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Sea Turtle Dig the Dark - and so do Humans!

After the sun goes down, the beaches change. We see the stars and the moon, and enjoy the sense of calm.

The beaches of Anna Maria Island serve an important role for sea turtles during their nesting season, May 1st to Oct 31st. One of the biggest threats to our turtles is Beach Front lighting.

- Permanent outdoor lighting that is visible from the beach should be “Sea Turtle Friendly “. You may find fixture and bulb options available on the Florida Fish and Wildlife website at <http://myfwc.com/conservation/you- conserve/lighting/certified/>
- Turtles need to be protected from indoor lights that are visible from the beach also. Please close the curtains after dark. Inside lights visible from the beach can disorient the turtles as well.
- Keep your cell phone lighting off and use no photography around hatchlings and adult sea turtles.
- Limit your use of flashlights and always point them at the ground. Never shine a light on a sea turtle. Try keeping the light off and letting your eyes adapt to the darkness when possible.
- Be calm and quiet and savor the moment.