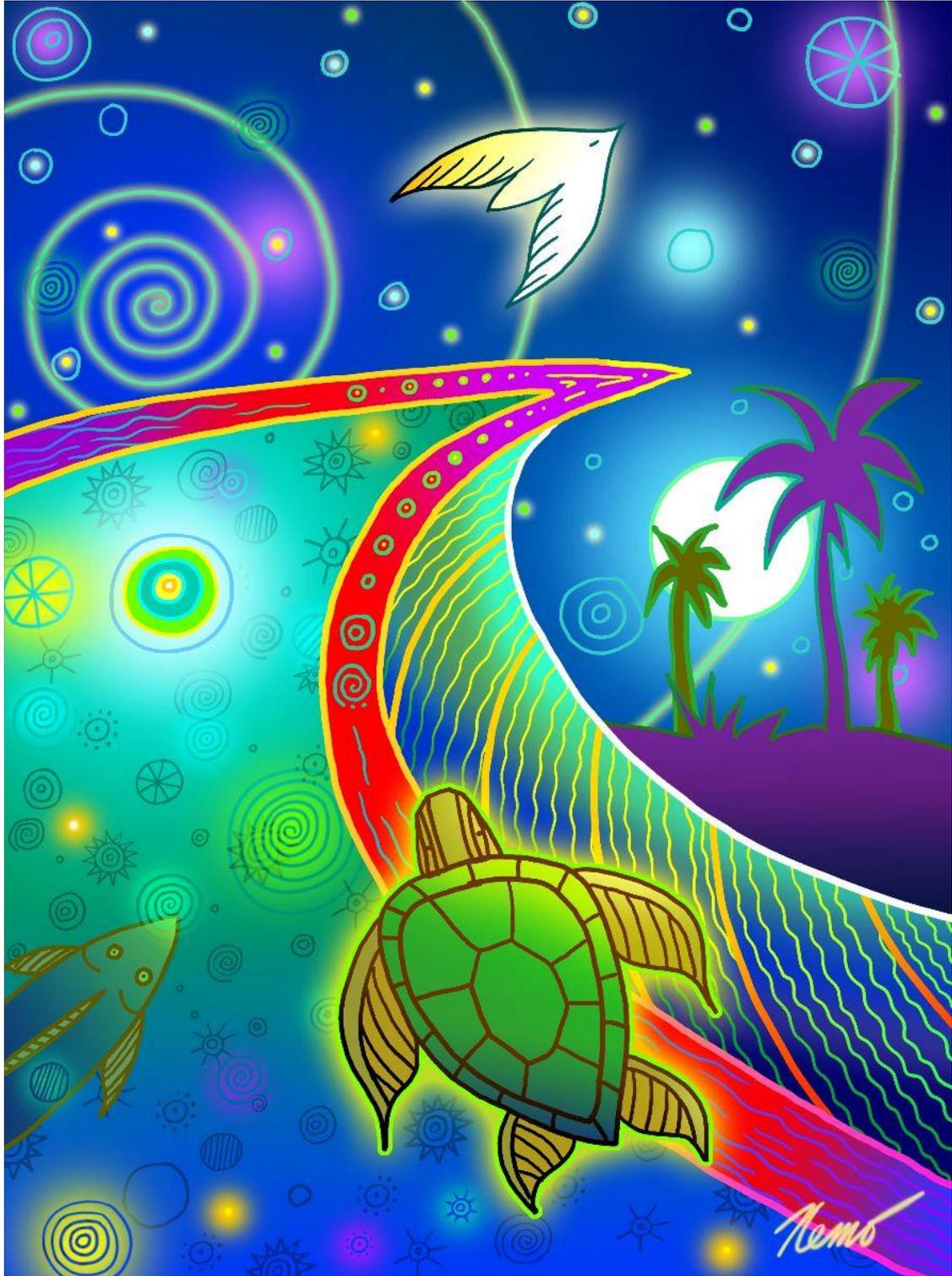


Turtle Times

Member Newsletter of the Sea Turtle Preservation Society

Summer 2022



Now's the time to gear up for this year's Turtle Krawl 5K!

With less than a month until this year's Turtle Krawl 5K, it's time to act and support the Sea Turtle Preservation Society's conservation efforts. This year's event will be Saturday, Sept. 10, and will start and end at Nance Park in Indialantic, FL. A virtual option also is available for those unable to attend in person. This year's race shirts feature a sublimated sea turtle design and original artwork by Nemo. These shirts are guaranteed to only the first 1,500 registrants, so don't wait to register. In addition to being our organization's largest fundraiser of the year, the event raises awareness of the threats to sea turtles and their habitats. This family friendly event draws more than a thousand participants each year and our dedicated volunteers make it a success.

We'd also like to offer a special thanks to the sponsors of this year's event: SeaWorld Orlando; Hannah-Chanel Fund; Ron Jon Surf Shop; Running Zone; Coastal Health Systems of Brevard; Dale Sorensen Real Estate of Brevard; Subaru Melbourne; Omni Healthcare; Buckingham Strategic Wealth; @JoelLikesToPhoto.

The race proceeds benefit the Sea Turtle Preservation Society's work in the coming year, so lace up your running shoes and/or pull on your volunteer hat to help make this year's race a success.

To participate...

Register online at turtlekrawl.com through Sept. 6. You may choose either the live race or the virtual option when registering.

[Turtle Krawl Registration](https://turtlekrawl.com)

To volunteer...

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 see what's available and to sign up to help make the event a success.

[Volunteer at Turtle Krawl](https://turtlekrawl.com)

STPS welcomes new volunteer coordinator, Katelyn Stafford



Katelyn Stafford, new STPS volunteer coordinator

Katelyn grew up in Nashville, but had family in Cape Canaveral and visited multiple times a year. She knew she wanted to live at the beach, so she moved here 4 years ago. Her background is in the zoo vet field, and once in Brevard she worked as the Community Outreach Coordinator at the Humane Society. Animals and conservation are her passion, but they can't always pay the bills. Katelyn started working at Kennedy Space Center in February but quickly realized that her heart is stuck in non profit. She just started with Brevard Family Partnership as their first volunteer coordinator and looks forward to helping them develop their program. She is looking forward to working with everyone and excited to have a new way to feed her conservation and animal loving soul.

Sea Turtle Releases

During the second week of August, STPS volunteers were able to assist with the release of two rehabilitated sea turtles.

On Tuesday, Aug. 9, the Brevard Zoo's Sea Turtle Healing Center released Myrtle at Lori Wilson Park in Cocoa Beach. STPS volunteers played a part in her recovery and were on hand to help educate beach goers about sea turtles during the release. On Wednesday, Aug. 10, Tri was released at Pelican Beach Park in Satellite Beach. STPS stranding volunteer Jo-Ellen Matthews released the juvenile green sea turtle after having responded to the original stranding in February 2022. The turtle was transferred from the STHC to Clearwater Marine Aquarium for rehabilitation due to space limitations.

Two sea turtles were privately transported and released by STPS during the morning of Wednesday, Aug. 17. Both were juvenile green sea turtles rehabilitated by the Sea Turtle Healing Center. YoYo was released at Canaveral National Seashore, and Gwen was released in the Melbourne Beach area of Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge.





What's Happening in STPS



Monthly Meetings

STPS monthly meetings resume on Thursday, Sept. 1, in the Scotty Culp Room at Satellite Beach City Hall, 565 Cassia Blvd. Please note this is a new location. Doors open at 7 pm and the meeting begins at 7:30 pm. The scheduled guest speaker is UCF PhD student Katie Martin, who is studying genetics related to sea turtle immune systems and FP. The schedule for the remainder of the year is as follows: October, TBD; November, UCF researcher Dean Bagley; December, annual

membership meeting and board of director elections.

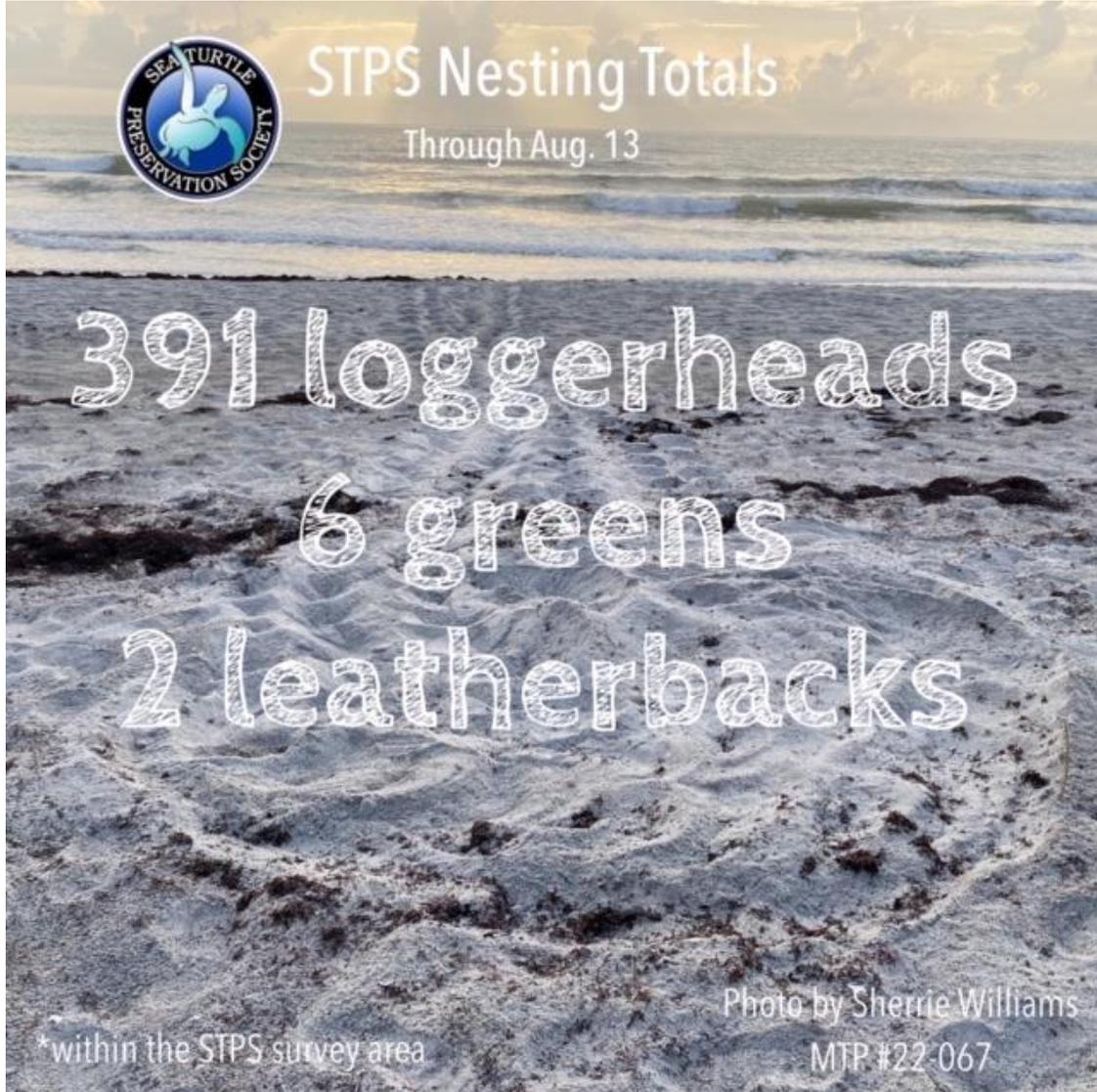
Night Walks

We had a very successful walk season in 2022. The turtle walk team was able to display a nesting loggerhead on 30 of our walks. We had more than 965 guests attend our 38 walks at three different locations: Pelican Beach Park, Spessard Holland North Park, and the Turtle House. Our guests came from 32 states other than the state of Florida, and five different countries -- Canada, United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Switzerland. We had a great bunch of new volunteers as well as our returning nightcrawler veterans. Some nights were long, some nights were shorter, but all of the nights provided us with the opportunity to educate our guests about our wonderful sea turtles. Thanks to all of our volunteers who helped make our season successful.

*--Craig Konkel,
primary permit holder for Turtle Walks*

Nesting Update

To date, STPS surveyors have had a record setting year. Through Aug. 13, volunteers had documented 399 total nests: 391 loggerheads, 6 greens, and 2 leatherbacks. This is a record high number of nests for the STPS survey program. Nesting activity has begun to slow down, but nests are hatching with plenty of evaluations to follow. Survey teams will continue daily surveys through mid-September, and then do spot checks until all nests have emerged.



Stranding and Salvage

The hotline monitors and stranding team volunteers have been keeping busy with hatchling related events. In July, the team handled 110 stranding events. Of those, 100 were hatchling events; recovering 209 hatchlings, resulting in 119 (57%) who were released by STPS. There have been 204 stranding events for the year through

July. The hotline received 433 calls in July, 100 more than July 2021, and has taken over 1,100 so far this year.

The STERP Letter of Consent Permits were received from FWC on Aug.1, and were forwarded to all 121 STERP volunteers on Aug. 2. Combined with the stranding team, these volunteers will be ready to help post-hatchling washbacks if a weather-related event or other emergency is called by the permit holder during 2022.

Beach Cleanups

Thanks to everyone who has been participating in the STPS monthly beach cleanups. Even with the summer heat, the August events had tremendous attendance. At the Cherie Down site, 58 volunteers participated, and at Coconut Point, 51 volunteers turned out. With this high attendance, the STPS cleanup organizers could use some additional help at Cherie Down on the day of the events to get everyone checked in and on the beach -- and assist with checking in the supplies being returned at the end also. Please contact the STPS volunteer coordinator to let her know that you are able to help with this task.

STPS will participate in the International Coastal Cleanup on Sept. 17 with partner Keep Brevard Beautiful. STPS will be at Coconut Point Park in Melbourne Beach from 9-11 am on Saturday, Sept. 17, for this annual event that cleans coastal areas and waterways.

STPS monthly beach cleanups are conducted at two sites adopted through the Keep Brevard Beautiful program. Each month from 9 am to 11 am on the first Saturday, after the first Thursday, STPS volunteers and the general public clean up the beaches at Cherie Down Park in Cape Canaveral and Coconut Point Park in Melbourne Beach. For more information, please visit the [STPS website](#).

Events/Fundraising

In July, STPS attended the LegaSEA festival hosted by BeachFly Brewing Company in Rockledge. Volunteers managed an educational booth for the event. STPS also attended Long Dogger's Beach Bash.

On August 18th, STPS was featured in a fundraising night hosted by Texas Roadhouse on Eau Gallie Blvd in Melbourne. 10% of every food purchase at this location was donated directly to STPS!

Board of Directors Upcoming Election

In early October, the nominating committee will be reaching out to the STPS membership looking for candidates to serve on the Board of Directors for the upcoming year. We currently have three positions that will be up for election on December 1. Anyone with questions can email secretary@seaturtlespacecoast.org.



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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.

For questions, contact news@seaturtlespacecoast.org

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