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Turtle Time

By Peggy Sagmiller

The 2008 Sea Turtle season was a strange one on Bogue Banks. Fewer nests than usual were laid, and they were laid later. In Pine Knoll Shores, the first nest of the season was laid in late June. Usually, the first nest is laid in mid to late May. Nest #7, our last, was laid at the end of August. If this nest had hatched, the water might well have been too cold for the hatchlings. In that case, they would all have been taken to the aquarium, to be later released by boat into the Gulf Stream.

Unfortunately, the storm tides did not stay away from Bogue Banks. After losing Nests #3, #6, and #7 to high tides from Tropical Storm Hannah, we lost Nest #5 to the nor'easter of September 24-25. The beach was cut away, and the nest was washed out to sea. Where the nest had been is now well below the high tide line.

Nest #4, which was moved about one week after it was laid, boiled on September

17, at 10:30 p.m. Barbara Gaunt and Mary Anne Hotham were in attendance, and the hatch went smoothly.

We inventoried Nest #4 at 7 p.m., September 20, with Bill and Mary Anne Hotham performing the excavation. In the nest we found 81 egg shells, 17 unhatched eggs, one pipped/dead (partially out of it's shell) hatchling, and one live hatchling that was released into the ocean. The emergence success of Nest #4 was 81%.

In total, 237 Loggerhead hatchlings were seen safely into the ocean in Pine Knoll Shores this year. Even though only three of our seven nests hatched, due to storm tides, the emergence successes of all three was excellent!

Thanks go out to all the dedicated volunteers who made our season as successful as it could be, with the obstacles thrown at us by the weather. Thanks too, to all who expressed an interest in our program and would like to be included next season. We appreciate your interest and your help. Hope to see you all in the spring of '09 when the new season begins! Happy Holidays to you all!

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October Commissioners Meeting

By Yvette Bannen

At the October 14 meeting of the PKS Board of Commissioners, Mayor Joan Lamson and Town Manager Brian Kramer were absent because they were attending a N.C. League of Municipalities meeting in Charlotte. Commissioner B.J. Peter was also absent. Mayor Pro Tem Robert Danehy conducted the meeting.

PKS resident Ed Erickson made a presentation regarding the lobbying efforts of the N.C. Beach Inlet and Waterway Association. The association represents six coastal counties. Because the federal government is trying to get away from dredging inlets and waterways, lobbying efforts are important because the Corps of Engineers uses the least cost of disposal method to dispose of dredged sand. This often results in sand being dumped at sea instead of being used to replenish beaches.

Finance Officer Julie Anderson reported that the July sales and, use tax was received and because more entities are getting exempt status, the figure is lower than expected.

It was noted that it is the responsibility of the vehicle owner to make sure that their address is correct (Pine Knoll Shores not Atlantic Beach) so that the motor vehicle taxes are paid to PKS.

The moratorium on wind driven generators has been extended for another six months.

There is a lengthy list of unfinished pending business items and Commissioner Ted Lindblad suggested that the items should be prioritized as well as indicating how long the items have been on the list.

An amendment to the house-numbering ordinance goes into effect December 9. For single-family houses, the official address number shall be displayed in an easily visible location from the roadway at least four feet above ground level and on a post located within the right of way. The numbers (both on the house and on the post) shall be at least three inches high and reflective numbers are recommended.