



BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

2018

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

The Sea Turtle Preservation Society celebrated its 32nd anniversary in 2018. Incorporated April 23, 1986, with the mission to help sea turtles survive, a small group of dedicated community members began by rescuing injured sea turtles, making the public aware of issues facing sea turtles and pushing for changes in environmental laws. By the end of 2018 STPS had 667 members contributing their time and money toward similar efforts resulting in:

- Contributed over 22,319 volunteer hours through participation in our various sea turtle related activities;
- Participated in 50 events in STPS educational outreach programs, attended by over 38,000 people;
- Conducted 40 public Turtle Watch/Walk events, attended by approximately 1200 people;
- Responded to 246 stranding calls thus providing a positive economic impact to the community;
- Counted 265 nests laid in the survey area along a two-mile stretch of beach in Cocoa Beach beginning on April 15 and ending Sept. 15;
- Rescued over 170 post hatchling turtles that were “washed in” by significant weather events;
- Coordinated efforts of 1160 volunteers in beach cleanup efforts at two beaches adopted by STPS in the Keep Brevard Beautiful “Adopt a Shore” Program;
- Continued to support Brevard Zoo’s Sea Turtle Healing Center.

In 2018, STPS contributed approximately **22,319 volunteer hours valued at \$520,702** in volunteer labor provided to the Brevard County community with our volunteer activities. This dollar amount has been calculated using an estimated dollar value for volunteer time derived by the 2017 Independent Sector Annual Conference. Their estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Florida for 2017 is \$23.33 per hour. (Note, the dollar value for 2018 volunteer activities is not available until mid to late April 2019.)

For details on how this estimate of volunteer hours is derived see the web site for the 2017 Independent Sector Annual Conference. http://independentsector.org/Volunteer_time

The details of how we accomplished these levels are supplied in the following sections of this report.

1.1 History

In the mid-1980s, a local group of citizens concerned about our natural wildlife recognized that Brevard County contains some 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 green turtle nesting area in the Northern Hemisphere.

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As a result, this group led by Peter Bandre (honorary lifetime member) banded together to help sea turtles in our area and the Sea Turtle Preservation Society (STPS) was formed. STPS was incorporated within the state of Florida in 1986 and is registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) with a mission statement to “help sea turtles survive.” To confirm the registration status of STPS, check the FDACS online Check-A-Charity tool to find out if a charity is properly registered: <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Consumer-Resources/Consumer-Protection/Charities-FAQ>.

Many of our active volunteers are permitted by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to work with endangered and threatened sea turtles. However, STPS is not an enforcement agency.

1.2 Corporation Information

STPS is a registered 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization. It is a “grass roots” organization that is not associated with any parent corporation nor supported by any government funding. STPS generates funding to pay for equipment, supplies, facilities, etc., needed to conduct its sea turtle activities through the proceeds from the gift shop, donations and its various fundraising activities, such as the Turtle Krawl 5K Run/Walk race and the Night Walk/Watch events. Contributions are tax-deductible as allowable by law. From its corporate origin, STPS was established as an “all volunteer organization.” There are no “stakeholders” or single owner that profits from any fundraising or merchandise sales. As a volunteer organization, STPS relies on the efforts of its dedicated volunteers to accomplish essentially all of its tasks. The only exception to this is the staffing of one person in the office and gift shop.

1.3 Corporate Headquarters

STPS named its corporate headquarters “Turtle House”. It is located at 111 South Miramar Avenue, Indialantic, FL 32903. The Turtle House is approximately 1500 square feet and provides multifunctional space for the following:

1. **Office and Gift Shop** - The main entrance to the Turtle House is to the office and gift shop that is staffed Monday through Saturday 11:00 am until 5:00 pm in the spring and summer and 11:00 am to 4:30 pm in the fall and winter. Approximately 5,000 guests visited the Turtle House annually. The staff fields questions from the public and answers 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. Calls received from the public that are not sea turtle related are referred to the appropriate responders group. The staff supports the fielding of stranding reports and assists with other sea turtle activities.

The office contains materials required to conduct STPS business, outreach programs and permitted activities:

- File cabinets containing legal organizational documents, FWC permits, insurance contracts, forms used for stranding and walks, completed membership and adoption applications,
- Telephones, display counter and cash register,
- Presentation equipment (projectors and laptops),

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- Informational posters, brochures and educational displays.

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

The following table contains the volunteer staffing information for the Turtle House. These costs are derived by multiplying the number of volunteer hours by the cost per hour and adding the transportation cost.

2018 Turtle House Volunteer Staffing	Number of Hours
Gift Shop Management Committee	100
Modernizing the Store	100
Store Manager Oversight	100
2018 Total Turtle House Staffing - Volunteer Hours	300
2018 Value of Volunteer Time \$23.33 x 300 hrs = \$6,999	

2. **Education Center** - The Educational Center (which officially opened June 18, 2016) occupies a room adjacent to the gift shop. This space contains a variety of sea turtle educational displays and literature. It also has areas for group projects and one-on-one presentations to small groups.
3. **Sea Turtle Hatchling Drop Off** - A small drop off box is located in the back of the facility where sea turtle hatchlings can be deposited by the public after hours. A phone number is posted for them to call and alert our hotline. A sign on the front of the facility directs the public to the location of the drop box. There is also a drop box located at Lori Wilson Park South.
4. **Onsite Storage Area-**
The area provides storage for the following items:
 - a. Gift shop inventory
 - b. Equipment to support our various permitted activities such as STERP/stranding equipment and nest survey equipment
 - c. Supplies to support our major fundraising event, Turtle Krawl 5K Run/Walk Race
 - d. Freezer for temporary storage of deceased sea turtles for FWC pickup
 - e. Equipment for transporting live sea turtles to rehabilitation facilities
 - f. Supplies prepared to support our various special events
 - g. Public relations and educational material (brochures, flyers, posters and pamphlets)
5. **STPS Sea Turtle Stranding Vehicles-**

STPS now has two Sea Turtle Transport Vehicles. One is parked at our STPS Turtle House in Indialantic and the second is parked at the Port Canaveral Maritime Administration Building.

In 2018, STPS doubled its fleet of vehicles used for transporting injured and sick sea turtles to rehabilitation facilities. Though the current 2006 Chevrolet Colorado truck (purchased in 2008) has less than 70,000 miles on it, the harsh beach-side environment has taken its toll on the chassis. STPS applied for a Sea Turtle License Plate Grant to replace this vehicle with a late model, low mileage minivan. The approved grant was for a 50/50 shared cost for up to a \$20,000 purchase. A local wholesale dealer found a suitable 2017 Dodge Grand Caravan for \$17,200 (\$4,000 under market value). The grant requirement of \$20,000 total was met after

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outfitting the minivan with the necessary rescue equipment. Both vehicles have vinyl wraps designed by David Cruvey, a local artist with an eye for sea turtles.

Since 30 percent of Brevard County stranding activity occurs in or near Port Canaveral, STPS worked with the Port staff to permanently park the older vehicle at the Maritime Administration Building. The vehicle now acts as a storage unit for rescue equipment as well as a rolling advertisement for sea turtle conservation and can be used by our local team of volunteers. The newer vehicle is used for stranding and transport activities. In addition, the STPS education and events teams use the minivan to take displays to area festivals and outreach programs.

1.4 Mission - Helping Sea Turtles Survive

STPS's primary goal is to help maintain the current sea turtle populations and to prevent a potentially irreversible decline in that population. Our primary effort is focused on educating the public about marine turtles and the environmental niche they occupy. STPS reaches thousands of people each year through presentations/talks, exhibits at area events, our website and Facebook page, our Turtle Watches/Walk events during the sea turtle nesting season and visitors to the Turtle House. STPS's efforts to achieve this goal include the following activities:

- Educating the public about the hazards of nighttime beach activities with the goal of reducing disturbance and harassment of nesting sea turtles;
- Educating the public about the impact of lighting, beach debris, habitat destruction with the goal of increasing hatchling survival rate;
- Responding to reports of dead and injured sea turtles and contributing data to the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (STSSN);
- Rescuing hatchlings, post hatchlings and adult sea turtles and transporting them to permitted rehabilitation facilities;
- Conducting a nest survey project in conjunction with the Florida Nesting Survey Program;
- Educating the boating public about marine pollution and the 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;
- Supporting the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge; and
- Supporting the local "Sea Turtle Healing Center" by contributing a significant part of the proceeds from the Turtle Krawl 5K Run/Walk.
- Supporting local sea turtle researchers as well as regional sea turtle groups.

Special Projects / Highlights From 2018

- STPS funded one transmitter in the amount of \$5,000 for Dean Bagley's marine turtle research on male green turtles.
- STPS partnered with the Port Canaveral Authority, Wild Florida Rescue and Florida Wildlife Hospital with special presentations to Port Canaveral employees and Brevard County Sheriff's Department Port Security personnel. These presentations addressed "What to Do and Not Do" when encountering sea turtles and other injured wildlife.
- STPS assisted Indian River County turtle volunteers with transport to facilities.

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1.5 Economic Impact to Community

All sea turtles found in U.S. waters are listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). All sea turtles found in Florida are also protected by the Florida Statutes Title XXVIII 379.2431, also known as the Marine Turtle Protection Act. Both acts provide protection to threatened and endangered sea turtles with penalties for violations ranging from misdemeanors to third degree felony. This protection also requires that anyone interacting with sea turtles (dead or alive) must be permitted and properly trained by FWC guidelines. Since there is a large number of sea turtles that frequent the Brevard County waters and beaches, city and county officials must be prepared to address these federal and state requirements when turtles wash up on their community's shores. Currently, the cities rely on STPS to do this job. However, if STPS did not have trained and permitted volunteers to provide this vital function, each city would be responsible for performing this type of permitted support using its own financial resources.

In 2018, the STPS Stranding Team responded to 246 stranding calls in Brevard County. Of these 246 calls there were 49 turtles (17 live and 32 dead) that were within eight Brevard County city areas. The STPS effort required to respond to these turtles required 266 volunteer hours (valued at \$6,206) and \$1,360 for vehicle expenses. The overall value of this effort has been estimated to be \$7,566. (Note, this value does not include volunteer hours for any annual training.) STPS does not charge any fees for conducting stranding activities. STPS conducts stranding activities in all of Brevard County. Stranding activities are also conducted in the Melbourne Beach area by the guidance of the University of Central Florida and the University of Florida. This stranding activity is not included in the table.

To illustrate how this effort is a positive monetary impact to Brevard County's beachfront communities we have created the following table. This table shows the number of actual stranding events (that occurred in 2018) for the selected cities/towns and the approximate cost that each would have incurred if they were responsible for stranded sea turtles in their city. The cost data is broken down by volunteer hours to perform the stranding activities and the vehicle cost to transport live turtles to a rehab facility. This estimate does not include the cost of any miscellaneous equipment that may be needed to conduct the stranding or the annual recurring labor cost for training.

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STPS 2018 Stranding Calls for Eight Brevard County Cities						
City	Strandings		Volunteer Hours	Value of Volunteer Hours	Average Vehicle Cost	Total Cost For Each City
	Live	Dead				
	Note 1	Note 2				
Cape Canaveral	3	6	48	\$1,120	\$240	\$1,360
Cocoa Beach	2	8	44	\$1,027	\$160	\$1,187
Indialantic	1	3	19	\$443	\$80	\$523
Indian Harbor Beach	2	0	20	\$467	\$160	\$627
Melbourne Beach (Town & Region)	1	5	25	\$583	\$80	\$663
Port Canaveral and Jetty Park	5	1	53	\$1,236	\$400	\$1,636
Patrick Air Force Base	0	7	21	\$490	\$0	\$490
Palm Bay, Grant, Valkeria	3	2	36	\$840	\$240	\$1,080
Totals	49 Total		266	\$6,206	\$1,360	\$7,566

NOTES:

1. A typical stranded **live** turtle takes two people approximately 3 volunteer hours each to respond to and complete the stranding process. Additionally, it takes one person an average of 4 volunteer hours to transport the turtle to a rehabilitation facility; depending on the location of the facility. (Example for 10 live turtles: $(10 \times 2 \times 3) + (10 \times 1 \times 4)$ equals 100 hours.);
2. A typical stranded **dead** turtle takes one person approximately 3 volunteer hours to respond to and complete the stranding process (Example for 10 dead turtles: $10 \times 1 \times 3$ hours equals 30 volunteer hours);
3. Labor cost is calculated using the 2017 Independent Sector Annual Conference Estimate for Volunteer labor in Florida which is \$23.33 per hour;
4. Average vehicle expense is calculated at \$80 per roundtrip;
5. Stranded live turtles may be transported to any of the following rehabilitation facilities: Sea Turtle Healing Center, Ponce Inlet, Juno Beach, Gumbo Limbo Park, Orlando Sea World and Mote Marine-Sarasota.

2. Officers and Board of Directors

The STPS Board of Directors determines its direction 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 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 each January 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 Treasurer and Secretary are appointed by the STPS Board for an indefinite term and serve according to STPS’s policies and procedures. The primary permit holders for the Nest Survey Activities, the Stranding Activities, the Transport 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. The Board of Directors meets once a month or as otherwise directed in STPS’s policies and procedures. The STPS Board members are a “working board” in that the majority of the members take on an oversight role in the various organizational activities.

STPS Board of Directors for 2018		
Name	Term Expires	Position
Vickie Openshaw	Elected by Board	Chairperson
Vickie Openshaw	Appointed	Secretary
Kathy LeBresco	Appointed	Treasurer
Dori Hughes	Appointed	Primary Permit Holder for Nest Surveys
Roger Pszonowsky	Appointed	Primary Permit Holder for Strandings
Craig Konkell	Appointed	Primary Permit Holder for Night Walks
Dave Cheney	Appointed	Primary Permit Holder for Transports
Nikia Rice	2018	At Large Director - Education
Sarah Tolson	2018	At Large Director - Volunteers
Cindy Ullmer	2018	At Large Director – Turtle House Mgr
Jacqueline Maisto	2019	At Large Director - Membership
Jo-Ellen Mathews	2019	At Large Director – Donations/Adoptions
Heather Pepe	2019	At Large Director - Ambassador
Noelle Villanueva	2019	At Large Director – Events/Fundraising

2018 Board of Directors Meetings - Volunteer Hours	423
2018 Value of Volunteer Time \$23.33 x 423 = \$9,869	

NOTE: Thirteen board members met 13 times for approximately 2.5 hours per meeting.

3. Public Education

The primary mission of STPS is “helping sea turtles survive”. Educating the public about threats to sea turtles and explaining what the public can do to ensure their survival is the most effective method of accomplishing this mission. We are very proud of these efforts and consistently receive very positive responses from those who take advantage of them. We consistently try to integrate our education efforts 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 learn more about our efforts.

STPS has developed the following approaches to educate the public:

1. Education Center
2. Presentations
3. Displays
4. Educational Events
5. Turtle Watch/Walk Program
6. Adopt A Turtle Program
7. Attention Boaters Program
8. Lights Out for Sea Turtles Program
9. Skip The Straw Campaign

Learn about each of these in the following sections.

3.1 Education Center

In 2018, STPS hosted the following activities in our Education Center: summer camp groups, science fair interviews, homeschooling group presentations and various other impromptu group activities. The STPS Education Center has a variety of informational posters, brochures and educational displays. Sea turtle related artwork from local children around the state and beyond is featured throughout the center. In addition, the center contains stations for hands on and interactive education and sea turtle videos. The center can be reserved for presentations for groups of 20-25. The center also has real sea turtle artifacts including skulls, carapaces, and other products that STPS is permitted to display. Additional replicas include a life-sized adult green turtle, a sub-adult loggerhead, a juvenile loggerhead and a juvenile Kemp’s Ridley.

On World Sea Turtle Day (June 16, 2018) we instituted a campaign **“to keep the beaches clean, dark and flat for the turtles”** by pledging to do the following:

- Never littering,
- Picking up trash when I can,
- Never using a flashlight on the beaches during nesting season,
- Knock down my sandcastles,
- Fill in any holes in the sand.

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We have received over 500 signatures and counting.

We also started a **“skip the straw campaign”** to spread awareness and inspire action to stop using plastic straws.

3.2 Presentations, Displays and Events

During 2018, STPS was invited to provide the following presentations and displays to various demographics around Brevard County. Approximately 38,000 people attended one or more of these educational outreach events in which STPS participated.

- The presentations were made at schools, libraries, festivals, community organizations and clubs in the Brevard County area. The presentations were of two types: a slide/video show or an informal lecture. Both included a question and answer period.
- The displays and events 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 following is a list of the public presentations and displays STPS volunteers conducted during 2018.

STPS Presentations and Displays for 2018				
Date	Activity	Type	Location	Volunteer Hours
1/10/18	Down Under Dive Club	Presentation	Rooney's Restaurant, Palm Bay	22
2/2-2/4/18	Florida Marine Turtle Permit Holder's Meeting	Education Display Table	World Golf Village Renaissance, St. Augustine	10
3/2/18	Enrichment Talk	Presentation	Victoria Landing Assisted Living Facility, Melbourne	8
3/10/18, 4/14/18	Turtle Talk	Presentation	Eau Gallie Public Library	13
3/24/18	Turtle Talk	Presentation	Cocoa Beach Public Library	8
3/26/18	Restoration Education Day (ADIL project)	Presentation	Indialantic Elementary	4
4/1-4/30/18	Library display Case	Display	Merritt Island Public Library	3
4/5/18	Brevard Federation of Teachers	Presentation	1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge	2
4/7/18	Turtle Talk	Presentation	Suntree Public Library, Viera	8
4/14/18	Love Our Lagoon	Display/ Presentation	Tortoise Island, Merritt Island	10
4/16/18	Boaters Organization	Presentation	Beef O'Brady's, Melbourne	3
4/23/18	Environmental Day	Display/ Presentation	Our Saviours Catholic School, Cocoa Beach	4

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STPS Presentations and Displays for 2018				
Date	Activity	Type	Location	Volunteer Hours
5/1/18	Neighbors of the Lakes of Melbourne	Presentation	Lakes of Melbourne	2
5/2/18	After School Enrichment Activity	Presentation	Sea Park Elementary, Satellite Beach	4
5/4/18	Materials Drop Off	Drop Off Presentation Materials	Merritt Island Public Library	2
5/10/18	Master Naturalist Group	Presentation	Cocoa	3
5/12/18, 5/26/18	Sea Turtle Emergency Response Program Training	Presentation	Satellite Beach Public Library	20
5/12/18, 5/26/18	Turtle Talk	Presentation	Satellite Beach Public Library	12
5/14/18	School visit	Presentation	No Limits Academy, Eau Gallie	4
5/19- 5/20/18	Boat Races	Presence	Cocoa Beach	8
5/29/18	Eagle Scout Project	Meeting	STPS Education Center, Indialantic	2
6/6/18	Summer Camp Visit	Presentation	St Mary Elementary, Rockledge	4
6/7/18	Rotary Park Nature Camp Visit	Summer Camp	STPS Education Center, Indialantic	3
6/9/18, 6/23/18, 7/21/18	Turtle Talk	Presentation	Cocoa Beach Public Library	12
6/12/18,6/23/18	Sea Turtle Emergency Response Program Training	Presentation	Cocoa Beach Public Library	20
6/14/18	Melbourne Parks and Recreation	Summer Camp with Cleanup	STPS Education Center, Indialantic	4
6/22/18	Summer Camp Talk	Presentation	Cape Canaveral Public Library	3
6/25/18	Summer Camp	Presentation	La Petite Academy, Merritt Island	3
6/26/18	Florida Fly Fishing Association	Presentation	Kay's BBQ, Cocoa	4
6/27/18	Summer Program	Presentation	Martin Luther King Jr Public Library, Melbourne	3
7/7/18	Turtle Talk	Presentation	West Melbourne Public Library	7
7/17/18	New Neighbors Organization	Presentation	Hilton Beachside, Mel. Beach	3
7/26/18	Community Action Forum	Presentation	Crowne Plaza, Mel. Beach	3
7/30/18, 8/1/18, 8/3/18	Coral Reef Academy	Summer Camp	STPS Education Center, Indialantic	4
8/23/18	Sea Turtle Social	Social	Intracoastal Brewing Co., Eau Gallie	10

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STPS Presentations and Displays for 2018				
Date	Activity	Type	Location	Volunteer Hours
9/13/18	Philanthropic Education Organization (Viera chapter)	Presentation	Residential, Viera	3
10/4/18	Sea A Difference Organization, Indialantic Elementary	A Day in the Life of the IRL	Sample Site near 192 Causeway, Melbourne	8
10/16/18	Brevard Virtual School	Clean up and field talk	Residential, Cocoa Beach	6
10/18/18	Science Night	Education Table	Harbor City Elementary, Melbourne	5
10/20/18	Girl Scout Troop	Camp	STPS Education Center, Indialantic	6
10/24/18	7 th /8 th Grade Class	Presentation	Southwest Middle School, Palm Bay	4
10/26/18	Environmental Literature Class	Presentation	Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne	3
2018 STPS Presentations and Displays - Volunteer Hours				270
2018 Value of Volunteer Time \$23.33 x 270 hrs = \$6,299				

Throughout the year, STPS regularly participates in events across Brevard County. Our events include festivals, college events, workplace events, community gatherings, organizational events, etc. These events provide STPS an opportunity to educate our community about sea turtles and also raise funds (by selling sea turtle related merchandise) to support our various activities. In 2018, STPS added several new events to the calendar as well as returning to events we have participated in for years. STPS had two record-setting sales events, out of more than 25 that were attended. The first in May was the Melbourne Beach Founder's Day and the second was the Titusville Sea Turtle Festival, which took place just a month later in June.

The following is a list of the public events STPS volunteers participated in during 2018.

STPS Public Events for 2018			
Event Name	Location	Date	Volunteer Hours
Samson Island Open House	Satellite Beach	17-Feb-18	19
Pelican Island Wildlife Festival	Pelican Island	03-Mar-18	38
Book Signing	Cocoa Beach Library	10-Mar-18	14
STEAM Night	Lockmar Elementary	12-Apr-18	10
WFIT Sonic Waves Music Fest	Intracoastal Brewery Company	14-Apr-18	26
Northrop Grumman Earth Day	Northrop Grumman	17-Apr-18	14
FIT Earth Week	FIT-Melbourne	20-Apr-18	19
Brevard Zoo Party for the Planet	Brevard Zoo	21-Apr-18	34
Private event for Unity Church of Melbourne	Unity Church of Melbourne	21-Apr-18	7

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STPS Public Events for 2018			
Event Name	Location	Date	Volunteer Hours
Pet Supermarket Customer Appreciation Event	PSM on Palm Bay Rd	22-Apr-18	12
Melbourne Beach Founder's Day	Melbourne Beach	05-May-18	46
Kids Fishing Derby	Riggs Outpost	19-May-18	19
Titusville Sea Turtle Festival	Downtown Titusville	08-Jun-18	8
Titusville Sea Turtle Festival	Downtown Titusville	09-Jun-18	45
World Sea Turtle SHELLebration	Brevard Zoo	16-Jun-18	40
Back-Pack Give-Away	Verizon in Rockledge, FL	22-Jul-18	16
National Night Out	Melbourne Square Mall	07-Aug-18	6
Teacher Open House	Brevard Zoo	12-Sep-18	8
Wild About Nature	The Avenue Viera-Melting Pot parking lot	22-Sep-18	26
Paws & Pints	Port Canaveral	06-Oct-18	25
Creatures Fest	Barrier Island Center	13-Oct-18	27
Science Night	Harbor City Elementary	18-Oct-18	4
Cocoa Beach Night Out	Cocoa Beach Country Club	23-Oct-18	17
Satellite Beach Founder's Day	David R. Schechter Community Center	03-Nov-18	30
Native Rhythms Festival	Wickham Park	10-Nov-18	29
Hoot in the Park	Wickham Park	17-Nov-18	23
Ocean Beach Reef Festival	Paradise Beach	01-Dec-18	41
Turtles & Brews	Intracoastal Brewing Company	16-Dec-18	45
Grand Opening Luau	BeachFly Brewing Company	29-Dec-18	24
2018 STPS Public Events - Volunteer Hours			672
2018 Value of Volunteer Time \$23.33 x 672 hrs =			\$15,678

3.3 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 2018, STPS held 40 public turtle watches/walks attended by over 1200 people. The demographics of our guests included groups from 30 states outside of Florida, and groups from 8 foreign countries (Canada, United Kingdom, France, Italy, Norway, Netherlands, Denmark, and Hong Kong). There are no guarantees that attendees will see actual nesting, since it is up to the cooperation of Mother Nature and sea turtles. In 2018, there were thirteen nights that attendees were not able to observe an actual nesting loggerhead. All of the beaches that we held walks on were re-nourished prior to the walk season, and it was expected that there would be some negative impact on the nesting. It usually takes a couple of years for the beach to normalize from such

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projects, so we look forward to better results in the future. The beaches of Brevard County are part of the largest loggerhead nesting area in the world and the largest nesting area in the Northern Hemisphere for green turtles. We value the opportunity to share these nesting beaches with our diverse guests from the United States and around the world.

This year we introduced a Turtle Walk T-Shirt that was sold exclusively at the turtle walks. We held a contest (open to all STPS members) for the design of the artwork on these t-shirts. They were a large part of the merchandise sales at the walks.

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 the nesting turtle. Walks were conducted at three different locations, 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:

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

STPS Walk Permit Holder Craig Konkell acted as the 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 23 Permitted Guides and approximately 52 Non-Permitted Guides that assisted. All of the guides are volunteers.

The following tables (for Training and Actual Walks) illustrate the “typical participation levels” of the STPS volunteers for the Walk/Watch Program. The hours presented are an approximation. The actual time it takes to complete a Walk/Watch can vary depending on the weather and the turtles. Actual hours worked by Walk Guides are captured on weekly log sheets. This data was used to calculate the total Turtle Walk/Watch volunteer hours contributed.

Training Turtle Walks		
Volunteers Attending		Number of Training Sessions (Each guide is required to attend one training session.)
Permitted	Non Permitted	
23	52	2

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Actual Turtle Walks			
Walk Staff per Walk		Walk Duration	Number of Walks
Walk Leader	1	4 hrs	40
Greeter	1	1 hrs	40
Presenter	1	1 hrs	40
Merchandise Sales	2	1 hrs	40
Turtle Scouts	12	3 to 4.5 hrs per walk	40

2018 Turtle Watch/Walk - Volunteer Hours	2799
2018 Value of Volunteer Time \$23.33 x 2799 = \$65,301	

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 learn the functions of the Permitted Guides. 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.

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.

- Only loggerhead turtles may be observed by participants.
- Interpretive programs on sea turtle biology and conservation are mandatory.
- Public awareness turtle watches/walks may not be commercialized. (STPS requests a donation to cover expenses.)
- Age limitations for participants are left to the discretion of the principal permit holder.
- Scout teams will be utilized to search for nesting loggerhead sea turtles.
- Participant flashlights are not permitted.

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- Guides and Scouts are encouraged to invite persons who are out on their own to join the group. (STPS encourages beach "pick-ups".)
- Guides and Scouts must exercise great caution when exposing a nest.
- Participants must stay with the group, remain quiet and approach the sea turtle from the rear.
- Use of flash photography and lights for filming is not permitted.
- Only one nesting turtle shall be observed by the group.
- No more than five turtle watches/walks may be conducted per seven day week.
- A summary of each watch shall be completed on the Turtle Watch Summary form.

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. Adopting a sea turtle helps to support the STPS'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 were 198 adoptions in 2018, which is an increase of 25 or 14.5%. Sixteen of the twenty-five were Turtle Krawl Race adoptions. Race participants could select to adopt a hatchling or nest as part of their registration package. The Turtle Krawl adoptions increased 15.4% over last year. There were 120 Turtle Krawl adoptions, which made up 60.6% of the total adoptions. There are three options available from which to choose:

1. **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 143 hatchling adoptions in 2018 (Turtle Krawl-93 / Non Turtle Krawl-50)
2. **Adopt a Nest:** For a forty-five dollar donation, donors' help STPS nest watch/walk efforts by adopting a nest. Each nest adoption includes:
 - A personalized certificate of adoption
 - A personalized thank you letter
 - Information on sea turtle nesting
 - There were 39 nest adoptions in 2018 (Turtle Krawl-27 / Non Turtle Krawl-12)
3. **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
 - Sea Turtle Preservation Society Sticker
 - There were 16 stranded turtle adoptions in 2018 (Turtle Krawl-0 / Non Turtle Krawl-16)

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Adopt a Turtle Program	Number of Adoptions
Adopt a Hatchling	143
Adopt a Nest	39
Adopt a Stranded Turtle	16
TOTAL Adoptions	198

2018 Adopt A Turtle - Volunteer Hours	173
2018 Value of Volunteer Time \$23.33 x 173 hrs =	\$4,036

3.5 Attention Boaters Program

In 2018 STPS continued the Attention Boaters Program. This program began in 2011 as a direct response to the Cocoa Beach offshore boat races that were held during the Sea Turtle Nesting Season (May 1 through October 31) in Cocoa Beach, FL. Injuries related to boating encounters account for the highest cause of sea turtle deaths in our area. STPS has used grant funds awarded in 2012 and 2015 from the Sea Turtle License Plate Grants Program to fund this education program. This program is directed toward boaters and increasing their awareness of the threat boats present to sea turtles in our waters.

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 the following components:

- Water-resistant information cards that provide information related to the special boating precautions necessary when navigating in waters with sea turtles present. These cards were distributed 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.
- "Attention Boaters" signs (18"x24") were erected at boat ramps throughout Brevard County including a larger version at Ballard Park in Melbourne. These signs alert boaters to sea turtle activity in the local waters and educate boaters about the threat they may pose to sea turtles. STPS plans to erect more of these signs at other marine parks in Brevard County as funds become available.

For 2018, STPS continued to support the Cocoa Beach boat race with a five person marine observation team. This team was composed of three volunteers on boats, two in the observation helicopter and one in the staging area. Additionally we distributed the information cards to area boat shops and spectators at the race. We also had an educational table with exhibits where we talked with the boat race drivers about sea turtles.

2018 Attention Boaters - Volunteer Hours	140
2018 Value of Volunteer Time \$23.33 x 140 hrs =	\$3,266

3.6 Lights Out for Sea Turtles Program

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, which is officially designated as May 1 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. Sea turtle marine biologists report that darker beaches are safer and more attractive to female turtles and 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.

For 2018, we continued to support the Lights Out program with the distribution of the rack cards and the vinyl banners.

Our 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 have been placed in several beachside resort hotel lobbies.

After 9, It’s Turtle Time

Helping get the word out and assisting local businesses in complying with lighting ordinance’s, STPS created a 4”x4”window removable “cling” that was to be placed on large windows and sliding glass doors to alert guests of the need for dark beaches. The design was borrowed from a Sea Turtle License Plate grantee, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation.

The cling shows a smiling “cartoon like” turtle standing on a moonlit beach sporting a watch with the caption:

“After 9, it’s turtle time! CLOSE CURTAINS & BLINDS OR TURN OFF LIGHTS”.

In addition to the “cling”, a similar image was put on a magnet material and distributed to hotels. It was expected to be put on mini fridges.

2018 Lights Out - Volunteer Hours	110
2018 Value of Volunteer Hours \$23.33 x 110 hrs	= \$2,566

4. Stranding and Salvage Program

STPS supports the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (STSSN), which was 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.

There are over 300 miles of shoreline in Brevard County that includes the Atlantic beach; the shores of the Indian River, Banana River and the Mosquito Lagoon. When a sea turtle becomes stranded, typically individuals from the general public will notice it on one of our beaches and contact the STPS using our emergency phone number. The STPS emergency number is published in a variety of publications in the Brevard County area. Additionally, stranding calls are received at the Turtle House during office hours. These calls, regarding sick, injured or dead sea turtles, result in the activation of our Stranding Team. Volunteers that monitor the phone system get important details about the turtles such as location and condition. Calls from the public, which are left as a voice mail, are converted to a phone text message and an email message. The messages are forwarded immediately to several Stranding Team members. The Stranding Team is on call 365 days a year to rescue and salvage the endangered and threatened sea turtles. When a call is received regarding other wildlife problems (not sea turtles) the volunteer will pass along the information to the appropriate responder group.

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 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 biennial training class held by a Stranding Coordinator from FWC, and the primary 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**). **The purpose of this program is to provide beach coverage to search for and rescue** "Post Hatchling" sea turtles (young turtles, less than 10 centimeters in straight maximum length 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 layer of seaweed is called the Sargasso Sea and is part of the Atlantic Gyre. This is essentially a sea turtle nursery in that it provides nutrients 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 along with large amounts of seaweed and algae. These "washback" or post hatchling sea turtles are exhausted,

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dehydrated and in need of medical attention. If 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 beach “wrack line” searching 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 FWC.

4.1 Stranding Activities

In 2018, Roger Pszonowsky was the STPS Primary Permit Holder in charge of the STPS Stranding Team. The STPS stranding team (consisting of the basic stranding team members, the STERP team members and the newly formed Transport team members) were actively involved with all facets of the stranding process throughout the year. Additionally, they participated in a variety of training related activities.

In 2018, the team completed 246 stranding reports in Brevard County which is one more than last year. This number of reports included 76 adult turtles (35 live and 41 dead) and 170 post hatchlings (young turtles between 5 and 10 cm) that weather events brought back to shore. STPS continued to assist with transport for the Indian River County.

4.1.1 Stranding/Salvage Training

The annual Florida Marine Turtle Permit Holders Meeting was held in Saint Augustine, Florida, in February 2018. FWC sponsors this annual meeting to provide the latest research data, announcements and networking opportunities for all Marine Turtle Permit Holders. Attendance is required for primary permit holders. It is open to volunteers and those named on the various permits. STPS had 10 stranding volunteers attend this meeting.

During 2018, the STPS Primary Permit Holder for stranding conducted training that covering the potential impact of transporting and handling injured sea turtles. FWC recognized the need for a formal FWC Transport Permit in limited areas of the state. Volunteers who are interested in transporting injured sea turtles are now required to be formally named on a FWC Transport Permit. In order to qualify they are required to take the STPS developed training module. This formalized Transport Training will increase a sea turtle’s survival chances and allow more volunteers the opportunity to take part in hands on activities. Dave Cheney, an STPS Board Member and Lead for the STERP Activities, was issued the first FWC Transport Permit in November of 2017. This action set the stage for STPS to implement the new Sea Turtle Transport protocol for 2018. See section 4.3 for additional information about this new STPS Sea Turtle Transport Program.

Additionally, 16 STPS volunteers attended a weekend conference at the Marathon Turtle Hospital in December 2018. This is essentially a “kick off” for the upcoming year. The conference activities included necropsies, surgery techniques and networking with Florida and regional turtle rehabilitation experts. STPS was invited to speak about the transport program at the conference that included Veterinarians, Vet techs, researchers and rehabilitation personnel. Four persons requested copies of our training program.

One third of sea turtle strandings in the Brevard County area are in Port Canaveral area where recreational fishing and recreational/commercial boating mix with the natural habitat of young sea turtles and shorebirds. For 2018, STPS continued to provide instructional presentations to support the Port Canaveral area. These presentations focus on “What do you do when finding an injured

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turtle or shore bird?." STPS hosted (with Florida Wild Animal Hospital and Wild Florida Rescue) four sessions to highlight the "do's and don'ts" on proper handling of sea turtles and shore birds. Of the four presentations; one was dedicated to sheriff deputies and the others were held for employees of the Port and local businesses. Each of these sessions lasted approximately 3 hours. These types of presentations are planned again in 2019 to reach those interested employees that missed it as well as refresher courses. Throughout 2018, deputies expressed their appreciation for this helpful support.

4.1.2 Stranding/Salvage Activity

The following data is extracted from the 2018 stranding documents completed by STPS volunteers and may not include reports by other stranding permit holders in Brevard County. There were 76 strandings of which 35 were live turtles (46%). Several weather events washed in post hatchlings (young turtles less 10 centimeters) that have previously made the journey to the sea.

STPS 2018 Documented Strandings	Number of Turtles
Loggerheads (<i>Caretta caretta</i>)	21
Greens (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>)	52
Hawksbill (<i>Eretmochelys imbricate</i>)	1
Unknown	2
TOTAL	76

Note: The table above excludes the Post Hatchling turtles.

In addition to the 76 turtles in the table above, there were 170 Post Hatchling turtles that were transported to the Sea Turtle Healing Center. The table below lists the facilities where the live turtles were transported to and the number of trips to each facility.

Sea Turtle Re-Hab Facilities	Number of Trips
Sea Turtle Healing Center	60 (170)*
Sea World Orlando	2
Marine Science Center, Volusia	2
Gumbo Limbo, Boca Raton	1

Note: The Sea Turtle Healing Center received over 170 post hatchlings. These were transported in groups of 2 to 5 turtles.

During 2018, the Stranding Team participated in several turtle releases that were done by the responsible rehabilitation facility or FWC. Generally, sea turtles that are released are returned to the location of their rescue.

In 2018, FWC reported a total of 2605 documented strandings in Florida:

- 840 Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*)
- 1189 Green (*Chelonia mydas*)
- 506 Kemp's Ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*)
- 18 Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricate*)
- 11 Leatherbacks (*Dermochelys coriacea*)
- 41 Unknown

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There were several “Red Tide “events on the west coast of Florida in late 2018 which increased the number stranding of several species. There was a “Cold Stun” event in Northwest Florida as well.

The table below is an estimate of the total number of volunteer hours expended by the STPS StrandingTeam during 2018.

STPS Stranding Activities for 2018				
Stranding Activity	Total for Year	Persons	Hours per Stranding, Event or Week	Estimated Volunteer Hours
Dead Strandings	41	1.5	3	185
Live Rescues (transport hours are included in Sec 4.3)	35	2	6	408
Other Stranding Activities				
Training (does not include STERP)		98	6	588
Rehabilitation Workshop		15	28	420
Permit Holders Meeting		12	20	240
Program Management - (52 Weeks)		2	35	3640
Turtle Facility Consult - (52 Weeks)		1	3	156
2018 Stranding – Total Volunteer Hours				5637
2018 Value of Volunteer Hours \$23.33 x 5637 hrs = \$131,511				

4.2 STERP Activities

In 2018, the STPS Sea Turtle Emergency Response Program (STERP) completed its eleventh year. The community response for this program continues to be as enthusiastic as when it was initiated.

Workshops were held May 12th, May 26th, June 12th and June 23rd. A total of 158 individuals completed the workshop presentations. Attendance rosters from each session were sent to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. We received Letters of Authorization (LOA) for 158 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.

Hurricane Michael and onshore winds brought seaweed and post hatchlings to the Brevard beaches in the beginning of October. Hatchlings were also being trapped in the seaweed or failed to make it through the rough surf. The general public started calling STPS after finding these turtles on the beach. They were directed to our established drop-off locations which are checked routinely. As the numbers increased we declared an “Event” to activate our STERP volunteers. The Event ran from 10/08 through 10/11. Since this was during the work week only 25% of those on the LOA responded; which did include several who worked. STPS will continue to work on encouraging volunteers to increase their response rates.

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Each turtle was evaluated by a member of the STPS Stranding and Salvage team. The team member must determine if the turtle is a hatchling and capable of making the 20+ mile swim to the sargassum weed line. A newly hatched turtle has three days of nutrients to make this trip and usually demonstrates an active desire to crawl to the water. Such a hatchling would be classified as “viable”. If however, a hatchling was in-route or already at the sargassum weed line and has been blown back to the beach, then it will not be capable of making a second trip; and thus classified as “non-viable”. If the turtle is determined by its size to be a post hatchling or an adult, then it is classified as “non-viable”. Viable hatchlings were released in accordance with FWC protocol and non-viable hatchlings were taken to the Sea Turtle Healing Center. In all there were 424 greens and loggerheads taken to the center (170 were post hatch).

During this extended period, we had a number of print and television stories covering it. Through the media and Facebook we were able to communicate to the public what to do if they found a hatchling, post hatchling, or exposed nest/eggs. They were also informed on how to transport and where to bring it. We estimated that the public brought in approximately 50% of the hatchlings recovered. As they dropped them off to STPS, we provided some one-on-one education describing what was happening and what we are doing to help the turtles survive.

STERP volunteers also assisted with the distribution of literature to beach side condos, hotels and businesses. This literature addressed sea turtles that nest on Brevard County beaches, the Lights Out Program during the nesting season and sea turtle reporting procedures. STPS volunteers also assisted in distributing Attention Boaters Program cards during the Cocoa Beach Super Boat race in May 2018; and then later to marinas, bait shops and marine related businesses. Several STPS volunteers helped as observers during the Super Boat Race. 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 2018.

STPS STERP Activities for 2018			
STERP Activity	Hrs.	Volunteers	Estimated Volunteer Hours
Training (STERP and Cold Stun)	3	158	474
Registration/Prep	4	20	80
Hurricane Response	8	40	320
Boat Race Observers	8	7	56
Literature distribution to Beach Hotels and Condos, Marinas, Bait Shops, Boat Ramps, etc.	8	15	120
General Public Hours including educating them (approximately 200 turtles x 2 hrs / turtle)			400
2018 STERP - Total Volunteer Hours			1450
2018 Value of Volunteer Hours \$23.33 x 1450 hrs			= \$33,829

4.3 Sea Turtle Transport Program

In November 2017, FWC granted Dave Cheney a permit that covers the transporting of sea turtles to and from rehab facilities throughout Florida. This marked the beginning of the STPS Sea Turtle Transport Program. To be eligible each volunteer must attend FWC’s Stranding and Salvage Class and also a special STPS training session on transporting. All FWC permits include a Primary Permit Holder plus up to a maximum of 24 additional individuals can be named on the permit. In selecting who will be added to the permit, STPS considered two factors: the individual’s availability and where they live.

Google Mail is used to notify the transport team members of the need to transport a turtle. When a transport is requested the team monitor will send all team members both a text message and an email. They are given the location of the turtle and its designated rehab facility. Based on the team member’s responses, the monitor will determine which member is best suited to do the transport based on location and timing. After each transport, an online Google form is completed that captures the details of the transport. The table below reflects the transports completed during 2018.

STPS SEA TURTLE TRANSPORT Activity for 2018	
Total Miles Driven (includes trips to Whitney Lab & Gumbo Limbo)	10,315
Total Transports Time (Includes transport by the Stranding and Salvage Team) at 2.5 hour Per Transport and 1 Volunteer per Trip	310 hrs
Training Time for 24 Volunteers at 3 hours each	72 hrs
2018 STPS TRANSPORT TEAM - Total Volunteer Hours	382
2018 Value of Volunteer Hours \$23.33 x 382 hrs = \$8,912	

Notes:

1. Time to transport averages 2.5 hours for each trip.
2. The total number of transports is not necessarily the same as the number of live turtles recued. Sometime multiple turtles can be transported on the same trip. Also, a single turtle may require multiple transports depending on the type of injuries and the need for subsequent rehabilitation at a different facility.

Implementation of the STPS Sea Turtle Transport Team with individuals who have been trained on how to safely transport sea turtles has reduced the overall transport time; thus allowing quicker access to needed medical care. In addition to the Transport Team, STPS members of the STPS Stranding and Salvage Team are also allowed to do transports.

4.4 Brevard Zoo’s “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 or Transport 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. Therefore whenever possible we want to transport to the Sea Turtle Healing Center. In some cases a turtle may go there for an evaluation prior to being transported to another facility when the Center is full.

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In 2013, STPS entered into a three-year partnership agreement with Brevard to develop Brevard County's first sea turtle medical facility. 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. In 2016 we renewed our three year agreement (ending October 2019) with the same annual contribution of \$25,000.

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 Brevard Zoo volunteers at the Sea Turtle Healing Center facility under the supervision of Brevard Zoo staff.

During 2018, STPS volunteers made 81 trips (hatchling/post hatchling & injured) to the Sea Turtle Healing Center. FWC continues to determine where a sea turtle is transported, but having this facility as an available option reduces transportation time and increases sea turtles survivability rate.

In addition, STPS transported approximately 426 hatchlings (which included 170 post hatchlings) [a/k/a "wash backs"] to the Sea Turtle Healing Center. During the peak of the event we were making two to three trips a day. Without the availability of the facility, we would have had a serious logistics problem of having to transport to other facilities in Orange and Volusia counties.

5. Sea Turtle Nesting Survey Program

The Sea Turtle Preservation Society participates in the Florida statewide sea turtle nest monitoring program, which is coordinated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The primary purpose of this program is to use annual survey data to determine the nesting trends of the sea turtles that nest on Florida beaches.

In 2018, some 2,900 volunteers monitored 828 miles of beach statewide through this program. Statewide 91,451 loggerhead nests, 4,545 green nests and 949 leatherback nests were reported in Florida. For all of Brevard County there were 23,294 loggerhead nests, 1,598 green nests and 38 leatherback nests documented.

STPS's first nest survey permit was granted in 1996, and the survey has been conducted each year since with the exception of 2014 and 2015 when survey efforts were voluntarily put on hold due to a beach re-nourishment project. From 2009 to 2013, the survey area was extended to a four-mile stretch. In 2016, STPS restarted the nest surveys covering the original two miles.

During the 2018 season, 57 STPS volunteers participated in the nest survey effort along a two-mile stretch of beach in Cocoa Beach beginning on April 15 and ending Sept. 15. These volunteers counted 265 nests laid in the survey area; a stretch of beach along the Atlantic Ocean that starts near the northern boundary of Patrick Air Force Base and continues to a few buildings north of 10th Street South. Of these nests, just three were green turtles and the remainder was loggerhead sea turtles. No leatherback sea turtle nests were observed in our nesting area during the 2018 season. Several STPS volunteers continued monitoring the marked nest sites to check for signs of emergence through early October.

During the daily surveys, volunteer teams walk different sections of the entire survey area and document all nests and false crawls. Recorded data includes the type of turtle as determined by track and nest characteristics, the location, and any signs of depredation; including signs of interference by man and/or animal. Additionally, approximately 20 percent of the nests found are marked with stakes for evaluation after the eggs have hatched, which is approximately 55 days. The criteria used for marking nests also included marking all non-loggerhead nests.

After a nest has either hatched or it is more than 70 days old, it 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. Any live hatchling is 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 survey results are reported to the Florida Marine Research Institute of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

During the daily early morning nest survey walks, volunteers also answer questions posed by beachgoers and pick up trash on the beach to include recycling plastic and glass collected.

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The 2018 estimated volunteer hours for each activity are listed in the following tables.

STPS Pre-Season Nest Survey Training for 2018			
Activity	Volunteers	Hours Per Person	Volunteer Hours
Volunteer Orientation Sessions (2)	90	3	270
Team Organizational Meeting	27	3	81
TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS			351

Nest Surveys			
Number of Days Surveyed	Distance Surveyed (1 hour per mile)	Volunteers per Day (Average)	Volunteer Hours
Apr - 15	2 miles	4	120
May - 31	2 miles	4	248
Jun - 30	2 miles	4	240
July - 31	2 miles	4	248
Aug - 31	2 miles	4	248
Sept - 15	2 miles	4	120
TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS			1224

Nest Evaluations – Post Hatching			
Number of Evaluations	Hours Per Evaluation	People Per Evaluation	Volunteer Hours
62	1	4	248

Daily Paperwork Processing			
Activity	Number of Events	Hrs Per Day	Volunteer Hours
Number of Survey Days	152	2	304
Number of Evaluations	62	1	62
TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS			366

2018 Nest Survey – Total Volunteer Hours	2189
2018 Value of Volunteer Hours \$23.33 x 2189 hrs =	\$51,069

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 the public 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, Loggerhead Lowdown blog, STPS Facebook pages and our Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn accounts.

We provide information to various local and regional media outlets (newspapers and television) regarding sea turtle related events including the following:

- The beginning of nesting season,
- Sea turtle recovery,
- Weather related information affecting sea turtles, and
- Events such as the Turtle Krawl 5K Run/Walk and Night Walks in June and July.

In November we launched new marketing and publications team. To take on the challenge, this team of local volunteers (professionals in marketing and public relations) are able to reach out and better inform everyone who might come into contact with their lovable reptile neighbors.

Whenever an STPS volunteer is on the beach performing permitted sea turtle activities, the public almost always shows up and expresses a strong interest in what we are doing. Our volunteers are always prepared with educational literature to distribute and are eager to answer their questions. We consider this a very important method of educating the public because they will remember what they learn since they are simultaneously witnessing an actual sea turtle event.

Special presentations were provided at Port Canaveral to employees and security personnel addressing the handling of injured sea turtles, shore birds and other wild animals. Several local wildlife groups and Port Canaveral staff participated in these Power-Point presentations.

Lastly, STPS sponsors monthly beach cleanups at two beachfront parks (Coconut Point Park and Cherie Down Park) 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 Monthly Membership Meetings

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 August through November 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. We had an average of 40 attendees per meeting. STPS volunteers provide snacks for the attendees. The speakers for 2018 are identified below:

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STPS Monthly Meeting Guest Speakers for 2018		
Month	Speaker	Topic
January	Matt Fleming	Save the Mid Reach
February	Lisa Good	Blue Life FL
March	Wanda Scanes	Brevard Solid Waste
April	Shanon Gann	Brevard Zoo
May	Justin Caron	Alachua Conservation Trust
June & July	No Meetings For These Months	
August	Chris Long	UCF
September	Pete Bandre	Founding of STPS
October	STPS Board	STPS Updates
November	Dean Bagley	UCF
December	General Election Meeting	

2018 Membership Meetings – Total Volunteer Hours	847
2018 Value of Volunteer Hours \$23.33 x 847 hrs	= \$19,761

6.2 Communications

STPS communicates with its members and the public as shown in the following table.

We have been steadily growing our social media presence on Facebook and Twitter as well as Instagram and LinkedIn. Social media is an important aspect of educational outreach because of the ability to reach such a diverse audience without monetary obligations. In addition, social media allows us to share the many programs our volunteers participate in on a regular basis. Our goal in sharing these activities is to increase community involvement. We now have a considerable following of over 150,000 people on our Facebook page.

STPS Communications Activities for 2018		
Item	Contact	Comments
STPS Website	Sarah Tolson	SeaTurtleSpaceCoast.org
STPS Facebook	Nikia Rice	Facebook.com/SeaTurtlePreservationSociety
Turtle Talk / Turtle Times	Kimberly White, Editor Susan Skinner, Editor	In 2018, the newsletter was distributed twice. A decision was made to publish it quarterly in 2019. It was posted on the STPS website and an email notification (with the link to the newsletter) was sent to members. The newsletter link was also posted on the STPS Facebook page.
Loggerhead Lowdown blog	Becky Aud	https://SeaTurtleSpaceCoast.org/stps-news/loggerhead-lowdown The STPS blog shares information about STPS efforts and events as well as news and information about sea turtles, research and conservation. The blog posts are created by a team of STPS volunteers.

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STPS Communications Activities for 2018		
Item	Contact	Comments
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 and Marketing	Eric Needle	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 sent to this group and many result in news broadcasts. The broadcast media covered several stories this year including our response to hatchlings and post hatchling during and after hurricane Michael.

2018 Communications - Total Volunteer Hours	539
2018 Value of Volunteer Hours	\$23.33 x 539 hrs = \$12,575

6.3 Beach Cleanup Program

STPS has adopted two major sections of Brevard County beaches through Keep Brevard Beautiful (KBB) "Adopt-A-Shore" program. This effort helps to 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 at the base of 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. To read more about the KBB programs go to the following link: <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. Plastic left on the beach that washes into the ocean breaks down into very small pieces 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.

Volunteers meet the first Saturday after the first Thursday of each month to clean the beach. In addition, they also participate in the Carr Preserve Clean UP, 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.

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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. Geraldine Burke is the Coordinator with Mike Clark and Gina Myers completing the team. STPS-South was recognized by KBB in 2018 as the top-performing Adopt-a-Shore team.

2. STPS-North: STPS adopted **Cherie Down Park and Beach** in Northern Brevard County in Cape Canaveral in January 2015. Dave Cheney acted as STPS-North Coordinator for 2017 assisted by team member Everett Tindall. Mike Klapperich took responsibility in April 2018. 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 has become more populated and is a busier area of the county due to our Cruise Ship and Space industry. As a result, this site has proved to be attractive to many volunteers.

In addition to these sites, STPS members may clean any beach on their own schedule. Individuals 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. There was continuing interest in the individual reporting option in 2018 by newcomers including some students earning community service hours. Two longtime participating STPS members who continue to make frequent cleanup reports accounted for 95% of the hours reported for this option.

Community Service hours have always been available for beach cleanup participants and students have discovered the beach is the perfect place to earn hours. In 2017, tracking of community service volunteer numbers began at both Cherie Down (11) and Coconut Point (88) and these numbers increased significantly in 2018 to 77 and 116 respectively. Some students return regularly to fulfill requirements for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program or coursework requirements. The local high schools were represented: Melbourne, West Shore, Satellite Beach, Palm Bay, Bayside, Heritage, Viera, and Holy Trinity. Stone and DeLaura Middle Schools were represented as well as Eastern Florida State College, Barry University and Florida Tech. Workplace groups from Wells Fargo, Verizon Ricoh, and Northrop Grumman also came to the STPS cleanups to fulfill community service activities in a beach setting.

The following table summarizes the STPS 2018 Beach Cleanup activities and special cleanups.

STPS Beach Clean Ups for 2018					
Date	People	Bags	Recycle Bags	Location/ Comments	Estimated Volunteer Hours
01/06/2018	11	7	3	South	22
	0	0	0	North	0
02/03/2018	32	17	4	South	64
	0	0	0	North	0
03/03/2018	26	14	2	South	52
	0	0	0	North	0

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STPS Beach Clean Ups for 2018					
Date	People	Bags	Recycle Bags	Location/ Comments	Estimated Volunteer Hours
04/07/2018	35	15	2	South/ Trash Bash	70
	23	4	2	North/Trash Bash	46
04/21/2018	23	13	0	South/Carr Preserve	46
05/05/2018	23	12	8	South	46
	43	8	4	North	86
06/09/2018	49	10	2	South	98
	20	8	2	North	40
07/07/2018	20	12	4	South	40
	15	2	1	North	30
08/04/2018	24	8	4	South	48
	19	2	1	North	38
09/01/2018	23	7	0	South	46
	0	0	0	North/ Not Held	0
09/08/2018	3	1	0	North	6
09/15/2018	30	15	1	South /Coastal Clean-up	60
10/06/2018	31	10	2	South	62
	40	4	2	North	80
11/03/2018	0	0	0	South/ Area beaches Red Tide	0
	15	2	1	North	30
12/08//2018	46	14	4	South	92
	15	2	0	North/	30
Various Days	594	217	0	Individual Reporters	708
TOTALS	1160	404	49		1840

2018 Beach Clean Up – Total Volunteer Hours	1840
2018 Value of Volunteer Hours	\$23.33 x 1840 hrs = \$42,927

7. Fundraising Activities

All of the STPS activities (including stranding, nest surveys, turtle walks, educational presentations, beach cleanup, fundraising and others) 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 support our many activities and projects. These fundraising efforts include the following:

- Turtle Krawl 5K Run/Walk;
- Annual membership fees;
- Night Time Turtle Watch/Walks;
- Adopt a Turtle Program;
- Merchandise sales at the Turtle House and area environmental events;
- Direct donations by organizations or corporations;
- Direct donations by individuals;
- Corporate-sponsored promotions with STPS as the recipient of the donation;

7.1 Fundraising Committee

In 2018, the STPS Board of Directors named Noelle Villanueva as Director of Fundraising and a fundraising committee was established to investigate different methods of funding. To start, the committee organized the Turtle & Brews fundraiser, which was held at the Intracoastal Brewing Co. in December 2018.

7.2 Turtle Krawl 5K Run/Walk

The Turtle Krawl 5K Run/Walk is the largest fundraiser benefitting the STPS, the 2nd race in the SCR Runner of the Year (ROY) series, and one of the few races in Brevard County where runners come from out of state to run or walk the race. This year 97% of the registrations came from within the state of Florida and 3% came from 24 of the 50 United States. 2018 marked the ninth year STPS volunteers coordinated the race after it was resurrected by the STPS Board of Directors in 2010. (Brevard Parks and Recreation coordinated the Turtle Krawl “Fun Run” from 2000-2008). Planning Turtle Krawl requires considerable commitment on the part of the STPS volunteers but seeing the participants having fun and hearing positive comments on race day makes it well worth the effort. STPS goes above and beyond to ensure the Turtle Krawl 5K Run/Walk continues to be the largest (and arguably best) 5K race in Brevard County!

Early registration opened on March 26th offering a special discount for one week to runners who registered for the 2017 Turtle Krawl that was cancelled just days before race day due to mandatory evacuation for fast approaching Hurricane Irma. Regular registration for the 2018 race officially opened April 1st and by race day 2256 runners, walkers and competitive walkers had registered for the September 8th Turtle Krawl 5K Run/Walk race at James H. Nance Park in Indialantic by the Sea, Indialantic, Florida.

Race day at Nance Park began with a beautiful sunrise, warm 74 degree temperature, and 91% humidity with no chance of rain in the forecast. The sun was shining with just a few clouds at 7:30

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am, when 1909 runners, walkers, and competitive walkers began their 3.1-mile journey through the streets of Indialantic. Strategically placed water stops and three sprinklers provided temporary relief from the heat and humidity as participants made their way through the course. Humorous motivational signs along the way helped to make the race enjoyable and bring a smile for many. During the awards ceremony STPS presented an oversized \$25,000 check to the Brevard Zoo to help support the Sea Turtle Healing Center located at the zoo. The only thing missing from this year's race was the much loved turtle release, but there were no turtles in the rehabilitation facilities that were cleared by Fish and Wildlife to go home. Despite there being no sea turtle release after the race the motivated runners, walkers, volunteers, sponsors and guests gave up their time to help support the STPS mission to help sea turtles survive. Thousands of photos from the race are posted and can be viewed at <http://turtlekrawl.com/photos>.

Due to the continued popularity of the “**virtual race**” the STPS Board of Directors approved to repeat the virtual option for 2018 and it proved to be successful for the 3rd year in a row. Registration opened on August 1st and when it closed on September 30th there were 746 signed up from the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Austria, and Australia.

Combined registration fees from the Nance Park and virtual race, plus sponsorships for the Nance Park race, helped to make this year's race very successful for STPS. The STPS Board of Directors has agreed to set aside Turtle Krawl income for a "special projects" fund and 2018 marks the fifth year STPS has presented Brevard Zoo with a \$25,000 check to help financially support the Sea Turtle Healing Center from this fund. This sea turtle rehabilitation facility helps to ensure sea turtles rescued on Brevard County beaches get faster medical attention.

The Turtle Krawl race required numerous hours and hard work by the many volunteers who participated organizing the race plus poster hanging, race packet stuffing, early packet pickup, baking muffins, race day packet pickup, manning water stops, parking attendants, food/ beverage preparation/serving, and course marshals. The Turtle Krawl Committee organized and performed oversight of the race from start to finish. Volunteers on the 2018 Turtle Krawl Committee are listed below.

Vickie Openshaw	Race Director
Michael Petrillo	Sponsorship Coordinator
Jenny Sweeney	Assistant Sponsorship Coordinator
Ally Ruby	Assistant Sponsorship Coordinator
Lori Spencer	Volunteer Coordinator
Christine Scheeler	Turtle Krawl Facebook Coordinator
Tracy Sweet	Turtle Krawl Website Coordinator
Joanna Hause	Race Packet Pickup Coordinator
Jo-Ellen Mathews	Turtle Krawl Adoptions Coordinator
Dori Hughes	Food and Beverage Coordinator
Mike Wilbur	Turtle Krawl Treasurer
Mark Petrillo	Virtual Race/Turtle Krawl Advisor

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The race would not be possible without all the wonderful volunteers who give up their time to support STPS in our mission to help sea turtles survive.

STPS is grateful to our 2018 Turtle Krawl sponsors: Port Canaveral, SeaWorld Parks & Resorts Orlando, Slug-A-Bug, Absolutely Natural, Blinds of All Kinds, Gatto's Tires and Auto Service, Island's Fish Grill, Porter Premier Dermatology, Animal Emergency and Critical Care Center of Brevard, Launch Federal Credit Union, Turtle Towel, Coastal Health Systems of Brevard, Toyota of Melbourne, Southeastern Honda, Running Zone, Double Tree by Hilton, Florida Today, Virtual Strides, Walmart, Natalie's Orchid Island Juice Company, CLIF Bar, Clow Chiropractic, B&B Ice, New Balance, Starbucks, Planet Smoothie, United Rentals, Cumulus Radio Stations (95 Rock, Nash FM102.7, Sports Radio 1560 AM, and WA1A 107.1 FM), Waste Management, Beachside Time Out Massage, and SCR Runners of the Year Series.

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

Gender	Participants	Percent
Male	675	35%
Female	1234	65%
Total	1909	100%

Age Groups				
Age Group	Male	Female	Total	Percent
8 and under	29	37	66	3%
9 - 11	28	35	63	3%
12 - 14	26	22	48	3%
15 - 19	16	29	45	2%
20 - 24	26	36	62	3%
25 - 29	39	67	106	6%
30 - 34	45	88	133	7%
35 - 39	47	128	175	9%
40 - 44	57	102	159	8%
45 - 49	66	144	210	11%
50 - 54	75	149	224	12%
55 - 59	92	172	264	14%
60 - 64	59	120	179	9%
65 - 69	34	55	89	5%
70 - 74	18	11	29	2%
75 and over	9	17	26	1%
Competitive Walkers	9	22	31	2%
Total	675	1234	1909	100%

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Turtle Krawl 5K Run/Walk Activity	Volunteer Hours
Planning and Preparation	1200
Sponsor Acquisition	500
Promotion	100
Race Day	400
2018 Turtle Krawl - Total Volunteer Hours	2200
2018 Value of Volunteer Hours \$23.33 x 2200 hrs = \$51,326	

8. STPS Memberships

Membership is a vital component of our organization and has a dual function. STPS memberships provide our organization an opportunity to engage the general public and cultivate their interest in local, national and international sea turtles conservation needs and successes.

- Membership revenue is used exclusively for our programs. While volunteers conduct our many and varied programs, membership funds help to supplement the cost of equipment, supplies and fees associated with conducting programs that help sea turtles survive.

Members receive the “Turtle Talk” newsletter two times a year and can receive a 10% discount on all purchases (\$25.00 and above) at the Turtle House. Membership is open to anyone who wants to join. In accordance with a 2015 STPS Policy, active volunteers must be members in good standing to participate in all STPS programs; except beach cleanups and the Turtle Krawl 5K Run/Walk. Our membership levels and costs fare in the following table.

STPS Membership Levels for 2018		
Level	Membership Cost	Subscription Period
Student	\$15 (USD)	1 year
Individual	\$20 (USD)	1 year
* Family	\$30 (USD)	1 year
Contributor	\$50 (USD)	1 year
Lifetime	\$200 (USD)	Life
Endowment	\$300 (USD)	Life
Benefactor	\$500 (USD)	Life
** Honorary Lifetime	Awarded	Life

Note:

* Family memberships are limited to members of the same household.

** Honorary Lifetime memberships are awarded (by the STPS Board) to individuals who have made distinguishing contributions to STPS.

The following table shows the 2018 end-of-year numbers for each of the membership levels.

STPS 2018 Membership	
MEMBERSHIP LEVEL	ACTIVE
Student	37
Individual	185
Family	146
Contributor	24
Lifetime	219
Endowment	5
Benefactor	32
Honorary Lifetime	19
Total Members	667

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Our current membership resides in the United States, Canada and Great Britain with 84.9% of the membership living in Florida.

In 2018, STPS membership increased from 608 to 667, an increase of 59.

STPS uses Membership Management Software which 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 as well as register for training opportunities. STPS Education uses the membership profiles to log and track training completed by members. MMS also automates the membership renewal notice process.

The number of hours our membership management volunteer logged in this effort is shown below.

2018 Membership Management – Total Volunteer Hours	223
2018 Value of Volunteer Hours 223 hrs x \$23.33 =	\$5,203

9. Total Estimated Volunteer Hours

For 2018, STPS Volunteers have donated more than **twenty-two 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, nest surveys, etc.), plus estimates from the various directors and supporting volunteers of their time spent on a variety of activities necessary to keep the organization running.

Using these estimates and the 2017 Independent Sector Annual Conference estimated dollar value for volunteer time in Florida (\$23.33 per hour), STPS contributed approximately \$522,702 to the Brevard County community with our volunteer activities. (See the web site for the 2017 Independent Sector Annual Conference; http://independentsector.org/Volunteer_time for details on how this estimate of volunteer hours is derived.) Note, the dollar value for 2018 is not available until April 2019.

Document Section	TOTAL ESTIMATED VOLUNTEER HOURS BY ACTIVITY	Estimated Volunteer Hours
-	Financial Management	1058
-	Administrative Activities	1067
1.3	Corporate Headquarters	300
2.0	Board of Directors Meetings	423
3.0	Public Education (Includes 3.2, 3.4 thru 3.6)	1365
3.3	Turtle Watch/ Walks	2799
4.1	Stranding Activities	5637
4.2	STERP Activities	1450
4.3	Sea Turtle Transport Program	382
5.0	Nest Surveys	2189
6.1	Membership Meetings	847
6.2	Communications	539
6.3	Beach Cleanup	1840
7.0	Turtle Krawl 5K Run/Walk	2200
8.0	Membership Management	223
2018 TOTAL ESTIMATED VOLUNTEER HOURS		22319
2018 Value of Volunteer Hours \$23.33 x 22,319 hrs = \$520,702		

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

Year	Estimated Volunteer Hours	Annual Percent Change	Year	Estimated Volunteer Hours	Annual Percent Change
2011	11707	-	2015	15086	+24%
2012	12947	+10%	2016	18251	+21%
2013	15180	+17%	2017	22678	+24%
2014	12177	-20%	2018	22319	-1.6%

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THIS PAGE IS FOR TRACKING DETAIL OF HOURS**

Section	Activity	Estimated Hours Volunteer
	Financial Management Kathy Lebrescoe-treasurer(269 vol) and Cheryl (bookkeeper) combined hours 789 (from 2018)	1058
	Administrative Activities /Vol Coordinator- Website-[Anita Ziegner -email(225 volg)], Annual Report (150 Buddy, Vickie 100) Other Board hours from (592)volg	1067
1.3	Turtle House Office Support-Section 1.3	300
2.0	Board of Directors Meetings Vickie O. email (423)	423
3.x	Education (Includes: Presentations and Displays-Section 3.2 Events (270+672)/ Adoptions-Section 3.4(173)/ Attention Boaters-Section3.5(140)/ Lights Out-Section-Section 3.6(110))/ Events Coordination- Noel emai (???)	1365
3.3	Turtle Watch/ Walks-Section 3.2	2799
4.1	Stranding Activities-Section 4.1	5637
4.2	STERP Activities-Section 4.2	1450
4.3	Sea Turtle Transport Program (includes Training hours 24x3=72)	382
5.0	Nest Surveys –Section 5.0	2189
6.1	Monthly Membership Meetings (40 attendees x 2 hrs x 10 meetings) plus 47 hrs prep	847
6.2	Communications Section 6.2 (Includes: Facebook, Newsletter, Public Relations & Website) (750)same as previous years, Loggerehead Lowdown blog(139)	539
6.3	Beach Cleanup - Section 6.3	1840
7.0	Turtle Krawl 5K Run/Walk- Section 7.0	2200
8.0	Membership Management (Includes:Members Database- Section 8.0(400)	223
	2018 TOTAL ESTIMATED VOLUNTEER HOURS	22319