that people, who lived in Dalyan for decades are still not aware of the resulting damage speed boats and tourist boats without propeller protection pose for sea turtles. We tried to inform boat owners individually about this issue; but it didn't work very well. Only some had an open ear for the problem and those were already influenced by the foundations ongoing campaign.

From now on our aim will be to inform the municipality and other authorities as well as to continue supporting the projects of Kaptan June and do our best for the Sea Turtles.