



Spring 2011 Newsletter

Spring 2011. I had to write it one more time, since it felt so good to write it down the first time. I hope reading it makes you think of flowers and fresh air, and makes you forget the cold and snow. Are you all as tired of winter as I am? I can't wait for summer - walks on the beach, wearing shorts and flip flops, the sun's warmth on bare arms and neck, and colorful umbrellas dotting the sand. This winter, the US was hit with back to back blizzards, and snow and ice, which broke records in parts of the country. Ocean Isle Beach didn't get any snow, but it was still too cold for us. We're really looking forward to Spring 2011. There, I just had to say it again.



Don't pay it any attention.
 Who cares what the calendar says?
 Spring's still a month away,
 It's a bit early, but nevertheless
 Like the groundhog at Punxatawney,
 This little flower peeked out of the ground.
 Had one Indian summer day tricked it?
 Will it slip back home without a sound?
 If I look out tomorrow,
 And see more flowers out here,
 I'll rejoice for the strong, daring flowers,
 Which tell me Spring time is near.

Bells will be ringing...

This will be the last newsletter that Linda Creech will work on. No, she's not leaving McClure Realty. On May 1 Linda will become Mrs. Michael Roth. Our very own wedding planner is busy planning her own wedding. All of us at R.H. McClure Realty wish Linda and Michael many years of happiness and joy.

*Time to think about your family's
 Summer vacation. Call McClure
 Realty today to book your
 summer rental!
 (800) 332-5476*

Some things are new, some things are different

If there was one thing missing in this area – besides crowds, and heavy traffic – that one thing was a local Taco Bell. Good news taco lovers, Taco Bell is coming to Shallotte soon. I know, we have Calabash, the Seafood Capital of the World, with over twenty restaurants in a one-mile radius. We have Japanese food, Mexican, Chinese, and Italian. We have great sandwiches at The Causeway Gourmet, and oceanfront dining at The Isles plus waterfront dining at Cinellis and Sharkys, so why would you care about a new Taco Bell opening up? OK, just in case, it's on Main Street, in Shallotte, on the north end of town, past Wal-Mart.

Remember Bourbon Street Restaurant? If you blinked, you missed it. The old *Victoria Restaurant*, on the corner of Causeway and Beach Dr. had reopened as *Bourbon Street Restaurant*, but it didn't last long. It has reopened again as *125 Oyster Bar and Grill*. *Southerners* in Calabash didn't hang around very long either. It has reopened as *Sandtrap Restaurant & Bar*. Check them both out while you're in town, and let us know what you think. We're always looking for input from our readers. Send us a restaurant review and you'll win a by line on our newsletter.

Remember Dixie Stampede in North Myrtle Beach? Alas, that's gone too. The good news is that a new attraction will be opening in its place this coming June. It will be a dinner theatre attraction called Pirates Voyage. For more information please visit www.piratesvoyage.com.



There's another new attraction coming in April to Broadway at the Beach. WonderWorks is being touted as an "amusement park for the mind". Located at the site of the old Crab House Restaurant, it looks like a building that flew in and landed upside down. You can experience a hurricane in the hurricane shack, or you can "land" the Discovery Space Shuttle, among other things. There are also two outside attractions: the WonderWorks zipline takes you fifty feet above water, and travels 1,000 feet between towers. The pirate-themed ropes course is a three-level, forty-foot high structure with different levels of difficulty.

Although most people think that the symbol of Ireland is the



it really is a



We wish you a Happy St. Patrick's Day, whether you're Irish or not.



Restaurant Review

Wayne Melton had this to say about **Sandtrap**, the newest restaurant in Calabash: "The Fisk Family has done it again! They made a fine restaurant in the *Sunrise Pancake House* for years. Now, they have opened a bigger and better restaurant with a large parking lot for their loyal and future patrons. Mr. Fisk says, 'The décor is very pleasant and inviting for the comfort of our patrons'. They now have a large sports bar and fine dining area. They are moderately priced with the best of foods! The Fisk Family will please their patrons in every way! Your dining experience will be well satisfied here!"

If you would like to voice your opinion about our local restaurants, please send us an email (ncmclure@atmc.net) with the subject line "Restaurant Review", and we'll post it in a future issue.



Great Blue Heron

Our friend the heron gets his photo in our newsletter again. He's such a frequent visitor to our rear window that we've grown quite fond of him. He loves it here at low tide. The great blue heron, the largest of the American herons, loves the marshlands, swamps and tide flats. They make a funny sound deep in their throat which sounds like they're calling "Frank", or maybe our friend is just introducing himself. The scientific name for the Great Blue Heron is *Ardea herodias*. We like Frank better. They make their home in North and Central America, the West Indies and the Galapagos Islands. The Great Blue heron can measure about four feet tall, and has a wingspan of about six feet. It's really grey, not blue, with a brown neck and

legs, and white chest. The funny little feathers on the top of his head are bluish black. Blue herons used to be hunted for their beautiful feathers, which were used to decorate women's hats, until a law was passed banning their use.

Heron nests are built in trees or the sides of cliffs. They reuse the same nest year after year, if they can, adding more sticks to it as needed. The female lays three to seven green eggs at a time, and only one brood is raised each year. The eggs incubate for about four weeks. If a human intrudes on a heron's nest, the nest is usually abandoned. Other predators include raccoons, and hawks. Both parents take turns guarding the nest and keeping the eggs warm, until the young can fend on their own when they're about two months old. The parents then separate, and they must find new partners for the following breeding season.

Blue herons are supposed to eat frogs, and lizards, insects and rodents, but fish is their favorite food; back here, during low tide, they feast on fish, spearing them in their long, sharp beaks, throwing them up in the air and catching them on the way down. Sometimes we watch our friend struggling with a fish that seems too big for him, but he eventually swallows it whole. Blue herons have been known to choke trying to swallow large prey. "Our"

blue heron seems so laid back, just standing on one spot, waiting for a fish to swim by. A quick jab of the beak is all it takes, the fish is swallowed, and he's back to just standing there, as if he was enjoying the view.



THE HERON



The heron stands in water where the swamp
Has deepened to the blackness of a pool,
Or balances with one leg on a hump
Of marsh grass heaped above a musk-rat hole.

He walks the shallow with an antic grace.
The great feet break the ridges of the sand,
The long eye notes the minnow's hiding place.
His beak is quicker than a human hand.

He jerks a frog across his bony lip,
Then points his heavy bill above the wood.
The wide wings flap but once to lift him up.
A single ripple starts from where he stood.

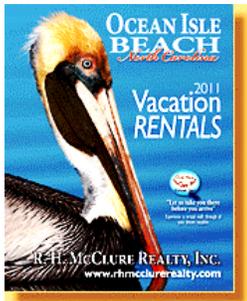
--Theodore Roethke (1908-1963)

Things to do at the beach...

Some of you have been coming to OIB for years and years, and can probably add to our list, but for you newbies to the area, we'll like to give you some ideas, so you will never have a dull moment while you're here.

- Write a message on the sand, take a picture of it and post it on Facebook.
- Eat some Italian ice from Sunset Slush when the cart comes by on the sand.
- Pick up a real estate brochure and think about moving down here some day.
- Go surf fishing, (don't forget your fishing license), or fish off the pier.
- Read a book (Don't get your Kindle wet).
- Play miniature golf across the street from the pier (all day for one price).
- Take lots of pictures.
- Play the guitar and sing real loud. You'll end up with a big audience and make new friends.
- Go kayaking, or jet skiing (there are several rental places on the island).
- Collect pretty seashells in a jar, and take them home. (Free souvenir).
- Go on a dolphin watching cruise.
- Rent a bike or a Scoot Coupe and tour the island.
- Look for turtle nests. (Make sure to report any new ones to Gloria, "the Turtle Lady" Hillenberg at 910-754-9513 or 910-232-7232).
- Watch the kids skim boarding at the edge of the water.
- Attend our Summer Concerts every Friday, from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend.
- Play Frisbee or Beach Bocci on the sand.
- Have a drink at Sharkey's Restaurant, while watching the boats go by.
- Take a surfing lesson with the Powell brothers at Carolina School of Surf.
- Visit the island gift shops.
- Play tennis at the Ocean Isle Beach Park on Old Georgetown Road.
- Attend church service on the beach on Sundays.
- Build a sand castle.
- Visit the Planetarium in Sunset Beach.
- Watch our beautiful sunsets.
- Eat some local seafood.
- Play a round (or two) of golf.
- Take an airplane tour of the island from the Scenic Airplane Rides at the OIB Airport.
- Take a nap.
- Try your luck on one of the casino boat cruises out of Little River.
- Have a wine tasting at Silver Coast Winery.
- Check out the great view out the back window of McClure Realty.
- Leave the kids at home with grandma and take a romantic evening walk on the beach with your sweetie.
- Look towards the east at night, and try to catch the blinking lights of Caswell Island and Bald Head Island lighthouses.
- Have a cookout and invite your neighbors (and your friendly rental staff).
- Go watch a movie at Coastal Cinema in Shallotte.
- If you're into jogging, try to jog from one end of the island to the other (seven miles one way).
- Take the kids to Planet Fun.
- Hire a photographer to have a family portrait taken.
- Put your morning coffee in a travel mug and take an early morning stroll on the beach.
- Check out the ghost crabs scampering into their burrows on the sand.
- Visit the Museum of Coastal Carolina on Second Street.
- Bury the kids in the sand. (Don't leave them there).
- Sit on the shore and do nothing.
- Fly a kite.





RH McClure Realty's 2011 Vacation Rentals brochure are available!

Call for yours today!

(800) 332-5476

We have had a busy winter here at R.H. McClure Realty. The information for the 2011 rental brochure was sent to the printers early so the brochure would be in your hands by mid December – in time for you to discuss your summer plans during holiday family get togethers. And you know all the neat stuff you find in your envelopes when you check in? Those envelopes don't stuff themselves, you know... Then, just before the holidays, we were busy processing our advance reservations. They were mailed out to the renters on December 27. By then the new brochure had arrived and it was time to start taking new reservations from those of you who had been anxiously waiting for that brochure to arrive. We always smile, and sometimes giggle a bit when we're asked, "What do you do this time of year?" or, "Don't you get bored during this 'down time'?" or, "Isn't it nice not having anything to do?" The truth of the matter is that January is one of our busiest months. During February and March when it slows down a bit (and after it warms up some) we start checking properties to be sure everything is as it should be during your stay. We're looking forward to seeing our "old" guests. Some of you have been coming to OIB for so many years, it's like a family reunion here every Saturday, seeing the old, familiar faces, seeing the children growing up, year after year. We're also looking forward to our new guests, meeting new people, and making new friends.



R.H. McClure Builders is a trusted Brunswick County builder for new homes, remodeling, and commercial construction.

Get to know us and realize your possibilities. 910-579-2454 www.rhmcclurebuilders.com



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

Bob Kennette
910-540-5940

B. Wayne Melton
910-233-6606

John Hightower
910-520-0533

Or visit our website at www.rhmclclurealty.com to view all listings in Brunswick County

Beach Homes

Oceanfront-3 Coggleshall, 6 br,5 bath, under constr.	\$1,699,000
Oceanfront-5 Coggleshall, 6 br,6 ba fractnl ownrshp	\$ 195,000
Oceanfront-124 East 1 st St 4 br, 4 bath	\$1,435,000
Concrete canal -16 Raeford St. 4 br, 4bath	\$ 569,000
Natural canal – 79 Wilmington, 6 br, 2 bath	\$ 550,000
2 nd Row-169 E 1 st St 3 br, 2 bath, half of duplex	\$ 399,000
Island Park Cottages-3 Myrtle Ct 4 br, 2 bath	\$ 359,900

Beach Condos

Windjammer Unit 2-A -4 br, 4 bath, oceanfront	\$ 590,000
Windjammer Unit 1-J – 2 br, 2 bath, oceanfront	\$ 329,000
Windjammer Unit 1-I – 2 br, 2 bath, oceanfront	\$ 329,000
Oceanside West Ph 2 B-2 – 3 br, 2 bath, oceanfront	\$ 339,000
Ocean Isle Villas B-1 -3 br, 2 bath oceanfront	\$ 344,900
Starboard by the Sea – 3 br, 2 bath mid-island	\$ 269,900

Beach Lots

Oceanfront Lot West End, Gated Community	\$ 899,000
Kings Lynn-6940 Kings Lynn Dr, Soundfront-Holden Beach	\$375,000

Mainland Homes

Hewett Farms-1336 Hewett Farms Rd- 4 bedroom 3.5 baths	\$ 539,000
Crown Stream – 1600 Crownstream Dr.- 3 bedroom 2 bath	\$199,500

Mainland Lots

Bricklanding GC – lot	\$ 69,900
Bricklanding GC-1633 Carriage Pl	\$ 99,000
Bricklanding GC-1625 Carriage Pl	\$ 99,000
Crow Creek – 389 Autumn Loop, golf course lot	\$ 82,000
Crown Stream – 1602 Crownstream Drive	\$ 49,000
Brookhaven Subd...Lot 10 in Brookhaven, 5 min. to Wilmington	\$325,000

