Ready, set... Turtle Krawl

It’s time to gear up for this year’s Turtle Krawl 5K, which will offer both live and virtual race options. Join STPS at 7:30 a.m. on Sept. 11, 2021, at Nance Park in Indialantic for this family friendly fundraiser, which also will be the second event in the 2021 Space Coast Runner of the Year Series.

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.

Here’s how you can be part of this year’s Turtle Krawl:

- Participate in either the live or virtual race. Register online today at turtlekrawl.com. Registration for the 2021 Turtle Krawl live race includes a race shirt with artwork by Nemo, and participants may choose to add a special 2021 finisher medal to their registration. The 2021 live event will begin and end at Nance Park in Indialantic, FL.
Virtual race participants receive both a shirt and medal with their registration fee. Shirts guaranteed for only the first 2,000 registrants, so sign up today.

- More than 100 volunteers are needed to help before the race as well as on race day. Go to turtlekrawl.com and select the volunteer tab to sign up to help make the event a success.
- The Turtle Krawl adoptions and donations program provides an opportunity to support local sea turtle conservation for those who do not wish to register for the race. Donate here.
- Sponsorship opportunities also are available for those wishing to show their support of STPS and sea turtle conservation.

To register, sponsor, or donate to this year's Turtle Krawl event, please go to the Turtle Krawl website: turtlekrawl.com.

Register for the 2021 Turtle Krawl 5K

Celebrating World Sea Turtle Day

Each year the Sea Turtle Preservation Society celebrates World Sea Turtle Day on June 16, which is Archie Carr's birthday. This year, we decided one day – or even one week – was not enough, and events were planned throughout the
entire month of June. Thanks to everyone who participated in these events and activities to support our sea turtle conservation efforts.

STPS kicked off the celebration with two *Painting with a Twist* events -- one at the Cocoa location and one in Melbourne. Altogether, 42 people participated and the events raised $819.

During Sea Turtle Week, STPS held its first ever online auction in conjunction with open house celebrations at both locations, the Turtle House in Indialantic and the Turtle Nest at Port Canaveral. The auction raised $3,645.86, and three microchip scanners also were donated for the STPS stranding team.
The month wrapped up with a Board & Brush event that raised $122. STPS also announced the winners of our calendar photo contest. The top 12 entries were announced on the STPS Facebook page; included here is the top liked photo by Cindy Lang. The sea turtle calendars will be available for sale later in the year.
Brevard Zoo’s Keith Winsten carries Wandering Wylie, a Kemp's ridley sea turtle rehabilitated at the zoo’s Sea Turtle Healing Center, to the ocean during a World Sea Turtle Day release on June 16, 2021 in Cocoa Beach. Photo by Joel Cohen, @joelikestophoto

Sea Turtle Releases
On World Sea Turtle Day—June 16, the Brevard Zoo’s Sea Turtle Healing Center partnered with STPS to hold the healing center’s first public release in more than one year. A rare Kemp’s ridley sea turtle named Wandering Wylie was released into the ocean at Lori Wilson Park in Cocoa Beach after three months of care at the facility. STPS volunteers were on hand at the release to educate the public as well as assist with crowd control. Back in March, STPS volunteers responded when this Kemp’s ridley sea turtle stranded in Cocoa Beach and got the turtle to needed care at the healing center. Thanks to the entire team that made this such a great World Sea Turtle Day celebration.
Watch a video of the release on the STPS Youtube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4K4ymZV4fE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4K4ymZV4fE)

Less than a month later, STPS had the opportunity to release a sea turtle rehabilitated at the Sea Turtle Healing Center. On July 2, Yertle was released by a team of STPS volunteers at Canaveral National Seashore. This juvenile green sea turtle arrived at the Brevard Zoo’s STHC on March 4 after stranding at Playalinda Beach.
STPS volunteers also were on hand to help at the release of Pearl, a juvenile green sea turtle, by the Sea Turtle Healing Center on July 22 at Pelican Beach Park in Satellite Beach. Also, on July 15, STPS was on hand when the STHC released LJ, a subadult loggerhead sea turtle, at Lori Wilson Park.
Calling All Volunteers

At STPS, volunteers are the heart of our organization. As an all-volunteer nonprofit group, we rely on the passion and dedication of each volunteer to accomplish our sea turtle conservation mission.

The board of directors and our program coordinators appreciate all that our volunteers do. We are continually working to provide the best experience for the entire team.

To protect both our volunteers and the organization, it is important that each volunteer have a liability waiver on file. This waiver is part of the online volunteer application that should have been completed before beginning to volunteer. Program coordinators and directors are in the process of checking the records of all volunteers to ensure all information is on file. If you have an active account in VIC (where you sign up to volunteer and log your service hours), then you should be good.

Since we’re talking about VIC, don’t forget to log your service hours. This not only allows STPS to recognize your hard work but provides important data used for documents such as grant applications as well as giving STPS an overview of where volunteer time is being spent.

Our volunteer coordinator has just added a great new communications tool for our STPS programs. Slack is a free app-based or web-based communication tool that our STPS volunteers will be using. If you have an active VIC account, you received a link to register for Slack. Within Slack, we have different channels that allow us to communicate about what’s going on in the organization, program information, and so much more! This can also be a
resource to ask questions and get to know other volunteers. Volunteers are able to customize their notifications to their preferences. Be sure to sign up today!

Please contact the STPS volunteer coordinator at 

volunteer@seaturtlespacecoast.org with questions or concerns.
What's happening in STPS

August Monthly Meeting Goes Virtual
This month's meeting will now take place at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 5, on Zoom. It will not
take place in person. This virtual meeting will feature a talk on climate change entitled "The Basics of Climate Change and Local Risks" by Holly Abeels, Florida Sea Grant Extension Agent and Certified Climate Change Professional® (CC-P®). Please register here to receive the login information.

**Beach Cleanups**
The monthly beach cleanups at Coconut Point Park and Cherie Down Park will resume 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 7. Materials for cleanup activities are provided, including trash bags, gloves, and tools. The cleanups are open to everyone. Volunteers may receive community service hours. STPS has adopted these sites through Keep Brevard Beautiful's Adopt-A-Shore program. For a full list of scheduled cleanups, please visit the STPS Event Calendar.

**Nesting Updates**
STPS volunteers continue to monitor our two-mile survey area. Through July 31, STPS survey teams recorded 282 loggerhead nests, four green nests, and two leatherback nests. Nests are beginning to hatch as well, and nest success evaluations are being completed on marked nests in the survey area.

**Night Walks**
We have wrapped up the 2021 turtle walk season. We held 35 walks during June and July and successfully displayed a nesting loggerhead on 28 of those dates for an 80 percent success rate. Even in the shadow of the COVID pandemic, we had 133 guests from 27 different states. The Turtle Walk Team logged 2,500 VIC hours during the course of the season, including more than 30 volunteers who participated for the first time. I would like to thank all the STPS volunteers who gave up their valuable time to help educate our guests and help make this walk season a success in "Helping Sea Turtles Survive."

-- Craig Konkel, permit holder
Emergency Response (Stranding and Transport programs)
Through the end of July, STPS had responded to 158 stranding events for the year. The hotline has received 1,199 calls through the end of July. The stranding team assisted 110 hatchlings during the month of July and was able to release, or transport to the zoo’s Sea Turtle Healing Center, 86 of those hatchlings.

Sea Turtle Emergency Response Program
Training for the Sea Turtle Emergency Response Program, or STERP, took place in May and June. There were 106 members who completed the training and were included in the Consent Permit Request submitted to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Those whose names were submitted should have been notified and received a copy of the permit. STERP volunteers only participate when an event is called by the program coordinators.

Membership
Through July, STPS had 856 memberships and 1,099 total members. STPS logo magnets are being sent out with all new and renewing memberships this year.

COVID-19 Guidelines
At its July meeting, the STPS Board of Directors decided that the organization will follow current CDC recommendations for COVID-19. Currently, this means that for indoor events and activities, a face covering is recommended for all participants and volunteers. Please understand that these guidelines may change on short notice as the CDC updates its recommendations. This decision was made to protect our STPS volunteers, members, and the community.
Introducing Everett and Peter

The STPS Board of Directors has funded two satellite transmitters for Dean Bagley, a researcher with the University of Central Florida’s Marine Turtle Research Group. STPS has supported Bagley’s work researching male green sea turtles for several years. This year, the board has named the two male green sea turtles being tracked with the satellite transmitters. The first is named Everett, in honor of longtime STPS volunteer Everett Tindall who turned 91 in June. The second turtle has been named Peter, in honor of STPS founder Peter Bandre and the 35th anniversary of the organization in 2021.
Everett was deployed at sunrise on June 9, 2021, just south of Tuscany Sun Motel in Melbourne Beach, FL. He left immediately, crossing Sebastian Inlet before dinnertime that day. By June 13, he was off Jupiter Island. By June 15, he was at Highland Beach, between Delray and Deerfield beaches, where he spent 15 days — until June 30. From there, he began his journey south again, took a quick tour of Biscayne Bay and then continued down the Keys. He took a quick look at Boca Grande Channel and west of the Marquesas, where so many of our previous turtles have gone, but continued west and then north through the Quicksands to an area known as “New Ground” on NOAA charts. Everett has remained in this same general area.
Peter was deployed on June 26, 2021, from the south side of South Shores condominium in Melbourne Beach, FL. Unlike Everett, Peter remained in our area for another 11 days, spending his time between Beachwoods Condos and the Sebastian Beach Inn, going back and forth, over and over, presumably socializing with the ladies. On July 6, as he reached the inn, he kept going south and passed Sebastian Inlet, leaving us behind. He has continued to make his way south along the coast, past Biscayne Bay, and seems to be slowing a bit with his last couple of locations as he approaches Key Largo.

Dean Bagley will continue to provide periodic updates to STPS as she tracks the turtles this summer. The updates will appear on the Loggerhead Lowdown blog on the STPS website.

You can also sign up on the website to receive the blog via email. Please complete the registration at the bottom right of the home page.

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Chair Update

As STPS celebrates 35 years of sea turtle conservation in Brevard County, it’s the perfect time to reflect on where we have been, where we are at, and where we are headed.
This grassroots organization sprouted from one person’s desire to make a difference. Peter Bandre saw sea turtle hatchlings in trouble, and he didn’t stop until he found a solution. That same drive has continued through the years as STPS volunteers have worked to educate others about sea turtle conservation and taken part in efforts to save sea turtles and their habitats.

Today, STPS has more than 1,000 members with almost 300 volunteers. Our organization teaches the public about sea turtles through community outreach programs and events as well as in classroom settings. STPS operates rescue programs that give sea turtles a chance to survive.

This year, we are continuing to improve and expand on our mission. STPS received a $7,400 grant through the Sea Turtle license plate program to update and redesign the education center at the Turtle House in Indialantic. STPS has added new partners and sponsors to support our programs. Additionally, I’m excited to say that some new outreach activities and events are being organized and should be announced soon.

Looking further ahead, the board of directors will be taking time to create a vision with clear goals to guide the organization in the coming decade as we continue to accomplish our mission to help sea turtles survive. If you would like to contribute to shaping this vision, please contact me at stpschair@seaturtlespacecoast.org

Thanks for all you do,
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.