



DRC EMBARKS ON MASTER PLAN!

Thirty years ago, Mandy and Jayne Rodriguez sat in their trailer here at what was then called the Institute of Delphinid Research and decided to assume responsibility for the dolphins, the operation, the grounds, and the sizeable debt. At the time, they wanted to keep the dolphins that had been living here together as a family, instead of seeing them sent to different facilities. They also hoped to build a place where people could learn from the dolphins and about how to care for them, teach others about these amazing animals and provide a home for marine mammals in need.

That decision proved to be more momentous than they could have dreamed at the time. This February, Dolphin Research Center will mark our 30th Anniversary and look at us now! We've become a leader in marine mammal research, education, husbandry and

training. Our philosophies and practices are shared around the world. We've established ourselves

and California sea lions who live in a great environment and receive the finest care.



Photo by: Myles Valle

This beautiful home is now the Sanger Family Education Center on property adjacent to DRC.

as a top visitor destination, drawing guests from across the country and internationally. We've established the College of Marine Mammal Professions with the first degree program in marine mammal behavior, care and training. Above all, we are home to a healthy, happy family of bottlenose dolphins

DRC is made up of people who are both dreamers and doers, always eagerly looking to the next advancement. However, we also realized that, while the possibilities were unlimited, our resources and physical boundaries were not. The leadership team of senior management and the Board of Directors has busily engaged in strategic planning to build toward the future. Last year, this involved engaging the services of professional experts to help us develop a master plan. Enter PGAV Destinations.

PGAV are global leaders in strategic planning and design for attractions, zoos and aquariums, cultural, heritage and tourism locations, and the hospitality industry. Through onsite visits to

DRC's Master Plan, see page 2

A CONVERSATION WITH A DRC PIONEER



Photo by: Katy Donegan

If Tursi could talk, she'd have a lot to say.

Celebrating our 30-year anniversary as the non-profit Dolphin Research Center, we thought it would be appropriate to go back and look at those years through the eyes of one of our pioneers. Tursi was born at DRC on Nov. 26, 1973. That was six months before I graduated from Key West High School. I was blessed to become a member of her family five years later, and from that day forward have treasured our friendship. I believe she will allow me to take some literary

liberties, and would like for you (and Tursi!) to humor me as I attempt an interview with our one and only, Tursi Whopper!

Tursi, can you tell us what Dolphin Research Center was like 30 years ago?

"Very much like it is today, from the underwater view at least. Of course I was a young, carefree girl of around 10 years old at the time. I do remember when my friend Mandy decided to take

A Conversation with a Pioneer, see page 3

BECOME PART OF THE ADVENTURE

Dolphin Research Center is a not-for-profit organization that conducts innovative research and education projects. We invite you to join our unique family by becoming a member of the Dolphin Society. As a member, your tax-deductible donation will help us provide the best environment and care humanly possible for the dolphins and sea lions who call DRC home. Your membership will also support our manatee rescue program and provide the educational programs that encourage our guests to become ambassadors for all marine animals and the environment we share. Annual memberships are available in several levels:

Individual (\$40 for adults, \$25 for full-time students with proof of enrollment) – receive a subscription to the *Dolphin Society* newsletter, our e-newsletter, a 10% discount on most gift shop items, free admission for one to DRC for one year, and one free guest pass.

Trio (\$70) – receive all the benefits of an individual membership plus free admission to DRC for up three people for one year.

Gray Cross (\$90) – receive all the benefits of the Trio membership plus a subscription to our quarterly *Gray Cross* newsletter and free admission to DRC for up to four people for one year.

Sponsor (\$150) – receive all the benefits of the Gray Cross membership plus the opportunity to sponsor a narrated session at DRC and admission for up to five people for one year.

Research Team (\$500) – receive all the benefits of the Sponsor membership plus receive a personal tour of the Research Tower (by appointment) and admission for up to six people for one year.

Memberships can be purchased via our website at www.dolphins.org, by phone (305) 289-1121 X229, or by mailing your check or credit card number to DRC, 58901 Overseas Highway, Grassy Key, FL 33050. Please note that memberships are not transferable and the member must present photo identification for admission.



DRC's Master Plan, from page 1

DRC, extensive discussions with senior management, and meetings with every department head, they gained insight into who we are and what we need, and then came back with their plan to help us get there over the next ten years.

"The decision to work with PGAV and carefully plan our growth was a milestone moment," says President and CEO Rita Irwin. "First and foremost, the heart of Dolphin Research Center does not, and will never, change. The master plan embraces our core philosophy and mission statement. Every suggestion, concept and phase of the plan confirms our commitment to the philosophies and practices on which we stand. This will help us grow into our future."

Over the years, we outgrew our current buildings and maxed out the available parking space. When potential visitors can't find a place to park, they leave and they miss the opportunity to experience a visit at DRC. Two years ago, we committed to purchasing an additional small lot of land adjacent to our eastern boundary. Thanks to the enthusiastic response and financial support from major donors and a grant from the Monroe County Tourist Development Council, we were able to complete a major beautification of the main parking lot and increase our total number of parking spaces. We immediately saw a significant increase in our visitor numbers!

Welcome Summer 2013, and here we grow again. Thanks to long time, devoted supporters the Sanger family who contributed the largest single monetary donation in DRC history, we were able to purchase the house and property to our west side. The waterfront property on our east side came on the market and we were able to purchase it as well. The acquisition of these properties means that, for the first time in our history, we will

be able to increase the habitat size for our dolphin and sea lion family!

We're already hard at work with the Department of Environmental Protection and other government agencies. All indication is that we will be able to proceed with the initial habitat expansion sooner rather than later!

It's natural to ask whether this means that DRC plans to drastically increase the number of dolphins. No, we don't. We will continue to, hopefully, have successful conceptions and births. Nobody dwells on it, but we are also aware that some of our beloved dolphins have or will soon enter their "senior" years. Like the tides rise and fall, so does our population. As we've done in the past, of course, with Jax, Louie, and Lina, we also want to be able to make room in our hearts and home for rescued animals that can't be released.

On land, remodeling work has already begun on the house next door. Now known as the Sanger Family Education Center, it will provide office space for the very cramped Education staff, a new classroom, library and other essentials for the College.

The next major phase of the master plan is a complete upgrade and enlargement of the Fish House. As you know, we follow the highest standards of food preparation for the dolphins and sea lions, and the current "fish kitchen" is maxed to capacity. The plan calls for us to add a second story above the existing building. The Animal Care and Training staff's offices will move up, and the Fish House will expand into their current office.

When that is complete, we will renovate and add on to the current Gift Shop building to transform it into a more spacious, welcoming area to accommodate our guests' needs, increase the retail space, and add additional office footage and other amenities.

DRC's Master Plan, See page 3

"We've come so far in 30 years and are thrilled about the years ahead," Rita says. "DRC's dreams are achievable because of our relationships with you, our members. Your support got us here and you provide the foundation on which we build."

We'll keep you updated on our progress. In the meantime, to learn more about the master plan and how you can assist, check out the Memberships and Donations area of our website. You can also contact Sandy Dennison, Director of Membership and Development at 305-289-1121, ext. 205 or via email at sandy@dolphins.org.

We're grateful to each of you and hope that you are as excited as we are about the future!

By Mary Stella

A Conversation with a Pioneer, from page 1



Tursi's cute first born son Talon is all grown up.

Photo by: DRC staff

out most of the dividing fences, giving us larger areas to explore, fish, and play together. Fabulous man, and a very dear friend of mine! Another memory of those times was my dabbling in the field of research. We had to be asked the same question over and over again, to prove we understood the "game". This was one of the first lessons I taught my human friends at DRC. While I am obviously very intelligent, I prefer NOT to play research games - too tedious and repetitive, thank you very much. I played along and let

them teach me to select the right answers, but on the day of my test I chose 100% incorrectly. Well, my human pupils learned that lesson very well! From that day on they selected dolphins to participate in research who really loved the challenge of the mind games, and didn't mind answering repeatedly to prove their brilliance. Case in point: My brilliant son Talon, who in 2005 proved that dolphins can understand the concept of Numerically Less. I am SO proud of my firstborn.

Thank you Tursi, for the background on research at DRC. It is our middle name. Speaking of your son, could you tell us some more about what it was like raising your youngsters here on Grassy Key?

How much time do you have? I could go on for DAYS about my beautiful babies! Going back to Talon, did you know I was 16 years old when he was born? I wasn't big on the social scene when I was younger and that is a bit of a late start for motherhood. Of course my Talon was worth waiting for and everything a mother could want. I never wanted him to grow up.

My human friends seemed to agree, since they left him with me until he was seven years old! Of course I couldn't date while caring for him; my boy required all of my attention. I suppose that is another thing my friends learned from me. Even though I love being a mother, there is a time that all children must grow up and venture out on their own in the world. (I am referring to the DRC world, where I can still talk to them and check up on them, of course!) Since that time young dolphins at DRC are

A Conversation with a Pioneer, see page 4

Adopt-A-Dolphin

You can sponsor your favorite dolphin or sea lion at DRC through our Adopt-A-Dolphin or Sea Lion program. Experience the warm feeling that comes with knowing that you are helping to provide for the care and feeding of your friend. Your tax-deductible donation for a membership will help us to fulfill our promise to provide the finest home humanly possible for our marine mammal family. Memberships are available in several levels:

E-Dolfriend (\$15) - receive an electronic membership that includes a subscription to our monthly e-newsletter and an e-mailed full-color certificate with your favorite dolphin or sea lion's picture and a biography about your friend you can print out at home.

Dolfriend (\$50) - receive a subscription to the *Dolphin Society* newsletter, our e-newsletter, a 10% discount on most gift shop items, a color certificate with your dolphin or sea lion's picture, a biography about your friend, free admission for two to DRC for one year, and one free guest pass.

Pod Pal (\$100) - receive all the benefits of a Dolfriend membership plus a subscription to our *Gray Cross* newsletter and free admission to DRC for up to four people for one year.

Parent (\$240) - Provide the ultimate support for your friend by pledging \$20 per month to sponsor one of their meals each month. You will receive all the benefits of a Pod Pal membership plus free admission for up to five people for one year and silver bucket stickers for your certificate to represent the meals you provided for your dolphin or sea lion friend.

Adopt-A-Dolphin or Sea Lion memberships make a great gift and can be purchased via our website at www.dolphins.org, by phone (305) 289-1121 X229, or by mailing your check or credit card number to DRC, 58901 Overseas Highway, Grassy Key, FL 33050. Please note that memberships are not transferable and the member must present photo identification for admission.

www.dolphins.org

Innerspace or cyberspace, the dolphins of Dolphin Research Center look forward to your visit.



Photo by: Lauren Pickard

Gypsi, Tursi's only daughter, arrived in January of 2007.

weaned around two to three years of age. This allows us moms to have some "me time". Personally, I usually can't wait to have another little one.

Did I tell you about my second son, Pax? Now there is a tall, dark and handsome young man! Reminds me of his father, Rainbow. Rainbow arrived at DRC in 1991 from the New England Aquarium. We lived together in 1996. I loved that Boston accent, fell for his charm right away, and 12 months later, Pax arrived!

Merina and I were both pregnant in 2006, but her baby was sort of an immaculate conception! They tell me her daughter Cayo's father (Noel) lives in Miami. I'll bet he speaks Spanish. I guess it was a long distance affair, not my thing, but Merina seemed thrilled to get her pretty little girl without the hassle of a relationship!

I was raising my daughter Gypsi (born in January 2007), when a new dolphin joined our family. Over the years I have noticed that our people have been very generous and have offered homes to many animals in need. In the early years many were sick from strandings. My mother, Little Bit, helped nurse some of them back to health, caring for them and teaching them all about our family. So I wasn't too surprised when a little boy dolphin arrived at

DRC in 2008. His name was Jax and by the look of him, he did not have a mother. This poor lad had scars over his entire body and was missing parts of his fluke, dorsal and pectoral fin. Yes, I did have my one-and-only daughter by my side, but we really couldn't turn this little boy away. Plus Gypsi really liked him, and I never could say no to

that girl! Jax became our constant companion and together we paved the way for his introduction into our family. He turned out to be a nice young man - talks a little funny but that's probably just his dialect! A few years later another young boy who had fallen on hard times joined us. Heard he was a southern boy, again funny accent. Anyway, my good friend, Aleta, followed my example and let this new kid, Louie, come home with her son Delta. I believe we set a good example for our human family by adopting these kids in need. Life is really precious and everybody has something to contribute, here on our little island and across our world. Open your heart and flippers to the new and unknown and embrace it. The joy you receive is one hundredfold what you can ever give!

Are there any other highlights from your years of teaching people about dolphins that you would like to share with us?

Yes, well as you know we do have a language barrier between people and dolphins, but I must say over the years our humans have really learned a lot about understanding what we mean. For example, my son Pax (Did I tell you how handsome he is?) once got a piece of that nasty monofilament fishing line tangled in his mouth. The humans couldn't see the line

because it is clear, but he had stopped nursing and I had to find a way to tell them! I decided that I wouldn't eat until they noticed something was wrong with my little boy. Well, that worked really quickly! As they looked me over for what could be wrong, they noticed the fishing line. They quickly and calmly got into the water, supporting my son and me, and freed him from the entanglement. Of course I trusted them and helped by telling Pax to relax and be still.

Several years later my headstrong daughter, Gypsi, was playing with a lanyard that had fallen into the lagoon and she got it caught over her head. The humans were quicker on the draw this time and it was soon safely removed from my girl. I think one lesson our people learned here was to watch the mother for information on the youngster. I saw my human friends learning to trust us more deeply and completely in these critical times. We communicate with them every day, through our eye contact, our behavior, and our trust in THEM. I feel over the years I have made some real progress teaching what I feel is the foundation of our relationship with our human family - trust. Then there are the days where I feel like I have only just begun. That's what keeps it fresh and fun! We meet new people every day and invite them into our world. How exciting!

Tursi, we can't thank you enough for sharing your insights with us. You are one of the matriarchs of the dolphin family, with so many priorities every day, yet you still take time to work with your human friends, starting new "kindergartners" on the path to a life full of dolfriends. Education really is important to you, isn't it?

Of course, especially if I am educating my children. Over the years I've taught them not only the things in our underwater

A Conversation with a Pioneer, from page 4

world, including that crocodile that visited one year, but also about the interesting world above the water. They have all become students of human behavior and are now training people themselves. This patterns what I have seen with my human friends Mandy (and his daughter Kelly Jayne) and Linda (and her daughter Jennifer). It has become our generational heritage with both dolphins and humans. I was most proud when I learned that our humans have now started the College of Marine Mammal Professions. The work that I began 40 years ago has come full circle. Now we can teach a new generation of people how to understand marine mammals and build life-long relationships with them. Professor Tursi has a nice ring to it, don't you think?

By Linda Erb

BABIES ARRIVE!



Photo by: Arielle Valle

OUTREACH IN THE COMMUNITY

Dolphin Research Center and Stanley Switlik Elementary School have teamed up with local Marathon businesses and community members to bring a unique school-wide marine science program to the children of our island. All of Switlik's students will benefit from DRC's educational outreach program as well as have the opportunity to visit here for some on site activities and a tour of this growing facility. The program is being run through Stacey Couch's science classes for the school visits and Ms. Couch will coordinate each grade level's visit to DRC. Each grade level will focus on a different topic and all lessons have been tied to National, State and Common Core Standards.

Jean Pessolano and the rest of the DRC Education staff head up the program. Kindergarten and fifth grade classes will be the first to take advantage. Kindergarteners

are focusing on the five senses and learning how they are alike and different from the dolphins. The students are learning about the senses of dolphins through interactive Power Point presentations, an engaging story and a song about dolphins which gets them out of their seats and moving to the beat. Fifth graders will focus on near shore waters, the mangroves and the importance of these areas to the food web and

how this relates to the dolphins. Their outreach lessons will include a walking fieldtrip to explore the flora and fauna in the near shore water areas. The focuses for the other grades are: first grade, marine mammals; second grade, adaptations; third grade, animal classifications with a focus on marine mammals and fourth grade will be dolphins and the sea grass ecosystem.

None of this would be possible without the support and generosity of people and businesses in Marathon who adopted all 31 classes so that the bus transportation to and from DRC would be covered. Each class received \$125 toward that expense. Thus a wonderful educational partnership was formed between DRC, Stanley Switlik Elementary and the community and businesses of Marathon.

By Beth Pinkus



Photo by: Samantha North

Young students from Switlik Elementary enjoyed learning about dolphins and even sang to them.

DRC 30 YEARS YESTERDAY



Photo by: DRC staff



Photo by: DRC staff

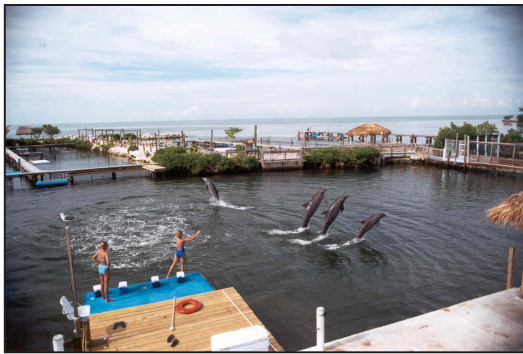


Photo by: DRC staff



Photo by: DRC staff



Photo by: DRC staff



Photo by: DRC staff



Photo by: DRC staff

TODAY



Photo by: Katy Donegan



Photo by: DRC staff



Photo by: Arielle Valle

OF TEACHING, LEARNING, CARING



Photo by: DRC staff



Photo by: Brittany Rohlmann



Photo by: DRC staff



Photo by: Katy Donegan



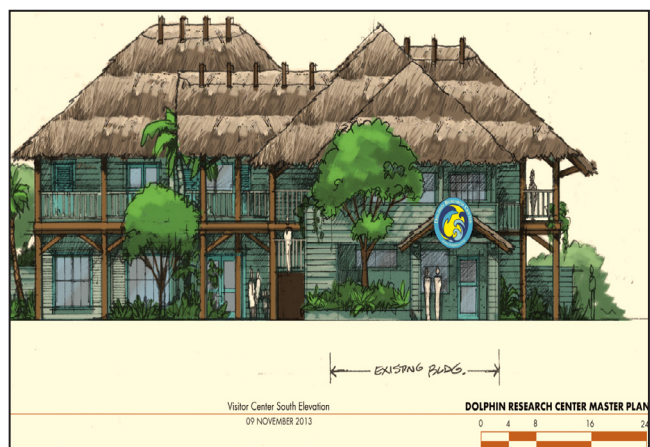
Photo by: Peter Clark



Photo by: Evan Nangle



TOMORROW



POD UPDATE

A.J. and Sandy - Sandy can be shy when it comes to establishing for a session when he is by himself, but luckily he has his friends to encourage him. One day when he was hesitant to sit in a lagoon on his own, A.J. decided to help. He took Sandy over to his seat and dropped him off. Sandy still was not sure about the situation and left, so A.J. went and brought him back several more times until he felt comfortable.

Aleta - One of Aleta's favorite things to do is show just how amazing she is by doing every behavior above and beyond what is expected. During a session, a trainer asked her for a present. Not only did she bring one, but she continued to randomly bring them throughout the program. This generosity continued to the next day. When the same trainer came down on the docks, Aleta brought yet another gift.



Photo by: Katy Donegan

A session with Calusa and Pandora always results in laughing!

Calusa and Pandora - Calusa and Pandora love playing games, especially with their trainers. Recently, whenever one girl is asked to sit for voluntary water, the other sister swims into the middle of the lagoon and stands on her head. That dolphin stays out in the middle with her tail in the air until she hears the whistle that means the other completed her behavior. Without fail they race back over to the dock screaming

and cheering about how well they waited. The girls then switch places and start the game over.

Cayo and Flagler - During an enrichment session, two trainers got on a floating dock and let it drift around the lagoon. All the dolphins swam over to play, but Cayo and Flagler were especially interested. They had a blast offering their dorsal fins and letting the trainers catch a ride. They also discovered that they could push on a trainer's feet and spin the dock around. The youngsters had a blast working together.

Delta - The dolphins in the front lagoon are frequently exposed to our D.E.S.Y. (Dolphin Entertainment System), an enrichment device that has different paddles that hang in the water. These paddles allow the dolphins to control various mechanisms, such as a bubble machine and an alligator that sprays water. We also have a sprinkler system, a completely different enrichment device, which we use for dolphin fun. During a session, the trainer got creative and submerged the entire sprinkler underwater to create a different effect. Delta promptly came over to investigate, and then started pushing on it with his rostrum. He popped up each time and screamed with excitement. The trainer realized that Delta thought that, just like the D.E.S.Y., if he pushed on the sprinkler it would trigger something different to happen.

Gambit - Gambit can be shy when it comes to playing with new toys. When two trainers got in the water for an enrichment session and tried out a new double floaty chair, Gypsi and Delta jumped right in. They offered up dorsal pulls and foot pushes, but Gambit hung back on the sidelines. After some encouragement from his friends, he



Photo by: Katy Donegan

Cayo and Flagler work together to get lots of attention.

came over and joined in, realizing all the fun he was missing. He quickly had the best time and was rewarded for trying new things!

Gypsi - Dolphin Research Center is lucky to be a part of many happy memories for our guests. Gypsi recently brought joy to a couple by taking part in their engagement. A *Dolphin Encounter* participant wanted to surprise his girlfriend with a message in a bottle during the swim, and Gypsi had the honor of delivering the bottle to the lucky woman. Much to the guest's surprise, the bottle contained a note asking her if she would marry her boyfriend. Not only did she say yes, but her family at home was able to experience the event by watching the whole proposal on our live webcam. All of the practice Gypsi did in the days leading up to the swim sure paid off!

Jax - One day, as trainers walked by, it seemed like Jax was wrestling around with his lagoon mate, Rainbow. Upon further inspection, Rainbow was sitting at the bridge and Jax was alone. The trainers realized that Jax found a mangrove pod and was rolling around with it so intensely that it looked as if more than one dolphin was having fun.

Karen, Kilo, and Lina - In the fall and winter seasons when male sea lions are not in rut and not interested in breeding, Kilo once more lives among the girls, Karen and Lina. All three sea lions

share the space of the outdoor habitat. Throughout the day they can be seen sunbathing together as well as swimming and fishing in their lagoon. Their sessions are lots of fun to watch with the three of them working on different behaviors with their trainers.

Louie - Louie enjoys enrichment with the other kids, especially when the trainers decide to get in on the surfboards. He eagerly swims over and offers up his dorsal fin, taking the trainers for cruises around the lagoon.

Luna - Sometimes the dolphins find their own ways to make their daily routine a little more interesting. During a *Dolphin Encounter* program, Luna swam away and picked up a piece of sea grass. Thinking it was a present, her trainer offered to take it from her when she got back to the dock. Instead, Luna kept the sea grass in her mouth while continuing to do a line of backrubs and some handshakes. She then went back over and gave it to the trainer, and screamed with excitement at her accomplishments.

Merina - The dolphins often have their own ideas of what they want to do during sessions. One day, no matter what behavior we asked her for, Merina rolled belly up and showed her mammarys. She was advanced in her pregnancy at the time. Her trainer asked for a variety of different behaviors, but all with the same result.

Molly - Molly enjoyed an adlibbing session with one of her trainers while her lagoon mates did a *Play with the Dolphin* session. All of a sudden Molly stopped what she was doing, swam over to the play session, popped up and did a handshake that was already in progress. She then returned to adlibbing. Pandora and Calusa looked a bit confused, but Molly reveled in her sneaky accomplishment.

Pax - The dolphins love when trainers get creative during sessions. Pax is currently working on catching fish while in the air during high energy behaviors. This handsome guy is undoubtedly better than the trainers, as much of the error is due to the lack of aim from those tossing the fish. Nevertheless, he's able to compensate for the poor throwing skills, and scoop up fish in his mouth mid dive and mid tail walk!



Photo by: Arielle Valle
A.J. and Tanner are more than father and son, they're best friends.

Rainbow - Rainbow was able to recently play on a big closed-cell foam mat. This is a toy that Rainbow used to have, and it clearly sparked some memories. He started to side beach on it and excitedly screamed.

Reese - This one year old continues to be an incredibly rapid learner. Reese recently started offering his "shark" behavior all on his own! Now that he is a year old Reese is adoptable. Check out our website for information.

Santini - Santini always enjoys participating in the Wounded Warrior Project and Dolfriend swims. She loves interacting with the guests and their families, which always brings smiles to their faces. The extra love she gives to those who served our country and to those who are going through life challenges is heartwarming and amazing to witness.

Talon - Talon is an extremely intelligent dolphin, and he often demonstrates this during research

games. During a *Dolphin Explorer* program, Talon was asked to retrieve presents for the three participants. He brought up all three gifts in one try, but the participant who took them thought they were all for her. Not to leave the others empty handed, the trainer sent Talon shopping again. This time Talon brought two presents, knowing there were two people who still needed a gift. The next guest was confused as well and took both. Finally Talon went out and only brought one gift, delivering it right to the participant who had been previously left out. Not only did he demonstrate his success at research games, but he also showed how he uses his skills in sessions.

Tanner - During a session where trainers worked on gating dolphins in and out of the lagoons, Tanner was separated from his father A.J. After the session was over and the trainer was opening the gates to reunite the boys, Tanner decided to take matters into his own flippers. He waited at the gate, and as soon as the trainer unclipped it, he pushed it open and raced back to his dad. He was so excited that he could not wait just a minute or two more. After only being apart for fifteen minutes or so, the two joined up and played like they had not seen each other in days.

Tursi - Tursi is a very protective mom and she often has to remind Gambit that she still knows best. During a fun session with one of his trainers, Gambit was playing with a bunch of different toys. Tursi watched and decided that some were just a bit too weird for him, so she took it upon herself to dictate his playtime. She took away the hula hoop and ring, but left the Kong and the ball as Tursi-approved options.

By Danielle Brown



OCEAN NOTIONS:



LEARNING FROM THE KIDS OF DRC

When dolphin kids have sessions with the trainers it is just like when you go to school to learn! When you walk into the classroom at school do you look for your name on your desk? The dolphins do this too! At the start of each session the trainers put symbols in the water. The dolphins race around the lagoon looking for their symbol so they know at which dock and with which trainer they will sit.

Once the session begins the trainer can work on many different behaviors with the dolphins. But before asking for a behavior, the trainer asks the dolphin to 'station', or pay attention, by holding one finger out in front of them. This is just like your teacher asking you to listen in class. We like the dolphins to focus before we give them a signal for a behavior.

Some of the most important behaviors the dolphins learn are manners. They learn to share the toys they play with, take turns, wait patiently, not bother their friends when they are trying to focus, not steal fish from each other, and much more. That sounds a lot like the manners we are taught about how we should treat our friends, family, and classmates.

Sometimes a dolphin can forget, and we ask another dolphin to help out! Dolphins learn by imitation, so when they see how another dolphin is acting they might copy. The dolphins can set good examples for one another, just like you can for your friends, family, and classmates!

By Erin Reichel

D	S	G	A	M	B	I	T	R	Y	FLAGLER
T	W	F	C	K	N	C	T	E	S	DELTA
V	D	E	L	T	A	A	I	E	C	GYPSE
P	F	G	D	A	Z	Y	F	S	T	GAMBIT
Y	H	T	Y	S	G	O	V	E	L	LOUIE
Q	C	L	V	P	V	L	Y	H	B	LUNA
L	Z	K	O	A	S	D	E	H	L	CAYO
T	H	S	C	U	Y	I	X	R	E	REESE
N	I	I	X	F	I	L	U	N	A	
K	V	Y	W	N	I	E	G	E	J	



Wade gets Merina's attention before asking her for a behavior.



Delta and Luna enjoy doing session's together.

SPOTLIGHT ON GAMBIT

Gambit was born on November 5th, 2010 to the lovely Miss Tursi. Although he is her fourth child, she certainly is not slack on her mothering duties! At three years old, Gambit is still very much a momma's boy. He stays close to her as he plays with the other kiddos that live in his lagoon.

Even though Tursi still keeps close watch on him, lately he has been getting into many new activities. Painting is one of them. In fact, every dolphin at DRC seems to have a flare for art. Depending on their personalities, they each display their own style. Some twirl elegantly as they cover the blank canvas in front of them. Some get so excited, they flick their heads back and forth, creating beautiful lines, not to mention sprinkling paint over everyone around. Others are much more meticulous, taking a nice long look before they dab on the perfectly placed dot. As Gambit develops his skills, we will be able to see which style he chooses to express himself. Gambit's first painting, a beautiful piece of artwork, was unveiled during November's Founders' Weekend.

Gambit exercises his creativity in other areas as well. He recently discovered how to make many more sounds! To those of you who

can't help but burst out laughing at the sound of a dolphin raspberry, you will be excited to learn that Gambit knows how to get us rolling on the docks with his! Since his raspberry sound is a brand new behavior for him, Gambit will undoubtedly forget how to make it from time to time. Not to worry though, he has also developed a fantastic laugh that is equally hilarious. With a vocal artist like Tursi as his role model, it's no surprise Gambit's gallery of noises continues to grow.

Some of the most important behaviors for dolphins to practice involve precision and patience, rather than creativity, such as the husbandry or medical behaviors. In order for the dolphins to always have the best healthcare possible, they are constantly assessed by their closest human friends. Gambit's medical trainers

are hard at work teaching him how to position for certain checkups, and how to wait patiently for a minute or more. Funnily enough, Gambit and the other dolphins get extremely excited after doing a medical behavior exactly how we asked. They really seem to enjoy the challenge! Often times they do

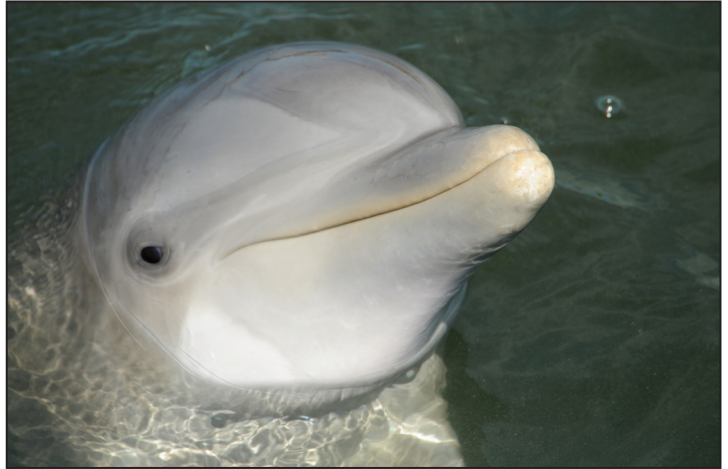


Photo by: Katy Donegan

You can see in his eyes that Gambit is a very curious young man.

huge victory laps around the pool and pop up back at their trainer screaming with joy, as if to say, "Look, look! I did it! Aren't you proud?" We certainly are.

Now that Gambit is three, he has grown into his big boy flukes and helps his new younger friend, Reese, with his first steps of training. Gambit has taken a special liking to little Reese, who celebrated his first birthday on December 3rd. They frequently play around together and enjoy sitting with each other during sessions! Gambit has shown us that he likes being a fun role model and best friend.

As Gambit grows up he continues to change and develop. His dorsal fin has turned out to very closely match that of his father, Kibby. Facially he is beginning to look very much like his oldest brother, Talon. Come in yourself to see how he is growing into quite the handsome, loveable young man. Gambit often shows different facets of his dolphinity and every day we learn something new about this amazing little boy. He definitely has a stubborn streak, just like his momma, but also has a captivating, sweet persona.

By Christina Tilley



Photo by: Katy Donegan

Speed runs top the list as one of Gambit's favorite behaviors.



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FOUNDERS' WEEKEND A SUCCESS



Photos by: Cathy Jones

These fun loving Founders made a splash in the front lagoon.



Photo by: Katy Donegan

The unusual weather made the sunset celebration absolutely gorgeous.

I would first like to thank those who were able to attend our recent Founders' Weekend. I hope you had as wonderful of a time as we did welcoming you for this unique event! For those who regretfully could not attend, we look forward to your next visit. Please know how much we all appreciate your continued commitment to DRC and our marine mammal family!

We are confident that everyone who was fortunate enough to join us exited assured that the direction of the organization is not only unwavering, but strengthened in its drive to honor the past while pursuing a bright and prosperous future. This sentiment punctuated yet another successful Founders' Weekend.

As we approach our 30th anniversary, Dolphin Research Center has already begun one of the most exciting, ambitious ventures in our long history. We unveiled a spectacular master plan that will help us grow and expand our mission of teaching, learning and caring about marine mammals and the environment we share far into the future. The next phase of our master plan is to enlarge and improve the kitchen where we prepare the daily meals for our marine mammal family and to provide larger, upgraded offices for the Animal Care and Training team. The proceeds from our Founders' Weekend of more than \$121,000. will directly support these vitally important improvements.

If you would like to contribute to our future plans, please contact me at 305-289-1121, ext. 205 or via email at Sandy@dolphins.org.

From DRC to all our extended family, we thank you for your dedicated partnership and hope that you continue to bless us with your incredible support.

By Sandy Dennison