



## Golden Beach Newsletter April 2021



### Thank You from Mote Marine

Golden Beach received a kind thank-you letter from the Sea Turtle Conservation and Research Program (STCRP) of Mote Marine Laboratory:

*"... thanks for your support throughout the 2020 season.*

*By allowing our staff, interns, and volunteers to park or store supplies*

*on your property, our beach monitoring was more efficient and effective and we were able to respond to turtle activities in a timely manner because of the convenience you provided ... Once again, thank you for the vital role you play in helping to protect Sarasota County's sea turtles."* During the 2020 season STCRP documented 478 loggerhead and green turtle nests in Venice, and a total of over 3700 in the region comprising Venice, Longboat Key, Lido Key, Siesta Key and Casey Key.

**Turtle Season 2021** Sea turtle nesting season in Southwest Florida runs from May 1 through October 31. The city of Venice publishes a guide to the simple things we can all do to minimize our impact on turtle nesting during the season:

<https://www.venicegov.com/living/sea-turtle-lightning>.

Here are some of the recommended basics:

- Remove beach furniture, trash, and obstacles. Obstacles can trap the female turtle on her egg laying journey and/or the hatchlings on their way to the Gulf.
- Only light for safety; turn off any decorative, beach-facing and uplights during the nesting and hatchling season. Such lights are not turtle-friendly!

- For safety lighting: use red or amber LED bulbs, directed where you need it and away from the beach. (Red or amber LED bulbs are less disruptive to nesting sea turtles and hatchlings.)
- Stay away from sea turtle nests marked with yellow stakes and tape.
- Fill in holes that can entrap hatchlings on their journey to the water.
- Remain quiet and observe from a distance if you encounter a nesting sea turtle or hatchlings.
- NO flashlights and no strobe photos after dark please!

**Ali Hicks** passed on March 26, 2021. Ali was resident on Baynard Drive in Golden Beach for 14 years, from 2002 to 2016. Ali was chair of our social committee for seven years and tended the bulletin board at the easement. She was always willing to help with whatever needed to be done. Many of our members also benefited from Ali's tax preparation services. Ali's husband Ed was also very active in our Association, including monitoring parking passes at the easement. Services honoring Ali were held by her family on April 6th. If you would like to send a card, Ed now lives at 188 Cohosh Rd, Nokomis FL 34275-6802. Ali will be missed by all of us.

**Spring Gardening** Bill Fender recently brought us the great *Milkweed for Monarchs* event. This Sunday, starting at 8:00 at 411 Golden Beach Boulevard, Bill will be offering **free** to neighbors a selection of plants he has been growing.

Plants that Bill will be offering include:



- 4" pots of **Areca Palms**  
(*"... will reward you if put into larger containers..."*),
- Various **Rainbow Coleus**  
(*"... grow in sun or shade, provide color all year..."*),
- **Green Spider Plants**  
(*"... planted into another container or the landscape..."*),
- Assorted **Peppers**  
(*"... mostly mild, but a few HOT ones for any brave souls..."*),

And **more!**

**Update on the Golden Beach sandy shower drain** Our beach access outdoor shower drain had become full of sand. An anonymous volunteer removed the accumulated sand several weeks ago, accruing significant Karmic Bonus Points (KBP) in the process. In a completely unrelated set of events, that same week GBAI happened to receive a set of free guest passes from Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium.

The anonymous volunteer was offered the guest passes, but suggested that the passes go instead to *“anyone whose grandkids are coming”*. So, if you have grandkids visiting soon we have four passes free for the asking, courtesy of Mote Marine and our anonymous volunteer. First come first serve. Contact Steve Oglethorpe at 650-619-6218.

**Record GBAI Membership** Membership in GBAI reached an all-time record high this month, at 273 member households.

**Electronic Directory** The project is still in exploration. One industry-leading solution looked very promising, but after live testing and closer examination of their pricing schedule it proved to be both less suitable to our needs and more expensive than we had hoped. We are looking now at options that could give us more value for their cost.

**Look both ways!** Streets in Golden Beach are generally quiet and safe even at peak season, but please do be careful as you walk or bike. The closest thing we have to a traffic hazard is at the corner of Spadaro and Harbor Drive, where there is a slight and well-marked bend in the road as Harbor merges lanes. In a prime example of Murphy’s Law, a speeding motorist recently knocked down the very sign warning them to be careful at that spot. Luckily no one other than the sign was injured. Neighbor Willie Acosta worked with the County to prioritize the replacement of the flattened warning sign, and repairs were made quickly – *thank you Willie!*



**Beach Parking** Parking at the beach access continues in high demand. To ensure space for all, please park no more than one vehicle per household in the lot during peak season, park in the designated parking spots, and display a 2021 GBAI Member parking sticker (*installed on the lower front windshield, driver’s side*) or guest pass (*placed face up on dashboard*). In the month of March, 17 tickets or warnings were issued to drivers of vehicles illegally parked at the beach access: 3 tickets (with substantial fines), 4 warnings for expired passes, and 10 no-pass warnings.