



Summer 2006 Internship Program

Elena Finkbeiner has been selected by the Deedee Paschal Barrier Island Trust (www.barrierislandtrust.org) for the position of Sea Turtle Technician. Elena will divide her time between Dewees Island and the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge during the summer of 2006, monitoring and managing sea turtle nesting activity at both locations. Elena will make turtle patrols at dawn on Saturdays and Sundays while on Dewees, and respond to any nesting activity. In addition to her sea turtle responsibilities, Elena will be providing coverage for the Dewees Island Nature Center, Wet Lab, and environmental programming.



Elena is a native of California and has been intrigued by biology since she was a little girl. Elena's parents taught her to love the environment and the natural world at a young age through backpacking excursions and teaching her how to garden. A graduate of the University of California at Santa Cruz, Elena studied ecology and evolutionary biology. Studying abroad for a quarter in Costa Rica, Elena learned the beauty of tropical biology and honed her Spanish speaking skills. Costa Rica is where Elena saw sea turtles laying eggs and a nest of baby hatchlings for the first time. Upon graduation, Elena would return to Costa Rica to work for a marine conservation non-profit organization, where she spent the summer living on the beach and monitoring the nesting activity of Olive Ridley sea turtles. Elena's interests aside from sea turtles include: running, surfing, and gardening—almost anything in the outdoors. Elena expresses her creative side by painting, making jewelry, and dancing. She has a strong passion for working with children.

My goal in life is to make a difference in this world, and specifically to give back to Mother Nature, for everything she has given to us; for we are living in an intricate balance with the earth that we need to protect and treasure. -EF

Dewees Island Nature Center

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