

Busy Week for False Crawls at Big Marco Pass

By Maria Lamb

For 25 years, Mary Nelson was affectionately referred to by Marco Islanders as the Sea Turtle Lady. And for those 25 years, Mary has been monitoring the sea turtles on Marco Island. On Sunday, June 23rd, she was back on the beach with one of the newer members of the Sea Turtle monitors, Jeanene Jewett, (aka JJ). For this week, monitors have been busy recording false crawls. There was an average of 2.6 false crawls per nest during the week of June 18-24th.

What happens when water reaches those nests is a commonly asked question by beach walkers. Those eggs incubate, buried in the sand for six to eight weeks. According to sea turtle experts, while it is hard to see the results of overwash and inundation on sea turtle nests, prolonged submersion from tidal inundation or storm surges can cause embryonic mortality. If submerged too long, the eggs essentially drown. On Marco we have several nests that are scheduled to hatch early to mid-July and the sea turtle monitors are keeping a close watch.



Photo by Maria Lamb
Mary Nelson assisting new sea turtle monitor JJ at Big Marco Pass. They both traced and recorded a false crawl.

Sea Turtle Activity Update June 18 - 24, 2024							
Beach	Nests		False Crawls		Hatched Nests		
	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	Disoriented
Barefoot	144	158	115	353	0	0	0
Delnor Wiggins	38	48	36	123	0	0	0
Vanderbilt	159	222	136	322	0	0	0
Parkshore	126	122	94	250	0	0	0
City of Naples	165	184	211	273	0	0	0
Keewaydin Is.	283	300	391	579	0	0	0
Sea Oat Island	7	20	8	59	0	0	0
Marco Island	62	79	160	308	0	0	0
Kice and Cape Romano	79	98	132	192	0	0	0
10,000 Islands	78	70	97	95	0	0	0
Collier County Totals	1141	1301	1380	2554	0	0	0

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