

SOUNDSIDE LEARNING THIS WEEK ON CORE SOUND

COMING UP AT CORE SOUND

- Porch Talks, June 16, 23 & 30
- Core Sound Marine Science Academy, June 20-24
- Art Days, June 23-24
- Core Sound Shrimp Fry, July 9

Sound Reading Material For You & Your Child



Carteret Love Song By Gretchen Guthrie

This collection of short stories and poems written by Gretchen Guthrie Guthrie, native promised lander, will take you back to a time when net spreads dotted the shorelines, yaupon tea sat upon stovetops, when the promised land of Morehead City was a community of Cae' Bankers.

Core Sound Eco Fun Day!

Core Sound Partners with West Carteret High School

In partnership with the West Carteret High School Student Leadership Academy, the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum was proud to offer the first annual Core Sound Eco Fun Day! Attended by over 70 school children, this one day camp allowed these youngsters to learn about the beauty of nature and how to enjoy the outdoor environment while also helping to ensure its proper care.

Students learned about topics ranging from building their own "seed bombs" and bird feeders, to responsible fishing practices along the shoreline.



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Core Sound's Eelgrass Beds

During long stretches of the summer without rain, the waters of Core Sound, blessed with two major inlets on either end of Shackleford Banks, will become “as clear as gin”; as the old-timers say. During these dry spells one might observe the sound’s sandy shoals augmented by dark brown, even black areas sometimes acres across. These are the eelgrass beds that Core Sound is famous for.

With more of this submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) than the entire state of Virginia, this grass is vital for the sound’s ecological well-being. These grass beds provide valuable nursery areas for small fish and invertebrates as they grow into - and attract - larger fish. In addition, as the grass takes in sunlight, it converts carbon dioxide into oxygen, keeping the dissolved oxygen content of the sound at a healthy level, capable of supporting an abundance of life.



Pictured right, a flounder lies in the thick eelgrass beds like those that cover large areas of Core Sound. In coastal estuaries like Core Sound, eelgrass beds provide shelter and sustainable food sources for predators like flounder, trout, and red drum.

Photo: NOAA

Did You Know?

During the early part of the twentieth century in the Outer Banks community of Kinnakeet, near Hatteras Village, locals harvested eelgrass that had washed up along the shore. The grass was collected, dried, and taken to processing plants where it was eventually used to stuff mattresses. The industry eventually died out during the 1930s as environmental issues caused a drastic loss of the eelgrass beds in the areas offshore of Kinnakeet.

You can read more about this history by [clicking here!](#)