

Alabama Gulf Coast Convention & Visitors Bureau



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Family-Friendly Destination Works to Protect Families of a Different Type

Gulf Shores/Orange Beach, AL—As a safe and family orientated vacation destination, millions of visitors, including mother sea turtles, flock to the powdery soft shores of the Alabama Gulf Coast. In an effort to protect these nesting sea turtles in Baldwin County, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alabama State Parks, the Share the Beach Program, the Alabama Gulf Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Baldwin County Soil and Water Conservation District are working together to educate residents, visitors and business owners about the unique needs of these animals.

A Sea Turtle Lighting Workshop will be held Thursday, November 13, 2008 at the Gulf Shores Adult Activity Center. The two hour sessions, which are free to attend, will begin at 2:00 p.m. and again at 6:00 p.m. Workshop attendees will learn about the sea turtles that nest in the area, the effect of lights on these turtles and the lights that will work best for the turtles and people. Examples of appropriate lighting that comply with the new Gulf Shores lighting ordinance will be on display. Also, workshop participants will receive a free outdoor, turtle-friendly light on a first come, first served basis.

Each summer in Alabama, 50 to 80 sea turtle nests are discovered along the miles of gulf beaches. Most are loggerhead sea turtles. However in the last few years, biologists and volunteers have also documented several nests of the Kemp's ridley, the rarest sea turtle in the world. As a direct result of the efforts of Share the Beach volunteers, greater than 90 percent of hatched turtles make it to the water each season.

Individuals wishing to attend this workshop should RSVP with Dianne Ingram of the USFWS at 251-441-5839 or dianne_ingram@fws.gov.

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Photo caption: Each summer in Alabama, 50 to 80 sea turtle nests are discovered along the miles of gulf beaches. Discover how you can help these unique creatures by attending a Sea Turtle Lighting

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Photo credit: Roger Reetz



The Alabama Gulf Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) serves as the official destination marketing organization for the cities of Gulf Shores and Orange Beach in addition to the unincorporated area of Fort Morgan. To learn more about Alabama's 32 miles of sugar white sand, visit either www.gulfshores.com or www.orangebeach.com. The CVB is an accredited Destination Marketing Organization, 2008-2012.