

Time Line

The Friends of the Outer Banks History Center

Panel Discussion: Dare County in the 1930s: Decade of Determination *by Jack Guard*

The Friends of the Outer Banks History Center held their Annual Membership meeting on Friday April 12, 2013. The meeting was preceded by a wonderful panel discussion in the Roanoke Island



OBHC Site Manager Kaelli Schurr moderates the panel that included Brian Edwards, Sarah Downing, John Havel, and Jim Senter (L to R).

Festival Park Small Auditorium covering the featured exhibit of ***Dare County in the 1930s: Decade of Determination***. The presentation featured four outstanding and knowledgeable panelists. The four featured panelists were Brian Edwards, John Havel, Jim Senter and Sarah Downing.

Brian Edwards is currently an Assistant Professor of History at College of the Albemarle. He shared his thoughts based on much of what he had learned through kitchen table stories. He concentrated much of his opening presentation on W.O. Saunders who operated “The Independent.”

John Havel is compiling a history of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. John shared information about hurricanes on Hatteras Island in the 1930s. He spoke of the influence of keeper Unaka Jeanette. He also spoke to the group about the decommissioning of the lighthouse in 1935 and its transition to a monument under the supervision of the National Park Service.

Jim Senter emphasized the massive impact of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) on the Outer Banks during the 1930s. He spoke at length about the changes the CCC brought to the fragile coastal (*Continued on Page 4*)

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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A Word from the Chair



Hello Friends,

We are pleased to share our spring History Center newsletter with you, and hope this finds us all enjoying the **arrival of spring. We're in the middle** of a truly unique period of history on the Outer Banks, from continuing Civil War celebrations to the recent re-lighting of the Bodie Island

Lighthouse. Of the many things that make our region unique to both our residents and visitors, our collective history is something especially worthy of remembrance and recognition.

In this edition you'll find information and updates on a range of OBHC activities, from our public panel on life on the Outer Banks in the 1930's to snapshots of the Friends as reflected in our most recent meeting.

We're excited to welcome several new board members—Karol Hines, Aida Havel, and Bob Matchette are all welcome additions to the Friends and are already making wonderful contributions to supporting Outer Banks history. We remain a collection of volunteers from across the region who share a passion for history and a willingness to spend some time supporting that passion. Please consider joining us as a member, volunteer, or board member. It's a great avenue to make a difference.

We are also delighted to recognize LeVern Davis Parker as our Volunteer of the Year. LeVern represents so much of what we as a group strive to accomplish and reflect. Thank you for your long and outstanding service LeVern!

Look for the Friends to engage locally in several venues this year as we seek to highlight the contributions of the History Center both on the **Outer Banks and across the region. If you can't make it to Manteo, we hope to find a venue close to you.**

Thank you as always to the Friends group and the Staff of the History Center. Together, I believe what **we're working on is truly worth remembering.**

Best,
Clark

The OBHC Joins Special Collections of the State Archives

As of March 1, the OBHC became a part of the Special Collections Section of the State Archives of North Carolina. The move is due to a re-organization of the State Archives. The History Center was formerly under the Historical Resources Branch which has now been dissolved.

The Special Collections Section is charged with collecting, arranging and describing, and making available to the public photographs, maps, private papers, and other special collections materials that supplement and complement the public records of state and local government in North Carolina. The legislation that created the State Archives of North Carolina allowed it to collect private materials. We are among few state archives in the nation to do so.

The shift of the OBHC to be a part of Special Collections, along with the recently formed Western Regional Archives, is an excellent fit and acknowledges the unique nature of our holdings and services. Unlike most of the functions within the State Archives, we are not a repository for records created by governmental entities but rather a regional archives and research library, all focused on our local history and its related topics.

The Special Collections Section is led by James Sorrell, a 34-year veteran of the State Archives. A native North Carolinian, he grew up in rural Wake County. Sorrell earned both BA and MA degrees in history from North Carolina State University (1978 and 1981 respectively) and began his journey with the State Archives as a part-time student worker beginning in 1977. He joined the staff full-time in 1979 and was promoted to Branch Head of the Special Collections Branch in 2005.

The OBHC staff and Friends board welcome James to our Outer Banks History Center circle and look forward to a long and fruitful relationship!

Volunteer of the Year Award LeVern Davis Parker



Volunteer of the Year, LeVern Parker, accepts her award plaque from FOBHC Chair Clark Twiddy.

The Friends of the Outer Banks History Center announce LeVern Davis Parker as the 2013 recipient of the Lois W. Bradshaw Volunteer of the Year Award. Parker has been volunteering at the OBHC for

several years and assists the staff with a variety of tasks. In addition to helping with routine operations such as working the reference desk or installing exhibits, some of the larger projects LeVern has completed are inventories of the Barton Bauers Collection of material about area flora and the Leon G. Balance Collection of Hyde County history and Genealogy and transcribing a large collection of Civil War letters.

A Manteo native, LeVern knows much of the history about her island home. Her father Vernon and uncle Ralph were the Davis brothers, well-known Manteo boatbuilders. She is a wonderful resource on whom we often rely. LeVern is a retired professor of history at College of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City. She lives in Kill Devil Hills with her husband Roy. When she is not volunteering, LeVern enjoys reading, traveling and genealogy.

The Volunteer of the Year award, now in its fifth year, was begun 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.

Board Members Attend Grant Writing Workshop

Two members of the Board of Directors of Friends of the Outer Banks History Center attended a grant writing workshop on Tuesday February 12, 2013 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Kill Devil Hills. Karol Hines and Jack Guard attended the workshop to learn about the specifics of writing grant proposals and how the process could be used to help assist non-profit organizations in securing funds for future projects.

The workshop opened with a welcome from Lorelei Costa, Executive Director of the Outer Banks Community Foundation and Bob Muller, Chair of the Nonprofit Outreach Committee of the Outer Banks Community Foundation. The one day **workshop was titled “From Great Idea to Winning Grant Proposal” and was conducted by Melissa Le Roy, Member, Board of Directors for N.C. Center for Nonprofits.**

Ms. Le Roy covered various topics such as finding funding, formatting cover letters, writing an executive summary, preparing a needs statement, properly stating organizational goals and objectives, developing method and evaluation sections of the proposal, program sustainability, and budget preparation. Le Roy summarized the workshop with suggestions of how to put all of the pieces together to result in a grant proposal worthy of funding and community support.

The workshop was presented by the Outer Banks Community Foundation and the North Carolina Center for Nonprofits, and was sponsored by the Simpson-Sharp-Oakes Fund, the First Colony Inn, and the Ramada Plaza Hotel.

The Friends of the Outer Banks History Center would like to thank all of the presenters and sponsors for making this event possible and hope to use the information provided in the development of future grant proposals.

Panel Discussion: Continued

(Continued) ecology ravaged by hurricane activity. In a massive dune stabilization project, Corps workers installed thousands of miles of sand fences, involving approximately 2000 young men. Their efforts stabilized and preserved the barrier island strand for future generations of residents and tourists. Senter concluded, “These actions of conservation were a driving force for economic development.”

Sarah Downing, OBHC Assistant Curator, spoke of the impacts of the opening of the Wright Memorial Bridge and how it tapped unrealized economic potential of the Outer Banks, especially unleashing the economic engine of tourism that we continue to realize today. Sarah also added a few stories lending a local flavor to the panel discussion.

Kaeli Schurr, OBHC Curator, opened the program for questions directed to the panel members. A lively exchange between presenters and the audience led to fresh insights and many reminiscences being shared.

The Friends of the Outer Banks History Center wishes to thank the Center staff, the panelists, and all members and guests who attended this event. We also invite everyone to visit the exhibit which is on display until mid-October.

New Acquisitions

Here are some new acquisitions to the History Center’s growing collections:

- Wilkinson, William D., and Timothy R. Dring. *American Coastal Rescue Craft: A Design History of Coastal Rescue Craft Used by the United States Life-Saving Service and the United States Coast Guard*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2009.
- Morris, Travis. *Untold Stories of Old Currituck Duck Clubs*. Charleston, SC: History Press, 2010.
- Stewart, David J. *The Sea Their Graves An Archaeology of Death and Remembrance in Maritime Culture*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2011.
- Thiesen, William H. *Industrializing American Shipbuilding: The Transformation of Ship Design and Construction, 1820-1920*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2006.
- Bell, Richard C. *The Bridge Builders*. New York: Vantage Press, 2010.
- Spain, William Odell. *Cap'n Dell's Stories*. [Chapel Hill, N.C.]: Chapel Hill Press, 2002.

The Friends of the Outer Banks History Center

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NEW MEMBER | <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT...\$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> PATRON...\$250.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL...\$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> CORPORATE...\$500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY...\$40.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> BENEFACTOR...\$1000.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SPONSOR...\$100.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> UNDERWRITER...\$2500.00 |

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