

# SOUNDSIDE LEARNING

## THIS WEEK ON CORE SOUND

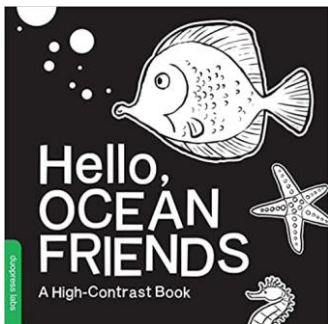


June 5, 2023

### COMING UP AT CORE SOUND...

- **806 Parlor Talk:** June 15 "Fish House Liars" presented by Chris Yeomans @ 2:00 PM
- **Applications Now Being Accepted** for our Summer Camps! Check them out at [www.coresound.com/camp](http://www.coresound.com/camp)

### Sound Reading Material For You & Your Child



### Hello, Ocean Friends

By Violet Lemay

Making connections between images on a page and the real world is an important building block for your baby's communication skills—and this charming introduction to ocean creatures, paired with friendly text and bold, basic patterns, provides an important high-contrast experience for young developing eyes.

This book is the perfect building block for babies just beginning to look around and learn about their world.

Pages: 20  
Ages: babies-toddlers

## The Jetty

Growing up Down East, whenever I heard someone say they were going to the Jetty, I knew they were heading to the Cape. I never really questioned what it was or why it was there; all that mattered to me at the time was where it was since it was one of my favorite places on earth.

A jetty extends out into the water and is built perpendicular to the shore, usually at inlets. It blocks the current moving down the beach, called the longshore drift, and holds sand in place which prevents the end of the island from washing away. The jetty also averts the channel through the inlet from filling with sand. Typically, jetties are made of concrete or rock structures.

The Cape Lookout Rock Jetty is described by Google as a "2,500-foot jetty, built in 1914, ... a few hundred yards southwest from the Cape Lookout Lighthouse near the tip of South Core Banks. The jetty is a mass of jagged, jumbled, barnacle-covered chunk rocks, almost invisible during high-tide periods and a couple of hundred yards uncovered at low tide."

Because of the hazard presented by the jetty for boaters, a buoy is anchored at its tip. This buoy was called the bell buoy when Daddy was a teen for it had a bell that rung when moving waters tilted its base. Daddy fondly recalls calm, slow days at Granddaddy's fish house when a handful of fishermen sat around sharing stories. Inevitably at some point during their chatter one of the men would hold up his weathered hand and say, "Shhh! Listen. Ya hear that?" Through the stillness would echo the familiar *BONG-BONG* of the jetty's bell buoy as it rode the swells of the Atlantic.

There are other jetties in our area, also. They are located at Fort Macon, Shackleford Banks, Radio Island; and there is a small one near the Coast Guard Station. My favorite, however, will always be at the Cape.



Cape Lookout Rock Jetty picture from <https://www.carolinasportsman.com/content/saltwater-series-harkers-island/>

## A Prickly Situation

If you grew up here and ever got into a *scrape*, chances are you walked through some sandy grasses and got stuck down in pear pads. Not only have I been there and done that, but I have more than once!

I remember vividly walking to the ocean side of the Cape--yes, this was before wooden walkways were built for visitors to enjoy--or taking a shortcut through neighborhood yards to get to friends' houses and stopping in my tracks with spikes in my socks and shoes and, far too often, my bare feet. The prick of a pear pad is like no other, and the scream for someone to get you out of them communicates an undeniable urgency and annoyance.

So, what is a pear pad? It is a piece of the prickly pear cactus which has segmented, flattened stems. They have two types of prickles: long, visible spines and "glochids," which are smaller, barbed, hair-like spikes that are hard to see and just as hard to remove from skin. As with sand spurs, their spines often attach to passing animals and people, helping to spread them and extend their territory. The spines also protect the fruit from being eaten by animals.

These cacti bloom in late spring, producing yellow flowers, some of which have red centers. Native pollinators and honeybees love the nectar of the flowers, which they help pollinate.

As the season progresses red or purple fruit develops. Box turtles love to munch on the fruit, and they are also edible for humans. Prickly pears are useful as both vegetables (pads, or *nopales*) and fruit (*tunas*.) Both require heavy gloves to harvest and prepare.

The *nopales* can be grilled or boiled and served as a side dish. The *tunas* are filled with very hard seeds, which must be removed, but once that is accomplished, they make a sweet snack or a great jelly. Because they are made up mostly of water, they can be used as such when needed, and have been known to save the lives of more than one hiker stranded in a dry desert.

I am told that the flavor of a cactus pear is sweet, but bland, similar in flavor to a melon. Despite the name, the fruit is not actually a member of the pear family; its name comes from the pear-like shape and size of the prickly fruit.

I am too old to become friends with our local pear pads, so I will continue to avoid them as much as possible. Seeing them from a distance works for me!



above photos are from  
[www.carolinanature.com](http://www.carolinanature.com)