2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Photo by Shelley Michel

Photo by Joel Cohen

Photo by Joel Cohen

SEATURTLESPACECOAST.ORG

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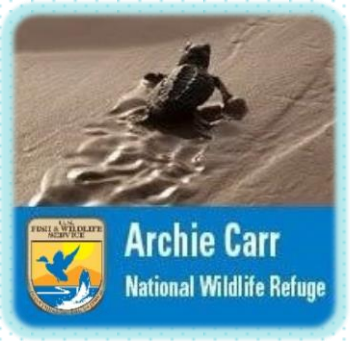
STPS: 37 YEARS AND COUNTING

Since it was incorporated in 1986, STPS has achieved many accomplishments in pursuit of its mission. Just read Our History. It's an impressive list, from persuading Brevard County to pass lighting restrictions during nesting season in 1993, to partnering with Brevard Zoo to create a local sea turtle rehab facility in 2014, to creating the first sea turtle transport program in the state in 2017. Another early accomplishment laid the groundwork for today.



During the 1980's, STPS was part of the movement to create Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge (ACNWR). When STPS became a non-profit in 1986, the Refuge did not exist. Even though sea turtle researchers and conservation groups like STPS understood the importance of this area as a vital sea turtle nesting habitat, it took years of work to get federal funding for Carr Refuge. Finally in 1991, ACNWR was established by Congress.

Even after this success, supporters of Carr Refuge continued their work to ensure it received additional federal and state funding. At the local level, STPS encouraged its members to donate to the cause. For example, in early 1993, STPS donated $2,500 to the Carr Refuge Land Acquisition Fund, which was created by the Indian River Land Trust and used to acquire land for the Refuge. Later, in 2000, STPS members continued to follow developments regarding Carr Refuge. Issues of our *Turtle Talk* newsletter from that year included the *Carr Companion* newsletter which reported the latest sea turtle nesting numbers, funding announcements, and other news about the Refuge.

Today, more than 35 years later, we're benefitting from all the hard work of sea turtle researchers and conservationists in the 1980's and 1990's to create ACNWR and protect it for the future. Carr Refuge is now the most significant area for nesting loggerheads in the world and the most significant nesting habitat for green sea turtles in North America. Undoubtedly, the Refuge plays a vital role in the continued survival of these species.

This is just one example of how STPS collaborated with other organizations to achieve a specific goal, no matter how long it took. Thirty-seven years later, we're still at it.

MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS

2023 DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS

All members of the board serve as non-paid volunteers. The board includes directors and coordinators, determines the direction of the organization, and the appropriate courses of action. Board members who are permit holders train volunteers for various STPS programs. The board also recognizes individual volunteers for exceptional performance and approves donations to other sea turtle conservation organizations. Our 2023 directors and coordinators are listed below.

2023 DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS	
Craig Konkel, Co-Chairperson and Night Walks Permit Holder	Roger Pszonowsky – Co-Chairperson and Grant Management Committee Chair
Linda Perry – Director of Education and Board Secretary	Lisa Maier – Director of Membership
Dori Hughes – Nesting Surveys Permit Holder	Joel Cohen – Director of Communications
Cyndi Stinson– Turtle Krawl 5K Director, Stranding & Salvage Permit Holder, and STERP Coordinator	Ken Smith, Transport Permit Holder and Sea Turtle Healing Center Liaison
Louise Schuster – Volunteer Coordinator, Board Member at Large, and Co-Director of Events	Kelly Etherton – Monthly Meeting Committee Chair
Kathy LeBresco – Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair, and Gift Shop Director	Teri Mahnken – Donations & Adoptions Coordinator
Sharon Gibson – Director of Fundraising	Diana Forman – Advocacy Committee Chair
John Pechar – Building Committee Chair	Gerry Burke – Beach Cleanup Coordinator
Julie Wright – Co-Director of Events	Anita Ziegner – Webmaster

MEMBERS

The strength and support of our STPS members fuels our mission of sea turtle conservation. By sharing our message, members raise awareness of the plight of sea turtles and the work that needs to be done. Members are committed to our local sea turtle conservation efforts, and their membership fees support these programs.

In December 2023, STPS had over 1,000 members and 416 active volunteers. Total volunteer hours are 11,721 which calculates to a value of $370,500.86. For additional information, see Volunteer Value.

VOLUNTEERING AT STPS

VOLUNTEERS

Without our dedicated volunteers, STPS would not be able to accomplish our mission. Everyone – from the STPS board to hotline monitors to Turtle Krawl 5K race-day helpers – is a volunteer.

VOLUNTEER FAIR

STPS program directors, permit holders, and current volunteers met with potential volunteers at the Satellite Beach Public Library on March 4, 2023 to give them information about all our programs and activities. See photos below taken by Joel Cohen, STPS Communications Director.

Education Director Linda Perry talks about education initiatives.

Volunteer Silvia Bryan shows a guest a Turtle Krawl 5K t-shirt.

Longtime Nest Survey Volunteer Carol Hansen with a guest.

Left: Cyndi Stinson and Roger Pszonowsky. Right: Dan Schaller and guest.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

STPS held our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in December to thank all our extraordinary volunteers who worked 50 or more hours in 2023. The event was planned by Volunteer Coordinator Louise Schuster and the Volunteer Appreciation team Arleen Martinez, Nicole Banks, Brian Saunders, Linda Perry, and Melanie Shatzer. Listed below are volunteers who received awards for their achievements.

Service Awards	
Bronze Awards – 50+ Hours of Service Nicole Banks, Kaci Beckett, Nancy Joyner, Teri Mahnken, Arleen Martinez, Debra McPherson, and Melanie Shatzer.	**Silver Awards – 100+ Hours of Service** Nancy Johnson, Rodger Lawrence, Sherry Martin, Brian Saunders, Coleen Seitter, and Elaine Thornton.
Gold Awards – 150+ Hours of Service Robin Courtney, Cynthia Gagliardi, Melanie Hagen, Jerry Lemon, Linda Perry, Susan Randolph, Linda Rutland, and Dave Thornton.	**Platinum Award – Louise Schuster** The Volunteer Appreciation team awarded Louise a special Platinum Award for her dedicated service of over 900 hours.

Turtle Night Walk Awards	Stranding & Salvage Awards
Brian Saunders and Dave and Elaine Thornton received gifts of appreciation for their support of the Turtle Night Walk program.	Dave Thornton and Linda Rutland received commemorative plaques for their work on the Stranding & Salvage team.

Hatchlings of the Year	Rookies of the Year
Melanie Hagen received a Hatchling of the Year certificate of appreciation for helping with Nesting Surveys, Events, STERP, Turtle Night Walks, Fundraising, and Turtle Krawl. She also volunteered at the Turtle House and Turtle Nest. Brian Saunders also received a Hatchling of the Year certificate for volunteering for many Turtle Night Walks, Events, and the Turtle Krawl.	Robin Courtney participated in most STPS programs including Beach Cleanup, STERP, Nesting Surveys, Events, Fundraising, and Turtle Night Walks. She also volunteers at the Turtle Nest and is an Orientation Volunteer Assistant. Susan Randolph is the editor of the STPS *Turtle Talk* newsletter and *Loggerhead Lowdown* blog. She is on the STERP team and compiled the 2022 annual report.

Volunteer of the Year	
	Congratulations Linda Perry Linda joined STPS in July of 2022 and began volunteering in December of that year. While her initial focus was on education, she quickly took on many roles. She currently serves on the STPS Board as Director of Education and Board Secretary. In 2023, she volunteered over 700 hours.

VOLUNTEER VALUE

In December 2023, STPS had 416 active volunteers. The table below lists the total volunteer hours recorded in 2023 and the value determined by the Independent Sector's estimate for volunteer labor in Florida. Total volunteer value to STPS was calculated to be $370,500.86 at $31.61 per hour.

2023 STPS VOLUNTEER VALUE		
Assignment	**Hours**	**Dollar Value**
Beach Cleanup	698.50	$22,079.59
Board Duties	332.25	$10,502.42
Communication	358.75	$11,340.09
Donations and Adoptions	22.50	$711.23
Education	553.75	$17,504.04
Events	666.50	$21,068.07
Fundraising	130.50	$4,125.11
Hotline	560.75	$17,725.31
Membership	36.00	$1,137.96
Miscellaneous	139.50	$4,409.60
Monthly Membership Meetings	31.25	$987.81
Nesting Surveys	1,733.25	$54,788.03
Orientation	37.50	$1,185.38
Orientation Helper	12.50	$395.13
Stranding & Salvage	335.50	10,605.16
Training/Professional Development	900.75	$28,472.71
Transport	96.00	$3,034.56
Turtle House Guide	125.75	$3,974.96
Turtle Krawl 5K	399.25	$12,620.29
Turtle Nest - Port Canaveral	1,060.75	$33,530.31
Turtle Walks	2,747.00	$86,832.67
Volunteer Appreciation Dinner	37.00	$1,169.57
Volunteer Helpers	43.75	$1,382.94
Volunteer Management	597.75	$18,894.88
Website	42.00	$1,327.62
World Sea Turtle Day	22.00	$695.42
TOTALS	**11,721**	**$370,500.86**

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

BEACH CLEANUPS

Our monthly beach cleanups at Cherie Down Park and Coconut Point Park are part of the Keep Brevard Beautiful project. On World Ocean Day 2023, STPS teamed up with volunteers from Orlando's SEA LIFE Aquarium and picked up about 60 pounds of trash in less than 1 hour.

NESTING SURVEYS

2023 was a record-breaking year for sea turtle nesting in Florida. STPS volunteers documented a total of **298** nests in our two-mile survey area in Cocoa Beach. This included **19** greens, **1** Kemp's Ridley, **1** leatherback, and **277** loggerheads. (Photo by Joel Cohen.)

TURTLE NIGHT WALKS

We conducted **40** walks educating **1,143** guests from **39** states other than Florida and **7** foreign countries. Saw nesting loggerhead females **90%** of the time. **Twenty-six** new volunteers participated this year.

EDUCATION

On August 30, 2023, we celebrated a Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony at the newly renovated Education Center at the Turtle House in Indialantic. In 2023, our education volunteers gave presentations to almost 2,000 people at numerous local groups.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

STRANDING & SALVAGE

In 2023, we responded to **99** stranding and salvage events. Of those, **46** were alive and **53** were deceased. We also rescued approximately **300** hatchlings and **22** wash backs. The STPS hotline received **918** calls.

EVENTS, FUNDRAISING, AND DONATIONS

STPS volunteers have participated in numerous community outreach and fundraising events. In 2023, we received **over 1,900** donations including our Turtle Krawl 5K Sponsors and a donation from Reagan Foster, an ambassador from the Miss Sunshine Charity Pagaent (shown right).

TURTLE KRAWL 5K

The 2023 race took place on September 9th at Nance Park in Indialantic with **1,918** race participants including **234** virtual registrations. We had **32** Sponsors and **122** amazing Turtle Krawl volunteers. (Photo by Emily Dougherty.)

SEA TURTLE RESEARCH

In 2023, researcher Dean Bagley at UCF's Marine Turtle Research Group (MTRG) placed satellite trackers on five green sea turtles – one female and four males – with funding provided by STPS in 2022. (Photo by UCF MRTG.)

BEACH CLEANUPS

Our monthly cleanup events at Cherie Down Beach in Cape Canaveral and Coconut Point Beach on A1A in Melbourne Beach are part of the Keep Brevard Beautiful project. They're open to the public and we supply all the materials needed including trash bags, gloves, pick-up tools, and sunscreen. We also offer community service hours for students. See the table below for a summary of our 2023 beach cleanup events.

2023 BEACH CLEANUPS				
Program Type	**Number of Cleanups**	**Number of Volunteers**	**Number of Hours**	**Community Service Students**
Monthly Events	23	785	1,559	335
Individual Reporter	331	608	847	Not Applicable
TOTALS	**354**	**1,393**	**2,406**	**335**

To celebrate World Ocean Day on June 3, 2023, STPS teamed up with volunteers from Orlando's SEA LIFE Aquarium at Cherie Down Park. They picked up four bags of trash weighing 60 pounds in less than an hour. See photos of the volunteers from the event below.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

STPS EVENTS

STPS volunteers love to educate the public at local events and sell our sea turtle merchandise. In 2023, STPS participated in 16 events and volunteers logged more than 660 hours. Events included the Satellite Beach Founders Day (January), Ocean Treasures Festival (February), Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge celebration (March), Touch of Grey Rescue's "Poocharella" (April), Turkey Creek Day (April), Earth Day Celebration at Kennedy Space Center (KSC) (April), BeachFly LegaSea Fest (April), Melbourne Beach Founders Day (May), Cape Canaveral Fest (August), Long Doggers Beachside Bash (September), Florida Wildlife Hospital's "Hoot in the Park" (November), and Ocean Reef Beach Festival (December). Some of our 2023 events are shown below.

"Poocharella" at Wickham Park

Turkey Creek Day in Palm Bay

Earth Day Celebration at KSC

Ocean Reef Fest at Pelican Beach Park

COMMUNICATIONS

STPS communicates with our members and the general public through our website and our social media platforms listed below. Our communication team creates a quarterly membership newsletter, writes blog posts on educational and conservation topics, and posts on STPS social media. Our social media presence allows us to engage more people and get them involved in our activities and sea turtle conservation.

STPS Website: seaturtlespacecoast.org	**STPS Blog: Loggerhead Lowdown**
STPS on Facebook: Sea Turtle Preservation Society	**STPS on Twitter (now X): seaturtleps**
Turtle Krawl 5K Website: turtlekrawl.com	**STPS on Instagram: seaturtleps**
STPS Newsletter: Turtle Talk	**YouTube: STPS-Brevard Cnty FL**

2023 PHOTO CALENDAR CONTEST

In 2023, STPS held a sea turtle photo contest. The top 30 pictures were posted on our Facebook page and the 12 with the most "likes" were included in our STPS 2024 Photo Calendar sold in the STPS Gift Shop. To see larger versions of these photos, visit the STPS Facebook page.

Kelly Carroll

PeiJai Howard

Julie Lally

Joanna Johnson

Harvey Levine

Karri Lewis

Monna Mosse

Kristin Peasgood

Terri Watkins

Monica Malone

Shelley Michel

Autumn Neilson

NESTING SURVEYS

2023 was a record-breaking sea turtle nesting season in Florida. Within our two-mile survey area in Cocoa Beach, our volunteers documented a total of 298 nests. This included 19 greens, 1 leatherback, 1 Kemp's Ridley, and 277 loggerheads. The teams also documented 738 false crawls. On April 24, 2023, Nesting Survey volunteers Louise Schuster, Joel Cohen, Sofia Castanetta, and Julie Albert found the first loggerhead nest of the season (see photos below). All nest survey data collected by our volunteers is reported to Florida's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and contributes to the state's nesting totals for the year (discussed below).

2023 FLORIDA SEA TURTLE NESTING TOTALS

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) compiled the Florida Statewide Nesting Beach Survey data for 2023. On Florida's East Coast, Brevard County had the highest number of green sea turtles which emerged and laid their eggs. The totals shown below were extracted from the survey data found on the 2023 Statewide Nesting Totals page on the FWRI website.

2023 FLORIDA SEA TURTLE NESTING TOTALS			
SPECIES	**Loggerheads**	**Greens**	**Leatherbacks**
Brevard County Totals	33,434	37,920	88
2023 State Totals	134,913	77,041	1,651
State Totals Difference from 2022	+18,148	+40,013	-197

TURTLE NIGHT WALKS

We had a very successful night walk season in 2023. We conducted 40 turtle night walks educating 1,143 guests from 39 states other than Florida and 7 foreign countries. We saw nesting loggerhead females 90% of the time. Twenty-six new volunteers participated plus our returning “night crawler” veterans. See some of our night-walk volunteers below.

EDUCATION

Our educational outreach encompasses all demographics and ages. In 2023, STPS has presented to 1,976 people. We gave talks to many local groups including Chateau Madeliene senior living community, Brevard County public libraries, Outdoor Resorts of America, American Boating Club, Del Webb Community, and University High School.

In August of 2023, we celebrated the grand opening of our renovated Education Center at the STPS Office/Gift Shop (i.e., the Turtle House) in Indialantic. This modernization project was completed with a $7,500 grant through the Sea Turtle Grants Program. The redesign features interactive displays which guide visitors through the life cycle of a sea turtle and highlight the ways that STPS helps sea turtles survive. After the opening, education volunteers were available to talk to visitors, show them all the center's new features, and teach them about sea turtles and STPS.

The STPS Education team continued its partnership with Inwater Research Group to provide Traveling Trunks to teachers in Brevard County – see STPS Turtle Trunks. The Traveling Trunks program includes free, STEM-based learning activities which focus on sea turtle biology and sea turtle friendly lighting. Trunks contain all the hands-on materials and lessons teachers need to introduce their students to the world of sea turtles. Lessons are designed for students in 3rd to 8th grade.

In another educational outreach initiative, STPS Director of Education Linda Perry was a guest of the Environmental Education Awareness Research Support and Services (EEARSS) podcast in September 2023. During the interview, Linda discussed our mission to help sea turtles survive, our newly renovated Education Center, and several STPS programs. She also encouraged viewers to volunteer for STPS and moderated a fun sea turtle trivia contest. To watch the video, click on this link: EEARSS Podcast Season 3 Episode 3.

STRANDING & SALVAGE

RESCUE AND TRANSPORT OPERATIONS

The STPS Stranding & Salvage team responds to reports of dead, sick, or injured sea turtles as directed by Florida's FWC. STPS also operates a hotline for sea turtle emergencies that is monitored around the clock. The hotline received 918 calls in 2023.

Both our Stranding and Transport programs operate under state permits, and their volunteers have been trained by both FWC staff and STPS permit holders. STPS also maintained a rescue van at the Port Canaveral staging point during the year to aid with rescues and transports. While used for other STPS activities, the STPS van was also driven six times for rescues and transports in 2023.

During 2023, the Stranding & Salvage team responded to 99 stranding and salvage events. Of those, 46 were alive and 53 were deceased. We also rescued approximately 300 hatchlings and 22 wash backs. Between the Stranding and Transport teams, there were 150 transports (144 in personal vehicles) conducted in 2023 resulting in 6,323 recorded miles by these passionate sea turtle volunteers.

SEA TURTLE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM (STERP)

The STERP team consists of STPS volunteers who are trained annually on post-hatchling rescue procedures. When called, they search different zones on Brevard County beaches. This program is designed to increase the number of post-hatchling sea turtles that are rescued, rehabilitated, and eventually released back into the ocean. Assisted by the Stranding & Salvage team, the Transport team, and the STPS hotline monitors, these STPS volunteers ensure tiny sea turtles are provided their best chance for survival. (Post-hatchling photo by Donna Simons.)

STERP completed its sixteenth year on December 31, 2023. The community response to this program continues to be as enthusiastic as the first year it was initiated. In May 2023, 118 volunteers trained for the STERP program through four live sessions which resulted in the annually issued Letter of Consent from Florida's FWC to participate in the program. During 2023, no STERP events were called.

STRANDING & SALVAGE AND TRANSPORT VOLUNTEERS

Shown below are just a few of our Stranding & Salvage and Transport volunteers during rescue and transport operations in 2023.

Cyndi Stinson and Linda Rutland evaluate a deceased loggerhead hit by a boat.

Cyndi Stinson digs out a female sea turtle which got stuck under a dune crossover. Photo by Jimmy Golian.

Coleen Seitter and Sarah Sumrall transport then release a juvenile green in Ft. Pierce.

Cyndi Stinson gets some help rescuing a large sea turtle that had gotten into a swimming pool.

The Stinson family rescue a female loggerhead entangled in a crab pot line.

SEA TURTLE RELEASES

On January 25, 2023, a green sea turtle named Hope was released Lori Wilson Park after months of rehabilitation at Brevard Zoo's Sea Turtle Healing Center. Back in November 2022, the sub-adult had stranded in Indian River County and rescued by volunteers from STPS and Coastal Connections who took her to the Healing Center for treatment. At her release, STPS volunteers (shown below) assisted with the event and helped to educate the hundreds of people who came to watch her return to the ocean.

In early July, STPS volunteers rescued Jolene in Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge where she was found entangled in fishing line. STPS transported the 374-pound female green to the Healing Center for rehab. While there, she laid 80 eggs which were given to researchers at UCF's Marine Turtle Research Group (MTRG) to place in a hand-dug nest for incubation. After a couple weeks of treatment, Jolene was released at Lori Wilson Park on July 28, 2023 (see photos below).

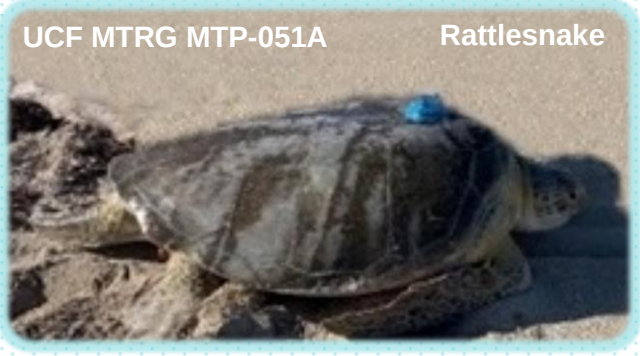
Photo by Cindy Lang

Photo by Cindy Lang

SEA TURTLE RESEARCH

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA'S MARINE TURTLE RESEARCH GROUP (MTRG)

In 2023, researcher Dean Bagley at UCF's Marine Turtle Research Group (MTRG) placed satellite trackers on five green sea turtles – one female and four males – with funding provided by STPS in 2022. The four males were all named in honor of MTRG's founder, the late Doc Ehrhart. See UCF MTRG's photos below.



FUNDRAISING

Throughout 2023, STPS held multiple fundraising events including our Turtle Night Walks during nesting season, World Sea Turtle Day Silent Auction in June, and Turtle Krawl 5K in September. Some of our other fundraisers were a Magic Show in October (see photo below), a Dine in Day at Tiny Turtle Restaurant in November, the Giving Tuesday Campaign in November, and a "Paint a Turtle, Save a Turtle" also in November (see photo below).

In 2023, we received over 1,900 donations including our Turtle Krawl 5K Sponsors and a donation from Reagan Foster, an ambassador from the Miss Sunshine Charity Pagaent. Shown right is Reagan with Roger and Rhonda Pszonowsky. Additional sources of funding include merchandise sales at our online STPS Gift Shop and locally at the Turtle House, Turtle Nest, and various community events. We also have the Adopt a Sea Turtle program, grant funding, and annual membership fees.

Above: Magic Show with Marvelous Megan at the Magic Dove Magic Shop.
Below: "Paint a Turtle, Save a Turtle" at Painting with a Twist.

TURTLE KRAWL 5K

Many thanks to Race Director Cyndi Stinson, Assistant Race Director/Volunteer Coordinator Silvia Bryan, and the entire Turtle Krawl volunteer team for a great event. This year's race took place on September 9th at Nance Park in Indialantic with 1,918 race participants including 234 virtual registrations. We had 32 Sponsors and 122 race volunteers. All proceeds from the race helped to fund STPS programs and activities, including rescue and transport of injured sea turtles, nesting surveys, turtle night walks, and other educational outreach programs.

Photo by Emily Dougherty

Photo by Louise Schuster

Above left: Cyndi Stinson with Florida FWC officers. Above right and below left: Turtle Krawl volunteers on race day. Below right: Turtle Krawl 5K runners line up at the starting line.

Photo by Louise Schuster

Photo by Emily Dougherty

THANK YOU 2023 SPONSORS

Special thanks to all of our race sponsors: Absolutely Natural, Amanda Gonnella REMAX Realtor, Bleu Beach Resort, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Brevard, Buckingham Strategic Wealth, DC Roofing, Fyzical Therapy and Balance Centers, Geico of Melbourne, Sharon Gibson, Betty Gonzalez, Hannah-Chanel Fund, Integrative Medicine of Brevard, Island Animal Hospital, Islands Fish Grill, Joel Likes To Photo, Launch Credit Union, Leslie Jordan, Melinda Leigh, Mercedes-Benz/Porsche of Melbourne, Port Canaveral, QTS Data Centers, Radiantly Healthy Drip Lounge, Reef Realty, Ron Jon Surf Shop, Running Zone, SeaWorld Orlando, the Stinson Family, Surfside Urgent Care, Tiny Turtle Restaurant, Turtle Towel, W&J Construction Corp., and William Taylor Real Estate.

LEARN MORE ABOUT STPS

Sea Turtle Preservation Society
111 South Miramar Avenue
Indialantic, FL 32903
Office/Gift Shop: 321-676-1701
Sea Turtle Emergency Hotline: 321-206-0646

STPS Website: **SeaTurtleSpaceCoast.org**

STPS on Facebook: **Sea Turtle Preservation Society**

STPS Gift Shop Website: **STPS Gift Shop**

STPS Gift Shop on Facebook: **Facebook – STPS Gift Shop**

Turtle Krawl 5K Website: **turtlekrawl.com**

STPS on YouTube: **STPS-Brevard Cnty FL**

STPS on X (previously Twitter): **seaturtleps** STPS on Instagram: **seaturtleps**

For general inquiries, please email us at: **STPS@SeaTurtleSpaceCoast.org**.

STPS is a registered 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible as allowable by law. STPS is a grassroots, all-volunteer organization that is not associated with any parent corporation nor supported by any government funding. There are no financial stakeholders or a single owner that profits from any of our fundraising activities. The source of our funding is through our proceeds from a multitude of fundraising activities and events including Turtle Krawl 5K, Turtle Night Walks, gift shops, membership dues, and donations. The proceeds from our fundraising efforts are used to pay for items needed to support our headquarters and various programs (rent, insurance, equipment, supplies, and transportation). STPS relies on the efforts of its dedicated volunteers to accomplish essentially all of our tasks. The only exception is that we pay to staff one person at each of our gift shops (Turtle House and Turtle Nest) when they are open. A copy of the official registration for STPS may be obtained from the Florida division of consumer services by calling toll-free within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state. The toll-free number of the department is (800) HELP-FLA (435-7352) when calling from within the state of Florida, or (850) 410-3800 when calling from outside of Florida. The department's website is http://www.fdacs.gov/ConsumerServices. The Sea Turtle Preservation Society serves the community without discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, marital status, or mental/physical disability. Photographs taken during specific STPS activities (Stranding & Salvage, Transport, Nesting Surveys and Turtle Walks) are authorized under FWC Marine Turtle Permit (MTP) numbers MTP-067, MTP-142, MTP-169, MTP-246, and MTP-258.