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Ocean Isle Beach Sales

24 Causeway Dr.

Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469

(910)579-3586 | (910)579-3557 | (800)332-5476

E-mail: nmcclure@atmc.net

Spring 2010 Newsletter

We shouldn't open the Spring newsletter with pictures of snow, but since it's so rare around here, we find snow so exciting. We joke that there's a sign on the other side of the bridge saying, "No snow allowed." Well, we lied. We had snow on OIB the night of February 12/13. It wasn't much, but it was enough to make it look like a beautiful winter wonderland. This year, winter has been rough for us. We're not used to the cold. Our blood is thin. We have been "Southernized". It wasn't so much that it was colder than usual this winter, it was just consistently cold longer than usual. Normally we have a few days of freezing temperatures, and then we're right back to the mid sixties. Not this year! It was cold, and it stayed cold. Then, at last, we were rewarded with a gorgeous white view on Saturday morning. It was all worth it!



Wayne Melton thought he was all done shoveling snow when he moved down South...



Snowball fight in OIB?



The OIB firefighters had fun in the snow.

The holiday trivia went over so well in our Winter 2009 newsletter, we thought we'd give it another try. It's like the Spiderman 3 movie, or Superman 5 - If it worked the first time, just keep doing it. You'll find the answers on a later page.

St. Patrick's Day Trivia

1. When and where was the first St. Patrick's Day parade held?
2. What is the Chicago River famous for on St. Patrick's Day?
3. What does the phrase, "Erin Go Bragh" mean?
4. What is the origin of the word "shamrock"?
5. Why is the shamrock associated with St. Patrick's Day?
6. How are snakes associated with St. Patrick's Day?
7. Why are corned beef and cabbage associated with St. Patrick's Day?
8. What do leprechauns have to do with St. Patrick's Day?
9. Why is Ireland known as "The Emerald Isle"?
10. About how many Americans are of Irish descent?



Sand Dollars

The storms we had around Christmas time in Ocean Isle Beach brought hundreds of sand dollars out to the beach, where people picked them up and hauled them away in grocery bags and five gallon buckets. There were people out, even in the middle of the night, walking around with flashlights, picking up sand dollars from the surf. It was "like picking flowers in a field" said one of our homeowners, Roberta Chopko. I was lucky enough to find one on Christmas Eve, while I watched my grandson and nephew swimming in the chilly ocean water. The sand dollar is a very elusive creature, since it has no way of protecting itself except to burrow in the sand and hide. The sand dollar is of the same family as an urchin, or a sea star. They're usually about two to four inches wide, and about 3/8 of an inch thick. Sand dollars have no arms or legs, but they're covered with short spines called tube feet, which are used for locomotion and for burrowing in the sand. They live on the bottom, in shallow coastal waters, in temperate and tropical zones. They creep around mouth side down, constantly feeding on real tiny, disintegrating organic particles, just like sea stars do. The tube feet on top, on the part that looks like a flower, are used for breathing.

When one finds a sand dollar on the beach, that's just the exoskeleton of a dead one, since sand dollars cannot survive any time on the beach. When alive, a sand dollar looks like a fuzzy cookie, usually bluish or deep purple. It gets its name from being shaped like a big coin. When they're washed up on the beach, they lose their color, and turn grayish, which makes them look like a silver coin. The white ones are just bleached by the sun. In Spanish, they're called, "galletas del mar", or sea crackers. In the waters of the Caribbean, sand dollars are not as flat as they are in the US. In South Africa, they're called pansy shells, because they look like the pansy flower.

Sand dollars reproduce by releasing eggs and sperm into the water. There they join and develop into free-swimming larvae. Later they develop the hard skeleton and drop to the bottom. When the water is calm, sand dollars usually stand on their edge, but when there are strong currents, they burrow into the sand bottom. They'll even swallow sand to make themselves heavier so they don't get washed away.

When you break open a sand dollar, you find part of the creature inside. There are five tiny pieces inside, shaped like little doves. These, and the unusual pattern on the sand dollar has led to the legend of the sand dollar among Christians.

Legend of the Sand Dollar

There's a pretty little legend that I would like to tell
Of the birth and death of Jesus, found in this lowly shell
If you examine closely, you'll see that you find here
Four nail holes and a fifth one, made by a Roman's spear
On one side the Easter lily, its center is the star
That appeared unto the shepherds and led them from afar
The Christmas poinsettia etched on the other side
Reminds us of his birthday our happy Christmastide
Now break open the center, and you will release
The five white doves awaiting, to spread good will and peace



Gabriel Creech, age 3, shows off his find



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Day Trips

We often get asked what there is to do around here. Well, not much, and we're glad of that. You came to relax, didn't you? Charter a boat and go fishing, or fish off the surf. Grab a book and bring a chair and umbrella out to the beach. It doesn't get more relaxing than that. If you want a day full of activities, or you have a sunburn, and want to spend a day off the beach, we have some day trip ideas in this, and the following newsletter. Ocean Isle Beach has the distinction of being half-way between Myrtle Beach, SC, and Wilmington, NC. It should take you around forty five minutes to an hour to get to either place. After you get home tired of the traffic and the crowds, take off your shoes, wade in the ocean, and order dinner delivered to your beach house, because you won't even feel like cooking.

Put on some comfortable shoes, because here we go.

➡ If you have children, they'll love a ferry ride to the NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher/Kure Beach. The ferry leaves from Southport, and takes you and your car on a thirty five minute ride across the Cape Fear River. It's the best \$5.00 scenic cruise ever! If you need directions to Southport, just stop by the office of **R.H. McClure Realty**, and we'll give you a map.



<u>Leaving Southport</u>	<u>Leaving Fort Fisher</u>
5:30 a.m.	6:15 a.m.
7:00 a.m.	7:45 a.m.
7:45 a.m.	8:30 a.m.
8:30 a.m.	9:15 a.m.
9:15 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
10:45 a.m.	11:30 a.m.
11:30 a.m.	12:15 p.m.
1:00 p.m.	1:45 p.m.
1:45 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
2:30 p.m.	3:15 p.m.
3:15 p.m.	4:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m.	4:45 p.m.
4:45 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
6:15 p.m.	7:00 p.m.

If you decide to stay in Kure Beach for dinner and you miss the last ferry, don't worry. You can always drive up Hwy 421, to Wilmington, and drive south on Hwy 17. This is not recommended, because it's the long way around, but it's an alternative.

Be sure to bring popcorn, chips, or pieces of bread to feed the seagulls that follow the ferry hoping for a handout.



Once you exit the ferry, take a left turn onto Hwy 421, and visit the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher, one of three North Carolina aquariums. This aquarium was recently expanded, and it features marine life of the Cape Fear River, and nearby beaches and estuaries. It's open daily from 9:00 to 5:00. As of this writing, the cost was \$8.00 for adults, \$6.00 for youngsters 6-17. Children five and younger enter free.

➡ If boats and/or fish are not your thing, how about snakes? For a close encounter of the reptilian kind, try The Cape Fear Serpentarium, located in a nondescript old building at 20 Orange Street, in Downtown Wilmington. Take Hwy 17 up, and turn left on Third Street, as soon as you cross the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge. Turn left on Orange Street, towards the river. In the Serpentarium you will find eighty species of reptiles, including crocodiles, iguanas, monitors, and all kinds of snakes. They're open 11-5 on weekdays, and 11-6 Saturdays and Sundays. As of this writing, the cost was \$8.00 a person. For more information, visit their website at www.capefearserpentarium.com.

➡ While you're in Downtown Wilmington, take a walk along Riverfront Park, on Water Street. Or walk over to Chandler's Wharf, at 2 Ann Street, and visit Candles, Etc. Behind the store is a great river deck with gorgeous views of the Cape Fear River and the Memorial Bridge. Across the river, you'll see the Battleship USS North Carolina, docked off Eagle Island. The USS North Carolina is an authentically restored World War II ship, commissioned on April 9, 1942, during a time when US Navy ships were named for States of the Union. The USS North Carolina served in the Pacific during the war, and until she was decommissioned in June 1947. Just about the whole ship is open to the public on a self-guided tour which takes two and a half to three hours. The ship is open 8-8 during the summer, except on Independence Day when they close at 6:00 p.m. to prepare for the best fireworks display in the area. Please note there are tight places to go through, lots of walking, and very steep stairs. There's a snack area on board, but you may also bring a picnic lunch and eat at Battleship Park, or across the river, at Riverfront Park. As of this writing, the cost of the tour was \$12.00 a person. For more information, please visit their website at www.battleshipnc.com.

In future issues:

- OIB & NC are having birthdays.
- More trivia coming your way
- Sea Stars
- Day trips to Myrtle Beach, SC
- What's New?
- Old Baldy
- Island Sunsets



If you would like to see your beach photo on our newsletter, email us your jpg image with the subject line, "Newsletter photo".

You never know, we might use it in a future issue.

We especially need island sunset photos. Give us your name, so we know who to credit.

ncmclure@atmc.net

It's Tee Time!



History of the Golf Ball

Ever wonder about those little, white, golf balls? They've come a long way. Back in the 1500's, golf balls were made of wood. In the 1600's, feather balls, or Featheries, were made by balling up damp animal hide, usually horse hide, stitching it together, and stuffing it with wet goose feathers. As the leather dried, it shrank, while the feathers expanded, forming a hard ball. In 1848, the Smooth Guttie was made from the rubber-like sap of the tropical gutta tree, which was boiled and then rolled between two hard surfaces, forming a hard ball. When repairs were needed, they could easily be reheated and reshaped. This made balls cheaper and brought golf to the general public. The problem with Gutties was that they were smooth, so they didn't travel as far as the Featheries. This was solved during the Industrial Revolution. Golfers had discovered that balls which had been dented by play would fly better, so they started marking them on purpose, with a hammer, thus the Hand-hammered Guttie. They were also painted white, which made them easier to see. During this time, golf balls started being mass produced. In 1898 the first one-piece rubber core ball was made. It was wrapped in elastic thread, in a gutta casing. The modern dimple pattern was first made in 1905. On January 1, 1932, the USGA standardized the ball's weight and size to the same standards we still have today.



Feathery



Hand-hammered Guttie



Modern Dimple

Brunswick County Golf

Challenge your game and play one of over thirty five championship golf courses in Brunswick County, NC. Known as the "Golf Coast", Brunswick County has become a laid back alternative to the crowds and traffic of Myrtle Beach, without sacrificing level of play. Designers such as Byrd, Maples, Palmer and Couples have all stamped their signature on Brunswick County golf courses. There are bargain level public access tracks, mid-range surprises, and high end daily fee courses. You will find the right test for the right price with some of the most beautiful vistas you will ever encounter. Most courses are within a twenty minute drive of the Ocean Isle Beach bridge. So hit 'em straight, and hit 'em long.

Answers to St. Patrick's Day Trivia:

1. The first St. Patrick's Day parade was held in New York City on March 17, 1762.
2. Every St. Patrick's Day, since 1962, the Chicago River is dyed green.
3. The phrase "Erin Go Bragh" means Ireland Forever.
4. The word shamrock is a mispronunciation of the old Celtic term "seamroy" meaning "little clover".
5. The shamrock is associated with St. Patrick's Day because St. Patrick used a three-leaf shamrock to explain the holy trinity to his followers.
6. Snakes are associated with St. Patrick because it was said that St. Patrick banished all the snakes from Ireland. In reality, there never were snakes in Ireland.
7. Corned beef is associated with St. Patrick's Day because cabbage has always been a traditional Irish food. Corned beef replaced their preferred bacon around the turn of the 20th century, only because corned beef was cheaper than bacon.
8. Leprechauns have nothing to do with St. Patrick's Day. They're an American idea started by Walt Disney Productions' film *Darby O'Gill & the Little People*, starring Sean Connery when he still had hair.
9. Ireland is known as "The Emerald Isle" because of its green hills due to the almost ninety inches of annual rainfall they receive.
10. Over forty million Americans trace their ancestry to Ireland. One of them is our very own Linda Creech.

Fishing in Ocean Isle Beach

If you're planning on doing some fishing in Ocean Isle Beach, don't forget to get your fishing license. They can be purchased locally at Island Tackle, 6855 Beach Drive in Ocean Isle, or online at www.ncwildlife.org. A 10-day license for non-residents is just \$10. You can also get one by phone by calling 888-248-6834 and using a VISA or Mastercard. A Coastal Recreational Fishing License (CRFL) is required when fishing in our waters. It is not required, however, when you fish from one of the area's charter boats or from the pier. A CRFL is not needed for crabbing or shrimping, just for harvesting any kind of finfish. It is also not required for individuals under 16 years old. Still have questions? Call the NC Wildlife number or go online for more information.



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.rhmclurerealty.com to view all listings in Brunswick County

Beach Homes

Oceanfront-123 West 1 st St 5 bdr., 4 baths, pool	\$1,295,000
Ocean Front-436 East 2 nd St 4 bdrm 2 baths	\$ 750,000
Oceanfront-110 East 1 st St 2 bdrm 2 bath 75' lot	\$1,050,000
Concrete Canal- 11 Leland St. 4 bdrm 4 bath	\$ 739,900
Concrete canal -16 Raeford St. 4 bdrm, 4bath	\$ 589,000
2 nd Row -55 E 1 st St – 5 bdrm, 5.5 bath	\$ 849,999
2 nd Row-169 E 1 st St 3 bdrm, 2 bath, half of duplex	\$ 424,900
3 rd Row-250 E 2 nd St 5 bdrm, 2 bath	\$ 575,000
3 rd Row -286 E 2 nd St -4 bdrm, 3 bath	\$ 595,000
Island Park Cottages-3 Myrtle Ct 4 bdrm 2 bath	\$ 519,000

Beach Condos

Windjammer Unit 2-A -4 bdrm, 4 baths oceanfront	\$ 650,000
Windjammer Unit 1-I – 2 bdrm, 2 baths oceanfront	\$ 329,000
Windjammer Unit 1-J 2 bdrm 2 baths oceanfront	\$349,000
Ocean Point Unit 604 high rise unit 2 bdrm 2 baths	\$ 549,000
Ocean Point Unit 1002 high rise unit,3 bdrm, 3 baths	\$ 685,000
Ocean Point Penthouse high rise, 3 bdrm, 4 baths	\$889,000
Ocean Cove Unit 122 1 bdrm + bunk nook, 1 bath oceanfront	\$249,000
Ocean Cove Unit 214 1 bdrm + bunk nook, 1 bath oceanfront	\$224,900
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 G-1 2 bdrm, 2 baths	\$ 334,500
Starboard by the Sea – 3 bdrm, 2 bath mid-island	\$279,900

Beach Lots

Concrete Canal Lot-50 Union St	\$995,000
Oceanfront Lot West End, Gated Community	\$995,000
Kings Lynn-6949 Kings Lynn Dr, Oceanfront-Holden Beach	\$775,000
Kings Lynn-6940 Kings Lynn Dr, Soundfront-Holden Beach	\$375,000

Mainland Homes

Hewett Farms-1336 Hewett Farms Rd- 4 bedroom 3.5 baths	\$ 550,000
Crow Creek GC-9235 Oldfield Rd. Calabash- 4 bedroom 4 baths	\$ 575,000

Mainland Lots

Oyster Harbour-1866 Russell-Hewett Rd	\$ 96,000
Bricklanding GC-1633 Carriage Pl	\$ 120,000
Bricklanding GC-1625 Colonist Square	\$ 120,000
Ocean Pine St. – 1.3 acres near Saucepan Creek	\$ 275,000
Ocean Aire Estates – lots just off OIB, 4 lots each	\$ 28,000
Brookhaven Subd...Lot 10 in Brookhaven, 5 minutes to Wilmington.	\$ 325,000

You haven't booked your 2010 Summer Rental yet?
Then stop by rhmclurerealty.com/specials to view an updated list of rentals offering discounts or special pricing.

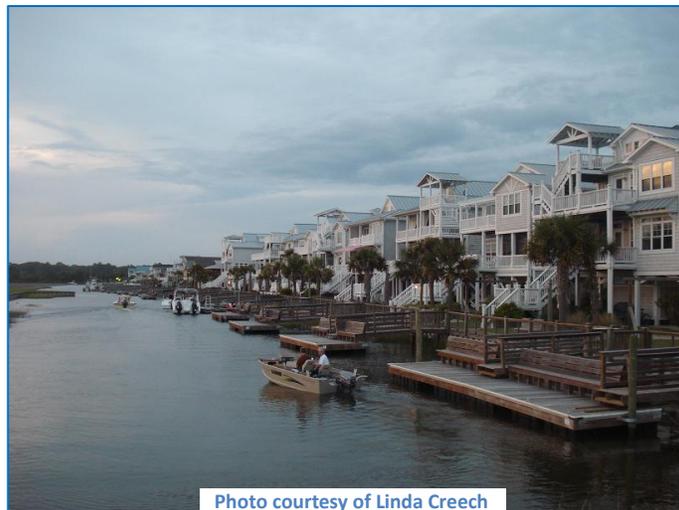


Photo courtesy of Linda Creech