

Spring 2022  
NEWSLETTER

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## Adopt A Sea Turtle Nest 2022 is here!

For many of us, Memorial Day marks the official beginning of summer and throughout the month of May we start to see more people around the Outer Banks enjoying our pristine beaches and our national parks. But people aren't the only visitors who start making their way to the Outer Banks in May – May 1st also kicks off the sea turtle nesting season at Cape Hatteras National Seashore!

During summer 2021, our parks monitored over 300 sea turtle nests, including three rare Kemp's Ridley sea turtle nests, and we hope to see similar numbers this season. Through our Adopt A Sea Turtle Nest program, you can symbolically adopt an active sea turtle nest that is being monitored by park rangers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore and you will receive an official adoption certificate and information about your specific nest when it hatches later this summer or fall.



### HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

**Donate:** Give a tax-deductible donation of \$100 or more to reserve your 2022 sea turtle nest. Your gift will help us fund important projects that protect and enhance Cape Hatteras National Seashore and the vital habitat it preserves.

**Get your nest:** You will be assigned an active sea turtle nest and will receive an official adoption certificate by mail along with initial information about your nest including general location and turtle species.

**Wait to hatch:** When your nest hatches this summer or fall, you will receive a personalized update with information park rangers collect about your nest including the number of hatchlings that made their way out of your nest.

**There are a limited number of nests available to adopt each year** and they are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, so reserve yours today at [www.obxforever.org/adoptaseaturtlenest](http://www.obxforever.org/adoptaseaturtlenest)

*Please note: No individual or group who participates in this program can claim ownership of a sea turtle nest, eggs, or hatchlings. To protect the sea turtles, we do not share the specific location of your assigned nest until after it hatches.*





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# Director's Letter

As we gear up for what will likely be another record-breaking season for our Outer Banks national parks, I want to thank you for being part of our Outer Banks Forever community.

Our mission to protect and enhance these special places is only possible through support from people like you and your family who have a love for, and connection to, this unique barrier island community. Our parks are facing new challenges as sea level rise takes its toll, and more people are looking to get outside and enjoy what Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, and Wright Brothers National Memorial have to offer.

Through your support, we continue to help our Outer Banks national parks adapt to these challenges and improve how you experience these special places. I hope you'll take time this summer to rediscover our national parks through ranger programs, our Adopt A Sea Turtle Nest program, and many other ways – both virtual and in person – so you can experience the environment, history, and culture that make the Outer Banks a place unlike any other.

See you in our parks,

*Jessica Barnes*  
DIRECTOR



## REDISCOVER OUR OUTER BANKS NATIONAL PARKS

Outer Banks Forever was established in 2019 as the official nonprofit partner of Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, and Wright Brothers National Memorial, helping to protect these special places through project support, programming, and public engagement. Our work helps create new experiences for you and your family and expands accessibility and education to new audiences who can learn and grow in our national parks, now and forever.

To date, we have raised nearly \$300,000 to support our parks through projects like the new mobility-friendly Oregon Inlet Kayak Launch, programs like Adopt A Pony and Adopt A Sea Turtle Nest, virtual experiences that help keep visitors connected to our parks year-round, and more.

To learn more about our impact in our Outer Banks national parks, please visit our website: [www.OBXForever.org](http://www.OBXForever.org).

# Summer 2022 Park Programs

If you're heading to the Outer Banks this summer, we encourage you to attend one (or many!) of the engaging and informative ranger programs offered at our Outer Banks national parks. Here are a few examples of the ranger programs you can experience as you discover, or rediscover, our parks. The program schedule is subject to change during the summer, so please visit our website at [www.obxforever.org/parkprograms](http://www.obxforever.org/parkprograms) to learn more.

## CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL SEASHORE

### BODIE ISLAND

#### The Bodie Island Lighthouse: Celebrating 150 Years

Learn about the details and history of this beautiful sentinel as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the lighting of the Bodie Island Lighthouse. Meet on the back porch of the Keeper's Quarters.

#### Climb the Bodie Island Lighthouse

Reservations required. Please make reservations at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

### HATTERAS ISLAND

#### The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse

Learn about the history and current restoration efforts of the most iconic structure in the Outer Banks. Meet at the Hatteras Island Visitor Center. *Please note: The lighthouse is currently closed to climbing.*

#### Shaping These Barrier Islands

Wars, hurricanes, winds, and ocean currents have all had impacts on the shores of Cape Hatteras. Join a ranger to learn about some of these events and the changes they have made to these islands. Meet at Hatteras Island Visitor Center.

### OCRACOKE ISLAND

#### Stories of Ocracoke Island

From serving as an early port village and primary point of entry to North Carolina to Blackbeard's final battle, Ocracoke Island possesses a unique heritage from its continued remote setting. Meet outside of the Ocracoke Discovery Center at the benches.

## FORT RALEIGH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

#### The "Lost Colony" Walking Tour

Delve into the history and mystery surrounding England's first attempt to establish a colony in the "New World."

#### The Freedmen's Colony

A beacon of hope! During the American Civil War, Roanoke Island became a safe haven for formerly enslaved people. Discover the struggles and successes of the Freedmen's Colony and its fate after the Civil War.

## WRIGHT BROTHERS NATIONAL MEMORIAL

#### Wind and Sand

Discover why the Wrights chose Kitty Hawk for their flight experiments, what life was like in the Outer Banks at that time, the events that led to the first powered flight on that cold December day, and the lasting impact their first flight continues to have on the world today.

#### Wright Kite

Test the winds of Kitty Hawk by flying a kite! Kids must be accompanied by an adult at all times; program is recommended for ages 6 and above. Kites are available on a first-come, first-served basis— or you can bring your own!

#### Bike with a Ranger

Bring your bike and helmet for this easy, ranger-led bike ride that will take you along park roads and explore the reasons why the Wright brothers chose this location, their experiments in flight, and the building of the Wright Brothers Monument and the Visitor Center. *Please note: Maximum group size is 15 people on a first-come, first-served basis.*



# Love the Beach, Respect the Ocean

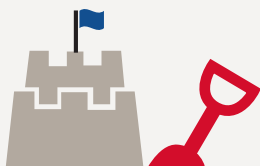
As we enter what is sure to be another busy summer season, we want to share a few important beach and ocean safety tips and reminders with you.



Photo: Jessica Calhoun

## BEACH SAFETY

- **Pack it in, pack it out:** Make sure to take all trash, fishing, and beach equipment with you when you leave the beach.
- **Discard fishing line** in designated recycling receptacles.



- **If you dig a hole, fill it in!** Holes along the beach pose hazards to beachgoers, nesting sea turtles, lifeguards, and park rangers on patrol.
- **Avoid sunburn:** Wear sunscreen or UV protective clothing and limit outside time during peak UV light hours of 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.



## OCEAN SAFETY

A perfect day on the beach doesn't always mean it's a perfect day in the ocean:

- **If in doubt, don't go out.** Sign up for daily beach and ocean conditions by texting OBXBeachConditions to 77295. Message and data rates may apply.

- **Use floatation.** Always enter the ocean with something that floats, like a boogie/ body board, innertube, or lifejacket.

- **Never turn your back on the ocean!** The waters of the Outer Banks are known for being extremely rough and present hazards like shore break, high surf, and rip currents. Stay vigilant, even if you are walking, running, building a sandcastle, or fishing.

- **Let kids play safely:** Ensure that children are always supervised by an adult when near the ocean.

- **Buddy up:** Never swim alone, no matter your age and pay attention to red "No Swimming" flags on the beach.

- **Float, don't fight:** If you are caught in a rip current, float instead of fighting it and then swim parallel to shore if you're able.



## LIFEGUARD LOCATIONS

We also recommend that you swim at lifeguarded beaches. At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, these include:

- Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Beach Access
- Coquina Beach Access
- Frisco Beach Access
- Ocracoke Beach Access

These beaches will be lifeguarded from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.



# A Mirror to the Past, A Map for the Future: The *Freedmen's Colony* on Roanoke Island

Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, located on Roanoke Island, marks the site of the first attempted English settlement in the New World, commonly referred to as the “Lost Colony.”

But what you may not know is that Roanoke Island was home to another colony: the Freedmen’s Colony.

In February 1862, Confederate forces occupied Roanoke Island, while Union forces occupied Hatteras Island. The Confederates built up defenses on the marshy island, hoping to insulate themselves from the Union army. But the Union army was wise to their plan, and Brigadier General Ambrose Burnside and his troops sailed from Maryland to North Carolina in an attempt to blockade the South. On February 6, 1862, Burnside’s troops arrived at Stumpy Point and began pressing into the Albemarle/Croatan sound. The Battle of Roanoke Island began the next day at 11:30 a.m.

The Confederates were outmanned and outgunned. They surrendered and the Union army took control of Roanoke Island.

After the battle, the Union army liberated the enslaved African Americans who had been forced to serve the Confederate army. The freedmen were told they could remain on the island or return to their enslavers. Some chose to stay, but many left.

Soon, word of a “safe haven” on Roanoke Island began to spread. Individuals and families began crossing the swampy Albemarle/Croatan sound to claim their freedom. As more and more people came to the island, the Union army had to decide how to care for the sudden population influx.

Thus, the Union army formed what became known as the “Freedmen’s Colony” in May 1863. The freedmen were given plots of land and a community began to take shape: homes, churches, schools, and sawmills were built. Haven Creek Baptist Church, the oldest African American church on Roanoke Island, was established during that

time. Martha Cullens became the first African American schoolteacher on the island and six more joined her soon after. Children and adults were taught how to read and write by revisiting Bible stories that had been passed down through oral history. The colony flourished. By 1865, the colony had a population of more than 3,000 — possibly 4,000 — people.

Tragically, members of the Freedmen’s Colony were abused by members of the Union army, who did not deliver on their promises to take care of the freedmen. Richard C. Etheridge, who was born into slavery on Roanoke Island and left to join the Union army’s 36th United States Colored Infantry Regiment, co-wrote a letter with William Benson to the

Commissioner of the Freedmen’s Bureau, decrying the injustices and admonishing the Commissioner to put an end to them.

After the Civil War ended in 1865, many of the freedmen were forced to return their land as the government mandated. They began moving to other parts of the state, and the colony was decommissioned in 1867.

But some freedmen stayed. Eleven families came together and purchased 200 acres of land to set up homesteads. Three other men bought their own plots of land. By 1870, there were about 300 African Americans living on Roanoke Island, and many

owned their homes. Those who stayed worked hard to create new lives for themselves. And many of their descendants still live on or near Roanoke Island to this day.

In 2001, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site installed the First Light of Freedom Monument to mark the site of the Freedmen’s Colony, and the park hosted an event in August 2019 to commemorate the tragic day enslaved Africans were brought to the United States — and to honor the descendants of the Freedmen’s Colony and the lives of their forebearers. The park has also been recognized as part of the National Park Service’s National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

Learn more about the Freedman’s Colony at Fort Raleigh National Historic Site on our website at [www.obxforever.org](http://www.obxforever.org).





# OUTER BANKS

FOREVER

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*Spring 2022*  
NEWSLETTER



HONOR AN  
*Outer Banks*  
LOVER IN  
YOUR LIFE!



Photo: Lisa Scammahorn

Celebrate the special people in your life who share your love of our Outer Banks national parks with a gift in their honor! Use the enclosed envelope or donate online at [www.obxforever.org](http://www.obxforever.org) and choose the "Donation Dedication" option. A special acknowledgement will be sent to the person or family notifying them of your thoughtful gift.

*Here's what's inside:*

**Adopt A  
Sea Turtle Nest**  
Season is here!



**Summer 2022**  
Ranger Programs



A Mirror to the Past,  
A Map for the Future:  
The Freedmen's Colony  
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*Plus:* LOVE THE BEACH, RESPECT THE OCEAN