



MIDWAY ATOLL
National Wildlife Refuge

Gooney
Gazette II



Dedicated to the preservation, education and history of our national treasure- Midway Atoll

Friends of Midway Atoll Newsletter

September 2011

Jet Diverts to Midway

Delta 747 leaving Hawaii forced to land at Midway Atoll after windshield cracks

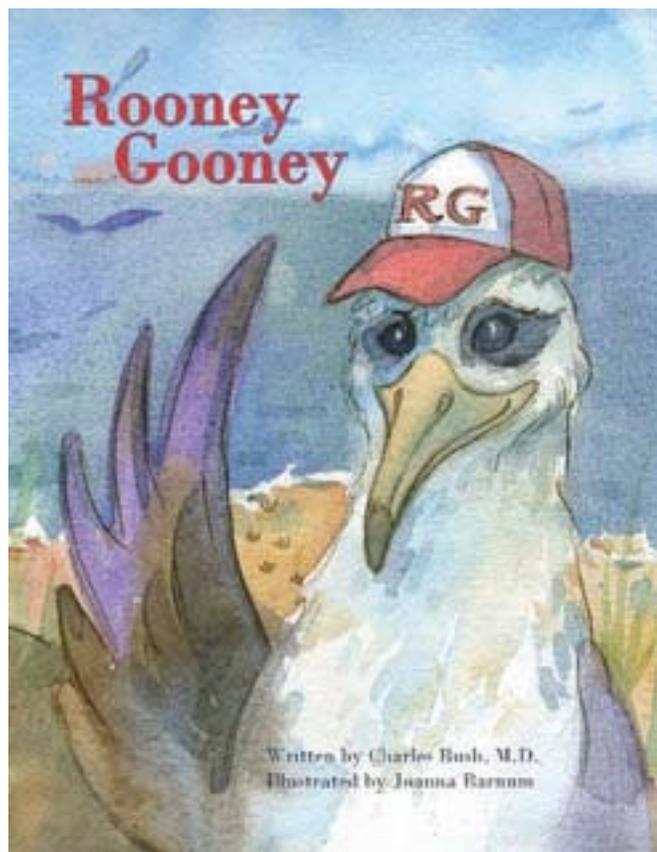
HONOLULU (HawaiiNewsNow) - A Delta Airlines flight from Honolulu to Osaka, Japan made an unscheduled stop at the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge on Thursday when pilots noticed a major crack in the windshield of the cockpit on June 17th. According to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials, the 747 aircraft touched



down safely on the Refuge's Henderson Field about 5:40 p.m. with 359 passengers and 19 crew members aboard. The Delta crew kept the passengers on board until a second 747 arrived from Japan to deliver parts and mechanics, and fly the passengers back to Japan. Passengers changed planes in the middle of the night and left for Osaka about 5 a.m., just before light and the albatross and other birds on the Refuge began to fly. Given the condition of its windshield, the 747 could not wait until dark to land, which would have been safer because the birds are less active. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials say the plane struck two birds when it landed, one of which damaged the aircraft's wing flap.

"Bird strikes are always unfortunate and sad, but we are grateful the plane landed safety and everyone is okay," Refuge Manager Sue Schulmeister said of the landing. "It's a good thing Midway is here when needed for these types of situations."

Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge is part of the co-managed Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, which extends some 1,200 miles northwest from the main Hawaiian Islands. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials are expected to release video and pictures.



A children's book written about how Laysan albatross are being affected by lead-based paint at Midway was recently published by Charles Bush, M.D., and Joanna Barnum. The book is titled, "Rooney Gooney" and can be purchased at <https://www.lulu.com/commerce/>

Winner of the Conservation Conference donation drawing is Stuart Funke-d'Egnuff pictured with his new Laysan albatross chick. Thanks to all who made donations and welcome to those who joined FOMA!! We are delighted to have new members!

Notice of Annual FOMA Meeting Wednesday, September 21

According to the FOMA By-laws, Article IV Section 1, "The annual meeting of the members shall be held at a date, time and place as designated by the Board of Directors for the purpose of transacting any such business as may come before the meeting, including the election of directors."

This year the annual meeting will be held by conference call on Wednesday September 21, 2011 beginning at 4:00 p.m. EST. This will be the sixth year that we have held this meeting by conference call.

The agenda for the 2011 Annual Meeting will include approval of the 2010 Annual Meeting minutes, the election of Directors as well as reports from the various committees. If you would like to be a part of the Annual Meeting conference call, you will need to call me for the call in phone number. I will have the phone number and required pass code one week prior to the meeting or after Monday, September 19. My number is (765) 935-4747. A complete and detailed report of the meeting will be published in the next newsletter.

FOMA President, Darlene Moegerle

Lucky Laysan Ducks . . . get Guzzlers!

The Friends of Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge (FOMA) and FOMA members Mike and Cindy Logan will purchase four wildlife guzzlers for the refuge.



Laysan Duck hen and ducklings at Guzzler on Sand Island. Photo J. Klavitter, USFWS.

The guzzlers are 500 gallon artificial wetlands that are refilled by rainwater and will serve as artificial wetlands for Laysan Ducks on Eastern Island. The guzzlers will address reducing or hopefully even eliminating the avian botulism problems that the wetlands had posed for the management of Midway’s Laysan Duck population. The March 2011 tsunami inundated the three “natural” fresh water wetlands with salt water that were created there in 2004.

The wetlands on Eastern Island are now brackish which has limited Laysan duck productivity and abundance. The guzzlers will provide Laysan ducks with a fresh water source until the natural wetlands slowly revert back to fresh water with rain over the next few years. A model guzzler was installed on Sand Island in the fall of 2009 and has been used by Laysan duck adults and ducklings without any negative issues.

2011 Hawaii Conservation Conference

by Teya Penniman

FOMA hosted an information booth at the Conservation Conference held in Honolulu August 2nd through 4th. The booth seemed to be well received. It provided an opportunity for FOMA representatives to let people from the conservation community know about our work. The exhibits were also open to the general public one night of the event. It provided an opportunity to interact with people who already had a connection with Midway and to strengthen our connections with agency staff directly involved with Midway. The initial outlay in terms of effort to pull together the display should be much less in the future if FOMA decides to continue this or other similar events. The event requires a significant time commitment from board members, so this must be factored in as well. Participating Board members enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with the other Board members (and equally participatory spouses) and the opportunity to share their knowledge and enthusiasm about the special place called Midway Atoll.

Overall, the objective of raising awareness about Midway was well met.



Jim Waddington, Teya Penniman, Fern DuVall, Cindy Waddington, Kathleen Loy, Avery Loy all wearing Marine debris necklaces- the perfect conversation starter, made by Cindy Waddington.



Meet Chris Jordan – Photographer & film director

Chris Jordan is a visual artist and cultural activist. His work explores the complex territory of mass culture in a provocative and non-judgmental way.

Artist and film maker Chris Jordan and two others were on Midway Atoll for the week of July 31st to continue filming and photographing wildlife and marine debris. The group plans to return again to Midway in January and April 2012 for additional work for their film they hope to release by the fall of 2012 to raise awareness on Marine Debris and its effects on wildlife and the environment.

MIDWAY- a statement by Chris Jordan

(from his website www.chrisjordan.com)

We are at a mid-way place. On a remote and isolated island in the middle of the Pacific, twelve-hundred miles northwest of Hawaii.

This is a moment in time, a chance to witness and understand our role in an astonishing environmental tragedy. This is a place that provides context. Here, reflected in the beauty of the Albatross, is an unfolding horror. Yet it is a horror in which we see our own lives, a snapshot of our impact on the planet that challenges us to consider how to move forward.

Join us, on a breathtaking and emotional journey, into the heart of the Pacific, and into the heart of ourselves. Production of the feature film “Midway” continues through 2011.

MIDWAY – film trailer can be viewed in high resolution at www.MidwayFilm.com



Marine Debris Art by Susan Scott

Marine biologist Susan Scott writes a weekly column called “Ocean Watch” for the Honolulu Star-Advertiser and has written six books about nature in Hawaii.

Susan’s Marine Debris art was on display at the Conservation Conference held in Honolulu Aug. 2-4.

Learn more about the artist and view more of Susan’s work at: www.susanscott.net

MIDWAY'S FAST MEDICAL RESPONSE TEAM CALLED INTO ACTION FOR RESCUE AND EVACUATION.

Refuge and DBSI staff assisted the U.S. Coast Guard with a Medical Evacuation on Friday, July 29. The Fish and Wildlife Service crew used a small boat to rendezvous with a Matson container vessel to pick up the patient, who was then transferred by ambulance to the DBSI clinic where he was monitored by the Physician's Assistant until a Coast Guard C-130 landed to transport him to Honolulu. DBSI staff assisted with boat operations and conducted the airport operations; the evacuation went smoothly thanks to the experienced Midway personnel.



Jason Beatty and John Miller approach Matson Container Vessel for MedEvac
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Photo/Pete Leary



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Photo/Pete Leary



Ambulance transports patient to USCG C-130
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Photo/Sue Schulmeister

Meet Ray Born

Deputy Superintendent for Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

Ray is the Fish and Wildlife Service, Permits Manager and defacto Deputy Superintendent for Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument with over 25 years of federal experience. He began his career in the Forest Service as a biological technician at Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument with the US Forest Service. For the FWS he served as an inspector in Guam and Los Angeles, and Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Georgia as a training officer, Supervisory Wildlife Inspector in Louisville, KY and currently as FWS Permits Manager in Honolulu, HI.



Ray also had a dual career as a Colonel in US Army Reserve finally serving as the Reserve Assistant Director Plans and Policy for US Forces Japan at Yokota Air Force Base, Japan from 2005 until his retirement in 2010. Ray's military career started as a Lieutenant in a light infantry company through Battalion Commander for a separate Light Infantry Battalion with 500 soldiers assigned in Guam. He has also served at a Brigade Executive Officer, Division Personnel Officer, and Seminar Leader for Reserve Components National Security Conference.

Ray earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Bemidji State University in Minnesota and Masters of Public Administration from the University of Guam. A graduate of the FWS Stepping Up to Leadership course and US Army Command and General Staff College. In his spare time Ray can be found enjoying scuba diving, running and hiking.



Sunset on two albatross at Midway "Time to Go, We Are Late." Photo by Volunteer David Dow

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Visitor Recollection . . by Lucia Bell

In the Spring of 2004, I had the good fortune to visit Midway. I was travelling with my mother on the World Cruise for the Regent Seven Seas Voyager. Luckily for us Midway Island was one of the ports of call. I think the Voyager was first or the second cruise ship allowed to go there. We anchored in the bay, and rode into the harbor on small tenders. Once on land, we were escorted by Refuge representatives on a foot tour - so we could see the historic sights as well as experience the millions and millions of magnificent birds and the grey fuzzy awkward chicks. (They wanted to make sure that we did not get off the paths and accidentally step on the hidden egg burrows.)

That three or four hour stop at Midway Island was truly one of the most moving days in my life. Not only was the sea the most beautiful color I had ever seen, but I was truly blown away by the experience. Both of my parent were WWII vets (my dad was a tank commander and my mother was in the Red Cross) so I grew up with a deep appreciation of WWII and a real sense of the importance of each and every battle. It was extraordinarily moving to be at Midway and see the remnants of the shell pockmarks on the buildings, the wharf, and the older military vehicles. But the experience with the goonies was unbelievable. First I couldn't have even begun to imagine just how many there were: and to see them and be able to walk around with them there with their adorably akward, fuzzy chicks. They were so accepting of us being there and kept talking to us and walking with us.

The whole experience of Midway truly holds a special place in my heart and truly that day is one of the most incredibly special and most moving travel memories that I have ever had. (I have been around the world 4 times.) It is a special place and it is wonderful that the Friends of Midway Island organization is trying to help it stay that way. I bought a t-shirt that day and after thousands and thousands of wearings and washings, it was finally starting to fade. I was so grateful to be able to get more t-shirts.

Thanks for everything - Lucia Bell

FOMA Membership and Renewal Information

If you have a question about your membership, please send an e-mail to Darlene Moegerle at: darlenemo@parallax.ws or call her at: 765-935-4747

The address for your membership renewal payment is: Bob Fields 1030 N.W. 176th Avenue Beaverton, OR 97006

Friends of Midway Atoll

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