Membership Matters
The strength and support of our STPS members fuels our mission of sea turtle conservation. STPS values each of our members for their role in helping sea turtles survive. Now more than ever, it is important to come together and work to protect sea turtles and their habitat here in Brevard County. By becoming a member and renewing your membership each year, you are making a commitment to local sea turtle conservation efforts. By sharing the message of STPS, you are raising awareness of the plight of sea turtles and the work that needs to be done. Currently we have 980 members, and we would love to count STPS more than 1,000 members strong by the end of 2020.

In addition to supporting STPS programs and activities, your membership also includes a benefits package that lets you become more involved with STPS and its sea turtle conservation programs. This includes:

- Volunteer opportunities for members
• Subscription to quarterly Turtle Times newsletter
• Invitations to members only events and gatherings
• Invitations to sea turtle releases
• Discount at Turtle House and Turtle Nest gift shops
• Discounts available to members at participating local businesses

Thank you for joining STPS and supporting sea turtle conservation. Please consider sharing what STPS does with your family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors. Ask them to join us as we work together to protect sea turtles and their habitats.

Membership information is available on the STPS website under the Membership tab.

Or email the membership director: membership@seaturtlespacecoast.org

Over the next six weeks, STPS will share a series of social media posts and other communications focused on STPS membership. Please share these posts on your own social media accounts to spread the word about STPS and encourage others to join our sea turtle conservation efforts. We also would love for you to share your member story on Facebook or Instagram tagged #IamSTPS or #helpingseaturtlessurvive.

Join or Renew Today
Survey season comes to a close

The 2020 nesting survey season is in the books. STPS volunteers monitor a 2-mile survey area in Cocoa Beach from April 15 to Sept. 15 and document all
nesting activity. This season volunteers recorded 357 nests: 352 loggerheads, 4 greens, and 1 leatherback. In addition, teams recorded 680 false crawls, which occur when a sea turtle comes onto the beach but does not nest. After Sept. 15, teams continued spot checks of the remaining few marked nests, but these have now ended as well.

Surveyors also conduct nest success evaluations of marked nests after they hatch. These nest inventories take place three days after signs of emergence, or after 70 days when no emergence is seen. This season more than 60 evaluations have been completed. Nest evaluations provide valuable information on sea turtle nesting trends, including how many live turtles emerged from the nests, how many eggs did not hatch, how many hatchlings did not live to make it out of the nest, and if any predators penetrated the nest. The volunteers also make sure any remaining live hatchlings get headed on their journey to the ocean.

The stretch of beach that STPS surveys had a lot of sand accretion this season, which is the opposite of the erosion that is more often talked about, STPS permit holder Dori Hughes noted. One marked nest stake was even covered to nearly the top with sand at the end of the season, as seen in the photo below left.

Because of continuing covid-19 concerns, daily volunteer teams were limited throughout the season to those listed on the state FWC permit. Thanks to all the dedicated volunteers who participated, and also to all those volunteers who were unable to take part this season for your understanding and patience.
Turtle Krawl 2020 a winner

This year's Turtle Krawl took place virtually from Sept. 12-15, and STPS would like to thank the participants, donors, sponsors, and volunteers who made it a success. The STPS board and race committee appreciate everyone's understanding and patience as the group undertook organizing a fully virtual race event for the first time. Turtle Krawl 2020 had 1,007 total participants from 37 states, plus D.C. and Puerto Rico, as well as seven different countries including Switzerland, Canada, Spain, Great Britain, US Virgin Islands, Afghanistan and the United States.

Thanks to our Turtle Krawl sponsors: Beachside Apartments, Blinds of All Kinds, Coastal Health Systems of Brevard, Custom Air and Heat, Leslie Jordan Apparel, Paralegal Boot Camp, Running Zone, Port Canaveral and SeaWorld Orlando.

What's happening in STPS

Staying connected
STPS has been working to transition to online and remote options for programs, trainings, and meetings where possible and as needed. The November monthly meeting will be held on Zoom, as meetings have been since June. Turtle Talk 101 and Volunteer Orientation also are available via Zoom. To register for these events, or to find more information, please visit the calendar on the STPS website.
Beach Cleanups
The STPS monthly beach cleanups at Coconut Point Park and Cherie Down Park have been canceled through November. Information on December cleanups will be announced soon.

Fundraising efforts
Those wishing to donate items to be part of future raffles/auctions may contact Noelle, the fundraising director, at fundraising@seaturtlespacecoast.org.

Amazon Smile
Doing lots of online shopping these days? If you're on Amazon, then please try Amazon Smile. You'll get the same deals with the added bonus that you'll support the Sea Turtle Preservation Society when you select a charity of choice.

Join us in November
Dean Bagley of the UCF Marine Turtle Research Group is scheduled to be the guest speaker at the next STPS monthly meeting via Zoom at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5. She will be discussing the 2020 nesting season as well as her research using satellite transmitters to track sea turtles. Everyone is welcome to attend this free event, but registration is required.
Orangutan-Friendly 2020 HALLOWEEN GUIDE

Passionate about animal conservation? Use this guide for your Halloween shopping! These products are produced by companies that are members of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and are committed to making a difference for wild orangutans and other endangered species by using certified sustainable palm oil.

Chocolate
- Snickers
- Toblerone
- Justin's
- Ghirardelli
- Cadbury
- Reese's
- Milky Way
- Twix
- M&M's

Chocolate
- HERSHEY'S
- Almond Joy Mounds
- Lindt
- York
- Butterfinger
- CRUNCH
- KRAFT
- WHAPPERS
- KitKat

Candy
- Twizzlers
- Wonka
- HARIBO
- BRACH'S
- Chupa Chups
- Skittles
- Jolly rancher
- SOUR PATCH

Want to find even more products? Download and use Cheyenne Mountain Zoo's Shopping Guide app! Visit cmzoo.org/palmoil, or search for palm oil in your app store and look for the green orangutan logo.
As a consumer who cares about animal conservation, you can use this guide to make better choices and purchase items using certified sustainable palm oil. To learn more about this issue and how it relates to sea turtles, read more on the STPS Loggerhead Lowdown blog.

Turtley Awesome Holiday Shopping

By Megan Maynard

As we roll into fall, it is hard to believe that the holidays are just around the corner. After such an atypical year, I think many of us are looking forward to the
excitement and joy the holidays bring. Here at STPS we are proud to have made many exciting updates to make holiday shopping easier and bring STPS to you!

There is something for everyone whether found on the STPS online store, the Turtle House gift shop in Indialantic, or the Turtle Nest kiosk at the Port. What’s more, every gift helps to support sea turtle survival.

Here’s a glance at what’s available:

Visit either the Turtle House in Indialantic or the Turtle Nest kiosk at Port Canaveral to shop in person for handmade and sustainable gifts, including some fantastic stocking stuffers. Sea turtle tumblers, coffee mugs, stainless steel reusable straws, handmade soaps, pallet art, reusable totes, Christmas ornaments, and so much more.

To see what’s new at the Turtle House and Turtle Nest, follow the STPS Turtle House Gift Shop on Facebook. If you see something you like, shipping can be arranged.

The Turtle House in Indialantic is open from 11 am to 4 pm Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. The Turtle Nest kiosk at the Port is open from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm Saturdays and Sundays, weather permitting.

If you can’t stop by in person or prefer online shopping, then the STPS online store is the place for you. The STPS online store has been updated and offers a wide variety of gift options, including shirts, children’s books, and more. The online store can be found on the STPS website: seaturtlespacecoast.org.
A sea turtle adoption through STPS is a one-of-a-kind gift that anyone would love. You can adopt a hatchling, nest or stranded turtle in that special someone’s name. Adoptions and donations may be done online or in person at either location.

With this difficult year slowly coming to a close, we are grateful to our volunteers for all of their creativity and efforts. We have found new ways to help the species survive and will continue to adapt. Let’s finish 2020 strong.

Election for Board of Directors set for December

Board elections will be taking place at the STPS annual meeting on Dec. 3, 2020, and the election will be held electronically. Among its duties, the board of directors is responsible for strategic and organizational planning, ensuring strong fiduciary oversight and financial management, fundraising and resource development, and enhancing the organization’s public image.

Right now, a nominating committee is seeking nominations for four board positions. On Oct. 19, which is 45 days before the election, the STPS secretary will send out an email seeking nominations and looking for interested candidates to fill four board positions. All nominations must be submitted by Nov. 2, 2020. A slate of qualified nominees will be presented to the membership 21 days before the Dec. 3, 2020, election.

Nominees must meet the following minimum requirements:
is being formed to assist in identifying, recruiting, and interviewing potential board candidates. If you are interested in being part of the nominating committee, please contact the STPS secretary at secretary@seaturtlespacecoast.org as soon as possible.

Completion of Turtle Talk 101 training
- Membership in STPS for at least one year
- Volunteer experience in a non-profit organization
- Be an official Brevard or adjacent county resident
- 18 years of age or older

Update from the Chair

To our members,

Sea turtle season is winding down here in Brevard County, but our group’s mission to help sea turtles survive continues year-round. Talking to others – whether it be a family member, friend, neighbor, or co-worker – about sea turtles and local conservation efforts is one of the most effective ways to help increase the chances of survival for these animals. Please check out the STPS website for information and resources to share with others. Remember lights out ordinances continue through the end of October to protect hatchlings on the beaches.

The past six months have been challenging for our organization, as well as other nonprofits and community members. The Sea Turtle Preservation Society was fortunate to receive a $10,000 grant through the Brevard County Small Business and Nonprofit Economic Relief program in August. These funds will
help offset revenue lost due to the cancellation of the night walk season, the closure of the gift shops, and the Turtle Krawl 5K being a virtual only event. The board of directors would like to thank everyone for your continued support and dedication during this difficult time. Volunteers have been working hard behind the scenes as always doing the day-to-day work of the organization. Whether you registered for the Turtle Krawl, adopted a hatchling, volunteered on the emergency hotline, participated in nesting surveys, or picked up trash while at the beach, you too have made a difference for sea turtles.

I hope you will continue to find ways to stay engaged with STPS and sea turtle conservation in the coming months. Currently, STPS policy limits in-person activities to groups of no more than 10, but there’s still plenty that can be done to accomplish our goals. Please check the calendar on the STPS website or contact our volunteer coordinator at volunteer@seaturtlespacecoast.org to get more involved.

For any questions or concerns, please email stpschair@seaturtlespacecoast.org or board@seaturtlespacecoast.org.

Take care,

Susan Skinner
STPS Board of Directors Chair
Director of Communication