



Classic Times

A Publication of Corolla Real Estate & Corolla Classic Vacations

Vacation Edition

Nags Head Woods— A Secret Sanctuary

—Kathleen Reilly

When you think of the Outer Banks, it's easy to conjure up a visual in your mind of the ever-changing surf of the Atlantic Ocean coming ashore on one of our many beautiful shell and sea-glass spotted beaches. Walking from the ocean, one's visual would certainly then focus on 3-6 foot sand dunes that have had to fight for property rights with more than one storm during their lifetime. As you gaze at the wall of sand, it's easy to forget about the protection it provides to the land beyond when you see the wind-kissed beach grass that adorns the hillside.

At this time, your mental visual requires a low-lying beach chair to be set up or a brightly colored beach towel to be thrown down, so that you can take in this breath-taking, mind-slowng sight for at least half of a day. As your body settles in for it's nature-filled therapy, your eyes can not miss the activity in the sky above that resembles a play that is being performed only for you. The sun-draped backdrop to the scene is a painting of white, gray and pink clouds that resemble caricatures drawn by someone who's walked your life. The actors are communicating in bird-tongue, a native language that resembles a symphony of sharp and flat notes that come together in a rare harmony performed by creatures that fly the sky.

Okay ... enough hyperbole. The purpose of this article is to provide an alternative to the surf and the sand. If you are looking for something a little bit different, a trip to Nags Head Woods Ecological Preserve is in order. Nags Head Woods

is considered one of the best remaining examples of a mid-Atlantic maritime forest with deciduous hardwoods. This pine and hardwood forest harbors trees up to 500 years old and has an extensive system of dunes, inter-dune ponds, and wetlands. The forest's great natural diversity is due to the fact that it draws water from an extensive freshwater aquifer and is sheltered by ancient dunes.

The preserve is an important nesting area for more than 50 species of birds, including green heron, wood duck, red-shouldered hawk, clapper rail, ruby-throated hummingbird, woodpecker, warbler, and summer tanager. The freshwater ponds are inhabited by turtles and salamanders and support a great diversity of floating aquatic plant life, including the rare water violet. An extensive marsh system bordering Roanoke Sound on the western side of the preserve supports a wealth of wildlife including river otter, muskrat, egrets, herons, and many species of migratory waterfowl.

Walking the multiple unique paths of this beautiful preserve is a refreshingly enjoyable experience. You'll take with you a new appreciation for all the Outer Banks truly has to offer. To visit the preserve take US 158 to Kill Devil Hills. Turn west near Mile Post 9 1/2 on Ocean Acres Drive and drive through a residential subdivision for a mile until you reach the forest and the visitors' center. Trail maps and guides are available at the visitors' center. This preserve is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and on Saturday during the summer.



“Wright Flight” Helping Kids Reach New Heights

—Mark Guthrie

Shortly after moving to the Outer Banks over two years ago, I found out about a program that was “taking off” in the Dare Co. Public School System. Because I am a pilot, it immediately caught my attention.

The Wright Flight Program was brought to the Outer Banks by Robin Stoddard, an Air Force Fighter Pilot in Arizona who discovered the profound effect that aviation has on kids. It was only natural that the program came to this area considering what the Wright Brothers set in motion that cold winter day in 1903 when the Wrightflyer soared at Kitty Hawk celebrating man's first flight. Through a friend, I found out how rewarding volunteering as a pilot for the program could be.

Wright Flight Program stresses the importance of education by requiring each student to sign a contract before beginning the program. The contract requires the student to raise a grade point in one of their weakest subjects, in addition to staying in school, off drugs, and out of gangs. If these requirements of the contract are not met, the student does not get to participate in the program. Once the requirements are met, the student may experience a hands-on flight in a general aviation aircraft as a co-pilot, with a licensed volunteer pilot. We take off from First Flight Airport at the Wright Memorial. It is so cool that we get to fly out of the same site where

the Wright Brothers 100 years before us made their eventful flight! The kids are so excited having learned the history of the Wright Brothers as part of their studies in Wright Flight.

We fly a single engine Cessna Skyhawk, painted red, white and blue. The red tail is in honor of the Tuskegee Airmen, whose fighter planes had red tails during their historic flights as escorts for the B-1 bombers flying into Berlin during the war. After doing a pre-flight inspection of the air-

plane with the kids, and showing them the different control surfaces and how they work and make the airplane turn, climb and descend, we load up with a parent and taxi into position for take off! The take off roll is always very exciting for the kids. Usually you can see their eyes get big as the engine comes to full rpm's and the plane rolls down the runway approaching 70 mph before lifting into the air. We start a shallow turn to the south, along the coast just over the ocean, flying down to the Oregon Inlet area. Once at

altitude, we let the student take the control yoke showing them how the airplane turns, and how the pitch of up and down works. It's amazing just seeing the reaction of their faces as they are actually flying the airplane! We finish by flying over their school and finding their house for a couple of circles around the house for anyone they might want to wave to on the ground! By the time we land back at First Flight usually any fear is now replaced with a smile from ear to ear! Most of all, the student has realized that with hard work and dedication that they have accomplished something that most never get to experience. It makes them realize that they can achieve most anything they want to.

Each graduate is given a Wright Flight T-shirt, a photo of themselves with their pilot and plane, plus a Flight Graduation Certificate for their hard work. I would have never guessed how rewarding the program would be for me as an adult. It's so satisfying to share something I know with another person, as well as helping these kids experience what for many is their first experience flying in a small airplane.

So, the next time you're laying on the beach, and you look up and see that airplane with the red tail, it could be me. Wave and let us know you read about us here!!

I have truly benefited as a volunteer with this great program, and look forward to many more flights along the beautiful beaches of the Outer Banks.



CONTACT INFO

Corolla Real Estate
1196 Ocean Trail
PO Box 640
Corolla, NC 27927
252-453-0797
866-453-0797
corollarealestate.com

Corolla Classic Vacations
1196 Ocean Trail
PO Box 3
Corolla, NC 27927
252-453-9660
866-453-9660
corollaclassicvacations.com

Surfing the Outer Banks

—Will Graham

The Outer Banks has been the surfing Mecca of the East Coast since the early 1960's. The proximity to the world's largest river, the Gulf Stream, and the area's exposure to swells from many directions make it a unique surf destination.

Our swells come from weather fronts passing through, wind swells from periods of hard onshore winds, and from low pressure systems generated from the west coast of Africa sending us long period ground swells. We get lots of wind swell and frontal system swell in the winter months. The most coveted swells are in the fall associated with the lows from Africa. These swells can last several days and when they come not much gets done on the Outer Banks.

Surfers are not bums because they drop everything at the appearance of a new swell. Imagine if the conditions to play golf or baseball only happened at certain confluences of wind tide and

weather? While I do know a few Jeff Spicoli's, most surfers are regular guys.

While you are here please get a boogie board or rent a surfboard and try to get in on the action. It's the most healthy habit. You may want to book a lesson at Corolla Surf Shop.

If you are out there and some guy is giving you the “stink eye” it's probably because you breached lineup etiquette. Let me clue you in to a few things that will make your time fun and safe. You wouldn't drive a car unless you knew the rules, would you?

- 1- Never sit directly in front of another surfer. You will interfere with his access to waves.
- 2- Never try to catch a wave another guy is on. If you do this change your name to Speed Bump.

3- I know it's fun but try not to hoot and holler too much. Everyone enjoys the stoke for sure, but screaming after every wave is just plain annoying!

4- If the experienced guys are paddling around catching a lot of waves, don't “bird dog” them and paddle with them. Paddle around but leave some space for people to maneuver.

5- Be respectful. If a gremmie is cool I will always give some tips and share the stoke.

If you call the local surf shops and listen to the radio you will get word if any surf is on the way. Hope to see you in the water. Stoka-Boka



Day Tripping... Outer Banks Style

—Jamie Fletcher

To make a vacation on the Outer Banks complete you must plan a day trip to Ocracoke Island. Plan to leave early and arrive back late. The best time to make this trip is mid-week after you and your family have been baking in the sun and a break is probably in order. You'll want to wear comfortable clothing and shoes.

Leaving Corolla (Ka-ra-la), heading south, you'll want to stop and see all of the sights around you, but try to resist the urge until you are in Buxton at the Hatteras Lighthouse. You can make the sightseeing stops on the way back. In Buxton you will stop at the Hatteras Lighthouse. You can see this magnificent beacon from the distance as she stands so proudly, protecting the ships at sea. Climb her stairs and you'll get a glimpse of why I've chosen to move to the Outer Banks. The view is well worth all of your efforts.

Once you leave Buxton, continue heading south to the village of Hatteras. Here you will catch the ferry for the ride to the tiny island of Ocracoke. The kids will love the ferry. And if you bring some bread the seagulls will feed right out of your hand.

You will then travel the full fourteen miles that make up the tiny barrier island that is Ocracoke. You can stop at any number of pull-off areas and walk on beaches that are practically deserted. These pristine beaches are a beachcomber's delight. Make sure you bring plenty of bags for shell collecting. You can stop at one of my favorite watering holes that has the best burgers on the beach, Howard's Pub. Continue on to the quaint time-forgotten village that was once ruled by the pirate of all pirates, Blackbeard. A child's imagination can run wild as the tale of the pirates and the open seas unfolds.

The ride back will be just as interesting. You can stop at Oregon Inlet and see what the fishermen have caught and what will end up on all the menus as the catch of the day. This is an excellent way to familiarize yourself with what lies out in the vast open waters that we all frolic in.

Visible from Oregon Inlet you will see your next stop which is Bodie (body) Island Lighthouse. You will want to stop here and take in the amazing scenery. The views of the wetlands are superb. You cannot climb the lighthouse, but the light-keepers quarters were converted into an information center. Amazing to me is how not all that long ago they lived so primitively here.

By this time your adventure is winding down. As you reenter Corolla you will be drawn by the light shining from the Currituck Lighthouse. This is why my family and I chose to leave Pennsylvania last June and move to what I consider to be heaven on earth.

Fishing in the Gulf Stream is still King

—Bob White

One of the most exciting activities for visitors to the Outer Banks is a fishing trip to the gulf stream, in search of marlin, tuna, dolphin (the fish, not flipper) and other game fish. Boats leave daily from a number of marinas with Pirates Cove (www.fishpiratescove.com) and Oregon Inlet (www.oregon-inlet.com) being the most popular. It is great fun surfing their web sites which have information on all of the boats in their fleets as well as what is being caught and all of the details on arranging a trip.

A boat out of Pirates Cove is particularly noteworthy. "For Play'n" is a beautiful 59 foot Carolina style (Carolina flair bow) sportfish built by Paul Spencer in 1997. The boat has a 17 foot beam and with twin 1,000 horsepower Caterpillar engines it can cruise at 35 knots. Captain Bob "Pegleg" Sumners uses all of this horsepower to be one of the first boats to the gulf stream and one of the last to leave. His smile is obvious as he leaves all of the other boats in the fleet in his wake. It is truly an exhilarating ride to the gulf stream aboard For Play'n. You can feel the boat's power as it leaves the breakers and it seems like you are trying to beat the sun as it rises in front of you. Entering the gulf stream is also one of those experiences one never forgets. The change in the color and the transparency of the water is very noticeable. When a marlin jumps after one of the baits or a dolphin is brought in on the line, the trail of gulf stream water leaves a dis-



tinctive rainbow of color that just has to be seen.

And yes, it is "Pegleg". Bob has an artificial leg and while many have encouraged him, he will not let a parrot ride on his shoulder or carry a saber. With 35 years of fishing experience he is a real pro in the world of sportfishing here on the Outer Banks. He and his crew provide everything that is necessary for the trip. All of the tackle and bait (the mate baits the hook) are on board and even the novice feels at home with the expert help and advice at every step of the hooking, playing and boarding of the fish. An interesting note, Bob has built tackle to cater to the special needs of disabled anglers.

A visit to Bob's web site is a must. It is <http://www.forplayn.com>. Here he has daily fishing reports with pictures of his catch from the day before, information on the fishing season, what is being caught when, the pricing and schedule for the trip, marine weather reports, NEXRAD radar reports, water temperatures, all kinds of cool stuff.

The Outer Banks, with its proximity to the gulf stream continues to be one of the premier deep sea fishing centers in the world. A day trip to the Gulf Stream is well worth it and the fresh tuna and dolphin steaks grilled with a traditional OBX marinade are a major bonus.

Sea Turtles

—Sylvia DeVennish

There is something about a summer night on a moonlit beach that makes it magical. The beauty of the reflection off the water, the rhythmic ebb and flow of the tide... whatever the case, there is some mysticism that attracts people to the beach at night. And for those of us lucky enough to have been involved in a sea turtle hatching, we know that those moonlit summer nights involve little miracles. (Little miracles that turn into 100+ lbs miracles.)

Sea turtles are amazing (and endangered) creatures that may live for 80 years or more. For some, it takes 30 years just to reach maturity. But these often 100+ lbs animals begin their journey to adulthood not too much bigger than the size of a half-dollar coin. And on a moonlit beach.

Female turtles lay their eggs in a hole along the

edge of the sand dune. (A good reason to stay off the dunes!) And about two months later, typically around a full moon, the nest will erupt and tens of little sea turtles (sometimes up to 170) will spill out onto the sand. Instinctively, the turtles follow the brightest light because that light is supposed to be the moonlight reflecting off of the ocean. But those turtles often end up following the house lights that people leave burning on the oceanfront, and they head the wrong way! (For this reason, we ask that oceanfront residents and guests either turn out any lights visible from the beach, or use red bulbs.) As a result, volunteers from the organization NEST (Network for Endangered Sea Turtles) must guide the baby turtles to the water with flashlights.

Those turtles follow the moonlight's reflection (or volunteers' flashlights) to the ocean - and their journey from the nest to the water's edge helps to develop their swimming muscles so they can make it to the Gulf Stream! It is a long journey and arduous and it is estimated that only 1% of the hatchlings will reach adulthood. They face dangers such as predators, poachers, ocean pollution, and fishing nets.

The female baby turtles go through a process called imprinting; they remember the place they were born and when they are mature and ready to lay eggs, they will return to their birth spot to lay their nest!

Sea turtles are endangered and protected under the Endangered Species Act, 1973, which means it is illegal to "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, capture or collect sea turtle eggs, hatchlings, adults and body parts" of turtles, alive or dead.

There are ways you can help! Turn off your oceanfront lights, stay off the dunes and away from marked nests, pick up your trash (especially the clear plastic bags,) and become a volunteer! For more information, you can visit the NEST website at <http://www.nestonline.org>. You may also ask your local lifeguard how you can get involved in NEST or if there are any nests that are predicted to hatch soon. There are not many things that make a summer night more magical or mystical than witnessing the beginning of a sea turtle's life!

Beachcombing

—Jennifer Croft

Recently I returned from a walk on the beach on an unseasonably warm January afternoon with my hands full and every pocket of my bib overalls bulging with the "treasures" I'd found that day. I couldn't wait to get home and add them to my ever-growing collection. That day, I had an assortment of shells, small pieces of driftwood, a piece of sea glass, and one of my most curious finds to date, a very large intact light bulb.

The beaches of the Outer Banks are perfect for shelling. Taking a bag, pail and shovel with you, though not a necessity, is highly recommended. Shelling is best right after high tide, a storm, early in the morning (before the beaches get too

crowded), or in the winter when you have the beach virtually to yourself. Go slow, you cannot combine your morning walk for exercise with beachcombing, and dig in the sand at the water's edge. Should you encounter any living creatures, handle them very gently and leave them in their natural setting; most cannot survive otherwise.

All around my house you'll find my "treasures" on display. Small shells line the shelves and window sill by my kitchen sink. Starfish line another windowsill. There's an old milk bottle full of pieces of sea glass in whites, browns, greens and blues (my personal favorite). Shells, sand dollars and glass are scattered on an end table. I even use a large welk shell as a doorstop.

I hope you enjoy the time you spend on our beaches, and that you take home your own personal treasures given to you by the sea.

Currituck Heritage Park



—Katherine Ponton

Are you a history buff? Have you ever wondered what Corolla was like before all the beach houses we see today were built? Are you interested in the wildlife of the Currituck Sound? If so, then a visit to Currituck Heritage Park will provide you with the answers to these questions and much more!

One of the premier features of the Park is the Whalehead Club. Originally known as Corolla Island and now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this 1920's era mansion was built by a very wealthy gentleman from Newport, Rhode Island as a private hunt club. He and his wife loved to come to Corolla during the winter months to hunt ducks for which Currituck Sound was famous. Not only was the mansion the most magnificent and luxurious structure on the Outer Banks, but it also had the first elevator, swimming pool, and basement.

Following the original owners' deaths in the 1930's, the mansion and its surrounding 4 1/2 miles of ocean to sound property were used for a variety of purposes including a Coast Guard base during WW II, a boy's school, and a rocket fuel research facility. Eventually, the mansion was abandoned and became quite dilapidated, while most of the property was sold to become many of the beach communities of Corolla today.

Currituck County bought the mansion and its remaining property in the mid 1980's, establishing a public park with sound access. The mansion has now been restored to its 1920's era glory

complete with copper roof, cork floors, art nouveau mahogany woodwork, and an increasing number of original furnishings. It is open for tours daily from Easter to Thanksgiving and is well worth the price of admission. Your tour guide will give you a detailed history while showing you around the house, and there is a gift shop where you can purchase a book detailing the history of this magnificent place, a piece of jewelry made from the old copper roof shingles, or a memento of your visit.

The acres of open parkland around the mansion are great for bird watching (the ospreys like to nest in the area), family games of Frisbee or touch football, and kite flying. The boat basin with its historic 1920's Boathouse, is a good place to take the kids crabbing or fishing, and there is a public boat ramp giving sound access to shallow draft watercraft. The Park is also one of the best places in Corolla to watch our spectacular sunsets over Currituck Sound.

Last, but certainly not least, is the newest addition to the Currituck Heritage Park- The Outer Banks Wildlife Education Center. Scheduled to be open by the summer of 2005 and built by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, this beautiful new facility will feature exhibits of the wildlife that makes its home in the waters and marshes of Currituck Sound, as well as displays showing the hunting and fishing traditions of the "old days" in this area. Anyone interested in the learning about Corolla's past and its natural environment should certainly plan a visit to Currituck Heritage Park during your stay in Corolla. You'll be glad you did!

waiting for the perfect set?

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Beach Glass

– Susan Mason

Beach glass, sea glass...some have never heard of it. I hadn't even heard of it after years of vacationing on the Outer Banks. I first learned of beach glass around the time my husband & I first purchased our beach house & we were spending more & more long weekends, vacations & holidays in Corolla. Sunny, summer days, warm fall days & cold, windy, wintry days. We were so lucky to be blessed with this new & exciting adventure of beach homeownership & I discovered a new hobby, a new love: beach glass collecting.

Beach glass is fragments of glass found on the beach that have been tumbled & smoothed by the water, sand, shells & turbulence of the ocean floor. You'll see many varied shapes but you'll most often find the triangular & squarish ones. Its surface is a gritty, pitted but amazingly smooth one. It comes in many colors with the most commonly found being white, green & brown. Amethyst, aqua, cobalt blue & red are the more rare colors.

So what's the trick to finding beach glass? Low tide is almost a must. I've been extra lucky finding glass in large shell or rock beds, usually towards the edges of the beds. But you know, I always start to believe that's where I'll find it & lo and behold there's a shimmering piece right smack in the middle of the shell bed. Or other times I'd be walking down the beach & there'd be another glimmering piece lying in the bare sand, freshly washed in. After a storm is another good time to find it since the ocean has just been in turmoil & has kicked up many treasures.

Beach glass has grown in popularity as it can now be seen in specialty shops in jewelry & home décor items. I personally just prefer to collect it in jars & vases. Last year I had my entire collection mixed together in a fish bowl vase but more recently have separated the colored gems into their own containers. More dramatic, I thought. It's scattered throughout our home.

I find collecting beach glass to be an extremely serene, sometimes spiritual hobby. Just me & the massive ocean, worlds colliding on the edge of the earth as it rolls its bounty onto the beach for my personal treasure hunt. Whether it's Mother Nature, Mother Ocean, my Guardian Angel, my beloved relatives that have passed on or God himself that guided me to that one little spot, I feel so grateful that I am able to find such small bits of beauty. I always say "Thank You" to the skies after finding a piece of beach glass. How else can I explain being directed to that one small spot on the beach where I alone find a tiny glittering treasure?



Part of the fun of finding beach glass is wondering where it came from. Certain colors were used prominently at different times during the past century or two. I'm not an expert, but some of the beach glass found could quite possibly be hundreds of years old. I imagine the pirates of years ago partying away on their ships off the coast, losing their treasures & stolen loot in wicked Outer Banks winter storms. Or the Indian tribes that lived along the coast that have vanished but certainly left behind clues to their lives. Or the first settlers to this area & the things they brought to America from far away lands. Or it could just be a five-year-old Rolling Rock bottle from Latrobe, PA!

My most coveted color is cobalt blue & I've been fortunate enough to find three pieces of this rare color. The day I found my first piece of cobalt blue beach glass was so exciting for me. It was a brutally cold January day. There was not another soul on the beach for miles. I had walked south on the beach for about a mile when I looked down & there it was! The rare cobalt blue! I couldn't believe it. I had always heard people say

behind you is literally 'behind' you. Golf in New York for the average golfer is an all day affair and you're exhausted when you get home. You have to ask yourself if it was really worth it. Fishing- another ordeal - getting to the ocean on a summer weekend - fugettabout it, never mind getting back.

Do I miss the arts and culture of New York? Although there's nothing like seeing a Broadway play I certainly don't miss getting to the theatre from your house nor do I miss having to take out another mortgage to pay for the tickets and dinner. We can go to Chrysler Hall in Norfolk, VA, about an hour and 15 minute leisurely drive, have dinner, see a play and stay over night somewhere for half the cost and none of the traffic stress.

Don't miss the cold & snow either. Two things

people can't talk to me about here are cold and traffic. Although it's been unusually cold here lately, I'm only watching the blizzard in the Northeast on TV. Don't even own a snow shovel here. Winter in the Outer Banks ain't so bad - no crowds at the movies, restaurants or supermarkets.

Want To Be In High Cotton?

– Bob White

High Cotton, finishing its second successful season on the beach, has become THE spot for true North Carolina Barbecue. The pork, ribs and chicken are slow roasted over hickory coals to produce the characteristic pink coloring while being basted with the traditional eastern North Carolina barbecue sauce. The pork is then hand chopped and served with customary side dishes of corn bread, cole slaw and baked beans.

While it is a pleasure to eat in, the restaurant also does a brisk business in "to go" orders. Perfect for a beach vacation a call can have dinner or lunch for one to 200 people ready to be picked up and carried to the beach or back to the vacation cottage. A catering service is also available for wedding receptions, parties of all kinds and vacationing groups that want to add a touch of real North Carolina to their time at the beach. Pig Pickin is an official North Carolina activity!

There is also a general store with real Moon Pies, homemade jams, pickled goods, smoked meats, and more. Owners Will and Sherry Thorp can also prepare gift buckets (real galvanized pails full of NC goodies) to carry a bit of North Carolina home to remember the beach or as gifts for family and friends. A number of folks picked up the buckets or had them mailed for Xmas gifts this year.

they've found it, had seen it in shops but had never seen anything close in the four years I'd been collecting. I swear, I wanted to do cartwheels down the beach! I wanted to hoot & holler & jump up & down screaming "it's blue! it's blue! Thank you! Thank you!" Honestly, I did do those things, minus the cartwheels! Now, I'm in search of red....

Sometimes a large unpolished piece will be found & the difficult decision must be made whether to keep it or toss it back into the ocean to be 'finished'. Sometime it is just a piece of glass. I toss it back as far as I can throw thinking of the time when it will again wash onto the shore for me as smooth, polished beach glass.

The wonderment of the beach is amazing in so many ways. The constant, calming sound of the waves, the gracious glide of the pelican's flight, the frolicking fun of the dolphins at play...and the shimmering beauty of a tiny piece of glass...a tiny piece of beach glass.

May your walks on the beach be full of these glorious things.

Working in the Outer Banks - I was lucky to wind up with CCV - great owners (are you reading this Denise & Eddie?), great staff to work & play with. But, it's such a shame - I have to drive 15 miles along the ocean wearing shorts and beach shoes in the summer to get to work. My wife - works part-time now. She's lovin' that! Living in the burbs of NY and working in the 'Big Apple'. You commute by car to the train or bus then normally the subway to your place of work. Almost 2 hours and that's each way! Don't miss honking cars, exhaust fumes or the old you're number 1 hand sign from another vehicle either.

What do we miss? Mostly the small things: good bread, good Chinese food. We do miss the ener-

gy of New York but ya know what; we go up to visit several times a year and we're happy to cross that bridge to come home to 'our place'. We are among a minority to be able to live in a place we love and enjoy a terrific environment. Plus, we have a place family & friends can enjoy when they want to visit.

What am I thankful for? I wouldn't trade how I grew up, a New York City street kid, and I'll always appreciate that we wouldn't be living the OBX life if it weren't for the NYC career.



Also, at Thanksgiving, High Cotton offers smoked turkey and ham packages for those who wanted to celebrate the day without cooking or just wanted to try something different. They also offer these packages during the Christmas holidays!

High Cotton is located on Hwy 12, across from the Kitty Hawk Pier. Check High Cotton out at www.highcottonbbq.com or call 252-255-2275

The Ocean, It's Not Just Another Pretty Place...

–Nancy Russell

"Deep in thoughts of what lay in the oceans soul, having freedom of movement to go where ever it needs...for it is life, it is form, it is spirit, it is one"

The ocean is not just another pretty place. When you visit the Outer Banks, you should make every effort to not only get in the Atlantic, but on it. We have the luxury of wind.... anytime & anywhere. The wind gives you the ability to do sailing & windsurfing pretty much anytime you like. The Currituck Sound is my backyard. At any given time, you might see someone "attempting" to windsurf. Not only is it a beautiful sight to see the colorful sails gliding across the water, it is also quite entertaining. I recommend everyone try it at least once.

Not a water with wind person? Rent a kayak or a canoe. On the sound side you have spacious water ways in which to hone your rowing skills while admiring the wildlife which lines the shore. You may also admire our vast variety of ocean birds. They vary from the strong & powerful ospreys, with nests sitting high on poles in the sound to the beautiful & graceful American egrets. Don't be surprised if you see them walking among the reeds. Oh, don't worry if you tip your primitive watercraft. The shore water in the sound is rarely over 2 feet deep. It is kind of funny to watch people paddling like mad, tipping their kayak, stand up & the water comes up to their knees. If you are more adventurous, try ocean kayaking. I personally am not that adventurous but my husband loved it. You really have to commit yourself to getting over the first initial break of the water & then go like crazy. WARNING: Be sure to eat your Wheaties before attempting this fun but exhausting ocean quest.

Thrill seekers, this is what you've been waiting for.... a water sport in which you don't have to exert any physical energy, whatsoever. My husband is Mr. Jet Ski. I "was not" Mrs. Jet Ski. With this being said, he decided one day he would take me jet skiing for my first time. The weather conditions were just terrific, if you were one of our many waterfowl. Cloudy, a little misty rain & about 70 degrees. Just the weather I had always dreamed of for my first Jet Ski extravaganza. If I had it to do over, I wouldn't change a thing. We had the pleasure of jet skiing among a school of about 300 dolphins. It was incredible. We went slowly & they followed beside us. I was a little intimidated at first. They were so close to us & they ARE literally larger than life. The experience was unforgettable. Before you ask, no we didn't have a camera. Now I take one every time.

Finally, for the sentimental & romantic beach goers, a sunset cruise. The sunsets are... indescribable, while viewing from land, but there is nothing quite like being on the water. If you get an opportunity, don't miss your chance to see a sunset, while cruising in the Currituck Sound. You can rent a chauffeured pontoon boat to view one of nature's most majestic creations. I have heard this is a great place to propose marriage.... she or he would never forget it.

Please remember, with whatever water activity you choose to do, always wear your life jacket & boat responsibly.

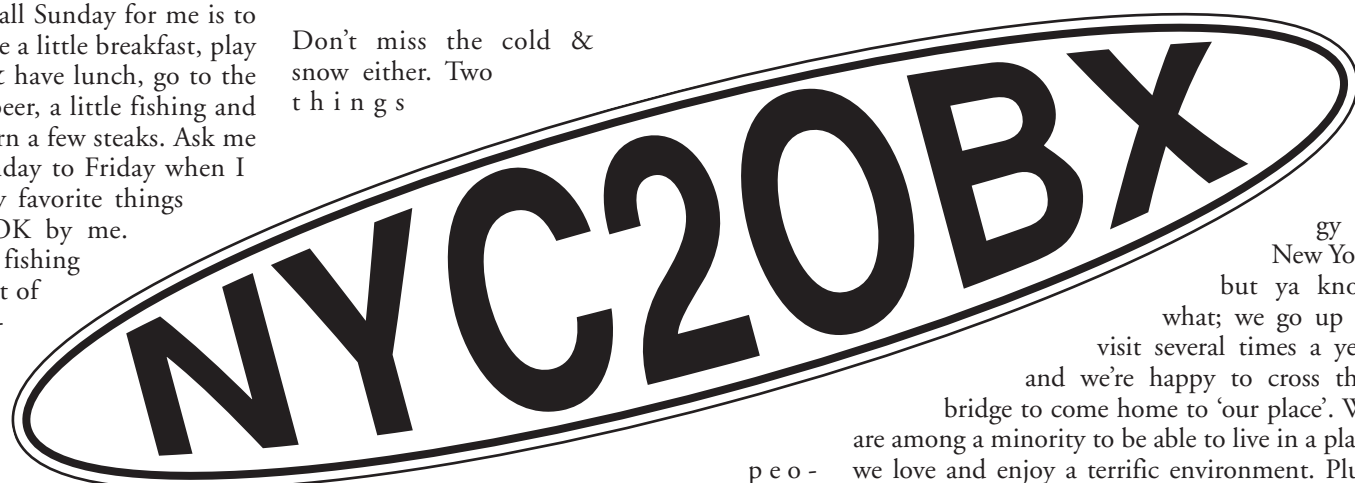
NYC20BX

–Jim Hayes

I was born, raised and made my career in New York City. I married my wife, Rosalind, in 1973 and bought our first home in the suburbs of New York in 1978. We bought a townhouse in Duck in 1989 and continued living and working in New York until we decided to go into phase 2 of our lives and move to the Outer Banks. So here we are since April of 2002.

I thought it would be interesting to compare our life here versus New York.

Two things I enjoy: golf and fishing. A typical OBX Spring/Summer/Fall Sunday for me is to get up about 7 AM, have a little breakfast, play 18 holes, come home & have lunch, go to the beach, enjoy a cigar, a beer, a little fishing and back to the house to burn a few steaks. Ask me if I mind working Monday to Friday when I am 2 minutes from my favorite things on the weekend! It's OK by me. Let's look at golf and/or fishing living in New York. First of all, don't even contemplate doing both in the same weekend, never mind the same day. Golf, you need to make a tee time about 2 weeks ahead of time, you're up at the crack of dawn to travel to wherever you're playing, you're usually late teeing off, they stack you up and tee off every 4 minutes rather than 7 minutes which means you're always up somebody's you know what or the foursome



Ocean Safety

—Sylvia DeVennish
—Supervisor, Corolla Ocean Rescue

Every year the lifeguards report that the number one inquiry by beach-goers is about sharks. And only a portion of people will inquire about rip currents. The irony lies in the fact that rip currents account for 18% of weather and ocean related fatalities. Shark fatalities account for 0.1%. (Heat emergencies lead with 43% of ocean/weather related fatalities.)**

Rip currents exist up and down our beach, but their intensities vary with winds, currents, and weather. A rip current, or rip, is the out-flow of water through a divot in the sandbar. As the water breaks over the sandbar, it seeks the easiest path back out to sea. That path is usually the deepest and/ or widest point of the sandbar; that flow of water creates a channel of water moving seaward.

Rip currents pose a risk to swimmers because they create difficulty getting back to shore. **The most threatening potential danger for a swimmer in a rip current is panic.** Once a swimmer realizes that he or she is having trouble getting back to shore, he or she may start to panic and may become exhausted while attempting to fight the current. There are a few things to remember: Rip currents will not pull a swimmer under water; the water is just flowing outward. The swimmer has two main options. The first is to relax and float, and let the rip carry him or her out past the sand bar. Once the water flows out past the sandbar, it disperses and the rip dissi-

pates; the swimmer should be able to swim in. The swimmer may also swim parallel to shore to get out of the rip, and then swim in once he or she has exited the current. Either way, the most important element to getting back to shore is to stay calm. That swimmer should wave at patrons on shore if they think they need help so patrons can notify a lifeguard.

The ultimate solution to getting stuck in a rip current is to avoid them altogether. You can do this by asking a lifeguard where the hazardous rip currents may be, and how to spot them. Become familiar with characteristics of rip currents. The basic key to spotting a rip is to find an inconsistency in wave action from the sandbar to shore. Look for: a break in the incoming wave pattern, waves that are breaking at angles once they pass the sandbar, short, choppy, inconsistently breaking waves, a difference in water color (from swirling sand) or an obvious outflow of water. These characteristics may or may not be visible, so the safest things to do are to:

- Ask a lifeguard- and then swim near that lifeguard.
- Never swim alone!
- Know your limits; if wave activity is making you uncomfortable, don't go!
- Never let your guard down; always be aware that ocean conditions change constantly.

Remember, your lifeguards are there to help you out; feel free to approach them at any time with questions or concerns. For further information or other beach safety tips, visit our website at www.geocities.com/corollaoceanrescue.

Concierge Services

Dining Out

The following is a listing of area restaurants; mind you this is not a complete listing of restaurants in our area just those favored by us!

Meridian 42 – Superb dining. Chef Chuck prepares an eclectic and delicious dining experience. Upbeat Tuscan atmosphere – eat at the bar and observe the chef's creations in the open arena kitchen. Views of the Atlantic Ocean from their upper deck. Located in Southern Shores at Southern Shores Crossing. 252.261.0420

The Blue Point – Fabulous southern food prepared with flair! A small, busy atmosphere, which overlooks the Albemarle Sound in Duck. These 2 guys introduced 'a fine dining experience' to the Outer Banks in the early '90's. www.thebluepoint.com 252.261.8090

Carolina Blue – Delicious continental cuisine prepared beautifully and an extensive wine list. Varied and unusual menu. A gentle atmosphere with very limited seating. Located in The Marketplace at Southern Shores. 252.255.1543

Striper's Bar and Grille – True Outer Banks atmosphere! Your entire family will enjoy the delicious catch of the day or other favorite selections from the varied menu. Join them for Sunday Brunch. The raw bar offers a late day reprieve from the hot sun. Located in Monterey Plaza. Offering live music nightly in the summer. 252.453.4345

High Cotton – Barbeque - That's all we do! As Tarheel natives we want to share with you the flavors and aromas that are unique to Eastern North Carolina Barbeque. Long hours of Hickory smoking produce pink coloring of and sweet 'outside brown' meat of your hand chopped pork, chicken or racks of ribs - yummmmm... You'll be in High Cotton when you dine in or take out. Catering or pick-up pig pickings for 20-200. Located where the Beach Road begins across from the Kitty Hawk Pier. 252.255.2275

The Rundown Café and Tsunami Bar – Good Caribbean food at a good price! Lots of Caribbean flavors, American favorites and vegetarian delights. A colorful experience. The Tsunami Bar offers great ocean views. Located across from the Atlantic Ocean in Kitty Hawk. 252.255.0026

North Banks Restaurant & Raw Bar – Steamed shrimp, chowders, steak – it's all good. Take a break during your shopping. Located in the TimBuck II Shopping area. 252.453.3344

Mike Dianna's Grill Room – Enjoy delicious fare and the sunset along with Mike D's hospitality Great ribs, steaks and fish in a pleasant atmosphere overlooking the Currituck Sound. TimBuckII 252.453.4336

The Roadside Café – Dine al fresco - A funky little spot in downtown Duck. Very good food, good music, good times. Duck Road, Village of Duck 252.261.5729

Chili Peppers – Great food prepared by great chefs! A local atmosphere, offering an eclectic menu that's sure to please your palate. Located on Rte. 158 in Kill Devil Hills. 252.441.8081

Red Sky Cafe – A sassy atmosphere in which you will experience new southern cuisine with surprising international nuances. Eat in or gourmet to-go. 1197 Duck Road, Duck, NC 252.261.togo(8646)

Coffee Shops, Deli's, Pizza, Pastries, To Go

Steamer's Shellfish to Go – Offering Steamer Pots to Go, Wraps and Entrees. Gourmet take out at its finest. TimBuck II, Corolla 252.453.3305

Outer Banks Coffee Company – Master roaster, Coffee John's beans are roasted on site, offering daily special blends, plus your regular favorites. Stop by for an early morning rendition of the world according to John. You will come away fired up and inspired! Monterey Plaza, Corolla 453.0200

Duck's Cottage – A rare original setting using the 1921 Braitwaite Cottage located by the Waterfront Shops. Great spot in Duck to grab a cup brewed from exotic corners and also provides an excellent

selection of books. Downtown Duck 261.5510

Cosmo's Pizzeria – Great pizza, subs and salads. Dining inside or on the deck. Corolla Light Village Shops, Corolla – 453.4666

Corolla Pizza – Super pizzas, subs and sandwiches. To go or summer time delivery – after 5:00. Located in historic Corolla Village on Ocean Trail, Corolla. 453.8592

Pizzazz Pizza – When shopping in the village of Duck stop by Pizzazz, they offer dining inside and out, plus they deliver to Pine Island and Ocean Sands. Duck 252.261.8822

Tomato Patch Pizzeria – Pastas, subs, gyros, Greek Salads and pizzas. Monterey Plaza in Corolla. 453.4500

Bacchus Wine & Cheese – Deli meats and great sandwiches, party platters and a large selection of wines. Monterey Plaza in Corolla. 453.4333

Northern Lights Pastries and Coffee – A unique assortment of specialty pastries offered nowhere else in Corolla. Delicious coffees and special occasion cakes are also available. Located in the Corolla Light Village Shops, Corolla. 453.0201

Lighthouse Bagels – Specializing in homemade bagels and muffins for breakfast, plus delicious deli sandwiches made with Boar's Head meats. Monterey Plaza in Corolla. 453.9998

Charter Fishing

Pirate's Cove Marina – 252.473.3906
Oregon Inlet Fishing Center – 252.441.6301
Hatteras Harbor Marina – 252.986.2166

Outdoor Activities

Roanoke Island Festival Park – The Elizabeth II (replica of the first ship to bring colonists to the new world) is open for tours. Other attractions include the Roanoke Island Adventure Museum, film theatre, settlement site, outdoor performance pavilion, art gallery and museum shop. Open daily. 252.475.1500

Wright Brothers National Memorial – Exhibits and reproductions of century old gliders and flying

machines are on display. Celebrate 100 years of flying in December 2003. 252.457.7430

Jockey's Ridge State Park – Visit the East Coast's tallest sand dune and enjoy the magnificent views. 252.441.7132

The Historic Whalehead Club – Plan a picnic in the shadows of the Currituck Beach Lighthouse on the grounds of this beautifully restored National Historic landmark. 252.453.9040

The Currituck Lighthouse – Climb 158 feet to the top and enjoy panoramic ocean to sound views. 252.453.4939

Outdoor Adventures

Corolla Surf Shop – Rentals and lessons, plus pee-wee day camp for little kahunas offered at 2 locations. Corolla Light Village Shops and TimBuck II, Corolla 252.453.9273 www.corollasurfshop.com

Corolla Outback Adventures – As seen on Jack Hanna's Animal Adventure; the north beach's oldest guide service. 252.453.4484

Kitty Hawk Water Sports – Corolla to Nags Head; the watersports authority. TimBuckII 252.453.6900

Golf

The Currituck Club – Only golf course located in Corolla. 888.453.9400; 252.453.9400

Sea Scape Golf Club – Features bentgrass greens and wide fairways with ocean views from 14 holes. Located in Kitty Hawk. 252.261.2158

The Pointe Golf Club – 18 whole championship course features magnificent sound views from wood-end links-style holes. Just minutes over the bridge in Powell's Point. 252.491.8388

The Carolina Club – This club is held by the same set of high standards as its sister club – The Pointe. Grandy. 252.453.3588

Nags Head Golf Links – Bentgrass greens and Bermuda fairways, plus several holes are featured along the sound. In Nags Head. 800.851.9404; 252.441.8073

Holly Ridge – Great for beginners and golfers on a budget!! Grandy. 252.491.2893

Goose Creek Golf & Country Club – Reasonably priced green fees, located 13 Miles North of the Wright Memorial Bridge. 800.443.4008; 252.453.4008

Kilmarlic Golf Club – The newest course in the area is located just 3.5 miles north of the Wright Memorial Bridge. 252.491.4220.

Watering Holes

Stripers Bar and Grille – A cool Outer Banks atmosphere. Enjoy the raw bar then stay for dinner! Watch the games and meet new friends. 252.453.4345 Monterey Plaza Shopping Center, Corolla.

SunDogs Sports Bar & Grill – Come watch the games. Monterey Plaza Shopping Center, Corolla. 252.453.GAME

Weeping Radish Brew Pub – Hearty pub fare featuring a local micro brew and sandwiches, hand crafted German lagers on tap and to go. Monterey Plaza, Corolla. 252.453.6638

Quagmires on the Beach – Oceanfront deck, serving lunch & dinner, great bar and entertainment. Also serving your favorite liquids.... for the young and young at heart. Mile Post 7 on the Beach Road in Kill Devil Hills 252.441.9188

Outer Banks Brewing Station – Innovated brewing, revolutionary cuisine. Featuring live music, late night menu, bakery and open kitchen. Milepost 8, on the bypass in Kill Devil Hills. 252.449.BREW

Family Fun

Lighthouse Mini Golf – 18 holes of miniature golf; fun for kids and the whole family. Corolla beside Winks. 252.453.3452

Nags Head Bowling Center – 24 lanes; game room; snack bar; fun for everyone. Nags Head, milepost 9. 252.441.7077

The Lost Colony – The outdoor drama comes to life nightly except Sundays. June – August. Located on Roanoke Island. 252.473.3414

Searamics – Create and paint your own pottery; make your own vacation memory. Located in the Village of Duck. 252.441.9003

North Carolina Aquarium – The newly expanded center offers displays on underwater archaeology, marine ecosystems and a shark exhibit. Located on Roanoke Island. 252.473.3494

Corolla Raceway – Go Karts and an arcade. Located in TimBuckII Shopping Center. 252.453.9100

Photography

Walter V. Gresham III – Over 23 years of experience with an unwavering attention to detail. 252.441.5091

Thomas Gartman – Family reunions, portraits, weddings and more. 252.473.1173

Deborah Sawyer – Capturing your families' moments with sensitivity and style. 252.473.4800

J. Aaron Trotman – Offers beach portraits, wedding photography, and member of the Outer Banks Wedding Association. Kill Devil Hills 252.480.1070.

Special Services

Village News – Your vacation time is precious. Most major newspapers delivered directly to your doorstep. 252.441.7748

High Cotton – Barbeque - That's all we do! Hand chopped pork, Chicken, Ribs, Brunswick Stew, beans, slaw, cornbread, Chess Pies. Self catering packages for 20 - 200 easily accommodated with advance notice. 252.255.2275

The Kitchen Witch – From artichokes to ziti...we do it all! Let the kitchen witch brew up some culinary magic in your home, your recipes or ours. Grocery shopping and in-home catering available. 252.453.2260

Firehouse Wine Cellar & Gourmet Foods – Wine & wine tasting, beer & beer tasting, cheese market, bakery, personal chef service, wedding planning & rental service. 4622 North Virginia Dare Trail in Kitty Hawk. 252.261.5115 - www.firehousewine.com

Groovin' Gourmet – Let us prepare delicious meals for your next vacation! We deliver a wide variety of mouthwatering selections directly to your doorstep. No more shopping, cooking or clean-up! 866.355.4321 or www.groovinggourmets.com

Air Services

Sea Air – Sea Air will be providing flexible scheduled service in and out of the Pine Island Airstrip in Corolla to Norfolk, VA for \$89 one-way plus tax. They also offer on demand charter flights and local air tours. Tell Betty we sent you! 252.453.3656 www.flyseaair.com

Limousine Services

The Connection – Shuttle service to and from the Norfolk Airport, to your rental home. 252.473.2777

Island Limousine – Nights on the town, red carpet service, shuttle and sedan service available 24 hours. 800.828.5466 or 252.441.5466

Outer Banks Suburban Limousine Service – Voted "Best Limo on the Beach". Super stretch suburban seats 12, or for smaller groups try our Mercedes sedan service. 877.751.8617

Bikes, Cribs and More

Ocean Atlantic Rentals – For all your cottage and beach needs delivery and pick-up available. Corolla Light Village Shops 800.635.9559 www.oar-nc.com

Moneysworth – Bikes, cribs, beach equipment and more. Delivery only. 252.453.4566

Medical Services

Regional Medical Center - 24 Hour urgent care, family medicine, the most complete medical care on the Outer Banks. Mile Post 1.5 in Kitty Hawk 261.9000 They are the closest facility to Corolla. **The Outer Banks Hospital** – Opened in March 2002 it is the first and only healthcare facility of its kind in the area. Offering latest technology and emergency, diagnostic, surgery and oncology services. Mile Post 14 in Nags Head 877.359.9179

Health East Outer Banks Medical Center – 24 Hour emergency care, x-rays and quality health care for your whole family. Mile Post 11 Nags Head 252.441.7111

Albemarle Home Care Systems – Offers a wide assortment of health care maintenance items for rent and a knowledgeable staff helping to make your vacation easier. Mile Post 5.5 in Kill Devil Hills 252.441.1604

Catering or Personal Chef

Lynn Flowers – 252.480.2332

Sonny's Creative Kitchens – 252.491.9969

High Cotton Barbeque – 252.255.2275

Tommy's Market – 252.261.8990

The Kitchen Witch – 252.453.2260

Firehouse Wine Cellar & Gourmet Foods – 252.261.5115

Spas and Salons

Spa at Corolla – 252.453.9799

www.spaatcorolla.com

The Spa at The Sanderling Inn – 252.261.4111

Eden Day Spa – Duck 252.255.0711 and Corolla 252.453.0712

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