

WHALE TALES

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Whale Trust reaches its first decade

2011 marks the ten-year anniversary of Whale Trust. In honor of this anniversary, we are taking a look back at the last 10 years, highlighting some of our accomplishments, as well as some of the people that helped make it happen along the way. To all of you that have supported us, encouraged us and been part of our team, thank you! We couldn't have done it without you.

- WHALE TRUST MILESTONES (2001- 2011)**
- 2001**
Whale Trust founded in Maui, Hawaii.
 - 2002**
Receipt of first competitive grant funding; first strategic planning meeting held in NYC.
 - 2003**
90% of donations directly fund research and education programs.
 - 2004**
Revenues more than double from 2003, research and education programs increase.
 - 2005**
Publication of 50-page paper on the function of humpback whale song.
 - 2006**
Distribution of research funding includes international and local researchers. First Annual Whale Quest Kapalua event held at The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua.
 - 2007**
Whale Trust research featured in 22-page story by *National Geographic Magazine* and on *The Today Show*.
 - 2008**
Whale Trust research featured in award-winning television documentary, *The Humpback Code*.
 - 2009**
Whale Trust publishes *Hawaii's Humpback Whales: Unveiling the Mysteries* by Jim Darling, Flip Nicklin (photographs) and Susan W. Barnes (illustrations).
 - 2010**
Completion of Ph.D. by Meagan Jones (research funded through Whale Trust).
 - 2011**
Whale Trust hires full-time executive director with funding from Robert and Patricia Switzer Leadership Grant. Completion of 3-5 year strategic plan. *Whale Tales* is launched at the Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua. *Among Giants: A Life with Whales* by Flip Nicklin is released.



Jim Darling recording and listening to whale songs off Maui

Jason films a breaching calf from underwater to above the surface.

Garry and Donna Weber, Whale Trust Founders Club and Advisory Board Member.

Flip Nicklin doing what he loves most - photographing whales in warm, clear, calm water.

Meagan Jones recording data in the field for her dissertation.

Douglas Chadwick, author of the 2007 *National Geographic* article, taking notes between whale dives.

Jason Sturgis films a resting mother and year-old calf off Maui.

Students learning about the tools and technology used to study whales today.

Flip Nicklin (left) and Jim Darling (right) in the 1970s

Meagan trying to capture an unexpected and close breach on film.

Matt Lauer and Meagan Jones looking for whales during filming for *The Today Show*.

Bill Scott (right), Flip and Linda Nicklin modeling Bill's homemade Whale Trust t-shirt of the year.

Elementary school students painting unique markings on life-sized whale tails at Whale Quest Kapalua.

Jason with Daniel Opitz (film director, left), and the film crew from *The Humpback Code* heading out for a day of filming off Maui.

JULY 2010- OCTOBER, 2011

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*A portion of the entire donation came from Whale Tales 2011

Special Holiday Sale

(offered through January 1, 2012)

Among Giants, A Life with Whales
Suggested Retail: \$40.00
Holiday Price: \$32.00
 by Charles "Flip" Nicklin with K.M. Kostyal and forward by Dr. James Darling



Hawaii's Humpbacks: Unveiling the Mysteries
Suggested Retail: \$24.95
Holiday Price: \$20.00
 by Jim Darling with photographs by Flip Nicklin, artwork by Susan W. Barnes



WHALE NEWS:
 Did you know? The first humpback whales of the 2012 migration were spotted off the Big Island on September 26, 2011. Although the peak of humpback whale season in Hawaii is generally during February and March, the first humpbacks are often sighted early in the fall. Humpback whales have been sighted in Hawaii as late as July and as early as September.

Calendar of Events

WHALE TRUST ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
JANUARY 28, 2012 • KING KAMEHAMEHA GOLF CLUB



Want the chance to win a Mercedes?
 Get a hole-in-one at Whale Trust's annual golf tournament and you could be the lucky winner of a new Mercedes!

- Continental breakfast and awards luncheon included.
- \$5,000 in cash prizes and merchandise awards.
- Hole sponsorships are encouraged.
- A portion of the entry fee is tax-deductible.

TAKE A TRIP OF A LIFETIME AND SUPPORT WHALE TRUST PROGRAMS
MARCH 17 - 24, 2012

Baja California and the Sea of Cortez National Geographic Expeditions with Flip Nicklin
National Geographic and Lindblad Expeditions have generously donated a *National Geographic* expedition for two people valued at \$11,940.



- Auction is open until December 15 - highest bidder wins or Buy It Now for \$12,000
- Opening bid is \$7,000
- Bids can only be increased by \$500 or more

WHALE TALES 2012
FEBRUARY 3 - 4, 2012



Ritz - Carlton, Kapalua
 Whale Tales will kick-off with a charity golf tournament on January 28 at the King Kamehameha Club and conclude on February 10 with a book signing and presentation by Flip Nicklin at the Baldwin House in Lahaina. Whale Tales offers presentations, educational programs for children, book signings, benefit whale watches, and more.

For complete details on all of our upcoming events, visit our website at www.whaletrust.org or call (808) 572-5700

Whale Trust Science News

PROMOTING, SUPPORTING AND CONDUCTING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON WHALES

A GLIMPSE INTO THE SOCIAL LIVES OF FEMALE HUMPBACK WHALES

Female humpbacks migrate to Hawaii for at least two reasons: to mate and/or to calve. Whether mating or calving lead to differences in female behavior and male-female interactions during the breeding season was unknown – until recently.

"The role of the female is one of the least understood aspects of humpback behavior today. As a result, our understanding of whale behavior on the breeding grounds, including how successful reproduction occurs or what type of mating system best characterizes humpback whales, is still unknown", explains Meagan Jones. To begin to address these gaps, Meagan spent five years tracking females to determine how reproductive status and other factors such as relative body size/age-class and male behaviors, affect female movement, behavior, and interactions with males during the breeding season.

Results consistently indicated that the presence or absence of a calf plays a significant role in how females respond and interact with males during the breeding season. For example, in one part of the study, Jones played sounds produced by males in multiple male/single female groups in Hawaii to females with or without calves. While females with calves avoided the recordings (often swimming twice as fast and far as before the



A female humpback (without a calf) rests above an attentive male companion while male sounds are heard in the distance.

trial), females without calves responded neutrally or positively. Indeed, significant differences between females with and without calves were found in each of the five

variables measured (distance, speed, travel direction, response time, and behavior). The degree and consistency of the reactions suggests that female humpbacks may use acoustic cues to avoid or possibly even attract males during the breeding season.

STUDY COULD IMPACT MANAGEMENT OF MAKAH WHALING

A new genetic study authored by Tim Frasier and Jim Darling could result in changes on where and when the Makah Tribe can hunt gray whales in the future. Results of the study indicate that the approximate 200 whales feeding off the Washington state coast and British Columbia have a separate genetic identity from the rest of the gray whale herd, which is believed to number around 20,000 individuals. You can download the paper in its entirety on our website at:

http://www.whaletrust.org/whats_new.shtml

HUMPBACK WHALE SONG PROJECT RECEIVES GRANT FROM NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

A grant from the Committee for Research and Exploration of National Geographic Society will support Dr. Jim Darling's research into the social function of humpback whale song. The research begins in December and will focus on playing back recordings of humpback whale songs that vary in composition



Male humpbacks often sing in a nearly vertical head-down position as pictured here.

(similar to dissimilar) to male singers on the Hawaiian breeding/calving grounds. Previous studies (2005-2008) using this same technique, found that singers were attracted to recordings of song similar to their own song, but not to songs that were totally different from their song. This next phase will examine the impact of smaller differences in song composition. For example, the playback songs may have just one theme, or even one unit (one sound) that is different from the singer's current song.

MAKANA ALOHA FOUNDATION HELPS WHALE TRUST RAISE FUNDS TO REPLACE SUNKEN RESEARCH VESSEL

Whale Trust's research vessel, the "Charles B," a 22-foot



Garry Weber, Flip Nicklin, Jeff Anderson and Jason Sturgis aboard the "Charles B."

Grady White, was lost when the tsunami off Japan reached the Hawaiian Islands in the early morning hours of March 11th. "We should of taken the boat out of the harbor", explains Jim Darling. "However, a bunch of circumstances did not allow it." Jim remembers it

all too well: "When I got back to the harbor the boat was not yet overturned fully. With the help of others, we were nearly able to right the boat amidst repeated tsunami surges, but eventually it capsized, and there was nothing we could do but start recovery efforts." Recovery took place over the next 36-hours and couldn't have been done without the help of many people in the harbor. Thanks largely to a matching grants program offered by Makana Aloha Foundation and the support of many individuals, Whale Trust expects to have a replacement research vessel by the beginning of our next field season.

MAHALO

In honor of our ten-year anniversary, we would like to recognize and thank



some of the people who have helped us in countless ways from behind the scenes

each year. **Doug and Kathy Gray, Tad and Cindy Luckey, Mark and Jeri Robinson, Ron and Diane Roos, Barry and Irene McPhee, Connie Sutherland, Dick Dunhaupt, and Patti Hackney** are some of the wonderful people that have helped Whale Trust from its inception. Among other things, these folks make sure we have a slip in Lahaina harbor each winter and help make sure our research boats, truck and house are taken care of even when we are not around to look after them! In 2011, they volunteered at Whale Trust events, helped rescue our research boats during the March tsunami, provided us with gas and boat maintenance throughout the season, stored our boats in their yard, and even donated their boat for 10 wonderful research days in Alaska! For all of this and much more, we thank these special friends for their continuing and ongoing support of Whale Trust.

Happy Birthday, Chloe Taylor!

For the last several years, Chloe Taylor has followed the whales alongside her Aunt Meagan – even helping to name the whales photo-identified by Whale Trust. For her 11th birthday, Chloe decided she wanted to take her interest in whales (and animals in general) one step further. Instead of personal gifts, Chloe asked her friends to contribute to her favorite non-profit organization, Whale Trust.



WHALE TRUST FOUNDERS CLUB

Thank you to those that have donated every year since 2001

Susan Wallace Barnes
Richard Cochran and Karyn Kunzelman
Allen and Ann Jones
Bill and Sandra Scott
Garry and Donna Weber
The Fluke Foundation

WHALE TRUST 5-YEAR CLUB

Thank you to those that have donated for five years or more

Kim and Gloria Anderson
Jeff and Darlene Anderson
The Bendon Family Foundation
The Brodsky Family Foundation
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We think that is a pretty amazing way to celebrate an 11th birthday, and we want to thank Chloe for including us in her birthday celebration! Chloe and her friends raised \$175 for Whale Trust. Happy birthday and thank you, Chloe!

Special Mahalo to Jeff and Darlene Anderson

We would like to say a special thank you to Jeff and Darlene Anderson for all of their support and efforts to raise awareness about Whale Trust. Their financial support, friendship and efforts on our behalf continue to add to the vitality and growth of our organization. Thank you!



Remembering Bill Scott

On Monday, April 25, 2011 Whale Trust lost a dear friend, avid supporter and fellow board member. Bill Scott had been involved with Whale Trust since before its official inception and served as the Treasurer of our Board since 2003, but first and foremost he was our friend and colleague. Even though Bill had been diagnosed with lymphoma, his passing still came as a shock. True to his



spirit, he faced these recent physical challenges with his infectious and unforgettable sense of humor, positive attitude, courage, and strength. Memories of Bill will stay with us – from the many times we shared together on the water with whales to the leadership, guidance, support and integrity he brought so effortlessly to our organization. He touched us all and there is not a day that goes by we don't miss his presence.

Community Outreach

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN MARINE SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

High School Students Working with Whale Trust Research Team

In 2011, Dr. Meagan Jones joined forces with Dr. Gunars Valkirs from Makana Aloha Foundation (MAF) and Mr. Steven Cornell from Lahainaluna High School (LHS) to launch a new science education program on Maui.

The purpose of the project is to learn how hormones influence the behavior and interactions between male and female humpbacks during the breeding season. "Although hormones are driving a lot of the whale behavior we see in Hawaii, measuring hormone levels in free-ranging humpback whales can be quite a challenge. Since collecting blood samples to determine pregnancy is not really a viable option with whales, we are trying to see if we can reliably measure hormone levels stored in the blubber of free-ranging humpbacks", explains Meagan. Similar techniques have been used with whales killed in whale fisheries or with free-ranging populations of



Blubber and skin sample collected using standard biopsy techniques.

dolphins but not yet with free-ranging humpback whales. While Meagan will conduct the field research, Dr. Valkirs and Mr. Cornell will work with high school students to perform the necessary genetic and biochemical analyses. "The coolest part of the project is not just the science and the potential applications that could arise from it, but the collaborations. Just a few years ago, I had to ship the skin samples I collected for genetic analyses to our geneticist in Sweden. Today, local high school students are conducting those same analyses. It doesn't get much cooler than that!", says Jones.

Whale Tales

In 2011, Whale Trust launched a new community event in Maui called Whale Tales. Whale Tales is a free educational event that provides an opportunity to learn about whales and the ocean environment from world-renowned scientists, photographers, and filmmakers. Whale Trust shares the profits generated by the weekend's events with other local research organizations including Hawaii Whale Research Foundation and Center for Whale Studies.



"There was such an outcry from the community when Whale Quest Kapalua ended in 2009 (due to changes in sponsorship), that we had to find a way to begin again",

said Flip Nicklin. Fortunately, Makana Aloha Foundation stepped up and offered to sponsor the event, which despite a significantly smaller budget (20% of previous years), modest marketing, and only three months planning, attracted over 1,500 participants and raised over \$15,000 for whale research in Hawaii. In 2012, Makana Aloha Foundation and Whale Trust will once again host this free educational event on February 3 – 4 at the Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua. Whale Tales will kick-off with a Whale Trust charity golf tournament on January 28 at the King Kamehameha Club and conclude on February 10 with a book signing and presentation by Flip Nicklin at the Baldwin House in Lahaina. Whale Tales offers presentations, educational programs for children, book signings, benefit whale watches, and more. To see how you can participate, please email info@whaletrust.org.



Want more up-to-date news on whales? Follow Whale Trust on Facebook or sign-up for our e-newsletter today by sending an email to info@whaletrust.org.

Stay Tuned! Starting in 2012, whaletrust.org will get a new look and design, which will include more regular updates and reports from the field.