

**For Immediate Release:**

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The Greene Turtle Diamondback Dash 5K Run and Walk

Kick-off event to mark the start of the Terrapin Breeding season

Why did the Turtle cross the road? To get to the 1st Annual Diamondback Dash 5k! This event will kick off the start of the Diamondback Terrapin breeding season in mid-May. As Terrapins get ready to cross dangerous Rt. 1 to lay their eggs this spring, we want to make sure they get all the help they can. This race, sponsored by The Greene Turtle restaurants and Great Scott Broadcasting is being held on Sunday, May 17th, 2009 at the Center for the Inland Bays office on the Indian River Inlet, in Delaware Seashore State Park. The event will benefit the joint efforts of the Center for the Inland Bays and Delaware Seashore State Park.

Registration for the race is \$15.00 prior to May 15th and \$20.00 on the day of the event. Race applications can be downloaded at www.inlandbays.org, or you can register online at www.active.com. Call 302-226-8105 to have an application mailed to you. After May 15th, registration is accepted only onsite on event day from 7:30 – 8:20 a.m. The first 250 participants to register will receive an event t-shirt. The registration fee includes a one year membership to the Center for the Inland Bays. During and after the race there will be various activities happening at the Center for the Inland Bays, the race start and finish line. The race will be followed by an awards ceremony and BBQ with The Greene Turtle sliders and refreshments. Lots of great prizes!

“This event is a great opportunity for the community to come together and support one of the unique local species that needs our help,” says Ed Lewandowski, Executive Director for the Center for the Inland Bays, “anyone can participate in the race whether you are a seasoned runner or just want to take a walk and help out the terrapins.”

The Diamondback Terrapin travels between its wetland habitat and the sand dunes of the seashore during its reproductive season. Females and hatchlings must cross Rt. 1 several times during the egg laying process. These small turtles nest on land and require access to dry soft sand or soil to lay their eggs.

A Terrapin Education and Rescue Patrol (TERP) is in place to help make this journey as successful as possible. TERP volunteers walk or ride Rt 1 during the nesting season and assist the terrapins in their trek across the busy road. Delaware Seashore State Park has also installed fencing along Rt. 1 to try to encourage the Terrapins to breed on the West side of the highway. This has been very successful but takes a lot of upkeep and the turtles still manage to get through in certain areas. If this species of turtle is extirpated from its environment it would have a difficult time repopulating its former habitat. The Diamondback Terrapin is listed as a species of concern in Delaware and several other states.

The Center for the Inland Bays is a non-profit organization established in 1994 to promote the wise use and enhancement of the Inland Bays Watershed through habitat protection and restoration, science and research, education and outreach and public policy. For more information on the Delaware Inland Bays, a national estuary of significance, visit www.inlandbays.org.

The Greene Turtle Sports Bar and Grille has been an area tradition since opening in Ocean City in 1976. The iconic Maryland-based restaurant brand is one of the fastest growing casual restaurant franchises in the Mid Atlantic region. Now with 22 total locations in Maryland, Delaware and D.C., the company continues plans on an aggressive but careful growth program throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. Since 2005 The Greene Turtle has added 13 new restaurants including units at BWI and the Verizon Center in Washington D.C.