

GREEN LEGACY

Summer 2014



A Safer World for Whales

by Fatima Orozco

She is friendly. She is curious. She is Star. Researchers and photographers wait patiently on the open ocean, hoping to catch a glimpse of her. Eventually, the 90-foot blue whale surfaces alongside of the boat, stretching out nearly three times its length.

Blue whales don't typically approach boats, but Star is anything but typical. She floats at the top of the water and lets the boaters admire her as she stares back at them. When she's done, she dives below the water only after showing the boaters what makes her even more special—the two colors on the underside of her massive tail.

Like fingerprints, every blue whale has a different marking under their tail, but it's uncommon for blue whales to put their markings on display. But Star is different. She flaunts her individuality at every chance she gets by lifting her tail far out of the water and leaving it there, lingering in the air like a beauty queen waving to the judges.

Greenpeace is working to protect whales like Star from ship strikes, whaling and seismic testing. And because of you, we were



Credit: © Michael Fishbach

Star's signature tail marking

able to make monumental strides this year. The biggest win for the whales this year was the ruling from the International Court of Justice, declaring Japanese whaling unscientific and ordering them to cease it immediately.

Soon after this victory, we flew a huge inflatable whale (Mz. Blue) in front of the White House to thank President Obama for his efforts in supporting the court's decision, and to remind him that whales are still in grave danger of actions taken right here in America: seismic testing. As I watched an inflatable blue whale float near the White House, I thought about the countless dangers whales face because of humans, and I was overcome with emotions.

Continued on Page 2

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Fatima Orozco
Supporter Care Representative

Inside:

- Do You Have a Plan?
- 3 Simple Steps
- Meet Barbara Flowers

A Safer World...

continued from Page 1

How do I celebrate such a milestone, when I know that our government is actively putting the fossil fuel industry above whales by allowing seismic testing from the coast of Delaware down to Florida? Seismic testing, which can occur for weeks on end, sends extreme pulses of sound 100,000 times louder than a jet engine throughout the Atlantic Ocean, just so oil and gas companies can turn a profit by finding the next fossil fuel reserve. Whales cannot endure this unbearable piercing sound and, if they don't die from the torturous noise, they are at risk of being injured, lost or beached.

Star hasn't been seen since 2011. Her location, health and well-being remain a mystery. I'm fearful for the future of Star and other whales. One thing that gives me hope is that I know Greenpeace will



Mz. Blue—an exact replica of Star, including her markings—near the White House and by the Washington Monument on Earth Day.

be there, fighting to permanently end seismic testing and stop the many other threats that whales face. But Greenpeace can't go it alone. Support from you, and the millions of people around the world, is vital to the future of whales and the beautiful waters they call home.

Continue reading for information about how you can include Greenpeace in your plans. And visit our website at: www.greenpeacefund.org

Planning for the Future

Everyone should have a plan for the future. At Greenpeace, we make plans in order to provide for a greener future in every corner of the world.

Your own plans may include providing for a child's education, a dream vacation, or your retirement. For most people, future plans also include a will or other estate planning vehicle. Not having a will can have serious consequences. Without a will, families are often left to cope with unnecessary legal problems, expenses and delays.

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHTS

The right to decide who should eventually receive your property at the end of your lifetime is an important responsibility. The "last will and testament" makes it easier to exercise that right while assuring that your wishes are fulfilled.

Your will allows you to provide heirs with particular sums of money, certain properties or a percentage of your estate. For instance, you may choose to leave particular amounts or property to

certain heirs and have others receive the remainder of your estate in percentages you determine.

INCLUDE GREENPEACE IN YOUR PLANS

Your will can also be a wonderful way to make meaningful gifts to charitable organizations you wish to continue to support beyond your lifetime. There are a number of ways you can include Greenpeace in your plans, whether it be a specific property or dollar amount, a percentage of your estate or as a residuary beneficiary to receive what's left after loved ones have been provided for.

SEEK PROFESSIONAL ADVICE

Because your will is such an important document with many options available, it is wise to seek the advice of a competent attorney to be sure your will is legally valid.

An accountant, life insurance professional, financial planner or investment counselor may also be helpful when making decisions about the distribution of certain assets. We would be happy to speak to you and your advisors about the philanthropic aspects of your plans.

WHO DO YOU WANT TO PROVIDE FOR?

1. Spouse
2. Children, grandchildren
3. Other loved ones
4. Special friends
5. Favorite charitable organizations, such as Greenpeace Fund

Take These Steps

Think of your estate plan as an instruction manual for those who will one day distribute your assets. To be effective, your wishes should be expressed clearly and concisely, in order to avoid unnecessary costs and delays.

1. Make an appointment with your attorney. If you have no attorney, call your local bar association for recommendations. Or ask trusted friends and/or advisors for names of lawyers they know who specialize in estate planning in your state of residence.

2. How much will it cost? Most wills cost less than the legal fees you probably paid the last time you bought a home. The investment is a wise one, indeed.

Your attorney will estimate his or her charges before you begin the will planning process.

3. Make these lists:

- All property you own and its value, including stocks, personal property, real estate, business interests, retirement plans, etc.
- How your assets are owned (outright, joint ownership, etc.).

- Names and ages of family members and others you want to provide for.
- Your wishes for distributing your property.
- Charitable gifts you wish to include to Greenpeace and/or others.

By collecting this information beforehand, you can save time and, possibly, expense.

Please Remember Greenpeace in Your Will

If you are ready to name Greenpeace in your will or other plans, here are a few simple facts to note. Our full legal name is:

Greenpeace Fund, Inc.

and our federal tax ID number is:

95-3313195.



Star and her calf (bottom left) off the coast of Baja, California.



A Life Devoted to Helping Animals

One day, Barbara Flowers found an abused stray cat that was near death. Barbara and her mother cared for the cat and eventually nursed it back to health. As the bond between Barbara and the cat grew stronger, so did the cat's well-being. Sadly, soon after the cat healed, Barbara's neighbor intentionally poisoned the cat. This was Barbara's first encounter with willful animal abuse.

Perhaps it was this tragic incident that inspired Barbara to become an animal rights activist. Over the years, she's written letters to officials, educated the public and even took part in the animal rights march in Washington, DC in 1990.

She was especially active in the effort to stop South Africa's massive elephant poaching movement during the late 1980s. Years later, on a trip to Botswana, she was able to meet one of the elephants that she helped save from the annual slaughtering.

Because Barbara has devoted her life to helping animals, she was elated to see whales peacefully playing in their natural Alaskan habitat during a whale watching trip on her 25th wedding anniversary. For

over an hour, a mother whale taught her young calf how to jump and dive in and out of the water.

As the mother dove down with her tail splashing in the tranquil water, the young calf followed her closely, not quite ready to take his first dive. Barbara remembers the peace and serenity of the playful whales, "they looked quite comfortable, with no sense of stress."

Barbara has spent her life working to give animals a better life, and eventually, her estate plans will allow her legacy to continue. When it came time for Barbara to make her estate plans, she said, "it was only natural for me to leave whatever I have to what has made me the happiest here on earth... animals and nature."

As she tells her husband, John, "we're in the 4th quarter of the game, and no one's let us know yet if there's going to be any overtime, so if something is important to us—we better do it now if we can. There's no more 'when I grow up,' or 'maybe someday.' Our time is now."



Barbara Flowers

For More Information...

For more information on how your plans can balance your own personal and financial goals with a desire to help Greenpeace in a substantial way, please contact, without obligation:



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GREENPEACE FUND

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*Greenpeace Fund is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization set up to continue the vital work of Greenpeace by increasing public awareness and understanding of environmental issues through research, the media, and other educational programs. Greenpeace Fund also provides grants to support Greenpeace's work around the world for activities that are consistent with its mission.



Recognized by Charity Navigator as having demonstrated excellent financial efficiency.

Awarded "Best in America Seal" by Independent Charities of America. Of the one million charities operating in the USA, less than two thousand have been awarded this prestigious seal.



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Top-rated environmental charity by the American Institute of Philanthropy. Grade A.

