



MAY 23RD IS WORLD
TURTLE DAY!

worldturtleday.org
#WorldTurtleDay

Let's meet the turtle ambassadors of Connecticut's nature centers!



Just because our
nature centers are
closed doesn't mean
us turtles disappear!



Hi! I'm Wallace.

I'm a Red-Footed
Tortoise, and I live at the
[Stamford Museum &
Nature Center](#)

My Center might be closed right
now, but my humans are still
busy! SM&NC is offering
[Facebook Live](#) classes at 10 and
2 daily, as well as remote leaning
opportunities for groups on
request by donation.



Ahh, the great outdoors!

Hello, I'm Myrtle

I'm an Eastern Box Turtle living at the [Barnes Nature Center](#)

My humans and I are happy to say that the trails of the Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut are OPEN daily from Dawn to Dusk!

Also, we have [virtual learning](#) opportunities to help teachers, parents, and students with at-home schooling, and live [Facebook](#) videos every weekday at 10am.



Hello, world!

I'm a spotted turtle hatchling from the [Beardsley Zoo](#)

The Zoo is closed, but they are working hard to determine when they'll be able to open again.

In the meantime, their [Distance Learning](#) programming continues to grow – just like me!


If you're thinking of getting a turtle as a pet, **DO YOUR RESEARCH**

Turtles are long-lived, with a life expectancy of over 20 years. It's not uncommon to see turtles reach 30 or 40 years old, and some species live to be over 100

Are you ready to take care of this pet for the next several decades?
For the rest of your *life*?



Photo: Den Trushtin



I was born with 5 legs and would not have been able to survive in the wild, so I've been an animal ambassador my whole life

Hello! I am Quincy

I am an Eastern Box Turtle who makes her home at the [Ansonia Nature & Recreation Center](#)

The Center and the grounds – including trails – are all CLOSED right now, but you can check out what my humans are up to on their [Facebook page](#). Tune in to Wild Edible Tuesdays, Fun Fact Fridays, and more!



Look! I'm on
[YouTube!](#)

Glad tide-ings from Gem!

I'm a Diamondback
Terrapin living at the
[Denison Pequotsepos
Nature Center](#)

My humans want to help you
stay “Nature Centered” at home,
so they've put together [activities](#)
to do at home, and they do
[Facebook](#) Live videos each Tues,
Wed., and Thurs. morning at 10
am!

They can also do live virtual
programs for schools on a
variety of topics!



I was some kid's pet,
until he left for
college. Then he
couldn't take care of
me anymore

Hey, I'm Tank!

I'm a Common Snapping Turtle, from the [Woodcock Nature Center](#)

The buildings at my Center are closed, but the trails and grounds are still OPEN from dawn to dusk!

Looking for fun things you can do at home? My humans are full of ideas! Check out their [Self-Led Nature Activities](#) page! Or drop by one of the weekly [Facebook Live](#) programs with education staff!


Pet turtles are not easy to rehome

They are the most commonly abandoned pet in the U.S. – and due to illegal releases, red-eared sliders rank in the top 100 invasive species in the world.

Nature centers are at capacity, and rarely have room to take in more turtles. If you bring a turtle into your home, *you* are responsible for it!



Photo: Gervyn Louis

A close-up photograph of a box turtle peering out from a hole in a large, weathered wooden log. The turtle's head and front legs are visible, and it is surrounded by a bed of brown wood chips. The background is a dark green patterned surface.

The video with Nona the
box turtle is my favorite!

Hello, my name is Mamma Liu

I am a Malaysian Box
turtle, one of five turtle
ambassadors at

[Earthplace](#)

My humans have told me that
our building and playground are
closed, but our trails are OPEN.
There's lots of fun [stay-at-home](#)
activities on our website, and
they are making a bunch of
videos on [YouTube!](#)



DID YOU HEAR
THAT? VIRTUAL
PROGRAMS, YAY!

MY NAME IS CRUSH!

I'm a Diamondback
Terrapin, chillin' at the
[Maritime Aquarium!](#)

While the Aquarium is currently
closed, we are still connecting
with our audiences through
virtual programs for families, and
for school groups.



Box turtles might be a common face at nature centers, but in the wild, we are a species of Special Concern in CT

Hiya! I'm Rocky

I'm an Eastern Box Turtle from [White Memorial Conservation Center](#)

Here's a picture of me enjoying the outdoors – you can enjoy the outdoors, too! At White Memorial, almost all 40 miles of trails (except “The Boardwalk”) are open for hiking right now!

Why did the turtle cross the road?



- May through July is nesting season! Female turtles are on the move, looking for nesting sites – and this means a lot more turtles in roads
- When helping a turtle across, **YOUR SAFETY COMES FIRST**. Only try to help if it is safe to do so
- **ALWAYS** move the turtle in the direction it is already facing, even if that means moving it to the side further away. Otherwise the turtle will turn right back around and make a second attempt


A photograph of a Three-Toed Box Turtle in its enclosure. The turtle is positioned on the right side of a green plastic dish, leaning over to eat from a collection of fresh flowers and green leaves. The flowers include a large yellow daisy-like flower and several purple flowers. The enclosure floor is covered in light-colored wood chips. In the background, there is a large, hollowed-out log structure. A purple speech bubble is overlaid on the top left of the image, containing the text 'A feast fit for a prince!'.

A feast fit for a
prince!

Greetings! I am Prince.

I am a Three-Toed Box
Turtle, and [Northwest
Park & Nature Center](#) is
my kingdom

If you want to get out and enjoy
some fresh spring air (and
flowers, I love flowers!), our
trails are OPEN!



Last year I
took a tour of
Niantic for
Turtle Day!

I'm not doing
that this year.
Gotta keep the
social distance!

**Hello friend! My
name is Mister
Rogers.**

I'm a Russian Tortoise at
the [Children's Museum
of Southeastern
Connecticut](#)

The Museum is closed right now.
We hope to be able to reopen
May 20, but that will be subject
to further evaluation - staying
safe is most important!




Shout Out to the wild turtles at Sessions Woods!

Photos by Paul J Fusco

Our property is open to the public but parking may be restricted if the lot gets full. Also the boardwalk at Sessions beaver marsh is closed due to maintenance and safety concerns.

Don't forget to social distance!



It is **ILLEGAL** to **REMOVE** turtles from the wild

- Turtles in trouble! Their numbers are in decline due to habitat loss, vehicular collisions, and poaching for pet trade
- When a turtle is removed from the wild, it can no longer contribute to the survival of its species. Think about how long turtles can live, and then consider how many potential babies they could have over decades of life!

It is **ILLEGAL** to **RELEASE** turtles into the wild

- Can spread disease
- Might introduce a harmful invasive species into an environment
- Is not good for the turtle; captive-raised turtles don't know how to survive wild, and will likely die
- Even just moving a wild turtle from one location to another can cause problems, since you could be removing it from its own territory, which can make the turtle less safe and make it harder to find food



My name is Georgia
right now, even
though I'm actually a
boy turtle

I'm Frida at the
moment, but we
two painted turtles
have had many
aliases

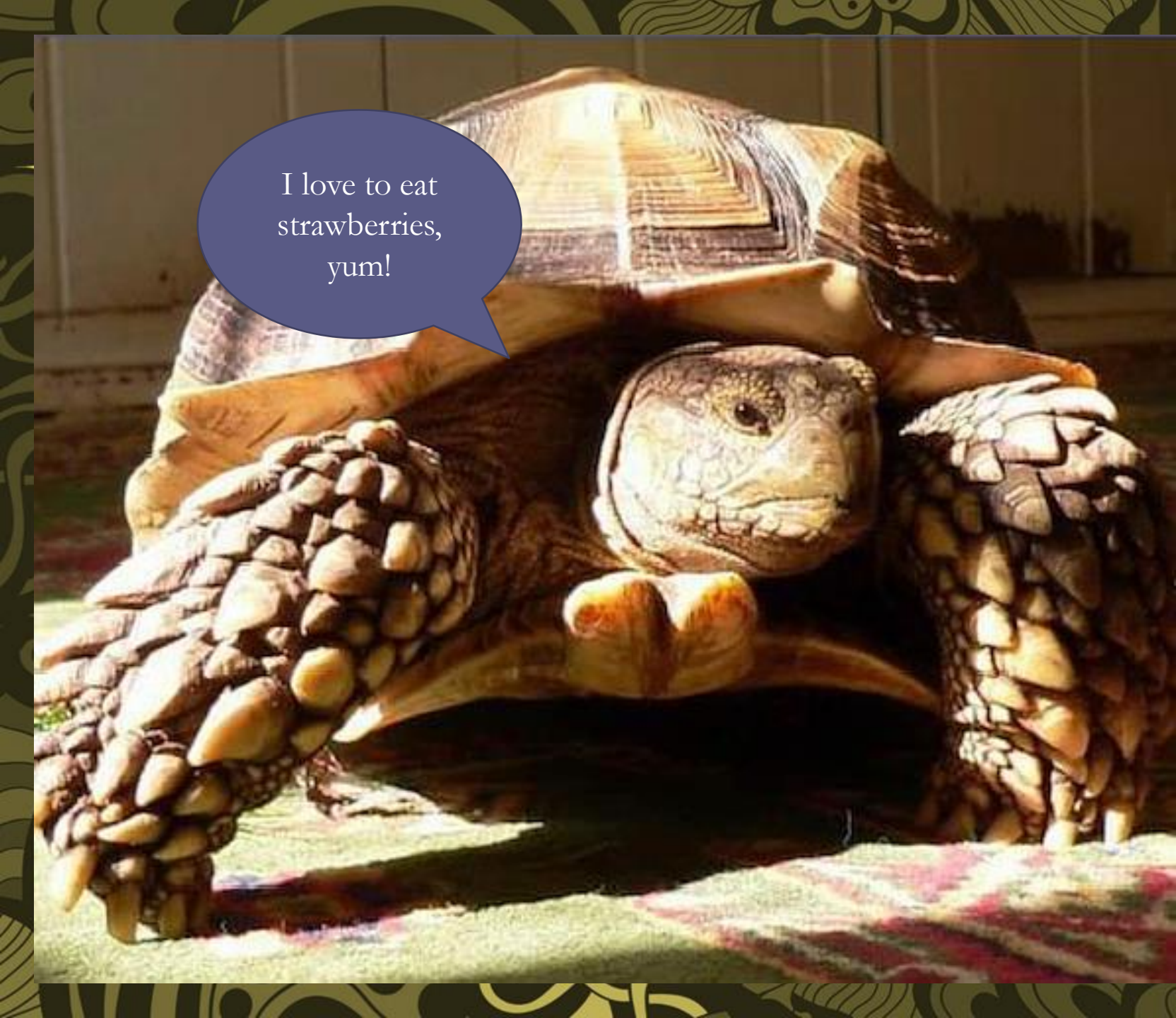
My name is
Phoebe, and it
has always been
Phoebe

Phoebe & Co.

A Red-Eared Slider and
two Eastern Painted
Turtles. We are the turtles
of [Kellogg Environmental
Center!](#)

Did you know there are 110 State
Parks in Connecticut?! Most of
them are still open for hiking and
recreation!

Sometimes the parking lots have
limits, but with so many parks to
choose from, you have plenty of
opportunities to get out and enjoy
the outdoors!

A large Sulcata Tortoise is shown in profile, walking towards the left. It is on a colorful, patterned rug. The tortoise's shell is a mix of brown and tan, with distinct scutes. Its head is extended forward, and its front legs are visible. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

I love to eat
strawberries,
yum!

Yo, I'm Bruno!

I'm a Sulcata Tortoise
from [Pratt Nature
Center](#)

Right now, the Center is closed,
but you can still enjoy the trails.
Go on, go out and enjoy the sun!

And good news! The Pratt
Center's full day program *will*
open on May 20th, and camp is
opening on June 29th

REMINDER: YOU
DON'T HAVE
TURTLE MIND-
READING
POWERS

(even though that would
be really cool)

If you come across a wild turtle,
don't try to move it to a 'better
location' (e.g. closer to water).
The turtle knows exactly where it
wants to be, and it knows its
wants and needs better than you
could!



Photo: Amy Baugess

How YOU can help wild turtles

You can make your backyard more turtle-friendly! One of the biggest threats turtles face right now is a loss of good habitat.

To learn more about creating better wildlife habitat in your yard, check out [this brochure](#) from The Northeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

Your Backyard Guide: Helping Amphibians and Reptiles





How many turtle names can you remember?

