2025 Annual Membership Meeting

December 4, 2025

Who Are We?

"We are early risers and night owls, teachers and writers, citizen scientists and photographers, dreamers and planners. We don't even mind getting wet and sandy. Each year, we reach thousands of people with our message. We are 1,100+ strong *Helping Sea Turtles Survive.*" – Roger Pszonowsky

September 3rd Nest Survey – Photo by Cindy Lang

October STERP Event

Turtle Krawl Photographers – Photo by Terri Watkins

STPS Turns 40 Next Year!

Join us to celebrate 40 *AMAZING* years *Helping Sea Turtles Survive* at our 40th Anniversary Celebration and Fundraiser.

Date: March 21, 2026

Time: 6 to 9 PM

Location:
American Muscle Car Museum
3500 Sarno Road
Melbourne, FL

Photo: Dee Onederer/Pexels

2025 Highlights

Nest Surveys

Photo by Chelsey Young

Stranding & Salvage

Transport

Turtle Krawl 5K

Photo by Terri Watkins

Fundraising

Photo by Dennis Lawyer

Turtle Night Walks

Photo by Joel Cohen

Events

Beach Cleanup

Volunteer Fair

Education

Members & Volunteers

Members – As of November 9th, STPS had 1,160 members. Many thanks to all our members for their financial support and commitment to our local sea turtle conservation efforts which are vital to the success of our programs and activities.

Volunteers – STPS currently has 602 *AWESOME* volunteers. Without them, we wouldn't be able to fulfill our mission *Helping Sea Turtles Survive*.

June 14th Volunteer Orientation – Photo by Kris Marvin

Turtle Krawl 5K Volunteers – September 13th
Photo by Cindy Lang

Volunteer Fair

This year, over 100 people came to our fair where they met our program directors, permit holders, coordinators, and volunteers to learn about all our different programs and activities.

February 8, 2025
Satellite Beach Public Library

2025 Board Members

- Roger Pszonowsky – Chairperson
- Sherrie Williams – Nesting Survey Permit Holder
- Craig Konkel – Turtle Night Walks Permit Holder
- Cyndi Stinson – Stranding & Salvage Permit Holder, STERP Coordinator & Turtle Krawl 5K Race Director
- Ken Smith – Transport Permit Holder & Sea Turtle Healing Center Liaison
- Kathy LeBresco – Treasurer & Gift Shop Director
- Joel Cohen – Social Media & Communications Director
- Linda Perry – Director of Education
- Robin Courtney – Events Co-Director & Turtle Krawl Sponsorship Coordinator
- Dori Hughes & Jerry Lemon – Lighting Outreach

Florida Marine Turtle Permit Holder Meeting

STPS permit holders and volunteers attended Florida FWC's 28th annual permit holder meeting in Melbourne, Florida. STPS was one of the sponsors and Chair Roger Pszonowsky gave a presentation about STPS.

January 10 – 12, 2025

Education

Our educational outreach activities reach a wide variety of people and include online Turtle Talk presentations, the Traveling Turtle Trunks program for teachers, our Education Center in Indialantic, and in-person talks at schools, clubs, libraries, and community events.

As of November 22nd, STPS has given 28 formal presentations to 1,268 people. We've spoken at Cocoa Beach Rotary Club, Titusville High, Freedom 7 Elementary, Suntree/Viera Library, Verdi Eco School, and others (see photos).

Royale Towers Homeowners Association
March 14, 2025

Kid's Day America
October 4, 2025

Beach Cleanups

Our monthly beach cleanups at Cherie Down Park and Val M. Steele Park (from 9 AM to 11 AM) are part of the Keep Brevard Beautiful project. They're open to the public and we supply all the materials – trash bags, gloves, pick-up tools, and sunscreen.

In September 2025, we participated in the annual International Coastal Cleanup. STPS volunteers picked up trash at multiple locations including Val M. Steele Park and Bonsteel Park (shown right).

International Coastal Cleanup - Bonsteel Park September 20, 2025. Photos by Cindy Lang

Nesting Surveys

As of September 15th, our Nest Survey volunteers documented a total of 412 nests within our two-mile survey area in Cocoa Beach. Included 3 Leatherbacks, 10 Greens & 399 Loggerheads.

Photo by Terri Watkins

Photo by Joel Cohen

Photo by Chelsey Young

Photo by Melanie Hagen

April – September

Turtle Night Walks

STPS conducted 33 walks which included almost 1,000 guests. Our guests watched a nesting loggerhead female almost every night. This year, 43 new night walk volunteers signed up.

Photo Taken by Kathy LeBresco

Photo by Joel Cohen

June & July

Stranding & Salvage

As of November 23rd, volunteers have responded to 218 strandings of adults, sub-adults and juveniles. We've received thousands of calls to the STPS Hotline. Also, over 800 hatchlings and post-hatchlings have been rescued.

April 10, 2025

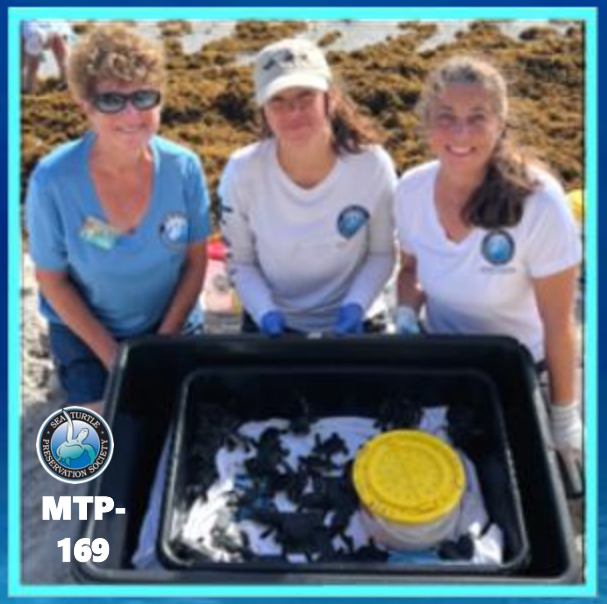
Photo by Penny Shellhorn-Schutt

April 29, 2025

June 27, 2025

Photo by Jennifer Jenkins

October 6, 2025



Sea Turtle Releases

Watermelon and Spooky

Watermelon Was Rescued August 2024 and Spooky Was Rescued October 2024 by Jerry Lemon.

Watermelon

Spooky

Photos by Cindy Lang

Released January 16th by Brevard Zoo.

Mischief

Rescued October 2023 by Cyndi Stinson.

Photo by Lisa Warfield

Mischief Weighed 140 Pounds

Photo by Cindy Lang

Released February 20th by Brevard Zoo.

Sea Turtle Releases

Cupcake

Rescued December 2024
by Linda Rutland.

Photo by Cindy Lang

Released March 12th by Brevard Zoo.

Nemo

Rescued January 2025 by Cyndi Stinson.

Photo by Cindy Lang

Released June 12th by Brevard Zoo.

Sea Turtle Releases

June Cleaver

Rescued June 2025 Joel Cohen and Cyndi Stinson.

June Weighed 230+ Pounds

Photo by Cindy Lang

Released September 3rd by Brevard Zoo.

Bugs

Rescued April 2025 by Linda Rutland.

Photo by Don and Cindy Lang

Released October 1st by Brevard Zoo.

Sea Turtle Transports

UCF MTRG Research

In February, MTRG Researchers at Trident Basin Found Six Juvenile Greens That Needed Medical Attention.

Photo by Coleen Seitter

Transported to Brevard Zoo's Sea Turtle Healing Center by Melanie Hagen and Coleen Seitter.

October 2025 Wash-backs

Hundreds of Wash-backs Were Transported to Brevard Zoo's Healing Center During the October STERP Event.

Photo by Charlotte Lawyer

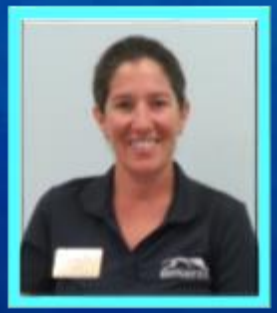
After Rehab, Many Were Transported to STCCS in Palm Beach on October 9th and 31st by Charlotte & Dennis Lawyer For Release by STCCS.

Monthly Meetings

Our monthly meetings are open to the public and are held in-person and via Zoom. This year, guest speakers included:

- Lindy Johnson Who Worked with Dr. Archie Carr
- Gabrielle Sconzo – Sea & Shoreline
- Kelly Etherton & Kate Montgomery – Florida's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
- Yagen Gutierrez & Tori Wilcock – Brevard Zoo
- Whitney Crowder – Sea Turtle Care & Conservation Specialists (STCCS)
- Bette Zirkelbach – The Turtle Hospital
- Brandon Smith – Brevard County's Save Our Indian River Lagoon Program
- Allie Bernstein – Marine Science Center

Kate Montgomery & Kelly Etherton



Yagen Gutierrez

Bette Zirkelbach

Photo by Cindy Lang

Brandon Smith

Allie Bernstein

Photo by Jon Middelstaedt

Community Events

STPS volunteers love to educate the public at local events and sell our sea turtle merchandise. We participated in 16 events throughout the community this year.

Ocean Treasures Festival
February 2025

Turkey Creek Day
April 2025

Coast Guard Day at Port Canaveral
August 2025

Creatures Fest at Barrier Island Center
October 2025

Communications

We communicate with our members and the general public through our website, social media, and local and national media. Volunteers share their expertise with reporters, create educational videos, post content on social media, write blogs, and create a quarterly membership newsletter. This outreach allows us to educate the public and get them involved in our activities and sea turtle conservation.

Photo Courtesy FOX35

Autumn Neilson

Photo Courtesy NEWS6

Terri Watkins

Photo Courtesy FOX35

Joel Cohen

Fundraising

In 2025, STPS held a variety of fundraising events including Long Doggers Earth Week, fundraisers at Hilton and Double-tree hotels, our Silent Auction, and Magic Show.

Long Doggers
April 2025

Marvelous Megan (Photo by Charlotte & Dennis Lawyer)

Magic Show
September 2025

2025 Turtle Krawl 5K

This year's race took place on September 13th at Nance Park in Indialantic with approximately 1,650 race participants, 23 Sponsors, and over 120 race volunteers. Many thanks to race director Cyndi Stinson, the entire race planning team, all our awesome Turtle Krawl volunteers, and everyone who participated. Great Job Everyone!

Cyndi awards a medal to Stranding Volunteer Autumn Neilson. Photo by Cindy Lang

Turtle Krawl Volunteers
Photo by Sandra Dzurek

Turtle Krawl Volunteers
Photo by Sandra Dzurek

Donations

As of November 26th, STPS received 52 donations and 29 memorial donations at the Turtle House and online. 286 donations were made along with Turtle Krawl registrations. Thanks to all our donors and supporters for their generous support.

Photo by Sandra Dzurek

Photo by Nacimarie Figueroa

Photo by Sandra Dzurek

Photo by Cindy Lang

Some of Our 2025 Turtle Krawl Sponsors – Thank You!

STPS Gift Shops

The Turtle House in Indialantic and the Turtle Nest Kiosk at Port Canaveral continue to educate visitors and support STPS through merchandise sales. Also, our online store lets sea turtle lovers support us without ever leaving home.

At the Turtle House Education Center in Indialantic, specially trained education volunteers teach visitors about sea turtles and everything we do at STPS.

Come Visit Us Soon!

To All Our Members, Volunteers, Donors, and Supporters:

Photo by Cindy Lang

THANK YOU!

What is “ the Board”

Director position is a 2 year term
Permit holders (4) are permanent

The Importance of the STPS Board

As the highest leadership body of the organization and to satisfy its fiduciary duties, the Board is responsible for:

- The future current and future direction of STPS
- Strategic and organizational planning
- Ensuring strong fiduciary oversight and financial management
- Fundraising and resource development

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The Importance of the STPS Board

- Approving and monitoring the organization's programs and services
- Monitoring the performance of all Board members to ensure the responsibilities are met
- Developing, administering and advocating policies and procedures
- Establishing committee structure and regularly assessing how each committee is functioning

Board Directors Election

The membership was asked for candidates to be nominated. A Board Director must meet the following requirements:

- Active STPS membership for at least one full year prior to the election
- An active STPS volunteer in good standing within the last year
- Be an official Brevard or adjacent county resident
- 18 years or older

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Board Directors Election

The following candidates notified the Board of their interest in being on the STPS Board:

[Names of Candidates to be Read by the Chair]

We will now take nominations from the floor of additional members interested.

Board Directors Election

There are currently four Director vacancies as of January 2026:

- If there are equal or fewer candidates, the Chair can declare the slate elected by acclamation
- If more than four candidates, then a paper ballot will be taken
- Ballots will be tallied by Board Member(s)
- Results announced