



McClure Realty Vacations

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Winter 2013 Newsletter

Welcome to another edition of McClure Realty's quarterly newsletter. Did you think we wouldn't continue? A lot of you expressed to Martha how much you enjoyed her, and her newsletters. Also, that you miss her not being here anymore. Believe me, none of you miss her as much as I do. Don't get me wrong, I love my job, but it's not the same without her, ya know? But we, and our readers, love our newsletters too much to quit. While I don't have my mother's writing skills, she did teach me a thing or two in my 34 years on this earth, so I will carry on what she started with the same devotion to our loyal readers. Hope you enjoy!

Winter is kind of a love-or-hate season. You either love it or you hate it. However, with the crazy weather we've been having so far, our emotions about it are all over the place. One day it's a miserable 45 degrees and the next a satisfying 74. But nothing prepared us for the earliest snowfall for our area, ever, overnight on November 12-13. Of course, it didn't stick, but it snowed!



Snowflakes

A snowflake is either a single ice crystal or an aggregation of ice crystals which falls through the Earth's atmosphere. They begin as snow crystals which develop when microscopic supercooled cloud droplets freeze. Water droplets in clouds can remain liquid in temperatures below the freezing point, until they get together by chance and form a kind of lattice arrangement. It is then that they freeze around their centers. The crystal can then grow by collecting more water droplets from the cloud and adding them to its frozen arrangement. The shape and size to which it can grow varies by the temperature and humidity within the atmosphere that the snowflake falls through on its way to the ground. During their fall they may collide and stick together in clusters, which are

called aggregates. These are what are commonly seen in snowfall. A non-aggregated snowflake often exhibits six-fold radial symmetry. The initial symmetry can occur because the crystalline structure of ice is six-fold. The six "arms" of the snowflake, or dendrites, then grow independently, and each side of each arm grows independently. Most snowflakes are not completely symmetric, as they are commonly drawn or otherwise represented. Though it is true that no two snowflakes are alike, as each is made up of so many water droplets and each collection of water droplets will grow and develop in different rates, in different temperatures, in different humidity. So if you're lucky enough to catch a photograph of a snowflake, like the one here, that photo would truly be "one of a kind".

The above photo was taken by Wilson Bentley (1865-1931) who attached a microscope to a camera and was the first person to take a photograph of a snowflake in 1885.

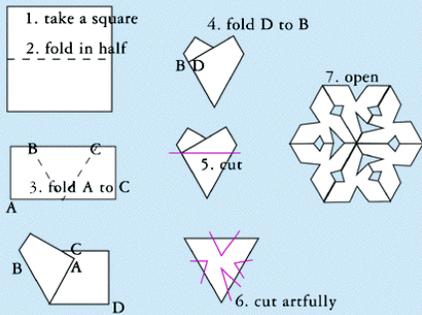


Make a paper snowflake!

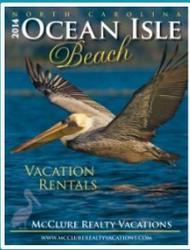
What you'll need:
white paper, scissors

Paper Snowflakes

1. take a square
2. fold in half
3. fold A to C
4. fold D to B
5. cut
6. cut artfully
7. open



Dec. 9 in the How to Draw a Radish Page-a-Day Calendar 2003
©2002 by Joy Sikorski



It's time again for our new Rental Brochures to be mailed. If you're not already on our mailing list, be sure to give us a call so you don't miss getting a 2014 Vacation Rental brochure! It's got a snazzy new look that you've got to see!

800-332-5476 or email ncmclure@atmc.net



*Wishing you and yours a very
Merry Christmas!*

**from the staff of
McClure Realty Vacations**

How's your Christmas shopping going?

We all have at least one person on our list for whom we have no idea what to get.

But we've got the answer.

McClure Realty Vacations Gift Certificates make great gifts for the people in your life who love the beach!

Gift certificates can be for a dollar amount you choose or for a complete stay if you choose dates and a unit.

Certificates are printed with the recipient's name and mailed to the purchaser for gift giving. Order by December 16, 2013 for a mailed certificate.

Certificates may be purchased through December 22, 2013, and emailed to purchaser to print at home.

So there's still time to get the perfect gifts for those hard-to-shop-for people on your list. Call or email Linda to order yours today!



McCLURE REALTY'S FACEBOOK SWEEPSTAKES

We've been running our Facebook Sweepstakes and asking you to "Like" our page on [Facebook](#). As promised, a lucky McClure Realty Vacations fan will win a free reservation fee (a \$60.00) value.



And our winner is...



Wendy Gunyula

Wendy Gunyula, when you book your reservation for 2014, your reservation will not be charged a reservation fee! If you already have a reservation, call us to make the adjustment in our records.

Prize has no cash value – it can only be applied to a 2014 reservation.

Make sure you go to [facebook](#) and [Like our page](#) to be in the running next year!

In our Spring 2013 newsletter, our featured animal was the White-Tailed Deer. For this issue, we've chosen another unlikely candidate. Unlikely that you'd see a fox at the beach you say? Well apparently some have. Granted they weren't sunbathing on a towel, but red foxes have been spotted on both the east and west ends of Ocean Isle Beach. Sneakier than the deer, foxes are a lot more difficult to photograph. But Sonny McKinney caught these shots on the east end near Ferry Landing Park. In my research on the Red Fox, I found that they are the largest species of fox and the most geographically spread, across the entire northern hemisphere, and were introduced to Australia. Scientists contribute this to its ability to quickly adapt to changing environments. Invertebrates were listed in its diet along with small rodents, birds, reptiles, and sometimes vegetation. So I suspect our island foxes might have a bit of seafood on their menu.

Foxes are normally seen in pairs or in small family groups, such as a mated pair and their young. The young of the mated pair remain with their parents to assist in caring for new kits. Red foxes either establish stable home ranges within particular areas or are nomadic with no fixed abode. Perhaps our foxes are roamers, since they've only been spotted sporadically.

While they may seem cute and cuddly to some, please remember, if you see a fox in Ocean Isle, or anywhere for that matter, it's a wild animal. Do not go near it and don't feed it!



Oyster Festival Review

The 33rd Annual North Carolina Oyster Festival, held on October 19 & 20 in Ocean Isle Beach, did not disappoint in bringing together festival goers for another great year! The headliners on Saturday the 19th were The Lost Trailers. They were joined by local favorites like Craig Woolard Band and Sea Cruz throughout the weekend.



Congratulations go to the Oyster Stew Cook-Off Winners:

1st Place - OIFC Wing and Fish Company Chef House

2nd Place - Planet Fun/Starz Grille - Susan McCall

3rd Place - Magnolia's Restaurant at Sea Trail Resort - Chef Ron Betts

Century 21® Sunset McClure Realty had a booth in the Oyster Festival this year and held a contest to see who could guess how many keys were in a huge bowl. You know, like how many jellybeans are in the jar? It turned out there were 644 keys in the bowl and the winners guessed 646. Congrats to Mr. & Mrs. Jim DeKay of Holden Beach, NC. They won a free weekend in an oceanfront condo!



What do locals do for fun in the off season?

We've been asked on more than one occasion what is there to do around here in the off season. We're lucky enough to enjoy great beach weather well into October around here. But when it gets too cold to go swimming, there are many other activities this area has to offer.

So what do we do for fun?

Wayne: GOLFING, GOLFING, and more GOLFING.

Jay: Shrimping on his friend's boat

Linda: Fishing with her husband out of Calabash

Cynthia: Trail riding on her friend's horse

Mike: Driving around his '56 Ford Customline

During the holidays, there is even more to do. Grissettown-Longwood Fire & Rescue, the same folks who bring us the Haunted Trail every October, hold a Christmas Train Show each December. Model trains as far as the eye can see. Plus baked goods, train-related gifts for sale, and photos with Santa! In Myrtle Beach, a must-see is [Shadrack's Christmas Wonderland](#). Occupying the Myrtle Beach Pelican's parking lot, it's a huge light show that is synchronized with a selection of songs you hear through your car's radio. [Click to watch a video for a sneak peek!](#)

There is also the Ocean Isle Beach Christmas Parade and Flotilla, always the Saturday after Thanksgiving, and the Shallotte Christmas Parade, always the first Saturday in December.

And when it gets too cold to enjoy anything outdoors, we just bunker down inside and wait for flip flop weather again, like everyone else!



On November 3, 2013, there was a rare hybrid eclipse of the sun, partially visible from the East Coast. A hybrid eclipse is one in which a "ring of fire" can be seen when the moon is in front of the sun but some of the sun is peeking out from around the moon for some of the time, then a complete eclipse, and then sometimes the ring of fire reappears. The best place to view this eclipse would have been from a ship in the Atlantic Ocean, but as the photos I shot reveal, the tail-end of the eclipse was still visible from the coast right at sunrise at 6:35 AM.

Facebook Giveaway

I'm working on another exciting giveaway that McClure Realty Vacations will hold after the first of the year via Facebook. I don't want to share too many details now, but it will be a great prize anyone will be happy to win! Make sure to "Like" our [Facebook page](#) where I'll be announcing the giveaway soon!



I've saved the good news for last!

McClure Realty Vacations strives to provide the best possible customer service to our renters. We've adapted some of our policies for 2014 to provide even more service!

- Departure cleaning is now included with almost all of our rentals! No more having to spend the whole last day cleaning. Because let's face it, who wants to clean on vacation? No more scrambling to come up with the cleaning fee during your stay. No more trying to remember to come in and pay for cleaning by Thursday. It's included in the rent amount! Done! Woohoo!
- To protect our renters from incurring costs of fixing/replacing items in our homes that are accidentally damaged, we've enacted a Worry-Free Protection Program. Under the Worry-Free Program, you will not be held responsible for paying for accidental loss or damage to the rental property resulting from yourself or others in your party up to \$2,000. We just ask that you report all damages that you notice upon check-in like always. If any damage should occur during your stay, notify our office immediately, and we'll take care of it. Purchasing the Worry-Free Program does not relieve your responsibilities as a tenant. You will be held responsible for obvious acts of neglect and any malicious damage and/or theft. But for those accidental mishaps, i.e. glass tabletop broken, baseball through the window, luggage dented a wall, etc. our renters are covered with just a flat \$50 damage waiver fee.

Our hope is that these changes help our guests have even better vacations than ever before! We love our renters, new and repeaters!



Call or visit the sales staff at
Century 21® Sunset McClure Realty for buying
or selling beach or mainland homes and lots.

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