



BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

2015

ANNUAL REPORT

Sea Turtle Preservation Society

For an electronic copy, visit our website at SeaTurtleSpaceCoast.org

The Sea Turtle Preservation Society

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1. Introduction

Brevard County is one of the most important natural habitats for marine turtles in the world. The beaches of the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge are prime nesting areas for adult sea turtles, and the Indian River Lagoon is a developmental foraging habitat by juvenile sea turtles. The Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge along Florida's eastern coast is the largest loggerhead nesting area in the world and the largest nesting area in the Northern Hemisphere for greens.

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 any 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 cleanup 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 a significant portion of the proceeds from the Turtle Krawl 5K to support this effort. 2015 was the last year of this three-year agreement and we intend to renew this commitment in 2016.

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Many 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 beachfront communities. **During 2015, STPS contributed approximately 15,086 volunteer hours valued at \$333,099 in volunteer labor to the Brevard County community with our volunteer activities.** See Note 4 in the table below and the table in Section 9 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 and type of strandings per city. For the 67 strandings listed, STPS totaled 453 volunteer hours resulting in a combined monetary value of \$12,883 for the manpower and transportation costs needed to support the requirements of these endangered animals. Note this value does not include the required training to perform these activities. **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 stranding activities with city employees.** STPS does not charge any fees for conducting this activity.

Value Of STPS <u>Stranding Responses</u> In Selected Brevard County Areas In 2015					
(See Notes 4 & 5 below)					
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	7	4	49	\$320	\$1402
Cocoa Beach (City & Township)	14	7	91	\$560	\$2569
Indialantic	3	2	23	\$160	\$668
Indian Harbor Beach	2	2	20	\$160	\$602
Melbourne Beach (Town and Region)	15 (See Note 1)	6	87	\$480	\$2401
Satellite Beach (City & Township)	10	6	72	\$480	\$2070
Port Canaveral and Jetty Park	11	6	75	\$480	\$2136
Patrick Air Force Base	3	2	23	\$160	\$668
Sebastian Area	2	1	13	\$80	\$367
Total Hours->			453	Total Combined Value ->	\$12,883

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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 (Brevard Zoo Healing Center, 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 2015 Independent Sector Annual Conference, the estimated dollar value of volunteer time for 2015 is **\$22.08 per hour in Florida**. See their web site at the following address: independentsector.org/volunteer_time
5. This table does not include all 2015 strandings responded to by STPS in Brevard County.

2. Officers and Board of Directors

The function of the Board of Directors is to determine the 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.

STPS Officers and Board of Directors for 2015		
Position	Name	Term Expires
Chairperson	David Hochberg	Appointed
Treasurer	Kathryn Parks/Jo-Ellen Mathews	Appointed
Secretary/Membership	Vickie Openshaw	Appointed
Monthly Meetings and Open House	Dori Hughes	2015
Primary Permit Holder for Strandings	Roger Pszonowsky	Appointed
Primary Permit Holder for Night Walks & Adoptions	David Hochberg	Appointed
Gift Shop Manager	Cindy Ullmer	2015
Social Media	Casie Farrell	2016
Education	Nikia Rice	2016
Events	Heather Pepe	2015
Fund Raising/Turtle Krawl	Mark Petrillo	2016
Website/Volunteer Coordinator	Rosalind (Nini) Conner	2016
Sea Turtle Emergency Response Program (STERP) & Communications Committee / Zoo Liaison	Dave Cheney	2015

3. Public Education

One of the most effective methods of accomplishing STPS’s mission of helping sea turtles survive is educating the public about threats to sea turtles and explaining what the public can do to ensure their survival. STPS has several organized displays, programs and campaigns to educate the public that are described in the following sections:

1. Talks and Displays
2. Turtle Watch/Walk Program
3. Education Center at the Sea Turtle House
4. Adopt A Turtle Program
5. Attention Boater’s Program
6. Lights Out for Sea Turtles Program

We are very proud of these efforts and consistently receive very positive responses from those who take advantage of them. We try to further our education efforts by integrating it into all of our activities. For example, when we rescue a stranded sea turtle on the beach or in the lagoon, conduct our monthly beach cleanups, or perform our nest surveys, people on the beach are naturally curious about what we are doing. Therefore, we take advantage of the opportunity by explaining what we are doing and why it helps our sea turtles. We also answer any follow-up questions and frequently give them a brochure or flier to take home so they can find more about our efforts.

3.1 Talks and Displays

STPS was invited to provide the following area displays and talks. **For 2015 there were approximately 30,000 people who attended one or more of the 54 events which STPS participated in.** The displays generally consist of an educational board, free literature, marine turtle replicas and STPS items that are available for sale. Volunteers answer questions from the public. The presentation typically included a slide/video show with a question and answer period. The talks were made at schools, libraries, festivals, community organizations and clubs throughout the year.

The following is a list of the public contacts/events.

Date	Display/ Talk Hours	Type	Activity	Location	City	Volunteers	Volunteer Hours
2/7-8/15	8-3 PM 9-12 PM	Display	Locals Only Surf Fest	Pelican Beach Park A1A	Satellite Beach	Paula H Gina M Jack K Andrea B Kim M	30
2/24/15	630-830 PM	Presentation	Florida Fly Fishing Ass. Guest speaker	Cocoa Beach	Cocoa Beach	Nikia R	6
2/28/15	1015-12 PM	Presentation	Turtle talk	Suntree/Viera Public Library	Viera	Vickie O Jim C	6
3/1/15- 6/1/15	N/A	Banner Display	Cocoa Beach Women’s Club	Cocoa Beach Country Club	Cocoa Beach	Nikia R	1
3/2/15	10-12 PM	Presentation	VPK classes	Suntree Methodist School	Titusville	Carol R Barbara S	10
3/6/15	6-10 PM	Display	Friday Fest	Cape Canaveral	Cape Canaveral	Andrea B Kat P Everett T	16

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Date	Display/ Talk Hours	Type	Activity	Location	City	Volunteers	Volunteer Hours
3/6-8/15	ALL DAY	Sponsor Display	Marine Turtle Permit Holder Meeting	Crowne Plaza	Melbourne	Dave H Vickie O	3
3/14/15	9-1030 AM	Presentation	Distinguished Lecture Series	Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy	Melbourne	Nikia R	3
3/14/15	10-4 PM	Display	Pelican Island Wildlife Festival	Riverview Park	Sebastian	Matt S Jen S Debbie L Peter R Janice R Roger P Andrea B	24
3/14/15	10-4 PM	Display	Sea Glass and Ocean Gems Symposium	Barrier Island Center	Melbourne Beach	Paula H Sherry L Shagg C Vickie O	17
3/20/15	9-10 AM	Presentation	National Honor Society Club	Imperial Estates Elementary	Titusville	Nikia R	3
3/21/15	2-330 PM	Presentation	Turtle Talk	Eau Gallie Public Library	Eau Gallie	Vickie O Annette N	6
4/2/15	10-11 AM	Presentation	Cocoa Beach Women's Club	Cocoa Beach Country Club	Cocoa Beach	Nikia R	2
4/6/15	10-11 AM	Presentation	South Brevard Garden Association	Residence	Melbourne Beach	Nikia R	2
4/11/15	2-330 PM	Presentation	Turtle Talk	Eau Gallie Public Library	Eau Gallie	Vickie O Sharon B Adina	9
4/11/15	10-4 PM	Display	Viera Wetlands Nature Festival	Ritch Grissom Memorial Wetlands	Viera	Nini C Michael C Andrea B Marilyn S Roger P	22
4/18/15	2-330 PM	Presentation	Turtle Talk	West Melbourne Public Library	West Melbourne	Vickie O	3
4/22/15	3-400 PM	Presentation	Earth Day	Florida Institute of Technology	Melbourne	Nikia R	2
5/7/15	630-8 PM	Presentation	Brevard Fly Fishing speaker	Cocoa Beach	Cocoa Beach	Nikia R	4
5/9/15	2-330 PM	Presentation	Turtle Talk	Satellite Beach Public Library	Satellite Beach	Vickie O Francine R	6
5/16/15	9-12 PM	Presentation	Career Day	Cape View Elementary	Cape Canaveral	Andrea B	4
5/16/15	2-330 PM	Presentation	Turtle Talk	Cocoa Beach	Cocoa Beach	Nini C	3
5/17/15	8-5 PM	Display	Pt Canaveral Boat Races	Port Canaveral	Port Canaveral	Dave C Kat P Roger P Vickie O Nini C	40
5/18/15	2-4 PM	Presentation	classroom	Sea Park Elementary	Satellite Beach	Penny M	3
5/25/15	1-3 PM	Presentation	Classroom	Turner Elementary	Palm Bay	Barb S	4
5/28/15	830-11 PM	Presentation	4 th grade Classroom	Imagine Schools at W Melbourne Elementary	West Melbourne	Nikia R	4
6/9/15	2-330 PM	Presentation	Under the Sea Summer Camp	Odyssey Charter School	Melbourne	Nikia R	4
6/13/15	1-4 PM	Presentation	Turtle Talk	Satellite Beach Public Library	Satellite Beach	Vickie O	3
6/13/15	2-4 PM	Presentation	Summer Camp	La Petite Academy	Melbourne	Adina B Annette N	8

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Date	Display/ Talk Hours	Type	Activity	Location	City	Volunteers	Volunteer Hours
6/16/15	ALL DAY	Turtle Store	Open House World ST Day	Turtle Store	Indialantic	Dori H Nikia R Dave C Dave H Andrea B Roger P Vickie O Carol H Elaine	60
7/8/15	10-11 AM	Presentation	Summer Program	Merritt Island Public Library	Merritt Island	Barb S	3
7/9/15	9-10 AM	Presentation	Summer Program	West Melbourne School for Science Elementary	West Melbourne	Annette N Francine R	6
7/14/15	2-5 PM	Presentation	Summer Program	Boys and Girls Club of Central Florida	Melbourne	Nikia R	3
7/15/15	9-10 AM	Presentation	Summer Program	Bethany Christian Preschool	West Melbourne	Barb S	3
7/17/15	10-3 PM	Presentation	Conscious Kids Camp	Aquarian Dreams Yoga Studio	Indialantic	Nikia R	2
7/18/15	1-4 PM	Presentation	Turtle Talk	Suntree Viera Public Library	Viera	Vickie O Nini C	6
7/20/15	1-3 PM	Presentation	Rider University Study Tours	Crowne Plaza Melbourne	Melbourne Beach	Vickie O Nini C	8
7/23/15	1-4 PM	Presentation	Turtle Talk	Satellite Beach Public Library	Satellite Beach	Nini C Michael C	8
8/3/15	1-3 PM	Presentation	Rider University Study Tours	Crowne Plaza Melbourne	Melbourne Beach	Nini C	4
8/15/15	1-4 PM	Presentation	Turtle Talk	West Melbourne Public Library	West Melbourne	Nicole L	6
8/23/15	1-4 PM	Presentation	Turtle Talk	Melbourne Beach Public Library	Melbourne Beach	Nicole L	6
9/5-7/15	10-5 PM	Display	Cold Blooded Weekend	Brevard Zoo	Melbourne	Nikia R	24
9/9/15	530-730 PM	Display	Teacher's Open House	Brevard Zoo	Melbourne	Barbara S Carol R	7
9/12/15	7-11AM	Display	Turtle Krawl 5K		Indialantic	Nikia R Artie Y	8
9/16/15	1130-130 PM	Presentation	Guest speaker	Northrup Grumman Retirement Club	Suntree Country Club	Nikia R	2
9/24/15	4-7 PM	Display/ Fundraiser	Featured Charity	Northstar Corporate Housing Ribbon Cutting Ceremony	Indialantic	Nikia R	5
10/1/15	9-12PM	Presentation	Gifted classroom	Atlantis Elementary	Port St John	Nikia R	4
10/1-31/15	ALL DAY	Display	Library Display Case	Degroodt Library	Palm Bay	Nikia R	3
10/7/15	9-10 AM	Presentation	Classroom	Lockmar Elementary	Palm Bay	Barb S	6
10/14/15	1-4 PM	Presentation	Guest Speaker	Gemini Elementary Surfrider Club Chapter	Melbourne Beach	Nikia R	3
10/27/15	9-930 AM	Presentation	Guest Speaker	DAR Philip Perry Chapter	Rockledge	Doris C	1
10/30/15	1-2 PM	Presentation	Speaker	Hurricane Who Convention	Orlando	Doris C	3
11/1-30/15	ALL DAY	Display	Library Display Case	Suntree Public Library	Suntree	Barb S	3
12/1-31/15	ALL DAY	Display	Library Display Case	Merritt Island Public Library	Merritt Island	Barb S	3
Total Volunteer Hours							435

2015 Education Volunteer Hours	435
Value of Volunteer Time \$22.08 x 435 = \$9,604.80	

3.2 Turtle Watch/Walk Program

The STPS offers Turtle Watch/Walk Programs when the loggerhead sea turtle nesting season peaks in Brevard County in June and July. Our Florida State Permit allows us to guide groups to observe a nesting loggerhead sea turtle depositing her eggs. The Walk Team is comprised of many volunteers including Greeters, Presenters and Guides all trained and experienced in their respective roles. Special training, held in the spring, is required for our Guides. Annually, this program offers a great opportunity to educate those attending our watches/walks about the history of the sea turtle, their life cycle, natural predators and human impact, laws that protect them and conservation measures. It also offers information on how the public can help their survival rate.

In 2015, STPS held 40 public turtle watches/walks attended by approximately 1188 people.

There are no guarantees that attendees will see actual nesting, since it is up to the cooperation of Mother Nature and sea turtles. In 2015, there were nine nights that attendees were not able to observe an actual nesting loggerhead. One contributing factor to this was in mid July there were winds from the east that caused an up-welling of cold water to come inshore. This cold water discourages the turtles from nesting. This illustrates the challenge of providing the attendees the opportunity to witness an actual nesting in and near the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge, the site of the largest loggerhead nesting area in the world and the largest nesting area in the Northern Hemisphere for greens.

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 guided to the beach to await a signal from our scouts. The group was then guided down to the beach and 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 Satellite Beach, Melbourne Beach and Spessard Holland North 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. Two 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.

STPS could not have accommodated the attendees at these events without the able assistance of the 24 Permitted Guides and approximately 34 Non-Permitted Guides that assisted. All of the guides are Volunteers.

The following tables provide our “best estimate” for the number of volunteer hours contributed by the STPS Walk Team.

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Turtle Walk Training				
Volunteers Attending		Number of Training Sessions	Length of Session	Estimated Volunteer Hours
Permitted	Non Permitted			
24	34	2	2	232

Actual Turtle Walks				
Walk Staff per Walk		Walk Duration	Number of Walks	Estimated Volunteer Hours
Walk Leader	1	4 hrs	40	160
Greeter	1	4 hrs	40	160
Merchandise Sales	2	4 hrs	40	320
Turtle Scouts	8	4 hrs	40	1280
Total Volunteer Hours (Includes 232 hours for Training)				2152

2015 Turtle Watch / Walk Volunteer Hours	2152
Value of Volunteer Time \$22.08 x 2152 = \$47,516.16	

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 Guides)

Volunteer Watch/Walk Guides are critical to the overall activity. Every guide is required to receive training in the watch procedures. During an actual Watch/Walk event they oversee the registration process, scouting the beach for nesting turtles, assist the group to the beach where the turtle is nesting and are prepared to answer questions from the group with reliable and accurate information about the nesting process and sea turtles in general.

Duties of Assistant Guides (Non-Permitted Guides)

Volunteer Assistant Guides are equally critical for the activity. They perform activities required to set up the equipment for the presentation, sign in the registered guests and distribute the information packets. They are also prepared to answer questions from the participants regarding all aspects of the turtle walk process.

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

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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

The Sea Turtle House is the headquarters of the Sea Turtle Preservation Society. This multifunctional space is a rented facility, approximately 1000 sq.ft.in size and serves as an office, gift shop and education center. It also has a small storage space in the back. We provide a drop box where sea turtle hatchlings can be deposited after hours with a phone number to call to alert our hotline.

The Sea Turtle House is staffed from Monday through Saturday 11:00 am until 5:00 pm and Sundays from 11am to 3:00pm.

The staff welcomes approximately 5,000 visitors annually and field questions from customers and phone calls ranging from information about our organization and sea turtles to typical tourist questions about other attractions in our area. We get many calls regarding injured birds and other wildlife. The staff supports the fielding of stranding reports, assists in arranging turtle watch/walk reservations and helps with other sea turtle activities.

The Educational Center has life-sized replicas of sea turtles hanging in the front window that can be viewed from both inside and outside the building. These replicas dramatically illustrate the adult size of these animals. Additional replicas include a life-sized adult green turtle, a sub-adult loggerhead, a juvenile loggerhead and a juvenile Kemp's Ridley. The center also has informational posters, brochures and educational displays, plus a few real turtle artifacts which STPS is permitted to display.

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The gift shop offers a variety of sea turtle related gifts: STPS shirts and hats, books, jewelry, photos, magnets and accessories. Proceeds from the sale of these items are used to support the conservation and educational efforts of the STPS.

The office contains the typical office equipment to conduct STPS business. The cabinets contain historical documents as well as current documentation for Fish and Wildlife permits, insurance, forms used for stranding and walks, completed membership and adoption applications, and projectors and laptops used for presentations.

The storage area is used to store brochures and pamphlets, additional gift shop inventory, event boxes, banners, STERP/stranding equipment and nest survey equipment, Turtle Krawl supplies, a large freezer for temporary storage of deceased sea turtles for Fish and Wildlife pickup and bins for transporting live sea turtles to rehabilitation facilities.

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, with choice of name for your hatchling
- A personalized thank you letter
- Information on sea turtle hatchlings
- There were 66 hatchling adoptions in 2015.

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
- A personalized thank you letter
- Information on sea turtle nesting
- One year individual membership
- There were 16 nest adoptions in 2015.

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
- A personalized thank you letter
- Information on sea turtle stranding and disorientation
- One year individual membership
- Sea Turtle Preservation Society Sticker
- There were 22 stranded turtle adoptions in 2015.

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2015 Adopt a Turtle Program	Number of Adoptions
Adopt a Hatchling	66
Adopt a Nest	16
Adopt a Stranded Turtle	22
TOTAL	104

2015 Adopt A Turtle Volunteer Hours	80
Value of Volunteer Time \$22.08 x 80	= \$1766.40

3.5 Attention Boaters Program

The STPS Attention Boaters program began in 2011 as a direct response to the offshore boat races that were held in 2010 during the Sea Turtle Nesting Season in Cocoa Beach, FL. Injuries related to boating encounters account for the highest cause of sea turtle deaths in our area. In 2011, STPS applied to the Sea Turtle License Plate Grants Program for a grant to fund an education program. This program is directed toward boaters and increasing their awareness of the threat boats present to sea turtles in our waters. As a result, a \$1790 grant was awarded in 2012, to support our continuing Attention Boaters Program. These races have been conducted every year since 2010.

The program is designed to make boaters aware of the sea turtle population in both the Atlantic Ocean and the Indian River Lagoon and encompasses four components:

1. STPS designed and printed water-resistant cards that contain information related to the special precautions necessary to take around sea turtles in the water. These cards have been distributed each year since 2012 to most of the marine related businesses located in the sea turtle areas of Brevard County and to participants of the Cocoa Beach off shore boat races.
2. In 2015 there were two off-shore boat races; the Super Boat International Race in May and the Cocoa Beach P1 Grand Prix of the Sea in August. In 2015, STPS volunteers were allowed to assist as “spotters” in boats, watching for any sea turtle activity along the race course.
3. STPS produced ten 18” x 24” "Attention Boaters" signs that were erected at boat ramps throughout Brevard County. These signs alert boaters to sea turtle activity in the local waters. This effort continued in 2015 with receipt of \$780 in new grant funds that purchased twenty additional “Attention Boaters” signs. These signs were erected during 2015.
4. STPS designed a 36” x 48” sign to educate boaters about the threat they may pose to sea turtles in the Indian River Lagoon. This two-sided sign is located at Ballard Park in Melbourne. STPS hopes to be able to erect more of these larger signs at other marine parks in Brevard County.

2015 Attention Boaters Volunteer Hours	137
Value of Volunteer Time \$22.08 x 137	= \$3024.96 Value

3.6 Lights Out for Sea Turtles

STPS is an active participant in FWC’s yearly Lights Out for sea turtles campaign. This program is directed toward Florida’s businesses, residents and visitors to announce the start of the sea turtle nesting season in Brevard County, FL; officially designated as May 1st through October 31.

Lights Out refers to the Florida policy to darken the beach during the sea turtle nesting season. Bright lights shining on the beach can disorient and discourage nesting, egg-laden female turtles and lure newly-hatched baby turtles towards artificial light sources. As hatchlings turn away from the sea to cross into streets and parking lots, they are invariably killed. "The darker the beaches, the more attractive they are for the female turtles and the less disorienting for the hatchlings."

STPS contacts the local media to ensure that announcements are published to alert the public of this Lights Out period.

In 2015, STPS was awarded \$2910 as part of a grant from the Sea Turtle License Plate Grants Program to purchase additional materials for our “Lights Out” education program. Our previous efforts included the development and distribution of the following educational items:

- “Lights Out” rack cards (4”x9”) that describes the effect lights have on nesting females and hatchlings. These cards were distributed at events and dropped off at hotels and local beachside residences.
- A large vinyl banner (32”x72”) similar to the “rack card” that can be mounted on a portable display stand. These banners were duplicated and placed in six beachside resort hotel lobbies. Feedback from the resort managers was positive on the quality and attractiveness of the banners, indicating that their guests commented the banners were very informative.

We used the 2015 grant money to purchase more of the rack cards and additional banners to achieve a wider distribution:

- 20,000 of the 4”x9” Lights Out” rack cards. These cards will help to support this program for several years.
- Twenty of the 32”X72” vinyl banners and portable stands. These were placed in additional beachside resort hotel lobbies.

2015 Lights Out Volunteer Hours	210
Value Volunteer Hours \$22.08 x 210	= \$4636.80

4. Stranding and Salvage

The Sea Turtle Preservation Society supports the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (STSSN), which were 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 member. 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 forwarded immediately to several Stranding Team members or other trained volunteers. 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 each calendar year.

In conjunction with the STPS Stranding Team, STPS has implemented a Sea Turtle Emergency Response Program (STERP) with over 150 trained volunteers in 2015. 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 a large layer of seaweed 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.

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After large storm events, these small sea turtles can be washed back onto shore with large amounts of seaweed 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 uses the STERP volunteers to 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.

Training

During the Marathon Workshop, in late 2014, there was a discussion regarding possible injuries to sea turtles when being taken off the beach or while being transferred to a facility. These injuries include punctured organs from small bones, separation of the plastron and carapace, broken flipper bones and neck injuries. **As a result of this discussion, for 2015, the STPS stranding permit holder created a training session to provide STPS stranding team members additional training to address this injury issue.** The goal of this training is to making sure that all the stranding team members (both beach rescue and transport) are aware of the injury concerns and are knowledgeable of the equipment necessary to get the injured animal off the beach and safely transported to a facility. This training consists of a PowerPoint presentation with an instructor covering possible injuries and ways to minimize the risk of transport injuries. This training is in addition to the FWC required training that all stranding team members take. STPS will continue this training in 2016 and the STPS stranding permit holder anticipates using feedback from the facility veterinarians to update the training as necessary.

The annual Florida Marine Turtle Permit Holders Meeting was held in Jacksonville, Florida in February 2015. 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. **STPS had 15 attend this meeting.**

Another training opportunity in 2015 was at the Marathon Turtle Hospital in December where activities included necropsies, surgery techniques and networking with Florida and regional turtle rehabilitation experts. **Seven STPS members attended the weekend workshop.**

4.1 Stranding Activities

For 2015, Roger Pszonowsky was the primary permit (MTP 11-169) holder in charge of the STPS Stranding Team. **In 2015 the team completed 96 stranding reports which is 19 less than last year.** 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 2015 Documented Strandings by Species	Number of Turtles
Loggerheads (<i>Caretta caretta</i>)	32 dead / 18 live = 50 total
Greens (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>)	9 dead / 26 live = 35 total
Kemp's Ridley (<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>)	2 live= 2 total
Leatherback (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)	none
Hawksbill (<i>Eretmochelys imbricate</i>)	none
Unknown/not located	9 dead = 9 total

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STPS 2015 Documented Strandings by Species	Number of Turtles
TOTAL	50 dead / 46 live = 96 total strandings

Overall STPS data included 46 live turtles (48%). Boat interaction injuries (props or hull) were recorded on 11 turtles (12%). This was down from last year locally, but not statewide. The 46 live turtles recovered were transported to the following facilities:

Facilities	Number
Brevard Sea Turtle Healing Center	17
Sea World Orlando	11
Marine Science Center, Volusia	2
Gumbo Limbo, Boca Raton	1
Mote Marine Labs	3
Handed off to FWC	12

During 2015, the Stranding Team also participated in several turtle releases including the release at the annual Turtle Krawl 5K. Releases were organized by the responsible rehabilitation facility or FWC. Generally, the sea turtles that were released were returned to the location of their rescue.

2015 Florida Statewide Stranding Data (provided by FWC)

In 2015 Florida had a total of 2952 documented strandings:

- 1281 Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*)
- 1331 Green (*Chelonia mydas*)
- 267 Kemp's Ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*)
- 21 Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricate*)
- 19 Leatherbacks (*Dermochelys coriacea*)
- 33 Unknown

The table below is an estimate of the total number of volunteer hours expended by the STPS StrandingTeam during 2015.

Stranding Activity	Persons	Hours/days/weeks	Estimated Volunteer Hours
96 Strandings	1	3hrs	288
46 live rescues	+1	7hrs	322
Training(does not include STERP)	40	6 hrs	240
Rehabilitation Workshop	7	28hrs	196
Permit Holders Meeting	15	30hrs	450
Program Management	2	25 hrs x 52wks	2600
Turtle Facility Consult	2	3 hrs x 52 wks	312
2015 Stranding - Total Volunteer Hours			4408
Value of Volunteer Hours 4408 hrs x \$22.08			\$97,328.64

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4.2 STERP Activities

In 2015, the Sea Turtle Emergency Response Program (STERP) completed its eighth year. The community response for this program continues to be as enthusiastic as when it was initiated.

STPS conducted STERP Workshops on May 18th, May 30th, June 9th and June 13th. A total of 176 volunteers completed the workshop and field training sessions. Attendance rosters from each session were sent to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and we received Letters of Authorization (LOA) for 120 volunteers. Again, this year in order to be on the LOA, volunteers needed to have attended either Turtle 101 or Turtle Talk and be a member of STPS. In the event of a weather alert, the STERP volunteers are notified by an automatic call system known as One Call Now.

2015 was a very quiet season as far as tropical storms. We did have a few storms that resulted in volunteer monitoring for post hatchlings, but these storms only destroyed a few nests. Through November 30, a total of 10 post hatchlings were documented (5 Green, 4 Loggerhead and 1 Hawksbill.)

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, the Lights Out Program during the 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 2015, several STPS volunteers helped as observers during the Super Boat Race in May. They were stationed both on the shore and in boats.

The table below is our “best estimate” for the total number of volunteer hours expended by the STPS STERP Team during 2015.

STERP Activity	Hrs.	Volunteers	Estimated Volunteer Hours
Training (STERP and Cold Stun)	3	176	528
Registration/Prep	20	4	80
Storms – beach monitoring	4	10	40
Boat Race Observers	8	7	56
Literature distribution to beach hotels, condos, marinas, bait shops, boat ramps, etc.	8	15	120
2015 STERP - Total Hours			824
Value of Volunteer Hours 824 hrs x \$22.08			\$18,193.92

4.3 Brevard Zoo “Sea Turtle Healing Center”

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. When STPS rescues an injured or sick sea turtle, a member of the STPS Stranding Team must transport it to a rehabilitation facility. There are sixteen sea turtle rehabilitation facilities (seven certified for Fibropapilloma virus) across the state. The decision as to where a turtle goes is up to FWC and is dependent on several factors including available space, type of sickness or injury and staffing. In some cases, the transport can take up to four hours. Unfortunately, some turtles need medical attention immediately and often die during the long transport time to a medical facility.

As a response to this situation, in 2013 STPS entered into a three-year partnership agreement with Brevard Zoo to develop Brevard County’s first sea turtle medical facility and named it the Brevard Sea Turtle Healing Center. Its purpose is to provide triage type medical attention to sick and injured turtles. As part of this agreement, STPS committed \$25,000 a year to help fund operating costs.

The Brevard Sea Turtle Healing Center (<https://brevardzoo.org/conservation-programs/sea-turtle-healing-center/>) became a reality in 2014 because of the combined efforts of STPS and Brevard Zoo, grants from the Sea Turtle License Plate Grants Program and donations from Marineland Dolphin Adventure / Georgia Aquarium. The facility is a 2400 square foot steel roofed building located adjacent to Brevard Zoo’s animal hospital and has a total of twelve tanks and can house up to 40 turtles. Four of these tanks are dedicated to turtles with fibropapilloma tumors

Brevard Zoo is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the facility. Zoo volunteers working under guidance of Brevard Zoo veterinary staff perform the daily operating tasks to maintain the facility. Brevard Zoo, like STPS, relies heavily on volunteers. Many STPS volunteers also work as Zoo volunteers at the “Healing Center” facility under the supervision of Brevard Zoo staff.

During 2015 STPS volunteers transported sixteen live sea turtles to the Brevard Sea Turtle Healing Center. FWC continues to determine where the sea turtle is transported but having this facility as an available option reduces transportation time and increases sea turtles survivability rate.

For 2015, in addition to the \$25,000 annual contribution, STPS also agreed to fund a new bead filter for the Healing Center at a cost of \$12,000 for a total commitment of \$37,000. STPS intends to continue this partnership in 2016.

5. Sea Turtle Nesting Survey

From 2007 through 2013, The Sea Turtle Preservation Society participated in the statewide sea turtle monitoring program which is coordinated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The primary purpose of the program is to use annual survey data to determine the nesting trends of the sea turtles that nest on Florida Beaches. Due to storm related activities, the 4.5 miles of beach in Cocoa Beach, where STPS performed nest surveys was been subject to a beach re-nourishment project. As a result of this re-nourishment project, the state was required to have this area monitored by a professional survey company. Consequently, the STPS Nest Survey activity was temporarily suspended.

This suspension started in 2014 and continued for 2015. STPS is looking forward to restarting our nest survey program in 2016. Historically this program has required 2400 volunteer hours.

2015 Nest Survey Hours	0
Value Volunteer Hours \$22.08 x 0	= \$0

6. Community Involvement

Community Involvement plays a critical role in helping STPS achieve its primary mission of “Helping Sea Turtles Survive.” In addition to our educational outreach efforts outlined in Section 4 of this document, STPS takes a proactive role in finding ways to educate the public about the dangers our sea turtles face and what they can do to help. At our monthly membership meetings, the public is invited to hear an expert on many topics relating to sea turtles. We are also active in maintaining our social media presence with the STPS website and STPS Facebook page. We provide information to various local and regional media outlets (newspapers and television) regarding sea turtle related events such as the beginning of nesting season, sea turtle recovery and weather related information affecting sea turtles and such as the Turtle Krawl 5K Walk/Run and Night Walks in June and July. Lastly, STPS sponsors monthly beach cleanups at two beachfront parks allowing the public to participate in the cleanup while educating them on the dangers to sea turtles and other wildlife when the public leaves trash and other items on the beach.

6.1 Guest Speakers

As part of our community outreach efforts, STPS scheduled a variety of speakers for our monthly membership meetings which are held January through May and September through November. From January through April and again in September meetings were held in the Melbourne Beach Community Center and Melbourne Beach Fire Department. In May, October and November, the meetings were held at the Clubhouse at Pelican Beach Park. The meetings were held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. 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 2015 are identified below.

STPS Monthly Meeting Guest Speakers		
Month	Speaker	Topic
January	Heather Pepe	North East Sea Turtles (Nest), Tobago
February	Mike Daniel	Surfriders
March	Peter Bandre	Honorary President and STPS Co-Founder
April	Trevor Zacharius	DVM of The Brevard Zoo and The Brevard Sea Turtle Healing Center
May	Nick Sansone	Marine Resources Council
June, July, August	No Meeting For These Months	
September	Dr. Blair Witherington	
October	Dr. Karen Holloway Adkins	East Coast Biologists, Inc
November	Dean Bagley	University Of Central Florida
December	Annual Meeting To Elect Board Members	

2015 Membership Meetings Hours	100
Value Volunteer Hours \$22.08 x 100	= \$2,208

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6.2 Communications

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

We have been steadily growing our social media presence on Facebook and added a Twitter page in 2015. Social media is an important aspect of educational outreach because of the ability to reach such a diverse audience without monetary obligations. In addition, sharing our activities increases community involvement by sharing the many programs our volunteers participate in regularly with our followers. We now have a considerable following of over 100,000 people on our Facebook page.

Item	Contact	Comments
Turtle Talk	Vickie Openshaw, Editor	The newsletter was distributed three times a year. In 2015 the newsletter was posted on the STPS website and an email notification was sent to members with the link. The newsletter link was also posted on the STPS Facebook page.
STPS Website	Nini Conner	SeaTurtleSpaceCoast.org
STPS Facebook	Casie Farrell and Nikia Rice	Facebook.com/SeaTurtlePreservationSociety
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 stories are also sent to this group and many are polished and result in news broadcasts. The broadcast media initiated several stories this year including covering our Turtle Krawl race and sea turtle release.

2015 Communications Volunteer Hours	750
Value Volunteer Hours \$22.08 x 750	= \$16,560

6.3 Beach Cleanup

STPS has adopted two major sections of Brevard County beaches through Keep Brevard Beautiful (KBB) "Adopt-A-Shore program" to help keep Brevard County beaches litter-free and non-polluted for its frequent visitors and wildlife. STPS prides itself on its monthly participation at these two sites. Our coordinators and teams organize volunteers and provide them with the equipment to safely walk the beach and pick up the litter on the beach and in the dunes. STPS receives points for each clean up; plus the number of volunteers, bags of trash collected and extra points for taking the recycle products home to their own recycle bins. Read more about the KBB programs: <http://keepbrevardbeautiful.org/our-programs/adopt-a-shore>.

The beach cleanup activity not only helps to make our beaches more presentable to the beach goers, it also provides a critical benefit to our sea turtles. Debris on the beach will deter female turtles during their nesting activity and it will also hinder baby hatchlings from making their way to the ocean. Additional, plastic left on the beach will degrade to small particles that are eaten by turtles as they feed on floating seaweed. This plastic builds up inside the turtle's digestive system and can cause death.

STPS's Adopt-A-Shore beaches are:

1. STPS-South: STPS adopted **Coconut Point Park** in Southern Brevard County at the north end of the Archie Carr Wildlife Refuge on A1A in the early 1990's. Mike Clark and Geraldine Burke lead the team. STPS-South was recognized by KBB as the First Place team in the Adopt-A-Shore Program for the second year and was presented with a special plaque. Not only do the volunteers of STPS-South meet once a month to clean the beach, they also participate in the Turtle Krawl 5 K Race, Great Coastal Clean Up and Trash Bash events each year. All members share the responsibility for acting as monthly leaders based on their individual availability.
2. STPS-North: STPS adopted **Cherie Down Park and Beach** in Northern Brevard County in Cape Canaveral in January 2015. Andrea Bergman is the STPS-North Coordinator. Her team members are Dave Cheney, Everett Tindall and Kat Parks. This site was chosen in Northern Brevard County because several STPS volunteers live in that area and wanted the opportunity to help keep their beaches free of litter. In addition, Northern Brevard County is more populated and busier area of the county due to our Cruise Ship and Space industry. As a result, the first year for this site has proven to be attractive to many volunteers with participation in the North just surpassing the South Beaches site for 2015.

In addition to these sites, STPS members may clean the beach on their own schedule. They can report their activity to a special email address, beachcleanup@seaturtlespacecoast.org. Once received, the details of their efforts are forwarded to KBB to be credited to STPS's monthly totals. The most dramatic change seen in 2015 continued increases in the number of individual reporter volunteer activity which reflects most significantly the efforts of one STPS member who faithfully reported each time she did a personal beach cleanup---logging in 255 hours!

The following table summarizes the STPS 2015 Beach Cleanup activities and special cleanups. The additional site at Cherie Down Park and the boost in Individual Reporter statistics for 2015 results in dramatic increases over last year for all categories:

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- **Number of volunteers participating rose from 443 to 952;**
- **Total bags collected rose from 251 to 373; and**
- **Volunteer Hours rose from 797 to 1679.**

STPS 2015 Beach Clean Ups					
Date	People	Bags	Recycle	Comments	Estimated Volunteer Hours
01/03/2015	13	6	2	South	26
	37	8	2	North	74
02/07/2015	28	14	2	South	56
	26	3	1	North	52
03/07/2015	16	6	1	South	32
	11	1	1	North	22
04/04/2015	35	6	3	South	70
	31	3	2	North	62
04/18/2015	12	6	1	South/Trash Bash	24
05/09/2015	31	13	1	South	62
	37	5	1	North	74
06/06/2015	15	4	1	South	30
	21	4	1	North	42
07/11/2015	21	8	1	South	42
	36	6	1	North	72
08/08/2015	11	6	1	South	22
	20	2	1	North	40
09/05/2015	26	4	1	South	52
	37	7	2	North	74
09/12/2015	45	50	20	South/Turtle Krawl	90
09/19/2015	21	4	1	South /Coastal Clean-up	42
10/03/2015	20	6	1	South	40
	25	4	1	North	50
11/07/2015	18	8	2	South	36
	51	5	2	North	102
12/05/2015	19	13	1	South	38
	39	7	1	North	78
Various Days	250	164	14	Individual Reporters	275
TOTALS	952	373	69		1679 Hrs
2015 Value of Volunteer Hours 1679 hr x \$22.08					\$37,072.32

7. Fundraising

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 is the largest fundraiser benefitting the Sea Turtle Preservation Society. 2015 marked the sixth year STPS volunteers coordinated the race, after it was resurrected by the STPS Board of Directors in 2010. Brevard Parks and Recreation historically coordinated the Turtle Krawl from 2000-2008. Planning this event was a tremendous commitment on the part of the STPS volunteers, but was well worth the effort. The STPS Turtle Krawl 5K continues to be the largest (and arguably best) 5K race in Brevard County!

Registration opened April 1st and by race day over 2500 runners/walkers had registered for the September 12th Turtle Krawl race at James H. Nance Park in Indialantic by the Sea, Indialantic, FL.

Race day at Nance Park began with a beautiful sunrise promising to make it a perfect day for a 5K. The turnout for this year's race was good considering we were competing with two other 5K races in the area on the same morning. At 7:30 am, 2125 runners and walkers of all age groups began their 3.1-mile journey through the streets of Indialantic. Along the route there were two water stops and two sprinklers to provide a light misting and motivational signs; many of which were quite humorous. After the race a large \$25,000 check was presented at the awards ceremony by STPS to the Brevard Zoo. This check is to help support the Brevard Sea Turtle Healing Center located at the Brevard Zoo. A fitting surprise ended the morning when SeaWorld brought a sub-adult loggerhead sea turtle for release. The turtle was rescued by a STPS stranding team member on May 4, 2015 about a half a mile north of Nance Park and was transported to SeaWorld where it received medical treatment for emaciation and infection. At the time of release the loggerhead's weight was up to 95 pounds and the sea turtle was ready to go home. Members of the STPS stranding team and hundreds of runners and walkers gathered on the beach to watch the rehabilitated turtle return back into the ocean. This is what Turtle Krawl is all about and why runners, walkers, volunteers, sponsors and guests all give up their time to

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participate in such a worthy cause. Thousands of photos from the race can be viewed at <http://turtlekrawl.com/photos>.

Between registration fees and sponsorships, over \$48,000 was raised for the STPS. The STPS Board of Directors has agreed to set aside Turtle Krawl income for a "special projects" fund. For the last three years STPS has presented Brevard Zoo with a check to help financially support the zoo's Sea Turtle Healing Center. This sea turtle rehabilitation facility helps to ensure sea turtles rescued on Brevard County beaches get faster medical attention.

Turtle Krawl would not be possible without the numerous hours and hard work by the many volunteers who participated in poster hanging, race packet stuffing, early packet pickup, baking muffins, race day packet pickup, manning water stops, parking attendants, food/ beverage preparation/serving, course marshals and finisher medal distribution. The race would not be possible without all the wonderful volunteers who give up their time to help sea turtles survive.

Sponsors for 2015 were Port Canaveral, SeaWorld Orlando, Slug-A-Bug, Absolutely Natural, Gatto's, Porter Premier Dermatology, RestoraLife, Running Zone, AdvoCare, Animal Emergency and Critical Care Center of Brevard, Central Life Church, Coastal Health Systems of Brevard, Launch Federal Credit Union, Monarch Homes, Southeastern Honda, Toyota of Melbourne, Bass Pro Shops, Double Tree, Florida Prep, The Fountains, Turtle Towel, Brevard Plastic Surgery and Skin Treatment, Florida Eye, Make it HappenX2, Virtual Strides, Florida Today, Giant Stride Solutions, Inc, Walmart, Natalie's, Bar CLIF, BB&T, Clow Chiropractic, B&B Ice, Inc, New Balance, Starbucks, Planet Smoothie, United Rentals, WFIT 89.5FM and Space Coast Runners.

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

Sex	Runners	Percent
Male	676	32%
Female	1449	68%
Total	2125	100%

Age Groups				
Age Group	Male	Female	Total	Percent
8 and under	22	32	54	3%
9 - 11	23	39	62	3%
12 - 14	25	30	55	3%
15 - 19	17	43	60	3%
20 - 24	18	54	72	3%
25 - 29	46	119	165	8%
30 - 34	45	162	207	10%
35 - 39	63	138	201	9%
40 - 44	76	158	234	11%
45 - 49	79	166	245	11%
50 - 54	84	194	278	13%

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Age Groups				
Age Group	Male	Female	Total	Percent
55 - 59	68	163	231	11%
60 - 64	52	86	138	6%
65 - 69	36	43	79	4%
70 - 74	15	12	27	1%
75 and over	7	10	17	1%
Totals	676	1449	2125	100%

Mark Petrillo, STPS Board of Directors member was the race director. An estimate of the Turtle Krawl-related volunteer hours follows:

Activity	Estimated Volunteer Hours
Planning and Preparation	600
Sponsor Acquisition	400
Promotion	150
Race Day	250
2015 – Turtle Krawl Total Estimated Volunteer Hours	1400
Value of Volunteer Hours 1400 hrs x \$22.08	\$30,912

8. STPS Memberships

Membership is open to those who have a sincere interest in supporting the mission of the STPS. Our current members come from 36 different states, Canada and Great Britain. In 2015 the Board of Directors established a policy that all active volunteers must be members in good standing to participate in all STPS programs except beach cleanups and Turtle Krawl.

In 2015, we continued the use of the online-based membership management system (MMS), which continues to assist us in streamlining many aspects of our organization.

The MMS continues to provide a superior method for logging in new memberships and monitoring existing memberships for pending renewals. STPS members can securely update their own contact information. Easy to use tools allow for online access to their profile as well as register for volunteer and training opportunities and sponsored events. STPS Education uses the contact and membership profiles to log and track interests specified on volunteer applications and training completed by members.

Of all of the features of the MMS, the automatic Renewal Reminder email continues to be one of the most valuable. One month prior and then one week prior (if applicable) to the renewal date, an automated email is sent to the member along with a hyperlink for convenient online renewal.

The following table shows the 2015 end of year numbers for each of the membership levels.

STPS 2015 Membership

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL	ACTIVE
Student	24
Individual	260
Family	150
Contributor	35
Lifetime	170
Endowment	4
Benefactor	22
Total	665

2015 Membership Management Volunteer Hours	350
Value Volunteer Hours \$22.08 x 350	= \$7,728.00

9. Total Estimated Volunteer Hours

For 2015, STPS Volunteers have donated more than fifteen thousand 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 of all of the actual time worked. Consequently the following data is based on our records from actual events (such as; school presentations, stranding, beach clean-up, night walks, etc.), plus estimates from the various directors and supporting volunteers of their time spend on all of various support activities necessary to keep the organization running. Total volunteer hours were up this year with significant increases in the beach clean-ups and training for strandings. Note, the STPS Nest Survey Program, which historically accounts for approximately 2400 hours annually, was temporarily suspended in 2014 and 2015.

Using these estimates and the 2015 Independent Sector Annual Conference estimated dollar value for volunteer time in Florida (\$22.08 per hour), STPS contributed approximately \$333,099 to the Brevard County community with our volunteer activities. (See the web site for the 2015 Independent Sector Annual Conference; http://independentsector.org/Volunteer_time for details on how this estimate of volunteer hours is derived.)

Activity	Estimated Hours Volunteer
Adopt a Turtle Program	80
Beach Cleanup	1679
Board of Directors Meetings	211
Communications (Includes Facebook, Newsletter, PublicRelations & Website)	750
Education Talks and Displays, Attention Boaters, Lights Out	782
Financial Management	2150
Membership Management	350
Membership Meetings	100
Nest Surveys (This activity is temporarily suspended.)	0
STERP Activities	824
Stranding Activities	4408
Turtle Krawl	1400
Turtle Walks	2152
Volunteer Coordination	200
2015 TOTAL ESTIMATED VOLUNTEER HOURS	15,086
2015 Value of Volunteer Hours 15,086 x \$22.08 = \$333,099	

The following table illustrates the annual change 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%
2014	12177	-20%
2015	15086	+24%