



BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

TURTLE TALK

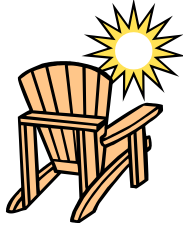
SEA TURTLE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Vol. 17, No. 2 – Summer 2013

<http://www.SeaTurtleSpacecoast.org>

From the Chair's Perspective

By Roger Pszonowsky, Board Chair



Education is the glue that binds the mission of STPS. A summer day starts out on the beach (6am) when in between locating nests the survey team talks to beach walkers explaining what they are doing. A nest evaluation attracts more people to hear about sea turtles. The emergency number rings; someone is calling about a dead turtle.

The monitor calls back for details and educates the caller about the process. This caller may even meet the stranding team to learn why the data is important and observe, along with the crowd that usually forms at the location, and hear the Brevard County Sea Turtle Story.

Meanwhile, on the mainland in a classroom, library or meeting room children and adults hear that same story with visual aids. An education volunteer works their magic in AC comfort (but sometimes at the beach as well).

Back at the Sea Turtle House, walk in visitors are amazed at the size of sea turtle life models and learn about lighting and fishing issues with sea turtles.

The stranding system alerts us to a live turtle and the team jumps into action. Arriving at the scene, the team lets the small crowd watch the evaluation and learns about transporting to a rehab location for care. Many questions are answered on the spot. Some may assist in getting the turtle to the truck. They can follow us on Facebook.

It's dark now and an excited group from around the country gathers to be educated and witness a turtle nesting. Ten or more "educators" will guide them

through the awesome experience. A mother who saw this as a child with her parents, brings her own daughter to share the same experience, hoping she passes it on to future children.

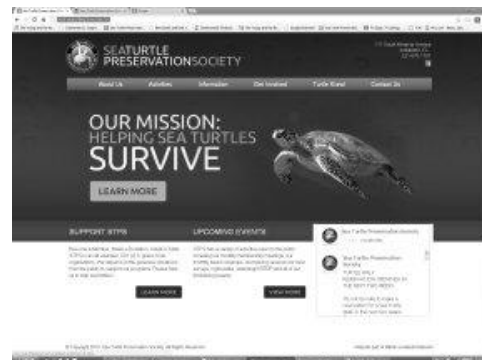
It's past midnight and again the pager rings with a caller reporting a turtle that is "napping on the beach". The monitor sleepily explains the nesting process and tells them about turtle etiquette and asks them to pass it along. Dawn is near and I can see dedicated volunteers in the distance, starting our day again educating.

Thank you all!

STPS Has a New Website Courtesy of Mesh Interactive!

By Donna Braunlich

Check out the new website that STPS just launched at <http://www.seaturtlespacecoast.org/>! Too bad the newsletter is only in black and white because the shades of blue are fabulous on the website!



STPS would like to thank Mesh Interactive for donating their time and resources to

design and host a new website for STPS! A special thanks to Linda LaFleur, Project Manager, for coordinating their efforts. They began their design in February and just recently launched the new site to rave reviews!

STPS has come a long way with our website in the last couple of years. This new website raises the quality to a professional level. The new design is easier to maintain and include updates about STPS's many activities. Mark Petrillo and Donna Braunlich spearheaded this effort for STPS.

What is the Ecological Value of a Sea Turtle? Part IV Conclusion

By Ann Zscheile

In researching this series of articles, I learned a wealth of information regarding the value of a sea turtle in the balance of nature/the ocean. It was difficult to condense the information, because as Blair Witherington said, it would indeed take a book to cover it all. I hope I have shared enough information so that when asked, "what is the ecological value of a sea turtle?" you will have both scientific facts as well as simple one- liners that may raise a spark of interest in even the most doubting of individuals.

Thanks to the sea turtle experts who took the time to respond to my question and everyone who participated in the survey.

One response that I received from the experts and the public on more than one occasion, took a different perspective. Several individuals responded to my inquiries with another question, "what value are *you*?" This is something to ponder. Should we *not* first look at our own characteristics and activities and determine our own value in nature before we question the value of other parts of the "web?"

As we look at the sea turtles' role in the web of life or in the food chain, maybe we should first ask ourselves about our own contribution to maintaining the balance of nature. Are we engaging in behavior that has a negative impact on the environment?

- Am I still using plastic bags for groceries and other shopping?

- Am I still drinking water out of a plastic bottle?
- Am I choosing sea food that is caught in a way that impacts the ocean food chain and harms sea turtles as well as other marine life?
- What am I doing to reduce my dependency on non-renewable resources such as fossil fuels?

So the question is not so much what is the ecological value of a sea turtle, but what is *my* ecological value?

Perhaps this excerpt from *Voyage of the Sea Turtle* by Carl Safina says it best:

"People have been on Earth in our present form for only about 100,000 years, and in so many ways we're still ironing out kinks. These turtles we've been traveling with, they outrank us in longevity, having earned three more zeroes than we. They've got one hundred million years of success on their resume, and they have learned how to survive in the world."

"Turtles may seem to lack sense, but they don't do senseless things. They're not terribly energetic yet they do not waste energy. Turtles don't have the intellect to form opinions about greed, oppression, superstition, or ideology, yet they don't inflict misery on themselves or other creatures. Turtles cannot consider what might happen, yet nothing turtles do threatens anyone's future. Turtles don't think about their next generation, but they risk and provide all they can to ensure that there will be one. Meanwhile, we profess to love our own offspring above all else, yet above all else it is they from whom we steal. We cannot learn to be more like turtles, but from turtles we could learn to be more human. "



Like us on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/SeaTurtlePreservationSociety>

Sea Turtle Medical Facility Planned for Brevard County

By Donna Braunlich

Brevard County is finally getting a medical facility to treat our sea turtles! The Brevard Zoo and the Sea Turtle Preservation Society are partners in an effort to develop a sea turtle medical facility adjacent to the Zoo's new state-of-the-art veterinary facility that was opened in March 2012. The Brevard Zoo was awarded a grant by the Sea Turtle Tag Grant Program valued at close to \$40,000 for 2013-2014 grant cycle to begin construction of the facility. This is reported to be one of the largest grants awarded through this program because FWC realized the significant need for such a facility. With an anticipated opening in Fall 2013, the new Sea Turtle Hospital will include two separate holding facilities that will house sea turtles with Fibropapilloma (FP) and non-FP turtles.

Currently, when STPS rescues a sick or injured sea turtle, they must transport the turtle to one of several rehabilitation/medical facilities with the closest being more than an hour away. STPS's primary role will be to provide volunteers to assist with the day-to-day operational activities. STPS's financial contribution to this partnership will be provided by funds generated from the annual Turtle Krawl 5K Walk/Run.

Sea Turtle Conservationist Murdered Helping Sea Turtles

By Roger Pszonowsky

Jairo Mora Sandoval was murdered May 31, 2013, on a dark beach in Costa Rica where he and several volunteers planned to measure the nesting leatherback sea turtles. Jairo was a student helping make things different, one who spoke out against poaching and died saving sea turtles. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Our beaches are safe from poachers generally, but other dangerous people exist out there, so to our teams and the survey teams of the universities, be

safe out there. To learn more about this young dedicated man, go to:

<http://www.ticotimes.net/opinion/a-world-environment-day-in-mourning>.

STPS Education Report

By Pat Rush

The STPS Education Outreach Program has a busy schedule for the summer.

- June 25th, Melbourne Beach Library, 3:00 pm, setting up display table and Q&A during kids program on Reptiles
- June 29th Crown Plaza, Melbourne, Rider University Study Tours, 2:00 pm
- July 13, Crown Plaza, Melbourne, 2:00 pm
- July 27th, Crown Plaza, Melbourne, 2:00 pm
- August 6th, Cocoa Beach Police Dept., 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm, tent and table display, Q&A for National Night Out event.

Beach Cleanup News

By Gerry Burke

The STPS monthly cleanups continue through the summer at our Adopted Beach, Coconut Point Park on A1A in the South Beaches area, just beyond Sandy Shoes Motel. Monthly meeting times are 8 am to 10 am –STPS members, guest and the general public are welcome. No sign-up is necessary—just show up and we will provide the necessary supplies.

September will be particularly busy for our volunteers with 3 opportunities to make a real difference by helping us at our regular clean-up, our Turtle Krawl 5 K Race, and the all important Keep Brevard Beautiful Annual Coastal Cleanup.

The Coastal Cleanup is different because all items found on our beaches are identified and counted on statistical reports with the final reports/tallies used as the data needed for grant applications. This is a labor intensive day and we need help to present an accurate picture of our beaches and to help obtain the funding for programs that Keep Brevard Beautiful.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sat, 07/06/13 Monthly Cleanup at Coconut Point
Sat, 08/03/13 Monthly Cleanup at Coconut Point
Sat, 09/07/13 Monthly Cleanup at Coconut Point
(8 am to noon-arrive before 11 am)
Sat, 09/14/13 Turtle Krawl- Race Site, Indian Land
Sat, 09/21/13 KBB Coastal Cleanup, Coconut Point
Sat, 10/05/13 Monthly Cleanup at Coconut Point

Thanks to all 107 participants in STPS beach cleanups during the March through May period—STPS members, students, family groups and co-worker groups. In addition we have several loyal Individual Reporters who send us their personal cleanup information when they are on their beach walks or trips over the causeway. (See the STPS website under Beach Cleanup on how to become an Individual Reporter.)



*STPS participates in
Keep Brevard Beautiful,
Adopt-A-Shore program
by performing monthly
beach clean-up at
Coconut Point Park.
(Join us there on the
Saturday after the first*

Thursday of each month at 8 AM.)

2013 TURTLE KRAWL 5K

By Mark Petrillo

The 2013 Turtle Krawl 5k is just around the corner - Mark your calendars for September 14th! For more information or to register for the race, please visit TurtleKrawl.com.

The Sea Turtle Preservation Society would like to thank the following companies and organizations for sponsoring the 2013 Turtle Krawl 5K. Please support these sponsors. This list is complete as of publication time. Check <http://turtlekrawl.com/> for a complete up-to-date list.

TURTLE KRAWL 5K SPONSORS

ARCHELON:

- Slug-A-Bug

LEATHERBACK:

- Port Canaveral
- SeaWorld

LOGGERHEADS:

- Absolutely Natural
- Animal Emergency and Critical Care Center of Brevard

KEMPS RIDLEYS:

- Running Zone

GREENS:

- Clow Chiropractic
- Doubletree Hotel by Hilton
- Lighting Science
- Southeastern Honda
- Toyota of Melbourne
- Walgreens - Paradise and A1A

HAWKS BILLS:

- GATTO'S

OLIVE RIDLEYS:

- Florida Today
- Giant Stride Solutions, Inc
- Southwest Airlines
- WalMart - Indian Harbour Beach
- Natalie's Orchid Island Juice Company
- Clif Bar
- Starbucks
- State Farm Agent, Dan Odom
- Space Coast Runners

Contact Us

If you need to contact volunteers who serve in positions on the Board of Directors, Primary Permit Holders, and special positions for functions / activities as needed in the organization, go to <http://www.seaturtlespacecoast.org/about-us/meet-our-volunteers/> for their email addresses.



Mark Your Calendar



STPS Speakers for 2013

By Pat Rush

- There will be no Membership Meetings in June, July, or August. Our volunteers are busy with Turtle Walks and Nest Surveys.
- Rodney Smith will speak on September 5 on the status of the reef in Satellite Beach.
- Dean Bagley, UCF, will speak on November 7. Her topic is a summary of 2013 nesting statistics for Brevard County including the Archie Carr Wildlife Refuge.

Turtle Talk Welcomes Your Articles

By Donna Braunlich

This newsletter relies upon the generous contributions of STPS volunteers and members. If you have an article you would like to include in this newsletter, please submit it for consideration in the next publication.

Turtle Talk is published three times a year (March, July & November) for members and supporters of the Sea Turtle Preservation Society.

Drop your article off at the Turtle Office or submit your article with your name, telephone number and mailing address (or internet address) to the following:

Sea Turtle Preservation Society
Attn: Newsletter Editor
P.O. Box 510988
Melbourne Beach, FL 32951-0988
E-mail: news@seaturtlespacecoast.org

STPS

The Sea Turtle Preservation Society (STPS) is a not-for-profit organization incorporated in the State

of Florida, whose dedicated members are permitted by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to work with endangered and threatened marine turtles. STPS relies solely on donations from the public, its members and the efforts of volunteers.

The purpose of STPS is to educate the public about marine turtles and the environmental niche that they occupy. STPS reaches thousands of people each year through presentations and exhibits at area events and through guided walks during the sea turtle nesting season.

The Sea Turtle House is located at 111 South Miramar, Indialantic, Florida. Office hours are 11am to 5pm Monday through Saturday and 11:00 am – 3:00 pm Sunday. Monthly meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 7:30pm at the Melbourne Beach Community Center, with the exception of June, July and August. The annual election is held in December. Visitors are always welcome.

To contact STPS:

- Call 321-676-1701.
- Write: P.O. Box 510988, Melbourne Beach, Florida, 32951-0988.
- E-mail: stps@seaturtlespacecoast.org.

ANNOUNCEMENT

By the STPS Board of Directors



The Sea Turtle Preservation Society would like to thank Port Canaveral for sponsoring this edition of Turtle Talk!

Sea Turtle Preservation Society
P.O. Box 510988
Melbourne Beach, Florida 32951-0988
USA

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Membership Form

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$15. Annual | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor \$50. Annual | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$500. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20. Annual | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime \$200. | <input type="checkbox"/> Donation \$----- |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$30. Annual | <input type="checkbox"/> Endowment \$300. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>New Member</i> | | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Renewal</i> |

To pay for your membership on line using **PayPal**,
Go to <http://www.seaturtlespacecoast.org/get-involved/become-a-member/>

Name: ----- Phone: -----

Address: ----- Email: -----

City: ----- State, Zip: -----

Please make your check to: **Sea Turtle Preservation Society**

I am interested in volunteering: ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

My interests and talents are: -----