

SOUNDSIDE LEARNING

THIS WEEK ON CORE SOUND

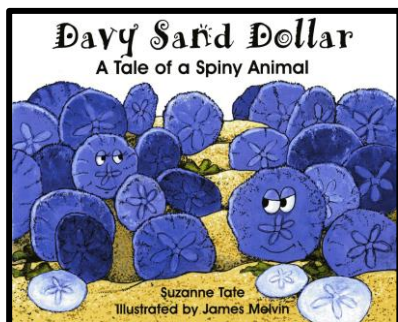


COMING UP AT CORE SOUND...

- **August 17:** 806 Parlor Talk "Foundation for Shackelford Horses" by Margaret Poindexter & Carolyn Mason @ 2 PM
- **October 21:** Annual Oyster Roast, 6 – 9 PM; Click below for tickets:

[OYSTER ROAST TICKETS](#)

Sound Reading Material For You and Your Child



Davy Sand Dollar: A Tale of a Spiny Animal

By Suzanne Tate

This book is filled with interesting facts for young readers to explore, as well as for adult readers to learn! The stories and illustrations are a wonderful way to introduce all ages to things they may not know about the incredible sand dollar. They are treasures, indeed.

Pages: 28
Grades: K-2

Blessed Youth, Grateful Man

Nostalgia: a sentimental longing or wistful affection for the past, typically for a period or place with happy personal associations

As I spoke with my dear friend, Richard Gillikin, I was overcome by the nostalgia of our conversation. Richard's memories took us both back to his youth where he grew up alongside Papa, his grandfather Wardie Murphy, who was known as "Brother" by locals, friends, and hunting club members. The Core Sound Rod and Gun Club was located on Core Banks across Core Sound from Davis. It was built by people from Davis and staffed by people from Davis and Stacy. I wasn't lucky enough to be a part of this unique place, but I feel as if I got a glimpse into its soul listening to Richard's stories.

Richard and his brother Jon spent their summers and weekends helping their grandfather with the daily upkeep of the Club. It was a second home to Richard. He fondly remembers learning the art of duck hunting by helping Papa methodically prepare the Club's blinds and decoys for the visiting hunters, starting weeks before they arrived. Whatever the club needed, Richard and Jon did. Whether it was bringing groceries from the mainland or picking ducks for members, they ensured it was completed because that's what they were taught. Richard explained, "If there was something Papa needed done, we didn't question it. You know? If we didn't do it, who was going to?"

In the moment, Richard didn't think of his life on Core Banks as unique or unusual. It was simply his life. That's the most beautiful part of all the stories he shared with me. Richard's upbringing sculpted the hardworking man he grew up to become. His time at the Club taught him reliance, diligence, ethics, and resilience. He learned what hard work meant and the give-and-take relationship between his Down East bloodline and the salt waters of Core Sound.



photo from <http://www.corebanksclub.com>

SCIENCE for YOU

Shell Science

STEP 1: Set out a few containers & add a different kind of seashell to each one.

STEP 2: Pour seawater into one container and cover the shell completely. This will act as your control. *Label this container to remember it contains sea water!

STEP 3: Pour vinegar over the remaining seashells to cover each completely.

STEP 4: Check on your seashells periodically and observe what is happening.



In this experiment, you will witness the chemical reaction between the shells' materials and the acetic acid in the white vinegar!



photos from <https://sand-boarding.com>

Precious Sand Dollars

Echinoderms, sand dollars are related to several iconic shoreline species, including sea stars and sea urchins. Sand dollars are sometimes referred to as “sea cakes” or “sea cookies.” They are bottom-dwellers, navigating the seafloor to find plankton and algae to ingest. They use spines and tiny hairs called cilia to move across the bottom of the sea to ensure their next meal is within reach.

The same cilia that help sand dollars move along the seafloor also ensure that they can obtain and consume the food they need. When sand dollars eat, they activate their cilia to move food to their mouths, which are close to the lower-center of their bodies. Once food reaches their mouths, sand dollars have jaws made up of five sections which contain small teeth that grind up the food. (These are the “doves” folks often refer to finding inside sand dollars.)

As sand dollars age, they develop rings around their exoskeleton. These rings demonstrate a sand dollar's age. They typically live for no more than 10 years, but it's fascinating to know that scientists can tell how old they are in the same way that they age trees (by the number of rings that have developed within their trunks).

Sand dollars are social creatures! They tend to congregate together, sometimes amassing into groups of more than 600. They must be in the water to survive. While it's a common occurrence for people, including myself on occasion, to pick these animals up as tokens of beach days, it is important to remember that sand dollars are not shells; they are living creatures. They can only live underwater and removing them from their aquatic homes threatens their survival.

When sand dollars are alive and healthy, they are not white, but rather a tan, almost taupe-like shade. When they die, the remaining skeleton is bleached by the sun and turns white.