



April 2017

Greetings new and veteran turtle enthusiasts,

I want to welcome all of you to another season of sea turtle fun. **May 1** marks the arrival of one of Amelia Island's original rites of spring. Sea turtle nesting season officially begins on this date. Our beach patrol will begin operation on Monday, **May 1** and will operate through **August 31**. The race is on to see who finds the first nest of the season. Here are a few things to remember:

1. We ask that volunteers be on the beach at civil twilight (about 20 minutes before sun up). This becomes earlier as we move into the season. As summer bears down upon us, the heat will be almost unbearable after this time, for the regular volunteers as well as the permitted volunteers who may be digging in the sand to verify the presence of eggs. If you are late getting on the beach, it is entirely possible someone will have already found the nest.
2. ***For best results, walk along the most recent high tide line.*** From this line, you will easily see any tracks that may have been made before high tide as well as those made on an outgoing tide.
3. Yes, sea turtles nest in the rain, lightning and thunder. We certainly **DO NOT** expect anyone to walk in the rain or storms. Throughout the summer we always have several episodes when it stormed during the night and early hours of the morning. On some of these occasions, nests were documented after the rain ended. Turtles are unaware if it is raining. I know it is hard to believe, but tracks are still visible after a hard rain. They are somewhat washed out, but they are still visible. There are some of you who have been **VERY** dedicated and have walked in a light rain. I only ask that you call and let me know that you will **not** be doing your walk. Please don't assume that just because it is raining I would know you are not walking. Give me a call.
4. Remember, if you see any sign of sea turtle activity, crawl or nest ***do not disturb the site.*** If you walk your dog, please do not let them walk on the tracks or the nest site. If the nest site is disturbed, it is very hard, if not almost impossible, to determine if there is actually a nest or if it was only a false crawl (abandoned nesting attempt).
5. Remember to call me if you see anything out of the ordinary (even dead turtles). My cell phone is the best way to reach me anytime. ***Make sure you take your cell phone with you so you can call me from the site. (You may want to take your camera as well)***

Mary Duffy - Cell: 583-1913

Give me as exact a location as possible. For instance, "I found a crawl two houses north of access 36", or "There is a nest behind 1492 North Fletcher Ave.", or "There is a dead turtle in front of the third gazebo at Main Beach going north." Also be aware that there are some access numbers that are North and South. All access north of Main Beach are indicated by an "N" after the number. There are also some access south of Main Beach that have "S" after the number. Please try to be accurate. This will help us respond to your call as quickly as possible.

6. Remember, **if you cannot make your walk, WE must find a sub.** Please do not ask someone to fill in for you. Advance notice is appreciated since it enables us to find a fill-in. Dotty Heritage is finding the subs. I know there will be times when it just isn't convenient or you may be sick or going out of town. We have volunteers who are very good about filling in for those times. **PLEASE CALL!! We are part of a research project so we can't have any unsurveyed days or areas. If you know in advance that you will not be on the beach, you can email Dotty Heritage. If it's the night before or the morning of, don't email...CALL. Dotty will be handling all of the subs. Her email and phone number are listed below. Again, please do not find your own subs.**
7. If you see signs of activity on your morning walk, please don't email the information. I may not read your email until later in the morning. Please call me on my cell phone. You can also take a picture of the site and text it to me.
8. You can keep up with daily nesting on our website, www.ameliaislandseaturtlewatch.com. You can also ask to join us on **Facebook, Amelia Island Sea Turtle Watch**
9. Due to the fact that we had 3 completely poached nests last season, and the fact that FWC has recommended it, we will no longer be putting the date on the nest stakes or the website. We will also not post the location of the nest on the website. I will post it when I advertise the excavation. If you find a nest and want to keep track of it, you will need to remember the nest name and/or mark it on your calendar.
10. We will be participating in the genetics research again this season. Results from last season can be found on the website, www.ameliaislandseaturtlewatch.com.

I hope all of you new volunteers get as much satisfaction out of this as the veterans do. Happy "turtling"!!!

See you on the beach!

Cheers,
 Mary Duffy
mdcaretta@comcast.net
 Cell: **583-1913** ←

Here is the contact information for my other permitted volunteers. After you call me, these are some of the people who may respond to your crawl.

Dotty Heritage (<i>call or email if you need a sub</i>)	415-6343	Dotsy3@comcast.net
Len & Pat Kreger	H - 432-8389, Len cell – 224-558-5735 Pat cell – 904-903-8970	P.Kreger@comcast.net L.Kreger@comcast.net
Sheri Hair	904-333-8539	sherrihair2@yahoo.com
Mary Raines	904-233-6425	marysraines@comcast.net
Janet Tharin	904-321-6528	janettharin@gmail.com
Linda Collins	904-334-2174	ldwcollins@att.net

