



Fall 2009 Newsletter



**Goblins, and Witches, and Ghosts, Oh My!**

One can pick up any book on ghosts and hauntings along the Carolina coast, and learn about the haunted houses in Wilmington, like the one at 514 Market Street , built in the 1800's, supposedly haunted by the ghost of George, mischievous, but harmless. Poplar Grove , like many of the old plantations in the area is also said to have its own resident ghost, Aunt Nora, who's also harmless but likes to flush toilets, and turn lights on and off. The best known legend in the area is that of the mysterious light at Maco Station. The town of Maco, about nineteen miles west of Wilmington was

on the route of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad. In 1868, the last car on a train conducted by Joe Baldwin came unhooked, blocking the tracks. As another train was approaching the separated car, Conductor Baldwin leaned over the rail, holding up a lantern to warn the incoming train. It is unclear whether the conductor didn't see the light, or didn't have time to stop, but in either case, the train hit the car with such impact that pieces were scattered for over a mile. Joe Baldwin's mangled body was found, but not his head. Soon after, a light appeared on certain nights, and it was said to be Joe Baldwin looking for his head. President Cleveland was supposed to have seen the light, in 1889, when his train stopped in Maco to refuel. In 1977, Maco Station was closed down and the rails were taken up. The light has not been seen since. The old Brunswick Inn in Southport has a resident ghost, even though the old Bed and Breakfast is now a private residence. Tony Casseletta, one of a trio of musicians working at the inn drowned off the coast of Bald Head Island in the 1880's, but he's still heard playing the harp at his old home.

What you won't easily find in a ghost book is the story of Sam, our very own Ocean Isle Beach ghost. The Winds Resort Beach Club is a popular hotel in OIB.



Several years ago, a guest by the name of Sam was staying at one of the hotel's houses, Atlantic Breeze. Even though he passed away from a heart attack during his stay there, he must have really enjoyed The Winds, because he never left. Sam is a 6'1" older gentleman who wears a grey suit and a bow tie. He's harmless, and mostly moves things around, turns lights on and off, and opens and closes the blinds. The hotel's employees soon become used to Sam's presence,



but he can be a bit alarming to someone not familiar with his antics. This was the case recently when an employee, on her second day on the job, was asked to retrieve a couple of fans from a storage area under Atlantic Breeze to deliver to some guests. After much trouble unlocking the door, she went in, got the fans and locked the door on her way out. Walking back after delivering the fans, she glanced at the storage room and saw that the door was wide open, and all the lights were on. She was sure she had left everything turned off, but she unsuspectingly went back in and locked up. After making a comment to another employee about the door and the lights, and the fact that it felt so cold inside, she was simply told, "Oh that was Sam." On another occasion, two employees, while doing room checks, were locked in one of the houses, and as hard as they tried, neither door would open. After about ten minutes, one of the ladies said, "Sam, let the door go!" and the door flew open by itself. Sam has also been seen peeking out through the blinds in several of the rooms in Atlantic Breeze. Sam might be enjoying his long vacation, but we'd hate to see his room bill.

*The views expressed in this article are not necessarily the views of R.H. McClure Realty, Inc. or its employees, and are intended for entertainment purposes only. The above article on The Winds Resort Beach Club is printed here by written permission from the hotel owner.*

Photos courtesy of Martha Russ



### More Ghostly Creatures

As its name implies, the Atlantic Ghost Crab is a very secretive, seldom seen creature. It is only found along the eastern coast of the US. They're usually active at night, they're small - about two inches across - sand colored, and very fast, all of which help make them virtually invisible, and their beady, black eyes at the ends of two stalks give them an alien appearance. They have such good eyesight that they can see and snag bugs in mid-air, and their eyes rotate like a periscope, so they can see all around them, 360 degrees. They have grooves on

the front part of their shells where they can retract their eyestalks. They can run on their six strong, hairy legs at speeds up to ten miles an hour, making them the fastest of all crustaceans. Their scientific name, *Ocypode Quadrata*, means Swift-footed. They can also run forwards, backwards, and sideways, which gives them a distinct advantage against predators, and kids on the beach trying to chase them with a stick.

Ghost crabs are in transition from being a marine animal to becoming a land animal. They live on land, near the dunes, in burrows, three to four feet deep, slanted at a 45 degree angle, with a turn-about chamber at the bottom. They only need to maintain a small amount of seawater in their bronchial chambers, and they can do that by going to the shoreline a couple of times a day, and waiting for a wave to wash over them. Then they scamper sideways back to their burrows. Sometimes they can even get the small amount of seawater they need from the wet sand, using fine hairs at the base of their legs. In the winter, while they're hibernating, they can stay in their burrows for up to six weeks. The exception to this is a female carrying an egg mass, which needs to be kept wet. The female lays her eggs in the water, during high tide. The larvae then drift about in the ocean for four to six weeks, and those which survive, return to the sand, to live their adult life on the beach. The younger the crab, the closer to the shoreline it will build its burrow. A crab might also "hide" in the ocean, to escape from a wandering raccoon, or other predator. The male crab attracts the female by rubbing his pincers against the side of his body. During a full moon, the ghost crab might remind you more of a werewolf, than a ghost. When the moon is full, the almost invisible ghost crab will stand near the shore, facing the moon, trying to spot some nearby insect. Ghost crabs only feed at night, and their diet consists of sand fleas, lizards, and mole crabs. (It's OK, they're not cannibals, the mole crab is not really a crab at all, it's actually another type of crustacean of the same family as the lobster and shrimp), but the ghost crab's favorite food is loggerhead turtle hatchling.

Although the ghost crab is not on the federal list of threatened or endangered species, scientists are keeping a close watch on their survival and their numbers, due mainly to over population of coastal areas, and beach renourishment programs which displace the ghost crabs, compacts the sand and forces the needed moisture from it, and destroys their burrows. Loggerhead turtle protection efforts have also affected the ghost crabs, from having their burrows destroyed when found too close to turtle nests.



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## Changing colors

Most of us associate Autumn with the turning of the leaves. It is a fleeting time of beauty, and perhaps for that reason, it is appreciated all the more. The science behind the color changes in the leaves makes it all the more admirable. Chlorophyll gives the leaves the green color we normally see, but that green color hides the yellows and oranges which carotenoids produce in the leaves. In the fall, with shorter and cooler days, leaves stop their food-making process. As the chlorophyll breaks down, the green disappears, then carotenoids (what gives carrots their orange color) start showing, and we start seeing the yellows, and orange pigments that have always been there, albeit hidden.

The ideal fall conditions for the brilliant reds, are warm sunny days followed by cool nights. During sunny days, the leaves produce sugar, which is then trapped in the leaves during the night. The trapped sugars produce a red pigment called anthocyanin. This is why you might see a tree with bright red leaves on the side facing the sun, while on the shady side of the same tree the leaves tend to be yellow/orange. Some of the brightest leaf colorations are found in red and sugar maples, sassafras, sweetgum, some species of oak trees, and dogwood. With all the maple, oak and dogwood trees we have in the area, we get every imaginable color combination. OK, so it's not the Blue Ridge Parkway, but there aren't too many places like this area, where, in the Fall, the ocean is still warm enough to swim in, and the leaves are so colorful.



## Columbus Day October 12, 2009

Christopher Columbus dared to dream. He knew where he wanted to go, and he thought he knew how to get there. With borrowed money, he sailed off, at the age of 41, in search of pepper and other spices. He didn't know the great distances and perils that faced him in his endeavor to find a shorter route to the Indies and the lands so thoroughly described in the writings of Marco Polo. On October 12, 1492, the Santa Maria, the ship captained by Columbus, landed on an island in the "New World." He found no gold, and not even any pepper. Even though he was accorded great honors upon his return to Europe, Columbus eventually died a pauper. It wasn't until four hundred and sixty two years after his death, in 1968, that President Lyndon B. Johnson established the second Monday in October as a federal holiday in honor of that first landing on October 12. Christopher Columbus changed the world as we know it, because he dared to follow his dream.



Just because Summer is over doesn't mean you can't go on vacation. You might not have a full week off work, and the kids are in school, but we have great, inexpensive, weekend rentals available. Even better, play hookey on Friday and make it a three-day weekend-we promise we won't tell.

Mark  
Your  
Calendar!

**29<sup>th</sup> Annual North Carolina Oyster Festival**  
**October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> in Ocean Isle Beach**  
More details below.

## REAR WINDOW

In the 1954 Alfred Hitchcock movie “Rear Window”, Jimmy Stewart played Jeff, a guy who, due to a broken leg, spent most of his day sitting in front of his apartment window looking out. His window overlooked a courtyard, and the windows of the apartments across. When a neighbor disappeared after a fight with her husband, Jeff suspected foul play.

In our Winter 2008 newsletter, we made a reference to the large picture window at McClure’s rental office, which overlooks the marsh side of the Intracoastal Waterway. Almost everybody who walks into the rental office comments about the beautiful view. Some claim they’ll be happy to work here for free, just to enjoy the gorgeous view. It might not be the best view on the island (although we like to think it is), but it’s definitely the most diverse. Twice a day the tides change, and it’s as if the backstage crew came in and changed the scenery of the play:

Low tide on the marsh is not usually considered very attractive, since you can see the muddy bottom, and all the oyster and clam shells; but it’s mainly during low tide that our “Rear Window” becomes our very own Discovery Channel, when all sorts of birds come to feed, and the crabs can be seen crawling in between the oyster shells. Is the White Ibis that visits every day the same one? We like to think so, but it’s hard to tell one ibis from another. We greet him when he stops by for his daily meal, and we cheer for him when he captures a long worm, or a small fish. We even excuse the seagulls which use the parking lot to break open the oyster shells and get their delicious meal, leaving behind broken shells and potential flat tires. Tiny sandpipers, which live in the reeds, saunter out during low tide, and try to walk on the driest part of the marsh. Sometimes a Blue Heron stops by to visit. He and Mr. Ibis are not on speaking terms. At high tide, the scenery changes, and it also changes with the seasons. In the Off-Season, we watch for porpoises that wander into the marsh, and come to play in front of our window. Once, there was a loggerhead turtle swimming in front of our window, and it stayed there for hours. Just as we started to worry about its well-being, it swam away. Maybe it too, was just enjoying the view. There are also times when the pelicans dive bomb into the water, and come up, with their beaks held high, trying to swallow their catch. The fish jumping out of the water also keep us entertained. Guests looking out the window catch a quick glimpse of their jump and call out, “What was that?” The coots swimming by dive down and pop back up all together, like a synchronized ballet. We wave at the fishermen, as they come trawling by, or stop for a while to check the crab traps they had left behind earlier. Sometimes, we see a guy in a wetsuit, rowing a lonely kayak, in the still, cold water.

In the Summer, the marsh is alive with other kinds of visitors. The black wetsuits are gone, and everything becomes more colorful. There are no more lonely kayaks – they come around in groups of three, four, five at a time – red, yellow, green. We make up stories about where they came from, and where they’re headed. What made them decide to head over to this dead-end little piece of marsh in front of our “Rear Window”? Unbeknownst to them, we snap their photo. We worried that the boat sitting on the marsh would get stuck there when the tide went out. (It did!) We watch the small airplane, which takes tourists on tours, flying overhead, and we watch, over in the distance, the yellow parasail flying over the ocean. There’s a trace of envy as we watch the jet skiers swoosh by, or a boat pulling a water skier, or an inflatable raft behind it. And we wait for low tide, and the daily visit from Mr. White Ibis.



All photographs taken from our Rental Office "Rear Window".



*The ocean cries out softly for me  
 Placid waters whisper out my name  
 The changing tide ebbs from the distant bay  
 Reminding me that nothing stays the same.*

From a poem by Carlton Lloyd Smith

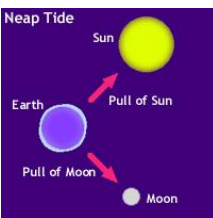
The ocean approaches, and you rush over to move your towel and flip flops to higher ground. A few minutes later, you do it again, and soon you realize that it's almost high tide, and the beach has noticeably shrunk. Have you ever wondered what causes this rise and fall of the ocean waters?

Normally referred to as Lunar Tides, the daily cycles of high and low tides are caused by the gravitational attraction of the Moon. The earth is a rock-hard mass, so the gravitational pull on the land is minuscule. The water, however, is always moving due to wind and currents, and the pull from the Moon is enough to deform the oceans. As the earth rotates under the bulge, high tide propagates onto the shores. On the opposite side of the planet, another bulge, or high tide, is caused by the water being thrown outward by the planet's spin. The oceans are constantly moving from high to low tide, and there's about twelve hours and twenty five minutes between two high tides. Off shore, in the deep oceans, the difference in tides is about a foot and a half, but it increases as it approaches a beach, a bay, or an estuary.

The Earth also experiences a gravitational pull from the Sun. The Sun, though much larger than the moon, is much farther away, thus, its gravitational tug is only about half as strong as the one produced by the Moon. During New Moon and Full Moon, when the Sun and the Moon are in a straight line, (known as syzygy – try that word next time you play Scrabble), their gravitational pull combine to cause what is called **Spring Tide** – though it's not related to the Season, but to the meaning of "spring" – to jump up. This is a time when the tides are exceptionally high, as well as exceptionally low.



The opposite, when the Sun and the Moon are at right angles from the Earth, canceling out each other's gravitational attraction, the smaller difference between high and low tides is known as **Neap Tide**.



Every other year or so, an unusually high tide, The Proxigean Spring Tide, takes place when the Moon is both in New, or Full Moon phase, and at its closest point to the Earth. If a Proxigean (or Perigeean) Spring Tide coincides with a storm close to shore, it can cause severe erosion and damage.

If you look at a tide chart, you will notice that high tide and low tide don't happen at the same time every day. Since the Moon rotates around the Earth, it's not always in the same place at the same time each day. Thus, the times for high and low tides change by about fifty minutes each day. The rolling out tide is known as **ebbing**, while the incoming tide is known as **flowing**. The point between high and low tide is known as **Slack Tide**.

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Next time you're in the area, plan to visit **Planet Fun**, the newest FUN in Brunswick County. Planet Fun is at 349 Whiteville Road in Shallotte, next door to Lowe's Home Improvement Center. It's a 50,000 square foot, indoor, smoke-free center and all of it spells FUN. It has 32 lanes of bowling, but don't you dare call it a bowling alley. It's cosmic bowling at its best, and eight of the lanes feature a Bowling Lounge, with sofas, and a private setting for your group or party. All the lanes are equipped with bumpers for the children, but if you have real young ones, they also have a four lane Hwy 66 mini bowling, with small, light balls that even a two year old can handle. The two-story Laser Tag will provide an awesome experience. They have great graphics that will make it seem like you're "there" (where ever "there" is - let your imagination wander.) There's also a nine-hole Blacklight Mini-Golf, with underwater decorations. There's a giant oyster with a golf ball "pearl" in it. Neptune guards the ninth hole, and there were a couple of dolphins I wanted to snatch up and take home with me. Planet Fun also has the largest redemption video arcade in the area, not to mention the party room and the Starz Sports Grille, a 100 seat restaurant. You're guaranteed a great, FUN time at Planet Fun.



**Fall Brawl King Classic** October 23 to October 25, 2009 Got a boat? Got a neighbor with a boat? If your answer is yes to either question, we hope to see you at the annual Fall Brawl. The king mackerel are biting, and there's food, entertainment and great prizes. These are given in different categories like Ladies, and Juniors, and Seniors. Fun for the whole family! Entry fees are charged according to booking dates, so book early to get the best deals. For more information, please visit their website at [www.OIFC.com](http://www.OIFC.com).

## 29<sup>th</sup> Annual North Carolina Oyster Festival

October 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Saturday 9:00 am – 6:00 pm and Sunday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

**Over 120 Arts & Craft Vendors and Food Vendors, Kids Play Area, Entertainment, Road Races, and of course, OYSTERS!**

### Schedule of Events

#### **Saturday**

8:00 am Road Races  
9:00 am Opening Ceremonies  
10:00 am "Key West" performing  
1:00 pm "Band of Oz" performing  
4:00 pm "Cousin Homer" performing  
4:00 pm NC Oyster Shucking Championship

#### **Sunday**

9:00 am "New Beginnings" Gospel  
11:00 am "Embers" performing  
12:00 pm Oyster Stew Cook-Off  
2:00 pm "Imitations" performing



Festival Admission: \$5.00. Children 8 and under Free. No Pets. No outside food and drink.

Free Parking with Free shuttle service located at The Retreat, next to Lowe's Foods on the mainland.

For more info visit [www.brunswickcounty-chamber.org](http://www.brunswickcounty-chamber.org). Photos courtesy of BC Chamber website.



The Ocean Isle Beach Land Conservancy held a park dedication ceremony on September 5<sup>th</sup> at the Shallotte Blvd Ferry Park Landing, on the east end of the island, as well as the new Children's Playground next door to the Coastal Carolina Museum. The Land Conservancy donated the playground equipment, and the Town of Ocean Isle donated the land and the fence.



**Reminder:**

If you're coming down to fish this fall, don't forget to get your fishing license. Don't risk a citation!



Photo courtesy of Vern Bender



Photo courtesy of Vern Bender

**Labor Day Weekend at the Beach**

Some of us remember Labor Day weekend as a "LAST". It was the last weekend to go barefoot, and wear the old, torn up jeans before we had to start wearing our school uniforms again. It was our last "free" weekend, since school normally started the Tuesday after. It was the last warm weekend before the fall chill took over. It was one last chance to plunge in the watering hole, or take one last trip to the beach, or have that one last cook out.

This Labor Day weekend we had the most perfect beach weather. We had some storms late in the day on Sunday, but that just added to the excitement, and they didn't last long. Saturday saw temperatures in the 80's, and the beach was beautiful, dotted with colorful umbrellas, and sculptures. OIB Property Owners Association and the Town of Ocean Isle sponsored a Sand Sculpture contest on Saturday, September 5, appropriately called, "Can You Dig It?" There were sharks, sea monsters, mermaids, crashed airplanes, alligators, an octopus, and a huge turtle. We hope the town will make this a yearly event.



Photos above & below courtesy of Vern Bender



## RH McClure Real Estate Sales

Below is a current list of properties that are available through R.H. McClure Realty, Inc. We would like very much to represent you in your quest for properties on or around Ocean Isle Beach. Our sales staff will assist you with any listed property in this area. Please check with us often, as prices and listings change frequently. Call

**Ron Britt**  
910-524-1144

**Bob Kennette**  
910-540-5940

**B. Wayne Melton**  
910-233-6606

**John Hightower**  
910-520-0533

Or visit our website at [www.rhmclclurealty.com](http://www.rhmclclurealty.com) to view all listings in Brunswick County

### Beach Homes

Oceanfront-50 East 1 <sup>st</sup> St 12 bdrm, 12 baths	\$2,795,000
Oceanfront-258 East 1 <sup>st</sup> St 5 bdrm, 7 baths	\$1,995,000
Oceanfront-123 West 1 <sup>st</sup> St 5 bdr., 4 baths, pool	\$1,295,000
Ocean Front-436 East 2 <sup>nd</sup> St 4 bdrm 2 baths	\$ 750,000
Ocean Front-392 East 1 <sup>st</sup> St 4 bdrm 2 baths	\$ 400,000
Natural Canal- 46 Wilmington St 5 bdrm, 5 bath,	\$ 650,000
Concrete canal -16 Raeford St. 4 bdrm, 4bath	\$ 629,000
2 <sup>nd</sup> Row -55 E 1 <sup>st</sup> St – 5 bdrm, 5.5 bath	\$ 899,999
3 <sup>rd</sup> Row-250 E 2 <sup>nd</sup> St 5 bdrm, 2 bath	\$ 575,000
3 <sup>rd</sup> Row -286 E 2 <sup>nd</sup> St -4 bdrm, 3 bath	\$ 595,000
Island Park Cottages-3 Myrtle Ct 4 bdrm 2 bath	\$ 519,000
3 <sup>rd</sup> Row-250 E 2 <sup>nd</sup> St 5 bdrm, 2 bath	\$ 575,000

### Beach Condos

Windjammer Unit 1-C 2 bdrm 2 baths oceanfront	\$ 359,000
Windjammer Unit 1-J 2 bdrm 2 baths oceanfront	\$375,000
Ocean Point Unit 604 high rise unit 2 bdrm 2 baths	\$ 599,000
Ocean Point Unit 1002 high rise unit,3 bdrm, 3 baths	\$ 685,000
Ocean Cove Unit 122 1 bdrm + bunk nook, 1 bath oceanfront	\$249,000
Ocean Cove Unit 214 1 bdrm + bunk nook, 1 bath oceanfront	\$239,000
Channel Harbor Unit C1 1 bdrm+bunk nook, 1 bath	\$209,900
A Place at the Beach Unit 2-J 2 bdrm, 2 baths side unit	\$ 298,000
Oceanside West Unit D-4 3 bdrm, 2 baths oceanfront	\$ 439,000

### Beach Lots

Concrete Canal Lot-50 Union St	\$ 1,100,000
Islander Resort-149 Via Marsh Lagoon Dr. Soundfront	\$475,000
Kings Lynn-6949 Kings Lynn Dr, Oceanfront-Holden Beach	\$775,000
Kings Lynn-6940 Kings Lynn Dr, Soundfront-Holden Beach	\$375,000

### Mainland Lots

Oyster Harbour-1866 Russell-Hewett Rd	\$ 96,000
Bricklanding GC-1633 Carriage Pl	\$ 120,000
Bricklanding GC-1625 Colonist Square.	\$ 120,000
Bricklanding GC-1803 Waterwing Dr.	\$ 99,000
Ocean Aire Estates – lots just off OIB, 4 lots each	\$ 28,000
Brookhaven Subd...Lot 10 in Brookhaven, 5 minutes to Wilmington.	\$ 325,000

### Mainland Homes

Hewett Farms-1336 Hewett Farms Rd- 4 bedroom 3.5 baths	\$ 639,000
Crow Creek GC-9235 Oldfield Rd. Calabash- 4 bedroom 4 baths	\$ 649,000
Supply...2321 Stanley Rd 2 bdrm, 2 bath	\$ 148,500
Brunswick Commons I Unit 3...2 bdrm, 2 bath	\$ 172,500

