

Turtle Times

Member Newsletter of the Sea Turtle Preservation Society

Spring 2022

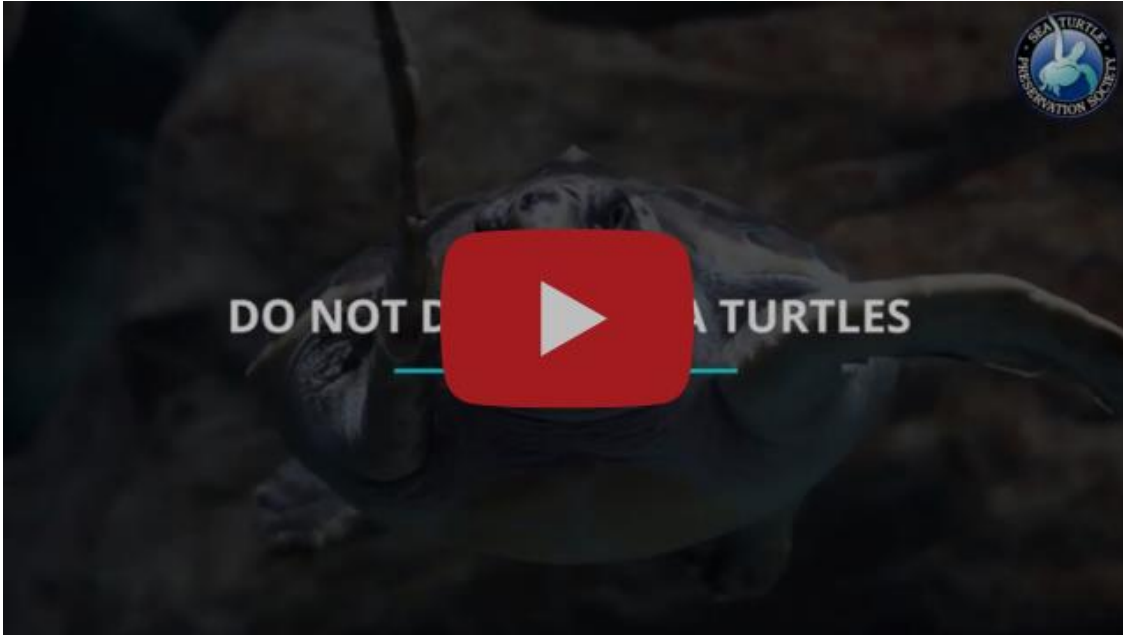


Photo by Susan Skinn
MTP#22-067

Nesting Season

Nesting season has arrived here in Brevard County. On May 1, lights out ordinances went into effect and will continue through Oct. 31. Residents and visitors can help to make our area as turtle friendly as possible by remembering to keep beaches clean, flat, and dark during this time. County ordinances prohibit visible lights of any type, including cellphones, at night during this time. It's also important to remove beach chairs and other obstacles each night as well as to knock down sandcastles and fill in any holes that may block or trap both nesting sea turtles and hatchlings. To find out more about how you can help during nesting season, please take some time to read and share the information found on the STPS website. By talking to your family, friends, and neighbors about how to protect sea turtles and their habitats, you are making a difference. STPS also created a short video, "Sharing the Beach with Sea Turtles" that is available on our YouTube channel.

Our STPS nest survey teams have been on the beach daily since April 15 to document this season's nesting activity. As of May 24, STPS has documented 76 nests, including one leatherback nest. The season total includes 75 loggerhead nests and one leatherback.



Night Walks

The Sea Turtle Preservation Society will offer educational night walks on Brevard County beaches during the 2022 sea turtle nesting season. The STPS Night Walk program takes guests onto the beach at night to witness a loggerhead sea turtle lay her eggs. Participants start the evening with an informative presentation about sea turtles, and once a nesting turtle has been located, participants will be able to watch the loggerhead sea turtle lay her eggs, cover her nest, and return to the ocean. This STPS program is conducted by volunteers through a permit issued by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. STPS will offer walks four to five nights a week in June and July at several Brevard County beaches. Reservations are now open and may be made online on the STPS website. Cost: \$18 donation per person. Participants

should be able to walk up to a mile on a dark beach and expect to get sandy and possibly wet. The event can run as late as midnight, depending on when a nesting turtle is found. Children must be at least 7 years old to participate and must be accompanied by adult. For questions, please contact walks@seaturtlespacecoast.org or call 321-676- 1701.

[Night Walk Registration](#)



Turtle Krawl 2022

Registration is now open for the Sea Turtle Preservation Society's family friendly fundraiser, which benefits our STPS conservation and education programs. The 2022 event will take place Saturday, Sept. 10, at Nance Park in Indialantic. The live race will begin at 7:30 a.m., and the finish line will also be in Nance Park. A virtual race option also is available.

This year, STPS welcomes Cyndi Stinson as the Turtle Krawl race director. She is looking for volunteers to join her committee to help plan and organize all aspects of this event, which is the biggest fundraiser of the year for STPS.

All race proceeds benefit the Sea Turtle Preservation Society's mission to protect sea turtles and their habitats. In past years, funds raised have supported the Brevard Zoo's Sea Turtle Healing Center as well as STPS programs and activities, including rescue and transport of injured sea turtles, nesting surveys, night walks and other educational outreach programs as well as satellite transmitters for the UCF marine turtle research program.

Registration for the 2022 Turtle Krawl includes a race shirt with artwork by Nemo, and participants may choose to add a special 2022 finisher medal to their registration. The Turtle Krawl adoptions and donations program provides an opportunity to support local sea turtle conservation for those who do not wish to participate in the race.

Sponsorship opportunities also are available for those wishing to show their support of STPS and sea turtle conservation. Different sponsorship levels offer varying benefits,

including logo placement on the race shirt. To date, we would like to thank Dale Sorenson, Subaru, Ron Jon Surf Shop, and Coastal Health for becoming sponsors of the 2022 event.

To register, donate, or sponsor this year's Turtle Krawl click the button below:

[Turtle Krawl Registration](#)

Zoo Outreach

In March, STPS launched a new outreach program in partnership with the Brevard Zoo and the Sea Turtle Healing Center. Each Saturday, STPS volunteers teach zoo guests about sea turtles and how they can help protect these species and their habitats. Each of the nearly 30 volunteers has committed to a monthly shift and has had extra training to help them succeed in this outreach activity. When you visit the zoo on a Saturday, be sure to stop by and say hello to our volunteers, who are stationed in the breezeway at the entrance to the Paws On Area. Both the volunteers and the guests are enjoying the program, and we are looking forward to continuing to build on this success.



STPS volunteers teaching the public about sea turtles at the Brevard Zoo.

What's Happening in STPS



Events/Fundraising

- HUGE thank you to Long Doggers for the opportunity to have three fundraising nights (April 19-21) at three of their locations.
- Please welcome new partner, The Traveling Tortugas, and check out their website: <https://thetravelingtortugas.com/>
- On May 6, which is the anniversary of STPS, the 2023 calendar contest kicked off. Please see the details elsewhere in this newsletter.
- The Painting with a Twist fundraiser set for June 5 is sold out. Thanks to everyone who signed up.
- World Sea Turtle Day Auction will go live at 9 am on June 8th and continue until 10 pm on June 18. Follow us on Facebook to see some sneak peeks of items!
- June 11th: Open House & WSTD celebration at Turtle Nest kiosk at Port Canaveral
- June 18th: Open House & WSTD celebration at Turtle House in Indialantic

Volunteer Gatherings

- Upcoming volunteer gathering
 - The Broken Barrel Tavern in Palm Bay on Saturday June 25 at 12pm: RSVP [HERE](#).

Monthly Meetings

Our June monthly meeting will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 2, on Zoom with the Sea Turtle Conservancy's Stacey Gallagher, development coordinator/lighting project specialist. Gallagher will be discussing sea turtle friendly lighting. To register for the free meeting, go to the STPS website calendar: <https://seaturtlespacecoast.org/calendar/event->

[calendar/#id=482&cid=1580&wid=1201&type=Cal](#)

STERP

If you are interested in participating as a volunteer in this year's STERP program you'll need to attend one of the remaining training sessions.

- May 31, Tuesday, 6pm - 8pm
- June 4, Saturday, 10am - noon

The training will be in person at the Satellite Beach Community Center, 1089 S. Patrick Drive, Satellite Beach. We will train in the first conference room on the right after you enter the main doors. **Please register to attend training in VIC.**

Reminder! You need to be a current STPS member, and this is not a stranding class. When STPS announces a STERP event, annually trained and authorized STERP volunteers conduct surveys of the wrack line by foot without the use of sticks or other poking/probing devices when examining deposits of seaweed. This search and recover is for "marine turtle post-hatchlings" (5-9 cm). Once trained, the attendance roster is submitted to FWC for issuance of a letter of consent indicating approval and detailed guidance.

Come join the team! The little washbacks will appreciate your assistance.

Beach Cleanups

The next monthly beach cleanups will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 4, at both Cherie Down Park in Cape Canaveral and Coconut Point Park in Melbourne Beach. STPS has adopted both sites through Keep Brevard Beautiful.

Calling Photographers!

Sea Turtle Preservation Society is looking for skilled photographers (amateur and professional) for our calendar contest. Our sea turtle calendar will help remind people throughout the year to help sea turtles survive. The calendar will include important sea turtle dates such as World Sea Turtle Day, World Oceans Day, Earth Day and so much more!

All submissions, including the Photography Permission Form, must be submitted to fundraising@seaturtlespacecoast.org no later than June 17th, 2022.

Criteria for contest submission are below:

- Photographer's name, description of image, location and date photo was taken must be included with STPS's Photography Permission Form.
- Image must be submitted by actual photographer otherwise written permission for submission must be provided by photographer.
- Image must show sea turtle in a **natural setting** and follow turtle-friendly guidelines (no flash images of nesting sea turtles, no images of people handling sea turtles, etc.) This also includes no images of turtles in aquariums or rehabilitation centers.
- Email submission can include a small file (JPG preferred) but a high-resolution version of the image must be available for printing if selected.
- A maximum of three photographs may be submitted.
- Photos may have been previously submitted, but not chosen for the calendar.
- Photograph submissions only, no artwork.
- Last day to submit photographs is June 17th.

Top 30 photos will be posted on our Facebook account to determine the top 12 with the most "likes". Winners will then be announced on STPS's website and social media accounts on June 30th. Each winner will receive 1 free calendar.

By submitting your photos before June 17th, 2022 to fundraising@seaturtlespacecoast.org you are granting STPS rights to use your photograph for the Sea Turtle Preservation Society 2023 Calendar and other STPS education initiatives.

An update from the STPS

Board of Directors:

The Board of Directors meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Turtle House in Indialantic. Here are some highlights of what the board has been focusing on:

- **Vision Workshops:** The Board of Directors has been holding a series of workshops to focus on a strategic plan for the organization. The goal is to present the plan at the annual membership meeting in December.
- **Turtle Krawl 5K:** The board approved Sept. 10, 2022, as this year's race date and appointed Cyndi Stinson to be this year's race director.
- **Research Funding:** In March, the board approved \$10,000 to fund UCF researcher Dean Bagley's research tracking male green sea turtles using satellite transmitters. STPS has supported this research for several years.
- **Memorial Donation:** In May, the board approved a \$1,000 donation in memory of Dr. Llewelyn Earhart to a UCF scholarship fund created in his honor.
- **Sea Turtle Healing Center:** The Board of Directors is working on an updated agreement with the Brevard Zoo to work together to jointly ensure the operation of its sea turtle rehabilitation facility.

- **Sea Turtle Grant Program:** STPS has received a six-month extension to complete the redesign project of the Turtle House education center, which is being funded through a grant from the Sea Turtle License Plate Grant Program.

A Note from the Chair

World Sea Turtle Day is just around the corner on June 16, but why limit yourself to one day when you can celebrate sea turtles every day of the year? Each of us can make a difference.

Here are some ideas that each of us can do:

Keep the beach flat, clean and dark: When enjoying the beach this nesting season, please remove all beach chairs and other obstacles, fill in holes and knock down sandcastles, pick up all trash and remember it's lights out on Brevard County beaches from May 1 to Oct. 31.

Recycle: Plastics pollution poses many hazards for sea turtles, from ingestion to entanglement. By recycling, you cut down on waste that may end up in the ocean or on the beach.

Register for the Turtle Krawl 5K Run/Walk: Visit turtlekrawl.com to register as a participant or sign up as a volunteer to help with race activities. This family friendly event not only raises funds for local conservation programs, it also raises awareness of STPS and its mission to help sea turtles survive.

Volunteer: Whether it's an hour or a day, share your time with STPS and help us protect sea turtles and their habitat. You can participate in a beach cleanup, make some phone calls, teach others about sea turtles and so much more. Contact our STPS volunteer coordinator, volunteer@seaturtlespacecoast.org, to get started today.

Thanks for all you do,
Susan Skinner
STPS Board of Directors Chairperson



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The Turtle Times is a quarterly newsletter for members of the Sea Turtle Preservation Society, a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization based in Brevard County, FL.

For more information about the organization, please visit the STPS website, seaturtlespacecoast.org.

Stay connected with STPS

Website: seaturtlespacecoast.org

Here you'll find our Loggerhead Lowdown blog, calendar of events and other information for members and volunteers.

On social media, you can keep up with STPS, the Turtle House Gift Shop, and the Turtle Krawl 5K on Facebook and Instagram.

Facebook: Sea Turtle Preservation Society.

You can also keep up with what's happening at the gift shop by liking STPS Turtle House Gift Shop on Facebook.

Instagram: [seaturtleps](https://www.instagram.com/seaturtleps).

For questions, contact news@seaturtlespacecoast.org

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