Beached horseshoe crabs get hand back into sea

By SUSAN ALLEN
Special to the Star and Wave

Beached horseshoe crabs have been getting an assist from Stockton University students and staff who are sharing how others can help by flipping the crabs over so they can return to the water.

Elizabeth Parsons first discoveredCRABS turned over so they can return to the water. She turned it over and it immediately flipped back over. She couldn’t believe how fast that happened, but fellow Marine Science Club member McKenzie Bridge found that any wiggled legs pulled when she picked it up. She turned it over and it immediately flipped back over. She confirmed that the two times, treasurer of the Stockton Fishing Club, and others also went to the beach to help return crabs to the water.

Horseshoe crabs, or blue crabs, are a species of crab native to North America. They are known for their horseshoe-shaped carapace and are often found on the Atlantic coast. They are important in marine ecosystems, serving as food for many predators and as a test for the efficacy of drugs used in human medical treatments.

When crabs get flipped upside down, the sun can dry out their gills, especially in the summer. They can get caught in the current and remain out of the water for a period of time, which can be lethal. Horseshoe crabs and other marine life can perish, but fellow Marine Science Club member McKenzie Bridge found that any wiggled legs pulled when she picked it up. She turned it over and it immediately flipped back over. She confirmed that the two times, treasurer of the Stockton Fishing Club, and others also went to the beach to help return crabs to the water.

Horseshoe crabs are also known for their hard exoskeletons, which make them difficult for predators to digest. This protective feature allows them to survive in environments where other species might struggle. Horseshoe crabs are also important in marine ecosystems, serving as food for many predators and as a test for the efficacy of drugs used in human medical treatments.

For more information on how to help beach horseshoe crabs, you can visit the website of the American Littoral Society or contact your local Marine Science Club. They can provide guidance on how to properly flip the crabs and return them to the water.