



NORTH CAROLINA
**MARITIME
MUSEUMS**
SOUTHPORT

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

- Thurs. 5:
Spring into History
- Fri. 6:
First Friday Fun
- Thurs. 12:
Spring into History
- Tues. 17:
3rd Tues Evening
Adult Program
- Thurs. 19:
Spring into History
- Sat. 21:
Kayak with the Ad-
venture Kayak Co.
- Sat. 21:
Big Toy Day
- Sat. 28:
Bicycle Tour with
the Adventure
Kayak Co.



Connie feeds the Koi on the
New Hanover County Arboretum
Spring Into History trip

The Mullet Wrapper

May 2011
Volume 8
Issue 5

Sea Biscuit Wildlife

with Mary Ellen Rogers

THIRD TUESDAY EVENING ADULT PROGRAM,

MAY 17, 2011, 7-9 P.M.

SPEND TUESDAY EVENING MAY 17, WITH THE NC MARITIME MUSEUM AND THE CITY OF SOUTHPORT AT THE SOUTHPORT COMMUNITY BUILDING AS WE PRESENT MARY ELLEN

ROGERS. MS. ROGERS WILL DESCRIBE HER WORK AT THE SEA BISCUIT WILDLIFE SHELTER LOCATED ON OAK ISLAND. HEAR BEST BIRDING AND PROTECTION PRACTICES, AS WELL AS HOW TO DEAL WITH INJURED BIRDS. LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED. PROGRAM IS FREE, CALL THE MUSEUM AT (910)457-0003 TO REGISTER.



Fort Johnston's Beginnings

Fear fueled the efforts of Royal Governor Gabriel Johnston and the Colonial Assembly to construct a fortification at the mouth of the Cape Fear River.

In May of 1741, a Spanish man-of-war cruised off the mouth of the Cape Fear River and preyed upon ships coming in and out of the port at Bruns-

wick Town. In June 1747, a Spanish privateer captured the brigantine *John and William* just after it sailed from Brunswick Town. The Spanish again raided northward along the coast hitting Beaufort and Ocracoke.

In the spring of 1748, the Assembly backed up their fears with £23,000 British Pounds for coastal forts, £2,000 toward Fort Johnston. That summer, while Fort Johnston was under construction, the Spanish attacked Brunswick Town. Townsfolk abandoned the town, and some may have stayed at the partially completed fortification. The Spanish occupied and ransacked shops, homes and ships.

After several days, local militia and Captain William Dry drove the Spanish out. Spanish vessels then took up bombardment positions in the river and shelled the town until the *Fortuna* exploded. Soon after the mysterious explosion, the Spanish slipped their cables and hove off shore. In April 1749, Fort Johnston was completed, after almost 8 years of delays in planning and construction. At last Cape Fear residents had a means of defense.



wick Town. Fear amongst locals was that the Spanish would ascend the river and attack Brunswick Town or Orton Plantation. The Spanish never materialized in the river at that time; however, they did raid Ocracoke and other settlements on the Outer Banks.

In April 1745, the Assembly agreed to build "Johnston's Fort." Progress was

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Advance registration is required for many of these featured programs. Call (910)457-0003 to register or for more information.

First Friday Fun 3:30-5 p.m. *Ages 5-12, free*

May 6 - Seaside Container Gardening - Explore our cultural garden, discover plant uses at sea and on land, then plant some silver bells in your cockle shells, or any other container you like, such as an old shoe, a bucket or a scuba mask.

June 3 - Summer Stars - Learn about celestial navigation and constellations of the summer sky, navigational tools, make your own glowing constellation.

Spring Into History - Cape Fear Art History *Adult Program* Thursdays: 9 a.m.- noon

May 5 - Coppersmith discussion/demo - Join local coppersmith from Cape Fear Copper for a lecture and demonstration of this time-honored metalworking tradition.

May 12 - Burchetta Hotglass Studio and Gallery tour - See the handcrafted, imaginative designs of John Burchetta and Elizabeth Miele. Tour their studio and see how they craft their museum quality sculptures and other products.

May 19 - Cameron Art Museum Tour and Activity - Guided tour of Wilmington's art museum, with a hands-on Maritime-themed art project! \$35 members / \$45 non-members. Fees are for one individual and may not be split among several people or pro-rated for missed sessions.

Upper Lockwood Folly Kayak with the Adventure Kayak Company

May 21 8:30-noon - Paddle the scenic blackwaters of the Lockwood Folly River and learn a little history of how the waterways were used for shipping and transportation. Hear tales and folklore associated with one of the oldest named rivers in North Carolina. Tour includes a basic kayak lesson, 2-2.5 hr guided tour, kayak paddle and life jacket rental. \$45/person, (Bring your own kayak and gear, \$15 for single and \$30 for double). Call The Adventure Kayak Company at (910)454-0607 or www.ncmaritimemuseums.com.

Big Toy Day - Communities in Schools benefit event

May 21 11 a.m.- 5 p.m. - Join the Museum for a bit of Maritime fun at the Big Toy Day. The annual event features boats, planes, fire trucks and lots of other big toys. Play games and family fun. Cape Fear Regional Jetport, Airport Road, Oak Island. \$5 per person. Under 5 years old free. No registration required.

Historical Bicycle Tour with the Adventure Kayak Company

May 28 9 a.m. - The Museum teams up with the Adventure Kayak Company to offer a bicycle tour of Historic Downtown Southport. Peddle through live oak canopied streets and along the waterfront, while learning the history from the Museum guide. Tour includes: Fort Johnston, Brunswick Inn, the Old Brunswick Jail, the Crimes of the Heart Home, The Indian Trail Tree, along the Cape Fear River and more. Bikes are single-speed, pace is slow, all participants must wear helmets. \$20 for bike/helmet rental and tour. (Bring your own bike, \$15.) Space is limited. Call The Adventure Kayak Company, (910)454-0607 or www.ncmaritimemuseums.com.

Children's Summer Program Series

Spend some summer vacation time along the Cape Fear River learning and playing Pirate, Sailor, Shipwreck or Civil War Hero. REGISTER TODAY FOR WEEK-LONG PROGRAMS:

Pirate Boot Camp - June 28-July 2

Art in the Afternoon - June 28-July 2

Blockade Runners Boot Camp - July 5-9

June 14, 10 a.m.-noon *Breaking the Blockade!* - Learn about blockade running during the Civil War, practice your own sneaking skills! \$3, Ages 6-12.

June 15, 10 a.m.-noon *Something Fishy* - For years the commercial fishing industry supported the Southport community. Find out how fishermen tracked schools of fish, what nets and equipment they used, what they were hunting, and what they sometimes caught instead. \$3, Ages 6-12.

June 21, 10 a.m.-noon *Myths of Mermaids and Monsters* - Hear tales of tails and what sailors thought they saw at sea. Make a mythological craft, too! \$3, Ages 3-7 (with adult).

June 22, 10 a.m.-noon *Kids on Deck! River Boat Tour aboard the Solomon T* - Do science experiments, bird watch at Battery Island and learn the history of the river. \$10, Ages 8-12.

June 24, 10 a.m.-noon *Low Tide River Exploration* - Search for seashells, sea glass, pottery shards and learn a little history of Southport and shipwrecks. Free. Ages 5-12.

June 28-July 2, 10 a.m.-noon *Pirate Boot Camp* - Ages 8-12

June 28-July 2, 10 a.m.-noon *Little Pirate Boot Camp* - Ages 4-7 Learn about pirates, create your own flag & costume. On Saturday a Pirate Party SURPRISES! \$35/members, \$40/non-members.

June 28-July 2, 2-4 p.m. *Art in the Afternoon* - Projects will include print-making, sand-painting, rubbings, sculpture and working with historic art types and media. Ages 6-12, \$35/members, \$40/non-members.

July and August Programs will be listed in next month's Mullet Wrapper.



MUSEUM UPDATE

The Museum was comfortably housed at 116 N. Howe Street for many years, opening June, 1992, and closing the double green doors as scheduled March 30, 2011. With no ceremony at all, the keys were turned over, making room for a new tenant and new enterprise. The building has housed the dreams of many, including a grocer, clothier, and appliance store. The pleasing aroma of food will soon greet the visitors, as a new restaurant joins the list.

For nearly a year, the Museum staff, Friends and volunteers had been hard at work with the cataloging, wrapping, and boxing of the Museum's artifact collection so enjoyed in previous years. The physical move was a triumph due to the careful planning of the staff from the NC Maritime Museum at Beaufort, wonderfully experienced in this kind of rigorous activity. "Nothing broken, nothing lost," the building was emptied with expectations of a new and wonderful future at Southport's historic Fort Johnston.

The work was not over, indeed it had only just

begun. Boxes of supplies, books and records were distributed to improved quarters for staff; store items found their way to more spacious display shelves. Trucks arrived with exhibit kiosks from Kentucky, South Carolina, Beaufort and Raleigh as space was prepared in the new Exhibit Hall for setup. Walls were erected and painted, carpet installed, boxes moved and removed, pots of coffee perked to keep spirits vibrant. Meetings of the mind are continued, fresh ideas studiously considered, plans made for exhibit displays, classes, programs and fund raising.

How ever can we give proper appreciation to the many who have supported this move with their personal conviction and strength? It is with their generous commitment that our nation's history will be passed on to those understanding the significance of the role played by the people of the Lower Cape Fear area of North Carolina, yesterday, today and tomorrow. We sincerely thank you.

—Mary



News From the Friends of the Museum (FOM)

Program Sponsor: Sponsors are needed for the 3rd Tuesday Evening Adult Programs. Please call the Museum for details. (910)457-0003 Thank you to Joan and Walter Madsen for sponsoring our April program.

Set-up thank you: Thank you to Woody Wilson and Al Biasotti for helping with setup for our April 18th program. Your help is so appreciated.

A Volunteer is needed for coordinating 3rd Tuesday Evening Adult Program set-ups.

Thank you to the Maritime Museum staff for the wonderful food served at our April 18th program. It was delicious!

Membership: Please remember that you can join or renew your membership by mail, the website or at the Museum. Please consider bringing a friend to our next program & encourage them to join. If you have any membership questions, you can email me: Shirley Wilson at wayfarer1@ec.rr.com or call me at 910-454-4327 or call the Museum at 457-0003.

For anyone who would like to renew or become a new member, information is provided below.

_____ new member _____ renewing member
 Lifetime - \$2,500 Legacy - \$1,000
 Benefactor - \$500 Patron - \$250
 Sustaining - \$100 Family - \$50
 Individual- \$25 Additional - Building Fund \$ _____

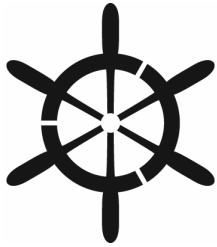
Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 E-Mail _____

(Your information will only be used by The Friends of the NC Maritime Museum at Southport)

- () Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.
 - () Please contact me about becoming a program sponsor.
 - () Matching Gift, Employer Amount _____
- (Name/Address) _____

Payment Information: Check payable to: *Friends of the NC Maritime Museum at Southport* enclosed _____. Or join using PayPal on our website: www.ncmaritimemuseums.com
 Memberships are valid for one year from the date of issue & are tax-

THE MULLET WRAPPER



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MARITIME
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NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
CULTURAL
RESOURCES
[WWW.NCCULTURE.COM](http://www.ncculture.com)

Museum Hours

The Museum is temporarily
closed for relocation.



The Museum at Southport is one of three North Carolina Maritime Museums. The other Museums are the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum in Hatteras and the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort.

The Mullet Wrapper newsletter is a publication of the NC Maritime Museum at Southport. The publication is fully funded by the Friends of the Museum at Southport whose members receive monthly mailings and discounts on some programs and Museum store purchases.

Museum Book Club

The Book Club will not be meeting until further notice. If you are interested in joining the Book Club, please contact Amie at the Museum, 910-457-0003. Thank you.

3RD TUESDAY EVENING ADULT PROGRAMS

Tuesday, May 17, 2011, 7-9 p.m. - Mary Ellen Rogers, Sea Biscuit Wildlife

Tuesday, June 21, 2011, 7-9 p.m. - Matthew Bookout, Local Snakes and Reptiles of the Lower Cape Fear

Tuesday, July 19, 2011, 7-9 p.m. - Conservation Workshop with the *Queen Anne's Revenge* Lab Staff

Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2011, 7-9 p.m. - Harry Warren, Director NC Museum of Forestry

Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2011, 7-9 p.m. - Annual Member's Potluck

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2011, 7-9 p.m. - Brooks Preik, Southport Author

Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2011, 7-9 p.m. - Celia Rivenbark, Southern Humorist



All Tuesday
programs are
free and held at
the Southport
Community
Building unless
otherwise noted.
Advanced
registration is
required

FOM

North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport

P. O. Box 11101

Southport, NC 28461

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