

## Serving With the Mission in Mind



*Joel & Jennifer Darling, President/Vice President and co-founders of DARLING CETACEANS. Email them at [whaleeducation@gsinternet.net](mailto:whaleeducation@gsinternet.net).*

You have heard that teachers do not teach because of the money. The same can be said about environmentalists. Combine the two?... Well, you have a career that I do not regret choosing.

I spoke to a couple people recently who have been involved in creating civic organizations. One person informed me they hired a grant writer at a salary of \$90,000. Another said each of their officers were paid \$50,000.

These are both valuable organizations and I certainly would not want to bring a dark cloud over them, so I will not mention the names. However, I do believe one should consider where your money is going when you contribute to community organizations.

In order to provide education programs at the lowest cost possible and to expand our abilities, DARLING CETACEANS (D.C.) is changing from a general partnership to a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. This means we rely on your donations to operate.

I do not believe people should give D.C. money for nothing. I want to personally assure each person who considers contributing to D.C. that we have our mission in mind with every dollar we spend. This includes salaries.

That grant writer may be worth \$90,000. Certainly \$50,000 is a reasonable amount for countless hours of work for the sake of children. However, we want your money to go to education materials, not new cars.

Upon approval of our non-profit status, the President will receive a compensation in the first year of only \$12,000. No other officer will be paid. In future years, the board will continue to decide on salaries that are fair to employees while best benefiting the missions of D.C.

We want kids young and old to experience and learn about a great world. We cannot do it without you. Please help.

### Upcoming Events

These are public environmental events that you and your family can participate in. For information on any of these events, please call the number listed under each event!

**April 17- Earth Day Celebration**  
Sponsored by San Antonio Water System  
10:00a-4:00p at Woodlawn Lake Park in S.A.

210-704-7576/ [www.saws.org](http://www.saws.org)

**April 24- Texas Adopt-A-Beach**  
Sponsored by TX General Land Office  
9:00a-12:00p at various coastal locations  
800-85-BEACH/ [www.glo.state.tx.us](http://www.glo.state.tx.us)

**May 15- WaterFest Family Day**  
Sponsored by S.A. Water System  
8:30a-4:00p at Freeman Coliseum in S.A.  
210-704-7447/ [www.saws.org](http://www.saws.org)

**June 5 & 6- SEASPACE**  
Sponsored by Houston Underwater Club  
10:00a-6:00p at Reliant Center in Houston  
713-433-4761/ [www.seaspace.org](http://www.seaspace.org)

O sea goddess Nuliajuk

When you were a little unwanted orphan girl  
we let you drown.

You fell in the water  
and when you hung onto the kayaks crying  
we cut off your fingers.

So you sank into the sea and your fingers  
turned into the innumerable seals.

You sweet orphan Nuliajuk,  
I beg you now bring me a gift,  
not anything from the land but a gift from the  
sea,

something that will make nice soup.

Dare I say it right out?

I want a seal!

Your dear little orphan  
creep out of the water panting on this  
beautiful shore,  
puh, puh, like this, puh, puh.

# Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network

## Rescue, Rehabilitate, Release

Formed in 1980, T.M.M.S.N. serves the purpose of rehabilitating injured marine mammals, collecting data and teaching about 28 species of whales and dolphins that live in the Gulf of Mexico.

T.M.M.S.N. relies on effective communication in all it does. From rehabilitation to release, nothing is possible without it.

They begin by teaching people to call 1-800-9MAMMAL when an animal is found. Members also explain how to keep the animal wet and calm until T.M.M.S.N. arrive. It is this education that has led to 217 animals being recovered in 1997 compared to just 14 in 1981.

Getting the hundreds of volunteers together to provide 24 hour care for the duration of rehabilitation is vital. Most of the over 2,000 volunteers with T.M.M.S.N. have full time

jobs or classes.

Communication continues as T.M.M.S.N. consults with medical staff and experts around the country on the care of each whale or dolphin that comes to the facility. They also effectively communicate the need for supplies, like Pedialyte, that many times is donated by companies.

Effective communication keeps going with fundraising that pays for the \$400 per day it costs to care for an injured dolphin. That is \$36,000 in 3 months!

Thanks to this effective communication, T.M.M.S.N. has recovered and collected data for over 3,300 animals crossing 21 species. Species include; 5 West Indian manatees, 7 sperm whales, a minke whale and over 3100 bottlenose dolphins.



## Creature Feature

### Simply Seals

*Seals are grouped in the order Pinnipedia with sea lions and walruses. Pinnipedia means "wing-footed" in Latin.*



Above: Harbor seal

*The movie 'Andre' was based on a true story about a harbor seal from Maine. In the movie, a sea lion played the role of Andre.*

Of the 33 species of pinnipedia that currently live in the world, 18 are true seals. Nine others are grouped as fur seals.

True seals (family Phocidae) have several characteristics that separate them from sea lions and fur seals (family Otariidae). One, is the lack of external ears. Sea lions and fur seals all have ears that are visible. True seals have hindflippers that are covered with fur and cannot be turned forward under their bodies, like sea lions can. The true seals differ in breeding, birthing and initial raising of newborns, too. A couple examples of this include a lactation period of just a few days to weeks compared to months to years for sea lions and fur seals. As well as producing milk with a higher fat content, which leads to a more rapid growth of pups.

While the Caribbean Monk seal once populated lower areas of the Gulf of Mexico, its extinction now means no seals live off the coast of the southern United States. Other species of seals do live along the entire Pacific coast and most of the Atlantic coast of the United States through Canada.

Seals are widely hunted even today. In the 1960's, pictures and video footage of baby harp seals with the contrast of bright red blood on pure white fur lead to an eventual ban on

killing pups this young. However, with a thriving population, the take of harp seals is the highest in over 3 decades. While the original commercial hunt for seals was primarily for oil, the focus is now the pelts.

Seals have held a religious value since humans have discovered them. The song on the front page tells of the legend of Nuliajuk. One version of this Inuit Eskimo tale says that a girl and her father were out in their boat when they angered the seabirds. The birds created a horrible storm that would only cease when the father threw the girl over. The girl clung to the boat, so her father cut her fingers off. The fingers changed into seals. When she died, Nuliajuk's spirit controlled the seals and water. To explain the Lamb of God to tribes that had not ever seen sheep, missionaries used the harp seal pups as examples.

To study seals is a difficult endeavor. The bearded seal, for example, live alone on ice floes and are widely spread. The male elephant seal can be aggressive; its roar can be heard a mile away. Scientists are learning more about certain seals by attaching video cameras. This permits underwater views that were not possible before.

# Membership

## Welcome New Members

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Leith  
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Akers  
 Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Board  
 -man & Family

## Thank You Boerne Businesses Who Recycle Aluminum for Us

The Boerne Star  
 Hauptstrasse Lube  
 Hug-A-Bear Child Care  
 First United Methodist  
 Rober J. Ogle, Attorney  
 W&W Tire Co.  
 R. James Financial Service



# We Need You



## Individual/Classroom \$25

- ☺ quarterly newsletter (Jan, Apr, Jul & Oct)
- ☺ decal
- ☺ 10% off a single education program
- ☺ free gift

## Family/Small Business \$50

- ☺ quarterly newsletter (Jan, Apr, Jul & Oct)
- ☺ 2 decals
- ☺ 20% off a single education program
- ☺ 2 free gifts

## Corporate Sponsor

- ☺ everything in Family level
- ☺ name listed on web site
- ☺ name listed in newsletter
- ☺ company logo printed on D.C. banner (updated annually)
- ☺ sponsorship of school programs (4 classes per \$500)
  - Sea otter - \$500+
  - Vaquita - \$1000+
  - Sea lion - \$2000+
  - Manatee - \$5000+
  - Blue whale - \$10000+

# If We Only Had the Money

These are some things we would like to consider and their estimated cost, if we recieved funding. They are in no order.

- Manatee Decals \$ 65  
(series by "Save the Manatee Trust Fund")
- Education Biofacts \$1,930  
(walrus, manatee & pygmy bone replicas)
- Promotional Items \$3,500  
(2000+ items, such as pencils & phone cards)
- Truck \$8,000  
(Ford Ranger, insurance & repairs)
- T.V. Commercial \$1,600  
(to make & air for 4 weeks on 12 networks)
- Recycle buckets \$ 560  
(includes 25 buckets & labels)
- Brochures printed \$1,500  
(1,000 Education & 1,000 General)
- Office envelopes w/ logo \$ 250  
(1,000)
- Soc. for Marine Mammalogy \$2,500  
(conference for 2 officers)

If you would like to contribute money directly to one of these things, please note it on the check. If you can offer anything free or for a reduced rate, we would like to talk with you.

# Michaela's Corner

The "fun" portion of this publication is dedicated to a young girl who lost her life in a tragic accident. She was not someone anyone at D.C. knew personally. However, when I was fortunate to visit with her 2nd grade class and her family after the incident, it was clear what a positive impact she had already made during the time she was in this world.

Michaela was already an activist for animal rights, doing all in her power to ensure the well-being of whales and dolphins. With her sister, she rescued birds and took care of any animal that needed her love.

Her energetic and compassionate life will always be missed. But, thank God for her time here. This is for you, Michaela.

## Riddles Me This

Why do seals swim in saltwater?  
 Because pepper water makes them sneeze!  
 Why do polar bears have fur coats?  
 Because the seals laughed at them when they

Each word is the name of a species of seal. Unscramble each seal name. Use a book or the internet to help you.

- REYG \_\_\_\_\_
- DELWEDL \_\_\_\_\_
- NOBIBR \_\_\_\_\_
- CREARABTE \_\_\_\_\_
- NGRIED \_\_\_\_\_
- NCAAISP \_\_\_\_\_

Seals are like us in many ways. They are mammals; so they have hair on their bodies, drink milk, are warm blooded, born live and breath air. Think about other ways you are like a seal. Do you eat the same things? Do you like to swim? Would you like to be a seal? Write & tells us! You can draw a picture, too!

**How many times is the word "seal" or "seals" printed in this entire newsletter?**

Answers to Seal Scramble: Grey, Weddell, Ribbon, Grabearer, Ringed, Caspian. # Seals = 41

# Marine Mammal Milestones

## DARLING CETACEANS

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## Getting the Name Out

D.C. became a member of the Boerne Chamber of Commerce at the non-profit level in February of this year. The membership entitles D.C. to a number of benefits, which we are taking advantage of.

Some of the benefits include; advertisements in 2 local newspapers, listing on the Chamber web page, and invitations to special events

Joel Darling attended a Chamber luncheon with keynote speaker, Dr. John Kelly. Dr. Kelly is the Superintendent of Boerne ISD and this luncheon recognized the BISD Teachers of the Year.

As a last minute decision, D.C. purchased booth space at the Boerne Business Expo in March. While the event itself was not a key target market, we did draw interest in volunteers, programs and educated many who were drawn to the bones and other items on the table.

Early in March, D.C. was invited to appear on a morning television show,

San Antonio Living. Crosses and pillows made by our staff were featured as we talked about our education programs.

The results of our appearance on the show came quick, as the phone was ringing before the show even ended.

D.C. was able to send 2 persons to the Informal Science Education Association's (I.S.E.A.) annual conference in Port Aransas. This is a great networking event amongst museums, zoos, aquariums, nature centers and other informal science institutions in Texas.

With Jennifer and Joel both in attendance, D.C. could attend more workshops and gather more information. Workshop topics included using math, web sites as a resource, Evolution vs. Creationism and the use of drama.

If there is a chance to educate or publicize, be sure D.C. will be there.



## Please Donate

### RV/Motorcoach

Class A or C motorcoach for use or trade-in, so D.C. can do education programs around the country.

### Craft Supplies

Beads, paint, pillow stuffing, fish and dolphin pattern fabric, ocean stickers and other items to make resale crafts.

### Books, Mags & CDs

New or used children's books, resource guides, computer programs, music or other media containing marine mammals for our library.

### Office Supplies

HP 15 & 78 ink cartridges, recycled paper, 100MB Zip disks, paper clips, and other general office products.