BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

2013

ANNUAL REPORT

Sea Turtle Preservation Society

For an electronic copy, visit our website at ----- seaturtlespacecoast.org

Contents

1. Introduction 1
2. Officers and Board of Directors 4
3. Public Education 5
3.1 Talks and Displays 5
3.2 Turtle Watch/Walk Program 8
Duties of Turtle Watch/Walk Guides (permitted volunteers) 9
Duties of Assistant Guides (non-permitted volunteers) 9
Guidelines for Public Awareness Turtle Watches/Walks 10
3.3 The Sea Turtle House 10
3.4 Adopt a Turtle Program 11
3.5 Attention Boater's Program 12
4. Stranding and Salvage 13
4.1 Stranding Activities 14
4.2 STERP Activities 16
4.3 Brevard Zoo "Sea Turtle Healing Center" 17
5. Sea Turtle Nesting Survey 18
6. Community Involvement 20
6.1 Guest Speakers 20
6.2 Communications 21
6.3 Beach Cleanup 21
7. Volunteer Recognition 23
7.1 STPS Volunteer Appreciation Dinner 23
7.2 STPS Holiday Party 23
8. Fundraising 24
9. STPS Memberships 28
10. Total Estimated Volunteer Hours 29

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1. Introduction

Brevard County is one of the most important natural habitats for marine turtles in the world. The beaches are prime nesting areas for adult sea turtles, while the Indian River Lagoon is a developmental foraging habitat by juvenile sea turtles. The most concentrated Loggerhead nesting in the Western Hemisphere occurs on our beaches. This area, along Florida's eastern coast, is one of the top two locations for Loggerhead nesting in the world and first for Green nesting within the United States.

The Sea Turtle Preservation Society (STPS), located in Brevard County, is a registered 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization. STPS is a "grass roots" organization that is not associated with any parent corporation. STPS relies on the donations from the public, its membership, and the efforts of its dedicated volunteers. Contributions are tax-deductible as allowable by law. STPS operates ***The Sea Turtle House*** in Indialantic, Florida, that includes both a retail store and an Educational Center. STPS is not supported by government funding. STPS was incorporated within the state of Florida in 1986 and is registered with the Florida Department of Consumers in conjunction with the State of Florida Charities Gift Givers' Guide. The mission of the STPS is "Helping sea turtles survive".

The title of Honorary Life President is conferred upon Peter Albert Bandre, the founding member of the Corporation. He is entitled to all the privileges of membership.

The purpose of the Sea Turtle Preservation Society is to educate the public about marine turtles and the environmental niche that they occupy. STPS reaches thousands of people each year through lecture/presentations, exhibits at area events, our website and Facebook page, through our turtle watches/walks during the sea turtle nesting season and visitors to The Sea Turtle House. The STPS's goal is to help maintain the current sea turtle populations and to prevent a potentially irreversible decline in that population through:

- Reducing disturbance and harassment of nesting sea turtles by public education about the hazards of nighttime beach activities, habitat destruction, and beach lighting;
- Increasing hatchling survival rate by educating the public about the impact of lighting, beach debris, habitat destruction, and marine pollution;
- Supporting the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge;
- Rescuing hatchlings, post hatchlings, and adult sea turtles and transporting them to permitted rehabilitation facilities;
- Contributing data to the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (STSSN);
- Educating the boating public of dangers to sea turtles while boating in the river and ocean;
- Participating in Keep Brevard Beautiful, Adopt-A-Beach program by performing monthly clean-up activities;
- Conducting a nest survey project in conjunction with the Florida Nesting Survey Program; and
- Supporting the local Brevard Zoo "Sea Turtle Healing Center" through the Turtle Krawl 5K Race and other fundraising activities and participate, when practical, in grant opportunities. The STPS Board has committed to use the majority of the proceeds from the Turtle Krawl 5K to support this effort. This financial commitment is currently for three years.

Most of our active volunteers are permitted by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, (FWC) Bureau of Imperiled Species, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to work with endangered and threatened sea turtles. STPS is not, however, an enforcement agency.

These various STPS activities provide a positive monetary impact to the Brevard County beach front communities. During 2013 STPS's contributed approximately 15,180 volunteer hours valued at $318,780 in volunteer labor to the Brevard County community with our volunteer activities. This data reflects a 17% increase in our volunteer hours over last year.

See Note 4 in the table below and the table in section 10 of this document for information about how this total was determined.

The following table shows the details of just one of our key volunteer efforts: Stranding Responses in selected areas of Brevard County. It highlights the team's effort in terms of the number of strandings per city. It shows the monetary value of the manpower and transportation costs needed to support the requirements of these endangered animals. Since the sea turtles are under the protection of the federal government, if STPS did not provide this vital function, each city could be responsible for performing their own stranding activities. STPS does not charge any fees for conducting this activity.

VALUE OF STPS STRANDING RESPONSES IN SELECTED BREVARD COUNTY AREAS IN 2013 (See Note 6)					
City	**Total Number of Strandings Completed (Live & Dead)**	**Number of Live Strandings**	**Typical Volunteer Hours Needed (See Note 2)**	**Average Transportation Cost (See Note 3)**	**Estimated Total Value Volunteer Hours plus Transportation (See Note 4)**
Cape Canaveral	30	12	210	$960	$5370
Cocoa Beach (City & Township)	60	19	265	$1520	$7085 (See Note 5)
Indialantic	12	7	85	$560	$2345
Indian Harbor Beach	5	0	15	$0	$315
Melbourne Beach (Town and Region)	9 (See Note 1)	4	75	$320	$2055
Satellite Beach (City & Township)	9 (See Note 1)	5	62	$400	$1702
Port Canaveral and Jetty Park	23	15	174	$1200	$4854
Patrick Air Force Base	*11*	*6*	*75*	*$480*	*$2055*
Melbourne	3	*2*	*23*	*$160*	*$643*
Sebastian Area	8	*5*	*59*	*$900*	*$2139*

NOTES:

1. Stranding activities are also conducted by UCF and UF and are not included here.
2. A typical dead stranding takes one volunteer approximately 3 hours (responding, paperwork, photos.) A live stranded turtle requires 1 to 2 volunteers (depending on the specific situation) times the typical 3 hour response time plus an additional minimum of 4 hours to transport (for one person) to a rehabilitation facility (Ponce Inlet, Juno Beach, Gumbo Limbo Park, or Orlando). That is, 7 to 10 volunteer hours.
3. Vehicle expense for transport averages $80 each trip.
4. Per the 2012 Independent Sector Annual Conference, the estimated dollar value of volunteer time for 2013 is approximately **$21.00 per hour**. See their web site at the following address. independentsector.org/Volunteer_time
5. The City of Cocoa Beach has an employee that documented 16 of the 60 turtles, so the STPS volunteer hours are reduced by 48 hrs.
6. This table does not include all 2013 strandings responded to by STPS in Brevard County.

2. Officers and Board of Directors

The function of the Board of Directors is to determine direction of the Corporation as outlined in the Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures adopted by the Board. In addition, the Board determines the appropriate course of action for the Corporation in areas outside the bounds of its Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures. The voting Board of Directors consists of a minimum of nine (9) and a maximum of thirteen (13) members in good standing. All board members serve as non paid volunteers.

The Board of Directors elects the Chairperson of the Board in January of each year for a one year term. The same person can serve multiple terms. The Chairperson compiles an agenda before each Board meeting and presides over meetings of the Board of Directors.

The positions of Treasurer and Secretary are appointed by the STPS Board for an indefinite term and serve as per the Corporations Policies and Procedures. The Primary Permit Holders for the Nest Survey Activities, the Stranding Activities and the Night Walk Activities serve on the STPS Board as appointed positions. The "at large" board positions are two year terms that expire on alternating years. Elections are conducted at the Annual Membership Meeting held in December of each year. The Board of Directors meets once a month or as otherwise directed under the Policies and Procedures of the Organization.

The slate of the **STPS Officers and Board of Directors for 2013** follows.

POSITION	NAME	TERM EXPIRES
Chairperson	Roger Pszonowsky	**Appointed
Treasurer	Buddy Braunlich	Appointed
Secretary	Donna Braunlich*/Vickie Openshaw	Appointed
Primary Permit Holder: Nest Surveys	Dori Hughes	Appointed
Primary Permit Holder: Strandings	Roger Pszonowsky	Appointed
Primary Permit Holder: Night Walks	David Hochberg	Appointed
Social Events	Cindy Ullmer	2015
Gift Shop Manager	Debby Livingston*	2014
Education	Aaron Simonton* /Nikia Rice	2014
Education	Pat Rush	2015
Fund Raising/Turtle Krawl	Mark Petrillo	2014
Membership	Mary Bowman/ Beth Stuckey	2014/2013
Sea Turtle Emergency Response Program (STERP) & Communications Committee	Dave Cheney	2015

* Indicates board position vacated mid-year.

** Roger Pszonowsky's Chairman position expired in 2013 but since he is the Primary Permit Holder for the Stranding Activity he holds an appointed position on the STPS Board.

3. Public Education

Dissemination of information is one of the best methods to raise awareness and help ensure the continued existence of a sea turtle population. STPS's activities in this area range from manned displays at area events to talks and slide/show presentations at area schools, community organizations and clubs. In addition, STPS conducts Nightly Turtle Walks that provide a presentation and the opportunity to see a real live sea turtle nest on the beach. We also have an Educational Center (The Sea Turtle House) in Indialantic Florida.

3.1 Talks and Displays

STPS was invited to provide the following area displays and talks.

The displays generally consist of an educational board, free literature, marine turtle replicas, and STPS items which are available for sale. Volunteers answer questions from the public.

The talks were made to schools, community organizations and clubs throughout the year. The presentation usually included a slide/video show with a question and answer period.

Date	Talk/Display Hours	Type	Name of Organization/Activity	Location	Volunteers	Estimated Volunteer Hours
1/14/13	9-2	Talk + cleanup	Indialantic Elementary	Indialantic	Nikia	6
1/16/13	10-12	Talk	Gemini Elementary	Melbourne Beach	Nikia	3
1/19/13	10-12	Turtle 101 Talk	Library	West Melbourne	Roger	3
1/25/13	10-2	Science Fair Judge	Discovery Elementary	Palm Bay	Nikia	6
2/14/13	1:30-4:00	Turtle 101	Library	Cocoa Beach	Roger	4
2/21/13	8:30-11:30	Turtle 101	Library	Sat Beach	Roger	4.5
3/1/13	11:30-3:30	Talk	Palm Bay Library Kritters and Kids	Palm bay	Aaron	8
3/3/13	12:30-3:30	Turtle 101	Library	Palm Bay	Roger	3.5
3/16/13	9:30-3:00	Display	Brevard Zoo Eco Festival	Melbourne	Nini C, Linda A and Vickie O	20
3/16/13	7:30-5:30	Display	Pelican Island Festival	Sebastian	Roger, Pat, Dave C, Ted, Debby, Jen & Matt Sandle	45
3/20/13	9-11:30	Talk	Johnson Middle School	Melbourne	Aaron	5

Date	Talk/Display Hours	Type	Name of Organization/Activity	Location	Volunteers	Estimated Volunteer Hours
4/3/13	12-3	Talk	Melbourne Alumnae Panhellic	Melbourne	Roger	5
4/6/13	8:30-11:30	Talk	Turtle 101	Satellite Beach	Ann	6
4/8/13	8:30-12:00	Talk	Edgewood Jr/Sr High	Merritt Island	Aaron, Nikia	14
4/13/13	8:30-4:00	Display	Viera Wetlands Festival	Viera	Pat, Nini, Pat & Rich Franck, Shannon	20
4/13/13	8:00-2:30	Display	Optimists Fish Out	Melbourne Beach	Aaron & Jake	14
4/15/13	12:30-3:30	Turtle 101	Library	Eau Gallie	Ann	5
4/18/13	8:30-12:30	Presentation	Suntree United Methodist 4 year olds	Suntree	Aaron S, Carol R, Maggie S, Sherry L	30
4/26/13	9-12	Presentation	Anderson Elementary	Rockledge	Carol, Marc, Aaron, Vickie, Nikia, Shannon,	25
4/27/13	8:30-12:00	Talk	Turtle 101	Cocoa Beach	Roger	6
4/29/13	4:00-7:30	Talk	Sterp	Satellite Beach	Dave C, Pat, Ann	13
5/1/13	10-1	Talk	Army Wives Club	Melbourne	Aaron, Elaine	12
5/4/13	6:30-5:30	Display	Founders Day	Melbourne Beach	Pat, Debby, Matt & Jen Sandle, Ted, Chrissy, Margaret C	40
5/6/13	10-2	Talk	Kate & Justin Rose Foundation- Lori Wilson Pk	Cocoa Beach	Carol, Vickie	12
5/8/13	5-8	Talk	STERP	Cocoa Beach Library	Dave C, Pat	11
5/11/13	8:30-12:00	Talk	STERP	Satellite Beach Library	Dave C, Pat,	11
5/17/13	8-1	Presentation	Odyssey Charter School Field Trip	Nance Park Indialantic	Sue G, Vickie, Elaine, Angela, Debby, and Shannon, Carol	38
5/18/13	8:30-1:30	Display	BCC YMCA	Cocoa	Nini, Vickie	13
5/18/13	8:30-12:00	Talk	Cocoa Beach Library	Cocoa Beach	Dave C, Pat, Ann	13

Date	Talk/Display Hours	Type	Name of Organization/Activity	Location	Volunteers	Estimated Volunteer Hours
5/25/13	9-12	Talk	Turtle 101	Satellite Beach	Roger	4
6/7/13	8-5	Talk	Boy Scouts Camp-Wickham Park	Melbourne	Roger, Cindy D, Carol	32
6/8/13	12-3	Talk	Turtle 101	Eau Gallie	Roger	4
6/14/13	8-5	Talk	Boy Scout Camp-Wickham Park	Melbourne	Roger, Carol, Cindy D	25
6/24/13	9-30-3:00	Talk	Camp Bethany	Melbourne	Carol, Sue G, Nikia	15
6/25/13	2:30-5:00	Display	Melbourne Beach Library - Reptile Program	Mel Beach	Nikia, Elaine	7
6/26/13	12:30-3:30	Talk	Indian Harbour Beach - Montessori	Indian Harbour Beach	Carol & Vickie	6
6/28/13	5-8	Display	Porter Dermatology	Melbourne	Elaine, Roger	5
6/29/13	9-12	Talk	Absolutely Natural	Indialantic	Nikia, BJ	4
6/29/13	2-5	Talk	Rider University-Crowne Plaza	Indialantic	Vickie, Carol	10
7/13/13	9-12	Talk	Rider University-Crowne Plaza	Indialantic	Carol, Nikia, Vickie	10
7/13/13	9-12	Talk	Turtle 101	Satellite Beach	Vickie, Carol	11
7/17/13	8-11	Display/Talk	Marine Camp	Satellite Beach	Vickie, Carol	11
7/20/13	9:30-3	Talk & Display	Brevard Zoo - Teen Summit	Melbourne	Vickie, Carol	12
7/27/13	2-5	Talk	Rider University-Crowne Plaza	Indialantic	Carol, Vickie	8
8/6/13	4:30-8:30	Display	National Night Out	Cocoa Beach	Debby, Bj, Elaine	10
9/5/13	5-8	Display	Brevard Zoo - Teachers Night	Melbourne	Carol, Vickie	8
9/6/13	10-12	Talk	Indialantic Elementary	Indialantic	Nikia	3
9/10/13	10:00-2:30	Talk	Disney - Smart City Telecom	Lake Buena Vista	Ann, Dori	9
9/20/13	10-1	Talk	Indialantic Elementary	Indialantic	Nikia	4
9/27/13	10-1	Talk	Turtle 101	Eau Gallie Library	Vickie, Nikia	8
10/29/13	9-12	Talk	Turtle 101	Satellite Beach Library	Vickie, Carol	7
11/6/13	9-2	Talk	Edgewood Jr/Sr High	Merritt Island	Nikia	7
11/8/13-11/10/13	8-5	Display	Native Rhythms Festival-Wickham	Melbourne	Carol, Vickie, Nini,	48

Date	Talk/Display Hours	Type	Name of Organization/Activity	Location	Volunteers	Estimated Volunteer Hours
			Park		Jenny, Pat, Kelsie, Elaine,Paula, Debbie S, Nancy J, Barb Stewart	
11/20/13	8-5	Display	Ocean, Reef & Beach	Satellite Beach	Vickie, Pat, Peter & Mrs R, Cheryl E, Kelsie	28
12/10/13	10-11	Talk	Holland Elementary	Satellite Beach	Nikia	2
TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS						694
APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED						1400

3.2 Turtle Watch/Walk Program

Public turtle watches/walks were conducted during June and July. Attendees were first given a forty-five minute Power Point presentation with a question and answer period. Upon completion of the presentation, the group was brought to the beach to await a signal from STPS scouts that a turtle had started to nest. The group was then brought to the turtle to observe the nesting process in such a manner as to not disturb her. Walks were conducted four or five nights a week (weather permitting) alternating between Melbourne Beach and Satellite Beach. Facilities for presenting our Turtle Watch/Walk Program, and thus fulfilling our permit requirements, were graciously provided by:

- Town of Melbourne Beach
- City of Satellite Beach
- Brevard County Department of Parks & Recreation

As Primary Permit Holder, David Hochberg acted as Turtle Walk Coordinator. All permitted guides and scouts were given Turtle Watch/Walk information packets which included an overview of their duties. Four training sessions were conducted for all individuals interested in taking part in the STPS Turtle Watch/Walk Program with two practice walks conducted before the start of the season. For each walk there was a designated Walk Leader, being either the Permit Holder or an appointed Permitted Guide, with both Permitted and Non-Permitted Guides signed up to assist. In 2013, there were 41 "Watches/Walks" conducted for the public with a total of approximately 1,230 people attending.

STPS could not have accommodated these people without the able assistance of the 24 Permitted Guides and approximately 30 non-permitted Guides that assisted. All Permitted and Assisted Guides are Volunteers. Thank you to all who participated in the education programs.

The following tables provide an estimate of the number of volunteer hours contributed by the STPS Walk Team.

Turtle Walk Training				
Volunteers Attending		**Number of Training Sessions**	**Length of Session**	**Estimated Volunteer Hours**
Permitted	**Non Permitted**			
24	30	4	2	432

Actual Turtle Walks				
Walk Staff per Walk		**Walk Duration**	**Number of Walks**	**Estimated Volunteer Hours**
Walk Leader	1	4 hrs	41	164
Greeter	1	4 hrs	41	164
Merchandise Sales	2	4 hrs	41	328
Turtle Scouts	8	4 hrs	41	1312
TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS (TRAINING PLUS WALKS)				2420

A basic summary of the duties, rules and regulations for both the Permitted and Non-Permitted Guides follows:

Duties of Turtle Watch/Walk Guides (permitted volunteers)

- Attend at least one training session;
- Be familiar with FWC guidelines and abide by them at all times;
- Be reliable. When you agree to lead a watch, be on time (8:15 p.m.) and prepared to stay until the watch is over;
- Oversee the registration process and watch procedures;
- Arrange signals to let your group know what is happening with the nesting turtle;
- Enhance the education of your assistant guides;
- Stay with the group at the beach, answer questions, and keep the group informed of scouting and nesting progress. Lead guides scout only if there is an extra permitted guide to stay with the group;
- Be sure that accurate, reliable information is being relayed to watch participants. Do not hesitate to say "I don't know" or "Research is still being done..."
- Be sure any donations accepted during the watch are recorded and deposited.

Duties of Assistant Guides (non-permitted volunteers)

- Attend at least one training session;
- Be familiar with FWC guidelines and abide by them at all times;

- Be reliable. When you agree to assist on a walk, be on time (8:15 p.m.) and prepared to stay until the watch is over;
- Sign-in participants, collect the requested donation if the reservation is not marked prepaid, pass out watch information packets, and record all designated guides, assistant guides, and scouts taking part in the Walk;
- Set-up the projector, screen, and chairs. Help to put them away;
- Be receptive. There is much to learn from publications and by listening to the well informed, experienced guides. However, be sure your sources are reliable and based on accepted research information. Knowledgeable researchers say "There is still a lot we don't know about sea turtles."Don't hesitate to say "I don't know" or "Research is still being done...";
- Do a slide presentation at least once during the watch season;
- Enjoy the watch and take pride in your commitment to this public education project.

A summary of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Imperiled Species Management Section Guidelines follows.

Guidelines for Public Awareness Turtle Watches/Walks

All participants in turtle watches/walks must be informed of the Federal and State of Florida laws protecting sea turtles and their nests. Participants must be informed that conducting turtle watches/walks or contact with sea turtles without permit is unlawful.

1. Only Loggerhead turtles may be observed by participants.
2. Interpretive programs on sea turtle biology and conservation are mandatory.
3. Public awareness turtle watches/walks may not be commercialized. (STPS requests a donation to cover expenses - the donation is not mandatory.)
4. Age limitations for participants are left to the discretion of the principal permit holder.
5. Scouts will be utilized to search for nesting loggerheads if the group size exceeds five (5) participants.
6. Participant flashlights are not permitted.
7. Guides and Scouts are encouraged to invite persons who are out on their own to join the group. (STPS encourages beach "pick-ups ".)
8. Guides and Scouts must exercise great caution when exposing a nest.
9. Participants must stay with the group, remain quiet, and approach the sea turtle only from the rear.
10. Use of flash photography and lights for filming is not permitted.
11. Only one nesting turtle shall be observed by the group.
12. No more than five turtle watches/walks may be conducted per seven day week.
13. A summary of each watch shall be completed on the Turtle Watch Summary form.

3.3 The Sea Turtle House

STPS provided an Educational Center (The Sea Turtle House) for residents and visitors to learn about sea turtles and our organization. This facility is located at 111 South Miramar Avenue, Indialantic, FL 32903.

In the Educational Center, there are life-sized replicas of sea turtles hanging in our front window. These dramatically illustrate the large size of these wonderful animals. Additional replicas include a life-sized adult Green turtle, a sub-adult Loggerhead, a juvenile Loggerhead, and a juvenile Kemp's Ridley.

In addition, the center has artifacts (real and replicas), informational sea turtle related posters, brochures, and educational displays.

The Sea Turtle House offers a variety of sea turtle related gifts, clothing, books and accessories. Proceeds from the sale of these items are used to support the conservation and educational efforts of the STPS.

The office staff supported fielding of stranding reports, assisted in arranging walk reservations and helped with other activities as identified. The staff also welcomed visitors and answered questions about our organization and sea turtles. The center is staffed from Monday – Saturday 11:00 am until 5:00 pm. Starting in May of 2013, the center has been open on Sundays from 12 noon to 3:00pm.

Our 2013 staff included:

- Cheryl Caldwell
- David Hochberg
- Mary “Gina” Laurenzi

3.4 Adopt a Turtle Program

STPS sponsors an Adopt a Turtle Program that helps to make the public aware of the plight of sea turtles survival. Sea turtles face worldwide threats to their survival. Most of these threats are man-made. STPS provides the opportunity for individuals and organizations to do their part to help the survival of such magnificent species. By adopting a sea turtle you will help to support the Sea Turtle Preservation Society's conservation efforts.

The adoption of a sea turtle is purely symbolic. No individual may actually own a sea turtle. Sea turtles are protected by state, federal and international laws! There are three options available from which to choose:

Adopt a Hatchling: For a fifteen dollar donation, donors can assist STPS nest survey efforts by adopting a hatchling. Each hatchling adoption includes:

- A personalized certificate of adoption
- Your choice of name for your hatchling
- Information on sea turtle hatchlings

Adopt a Nest: For a forty-five dollar donation, donors help STPS nest watch efforts by adopting a nest. Each nest adoption includes:

- A personalized certificate of adoption
- Information on sea turtle hatchlings
- One year individual membership

Adopt a Stranded Turtle: For a seventy-five dollar donation, donors can help STPS stranding and salvage efforts by adopting a stranded turtle. Your donation includes:

- A personalized certificate of adoption
- Information on sea turtle stranding and disorientation
- One year individual membership
- Sea Turtle Preservation Society Sticker

The number of participants in this program for 2013 is included in the following table.

2013 Adopt a Turtle Program	Number of Participants
Adopt a Hatchling	42
Adopt a Nest	14
Adopt a Stranded Turtle	10
TOTAL	66

3.5 Attention Boater's Program

STPS began an "Attention Boaters" Program in 2011. This program was a direct response to the offshore boat races that began in Cocoa Beach in 2010. Since injuries related to boating encounters account for the highest cause of sea turtle deaths in our area, STPS applied to the Sea Turtle Grants Program administered by the Sea Turtle Conservancy for a grant to fund an education program. This program was directed toward boaters and increasing their awareness of the threat boats provide to sea turtles in our waters. STPS was awarded the grant for the amount of $1790 which was used to support our "Attention Boaters" Program.

The program was designed to make boaters aware of the sea turtle population in both the Atlantic Ocean and the Indian River Lagoon. STPS designed and printed water-resistant cards that contain information related to the special precautions necessary to take around sea turtles in the water. In 2012 an 2013, these cards were distributed to most of the marine related businesses that are located in the sea turtle areas of Brevard County.

STPS volunteers distributed cards to boaters at the annual Super Boat International Race in Cocoa Beach in May 2012. A second distribution was conducted during the Super Boat Race in May 2013 and the P1 Race in August 2013.

In addition, STPS also used a portion of the grant monies to design an 18"x24" sign, based on the "Attention Boaters" cards. Ten of these signs were placed at boat ramps throughout Brevard County. These signs alert boaters to the sea turtles in the local waters. STPS also designed a 36"x48" sign which has the "Attention Boaters" information on one side and lists facts about Loggerhead and Green sea turtles on the other side. This sign is designed to educate boaters about the threat they may pose to sea turtles in the Indian River Lagoon. The sign is located at Ballard Park in Melbourne, Florida.

4. Stranding and Salvage

The Sea Turtle Preservation Society supports the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (STSSN) which was formally established by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service in the southeastern U.S. and Gulf of Mexico in 1980. The STSSN has since spread to encompass the entire east and gulf coasts of the U.S., from Maine through Texas, as well as parts of the Caribbean. A stranding occurs when sea turtles swim or float into shore and become "beached" or stuck in shallow water. Salvage efforts refer to sea turtles that are dead.

When a sea turtle becomes stranded, individuals from the general public may notice it on one of our beaches first and contact the STPS using its emergency number. The STPS emergency number is published in a variety of publications in the Brevard County area. Additionally, stranding calls are received at our Educational Center during office hours. The STPS then activates its Stranding Team effort.

An Emergency Pager system (called One Call Now) provides improved communications from the public to our stranding team members using a published hotline number. The volunteers give basic information to callers, get details and locate an available Stranding Team mamber.
Calls from the public are left as a voice mail which is then converted to a phone text message and an email message. The messages are forward immediately to several Stranding Team members. The Stranding Team is on call twenty four hours a day and 365 days a year to rescue and salvage the endangered and threatened sea turtles. There are over 300 miles of shoreline in Brevard County when the shores of the Indian River, Banana River and Mosquito Lagoons are included. Many times information and contact numbers are given for other wildlife groups.

All volunteers working “hands on” with sea turtles are required to be named on a permit issued by the federal and /or state governments. Florida issues this kind of permit to single individuals, (referred to as the “primary permit holder”) and can have up to 24 additional people named on the permit to assist with the activities. The permit identifies specific activities that can be conducted by the individuals named on the permit. Volunteers identified on the permit must complete a biannual training class held by a Stranding Coordinator from FWC, and the named permit holder must also attend additional training/meeting sessions. This permit expires at the end of the calendar year.

In conjunction with the STPS Stranding Team, STPS has implemented a Sea Turtle Emergency Response Program (STERP) with over 175 trained volunteers in 2013. The purpose of this program is to provide better beach coverage to search for and rescue post-hatchling sea turtles that have washed back ashore after a large storm event. This program is designed to increase the number of post hatchling sea turtles that are rescued, rehabilitated and eventually released back into the ocean.

After sea turtle hatchlings emerge from their nest on the beach, they enter the ocean and swim approximately 20 miles to the edge of large layer of sea weed that circulates offshore. This is called the

Sargasso Sea and is part of the Atlantic Gyre. This is essentially a sea turtle nursery in that it provides nutrient and protection from predators until the young sea turtles reach a size where they can safely venture out into the open ocean or closer to shore.

After large storm events, these small sea turtles can be washed back onto shore with large amounts of sea weed and algae. These "washback" or post hatchling sea turtles are exhausted, dehydrated and in need of medical attention. If accidentally placed back into the ocean they will perish as they no longer have the energy to swim the 20 miles back to safety. STPS using the STERP volunteers survey the wrack line, search for washback post-hatchlings and transport them to a safe holding area. The STERP activities are authorized under the Stranding permit with "letters of authorization" from the imperiled species department of FWC.

The annual Florida Marine Turtle Permit Holders Meeting was held at Sea World in Orland FL in February 2013. This annual meeting is put on by FWC and sponsors to provide the latest data, announcements, and networking opportunities for all Marine Turtle Permit Holders (attendance is required for permit holders). It is open to volunteers and those on the various permits and STPS had more than 20 attend the meetings.

Another training opportunity in 2013 was at the Marathon Turtle Hospital in December where activities included necropsies, laser technology and surgery techniques, and networking with out of state turtle rehabilitation experts. Ten STPS members attended the weekend workshop.

4.1 Stranding Activities

For 2013, Roger Pszonowsky was the primary permit (MTP 11-169) holder in charge of the STPS Stranding Team. 2013 proved to be a busy year for the team. There were 191 stranding reports completed by the team.

The following data is extracted from stranding documents done by STPS volunteers and does not include reports by other stranding permit holders in Brevard County.

STPS 2013 Documented Strandings by Species	Number of Turtles
Loggerheads (Caretta caretta)	79 dead / 34 live = 113 total
Greens (Chelonia mydas)	24 dead / 39 live = 63 total
Kemps Ridley (Lepidochelys kempii)	1 dead = 1 total
Leatherback (Dermochelys coriacea)	1 live = 1 total
Hawksbill (Eretmochelys imbricate)	2 dead / 6 live = 8 total
Unknown	5 dead = 5 total
TOTAL	111 dead / 80 live = 191 total strandings

Overall STPS data included 80 live turtles (42%). Boat interaction injuries (props or hull) were recorded on 30 turtles (16%).

Of the 80 live turtles initially recovered, 73 were transported to the following facilities:

- 56 - Sea World, Orlando
- 12 – Marine Science Center, Volusia County
- 3 - Gumbo Limbo, Boca Raton and
- 1 – Mote Marine Labs
- 1 – Clearwater Aquarium

During 2013, the Stranding Team also participated in several turtle releases. These releases were organized by the responsible rehab facility or FWC. Generally, the sea turtles that were released were returned to the location of their rescue.

For comparison purposes, the following data summarizes the Florida statewide statistics from the 2013 FWC accounting information. The STPS Stranding Team was responsible for generating the initial reports for more than 10 percent of all the documented sea turtle strandings within the state of Florida.

Florida Statewide Stranding Data (provided by FWC 02/2013)

In 2013 Florida had a total of 1886 documented strandings. This is twice the number since 1986 when the stranding documentation for the entire state began.

- 798 Loggerhead (Caretta caretta),
- 807 Green (Chelonia mydas) the highest ever
- 222 Kemps Ridley (Lepidochelys kempii)
- 29 Hawksbill (Eretmochelys imbricata)

The table below is an estimate of the total number of volunteer hours expended by the STPS Stranding Team during 2013.

Stranding Activity	**Persons**	**Hours/days/weeks**	**Estimated Volunteer Hours**
191 Strandings	1	3hrs	573
80 live rescues	+1	7hrs	560
Training	40	6 hrs	240
Rehabilitation Workshop	10	28hrs	280
Permit Holders Meeting	20	30hrs	720
Program Management	2	15 hr/wk for 52wks	1560
Turtle Facility Planning	3	3 hr x 52 wks	468
		Total Volunteer Hours	4401

4.2 STERP Activities

In 2013, STERP completed its sixth year. The community response for this program continues to be as enthusiastic as when it was initiated.

STPS conducted STERP Workshops on April 29th, May 8th, 11th & 18th. A total of 145 volunteers completed the workshop and field training sessions. This year's training also included procedures for cold stun events. Attendance rosters from each session were sent to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and we received Letters of Authorization for each volunteer. In the event of a weather alert, the STERP volunteers are notified by an automatic call system known as One Call Now.

2013 was a very quiet season as far as tropical storms. In November we had several instances of strong offshore winds. Many of our volunteers monitored the beaches during these events and there were some reports of moderate seaweed accumulation. During this period we had a total of 23 post hatchlings (washbacks) brought into the STPS office by the general public. There were also two in June and three in December. STERP volunteers transported all turtles to either the Marine Science Center (MSC) at Ponce Inlet or Sea World.

Volunteers also assisted with the distribution of literature to beach side condos, hotels and businesses. This literature addressed sea turtles that nest on Brevard Beaches, "lights out" for nesting season and sea turtle reporting procedures. Volunteers also assisted in distributing "Attention Boaters" Program cards during the Cocoa Beach Super Boat race and then later to marinas, bait shops, and marine related businesses.

In 2013 several STPS volunteers helped as observers during two offshore boat races, Super Boat Race in May 2013 and the P1 Race in August 2013. They were stationed on the shore, in boats, and one person in a helicopter.

The table below is an estimate of the total number of volunteer hours expended by the STPS STERP Team during 2013.

STERP Activity	Hrs	Volunteers	Estimated Volunteer Hours
Training (STERP and Cold Stun)	3	145	435
Registration/Prep	20	3	60
November Storms – beach monitoring	4	5	20
Boat Race Observers	7	7	49
Literature distribution to beach hotels, condos, marinas, bait shops, boat ramps, etc.	8	10	80
Total Hours			**644**

4.3 Brevard Zoo "Sea Turtle Healing Center"

Along the US south Atlantic coast and the Gulf of Mexico Coast there are many sea turtle rehabilitation facilities. Brevard County Florida is one of the world's most important natural habitats for marine turtles in the world. Proportionally Brevard County has the largest number of sea turtle strandings in Florida, but there has not been a rehabilitation facility within the Brevard County. When STPS rescues an injured or sick sea turtle, a member of the STPS Stranding Team must transport it to an existing rehabilitation facility that is approximately a 1 ½ - 4 hour drive. Valuable time is lost in the transport.

In 2013, STPS entered into a 3 year partnership agreement with the Brevard Zoo to jointly develop a sea turtle medical facility that would provide triage type medical attention to injured and sick rescued turtles. As part of this agreement, STPS has committing $25,000 a year to help fund operating costs.

This facility, the Brevard Zoo Sea Turtle Healing Center, is a unique partnership of community resources and vision. It is located on the zoo's property adjacent to their new Brevard Zoo Hospital Facility. In 2013, efforts progressed with grant writing, the hiring a certified vet-tech and the site preparation. All permits are in place. A $40,000 grant from the Sea Turtle License Tag program helped to fund the construction of a steel roofed building, located adjacent to the recently built modern animal hospital. It has a wall separating two covered sections and includes separate filtration systems for salt water created onsite. The wing for sea turtles will have four tanks for turtles with fibropapilloma tumors and eight additional tanks for other sea turtles. Five of these fiberglass tanks were donated to STPS by Marineland Dolphin Adventure / Georgia Aquarium. This facility is one of only five in Florida that will accept animals infected with fibropapilloma. Surgical procedures will be conducted in the adjacent animal hospital.

Brevard Zoo is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the facility. Volunteers working under guidance of the Brevard Zoo veterinary staff will perform the daily operating tasks to maintain the facility. The Brevard Zoo, like STPS, relies heavily on volunteers. Many STPS volunteers have completed the Brevard Zoo volunteer training in preparation for the new facility. They will work under the supervision of the Trevor Zachariah, DVM and several vet-techs.

The facility is planned to be opened by April 2014.

5. Sea Turtle Nesting Survey

STPS has been authorized to conduct sea turtle nest surveys since 1996. These surveys are along the Atlantic Ocean starting at the northern boundary of Patrick Air Force Base and currently extend north 4.5 miles into the Cocoa Beach area. Survey duties included several volunteers walking different sections of the entire 4.5 mile stretch every morning from May to September, in which all nests and false crawls are recorded. Recorded data includes the type of turtle (determined by the track and nest characteristics), its location, any signs of depredation, including signs of interference by man and/or animal. Additionally, approximately 20 percent of the nests found are marked via stakes for "evaluation" after the eggs had hatched (approximately 55 days).

After a nest has either hatched or it is past 70 days old, the nest is excavated and the contents evaluated. Once uncovered, the nest's contents are reviewed to determine the number of hatched eggs, unhatched eggs, pipped eggs, dead hatchlings, and even the occasional live hatchling, which is usually released immediately into the ocean. (If the hatchling seems weak, it is held by a permitted STPS member for a maximum of 24-hours before release.) All results are reported to the Florida Marine Research Institute of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

For 2013 we recorded 560 loggerhead nests, 8 greens and two leatherback nests. The first nest, in our 4.5 mile area, was laid on April 30th. Last nest was laid on September 1st. Our totals for the 2013 season were very close to those seen in 2012, with the exception of seeing several more green turtle nests this season.

The criteria we use for marking nests include marking of all "non-loggerhead" nests; and marking all nests within the boundaries of Lori Wilson Park, Murkshe County Park and between 1st Street North and 1st Street South. Those are high traffic areas and usually have public events drawing increased usage during the nesting season.

The area at the east end of Minuteman Causeway is cleaned by the City of Cocoa Beach with the aid of a mechanical beach rake. During 2013, the STPS Survey Team continued to monitor this area. It is a requirement of the permit for use of the beach rake, issued to the City, that the area be monitored by the Permit Holder from March 1 thru Oct 31st. (Sea Turtle Nesting Season in Brevard County). All nests within this area, as well as in the two park areas within our survey area, are marked with stakes and surveyors' tape as protection in these busy foot traffic areas.

During daily early morning walks along the beach in Cocoa Beach, our volunteers pick up trash left on the beach. We separate recyclables from the trash and donate aluminum cans to Habitat for Humanity, and also recycle plastic and glass.

The estimated volunteer hours per activity is listed in the following tables.

Pre Season Training			
Activity	**Volunteers**	**Time Per Person**	**Estimated Volunteer Hours**
Pre Season Training – FWC Workshops	16	8	144
Team Organizational Meeting	28	3	84
Permit Holder Meeting-	18	9	162
		TOTAL ESTIMATED VOLUNTEER HOURS	390

Nest Surveys			
Number of Days Surveyed	**Distance Surveyed**	**Volunteer Hrs per Day**	**Estimated Volunteer Hours (1.5 hr per mile)**
May - 31	4.5 miles	6.75 hr x 31	209
June - 30	4.5 miles	6.75 hr x 30	202
July - 31	4.5 miles	6.75 hr x 31	209
Aug - 31	4.5 miles	6.75 hr x 31	209
Sept - 30	4.5 miles	6.75 hr x 30	202
Pre/Post Season Beach Rake Monitoring	1 mile / day	1.5 x 92	138
		TOTAL ESTIMATED VOLUNTEER HOURS	1169

Nest Evaluations – Post Hatching			
Number of Evaluations	**Hours Per Evaluation**	**People Per Evaluation**	**Estimated Volunteer Hours**
117	1	4	468

Daily Paperwork Processing			
Activity	**Number of Events**	**Hrs Per Day**	**Estimated Volunteer Hours**
Number of Survey Days	134	1.5	201
Number of Evaluations	117	1	117
		TOTAL ESTIMATED VOLUNTEER HOURS	318
TOTAL ESTIMATE VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR ALL NEST SURVEY ACTIVITIES			2345

6. Community Involvement

In 2013, STPS participated in a variety of activities designed to promote community involvement.

6.1 Guest Speakers

As part of our community outreach efforts, STPS scheduled a variety of speakers for our monthly membership meetings. The meetings were held the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Melbourne Beach Community Center. Doors opened at 7:00 p.m. for light refreshments. These meetings were open to the general public and featured topics related to sea turtles and/or their relationship to our environment. The speakers for 2013 are listed in the following table.

Date	Speaker	Topic
January 3, 2013	Roger Pszonowsky	Roger gave an overview of STPS
February 7, 2013	Linda Archer	Linda gave a presentation on the Shorebird Alliance and how people can get involved.
March 7, 2013	Nikia Rice, Mission Clean Beaches and Cameron Jagger/Pew	Mr. Jagger spoke on the dangers of long-line fishing on sea turtles. Nikia Rice spoke on marine debris and her organization, Mission Clean Beaches
April 4, 2013	Dr Trevor Zachariah/Brevard Zoo	Dr. Zachariah spoke on his background as a zoo vet and the partnership of STPS and the Brevard Zoo to open a sea turtle hospital
May 2, 2013	Michael Bresette/Inwater Research	Mr. Bresette gave a talk on various sea turtle research activities conducted in the Florida Keys
September 5, 2013	Rodney Smith, Anglers for Conservation	Mr. Smith spoke on various conservation issues in Brevard County and his group, Anglers for Conservation
October 3, 2013	Dean Bagley, UCF Sea Turtle Program	Dean gave us a summary of the 2013 sea turtle nesting season and the amazing Green Sea Turtle season
November 7, 2013	Blair Witherington	Mr. Witherington gave us a presentation on “Little Turtles, Big Ocean”. A talk about what happens to sea turtle hatchlings after they hatch and reach the ocean and the Sargasso Sea.

6.2 Communications

STPS has several methods of communication with its members and the general public. A list is included in the following table.

Item	Contact	Comments
Turtle Talk	Donna Braunlich, Editor	The newsletter was distributed three times a year to all of its members.
STPS Website	Mark Petrillo, Donna Braunlich, and Mike Splitt	SeaTurtleSpaceCoast.org
STPS Facebook	Donna Braunlich	Facebook.com/SeaTurtlePreservationSociety
FlipperFlash	Mike Splitt	FlipperFlash is an email notification system to keep its subscribers up to date on upcoming activities. The public can sign up to receive FlipperFlash on the website
One Call Now	Dave Cheney	The One Call Now is an automated phone call system designed to contact Sea Turtle Emergency Rescue Program (STERP) volunteers and zone captains. With just one call or e-mail they can be contacted for a weather alert event.
Media Relations	Dave Cheney	In our One Call Now systems we maintain a contact list of print, radio and television media contacts. Meetings, training and other events are sent to this group for public service announcements. Periodically we are contacted by various media outlets for stories about our Sea Turtle Population.

6.3 Beach Cleanup

STPS participated in the Keep Brevard Beautiful (KBB), Adopt-A-Beach program with monthly beach clean-ups. Our designated site is at Coconut Point Park at the north end of the Archie Carr Wildlife Refuge off of A1A. The Keep Brevard Beautiful "season" runs from September to September. Beach Cleanup efforts are currently led by a 3-member team. All members share the responsibility for acting as monthly leaders based on their individual availability. Team members are Mike Clark, Ron Fischer and Geraldine Burke who is also the liaison with KBB and has responsibility for statistical collection reporting duties each month.

STPS was recognized by KBB for it our cleanup efforts in 2013 as the Second Place team in the Adopt- A-Shore Program and was presented with a special plaque. Not only do STPS volunteers meet once a

month to clean the beach, they also participated in the Great Coastal Clean Up and Trash Bash every year. STPS received points for clean ups, number of volunteers, bags of trash collected and extra points for taking the recycle products home to their own recycle bins.

STPS members – many who routinely clean the beach on their own schedule—have a means to report their activity to a special email address, beachcleanup@seaturtlespacecoast.org. Once received, the details of their efforts are then forwarded to KBB to be credited to STPS's monthly totals. The following table summarizes the STPS 2013 Beach Cleanup activities and special cleanups. The statistics for 2013 shows increases over 2012 for several areas: volunteer hours (+42/5%), bags collected (+18/10%) and recycles (+12/29%).

STPS 2013 Beach Clean Ups					
Date	**People**	**Bags**	**Recycle**	**Comments**	**Estimated Volunteer Hours**
01/05/2013	11	4	1		22
02/09/2013	28	12	4		56
03/09/2013	38	21	3		76
04/06/2013	24	5	3		48
04/20/2013	9	1	1	Trash Bash	28
05/4/2013	36	9	1		72
06/08/2013	15	5	1		30
06/16/2013	9	5	1	Wuestoff Pharmacy Staff	18
07/06/2013	21	6	1		42
08/03/2013	19	12	1		38
09/07/2013	23	4	2		46
09/14/2013	20	27	17	Turtle Krawl Race	30
09/21/2013	58	20	2	Coastal Clean-up	174
10/05/2013	46	12	1	Church Group	98
11/09/2013	32	9	3		64
12/07/2013	18	5	5	Chair/Lumber/Nets	36
Various Days	32	38	6	Individual Reporters	36
TOTALS	439	195	53		914

7. Volunteer Recognition

STPS sponsored the following events to recognize the value of volunteers to our organization.

7.1 STPS Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

The 2013 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was held on August 11, 2013, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Restaurant, Indialantic, FL. Cindy Ullmer planned the dinner. Awards given out were as follows:

- 2013 Dual Volunteers of the Year: Kathy Parks and Mike Petrillo
- 2013 Rookie of the Year: Vickie Openshaw

7.2 STPS Holiday Party

The STPS Annual Membership Meeting and Christmas Party was held Saturday, December 7, 2013, at the Melbourne Beach Community Center. The Annual Meeting business began at 6:30 pm and included the annual election for the members of the STPS Board of Directors. The Party began after the close of official STPS business. The event was a Pot Luck dinner. Cindy Ullmer planned the event.

8. Fundraising

While all of the STPS activities (stranding, nest surveys, turtle walks, educational presentations, and beach cleanup) are staffed by non paid volunteers, STPS still requires funding to support these activities with equipment, supplies and transportation. Several fundraising efforts were held throughout the year to better support the activities and projects. These include the following:

- Annual membership fees
- Direct donations of cash by organizations or corporations
- Direct donations of cash by individuals
- Corporate-sponsored promotions with STPS as the recipient of the donation
- STPS-sponsored fund raising activities.
    - Turtle Krawl - 5K Run/Walk
    - Night Time Turtle Watch/Walks
    - Adopt-A-Turtle Program
- Merchandise sales at our Educational Center and Outdoor environmental events

Turtle Krawl - 5K Run/Walk

The Turtle Krawl 5K Run/Walk was the largest fundraiser benefitting the Sea Turtle Preservation Society in 2013. 2013 marked the fourth year STPS volunteers coordinated the race, after it was resurrected by the STPS Board of Directors in 2010. The Turtle Krawl was previously coordinated by Brevard Parks and Recreation (2000-2008) before not being held in 2009. Planning this event was a tremendous commitment on the part of the STPS volunteers, but was well worth the effort. With nearly 2200 registrants in 2013, the Turtle Krawl is now the single largest (and arguably best) 5k race in all of Brevard County!

The turnout for this year's race was tremendous, and between registration fees and sponsorships, nearly $35,000 was raised for the STPS. The STPS Board of Directors has agreed to set aside Turtle Krawl income for a "special projects" fund and has entered into an agreement with the Brevard Zoo to help financially support the zoo's currently-under-construction Sea Turtle Healing Center. This facility will help sea turtles rescued on Brevard County beaches get faster medical attention than they now receive. Currently, the closest place for sea turtles to receive medical attention is a 90 minute drive from Brevard County sand.

The following is a recap of the 2013 race, written by Race Director Mark Petrillo:

Bigger. Better. FASTER. These words only begin to describe the 2013 Turtle Krawl 5k Run/Walk, which was not only the STPS's biggest fundraiser, raising nearly $35,000 for the organization, but also the largest 5k race ever held in Brevard County. 2190 people registered for this year's event and after a beautiful sunrise over the Atlantic Ocean, 1881 runners and walkers of all ages began their 3.1 mile journey through the streets of Indialantic. With a one hour and 11 minutes range of finishing times and an 80 year age difference between the youngest and oldest finishers, the Turtle Krawl really is a 5k for everyone.

Virtually all course records were broken during the 2013 race, including the Overall Male and Female records with times of 16:00 and 17:23 turned in by Christopher Cacciapagli and Kaitlin Donner respectively. This year's Competitive Walker (the only course record not broken in 2013) winner was Wendy Dietz, who race-walked the course in a time of 36:31. The Middle of the Nest Award, given to the person who finished exactly in the middle of the pack was given to Laura Newell, who completed the race just a few seconds later with a time of 36:43.

This year's race was so fast, that the top four finishers (Cacciapagli (16:00), Dillon Mcgee (16:47), John Davis (16:56), and Master's Winner Shane Streufert (17:02)) all broke Steve Hedgespeth's 2012 record-setting time of 17:18. Hedgespeth himself finished 5th this year, one second off his previous mark with a time of 17:19. Rounding out the top three for the women were 2010 winner Melissa Taylor (19:24) and Julie Hannah (19:44). The Female Master's Award went to Dr. Tina Kraver who finished the race in 21:23.

All of the Turtle Krawl's age-related course records were also broken this year, with 83 year old, long-time STPS Volunteer Everette Tindall (53:10) being the eldest to finish the race. Joanne Everett (1:07:11) was the most seasoned female finisher and three year olds Ethan Aguilar (1:25:10 – 3 years, 28 days) and Teagan Frey (47:29 – 3 years, 10 months) set the youngest finisher records. And yes, those little ones did the entire race on their own two feet and received quite a bit of applause when they finished!

In addition to the top of the line amenities past Turtle Krawlers have come to expect, including beautiful race shirts, reusable cotton tote race packets, gorgeous turtle-shaped medals for award winners, and a giant spread of food after the race, one thing runners really seemed to enjoy this year were the often humorous signs of encouragement held by volunteers all around the course. Examples include "Do It For the Turtles," "Go Random Person, Go," "Worst. Parade. Ever." and "Run Now, Beer Later." These last-minute additions were such a hit, it's safe to say 2014 participants can expect to see even more next year.

This year's free Kids Run had a new twist, as in addition to the usual finish line sprint (for the smallest children), the Turtle Krawl offered three more free races for interested kids age 12 and under. With distances of ¼, ½, and 1 mile to choose from, each race started on the beach and ended up working its way to the 5k's finish line. After running through the soft sand as they approached the dune, these kids now have a better appreciation for the journey sea turtles go through every time they come ashore to nest.

If you missed this year's Turtle Krawl or if you were there and want to relive that morning, be sure to check out the amazing video made for us by TLC Film Productions, which can be found on TurtleKrawl.com along with thousands of photos from this year's and past years' events. And if you haven't already, be sure to join the nearly 2800 people who follow the Turtle Krawl on facebook at facebook.com/turtlekrawl so you can stay informed about the race and take part in our contests next year.

The Turtle Krawl would not be possible without the support of our sponsors and the help of more than 118 volunteers, so thank you to each and every one of you. Turtle Krawl Volunteer activities included the following positions:

- Race Day Volunteer
- Course Marshall
- Food & Beverage Services
- Muffin Baker
- Race Participant Packet Pickup
- Poster Hanger
- Race Packet Stuffing
- Raffle Ticket Sales Table
- Graphics Arts

This year's sponsors included Slug-A-Bug, Port Canaveral, Sea World, Absolutely Natural, Animal Emergency and Critical Care of Brevard, Running Zone, BB&T, Clow Chiropractic, DoubleTree by Hilton, Lighting Science, Southeastern Honda, Toyota of Melbourne, Walgreens, Gatto's Tires & Auto Service, Set Goals Not Limits , FLORIDA TODAY, Giant Stride Solutions, Southwest, Walmart, Natalie's Orchid Island Juice Company, CLIF Bar, INI Productions, Starbucks, Funjamas, State Farm Agent Dan Odom, PlanetKid, WFIT, and Space Coast Runners. The complete list of sponsors who have supported the Turtle Krawl every year can be found on TurtleKrawl.com, Please remember to support these sponsors who are in turn supporting our local community!

A breakdown of race participants by gender and age group is included in the following tables.

Breakdown By Gender		
Sex	**Runners**	**Percent**
Male	739	34%
Female	1451	66%
Total	**2190**	

Age Groups				
Age Group	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Percent**
8 and under	26	19	45	2%
9 – 11	31	33	64	3%
12 – 14	16	24	40	2%
15 - 19	26	39	65	3%
20 - 24	25	56	81	4%
25 - 29	50	133	183	8%
30 - 34	63	143	206	9%
35 - 39	53	161	214	10%
40 - 44	90	171	261	12%
45 - 49	82	189	271	12%
50 - 54	105	204	309	14%
55 - 59	73	128	201	9%
60 - 64	54	81	135	6%
65 - 69	26	38	64	3%
70 - 74	13	21	34	2%
75 and over	6	11	17	1%
Totals	**739**	**1451**	**2190**	

Mark Petrillo was the Race Director, and Michael Petrillo, Roger Pszonowsky, and Deborah Kahl rounded out the Turtle Krawl Committee. An estimate of all of the Turtle Krawl-related volunteer hours follows:

Activity	Estimated Volunteer Hours
Planning and Preparation	500
Sponsor Acquisition	350
Promotion	150
Race Day	200
Total Estimated Volunteer Hours	**1200**

9. STPS Memberships

Membership is open to those who have a sincere interest in supporting the mission of the STPS. Our current members come from 38 different states, Canada and Great Britain.

In March of 2013, the management of STPS memberships was transitioned from an Excel based file to an online based membership management system (MMS). The transition was fully implemented by the end of the year. As part of this transition, member records were tested for accuracy and corrected. For 2013, the income from STPS memberships increased by 80 percent of the previous year, while the number of members remained relatively stable. The MMS provides a superior method for logging in new memberships and of monitoring existing memberships for pending renewals. In addition, STPS members can now securely update their own contact information with easy to use online access to their profile. All of the features of the MMS have been extremely valuable to our organization, but the one that stands out is the automatic Renewal Reminder email. One month prior and one week prior to the renewal date an email is sent to the member along with a hyperlink for convenient online renewal. We attribute much of the 2013 income increase to this Renewal Reminder feature. The added bonus to automatic reminders is that volunteers no longer spend valuable time mailing the familiar yellow postcards. The hours can instead be used to support our mission of "Helping sea turtles survive".

Below are the numbers for the various levels of membership.

Member Statistics at the end of 2013

MEMBESHIP LEVEL	ACTIVE
Student	22
Individual	150
Family	123
Contributor	32
Lifetime	170
Endowment	2
Benefactor	21
Total	**521**

10. Total Estimated Volunteer Hours

STPS Volunteers have donated the following volunteer hours to the organization and the Brevard County community. Given the numerous activities and our many volunteers that support the organization it is difficult to keep track the actually time worked. Consequently the following data has been estimated based on inputs from the lead persons involved with overseeing the primary activities. This data reflects a 17% increase in our volunteer hours over last year.

Using these estimates and a conservative estimated dollar value of $21.00 per hour of volunteer time, STPS contributed approximately $318,780 to the Brevard County community with our volunteer activities. (See the web site for the 2012 Independent Sector Annual Conference (web site address independentsector.org/Volunteer_time) for details on how this estimate of volunteer hours is derived.)

Activity	Estimated Volunteer Hours
Adopt a Turtle Program	100
Beach Cleanup	914
Board of Directors Meetings	312
Communications (Includes Facebook, FlipperFlash, Newsletter, Public Relations, and Website)	750
Education Talks and Displays	694
Financial Management	750
Membership Management	350
Membership Meetings	100
Nest Surveys	2345
STERP Activities	644
Stranding Activities	4401
Turtle Krawl	1200
Turtle Walks	2420
Volunteer Coordination	200
TOTAL ESTIMATED VOLUNTEER HOURS	**15180**

The following table illustrates the annual increase in STPS volunteer participation.

ANNUAL CHANGE IN VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION		
Year	**Estimated Volunteer Hours**	**Annual Percent Increase**
2010	11127	-
2011	11707	+5
2012	12947	+10
2013	15180	+17