



BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

2012

ANNUAL REPORT

Sea Turtle Preservation Society

For an electronic copy, visit <http://www.seaturtlespacecoast.org/>

2012 Annual Report for the Sea Turtle Preservation Society

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1. Introduction

Brevard County is one of the most important natural habitats for marine turtles in the world. The beaches are prime nesting areas for adult sea turtles, while the Indian River Lagoon is a developmental foraging habitat by juvenile sea turtles. The most concentrated Loggerhead nesting in the Western Hemisphere occurs on our beaches. This area, along Florida's eastern coast, is one of the top two locations for Loggerhead nesting in the world and first for Green nesting within the United States.

The Sea Turtle Preservation Society (STPS), located in Brevard County, is a registered 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization. STPS is a "grass roots" organization that is not associated with any parent corporation. STPS relies on the donations from the public, its membership, and the efforts of its dedicated volunteers. Contributions are tax-deductible as allowable by law. STPS also operates The Sea Turtle House in Indialantic, Florida, that includes both a retail store and an Educational Center. STPS is not supported by government funding. STPS was incorporated within the state of Florida in 1986 and is registered with the Florida Department of Consumers in conjunction with the State of Florida Charities Gift Givers' Guide. The mission of the STPS is "Helping sea turtles survive".

The title of Honorary Life President is conferred upon Peter Albert Bandre, the founding member of the Corporation. He is entitled to all the privileges of membership.

The purpose of the Sea Turtle Preservation Society is to educate the public about marine turtles and the environmental niche that they occupy. STPS reaches thousands of people each year through lecture/presentations, exhibits at area events, our website and Facebook page and through our turtle watches/walks during the sea turtle nesting season. The STPS's goal is to help maintain the current sea turtle populations and to prevent a potentially irreversible decline in that population through:

- Reducing disturbance and harassment of nesting sea turtles by public education about the hazards of nighttime beach activities, habitat destruction, and beach lighting;
- Increasing hatchling survival rate by educating the public about the impact of lighting, beach debris, habitat destruction, and marine pollution;
- Supporting the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge;
- Rescuing hatchlings, post hatchlings, and adult sea turtles and transporting them to permitted rehabilitation facilities;
- Contributing data to the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (STSSN);
- Educating the boating public of dangers to sea turtles while boating in the river and ocean;
- Participating in Keep Brevard Beautiful, Adopt-A-Beach program by performing monthly clean-up activities; and
- Conducting a nest survey project in conjunction with the Florida Nesting Survey Program.

Most of our active volunteers are permitted by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, (FWC) Bureau of Imperiled Species, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to work with endangered and threatened sea turtles. STPS is not, however, an enforcement agency.

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These various STPS activities provide a positive monetary impact to the Brevard County beach front communities. During 2012 STPS's contributed approximately \$271,887 in volunteer labor to the Brevard County community with our volunteer activities. See Note 4 in the table below and the table in section 10 of this document for information about how this total was determined.

Proportionally Brevard County has the largest number of strandings in Florida. However, there is no rehabilitation facility within the County. Currently, when we rescue an injured or sick sea turtle, a member of the STPS Stranding Team must transport it to an existing rehabilitation facility that is approximately a 1 ½ - 4 hour drive. Valuable time is lost in the transport. In 2012, STPS has made significant progress toward establishing a sea turtle facility in Brevard County. We proactively contacted a variety of environmental organizations with the goal of discovering what is required to build and operate such a facility. This included universities, colleges, established sea turtle rehabilitation facilities in the south east US, tourism groups, the Brevard Zoo, and FWC.

After conducting discussions with several different Brevard County organizations, we identified possible partners that could have interest in establishing such a facility. STPS is currently entered into an agreement with the Brevard Zoo to jointly develop a sea turtle medical facility that would provide triage type medical attention to injured and sick rescued turtles. There is a lengthy permitting and approval process required to bring this type of project to completion.

The STPS Board has committed to use the majority of the proceeds from the Turtle Krawl 5K to support this proposed effort. It is anticipated that STPS's primary role in the completed facility would be to provide volunteers to support the daily activities needed to attend to the in-house turtles. A lot of progress has been achieved and we are looking forward to continuing this exciting effort in 2013. We are hopeful that the facility could be ready by the end of 2013.

The following table shows the details of just one of our volunteer efforts: Stranding Responses in selected areas of Brevard County. It highlights the team's effort in terms of the number of strandings per city. It shows the monetary value of the manpower and transportation costs needed to support the requirements of these endangered animals. Since the sea turtles are under the protection of the federal government, if STPS did not provide this vital function, each city could be responsible for performing their own stranding activities. STPS does not charge any fees for conducting this activity.

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VALUE OF STPS STRANDING RESPONSES IN SELECTED BREVARD COUNTY AREAS IN 2012					
<i>(See Note 6)</i>					
City	Total Number of Strandings Completed (Live & Dead)	Number of Live Strandings	Typical Volunteer Hours Needed (See Note 2)	Average Transportation Cost (See Note 3)	Estimated Total Value Volunteer Hours plus Transportation (See Note 4)
Cape Canaveral	16	4	76	\$320	\$1916
Cocoa Beach (City & Township)	28	5	71 <i>(See Note 5)</i>	\$400	\$1891 <i>(See Note 5)</i>
Indialantic	8	7	73	\$560	\$2093
Indian Harbor Beach	2	1	13	\$80	\$353
Melbourne Beach (Town and Region)	14 <i>(See Note 1)</i>	8	98	640	\$2698
Satellite Beach (City & Township)	4 <i>(See Note 1)</i>	1	19	\$80	\$479
Port Canaveral and Jetty Park	14	4	70	\$320	\$1790
Patrick Air Force Base	7	4	49	\$320	\$1349
Melbourne	5	5	50	\$400	\$1450
Sebastian Area	13	9	102	\$720	\$2862

NOTES:

1. Stranding activities are also conducted by UCF and UF and are not included here.
2. A typical dead stranding takes one volunteer approximately 3 hours (responding, paperwork, photos.) A live stranded turtle requires 1 to 2 volunteers (depending on the specific situation) times the typical 3 hour response time plus an additional minimum of 4 hours to transport (for one person) to a rehabilitation facility (Ponce Inlet, Juno Beach, Gumbo Limbo Park, or Orlando). That is, 7 to 10 volunteer hours.
3. Vehicle expense for transport averages \$80 each trip.
4. Per the 2012 Independent Sector Annual Conference, the estimated dollar value of volunteer time for 2012 is approximately **\$21.00 per hour**. See their web site at the following address.
http://www.independentsector.org/Volunteer_time
5. The City of Cocoa Beach has an employee that documented 16 of the 28 turtles, so the STPS volunteer hours are reduced by 48 hrs.
6. This table does not include all 2012 strandings responded to by STPS in Brevard County.

2. Officers and Board of Directors

The function of the Board of Directors is to determine direction of the Corporation as outlined in the Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures adopted by the Board. In addition, the Board determines the appropriate course of action for the Corporation in areas outside the bounds of its Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures. The voting Board of Directors consists of a minimum of nine (9) and a maximum of thirteen (13) members in good standing. All board members serve as non paid volunteers.

The Board of Directors elects the Chairperson of the Board in January. The Chairperson compiles an agenda before each Board meeting and presides over meetings of the Board of Directors. The Board-appointed positions of Treasurer and Secretary serve as per the Corporations Policies and Procedures.

The Board of Directors meets once a month or as otherwise directed under the Policies and Procedures of the Organization.

The slate of the STPS Officers and Board of Directors for 2012 follows.

POSITION	NAME	TERM EXPIRES
Chairperson	Roger Pszonowsky	2013
Treasurer	Buddy Braunlich	appointed
Secretary	Donna Braunlich	appointed
Primary Permit Holder: Nest Surveys	Dori Hughes	appointed
Primary Permit Holder: Strandings	Roger Pszonowsky	appointed
Primary Permit Holder: Walks	David Hochberg	appointed
Office Manager & Social Events	Cindy Ullmer	2013
Archie Carr Wildlife Refuge Liaison & Communications Committee	Brandon Smith	appointed
Education	BJ Varuska	2012
Education	Pat Rush	2013
Fund Raising/Turtle Krawl	Mark Petrillo	2014
Membership	Beth Stuckey	2013
Meeting Programs	Ursula Dubrick	2012
Sea Turtle Emergency Response Program (STERP) & Communications Committee	Dave Cheney	2013

3. Public Education

Dissemination of information is one of the best methods to raise awareness and help ensure the continued existence of a sea turtle population. STPS’s activities in this area range from manned displays at area events to talks and slide/show presentations at area schools and clubs. In addition, STPS conducts Nigh Turtle Walks that provide a presentation and the opportunity to see a real live sea turtle nest on the beach. We also have an Educational Center in Indialantic Florida.

3.1 Talks and Displays

STPS was invited to provide the following area displays and talks.

The displays generally consist of an educational board, free literature, marine turtle replicas, and STPS items which are available for sale. Volunteers answer questions from the public.

The talks were made to schools, community organizations and clubs throughout the year. The presentation usually included a slide/video show with a question and answer period.

Date	Talk/Display Hours	Type	Name of Organization/Activity	Location	Volunteers	Estimated Volunteer Hours
02/1/2012	10-12	Talk	New Hope Lutheran 5-6 Graders	W. Melbourne	Carol R	6
2/18/12	10-3	Display	Sykes Creek Eco Festival	Merritt Island	Don & Sherry Ling, Cindy D & Colin	28
2/23/2012	9:30-12:30	Talk	Our Savior Kindergarten & 2nd grade	Cocoa Beach	Carol R	7
2/28/2012	5-8	Talk	Boy Scouts	Satellite Beach	Cheryl C & Angela H	10
3/8/2012	1-3:30	Talk	Our Homeschool Group, Central Baptist Church,	Melbourne	Carol R & Linda A	8
3/17/2012	8-5	Display	Sebastian Eco Festival	Sebastian	Roger, Pat, Trudy, Linda J, Elaine L, Buddy & Donna, Cheryl	60
3/17/2012	8:30-4	Display	Rip Pix- Lori Wilson	Cocoa Beach	BJ, Nikia, Debbie	26
3/17/2012	9-3	Display	Brevard Zoo	Melbourne	Ann Z, Nini & Michael Connor, Aaron S, Sue Giddings	38

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Date	Talk/Display Hours	Type	Name of Organization/Activity	Location	Volunteers	Estimated Volunteer Hours
3/22/12	7-8	Presentation	Sea Turtle RV Club	Wickham Park	Cindy Dolaway	9
4/1/12	5-7	Presentation	A1A Condo Park, Melbourne Beach Fl	Mel Bch	Cheryl Caldwell	6
4/12/2012	8-12	Presentation	Suntree United Methodist 4 year olds	Suntree	Aaron S, Carol R, Maggie S, Sherry L	30
4/14/2012	9-4	Display	Kennedy Space Center Picnic	Merritt Island	Pat R, Nini C	22
4/14/12	6-11	Display	Dark Sky Festival, Harmony FL	Harmony Fl	Roger & Rhonda	18
4/21/12	10-12	Display	FIT Earth Day Celebration	Melbourne Fl	Aaron, Nikia, Elaine L Pat R	8
4/24/12	Turtle 101	Presentation	Turtle 101	Eau Gallie Melbourne Fl	Cindy D	6
4/27/12	Field Trip	Presentation	Covenant Christian School	Indialantic Fl	Nikia R	6
4/28/2012	9-1	Talk	Sat Bch Library- Turtle 101	Sat Bch	Roger P	6
5/5/2012	7-5:30	Display	Mel Bch Founders Day	Mel Beach	Aaron S, Elaine L, Trudy S, Nikia, Margaret Capp	46
5/7/12	9-1	Kate & Justin Rose Foundation	Cocoa Beach Fl- Lori Wilson Park	Cocoa Beach	Nikia R & Dave C	12
5/12/2012	9-4	Display	Barrier Island Festival	Mel Bch	Sue & Al Giddings	8
5/12/12	8:30-2	Display	Long Dogger's Beach Clean Up	Indialantic	BJ. Mary Bowman and Roger	14
5/16/2012	5-7	Talk	Cocoa Beach Library Adult Program	Cocoa Beach	Cheryl C & Angela H	9
5/21/2012	5-8	Talk	STERP- Sat Bch Library	Sat bch	Dave C, Pat, Shannon, Linda A, Ann Z	23
5/30/2012	4:30-8	Talk	STERP Cocoa Beach Library	Cocoa Beach	Dave C, Pat R, Shannon, Ann Z, Linda A	18

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Date	Talk/Display Hours	Type	Name of Organization/Activity	Location	Volunteers	Estimated Volunteer Hours
6/2/2012	9-12	Talk	STERP- Sat Bch Library	Sat Bch	Dave C, Pat R, Linda A	12
6/6/2012	9-12	Talk	American Homestead Foundation Education Committee	W Melbourne	Nikia R, Sherry Ling	16
6/8/2012	10-1	Talk & Display	The Fountains	Palm Bay	Aaron S, Elaine L	14
6/13/2012	10-12	Talk	Sat Bch Library- Families	Sat Bch	Nikia R, Marla R	4
6/9/2012	8-3:30	Display	Titusville Sea Turtle Festival	Titusville	Ann Z., Parsons, Nini C & neighbors	46
6/9/2012	6-10	Display	Art Gallery of Viera	Viera	Roger & BJ	14
6/13/12	10-11	Presentation	Dream Big- Satellite Beach Library- Youth	Sat Bch	Nikia R, Marla Robb	8
06/16/2012	9-5	Display & Talk	Archie Carr's Birthday/ World Sea Turtle Day	Indialantic	Dori, Ann, Jean, Roger, Cindy D, Aaron, Pat, Anthony	120
6/20/2012	9-12	Talk	Trinity Towers	Melbourne	Aaron S,	8
6/29/2012	8-12	Talk	Dorcas Outreach Center, at risk youth (60)	Melbourne	Aaron S, Penny M	11
7/20/2012	8-12	Display & Talk	Brevard Pk & Rec, Futch Park-15 gifted students, varying countries	Satellite Beach	Aaron S, Carol R, Karen C	20
7/21/2012	8:30-12:30	Talk	STERP Cocoa Bch Library	Cocoa Beach	Roger, Pat R	7
7/23/2012	12-3	Display & Talk	Rider College	Cocoa Beach	Roger, BJ,	10
7/23/2012	5-8	Display & Talk	Rider College- Crowne Plaza	Melbourne	Roger, BJ,	24
8/4/2012	8-1	Display & Talk	Teen Eco-Summit @ Brevard Zoo	Melbourne	Ann Z, Linda A	8
8/6/2012	12-4	Talk & Display	Rider College	Melbourne	BJ, Dave C	10
9/22/12-9/23/12	8:30-4:30	Display	Cocoa Beach Air Show	Cocoa Beach	Tabetha & Mark, Pat R, BJ, Dori, Cheryl Ennis, Don I, Sheri Ling, Annette M,	77

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Date	Talk/Display Hours	Type	Name of Organization/Activity	Location	Volunteers	Estimated Volunteer Hours
					Jon B, Adrienne K.	
10/10/12	7-9	Talk	Down Under Dive Club	Palm Bay	Aaron S	4
10/23/2012	10:30-1:30	Talk	Daughters of the Confederacy	Rockledge Country Club	Aaron S	5
10/25/2012	8:30-12	Talk	Sherwood ES- K-2nd grade- 160 students divided between 2 presentations	Melbourne	Carol R, Bobbi Brady,	11
11/17/2012	9:30-12:30	Display & Talk	Indialantic ES @ Nance Park	Indialantic	Aaron S, Elaine L	6
11/26/2012	12-3	Talk	Longleaf ES- K-2	Melbourne	Carol R,	6
12/1/2012	9:30-12:30	Talk	Turtle 101 Cocoa Beach Library	Cocoa Beach	Dave C, Pat R	7
TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS						872
APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED						1300

3.2 Turtle Watch/Walk Program

Public turtle watches/walks were conducted during June and July. Attendees were first given a forty-five minute Power Point presentation with a question and answer period. Upon completion of the presentation, the group was brought to the beach to await a signal from STPS scouts that a turtle had started to nest. The group was then brought to the turtle to observe the nesting process in such a manner as to not disturb her. Walks were conducted four or five nights a week (weather permitting) alternating between Melbourne Beach and Satellite Beach. Facilities for presenting our Turtle Watch/Walk Program, and thus fulfilling our permit requirements, were graciously provided by:

- Town of Melbourne Beach
- City of Satellite Beach
- Brevard County Department of Parks & Recreation

As Primary Permit Holder, David Hochberg acted as Turtle Walk Coordinator. All permitted guides and scouts were given Turtle Watch/Walk information packets which included an overview of their duties. Four training sessions were conducted for all individuals interested in taking part in the STPS Turtle Watch/Walk Program with two practice walks conducted before the start of the season. For each walk there was a designated Walk Leader, being either the Permit Holder or an appointed Permitted Guide, with both Permitted and Non-Permitted Guides signed up to assist. In 2012, there were 38 “Watches/Walks” conducted for the public with a total of approximately 1,260 people attending.

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STPS could not have accommodated these people without the able assistance of the 24 Permitted Guides and approximately 30 non-permitted Guides that assisted. All Permitted and Assisted Guides are Volunteers. Many thanks to all who participated.

The following tables provide an estimate of the number of volunteer hours contributed by the STPS Walk Team.

Turtle Walk Training				
Volunteers Attending		Number of Training Sessions	Length of Session	Estimated Volunteer Hours
Permitted	Non Permitted			
24	30	4	2	432

Actual Turtle Walks				
Walk Staff per Walk		Walk Duration	Number of Walks	Estimated Volunteer Hours
Walk Leader	1	4 hrs	38	152
Greeter	1	4 hrs	38	152
Merchandise Sales	2	4 hrs	38	304
Turtle Scouts	8	4 hrs	38	1216
TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS (TRAINING PLUS WALKS)				2256

A basic summary of the duties, rules and regulations for both the Permitted and Non-Permitted Guides follows:

Duties of Turtle Watch/Walk Guides (permitted volunteers)

- Attend at least one training session;
- Be familiar with FWC guidelines and abide by them at all times;
- Be reliable. When you agree to lead a watch, be on time (8:15 p.m.) and prepared to stay until the watch is over;
- Oversee the registration process and watch procedures;
- Arrange signals to let your group know what is happening with the nesting turtle;
- Enhance the education of your assistant guides;
- Stay with the group at the beach, answer questions, and keep the group informed of scouting and nesting progress. Lead guides scout only if there is an extra permitted guide to stay with the group;
- Be sure that accurate, reliable information is being relayed to watch participants. Do not hesitate to say "I don't know" or "Research is still being done..."
- Be sure any donations accepted during the watch are recorded and deposited.

Duties of Assistant Guides (non-permitted volunteers)

- Attend at least one training session;
- Be familiar with FWC guidelines and abide by them at all times;
- Be reliable. When you agree to assist on a walk, be on time (8:15 p.m.) and prepared to stay until the watch is over;
- Sign-in participants, collect the requested donation if the reservation is not marked prepaid, pass out watch information packets, and record all designated guides, assistant guides, and scouts taking part in the Walk;
- Set-up the projector, screen, and chairs. Help to put them away;
- Be receptive. There is much to learn from publications and by listening to the well informed, experienced guides. However, be sure your sources are reliable and based on accepted research information. Knowledgeable researchers say "There is still a lot we don't know about sea turtles." "Don't hesitate to say "I don't know" or "Research is still being done...";
- Do a slide presentation at least once during the watch season;
- Enjoy the watch and take pride in your commitment to this public education project.

A summary of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Imperiled Species Management Section Guidelines follows.

Guidelines for Public Awareness Turtle Watches/Walks

All participants in turtle watches/walks must be informed of the Federal and State of Florida laws protecting sea turtles and their nests. Participants must be informed that conducting turtle watches/walks or contact with sea turtles without permit is unlawful.

1. Only Loggerhead turtles may be observed by participants.
2. Interpretive programs on sea turtle biology and conservation are mandatory.
3. Public awareness turtle watches/walks may not be commercialized. (STPS requests a donation to cover expenses - the donation is not mandatory.)
4. Age limitations for participants are left to the discretion of the principal permit holder.
5. Scouts will be utilized to search for nesting loggerheads if the group size exceeds five (5) participants.
6. Participant flashlights are not permitted.
7. Guides and Scouts are encouraged to invite persons who are out on their own to join the group. (STPS encourages beach "pick-ups ".)
8. Guides and Scouts must exercise great caution when exposing a nest.
9. Participants must stay with the group, remain quiet, and approach the sea turtle only from the rear.
10. Use of flash photography and lights for filming is not permitted.
11. Only one nesting turtle shall be observed by the group.
12. No more than five turtle watches/walks may be conducted per seven day week.
13. A summary of each watch shall be completed on the Turtle Watch Summary form.

3.3 The Sea Turtle House

STPS provided an Educational Center for residents and visitors to learn about sea turtles and our organization. This facility is located at 111 South Miramar Avenue, Indialantic, FL 32903.

In the Educational Center, there are life-sized replicas of sea turtles hanging in our front window. These dramatically illustrate the large size of these wonderful animals. Additional replicas include a life-sized adult Green turtle, a sub-adult Loggerhead, a juvenile Loggerhead, and a juvenile Kemp's Ridley.

In addition, the center has artifacts (real and replicas), informational sea turtle related posters, brochures, and educational displays.

The Sea Turtle House offers a variety of sea turtle related gifts, clothing, books and accessories. Proceeds from the sale of these items are used to support the conservation and educational efforts of the STPS.

The staff supported fielding of stranding reports, assisted in arranging walk reservations and helped with other activities as identified. The staff also welcomed visitors and answered questions about our organization and sea turtles. The center is staffed from Monday – Saturday 11:00 am until 5:00 pm. The center was open on Sundays during walk season (June and July).

Our 2012 staff included:

- Cheryl Caldwell
- David Hochberg
- Mary “Gina” Laurenzi
- Ann Zscheile

3.4 Adopt a Turtle Program

STPS sponsors an Adopt a Turtle Program that helps to make the public aware of the plight of sea turtles survival. Sea turtles face worldwide threats to their survival. Most of these threats are man-made. STPS provides the opportunity for individuals and organizations to do their part to help the survival of such magnificent species. By adopting a sea turtle you will help to support the Sea Turtle Preservation Society's conservation efforts.

The adoption of a sea turtle is purely symbolic. No individual may actually own a sea turtle. Sea turtles are protected by state, federal and international laws! There are three options available from which to choose:

Adopt a Hatchling: For a fifteen dollar donation, donors can assist STPS nest survey efforts by adopting a hatchling. Each hatchling adoption includes:

- A personalized certificate of adoption
- Your choice of name for your hatchling
- Information on sea turtle hatchlings
- Personalized hatchling name and donor name listed on our website (optional)

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Adopt a Nest: For a forty-five dollar donation, donors help STPS nest watch efforts by adopting a nest.

Each nest adoption includes:

- A personalized certificate of adoption
- Information on sea turtle hatchlings
- Donor name listed on our website (optional)
- End of year nest summary report
- One year individual membership

Adopt a Stranded Turtle: For a seventy-five dollar donation, donors can help STPS stranding and salvage efforts by adopting a stranded turtle. Your donation includes:

- A personalized certificate of adoption
- Information on sea turtle stranding and disorientation
- Donor name listed on our website (optional)
- End of year stranding summary report
- One year individual membership
- Sea Turtle Preservation Society Sticker

The number of participants in this program for 2012 is included in the following table.

2012 Adopt a Turtle Program	Number of Participants
Adopt a Hatchling	59
Adopt a Nest	11
Adopt a Stranded Turtle	4
TOTAL	74

3.5 Attention Boater's Program

STPS began an "Attention Boaters" Program in 2011. This program was a direct response to the offshore boat races that began in Cocoa Beach in 2010. Since injuries related to boat related encounters account for the highest cause of sea turtle deaths in our area, STPS applied to the Sea Turtle Grants Program administered by the Sea Turtle Conservancy for a grant to fund an education program directed toward boaters and increasing their awareness of the threat boats provide to sea turtles in our waters. STPS was awarded the grant for the amount of \$1790 which was used to support our "Attention Boaters" Program.

The program was designed to make boaters aware of the sea turtle population in both the Atlantic Ocean and the Indian River Lagoon. The STPS designed, printed and distributed a water-resistant card to boaters and marine-related retailers in the Cocoa Beach area that informed them of the special precautions necessary to take around sea turtles in the water. Since March 2012, when the grant was awarded, STPS volunteers distributed a supply of cards to most of the marine related businesses that were located in sea turtle areas of Brevard County. Volunteers handed cards out to boaters at the annual Super Boat International Race in Cocoa Beach in May 2012. A second distribution will be done in February and March 2013 as well as the next Super Boat race scheduled for May 2013.

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In addition, STPS also used a portion of the grant monies to design an 18"x24" sign, based on the "Attention Boaters" cards. Ten of these signs were placed at boat ramps throughout Brevard County. These signs alert boaters to the sea turtles in the local waters. STPS also designed a 36"x48" sign which has the "Attention Boaters" information on one side and lists facts about Loggerhead and Green sea turtles on the other side. This sign is designed to educate boaters about the threat they may pose to sea turtles in the Indian River Lagoon. The sign is located at Ballard Park in Melbourne, Florida.

4. Stranding and Salvage

The Sea Turtle Preservation Society supports the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (STSSN) which was formally established by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service in the southeastern U.S. and Gulf of Mexico in 1980. The STSSN has since spread to encompass the entire east and gulf coasts of the U.S., from Maine through Texas, as well as parts of the Caribbean. A stranding occurs when sea turtles swim or float into shore and become "beached" or stuck in shallow water. Salvage efforts refer to sea turtles that are dead.

When a sea turtle becomes stranded, individuals from the general public may notice it on one of our beaches first and contact the STPS using its emergency number. The STPS emergency number is published in a variety of publications in the Brevard County area. Additionally, stranding calls are received at our Educational Center during office hours. The STPS then activates its Stranding Team effort.

An Emergency Pager system (called One Call Now) provides improved communications from the public to our stranding team members using a published hotline number. The volunteers give basic information to callers, get details and locate a close by stranding permitted volunteer. Calls from the public are left as a voice mail which is then converted to a phone text message and an email message. The messages are forward immediately to several Stranding Team members. The Stranding Team is on call twenty four hours a day and 365 days a year to rescue and salvage the endangered and threatened sea turtles. There are over 300 miles of shoreline in Brevard County when the shores of the Indian River, Banana River and Mosquito Lagoons are included. Many times information and contact numbers are given for other wildlife groups.

All volunteers working "hands on" with sea turtles are required to be named on a permit issued by the federal and /or state governments. Florida issues this kind of permit to single individuals, (referred to as the "primary permit holder") and can have up to 24 additional people named on the permit to assist with the activities. The permit identifies specific activities that can be conducted by the individuals named on the permit. Volunteers identified on the permit must complete a biannual training class held by a Stranding Coordinator from FWC, and the named permit holder must also attend additional training/meeting sessions. This permit expires at the end of the calendar year.

In conjunction with the STPS Stranding Team, STPS has implemented a Sea Turtle Emergency Response Program (STERP) with over 175 trained volunteers in 2012. The purpose of this program is to provide better beach coverage to search for and rescue post-hatchling sea turtles that have washed back ashore after a large storm event. This program is designed to increase the number of post hatchling sea turtles that are rescued, rehabilitated and eventually released back into the ocean.

After sea turtle hatchlings emerge from their nest on the beach, they enter the ocean and swim approximately 20 miles to the large layer of sea weed that circulates offshore. This is called the Sargasso

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Sea. This is a sea turtle nursery in that it provides nutrient and protection from predators until the young sea turtles reach a size where they can safely venture out into the open ocean or closer to shore.

After large storm events, these small sea turtles can be washed back onto shore with large amounts of sea weed and algae. These “washback” or post hatchling sea turtles are exhausted, dehydrated and in need of medical attention. If accidentally placed back into the ocean they will perish as they no longer have the energy to swim the 20 miles back to safety. STPS using the STERP volunteers survey the wrack line, search for washback post-hatchlings and transport them to a safe holding area. The STERP activities are authorized under the Stranding permit with “letters of authorization” from the imperiled species department of FWC.

A Conference for the Southeastern Region was held in February at the Georgia Sea Turtle Hospital at Jekyll Island Georgia and was attended by 10 members. The annual Florida Marine Turtle Permit Holders Meeting was held at the University of Florida in Gainesville in February. This annual meeting is put on by FWC and sponsors to provide up to date data, announcements, and networking opportunities for all Marine Turtle Permit Holders (attendance is required for permit holders). It is open to volunteers and those on the various permits and STPS had more than 12 attend the meetings.

Another training opportunity was at the Marathon Turtle Hospital in December where activities included necropsies, surgery techniques, and meeting out of state turtle rehabilitation experts. Nine members attended the weekend workshop.

The STPS was awarded by The Florida Sea Turtle Grant Program a grant of \$2710 for stranding related equipment:

- Three digital waterproof cameras,
- Three RFID scanners (PIT Tag readers),
- Shelving system for turtle transport and
- Three custom-made large turtle carriers. This equipment is stored with volunteers at key locations in the county.

4.1 Stranding Activities

For 2012, Roger Pszonowsky was the primary permit (MTP 11-169) holder in charge of the STPS Stranding Team. 2012 proved to be a good year for the team. Only one weather event (wind) in October created a 2 day total of 19 turtles stranded.

The following data is extracted from stranding documents done by STPS volunteers and does not include reports by other stranding permit holders in Brevard County.

STPS 2012 Documented Strandings by Species	Number of Turtles
Loggerheads (<i>Caretta caretta</i>)	61 total 17 live
Greens (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>)	56 total 36 live

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STPS 2012 Documented Strandings by Species	Number of Turtles
Kemps Ridley (<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>)	2
Leatherback (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)	1
Hawksbill (<i>Eretmochelys imbricate</i>)	2 total 2 live
Unknown	1
TOTAL	123

Overall STPS data included 55 live turtles (45%). Tagged turtles represented 4 % (lack of tag reader equipment allowed only 19 turtles to be checked for RFID tags). Boat interaction injuries (props or hull) were recorded on 27 turtles (22%) and entanglement in fishing lines or nets were noted in 27 turtles (22%).

Turtles were transported to these facilities:

- 25 - Sea World, Orlando
- 7 - Loggerhead Marine Life Center , Juno Beach
- 5 - Gumbo Limbo, Boca Raton and
- 18 – Other Rehabilitation Facilities.

During 2012, the Stranding Team also participated in several turtle releases. These releases were organized by the responsible rehab facility or FWC. Generally, the sea turtles that were released were returned to the location of their rescue.

For comparison purposes, the following data summarizes the Florida statewide statistics from the 2011 FWC accounting information. The STPS Stranding Team was responsible for generating the initial reports for more than 9 percent of all the documented sea turtle strandings within the state of Florida.

Florida Statewide Stranding Data (provided by FWC 02/2013)

Florida had a total of 2,080 documented strandings, sadly another record year. This number has doubled since 1986 when the stranding documentation for the entire state began.

- 646 Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), 3rd highest ever
- 630 Green (*Chelonia mydas*) the highest ever
- 166 Kemps Ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*)
- 12 Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

The table below is an estimate of the total number of volunteer hours expended by the STPS Stranding Team during 2012.

Stranding Activity	Persons	Hours/days/weeks	Estimated Volunteer Hours
123 Strandings	1	3hrs	321
55 live rescues	+1	7hrs	385
Training	30	4hrs	120
Rehabilitation Workshop	9	28hrs	252
Permit Holders Meeting	12	30hrs	360

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Stranding Activity	Persons	Hours/days/weeks	Estimated Volunteer Hours
Program Management	2	15 hr/wk for 52wks	1560
Turtle Facility Planning	4	4 hr x 25 wks	400
Total Volunteer Hours			3398

4.2 STERP Activities

In 2012, STERP completed its fifth year. The community response for this program continues to be as enthusiastic as when it was initiated.

Workshops were held May 21st, May 30th June 2nd and July 21st, 2012. A total of 129 volunteers completed the workshop and field training sessions. This year we covered other events such as cold stuns. Attendance rosters from each session were sent to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and we received Letters of Authorization for each volunteer. In the event of a weather alert, the STERP volunteers are notified by an automatic call system known as One Call Now.

As hurricane Sandy passed our coast, several STERP volunteers monitored the beaches, took pictures and sent reports to our STERP coordinator. Pictures and reports showed severe beach erosion in along most of our Atlantic coast. Some nests were destroyed, but fortunately most of the nests had hatched prior to the storm. There were a total of 7 post hatchlings that were washed to shore and brought in by the general public. A volunteer then transported them to Ponce Inlet for rehabilitation.

In August, we trained several STERP members to assist with calls that come into our emergency number. These volunteers now handle most calls and contact the Stranding and Salvage team to respond, as required. Three of these volunteers were selected to join the Stranding and Salvage team, trained and are on the Permit for 2013.

Volunteers also assisted with literature distribution to beach side condos, hotels and businesses cover lights out for nesting season, sea turtle reporting, etc. They also assisted in distributing "Attention Boaters" Program cards during the Cocoa Beach Super Boat race and then later to marinas, bait shops, etc.

The table below is an estimate of the total number of volunteer hours expended by the STPS STERP Team during 2012.

STERP Activity	Hrs	Volunteers	Estimated Volunteer Hours
Training (STERP and Cold Stun)	3	129	387
Registration/Prep	20	3	60
Hurricane Sandy event - Transportation and Beach checks	15	5	75

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STERP Activity	Hrs	Volunteers	Estimated Volunteer Hours
Training of call monitors	2	7	14
Literature distribution to beach hotels, condos etc. and Boater literature	8	10	80
Total Hours			616

5. Sea Turtle Nesting Survey

STPS has been authorized to conduct sea turtle nest surveys since 1996. These surveys are along the Atlantic Ocean starting at the northern boundary of Patrick Air Force Base and currently extend north 4.5 miles into the Cocoa Beach area. Survey duties included several volunteers walking different sections of the entire 4.5 mile stretch every morning from May to September, in which all nests and false crawls were recorded. Recorded data includes the type of turtle (determined by the track and nest characteristics), its location, any signs of depredation, including signs of interference by man and/or animal. Additionally, approximately 20 percent of the nests found are marked via stakes for "evaluation" after the eggs had hatched (approximately 55 days).

After a nest has either hatched or it is past 70 days old, the nest is excavated and the contents evaluated. Once uncovered, the nest's contents are reviewed to determine the number of hatched eggs, infertile eggs, pipped eggs, dead hatchlings, and even the occasional live hatchling which is usually released immediately into the ocean. (If the hatchling seems weak, it is held by a permitted STPS member for a maximum of 24-hours before release.) All results are reported to the Florida Marine Research Institute of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

For 2012 we had 568 loggerhead nests, 2 greens and one leatherback nest. The first nest was laid on April 12th. (One day after the first nest in the Refuge!) Last nest in our 4.5 mile area was laid on August 31st.

The criteria we use for marking nests include marking all "non-loggerhead" nests, all nests within the boundaries of Lori Wilson Park, Murkshe County Park and between 1st Street North and 1st Street South. Those are high traffic areas and usually have public events drawing increased usage during the nesting season. The area at the east end of Minuteman Causeway is cleaned by the City of Cocoa Beach with the aid of a mechanical beach rake.

The STPS Survey Team continues to monitor the mechanical beach rake area adjacent to Minuteman Causeway for the City of Cocoa Beach. It is a requirement of the permit for use of the beach rake issued to the City that the area be monitored by the Permit Holder from March 1 thru Oct 31st. (Sea Turtle Nesting Season in Brevard County). All nests within this area, as well as in the two park areas within our survey area, are marked with stakes and surveyors' tape as protection in these busy foot traffic areas.

During daily early morning walks along the beach in Cocoa Beach, our volunteers pick up trash left on the beach. We separate recyclables from the trash and donate aluminum cans to Habitat for Humanity, and also recycle plastic and glass.

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The estimated volunteer hours per activity is listed in the following tables.

Pre Season Training			
Activity	Volunteers	Time Per Person	Estimated Volunteer Hours
Pre Season Training – FWC Workshops	18	8	144
Team Organizational Meeting	24	2	48
Permit Holder Meeting-	4	9	36
TOTAL ESTIMATED VOLUNTEER HOURS			228

Nest Surveys			
Number of Days Surveyed	Distance Surveyed	Volunteer Hrs per Day	Estimated Volunteer Hours (1.5 hr per mile)
May - 31	4.5 miles	6.75 hr x 31	209
June - 30	4.5 miles	6.75 hr x 30	202
July - 31	4.5 miles	6.75 hr x 31	209
Aug - 31	4.5 miles	6.75 hr x 31	209
Sept - 30	4.5 miles	6.75 hr x 30	202
Pre/Post Season Beach Rake Monitoring	1 mile / day	1.5 x 92	138
TOTAL ESTIMATED VOLUNTEER HOURS			1169

Nest Evaluations – Post Hatching			
Number of Evaluations	Hours Per Evaluation	People Per Evaluation	Estimated Volunteer Hours
107	1	4	428

Daily Paperwork Processing			
Activity	Number of Events	Hrs Per Day	Estimated Volunteer Hours
Number of Survey Days	137	1.5	205
Number of Evaluations	107	1	107
TOTAL ESTIMATED VOLUNTEER HOURS			312
TOTAL ESTIMATE VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR ALL NEST SURVEY ACTIVITIES			2137

6. Community Involvement

In 2012, STPS participated in a variety of activities designed to promote community involvement.

6.1 Guest Speakers

As part of our community outreach efforts, STPS scheduled a variety of speakers for our monthly membership meetings. The meetings were held the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Melbourne Beach Community Center. Doors opened at 7:00 p.m. for light refreshments. These meetings were open to the general public and featured topics related to sea turtles and/or their relationship to our environment. The speakers for 2012 are listed in the following table.

Date	Speaker	Topic
January 5, 2012	Heather Pepe, activist	Ms. Pepe gave a presentation on the preservation of Leatherback Sea Turtles.
February 2, 2012	Dan Conklin, Head of Sea World Sea Turtle Rescue	Mr. Conklin gave a presentation about what Sea World does to promote the conservation and rehabilitation of marine animals and specifically sea turtles.
March 1, 2012	Danielle O'Neil, Director of Marine Turtle Programs at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium	Ms. O'Neil gave a presentation on the marine turtle program at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium as it relates to the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of dolphins, sea turtles, whales and other marine animals. This aquarium is the home of Winter, the dolphin who starred in the recent movie, Dolphin Tale.
April 5, 2012	Dr. Nancy Mettee, head veterinarian, Loggerhead Marine Life Center, Juno Beach, FL	Dr. Mettee gave a presentation about her facility, including all the diagnostic and surgical equipment used to treat injured sea turtles.
May 3, 2012	Dr. Brian Shamblin, Ph.D.	Dr. Shamblin gave a talk on sea turtle genetics.
September 6, 2012	Leedjia Svec	Ms. Svec gave a presentation based on her sea turtle conservation volunteering experiences in Tobago. She is planning on spending time in Tobago this year to help in their efforts to preserve the sea turtle population in that part of the world.
October 4, 2012	George Geletko, Waste Management	Mr. Geletko gave a presentation about recycling plastics and the effect this has had on our environment, particularly our marine animals. His slideshow informed us about the comprehensive programs that are currently in place for recycling plastics.
November 1, 2012	Dean Bagley, UCF	Ms. Bagley gave a summary of the sea turtle nesting season statistics and interesting facts.

6.2 Friends of Carr Refuge (FOCR)

The Friends of the Carr Refuge (FOCR) was formed in 1998 as a way to accept donations to benefit the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge (ACNWR). FOCR is a subsidiary of the Sea Turtle Preservation Society and works to support conservation and education efforts within the refuge. A representative appointed by the Advisory Board of Directors of the FOCR holds a position on the STPS Board of Directors.

In 2011, the FOCR Advisory Board initiated efforts to establish itself as a separate corporate entity apart from STPS. The Friends of CARR Refuge, Inc. was established as a type S Florida Corporation in March of 2012. FOCR is still waiting approval of the 501-C-3, Not-for-Profit classification. As of December 31, 2012, FOCR will function as a separate corporation independent of STPS. STPS will continue to work with FOCR on sea turtle related issues.

The Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge authorized by an act of Congress in 1989, is a 21.5 mile stretch of beach, on the southeast coast of Florida. The 248-acre refuge is also unique for its placement within a patchwork of protected lands and among properties that have already been developed. This refuge hosts the largest concentration of nesting loggerhead and green sea turtles in the United States. It is ranked as one of the top two nesting sites in the world for loggerhead turtles. The Refuge protects animal species by preserving the coastal habitat on which they depend; and is also a place for public recreation and education. The Refuge, named for the late Dr. Archie Carr, honors his lifetime commitment to conservation and research.

6.3 Communications

STPS has several methods of communication with its members and the general public. A list is included in the following table.

Item	Contact	Comments
Turtle Talk	Donna Braunlich, Editor	The newsletter was distributed three times a year to all of its members.
STPS Website	Mark Petrillo, Donna Braunlich, and Mike Splitt	http://www.seaturtlespacecoast.org
STPS Facebook	Jennifer Bogdan	http://www.facebook.com/SeaTurtlePreservationSociety
FlipperFlash	Mike Splitt	FlipperFlash is an email notification system to keep its subscribers up to date on upcoming activities. The public can sign up to receive FlipperFlash on the website
One Call Now	Dave Cheney	The One Call Now is an automated phone call system designed to contact Sea Turtle Emergency Rescue Program (STERP) volunteers and zone captains. With just one call or e-mail they can be contacted for a weather alert event.
Media Relations	Dave Cheney	In our One Call Now systems we maintain a contact list of print, radio and television media contacts. Meetings, training and other events are sent to this group for

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Item	Contact	Comments
		<p>public service announcements.</p> <p>In April 2012, STPS was featured in an article in a free publication called “Forever Young” that is distributed by “Hometown News” in central Brevard County.</p> <p>Periodically we are contacted by various media outlets for stories about our Sea Turtle Population. For example two TV news outlets ran stories in the summer regarding our nesting season.</p>

6.4 Beach Cleanup

STPS participated in the Keep Brevard Beautiful (KBB), Adopt-A-Beach program with monthly beach clean-ups. Our designated site is at Coconut Point Park at the north end of the Archie Carr Wildlife Refuge off of A1A. The Keep Brevard Beautiful “season” runs from September to September. Beach Cleanup efforts are currently led by a 3-member team. All members share the responsibility for acting as monthly leaders based on their individual availability. Team members are Mike Clark, Ron Fischer and Geraldine Burke who is also the liaison with KBB and has responsibility for statistical collection reporting duties each month.

STPS was recognized by KBB for its cleanup efforts in 2012 as the Second Place team in the Adopt-A-Shore Program and was presented with a special plaque. Not only do STPS volunteers meet once a month to clean the beach, they also participated in the Great Coastal Clean Up and Trash Bash every year. STPS received points for clean ups, number of volunteers, bags of trash collected and extra points for taking the recycle products home to their own recycle bins.

STPS members – many who routinely clean the beach on their own schedule—have a means to report their activity to a special email address, beachcleanup@seaturtlespacecoast.org. Once received, the details of their efforts are then forwarded to KBB to be credited to STPS’s monthly totals. The following table summarizes the STPS 2012 Beach Cleanup activities and special cleanups. The statistics for 2012 shows significant increases in participation (+241/118%) and volunteer hours (+495/131%) over 2011.

STPS 2012 Beach Clean Ups					
Date	People	Bags	Recycle	Comments	Estimated Volunteer Hours
01/07/2012	16	13	7		32
02/04/2012	26	13	2		52
03/03/2012	28	12	4		56
03/17/2012	18	8	4	Trash Bash	36
04/7/2012	20	3	1		40
05/05/2012	14	3	1		28
05/19/2012	41	13	3	Sea World	123

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STPS 2012 Beach Clean Ups					
Date	People	Bags	Recycle	Comments	Estimated Volunteer Hours
				(3 hrs.)	
06/09/2012	23	3	1	.	46
07/07/2012	12	3	1		24
08/04/2012	12	4	1		24
09/08/2012	18	5	1		36
09/15/2012	70	8	4	Turtle Krawl Race	70
09/15/2012	30	12	1	Coastal Clean-up	60
10/06/2012	73	34	2	Church Grp 3 sites	146
11/03/2012	17	9	2	Spessard So	34
12/08/2012	23	15	4		56
Individual Reporters	4	19	2		9
TOTALS	445	177	41		872

7. Volunteer Recognition

STPS sponsored the following events to recognize the value of volunteers to our organization.

7.1 STPS Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

The 2012 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was held on August 12, 2012, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Restaurant, Indialantic, FL. Cindy Ullmer planned the dinner. Awards given out were as follows:

- 2012 Volunteer of the Year: Gerry Burke
- 2012 Rookie of the Year: Debby Livingston

7.2 STPS Holiday Party

The STPS Annual Membership Meeting and Christmas Party were held Saturday, December 8, 2012, at the Melbourne Beach Community Center. The Annual Meeting business began at 6:30 pm and included the annual election for the members of the STPS Board of Directors. The Party began after the close of official STPS business. The event was a Pot Luck dinner. Cindy Ullmer planned the event.

8. Fundraising

While all of the STPS activities (stranding, nest surveys, turtle walks, educational presentations, and beach cleanup) are staffed by non paid volunteers, STPS still requires funding to support these activities with equipment, supplies and transportation. Several fundraising efforts were held throughout the year to better support the activities and projects. These include the following:

- Annual membership fees.
- Direct donations of cash by organizations or corporations.
- Direct donations of cash by individuals
- Corporate-sponsored promotions with STPS as the recipient of the donation
- STPS-sponsored fund raising activities.
 - Turtle Krawl - 5K Run/Walk
 - Night Time Turtle Watch/Walks
 - Adopt-A-Turtle Program
- Merchandise sales at our Educational Center and Outdoor environmental events.

Turtle Krawl - 5K Run/Walk

The largest fundraiser benefitting the Sea Turtle Preservation Society in 2012 was the Turtle Krawl 5K Run/Walk. 2012 marked the third year STPS volunteers coordinated the race, after it was resurrected by the STPS Board of Directors in 2010. The Turtle Krawl was previously coordinated by Brevard Parks and Recreation (2000-2008) before not being held in 2009. Planning this event was a tremendous commitment on the part of the STPS volunteers, but was well worth the effort. In just the third year since its resurrection, the Turtle Krawl has turned into the single largest (and arguably best) 5k race in all of Brevard County!

The turnout for this year's race was tremendous, and between registration fees and sponsorships, over \$34,000 was raised for the STPS, more than the 2011 and 2010 races combined. The STPS Board of Directors has agreed to set aside Turtle Krawl funds for a "special projects" fund. The exact scope of these project(s) is yet to be determined, but the number one idea is to use the funds in a way that will help sea turtles rescued on Brevard County beaches get faster medical attention than they currently receive. At this time, the closest sea turtle rehab facility is a 90 minute drive from Brevard County sand. Ideally, we would like to build a rehab facility, or at least set up a smaller triage-type location, here in Brevard County. We have a committee of Board Members researching the various possibilities. STPS has been in discussion with several Brevard County organizations regarding a partnership in achieving this goal.

After a beautifully performed National Anthem by Jonathan Howse, 1579 participants (up from 852 in 2011 and 553 in 2010) hit the Turtle Krawl course at 7:30 AM on Saturday, September 15th. The race was electronically timed by Running Zone, and finishing times ranged from the winner's speedy 17:18 to about 1:15 for the final walkers. Course records were set by Steve Hedgespeth (17:18.1) and Jessica Crate (18:35.5), and our first ever Competitive Walking champion was also crowned with a time of

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34:24. That honor went to Turtle Krawl committee member Michael Petrillo, who volunteered countless hours of his time finding and taking very good care of this race's sponsors.

Rounding out the Turtle Krawl's Top 3 overall finishers were Shane Streufert (17:28) and Marc Zeller (18:21) for the men and Melissa Taylor (19:17) and Tracy Dutra (19:44) for the women. The Masters (Age 40+) Champions were 44 year old Steve Chin (18:37) and 64 year old Anne Dockerty (21:37), and the Grandmasters (Age 50+) award winners were 51 year old Bret Halliday (18:44) and 55 year old Annie Caza (22:01).

We had special awards for the youngest and oldest male and female finishers, who were 4 year old Riley Burdick (47:56) and 80 year old Jack Lightle (31:03) for the men and 5 year old Taegen Burns (43:46) and 79 year old Marion DiPasquale (54:26) for the women. And no, that is not a typo - an 80 year old man really did finish the 3.1 mile race in just over 31 minutes... very impressive! The 2012 "Middle of the Nest" (the person who finished exactly in the middle of the field) free pair of shoes winner was Cherly Cook with a time of 34:12.

Nearly 6000 photos from the race can be found on TurtleKrawl.com and on the Turtle Krawl's facebook page, where a community of over 1700 (and counting) fans of the race receive updates about the race planning and preparation, along with several chances to win free entries throughout the year:

<http://turtlekrawl.com>

<http://facebook.com/turtlekrawl>

Huge thanks go out to the Turtle Krawl's sponsors, including Sea World, Port Canaveral, Absolutely Natural, Running Zone, Walgreens, Brevard Physicians Network, Lighting Science, Southeastern Honda, TD Bank, Tropic Coast Realty, Brevard Zoo, Embraer, Greenlight Apparel, Florida Today, Southwest Airlines, Walmart, Publix, Natalie's Orchid Island Juice Company, CLIF Bar, Starbucks, Eyeglass World, Planet Smoothie, PlanetKid, and Space Coast Runners. Please remember to support these sponsors who are in turn supporting our local community.

Last but certainly not least, it is worth noting that nearly 100 people volunteered their time to make this year's race the smashing success that it was.

A breakdown of participants by gender and age group is included in the following tables.

Breakdown By Gender		
Sex	Runners	Percent
Male	688	38%
Female	1124	62%
Total	1812	

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Age Groups				
Age Group	Male	Female	Total	Percent
8 and under	19	11	30	2%
9 - 11	42	26	68	4%
12 - 14	29	25	54	3%
15 - 19	17	25	42	2%
20 - 24	21	64	85	5%
25 - 29	59	116	175	10%
30 - 34	76	156	232	13%
35 - 39	67	130	197	11%
40 - 44	77	139	216	12%
45 - 49	78	138	216	12%
50 - 54	68	140	208	11%
55 - 59	62	77	139	8%
60 - 64	37	44	81	4%
65 - 69	23	15	38	2%
70 - 74	6	13	19	1%
75 and over	7	5	12	1%
Totals	688	1124	1812	

Mark Petrillo was the Race Director, and Roger Pszonowsky, Michael Petrillo, and Cindy Dolaway rounded out the Turtle Krawl Committee. An estimate of all of the Turtle Krawl related volunteer hours follows:

Activity	Estimated Volunteer Hours
Planning and Preparation	300
Sponsor Acquisition	350
Promotion	150
Race Day	150
Total Estimated Volunteer Hours	950

9. STPS Memberships

Membership is open to those who have a sincere interest in the mission of the STPS.

In past years STPS has managed the Membership List with the use of Excel spreadsheets. As the organization has grown, this approach has presented several management challenges. In 2012, the STPS Board of Directors elected to switch to an online membership system. This system is a cloud-based system, so it can be accessed right from your web browser. We plan to have this system fully implemented by midyear.

The new system will allow us to organize the membership database to suit our specific needs, with custom membership levels, groups and fields. We will be able to automate payments and renewals and provide secure remote access to members, staff and our board. Members will be able to log in to their secure profile and make updates for address changes and different volunteer preferences. STPS event directors will be able to search the membership list for volunteer capabilities to support upcoming events and activities. We plan to use it to support events such as Turtle Krawl to take registrations and payments online.

The STPS membership roster is always changing. This is due to several factors. A significant number of new member registrations come from tourists that find their way to our Sea Turtle House and to the Night Walks. Many of these memberships do not renew after the first year. Another factor is members just forget about renewal. Lastly, the stressed economy has probably impacted some renewals.

The STPS membership roster is down from last year but we are hopeful that the implementation of the new membership system will help to boost the membership in the coming years.

The number of memberships by category follows. These numbers includes some pending renewals.

Categories	Number of Memberships
Benefactors (\$500)	2
Lifetime Memberships (\$200)	166
Contributors (\$50)	33
Family Memberships (\$30)	129
Individual Memberships (\$20)	172
Student Memberships (\$15)	45
Honorary Memberships	0
TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS	547

10. Total Estimated Volunteer Hours

STPS Volunteers have donated the following volunteer hours to the organization and community. Given the numerous activities and our many volunteers that support the organization it is difficult to keep track the actually time worked. Consequently the following data has been estimated based on inputs from the lead persons involved with overseeing the primary activities.

Using these estimates and a conservative estimated dollar value of \$21.00 per hour of volunteer time (per the 2012 Independent Sector Annual Conference), STPS contributed approximately \$271,887 to the Brevard County community with our volunteer activities.

Activity	Estimated Volunteer Hours
Adopt a Turtle Program	100
Beach Cleanup	872
Board of Directors Meetings	276
Communications (Includes Facebook, FlipperFlash, Newsletter, Public Relations, and Website)	450
Education Talks and Displays	872
Financial Management	500
Friends of Carr Refuge	20
Membership Management	200
Membership Meetings	100
Nest Surveys	2137
STERP Activities	616
Stranding Activities	3398
Turtle Krawl	950
Turtle Walks	2256
Volunteer Coordination	200
TOTAL ESTIMATED VOLUNTEER HOURS	12947