

WILD AMELIA

Protecting our natural environment
through education.

A Keep Nassau Beautiful Program

2022–2023 Wild Nite Nature Presentations

7 pm at the historic Peck Center
516 South 10th Street, Fernandina Beach, FL

October 11: Update on Cumberland Island
Jessica Edwards, *Wild Cumberland, Inc.*

November 8: Amelia Island Update
Mary Duffy, *Amelia Island Sea Turtle, Inc.*

December 13: Racoons Among Us
Kristen Littles, *Tows And Tails*

January 10: Amelia Island Wild Edibles
Betsy Harris, *SurfAsylum*

February 14: Off Shore Artificial Reefs
Joe Kistel, *TISIRI (Think It, Sink It, Reef It)*

March 14: Cherokee Tribal Presentation
Jane Winkler, *Cherokee Tribal Grounds, Inc.*

April 11: Earth Kinship
Ayolane Huluskey, *Earth Kinship*

May 9: Right Whale Update
Julie Albert, *Marine Resources Council*

Wild Nites
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RAYONIER
Advanced Materials

2022 Critter-of-the-Year

Loggerhead Sea Turtle



On Amelia Island beaches the sea turtle nests lovingly staked off and marked with yellow tape are most likely loggerhead nests. The loggerhead is Florida's most common sea turtle and the main sea turtle species that nests on Amelia Island.

Named for its massive block-like head, an adult loggerhead weighs 275 pounds, on average, with a shell about one yard long. Its shell, ruddy brown on top and creamy yellow underneath, is very broad near the head and tapers toward the rear. Each flipper has two claws. The diet of the loggerhead sea turtle primarily consists of jellyfish, crabs and a variety of mollusks.



Loggerheads reach sexual maturity at about 35 years old and mate every two to three years. From April to September female loggerheads return to the same beach to lay four to seven nests, each having 100–126 eggs. The leathery golf-ball shaped eggs hatch in roughly 60 days. The hatchlings crawl to the ocean, guided to the sea by the reflection of the moon on the waves.

Artificial light from beach homes, restaurants, parking lots, street lights and flashlights can mean death for hatchlings, directing them away from the ocean. This can be avoided by the use of turtle-safe porch lights, street lights and flashlights. People in beach-front accommodations can help the hatchlings by keeping blinds and drapes closed at night, and by using turtle-safe outdoor lighting.

Photos of loggerhead nest and background photo of loggerhead tracks by Susan Ulmer DeWolf. Top photo by BigStock.

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