Photo: Stijn Dijkstra/Pexels

2024 Annual Report

SEATURTLESPACECOAST.ORG

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"HELPING SEA TURTLES SURVIVE" SINCE 1986

For almost 40 years, STPS has been protecting sea turtles and their habitat in Brevard County. Our area is one of the world's most important natural habitats for sea turtles. The county is unique because the Atlantic beaches and the Indian River Lagoon span its entire 72-mile length. This strategic location serves as a nesting and foraging site for three species of sea turtles: loggerheads, greens, and leatherbacks.

STPS works tirelessly to educate the public about how to protect the sea turtle population and help sick and injured sea turtles that arrive on area beaches throughout the year, particularly during nesting season. We reach thousands of people each year through presentations/ talks, exhibits at community events, the STPS website and social media, monthly meetings, turtle night walks, beach clean-ups, fundraisers, and our two locations – the Main Office/Gift Shop/Education Center (the "Turtle House") in Indialantic and Port Kiosk/Gift Shop (the "Turtle Nest") at Port Canaveral.

Community involvement plays a vital role in helping STPS achieve its mission of "Helping Sea Turtles Survive." Each year, our Emergency Hotline receives hundreds of calls about sick or injured sea turtles. Our Stranding & Salvage team is on call 365 days a year to respond to these reports.

STPS works extensively with state and local agencies. Some of STPS programs are regulated by Florida's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and operate under a Marine Turtle Permit (MTP) issued by the FWC. Permitted activities include conducting nest surveys and evaluations, responding to reports of dead and injured sea turtles, rescuing adult sea turtles, hatchlings and post-hatchlings and transporting them to permitted rehabilitation facilities, and guiding members of the public on turtle night walks to observe nesting loggerheads. STPS contributes data to Florida's Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (STSSN) and the Statewide Nesting Beach Survey (SNBS) program, and our volunteers attend Florida's FWC's Permit Holders Meeting each year. In addition, we partner with the Keep Brevard Beautiful program for our monthly beach cleanups which are open to the public and offer community service hours for students.

Over the years, we've strived to strengthen our sea turtle conservation community. These efforts include support for Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge, Brevard Zoo's Sea Turtle Healing Center, University of Central Florida (UCF) Marine Turtle Research Group, and other regional sea turtle groups.

Without a doubt, our success can be attributed to our members, volunteers, and supporters who have made all our sea turtle conservation efforts possible through the years. Without their support, we would not be able to fulfill our mission.

MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS

2024 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 2024 directors and coordinators are listed below.

2024 Directors and Coordinators	
Craig Konkel, Co-Chairperson and Night Walks Permit Holder	Roger Pszonowsky – Co-Chairperson
Dori Hughes – Nesting Survey Consultant	Sherrie Williams – Nesting Surveys Permit Holder
Cyndi Stinson– Turtle Krawl 5K Director, Stranding & Salvage Permit Holder, STERP Coordinator, and Monthly Meeting Co-Coordinator	Ken Smith, Transport Permit Holder and Sea Turtle Healing Center Liaison
Linda Perry – Director of Education and Board Secretary	Kathy LeBresco – Treasurer and Gift Shop Director
Joel Cohen – Director of Communications	Cynthia Gagliardi – Director of Membership
Diana Forman – Advocacy Committee Chair	Sharon Gibson – Director of Fundraising
Louise Schuster – Volunteer Coordinator (January - September) and Monthly Meeting Co-Coordinator	Kris Marvin and Nikki Nelson – Volunteer Co-Coordinators (October – December)
Nancy Cannon and Robin Courtney – Co-Directors of Events	Rhonda Pszonowsky – Donations & Adoptions Coordinator
Gerry Burke – Beach Cleanup Coordinator	Anita Ziegner – Webmaster
Anne Riehl – Turtle Trunk Coordinator	Ingrid Lundberg – Turtle House Librarian

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 help support the cost of conducting our programs.

In December 2024, STPS had 1,075 members and 400 active volunteers. The estimated total volunteer hours for 2024 were 11,572.25 which calculates to a value of $381,884.25. For more information, see Volunteer Value.

VOLUNTEERING AT STPS

VOLUNTEERS

STPS depends on our dedicated volunteers to conduct our many and varied programs. From the STPS board, Emergency Hotline monitors, sea turtle rescuers and transporters to our nesting survey and night walk teams, events and fundraising personnel, and Turtle Krawl 5K race-day helpers – all of them are volunteers.

VOLUNTEER FAIR

STPS program directors, permit holders, coordinators, and volunteers met with the public at the Satellite Beach Public Library on January 13, 2024 to discuss all our different programs and activities, and encourage them to join STPS and volunteer. Top row: Volunteer Coordinator Louise Schuster; Mary Ann Sinar & Melanie Hagen; and Beach Cleanup Coordinator Gerry Burke. Bottom row: Education Director Linda Perry; Stranding & Salvage Permit Holder/STERP Coordinator Cyndi Stinson & Co-Chair Roger Pszonowsky; and Nancy Johnson & Debbie Seymour. Photos taken by Louise Schuster.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

STPS held a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in January 2025 to thank all our volunteers for all their efforts during 2024. The event was planned by new Volunteer Co-Coordinators Kris Marvin and Nikki Nelson who started in October 2024. Listed below are volunteers who received recognition for their achievements.

Stranding & Salvage Achievement Awards

Stranding & Salvage Permit Holder Cyndi Stinson (shown right) presented awards to Linda Rutland, Jerry Lemon (shown left) and Dave Thornton (right) for handling the highest number of strandings of adult and juvenile sea turtles in 2024. (Hatchlings and wash-backs not included.) Cyndi had 25, Linda 20, Jerry 17, and Dave 13. Photos by Robin Courtney.

Transport Award

Jerry Lemon (shown above, far left) was also given a special award by Transport Permit Holder Ken Smith for all his transports in 2024. In addition, Jerry also helped with the maintenance and upgrade of the STPS transport van.

Turtle Night Walks

Kathy LeBresco (Treasurer and Gift Shop Director) spoke on behalf of Craig Konkel to thank the Turtle Night Walk team for a successful 2024 season. She also thanked all the Turtle House Guides for all their hard work at the Education Center in 2024.

2024 Rookie of the Year – Kris Marvin

Kris received her Rookie of the Year award from STPS Chairperson Roger Pszonowsky. As a former educator, Kris loves talking to people at STPS events and teaching them about sea turtles. She's the Social Media Coordinator for the Turtle Krawl 5K, and also volunteers for Turtle Night Walks and STERP. Her enthusiasm and creativity are seemingly endless. Photo by Robin Courtney.

2024 Volunteers of the Year – Melanie Hagen and Terri Watkins

Melanie Hagen enjoys lots of STPS programs and activities. She's on the Stranding team, responding to 11 strandings in 2024. She's also on the STERP, Transport, Nesting Survey, and Turtle Night Walk teams. She helps with fundraising, volunteers at the Turtle Nest, and does community events. Learn more here: Our 2024 Volunteers of the Year. Photo by Robin Courtney.

Terri joined STPS in 2021 and started on the Stranding team last summer responding to dozens of stranded hatchlings and post-hatchlings. She even drove from Orlando to help with a STERP event. She is also a permit-listed volunteer for Nesting Surveys and Turtle Night Walks. Terri is a professional photographer and took some great photos and video of the 2024 Turtle Krawl 5K. Photo by Robin Courtney.

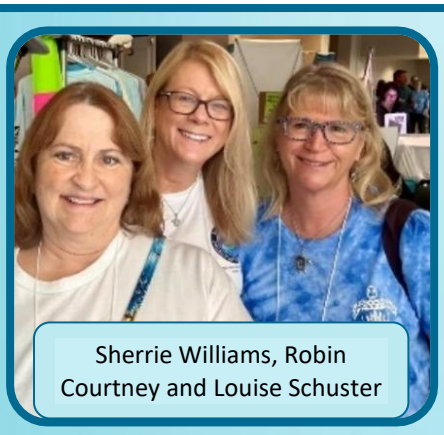
VOLUNTEER VALUE

In December 2024, STPS had 400 active volunteers. The table below lists the estimated total volunteer hours for 2024 and the value determined by the Independent Sector's estimate for volunteer labor in Florida. Total volunteer value to STPS was calculated to be **$381,884.25** at **$33** per hour.

2024 STPS VOLUNTEER VALUE		
Assignment	**Hours**	**Dollar Value**
Beach Cleanup	494.00	$16,302.00
Board Duties	184.75	$ 6,096.75
Building Committee	24.00	$ 792.00
Communication	410.00	$13,530.00
Donations and Adoptions	84.75	$ 2,796.75
Education	364.75	$12,036.75
Events	809.25	$26,705.25
Fundraising	240.25	$ 7,928.25
Hotline	212.75	$ 7,020.75
Membership	145.00	$ 4,785.00
Monthly Membership Meetings	196.00	$ 6,468.00
Nesting Surveys	1,980.25	$65,348.25
Orientation	127.50	$4,207.50
Orientation Helper	8.00	$ 264.00
STERP Training	107.75	$ 3,555.75
Stranding & Salvage	1,283.75	$42,363.75
Training/Professional Development	714.50	$23,578.50
Transport	96.00	$ 3,168.00
Turtle House Guide	107.25	$ 3,539.25
Turtle Krawl 5K	330.50	$10,906.50
Turtle Nest – Port Canaveral	489.50	$16,153.50
Turtle Talk 101	14.50	$ 478.50
Turtle Walks	2,599.00	$85,767.00
Volunteer Gatherings	48.50	$ 1,600.50
Volunteer Management	473.75	$15,633.75
Website	26.00	$ 858.00
TOTALS	**11,572.25**	**$381,884.25**

VOLUNTEERS AT FLORIDA FWC'S 2024 MARINE TURTLE PERMIT HOLDERS MEETING

STPS Permit Holders and volunteers attended Florida FWC's 28th Annual Marine Turtle Permit Holders Meeting in Gainesville, Florida to get the latest information from FWC on Florida's sea turtles (including nesting numbers, stranding trends), attend FWC's Florida Marine Research Institute Workshops, and hear guest speakers. Several presentations were given including one by STPS Stranding & Salvage Permit Holder Cyndi Stinson. She gave an overview of the Wildlife Alert program which encourages the public to report fish, wildlife, and boating violations.



Sherrie Williams, Robin Courtney and Louise Schuster

Joel Cohen and Coleen Seitter

Roger Pszonowsky, Craig Konkel and Ken Smith

Cyndi Stinson

Top row: Jerry Lemon, Louise Schuster, Joel Cohen, Kaci Beckett, Melanie Hagen, and Sherrie Williams. Bottom row: Linda Rutland, Ken Smith, Craig Konkel, Terri Watkins, Dave Thornton, and Laurie Green.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

BEACH CLEANUPS

Our monthly beach cleanups at Cherie Down Park and Coconut Point Park are part of the Keep Brevard Beautiful (KBB) project. In September 2024, STPS partnered with KBB for the annual International Coastal Cleanup. Our volunteers and members of the public collected **FOURTEEN** pounds of trash.

NESTING SURVEYS

STPS volunteers documented a total **267** nests within our two-mile survey area in Cocoa Beach. This included:
3 Greens
2 Kemp's ridleys
262 Loggerheads

(Photo by Terri Watkins.)

TURTLE NIGHT WALKS

We conducted **40** walks. Our guests observed nesting loggerhead females almost every night. We had visitors from **34** states and **12** different countries. **40** new volunteers signed up this year. Our awesome volunteers spent over **2,500** hours guiding our **1,030** turtle night walk guests this season.

EDUCATION

In 2024, our Education team gave **25** formal presentations to **954** people at local schools, clubs, libraries, and other organizations. Shown left: Education Director Linda Perry with kids from Meadowlane Intermediate Elementary School.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

STRANDING & SALVAGE

In 2024, we responded to **139** stranding and salvage events. Of those, **69** were alive and **70** were deceased. We also rescued approximately **200** hatchlings and **230** post-hatchlings. STERP events were called on October 19th, 20th, 23rd, and November 6th. The STPS hotline received approximately **1,200** calls.

EVENTS, FUNDRAISING, AND DONATIONS

STPS volunteers participated in **17** community outreach and **9** fundraising events during 2024. We received **127** online donations and over **50** made at the Turtle House. **283** donations were made along with Turtle Krawl 5K registrations.

TURTLE KRAWL 5K

The 2024 race took place on September 14th at Nance Park in Indialantic with **1,594** race participants, **27** Sponsors and **266** volunteer slots filled.

(Photo by Terri Watkins.)

RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION

In 2024, UCF's Marine Turtle Research Group (MTRG) and Inwater Research Group put a satellite tag on a male green named in honor of the late BJ Varuska. Tag was provided by STPS and a donation from BJ's wife, their family and friends. (Photo by UCF MTRG and taken while they conducted their Florida FWC-permitted research activities.)

BEACH CLEANUPS

Our monthly cleanup events at Cherie Down Park in Cape Canaveral and Val M. Steele Park on A1A in Melbourne Beach are part of the Keep Brevard Beautiful (KBB) 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. The table below summarizes our 2024 beach cleanup events.

2024 BEACH CLEANUPS				
Program Type	**Number of Cleanups**	**Number of Volunteers**	**Number of Hours**	**Community Service Students**
Monthly Events	12	717	1,434	223
Individual Reporter	247	377	500	Not Applicable
TOTALS	**259**	**1,094**	**1,934**	**223**

Debra McPherson (right) talks to the public at one of our beach cleanups.

Gerry Burke, Joshua Hindman (KBB), and Sue Kiebler

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

STPS EVENTS

STPS volunteers love to meet with the public at local events to educate them about sea turtles and sell our merchandise. In 2024, STPS participated in **17** events including the EEARSS to the Environment ECOFEST (January), Ocean Treasures Festival (February), Melbourne Nature Day (February), Pollinator Fair (March), Walk for Water (March), Earth Day Celebration at Kennedy Space Center (KSC) (April), Satellite Beach Earth Day Coastal Garden Fair (April), Turkey Creek Day (April), Melbourne Beach Founders Day (May), Thunder on Cocoa Beach (May), Dale Sorenson Real Estate Beach Cleanup Event (June), Brevard Zoo World Sea Turtle Day (June), National Honey Bee Day (August), Satellite Beach Founders Day (November), Indian River Lagoon Day (November), "Park After Dark" at Turkey Creek Sanctuary (November), and Ocean Reef Beach Festival (December). See our volunteers at some of these events below.

Dave Thornton (right), Ocean Treasures Festival

Marcia Slaton, Louise Schuster & Robin Courtney, KSC Earth Day

Nancy Cannon & Debbie Palmer, Turkey Creek Day

Linda Rutland & Nikki Nelson, Thunder on Cocoa Beach

Sherrie Martin & Lorraine Jones, Honey Bee Day

Lynn Weston, Nancy Joyner & Heidi Hughes, Satellite Beach Founders Day

COMMUNICATIONS

STPS communicates with our members and the general public through television and print media, our website, and our social media platforms (see links below). Our communications team creates a quarterly membership newsletter, writes blog posts on educational and conservation topics, posts on STPS social media, and creates videos for our YouTube channel. These initiatives allow 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**

Here are some examples of local television news coverage of STPS in 2024.

Joel Cohen talks about our efforts to keep sea turtles safe during Thunder on Cocoa Beach boat race.

Cyndi Stinson reminds the public never to put a stranded sea turtle back in the ocean.

Joel Cohen comments on a disoriented nesting female killed by a car on A1A.

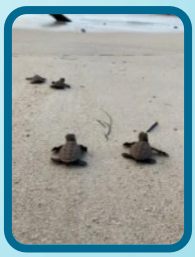
Local TV news feature Terri Watkins' video of Kemp's ridley nest eruption.

2024 PHOTO CALENDAR CONTEST

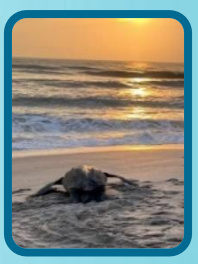
In 2024, STPS held a sea turtle photo contest. All 56 entries were posted on our Facebook page and the 13 with the most “likes” were included in our STPS 2025 Photo Calendar sold in the STPS Gift Shops or our Online Gift Store. To see larger versions of these photos, visit this STPS Facebook page.

Kerri Lewis

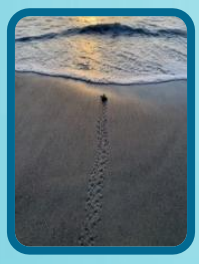
Cindy Lang



Sydney Taft Cole



Kelly Carroll



Michelle Cooksey

Megan Heil

Lisa Carter

Sarah Piper

Robin Courtney

Monna Mosse

Elizabeth Amels

Sharon Gibson

PeiJai Howard

NESTING SURVEYS

Within our two-mile survey area in Cocoa Beach, our volunteers documented a total of **267** nests. This included **3** greens, **2** Kemp's ridleys, and **262** loggerheads. On April 27, 2024, Nest Survey Permit Holder Sherrie Williams and her husband Dave documented a rare Kemp's ridley nest (shown left). The next day, our morning team found the first loggerhead nest of the season (shown right). All nest survey data collected by our volunteers is reported to Florida's FWC and contributes to the state's nesting totals for the year (discussed below). Some of our nesting survey teams are shown below. Top photo: Joel Cohen, Sandy Cuddeback, Stephanie Hare, Cyndi Stinson, and Julie Albert. Bottom photo: Mary Toupin, Erica Hedrick, Chris Diller, Corey Mullen, and Terri Watkins.

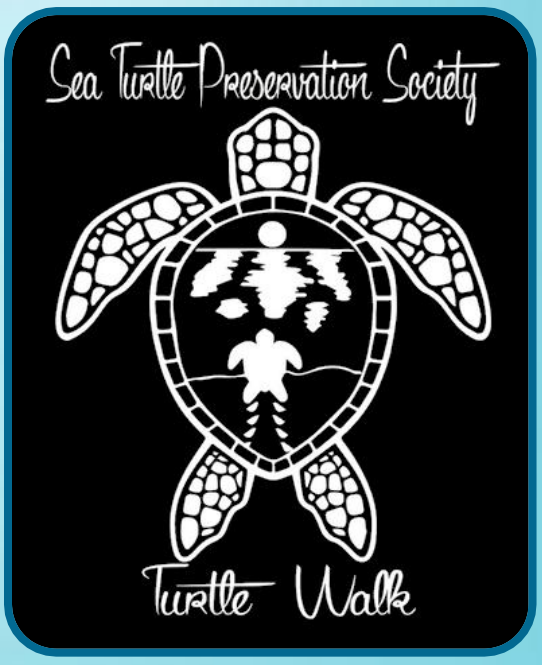
2024 FLORIDA SEA TURTLE NESTING TOTALS

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) compiled the Florida Statewide Nesting Beach Survey data for 2024. In Florida, Brevard County had the highest number of green sea turtles which emerged and laid their eggs. The totals shown below were extracted from the 2024 Statewide Nesting Totals page on the FWRI website. FWRI also reported a record count of 34 Kemp's ridley nests in Florida for 2024.

2024 FLORIDA SEA TURTLE NESTING TOTALS			
SPECIES	**Loggerheads**	**Greens**	**Leatherbacks**
Brevard County Totals	26,671	6,312	128
2024 State Totals	110,339	14,312	1,800
State Totals Difference From 2023	-24,574	-62,729	+149

TURTLE NIGHT WALKS

We had a very successful night walk season in 2024. We conducted **40** turtle night walks educating **1,030** guests from **34** states and **12** different countries. We observed nesting loggerhead females almost every night. Many thanks to all our night-walk volunteers who spent over **2,500** hours guiding our guests. Some of our volunteers are shown below.



EDUCATION

Our Education Program includes a variety of initiatives including online and in-person Turtle Talk presentations at schools, clubs, and community events, Traveling Turtle Trunks program for Brevard County teachers, Attention Boaters campaign, and our interactive Education Center at the Turtle House in Indialantic. In 2024, our volunteers gave **25** formal presentations to **954** people. We did talks at the EEARSS to the Environment ECOFEST, Titusville Garden Club, Florida Institute of Technology, Sea Park Elementary, Thunder at Cocoa Beach, The Timbers community in Palm Bay, Meadowlane Intermediate Elementary School, Brevard Zoo's Teacher Open House, Melbourne Garden Club, and South Mainland library in Micco. Below are our volunteers at some of these educational outreach events.

Linda Rutland and Nikki Nelson talk to boaters.

Jennifer Powell gives a presentation at The Timbers community.

Linda Perry and Anne Riehl at Brevard Zoo's Teacher Open House.

Linda Perry and Ingrid Lundberg talk to the Melbourne Garden Club.

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 approximately 1,200 calls in 2024.

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 maintains a rescue van at the Port Canaveral staging point during the year to aid with rescues and transports. In 2024, the van was out of service for several months while it received new tires, a tune up, and new vinyl exterior design. While used for other STPS activities, the STPS van was also driven three times for rescues and transports in 2024.

During 2024, the Stranding & Salvage team responded to 139 stranding and salvage events. Of those, 69 were alive and 70 were deceased. We also rescued approximately 200 hatchlings and 230 post-hatchlings. Between the Stranding and Transport teams, there were 293 transports (290 in personal vehicles) conducted in 2024 resulting in 11,793 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.

STERP completed its 17th year on December 31, 2024. The community response to this program continues to be as enthusiastic as the first year it was initiated. In April and May 2024, 138 volunteers trained for the STERP program through three live sessions which resulted in the annually issued Letter of Consent from Florida's FWC to participate in the program. STERP events were called on October 19th, 20th, 23rd, and November 6th. During these events, volunteers retrieved and transported 95 post-hatchling washback sea turtles to Brevard Zoo's Sea Turtle Healing Center.

STRANDING & SALVAGE VOLUNTEERS

Here are just a few of our Stranding & Salvage volunteers during rescue and salvage operations in 2024.

Entangled Green Rescued by Roger Pszonowsky (right). Photo by Rhonda Pszonowsky.

Linda Rutland, Autumn Neilson, Roger Pszonowsky, and Joel Cohen salvage a large deceased green.

Cyndi Stinson rescues a nesting female green that got stuck under the landing of a dune crossover.

Jerry Lemon and Melanie Hagen rescue a 170 lb. loggerhead.

SEA TURTLE RELEASES

SCOOBY, MOJAVE, AND OATMEAL

In March 2024, Stranding Volunteer Dave Thornton (center) rescued a young loggerhead (shown left) stranded on Indian Harbor Beach. She was subsequently transferred to The Turtle Hospital in the Florida Keys for treatment. After recovering, "Scooby" was fitted with a satellite transmitter and released on May 15th at Paradise Beach. She was set free along with two rehabbed juvenile green sea turtles named Mojave (rescued by Stranding & Salvage Permit Holder Cyndi Stinson) and Oatmeal (rescued by Stranding volunteer Danette Kane). Watch Scooby's release using this link: Swim Free Scooby!

MTP-169

Photo: Elaine Thornton

Photo by Cindy Lang

POST-HATCHLINGS WASHED ASHORE BY STORMS

In the fall of 2024, several storm events in Florida caused post-hatchlings to wash ashore. In September, Stranding Volunteer Jerry Lemon transported 107 rehabbed wash-backs (shown left) south for release offshore by the U.S. Coast Guard. In October, STPS volunteers rescued 130 wash-backs in Brevard County. Volunteer Coleen Seitter helped rehab them at Brevard Zoo's Sea Turtle Healing Center (shown right). In November, they were released offshore along with over 100 other post-hatchlings rehabbed at other facilities on Florida's east coast.

Left Photo by Jerry Lemon.

MTP-258

MTP-206

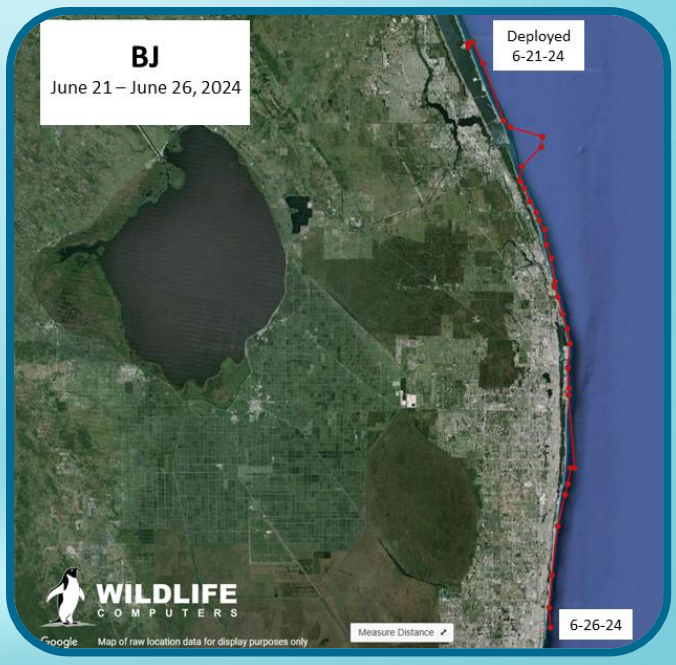
Right Photo by Coleen Seitter. All activities conducted by personnel covered under FWC Permit MTP-206.

RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION

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

In June 2024, UCF Marine Turtle Research Group (MTRG) and Inwater Research Group (IRG) satellite tagged and released a male green sea turtle that was 91.7 centimeters long and 255 pounds. The green was named in honor of the late BJ Varuska, and the satellite tag was provided by STPS and donations from BJ's wife Margie, their family, and friends. The turtle was provided by IRG including Jeff Guertin and Janie Reavis at their St. Lucie research site. See photo of BJ's release and track below (photo of BJ by UCF MTRG and taken while they conducted their Florida FWC-permitted research activities). Although BJ's tag came off earlier than expected, it tracked BJ to a new foraging ground near Sand Key Lighthouse (6 nautical miles SW of Key West) which MTRG researchers had never recorded before.

Male green sea turtle named BJ.



SEA TURTLE CARE & CONSERVATION SPECIALISTS

In October 2024, the STPS Board approved a donation request from Sea Turtle Care & Conservation Specialists (STCCS) for the purchase of a piece of equipment needed for their rehabilitation tanks. STCCS is just a year old and located in Delray Beach, FL. In their request, Co-Founder and Director of Operations Whitney Crowder said "Your contribution will be pivotal in setting us on a path toward enduring success and continued service to the sea turtle community."

FUNDRAISING

Throughout 2024, STPS held multiple fundraising events including our Turtle Night Walks during nesting season, World Sea Turtle Day Silent Auction in June (see artwork below), and Turtle Krawl 5K in September (see next page). Some of our other fundraisers were a Garage Sale in March, "Paint a Green Turtle" on St. Patrick's Day (see photo below), Round-Up Campaign at Tiny Turtle Restaurant in March, Earth Day Coffee Fundraiser in April, Culver's Share Night in July (see photo below), Ice Cream Fundraiser at Surfin' Turtle Ice Cream Shoppe in July, a Magic Show in September (see photo below), a "Paint a Turtle" event in November, and a fundraiser at Lazy Turtle Riverfront Grill in December.

In 2024, we received **127** online donations and over **50** made at the Turtle House. **283** were made along with Turtle Krawl 5K registrations. 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.

"Paint a Green Turtle"

Roger Pszonowsky at Culver's

Melanie Hagen and Sharon Gibson with Marvelous Megan and Dr. Dan Ezell at the Magic Show

TURTLE KRAWL 5K WALK/RUN

Our biggest fundraiser of the year took place September 14th at Nance Park in Indialantic with **1,594** race participants, **27** Sponsors and **266** volunteer slots filled. Many thanks to Race Director Cyndi Stinson, Volunteer Coordinator Louise Schuster, Sponsorship Coordinator Robin Courtney, Social Media Coordinator Kris Marvin, Turtle Krawl Webmaster Emma Foreman, and Treasurer Kathy LeBresco for all their hard work on the race. All proceeds from the event helped to fund STPS programs and activities, including rescue and transport of injured sea turtles, nesting surveys, turtle night walks, and educational outreach programs. Photos of race-day volunteers below by Terri Watkins.

THANK YOU 2024 SPONSORS

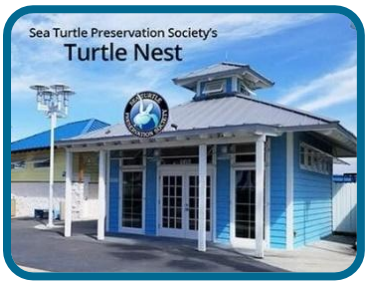
Special thanks to all of our race sponsors: Absolutely Natural, Animal Specialty & Emergency Center of Brevard, Au Pair in America, Bleu Beach Resort, Blinds of All Kinds, Burn Boot Camp, DC Roofing, Fyzical Therapy & Balance Centers, Hannah-Chanel Fund, Joel Likes To Photo, Launch Credit Union, Leonardo DRS, In Loving Memory of George and Judy Mackey, My Soxy Feet, Realtor Dina Nichols, Port Canaveral, Porter Premier Dermatology, QTS Data Centers, Radiantly Healthy Drip Lounge, Radiantly Healthy MD, Reef Realty, Ron Jon Surf Shop, Running Zone, Sandbar Sports Grill, SeaWorld Orlando, Slug-a-Bug, and Turtle Towel.

LEARN MORE ABOUT STPS

The Sea Turtle Preservation Society has two locations in Brevard County:

Main Office and Gift Shop (Turtle House)
111 South Miramar Avenue, Indialantic, FL
Phone: 321-676-1701

Cape Canaveral Port Kiosk
and Gift Shop (Turtle Nest)
9086 Flounder Street, Cape Canaveral, FL



Sea Turtle Emergency Hotline: 321-206-0646 (in Brevard)

STPS Website: **SeaTurtleSpaceCoast.org**

Gift Shop Website: **STPS Gift Shop**

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

Gift Shop on Facebook: **Facebook – 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.