



PHOTO NEWS RELEASE:

June 24, 2016

SEA ISLE CITY, NJ – On June 22, Sea Isle City’s Division of Tourism hosted the 2016 Sara the Turtle Festival at Excursion Park, where hundreds of families enjoyed live animal exhibits, environmental displays, a “Diaper Derby” crawling contest for babies, sprinting races for older kids, live music and other entertainment.

As families entered Excursion Park, they were greeted by a stilt walker, a large bounce-house, face painters, a sand art booth, and a series of eco-stations manned by members of local environmental organizations, including Sea Isle’s Terrapin Rescue, Beachcomber Guides and Environmental Commission. Representatives from the Wetlands Institute, Marine Mammal Stranding Center and Sea Turtle Recovery also offered information and hands-on displays. Additionally, families enjoyed closely examining a variety of wild critters, such as hissing cockroaches, tarantulas, crocodiles, a screech owl and other animals that were brought to the festival by New Jersey Nature Wildlife Sanctuary.

During the Diaper Derby, which featured eight charming babies, contestants were lured to the finish line by cheering family members. The derby’s first place winner was Kylie Sebastian, 11 months, of Fairless Hills, PA. Kylie was followed by her twin sister Kayla Sebastian, second place; and Ella Jane Hobaugh, 12 months, of Indianapolis, IN, third place. Each winner received a trophy from the Tourism Office and a “Save the Turtles” tee-shirt from the Sea Isle City Environmental Commission.

Later, during the sprinting races on the JFK Boulevard Beach, children competed by age on a sandy race course that was lined with cheering parents. The first place winners in each age group were Zach Taylor, 12, of Spring City, PA; Nick Ellis, 11, of Bethlehem, PA; Caitlin Boland, 10, of West Chester, PA; Luke Armstrong, 9, of Pottstown, PA; Jimmy Boland, 8, of West Chester, PA; Lincoln Huss, 7, of Harleysville, PA; and (front, from left) Talan Leshner, 6, of Schuylkill Haven, PA; Donovan Huss, 5, of Harleysville, PA; Mackenzie Vandever, 4, of Dennisville, NJ; Paul Carin, 3, of Chicago, IL; and Declan Cleary, 2, of Lebanon, PA.

Also during the festival, Karen and Dick Buckley, of The Turtlesingers, delighted the crowd by staging a “turtle sprinting contest” and singing a variety of songs that taught kids about the many variety of turtles in the world and their eco-systems.

For information about other events taking place in Sea Isle City, go to www.VISITSICNJ.com or phone Sea Isle’s Division of Tourism at 609-263-8687.

PHOTOS & CAPTIONS:

(Image: Babies) Eight adorable babies participated in the annual Diaper Derby crawling contest during Sea Isle City’s 2016 Sara the Turtle Festival on June 22.



(Image: Derby Winners) Kylie Sebastian, 11 months, of Fairless Hills, PA (center) was the first place winner of the Sara the Turtle “Diaper Derby” on June 22. Kylie is shown with her twin sister Kayla Sebastian, second place (left); and Ella Jane Hobaugh, 12 months, of Indianapolis, IN, third place.



(Image: Runners) Boys and Girls, age 2-12, were invited to participate in the Sara the Turtle sprinting races on Sea Isle City’s JFK Boulevard Beach on June 22.



(Image: Sprinting Winners) The first-place winners of the Sara the Turtle Springing Races were (back, from left) Zach Taylor, 12, of Spring City, PA; Nick Ellis, 11, of Bethlehem, PA; Caitlin Boland, 10, of West Chester, PA; Luke Armstrong, 9, of Pottstown, PA; Jimmy Boland, 8, of West Chester, PA; Lincoln Huss, 7, of Harleysville, PA; and (front, from left) Talan Leshner, 6, of Schuylkill Haven, PA; Donovan Huss, 5, of Harleysville, PA; Mackenzie Vandever, 4, of Dennisville, NJ; Paul Carin, 3, of Chicago, IL; and Declan Cleary, 2, of Lebanon, PA.



(Image: Rose Hair Tarantula) While enjoying Sea Isle City's 2016 Sara the Turtle Festival with her family, Alicia Strenkoski, of Royersford, PA, met a Rose Hair Tarantula – one of the many live animals that were on display at Excursion Park.



(Image: Owl) Chris Conroy, of New Jersey Nature Wildlife Sanctuary, is shown holding a baby Screech Owl during the 2016 Sara the Turtle Festival.



(Image: Marine Mammal) During the 2016 Sara the Turtle Festival in Sea Isle City, representatives from the Marine Mammal Stranding Center offered festival-goers information and the chance to examine the skeletons of numerous sea turtles.



(Image: Turtlesingers) Dick Buckley, of The Turtlesingers, is shown in Sea Isle City on June 22 with Big Bart, a red-footed tortoise – one of the many turtles on display during the 2016 Sara the Turtle Festival.

