

# Mid-Season Sea Turtle Report

By Peggy Deneau

It is now nearing the peak of the sea turtle nesting season, which runs through August. Occasionally, we will get a nest in September. If we do, it would most likely be the nest of a green turtle, as they tend to nest later in the season than loggerheads. Their nests look very different, and are much higher on the beach.

As of this writing in early July, we now have three new loggerhead sea turtle nests, for a total of six in Pine Knoll Shores. All were laid before the end of June. Nest #4 was found by the Turtle Patrol on June 10. Nest #5 was discovered on June 17 by volunteers Jayne Keifer and Marty and Terry McCabe. This nest, like Nest #2, had to be moved due to its proximity to the high tide line. Marty and Terry moved the eggs while I created the "new nest."

Nest #6 was discovered by a tourist on the night of June 29. A man was headed out with his sons for some night fishing, and ended up watching a mother loggerhead nest. He took some photos and notified the police, who in turn notified us. When we arrived the next morning, volunteer Barbara Prutzman located the eggs and helped to mark off the nest.

By the time you are reading this in early August, we will have begun making our runways and sitting the nests. We kept a watch on Hurricane Chris off our shore in early July, hoping it would spare the nests from tidal woes, and also watched Hurricane Beryl, hoping it wouldn't come our way. Neither storm caused a problem for the nests.

In the next article, weather permitting, there should be some good hatching results to report from our first nests of the summer.



Top: Terry McCabe carries eggs from Nest #5 to their new nest in a safer location. Below: Marty McCabe (kneeling) measures the crawl from the same nest as Peggy Deneau records the numbers.—Photos by Jayne Keifer



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