



# Core Sounder

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A publication of the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center • Summer 2007

## Quilt Day honors our Core Sound heritage



The first-ever Core Sound Quilt Appreciation Day was a tremendous success, with two days of community history and involvement. During this celebration, more than 175 quilts were documented and photographed, with oral histories recorded about these homemade masterpieces. From this gathering, one of the quilting families was selected to be a featured antique quilt at the Crystal Coast Quilt Show in Morehead City. Another selection was chosen to be featured in a larger quilt exhibition in Ohio.



Crystal Coast Quilters Guild

Plans for the next documentation day are now being made by a committee of quilters, quilt historians and museum staff members. The goal for 2008 is to develop an exhibition of local quilts that can be part of the Museum gallery opening. There is also interest in a research project and possible publication coming from this initiative.

Quilt historians Pepper Cory and Lynn Gorges have led the planning for this project and have agreed to help plan the next event, to be held at the Museum as an encore presentation.

*(See related story on page 7)*

## Coastal Cohorts Were Back!

On June 27, 28, and 29, the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center and the North Carolina Coastal Federation presented the "Coastal Cohorts" (Don Dixon, Bland Simpson and Jim Wann) in concert at the Crystal Coast Civic Center in Morehead City. The trio performed songs from their popular coastal show, "King Mackerel and the Blues are Running," as well as from their new CD release "Wild Ponies, More Songs from the Carolina Coast."

This year's summer run of King Mack was limited to three days and four shows, with a cast party on Saturday night. The show, the location and merchandise was "slightly new and improved" but still grounded in the music and stories of the original "King Mack."

This was a great event and an important partnership message for preserving our coastal heritage. We hope you were able to join in the fun and enjoyed the show. A special thank you to our friends and sponsors for making this event another success.

(Limited supply of t-shirts, hats, posters and CD's available at the Museum)



## On the Lookout!

*Special summer events...*

**Community Nights**  
*(Held on the third Tuesday of each month)*

Be a part of the sharing of stories and personal memories about these communities, all with ties to Down East Carteret County.

Host: Rodney Kemp, popular storyteller and historian

July: Smyrna/Tusk  
August: Gloucester/Straits

September: Promise Land  
October: Cape Lookout and Diamond City

**August 30**  
**Taste of Core Sound**  
*(Summer Edition)*

Reserve your tickets now for this fantastic food event! Down East cooks prepare and serve the best of Core Sound dishes, featuring fresh Core Sound seafood, homegrown vegetables and special "down home" recipes! Don't miss it!

**Call the Museum for details on how to make your reservations or log onto the CSWM website!**

**Our gift shop is now  
ONLINE!**

**Log onto the Web at  
www.coresound.com to  
see what we have in store!**

## Very last call for porch planks!

Do you have your name on the porch? The name of a loved one? Maybe your family's name?

Folks come to the Museum every day and walk the entire porch, reading the names. Over and over, visitors are impressed by the number of people involved. The porch, like everything we do, is "all about the people." We're very proud of that.

If the names of your friends and families are already there, thank you. Your contribution has helped make this building a reality.

If you haven't yet taken the time, **THIS IS IT!** This is the absolute last call for porch plank dedications. Thanks to the great response from earlier this year, we only have 19 planks left. We are going to make this last call to our members and hope they get their request in to us before the last plank is sold.

Reservations for porch planks can be taken over the phone, but the wording (name and information to be engraved on the plank) needs to come to us in writing. A form is available by calling the Museum. We can fax, mail or e-mail confirmation to you promptly. Requests will be taken on a first-come, first serve basis until all the planks are sold. Please get your order in as soon as possible. With only this small number of planks available, we hope that everyone will respond promptly.

Our porch plank program is a great way to include the names of all the special people who have been a part of the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center over the years. We hope you will take this opportunity to include your tributes with all those who have already contributed to this effort.

Thank you again for your commitment to the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center, but most importantly, thanks for your dedication to the heritage (past, present and future) that we share.

# Preserving our Coastal Traditions

A comprehensive development plan for an oral history collection and public archive is currently being developed for the Museum. In coordination with Cape Lookout National Seashore, Dr. Barbara Garrity-Blake (anthropologist) is contracting with the Museum to establish an inventory of all area archives with subjects and themes relative to Core Sound. The goal is to have this resource collected in the Museum's Reading Room when the gallery area is completed. The public will be able to access these oral histories from the Museum library.



Also participating are Clarice Willis, Sarah Page, Jerry and Susan Hinzman, Frank Tursi, Janet Hartman, Linda Mews, Katherine Smith, Chris Hunter, Robin Chadwick, Sarah Loftin, Dennis Chadwick, Susan Mason, Laura Southwood, Ruthie King and Margie Misenheimer. These volunteers are interviewing folks throughout the Down East communities who are involved with the fishing industry.

Another important part of this project is to identify, catalog and make accessible to the public the vast collection of fisheries-related images in the photo collection at NOAA. This collection includes decades of photography by Curtis Lewis of Beaufort, recently retired from NOAA.



A Preserve America's Treasures grant from NOAA has also provided training for community historians now in the field recording the stories of 40+ commercial fishermen and their families about their work. This group is also working to transcribe a backlog of tape recordings that have been conducted by various field workers over the years. Dr. Barbara Garrity-Blake and historian Connie Mason have served as consultants and trainers for this project.



The grant partnership between the Museum, NOAA and the Surtman Foundation has also provided much needed equipment for the Museum, including a high-definition camera with professional lighting/audio recording equipment, a digital recorder, an LCD projector and laptop for community programs.

## We love school groups!



*"Brother" Gaskill and Anthony Brooks are working hard in David's Room after a day of school kids.*



*Connie Mason shares some of our coastal music with school groups at Core Sound.*

# A fond farewell to Bob Vogel, special friend of the Museum

The Museum wishes Bob Vogel, superintendent of Cape Lookout National Seashore, a fond farewell as he moves west to take another position with the National Park Service.

Bob's support of the Museum and the partnership between the Museum and the Park Service has been an integral part of our efforts to preserve the heritage and traditions of Down East, going far beyond his role as superintendent.

A farewell party was held to honor Bob and his work while serving at the Cape. To thank him for the contributions he has made, the Museum Board presented Bob with an authentic Portsmouth decoy. The original body of the decoy was from Jody Styron's rig, made by Tom Bragg and reheaded by Lionel Gilgo, a Portsmouth native. The decoy had been from Portsmouth to Harkers Island through the Dixon family.

Bob's work with the Museum was a true partnership, grounded in the shared love for this place and the people of Down East.

Thank you, Bob, for being a true friend to the Museum. We will miss you more than you know.



## Parting thoughts...

Who would have thought - 15 years ago, 25 years ago, 40 years ago - that the people of Down East and Carteret County (and beyond) would gather to celebrate five years of true partnership with the National Park Service?

Who would have thought that we - the people of Down East - would feel like this "man in green" was one of the family, that he understood and shared our love for the Banks... that he truly cared about our past and our future?

Since Bob came ashore here on Harkers Island, things have changed - attitudes, expectations, opinions, relationships, our way of doing business with the Park. Today the community looks to Cape Lookout National Seashore for help, support and guidance. However, I don't think any group understands that more clearly - or more often - than the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center. We share a vision that our heritage and this place, and the hundreds of acres of salt water that tie us all together, is worthy and dependent on our collective efforts to preserve, protect, document and celebrate. What a difference one man can make!

Bob Vogel's name will be part of Core Sound's history long after we are all gone. His name, his passion and his commitment are not only recorded in the pictures and paperwork of the special events that have taken place here, but more importantly, Bob's heart will forever be inscribed in the unseen reasons and ways this has all happened - the respect and commitment for the people and this place, and the connection between the Park and this community - the investment you can feel before you see - the investment that you know in your heart is because Bob Vogel truly, truly cares, in word and deed.

Bob, you have proven that one man can make a difference. You have helped us, and others, realize even more than we knew before - that this beautiful "ribbon of sand" is ours together to love, and protect and share. Know that you leave behind a great tribe of people here at the "end of the road" that we will never be the same because of you.

- Karen Willis Amspacher

## Birding Class Sponsored by N.C. Wildlife Commission

In March, the N.C. Wildlife Commission sponsored a North Carolina Birding Trails workshop at the Museum. Attendees from across the state came to learn more about how to develop marketing opportunities for nature-based businesses on the North Carolina Birding Trail.

Birding is one of the fastest growing hobbies in the nation, and eastern N.C. is of particular interest to "birders" because of the abundant variety available for viewing here.

A special thank to Dennis Chadwick who coordinated this opportunity for all of us.

## Willow Pond project moves forward

Thanks to a grant from "Tourism Cares for Tomorrow," a trail guide and interpretive signage for the Willow Pond is now underway. Eddie Nickens, outdoor writer and member of the Museum's exhibit committee, will be developing the text and graphics to give visitors a truly educational experience around the Willow Pond and beyond.

Our trail now connects with the National Park Service trail that reaches from our backdoor to theirs with a walk around the pond, through maritime forests and along a boardwalk overlooking Brown's Island and Core Banks. A special thanks to the National Park Service for their help in making the trails possible and for all they are doing to get the pond restoration moving forward. Permits are now in place for the restoration of the Willow Pond with funding from the N.C. Wildlife Commission,



*The Master Gardeners have helped identify plants along the Willow Pond trail.*

N.C. Wildlife Habitat Foundation, Ducks Unlimited and other partners to begin work this summer. We are excited about this project's progress.

## Asset Mapping identifies sites and living traditions

The cultural inventory process and asset mapping (funded by the N.C. Rural Center, N.C. Arts Council, the National Park Service and the Conservation Fund) has identified more than 600 sites, individuals, structures and small businesses that can be developed into a strong and sustainable community-based heritage tourism plan. A GIS map now marks the locations of historic sites and natural areas, as well as the living traditions still present in these Down East communities.

The timing (amidst great change within these areas) has amplified the

importance of this inventorying process and has provided the opportunity for the Museum to lead this effort. This documentation, both in the asset mapping project and the Community Historian program, is an important part of preserving our sacred places for future generations.

A special thanks to Janice Vogel for her expertise in GIS mapping and a note of appreciation to the N.C. Shellfish and Sanitation Division for their cooperation in allowing Janice to help with this through their community volunteer program.



*Mr. Norman Hancock, carver, is one of our Down East assets and is always welcome at the Museum to share his expertise.*

## Core Sounders at Ward Competition in Salisbury, Maryland

As a continuation of the ongoing partnership between the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art located in Salisbury, Maryland, and the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center, Core Sound staff member Pam Morris attended the 37th annual Ward World Wildfowl Carving Competition in Ocean City, MD April 25-29. Serving as a Floor Captain, Pam, along with Floor Captain Bennett Scott and Show Coordinator Helen Roagan of the Ward Museum, was there to facilitate aspects of the competition, including registration, placement of carvings in the appropriate categories,

providing support to judges as well as other duties. The competition was truly international with carvers representing many different countries, including Russia, Trinidad, Great Britain, France and many others. Several carvers from Core Sound and eastern North Carolina competed, including Walter "Brother" Gaskill, Jack Gardner, Jr., Tommy Rogers, Kenny Rice, Ivey Elliot, Jr. and Jack Cox. Other Core Sounders in attendance were Doiley Earl Fulcher, Jim and Maureen Harris and Larry and Tweedles Harkey.

For more information, visit [www.wardmuseum.org](http://www.wardmuseum.org).



*Pam Morris and Captain Bennett Scott served as floor captains at the 37th Annual Ward World Wildfowl Carving Competition in Ocean City, Maryland in April. The Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art have had a long partnership which continues with this event.*

# What a wonderful day at Shell Point



*Ernal Foster, bringing home the "Albatross" from Core Sound, 1937.*



*Hatteras Harbor, 1930s, and still home to this Albatross fleet in 2007.*

On March 24, the Museum partnered with Cape Lookout National Seashore in celebration of "Workboats and Waterfronts." This event brought together the historic, cultural and economic bond between the communities of Hatteras, Ocracoke and Down East Carteret County.

The centerpiece of the event was bringing the original Albatross back home to celebrate her 70th birthday. This beautiful vessel was built in Marshallberg in 1937 at M.W. Willis' Boatworks by boatbuilders from Harkers Island.

The Albatross fleet has been a successful business, drawing fishermen and visitors to the docks of Hatteras for generations. This culmination of Outer Banks history, fishing and craftsmanship offered a prime example of a true working waterfront that we all know is vital to our economic future.

The day was filled with family histories, workboat displays, boat models, net hanging, boatbuilding demonstrations, music, good food and most importantly, the hardy spirit of the traditional communities of coastal North Carolina.

## Cape Lookout Opens New Exhibits

The Museum and Cape Lookout National Seashore partnered in January and again in March to celebrate the openings of new exhibits at the Harkers Island Visitors Center and at the Keeper's Quarters at Cape Lookout. We encourage anyone who has not been to both locations to do so as soon as possible. They are wonderful!

At the Visitors Center on Harkers Island, introductory exhibits featuring the voices of Miss Dot Willis and Lionel Gilgo of Portsmouth are an excellent experience, as is the new film "Ribbon of Sand." This documentary has been shown at several film festivals nationwide, including the Smithsonian. The official opening in January brought over 250 special friends to Shell Point. This event was sponsored by the newly formed Friends of Cape Lookout and enjoyed by all.

At the lighthouse, the Keepers Quarters has been converted to a wonderful house museum, with an abbreviated version of the film and exhibits dedicated to the Lifesaving Service, the Lighthouse Keepers and the story of Cape Lookout. On March 31, the Friends of Cape Lookout sponsored a reception at the Cape in honor of this

accomplishment. Descendants of the Cape Lookout Lighthouse Keepers cut the ribbon. It was another great day at the Cape for all who attended.

A special thanks to Bob Vogel and his staff for their commitment to telling the people's story at Cape Lookout National Seashore.



## Winners of Reverse Drawing Win \$\$\$\$

Thanks again to everyone who supported our Spring Reverse Drawing, which netted more than \$10,000 for the Museum! The top ticket seller was Bob Stafford of Southern Pines with 21 tickets sold. Thanks, Bob!

Winners were:

- \$1000 Ashley Exum
- Carol Basnight
- \$1000 Duffy Gibbs
- \$1000 Mike Zaytoun
- \$ 500 Larry Land
- \$500 David Wood
- \$500 Bill Price
- \$500 Dave Inscoe
- \$250 Mac Wells
- \$250 Sharon Wells
- \$250 Butch Gentry  
(donated back to Museum)
- \$250 Piner Home Center
- \$250 Jim Johnson
- \$100 Guy Sabiston
- \$100 Lathan Boys
- \$100 Alan Leary
- \$100 Scott Matthews
- \$100 Jerry and Norma Hyatt  
(donated back to Museum)
- \$100 Deborah Lawling

## Taste of Core Sound Drew a Crowd!

Once again, the cooks of Down East drew a large crowd to get a "Taste of Core Sound" during the winter edition of this traditional food event. The winter menu included the best of the best - oysters, scallops, wild game, sweet potatoes, collards, hot light rolls and molasses "gunger." A special thanks to everyone who helped make this a fun (and financial) success. Make plans now for the return of the summer edition on August 30th. Call the Museum for details and tickets. Last year's summer supper was a sell-out, even in the midst of a hurricane!

# Core Sound Receives Humanities Grant

The Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center at Harkers Island has been awarded a grant for \$9,789 by the North Carolina Humanities Council for a photographic exhibit and symposium titled "The Workboats of Core Sound." The event is scheduled for Winter of 2008 and will be open to the public.

"Workboats have played an important role in the Down East fishing industry ever since Europeans settled the area more than two centuries ago," explained Lawrence S. Earley, project manager of the event. "The exhibit and symposium will bring attention to the history and styles of workboat design in Core Sound, and focus on some of the legendary boat builders in the communities."

Earley's black and white photographs will be featured in the



exhibit. He has been photographing the workboats of the region for more than 20 years. Also speaking will be Michael Alford, Barbara Blake, David Cecelski, Carmine Prioli, and Bland Simpson. Fishermen

Danny Mason, Jonathan Robinson, Buster Salter and Bradley Styron will take part in a panel discussion on the future of long-haul fishing in Core Sound.

The NCHC is a non-profit foundation and the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Its primary mission is to work with North Carolina communities to broaden the meaning of public education for the public good.

"We are very pleased to receive this generous grant from the Humanities Council," said Karen Amspacher, director of the Core Sound Museum. "Workboats are so important to Down East heritage. The symposium and exhibit will help us celebrate these traditions and remember the fishermen and boat-builders who helped shape them."

## Winners of Core Sound Hunting Rig Competition Announced



**BEST IN SHOW:**  
JACK GARDNER  
Rig of Ring Necks, 5 drakes and 1 hen

**Second Place Overall:**  
Jack Gardner & Walter "Brother"  
Gaskill  
Rig of Black Duck (4 drakes, 2 hens)  
**Third Place Overall:**  
Gary Joe Bryan  
Rig of Horned Grebe

**Division: Puddle Ducks**  
**First Place:**  
Jack Gardner & Walter "Brother"  
Gaskill  
Rig of Black Duck

**Second Place:**  
Bob Sutton  
Rig of Green Wing Teal, all drakes  
Carvers: Gary Joe Bryan, Len Carnaghi, Chet Wilcox, Bill Brown, Bruce H Buckley, Marilyn Poslusny

**Third Place:**  
Raymond Earp, Rig of Wood Ducks, 3 pair  
Carvers: Monty Willis, Jason Michels, Forrest Jennings  
**Division: Diving Ducks**  
**First Place:**  
Jack Gardner, Rig of Ring Neck, 5 drakes and 1 hen

**Second Place:**  
Walter "Brother" Gaskill, Mixed rig, 2

Red Head, 2 Scoters, 2 Ring Necks

**Third Place:** Jack Gardner, Rig of Bufflehead, 4 drakes, 2 hens

**Division: Geese & Confidence**  
**First Place:**  
Gary Joe Bryan  
Rig of Horned Grebe

**Second Place:** Patrick Eubanks, Jack Gardner, Walter "Brother" Gaskill  
Rig of 4 Cormorants, 2 Sea Gulls

**WINNERS ON DISPLAY AT THE CORE SOUND WATERFOWL MUSEUM AND HERITAGE CENTER!**



On June 23, the IWCA (International Wildfowl Carvers Association), the Core Sound Decoy Carvers Guild and the Museum worked together to hold the first ever Core Sound Hunting Rig Competition at Shell Point. "Brother Gaskill" and Pam Morris organized the event and did a fantastic job in planning the details. A special thanks to Bob Sutton, founding father of the IWCA, for his vision and enthusiasm for this exciting event.

# Quilt to be displayed at National Show

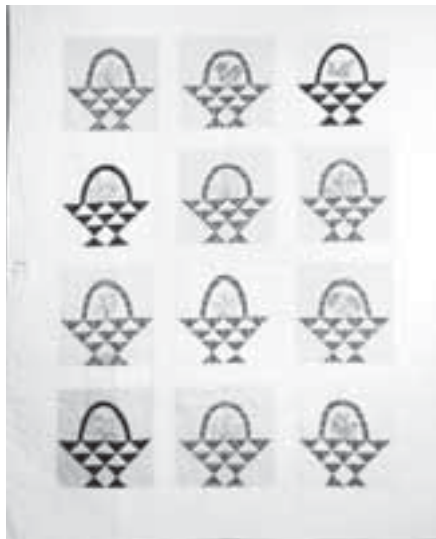
As a result of the Down East Quilt Appreciation Day, Miss Harriet Davis Hill's beautiful basket quilt with intricate embroidered flowers was selected for a special display in Columbus, Ohio on June 7-9 as part of the show's theme on basket quilts.

Mrs. Hill was born in Marshallberg in 1905. This was the last quilt she made, and her work is marked with the initials of her daughter Wanda Hill Willis, which are embroidered on the back.

According to Pepper Cory, quilt historian, "quilts are textile documents of a person's family history. They are often unique to a time and place. And quilts were usually made by women whose voices and histories were not recorded."

The National Quilting Association Show was attended by thousands of quilt lovers who appreciated the love

and dedication that went into creating this wonderful work of art.



*Miss Harriet's Basket Quilt*

## Community nights continue

Our monthly community night programs continue to be a highlight of the Museum's programming work. Rodney Kemp's talent for bringing out the best of local storytellers and community historians, plus great food and fellowship, makes every month a special treat. Over the past several months, we have celebrated several special communities, including:

- Harkers Island: Harkers Island night featured the 50th anniversary of the new school here on the island. Teachers, principals and students from several generations came together to remember the "good ole days" at HIES and to honor teachers and students for their accomplishments over the past 50 years.

- Sneads Ferry: "Wild Caught: the Story of an American Fishing Family" was shown during our February community night. Fishermen from all over Down East came to hear their own story in the voices and images of the fishing community of Sneads Ferry. It was a powerful exchange of history, heritage, traditions and fears for the future. Matt Barr, UNC-G professor of documentary cinema, presented the film and discussed the changes in that community over the seven years the film was being made. For those who were unable to attend, you can learn more about the project at [www.unheardvoicesproject.org](http://www.unheardvoicesproject.org). The DVD is also available in the Museum gift shop.

- Morehead City: Rodney brought his hometown to Core Sound in April with a special tribute to Morehead's 150th Sesquicentennial celebration from



May 11-19. Bob Guthrie, Miss Libby Arendell, Miss Maxine Lynch, Miss Caroline Willis Melke and Rodney gave us an "insider's tour" of Morehead City's history and helped us all understand that Carteret County's history and heritage is bound together with our connection to the waterways surrounding all of our communities. D.J. Femia-Leeuwenburg shared information on the many events and projects presented with the celebration, including the quilt project, the Morehead City cookbook, and the 10 days of events and programs during the month of May. For a report on all that took place to celebrate Morehead City's history, log onto the Web at [www.mhc150.com](http://www.mhc150.com).

## "On the Road Again"

- The Mid-Atlantic Regional Oral History Conference was recently held in Chestertown, Maryland. Karen Amspacher and Pam Morris were presenters for the Lifetime Achievement Award for Dr. Elaine Eff, Director of the Maryland State Historic Trust. Dr. Eff's work at Smith Island, MD and her role in establishing the Smith Island Cultural Center is one of the highlights of her career. Through Wayne Martin of the N.C. Arts Council, Elaine opened the door for Core Sound's continuing relationship with Smith Island people. She has also served as advisor to our exhibits committee. Core Sound is honored to have been a part of this important day.

- Jimmy and Karen Amspacher participated in Ocracoke School's Arts Week in April by giving the students of Ocracoke the opportunity to build a traditional Core Sound flat-bottomed skiff. This project drew young and old alike to talk about old boats and fishermen from Ocracoke's past. Ocracoke Arts Week is a true community celebration, with visiting artists coming to the island from across North Carolina. This learning opportunity gives students of the Ocracoke School experience in dance, stained glass, coastal traditions, African music, theater, clothing design, nature arts, creative writing, music and more.

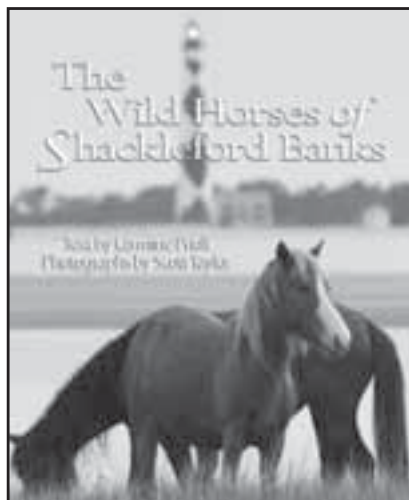
- Karen Amspacher joined Ocracoke natives Alton Ballance, Rudy Austin and Chester Lynn, along with Hatteras natives Ernie Foster and Dwight Burris in leading a week-long seminar for the N.C. Center for the Advancement of Teaching. "Island People, Island Culture" is one of the most popular programs offered by NCCAT and draws teachers from across the state who want to learn more about the island's past and future. The week included a trip to Portsmouth Island, fishing and crabbing in Pamlico Sound, music, traditional foods and several discussions about the changes taking place in coastal N.C. One of the most important gatherings was at the Ocracoke Fish House, a community cooperative working to save the last fishhouse on Ocracoke. Dr. David Cecelski (Duke Center for Documentary Studies) joined the group as a special guest.

# Now available at the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum Gift Shop:

## “The Wild Horses of Shackleford Banks” showcases “banker” ponies

With text by Carmine Prioli and photographs by Scott Taylor, this book examines the mystery, politics, ecology and controversy of the wild horses of Shackleford Banks and is a comprehensive overview of the past, present and future of these remarkable animals. The book is also an effort to raise money for the animals' [light. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of “The Wild Horses of Shackleford Banks” will be contributed to the Foundation for Shackleford Horses, Inc.

For details, call the Museum gift shop, or order online!



## “Carolina Flare” features Down East boats



The history of Harkers Island, Marshallberg and Core Sound boats are featured in Neal Conoley's new book “Carolina Flare,” now at the Museum Gift Shop.

This book is a tribute to the resourceful, talented and adventurous people who contributed to this legacy. With a solid foundation derived from a host of boatbuilding and sportfishing pioneers, this extraordi-

nary heritage will continue to flourish along the Outer Banks. Personal interviews with more than 600 historic and contemporary photographs document the transition from charter boats to the sleek sportfishing boats of today.

Place your order for this heritage-filled book today. Call the Museum at (252) 728-1500 today, or order online at [www.coresound.com](http://www.coresound.com).

## Morehead City's 150th Anniversary Cookbook: A Little Bit of Heaven Since 1857.”



Order  
**YOUR**  
copy  
today!

Dear Members,

As Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Museum, I would like to thank you for your continued support of the Museum and all the important work that is going on here on Harkers Island. Without you, none of this would be possible.

I want to update you on the status of the unfinished exhibit gallery. You may recall, we have a commitment of approximately four hundred thousand in Federal funds, thanks to the support of Senator Elizabeth Dole. At this time, we are working at the state level for matching funds to complete the gallery construction. With these matching funds we will proceed with installing the heating/air conditioning/flooring and lighting to enable that area of the Museum to be open to the public year-round. Our thanks to all of you for your contributions to our capital campaign that will also help with this last phase of construction, as well as providing resources for our USDA loan payments and other maintenance needs.

Our construction committee is already meeting and planning for the work to begin by year-end. John Parker of Wilmington continues in the role of architect. Leonard Saffrit, who chaired the first phase construction committee has graciously agreed to lead this effort. Also on the committee are Herb Stanford, a professional engineer and consultant for the heating and air conditioning and Mike McGee of the National Park Service. The projected schedule, if all goes as planned, is to begin construction the Monday after Waterfowl Weekend.

Once the physical construction is completed, then the task of exhibit fund-raising will begin. That will be a significant undertaking also involving serious money. Once completed, however, we will become a “real” Museum which will create increased visitation and membership. Step by step we are moving forward thanks to folks like you.

In the meantime, your support and membership has never been more important to the Museum. For that we are sincerely grateful.

John Civils  
Chairman of the Board