

A Night of Nesting to Remember

On June 20th, 2017 an exciting moment for Kejimikujik staff, volunteers, and dedicated stewards occurred. The first female Blanding's Turtle from a protected nest, Dillon Lorraine, laid her very own nest. This turtle hatched from a nest that was protected in 1998 on Atkins beach by Dr. Tom Herman. This nest was that of Suzie the turtle, who was first spotted three decades ago in 1987. This nesting event, marks the first of its kind for the Endangered turtle species.

With a slow rate of maturation, Blanding's Turtles take approximately 20 years to reach adulthood, in which they can start to reproduce. This means that it can take many years of hopeful volunteers protecting nests with little to no results of their demanding work and data collection. Volunteers are ecstatic to see the turning over of a new generation of nesting females, and to see their years of efforts finally pay off. Everyone is looking forward to seeing more protected nests produce mature turtles in the coming years and ultimately the restoration of the Blanding's turtles population.