

Soundside Learning

Thanksgiving Edition!



Waterfowl Weekend, 2020
Photo: CSWM&HC Collection

December Looms On Core Sound

Waterfowl Weekend Preparations!

Preparations for Waterfowl Weekend and Core Sound Christmas are in full-swing as our big weekend is right around the corner! Education will once again be taking center stage at our flagship event as we prepare to welcome local education partners in conjunction with our own educational exhibit focusing on the traditional oystering practices of Core Sound!

For many Core Sounders young and old, a Thanksgiving celebration is not complete without a good-salty mess of fresh Core Sound oysters. Whether it be in the form of oyster dressing, or steamed in grandma's big ole' pot, oysters are as much a Thanksgiving day staple in the communities along Core Sound as turkey and collards. This year at Waterfowl Weekend, YOU can come see first hand how local fishermen harvest WILD-CAUGHT Core Sound oysters, the "old way".



Tonging For Oysters
Photo: NC State Archives



Sound Reading
Material For You &
Your Child

Bring Me Duck
By: Suzanne Tate

Before the community of Duck, NC was a major tourist attraction, it was among the many fishing villages along the North Carolina Outer Banks. In this collection of short stories, the author shares stories of the old-days along the Outer Banks as told to her by her mother.

Did You Know?

The town of Duck, NC is home to the Caffey's Inlet Lifesaving Station. Caffey's Inlet opened in 1770 but closed up in 1811. The station was built in 1898 as even after the closing of the nearby inlet, the waters nearby remained treacherous to passing ships. The building is now on the national register of historic places.

Loon Eaters...

From providers to outlaws...

Though turkey may be the national staple when it comes to Thanksgiving, after all the day itself is alternatively known for the bird, it is unlikely that those early Core Sounders, isolated as they were from inland supply chains, would have featured the large fowl on their holiday menus. Up until at least the 1950s, it would have been much more likely that a Core Sound Thanksgiving celebration would feature, not the iconic turkey, but the Common Loon!

“... We can still use ole Betsy at the Cape!”

- Shuford Guthrie,
Carteret County News Times, May 12th, 1950 Edition 1

Loons have long been an important part of Core Sound Heritage. By the 1850s, residents of Diamond City and Wade's Hammock on Shackleford Banks customarily took part in a seasonal hunt for Common Loons whose migration patterns brought them directly over the banks. These Loons were hunted as both a source of food as well as a means to make fish-hooks from the bones of the fowl. This tradition continued even after those Cae' Bankers moved across the sound to Harkers Island around 1899. By 1918 the shooting of Loons had been made illegal by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. This didn't stop the former bankers... By 1950 the Loon was being exploited with such efficiency on Shackleford Banks that State and Federal Law Enforcement planned a sting operation to crack down on the illegal practice. In May of 1950, officials arrested 100 individuals on Shackleford Banks, of which 78 were formally charged with illegal Loon hunting.

The action prompted a May, 1950 letter to the editor in the Carteret County News Times titled *Is It a Crime to Kill a Loon For Food?* In which the author, a Shuford Guthrie, laments the changes that he had seen come to Core Sound in the late 1940s and into the 50s, namely what he and other locals saw as the reallocation of the sound's wild game to those who “hailed from UP THE STATE” and came with “khaki hunting coats and plaid shirts” to kill, not for a source of food like these Core Sounders, but simply for sport.



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It is apparent, though, from reading Mr. Guthrie's letter that despite the formal charges levied against some of their fellow men, these descended Cae' Bankers would not be deterred for long, nay they vowed to defy the game wardens yet. For many Core Sounders, the land of their ancestors, those “kay banks”, have and continue to represent a place of birthright, a place where the posterity of those Cae' Bankers might still run free, unshackled from the parameters of the law. Mr. Guthrie sums up the sentiment of his fellow Core Sounders by declaring, “You upstaters ain't got our loons, you wouldn't eat them even if you killed one, we can still use ole Betsy at the Cape!”.

CORE SOUND EDUCATIONAL SPOTLIGHT:

JARROD BRILEY

A native of Otway, NC, Jarrod Briley is one of the finest classical musician to call Down East home. Briley began his love of music at the middle and high school level, excelling at East Carteret High School as a member of the Marching Mariners. This lead the young Down Easter to pursue a degree in musical studies at East Carolina University where he began to play regularly as a member of various orchestras. After completing his studies at East Carolina, Briley moved to New York's Hudson Valley where he enrolled a performance studies program at Bard College. While studying at Bard, Briley joined a graduate training orchestra, The Orchestra Now, a pre-professional training orchestra program made up of musicians from all over the world. Briley has performed on multiple occasions at Carnegie Hall, The Lincoln Center, the MET Museum, taken a tour to San Francisco, recorded multiple orchestra CD's, and played under some of the world's best conductors. In addition, Briley still finds time to educate young musicians during private lessons to share his love of music with the next generation. As an instructor for the Hawthorne Caballeros, Briley helped lead the professional marching group to become the 2021 DCA World Champions.



Mr. Jarrod Briley
Photo: Briley Family Collection