

Birth on the beach

The turtles are vital to the environment because they are part of the food chain. Since they feed on sea grass, they serve as a form of water filter, enabling photosynthesis to occur. Without them, too much algae will float around.

One turtle can lay an average of 100 eggs but not many of them will hatch. Of the hatchlings, only 1% will survive life in the sea. Since their shells are still soft, most of these tiny, helpless creatures will fall prey to the devourers of the deep.

Joel Palma of WWF said, "The mother sea turtles come to Bamboo Beach because the water is clean. The quietness of the place also encourages the turtles to lay their eggs here. Loud noise and light frighten nesting mother turtles."

Joey Puyat, president of Kawayan Cove, noted: "Preserving this place has been a multigenerational effort on the part of my family. Kawayan Cove is such a beautiful place and we feel it is our duty to keep it, and everything in it, that way."

He added: "My mother has already written a letter to her grandchildren. In it, she said, 'These turtles were

hatched in Kawayan Cove and the next time they nest will be about 50 years from now. I will no longer be around to see them, but you will.' When she read this to her two-year-old granddaughter, she said, 'Lola, don't worry, when I see the turtles, I'll tell you.'"



Kawayan Cove's Engr. Ave Yongoyong (2nd from left) with World Wildlife Fund representatives from left, Roel Bote, Joel Palma and Tina Santiago



Love in the cove



If the weather had cooperated on the late afternoon of Sept. 16, 2005, Eric and Janette Jaudines would have wanted to hold their 15th wedding anniversary celebration at Meditation Point. The windswept cliff overlooking Bamboo Beach would have been the perfect backdrop for the couple's renewal of matrimonial vows. Janette imagined the strains of the string quartet's performance blending with the sound of the gently lapping waves.

Eric and Janette decided the next best thing: they held their anniversary festivities on Bamboo Beach. After all,

they had always dreamed of having a beach wedding.

"We love Kawayan Cove's tropical atmosphere," Janette enthused.



The beach theme was echoed in the couple's unique invitation - a "message in a bottle" that was filled with corals, shells and sand and in aqua blue color motif.

The bride was resplendent in her Danilo Franco bridal finery. She was matched by the groom, who looked dashing in his JC. Buendia outfit. They seemed suspended in time, standing on the fine white sands of the beach, as guests witnessed the Christian ceremony officiated by Pastor Ariel Marquez of the Victory Christian Fellowship.

Justin, the couple's 11 year old son, doubled as best man and ring bearer. His speech, both poignant and emotional, was the highlight of the festivities.

Ayen and Franco Laurel, highly regarded professional entertainers, acted as program hosts during the reception. Ayen is Janette's sister. Their father, Emy Munji, a well-known musician in his own right, played the piano in all the numbers. Janette, who is also musically gifted, sang the finale to a visibly moved Eric as fireworks lit the sky.

"Who knows," Janette said. "Maybe after ten years we will celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary here again. And this time, the ceremony will be held at Meditation Point."