Sea Turtle festival returns to Titusville | News

Photo courtesy of Julie Hilligoss

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BREVARD COUNTY – Living so close to the Atlantic Ocean provides many Brevard residents with beautiful ocean views, sandy beaches, and miles of rolling waves— but what about the creatures that live in the ocean?

On June 8 – 9, the Downtown Titusville Merchant Association will be hosting its 8th Annual Titusville Sea Turtle Festival, an event to raise awareness and promote the conservation of sea turtles.

Sea turtles are a highly endangered species. There are many organizations around Brevard County that both promote awareness of sea turtle conservation and support those efforts, including the Barrier Island Education Center, the Sea Turtle Conservancy, and the Sea Turtle Preservation Society.

At the festival, vendors, merchants, and sea turtle conservation organizations will gather together to promote awareness.

"We want to promote as much education about sea turtle conservation as we can, so we teamed up with the [DTMA] and Canaveral National Seashore," said Julie Hilligoss, volunteer with the Sea Turtle Festival and owner of Hotpoint Boutique in Titusville. "We work together, and we have education booths that are set up where people can come and learn how to protect not only the sea turtles, but the ocean as well."

According to organizers, one of the greatest challenges to Brevard County sea turtles is environmental pollution.

"[One preventative measure that the Festival can provide] is educating people on what to do and what not to do when visiting our beaches and our water areas," Ms. Hilligoss said. "[The issue of] straws is a big thing right now, and mainly the trash that's going out into our ocean, it all really affects our sea turtles.

"This event really bring people from all over, not just in Brevard County," Ms. Hilligoss added. "We have people coming from central Florida, Volusia County, (etc.). It's a nice, overall community event. [We'd like people to] come on out, support a good cause, and have fun in the meantime."

The 8th Annual Titusville Sea Turtle Festival will be held from June 8 – 9 in the Downtown Titusville area, from 5 – 9 p. m.

For more information about the festival, visit www.nbbd.com/festivals/SeaTurtle/index.