

Time Line

The Friends of the Outer Banks History Center

Nationally Recognized Sculptor Speaks About Civil War Art

The Friends of the Outer Banks History Center were honored to host renowned sculptor Gary Casteel on Friday, April 20, 2012 at our annual membership meeting. As part of an ongoing observance of the sesquicentennial of the U.S. Civil War, Casteel gave a presentation on the process of lithography and how it was used to illustrate battles to the masses. He also shed new light on the Civil War sketches of Edwin Graves Champney and James Wells Champney, two cousins from Massachusetts, who were stationed in eastern North Carolina during the war. These Champney sketch collections are both among the holdings of the Outer Banks History Center.



Sculptor Gary Casteel with one of his creations.

Casteel taps his keen sense of history and distinctive artistic talent to create larger-than-life outdoor works and memorable paintings and indoor sculptures. His stunning works can be seen in parks and museums across the country, and in the collections of prominent Americans including President George W. Bush and Katie Couric. Casteel lives with his wife and daughter, who frequently accompany him in period attire, at Cashtown, Pa. close to Gettysburg National Military Park. More about Casteel can be seen at www.garycasteel.com.

The Outer Banks History Center is a regional archives and research library, administered by the State Archives of North Carolina, located in Manteo on historic Roanoke Island, North Carolina. The center collects, preserves and interprets the history and culture of the North Carolina coast. The Friends of the Outer Banks History Center play a crucial role in supporting the mission of the Outer Banks History Center by funding the purchase and conservation of valuable documents and research materials, and by supporting outreach and promotional activities and events.

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The Friends of the
OBHC

Outer Banks History Center

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A Word from the Chair

Dear Friends,



On behalf of the Friends of the Outer Banks History Center, I am excited to share our latest newsletter with you. It is a dynamic time in terms of Outer Banks history, with several notable events and related exhibits being held at the History Center. From the Civil War anniversary dates on Roanoke Island to special events, to a continued focus on preservation and research, your Outer Banks History Center remains involved across a wide spectrum of our community.

Our intent with this newsletter is to provide a **snapshot of what's going on at the center, as well as** some insights into the history-oriented community in northeastern North Carolina. Please feel free to share your feedback with us or recommend topics for a future edition. We hope you enjoy this issue!

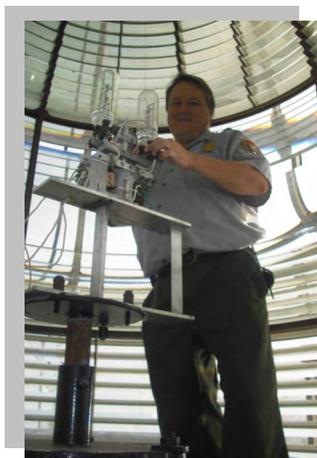
No newsletter would be complete without a thank you to the staff of the History Center—KaeLi, Tama, Sarah, and Stuart. Thank you for all you do in support of our community and our history!

I also encourage you . . . See page 4, bottom left, for a membership form to fill out. Cut it out or photocopy, then forward with your check. Enjoy the fall on the Outer Banks, perhaps take a moment to visit a historical site, and thank you for your support. Best,

Clark Twiddy

Chairman, Friends of the Outer Banks History Center

The Friends board and History Center staff wish to express our utmost appreciation to Doug Stover who recently passed the chairmanship reins to Clark after a 5 year stint as chairman, and 6 years on the Friends board. Under his tenure, the Friends saw a name change (from the **former "Associates"**), hosted many speakers and events, held fund-raisers, and provided valuable advocacy for the center.



Doug Stover inside the Fresnel lens of the Bodie Island Lighthouse

New OBHC Exhibit to Feature Dare County in the 1930s

The OBHC will premiere its next exhibit, "**Dare County in the 1930s: Decade of Determination**" on March 1, 2013. During the 1930s, the Wright Memorial Bridge opened the area to automobile traffic, while new hotels catered to the traveling public. Workers from the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Works Progress Administration (WPA) literally changed the landscape by constructing sand dunes. The Kill Devil Hills Monument (now Wright Brothers National Memorial) was dedicated while the county saw its first local newspaper, public library, airport, and fishing pier. President Franklin D. Roosevelt came to witness the birth of outdoor symphonic drama at the Waterside Theater with the debut of Paul Green's "**The Lost Colony.**" It was a pivotal time with an impact that affects us to this day.

The Outer Banks History Center hosted a "**Sneak Peak**" preview during its Archive Week program Tuesday, October 23, 2012 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. The Outer Banks History Center staff provided refreshments and hospitality to an interested and inquisitive group of visitors who were anxious to **participate in the "Sneak Peak" event.** The entire OBHC staff and many volunteers are fully engaged in producing what promises to be another outstanding exhibit. It will remain on display through Oct. 15, 2013. Please join us for the opening reception, March 1, 5:30-7:30 p.m., hosted by the Friends. The event is free and open to the public.



CCC boys building sand fences along the Outer Banks. D. Victor Meekins Collection, Outer Banks History Center.

Volunteer of the Year Award Dennis Schurr



Dennis Schurr,
2012 Volunteer of the Year.

Manteo's Dennis Schurr was named the recipient of the 2012 Lois W. Bradshaw Volunteer of the Year Award at the **Friends' annual meeting.**

Schurr has been an eager supporter of the History Center since he moved to Manteo in 2001. Because of his enthusiasm in the Civil War, he has played many pivotal roles this year. He assured OBHC representation in exhibits and events dedicated to the national and statewide 150th anniversary of the Civil War; donated period newspapers, assisted with

the OBHC Civil War exhibit, arranged for period costumed attendees at events, orchestrated the annual meeting program, staffed a membership table, and was on the schedule for a 2nd Saturday presentation. In announcing this award, then-chairman Doug Stover expressed the appreciation of the staff and **Friends board, "We've been able to accomplish so much with Dennis' assistance this year, and over many years. Dennis' time has come to be honored for going over and above the call of duty." If his name sounds familiar, that's because he is married to KaeLi Schurr, OBHC curator.**

The Volunteer of the Year award began in 2008 to **honor retired librarian Lois Bradshaw's extraordinary** service to the center for over a decade—staffing the reference desk, caring for collections, and assisting with virtually every activity of the center. Previous awardees are Virginia "Lou" Overman (2009), Shea Foreman (2010), and David "Turtle" Creef (2011).

If you are interested in volunteering at the History Center, we invite you to contact anyone on the staff or Friends board, or submit the application on our web site. **We match assignments to our volunteers' interests and skill sets, and are very flexible about scheduling. Come join us!**

Audrey Herd Memorial Award

Each year, the Friends of the OBHC support two \$100 awards for National History Day in North Carolina. The Audrey Herd Memorial Award recognizes outstanding work by junior high and senior high students, either individual or groups. Topics for projects must focus on coastal or maritime history. Students from all over the state, their teachers and mentors, and a cadre of volunteer judges gather at the N.C. Museum of History for presentations and displays. The day culminates with an awards ceremony. Winners go on to compete at a national contest.

History Day coordinator Laura Ketcham says, "It means so much to the students to be recognized. Winning an award certificate and prize money validates the hard work they do and encourages future participation in History Day.

This year, the Junior Level Audrey Herd Award **went to Keegan Moloney from St. Peter's Catholic School, Greenville, for his individual documentary, "Underwater Revolution: The Alvin."**

The Senior Level Audrey Herd Award was given to Rachel Lensch, Marianna Baggett, and Sarah Catherine Seawell from the Cape Fear Academy, **Wilmington for their group website, "Hurricane Hazel: A Whirlwind of Reform." This group's project also won 1st Prize in its category at the state completion so the group went on to compete at the national contest in June.**

The Audrey Herd Memorial Award honors the late Audrey Herd, former board member, treasurer and supporter of the Outer Banks History Center Associates (now Friends). Ms. Herd gave freely of her time and talents and was instrumental in the growth of the Associates at a time of change and expansion.



David Brook, left, and Dr. Jeffrey Crow, right, of North Carolina NCDCCR flank the winners of the Audrey Herd Award.

Last Chance to See the OBHC Civil War Exhibit

Our current exhibit, "The Civil War Comes to Roanoke Island: Fishers, Fighters and Freedmen," comes down at the end of December so now is your last chance to see it. Bring your friends and relatives to learn a little known chapter in our unique Outer Banks history. "The Civil War Comes to Roanoke Island: Fishers, Fighters and Freedmen" tells the story of a sparsely populated Roanoke Island and how it became the scene of an important engagement early in the Civil War. Confederates tried to fortify the island in preparation of its defense, but the 3,000 southern troops were no match for the 10,000 soldiers of the **Burnside Expedition that landed on Roanoke's shores** in February of 1862. Union victory meant control of the waterways in northeastern North Carolina, and paved the way for additional Union control of the Tar

Heel State. "The Civil War Comes to Roanoke Island: Fishers, Fighters and Freedmen" runs through December 30, 2012.



Union gunboats firing upon Fort Bartow and federal troops land at Ashbee's Harbor. *Pictorial War Record*, Outer Banks History Center.

New Acquisitions

Recent notable collections acquired by the OBHC:

- Outer Banks Forum for the Lively Arts Records
- Huntington Cairns Slide Collection
- **People to Preserve Jockey's Ridge Records**
- Col. Charles Russell Journal
- Millard Blackwell Creef Letters
- Edenton Peanut Company Letters
- First and Citizens National Bank (Elizabeth City) Minute Book
- Elizabethan Gardens Special Areas Records
- Cape Hatteras Lighthouse 1999 Move Architectural Files
- **O'Neal Family Papers**

The center was able to fill a large gap in local history resources from a critical time in the Outer Banks region by purchasing the Elizabeth City Daily Advance newspaper, January 1, 1940 - January 31, 1951 in 24 reels microfilm.

We are always looking for new suitable collections for our holdings. If you have papers or photographs that you think might help us preserve the history and culture of the Outer Banks, please contact a staff member.

The Friends of the Outer Banks History Center

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

NEW MEMBER

RENEWAL

STUDENT...\$15.00

PATRON...\$250.00

INDIVIDUAL...\$25.00

CORPORATE...\$500.00

FAMILY...\$40.00

BENEFACTOR...\$1000.00

SPONSOR...\$100.00

UNDERWRITER...\$2500.00

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