

## **West Galveston Island Property Owners Associations**

**For the main July 18, 2020, meeting we were pleased to have two important environmental organizations on the island to give PowerPoint presentations on their activities and current programs. The first one will be Joanie Steinhaus, Gulf Program Director of the Turtle Island Restoration Network (TIRN), and then followed by Julie Ann Brown, Executive Director of the Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council (GINTC).**

**Turtle Island Restoration Network (TIRN), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, mobilizes people in local communities around the world to protect marine wildlife and the oceans and inland watersheds that sustain them. Since 1989, the organization has worked to protect and restore endangered sea turtle populations and marine biodiversity in ways that incorporate the ecological needs of marine species and the economic needs of local communities. The organization has offices in Galveston, Texas, Hawaii and headquarters in California. Turtle Island has demonstrated the effectiveness, persistence and long-term commitment necessary to help endangered marine wildlife species recover. The work to regenerate these vulnerable species must span decades, and Turtle Island has demonstrated a commitment to carry out this effort, especially protecting the Gulf Coast endangered Kemp Ridley Sea Turtle.**

**The presentation by Joanie Steinhaus, Gulf Program Director of the Turtle Island Restoration Network (TIRN), to please: [Click Here](#)**

**Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council's (GINTC) mission is to connect people with Galveston's natural environment. Our vision is that Galveston residents and visitors experience and appreciate the diverse natural environment the island has to offer. We accomplish these through providing unique and meaningful nature experiences, including volunteer opportunities, for people of all ages. GINTC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, as established in conjunction with the creation of the birding festival, FeatherFest. The first FeatherFest, held in 2003, was a two-day birding-only event that drew approximately 200 participants. Today, FeatherFest is a four day birding and nature photography festival, plus pre- and post-festival field trips, with a sustained attendance of over 600.**

**In addition to the Galveston FeatherFest Birding and Nature Photography Festival held in April each year, GINTC organizes and hosts Holiday with the Cranes in December, and Sea Turtle Saturday in February. Our Winter Nature Program included 33 nature adventures in January and February this year for over 500 participants, most of whom were island residents or months-long resident "Winter Texans." We also facilitate free scheduled Nature Walks at the East End Lagoon Nature Preserve's new wildlife trail. These free programs are hosted by volunteer Galveston nature experts and enthusiasts.**

**The presentation by Julie Ann Brown, Executive Director of the Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council (GINTC), is attached.**

**Jerry Mohn  
President**