

# Mullet Wrapper

October 2018  
Volume 16, Issue 10



## Hurricane Florence

Many of us have grown up in coastal areas and remember storms that ravaged our communities. From Hazel and Diana, to Bertha, Fran and Floyd, we all have many stories of how our families stayed strong and worked together as a community to help one another through tough times.

Growing up on Middle Sound, north of Wilmington, I often remembered looking at the tide and wondering how far the water would rise to our house. My father, who also grew up in the area, knew we had the highest property on the street and adamantly refused to leave, in case "something happened." Most of the time, that "something" was a pecan tree falling in the yard. Sometimes the water would cover our dock and make its way up the bluff, but not reach the house. Dad would reminisce about Hazel and how he had to "swim out of Middle Sound." Years later, I had to coerce my parents to leave the area. Because of their health, I felt it was best for them to go to my sister's up north, but instead, they went inland.

As the staff writes this newsletter, we know that sink-holes occurred, bridges were compromised, roads flooded out, and a vast majority of

people in the Lower Cape Fear evacuated to higher ground or at least to family and friends who could help.

I read accounts of Hurricane Hazel and how the community joined together to help one another. That spirit still lives on in Southport. I watched as friends offered mattresses, a warm shower, food, or whatever they could to help a neighbor or a friend.

While my heart has always been tied to the Lower Cape Fear, what I have seen for the last five days has been incredible. Several agencies traveled to the Lower Cape Fear to help the region recover after the storm. One of well recognized organizations, the Cajun Navy, reached out to the Carolinas and also helped a museum staff member get safely to her family. On behalf of the Maritime Museum, our staff, and my family, I want to thank all of you who have welcomed others with open arms with a warm meal and asked for nothing in return.

Thank you to all of our friends, FOM, and board members who have checked on one another and offered aid. This coastal community is beautiful, resilient, and I am proud to be a part of such a wonderful area that appreciates its history and their people. - LSS



*A hurricane flag above the old weather observation tower on the Garrison lawn as Hurricane Florence made its way toward Southport.*

Cancelled!

**Stede Bonnet Weekend**, including dinner, September 21-23, 2018 (Guests who purchased tickets may request a refund or can donate their purchase to the museum.)

**Fall into History: Beaufort** October 8, 2018 (Those who purchased trip tickets can request a refund.)

## October Marks 64 Years: Hurricane Hazel

As we deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Florence, it is difficult to believe that October 15th marks the 64th anniversary of Hurricane Hazel making landfall in Calabash, North Carolina.

**Interviewer:** We all know what Hazel did to Southport and we've seen the before and after, where you mentioned 17 shrimp houses before Hazel.

**Pigott:** They were all gone.

**Interviewer:** They were all gone. Well, what did that do to the business though?

**Pigott:** Well...

**Interviewer:** I mean obviously people still got shrimp somewhere.

**Pigott:** The world literally turned to shrimp. We've never seen anything like the shrimp that were caught after hurricane Hazel. Now, there were a lot of boats that could not get out. They were up in the woods; they were up in the streets; they were everywhere. But, those that could get out, they just came back loaded. I will tell you this, their nets were torn all to pieces; they had parts of refrigerators. They had beds. They had houses; they had a little bit of everything, but shrimp, I have never seen so many shrimp in all of my life! And there was- there was no where to pack the shrimp because all the shrimp houses were gone, even down in the county- the rest of the county. So, my husband and I had started our shrimp house down in the old yacht basin. We had the flooring down, not the cement part, but the flooring was there. And they were getting ready to raise- start raising it up. And of course the storm took it about a block up the street, and I had read and seen things all my life about what I'm going to tell you. The storm was on Friday. Saturday morning, our carpenters came to work and started ripping the floor up. And the next thing we knew, retired men, young men, kids, you wouldn't believe the kind of people came down with a hammer and everything they needed, and they ripped up; after the while, the carpenters didn't have to do anything. These men did it. And they would carry 'em down and Liam Smith [ph?] would nail 'em back. They worked all day Saturday, all day Sunday, they worked all day Monday. The city had a generator, a big generator over here at the fire station. They ran a special wire from there down to where we were working and used the Christmas lights that they put up every Christmas, big bulbs. The last time I heard, those bulbs were still up in the attic of that fish house. And we packed, I have no idea that you'll be able to get this picture, but that is the what we call the outdoor shrimp house, because we packed shrimp that belonged to anybody in the county. We had what was known as a community shrimp box pile. They brought 'em from all over town and we piled 'em up and just used, didn't make any difference who owned them. There was no way of telling. But slowly, everybody got their own place.

**Interviewer:** That's a wonderful story because everybody realized how important that was.

**Pigott:** Oh, yes! You've never seen such lovin'- tender, loving care that we got... I don't want to go through it again, but if I- if it had to be here, I can't say that I- I'm glad that I saw what I did. I learned a lot.



*Images from The State Port Pilot by Boyce Spencer*

*This transcript is from an interview with Leila Pigott on April 14, 1995 and is housed at The University of North Carolina Wilmington Special Collections and Archives. To read the interview in its entirety or to read other interviews about Southport's maritime past, visit:*

*<http://digitalcollections.uncw.edu/digital/collection/oralhistory>*

## Volunteer Orientation Session

Please join the staff of the museum for a volunteer orientation session. You will receive information on types of volunteers we need, dates for future training, specific workshops and a tour of the museum. Whether you are interested in woodworking, model making, greeting visitors at the front desk, or are a history buff willing to give tours to the public—WE

NEED YOU! Students who need volunteer hours, retired teachers interested in helping with classes, or someone who would just like to give back to the community, please contact Katy Menne. Interested in helping the Friends of the NC Maritime Museum? Please contact Bob Springle and he will send you to the right person!

**When: Friday, October 26  
11am-1pm, with lunch**  
**Where: Museum**  
**Call or email Kristan to  
RSVP**  
**910-477-5151**  
**Kristan.Phillips@ncdcr.gov**



We cannot sail this ship without you! Become a Friend of the Museum or volunteer today. The history of your Lower Cape Fear community depends on it!

**Membership Levels**  
**Individual: \$25**  
**Family: \$50**  
**Sustaining: \$100**  
**Patron: \$250**  
**Benefactor: \$500**  
**Lifetime: \$2,500**

## Halloween Ghost Ship

Join the NC Maritime Museum at Southport for a Spooktacular good time on Saturday, October 27th from 1PM until 3 PM. Ms. Katy has created some new activities for our maritime spirits, goblins, and ghouls. Feel free to dress in your costume to practice for Halloween or dress out in your favorite festive outfit. Some old favorites like face painting will be part of the program and also hear not-so scary stories! The fee for the program with tax is **\$10.68**.

The program is only a few weeks away, so remember to sign up early. This is always our most popular program of the season! Want more details? Call Katy Menne at 910-477-5153 or email Katy.Menne@ncdcr.gov. Ready to register now? Email Kristan.Phillips@ncdcr.gov to hold your spot. Spaces can only be reserved without payment for 5 business days. **Deadline for Registration is October 20th.**



Image by Al Biasotti

*“A Ghost Ship is a vessel completely devoid of its crew. No one knows what happened to them. When discovered, it looks as if they simply disappeared, leaving their food on plates and navigational instruments on charts as if they will return any second. It is the eeriest site known to a sailor and it stays with them for a long time.”*

## October 16 Third Tuesday: OKI and BHI: Life Saving Stations

Join Katy Menne of the NC Maritime Museum at Southport and Travis Gilbert from the Old Baldy Lighthouse and Smith Island Museum will discuss the history of the Life Saving Service in Oak Island and Bald Head Island. Our original speaker, who would have been traveling from the Outer Banks will not be able to travel to the area after the impact to roads in southeastern North Carolina due to hurricane Florence.

**The program is free and held at the Southport Community Building at 7 PM. Advanced registration is required. Please call: 910-477-5151** Pictured to the right is Dunbar Davis (far end right) at the Oak Island Life Saving Station. Did you know that several governmental agencies including The US Life Saving Service, The US Cutter Service, and The US Lighthouse service formed together to create the US Coast Guard?



Image: Oak Island LSS, NC Archives and History

## Recipe of the Month: **Easy Clam Pasta**

We always say BUY LOCALLY **CAUGHT** SEAFOOD. Sometimes during storms or week nights when you are exhausted, this may be a crowd pleaser that takes very little time. This recipe is an adaptation of an older Weight Watchers recipe, but we have made it even simpler (if that were possible)!

### Ingredients

Box of spaghetti or fettuccini (Lori recommends fettuccini)

Jar of garlic (need 1 TBSP)

TINY onion diced

2 cans of clams (one drained of juice, one not)

1 large can of diced fire roasted tomatoes

Fresh tiny oregano (so you do not have to cut them up) if you have it

Salt and pepper to taste

Feta cheese (completely optional)

### Preparation

Boil pasta according to package directions. Meanwhile, sauté garlic and onion until fragrant and soft. Add fresh baby oregano leaves, both jars of clams and can of diced tomato. Warm. After pasta is cooked and drained, mix into clam sauce. If you would like, top with a little feta. Crusty buttery bread or a small salad will complement this meal nicely. Williams Sonoma recommends a Sauvignon Blanc as a good pairing for a clam dish with red sauce.



Cook Time approximately 15 minutes

**Be Creative and ENJOY!**

**RESCHEDULED!!!**



Celebrating Our Region's Maritime & Boat Building History

**Save the Date!**

**Come see the NCMM at Southport with free activities at the 9th Annual Southport Wooden Boat Show, now scheduled for **Saturday, November 3, 2018**, 10-4pm, located in the historic Old Yacht Basin.**

The Friends of the NC  
Maritime Museum at  
Southport  
PO Box 10412  
Southport, NC 28461

**FOM Email**

southportfom@gmail.com

**Museum Manager**

Lori.Sanderlin@ncdcr.gov

**Registration/Volunteer**

Kristan.Phillips@ncdcr.gov

**Education/Outreach/Field Trips**

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**North Carolina Maritime Museum at  
Southport**

204 East Moore Street  
Southport, NC 28461

Phone: 910-477-5150

[www.ncmaritimemuseumsouthport.com](http://www.ncmaritimemuseumsouthport.com)

Museum Hours: Tuesday-Saturday

9am to 5pm, FREE ADMISSION

*...to collect, preserve, and interpret the maritime history of the Lower Cape Fear*

The Friends of the NC Maritime Museum at Southport thank the members who have recently joined our Friends group and those who continue to support the museum year after year. Your support helps pay for programming, exhibits, and much more! Consider bringing a friend to the next program and encourage them to get involved. Memberships are valid for one year from the date of issue and are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law for a 501 (c) (3) organization.

*Your information will only be used by the Friends of the NC Maritime Museum at Southport.*

*The Mullet Wrapper newsletter is a publication of the NC Maritime Museum at Southport. This publication is fully funded by the Friends of the NC Maritime Museum at Southport, whose members receive monthly mailings and discounts on some programs, and 10% off Museum Store purchases.*

*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.*