

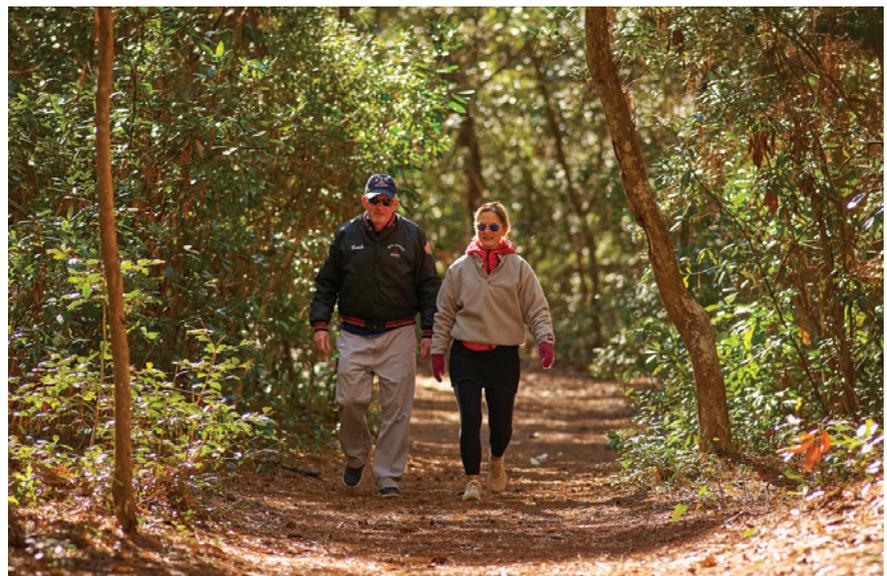
Spring 2023
NEWSLETTER

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Coming Soon: Freedom Trail at Fort Raleigh



Highlighting a profound, yet little known story of Roanoke Island, the Freedom Trail at Fort Raleigh National Historic Site will reveal the significance of the 1863 Freedmen’s Colony following a 1.25-mile wooded path through maritime forest. Signs and visual markers will lead you along a journey endured by freedom seekers who risked everything in their efforts to reach Roanoke Island, exploring why it was a safe haven for the community they built, as well as the island’s role as part of the Underground Railroad network. Thanks to our generous supporters, this new project will be ready for you to experience later this year.



LEARN MORE
 Ranger Josh talks about the Freedman's Colony.



OUTER BANKS

FOREVER

Outer Banks Forever is the official nonprofit partner of our Outer Banks national parks, helping you protect and enhance these special places. Launched in 2019, Outer Banks Forever has helped support 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 please visit www.OBXForever.org

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DONOR SPOTLIGHT: SHANNON WINAKUR



I grew up in Richmond, Virginia, and I now live in Baltimore, Maryland, with my husband and two teenage daughters. I am a cardiologist, so work for me is fulfilling and quite challenging at times. Our trips to the Outer Banks offer a welcome chance to relax and recharge from our busy lives back home.

I have been going to Hatteras Island for vacations since I was a young girl in the mid-1970s. My father went to Hatteras on a fishing trip, and from then on, we went there for summer vacations every year. It was his happy place, and it became mine too.

I vividly remember climbing the spiral stairs of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse when I was young, before it moved to its current location. It was amazing to be able to see up to Avon, out to Cape Point, and down to Hatteras Village. The lighthouse itself is a very meaningful symbol to me because of how special Hatteras Island is in my life. When I was young, we stayed at The Falcon Motel in Buxton, would drive to the Point, and would spend all day out on the beach. I loved surf fishing with my dad, building sandcastles with my brother, and reading.

After my dad's death in 1993, I didn't make it down to the Outer Banks for several years. In 2006, I was thrilled when my husband, who had never been to the Outer Banks, agreed to a trip with our young daughters. I was even more thrilled that my family came to love Hatteras and that I was able to share with them a place that had held such meaning and memories for me and my father. We love sitting on the beach and watching the waves, or walking along the beach with our dog, Dune. Our time on the Outer Banks is so relaxing and restorative.

A large part of why the Outer Banks has remained so beautiful and so reasonably developed is because of Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I love how Outer Banks Forever works to preserve this special place, and how it offers Outer Banks lovers like me the opportunity to support that work. My family and I have enjoyed watching turtle nest excavations over the years, so the Adopt A Sea Turtle Nest program was a natural for us. I am also so excited for the multiuse pathway to the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse; I know it will encourage even more visitors to enjoy the lighthouse.

DO YOU HAVE AN OBX NATIONAL PARKS STORY YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH US?

Contact Rachael Graf, Community Engagement Coordinator, at rachaelgraf@obxforever.org

Summer 2023 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 is a sample of programs that may be offered this summer. To view the full program schedule, please visit our website at www.obxforever.com/parkprograms.

CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL SEASHORE

BODIE ISLAND

The Bodie Island Lighthouse: Lighting the Way for More Than 150 Years

Learn about the details and history of this beautiful sentinel.

Climb the Bodie Island Lighthouse

Reservations required. Please make reservations at 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. *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.

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.

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 Civil War, Roanoke Island became a safe haven for freedom seekers. Discover the struggles and successes of the Freedmen's Colony and its fate after the Civil War.

WRIGHT BROTHERS NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Wind and Sand

Step back in history during this short walk to the actual site of the Wrights' first powered flights. 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 and take a trip back in time during this special program to discover what Kitty Hawk looked like when Orville and Wilbur were experimenting with the idea of powered flight. This ranger-led bike ride 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.



Adopt A Sea Turtle Nest

For many of us, Memorial Day marks the official beginning of summer, but people aren't the only visitors who start making their way to the Outer Banks in May — May 1 also kicks off the sea turtle nesting season at Cape Hatteras National Seashore!

During summer 2022, our parks monitored over 370 sea turtle nests, including rare Kemp's Ridley and Leatherback sea turtle nests, and we hope to see similar numbers this season. Through our Adopt A Sea Turtle Nest program, you can symbolically adopt a sea turtle nest that is being monitored by park rangers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore and receive information about your specific nest when it hatches later in the summer or fall! There are a limited number of nests available to adopt each year and they are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

Donate: Give a tax-deductible donation of \$100 or more to reserve your 2023 sea turtle nest and support projects that protect and enhance Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Get your nest: You will be assigned an active sea turtle nest as they are laid and receive an adoption certificate by mail with initial information about your nest.

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 to sea.

Please note: No individual or group who participates in this program can claim ownership of a sea turtle nest, eggs, or hatchlings.



LEARN MORE about the Adopt A Sea Turtle Nest project and reserve yours today by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or at www.obxforever.org/adoptaseaturtlenest



200 Years of Light: A Brief History of the Ocracoke Island Lighthouse

Ocracoke Inlet was first placed on the map when English explorers wrecked a sailing ship there in 1585. Two centuries later, it was one of the busiest inlets on the East Coast, as it was the only reasonably navigable waterway for ships accessing inland ports such as Elizabeth City, New Bern, and Edenton. Ocracoke Village, then known as Pilot Town, developed as a result of the inlet's use. Pilots, hired to steer ships safely through the shifting channels to mainland ports, settled the village in the 1730s.

The U.S. Lighthouse Service recognized that a lighthouse was needed to assist mariners through Ocracoke Inlet. In 1794, construction began on Shell Castle Island, a 25-acre, shell-covered island located between Ocracoke Island and Portsmouth Island to the south. This site was adjacent to the deepest inlet channel between the shallow Pamlico Sound and the ocean. A wooden, pyramid-shaped tower was completed four years later. In addition to the light, a small lightkeeper's house was built along with several cargo wharves, gristmills, houses, and other facilities.

Unfortunately, the lighthouse, a great blessing to mariners, was obsolete in less than 20 years due to the migration of the main channel. By 1818, the channel had shifted nearly a mile away. That same year, both the lighthouse and keeper's house were destroyed by lightning.

In 1822, for a charge of \$50, the federal government purchased two acres at the south end of Ocracoke

Island as the site for a new lighthouse. Constructed by Massachusetts builder Noah Porter and finished in 1823, the tower still stands today.

The lighthouse stands about 75 feet tall, and its diameter narrows from 25 feet at the base to 12 feet at its peak. The walls are solid brick – five feet thick at the bottom tapering to two feet at the top. An octagonal lantern crowns the tower and houses the light beacon.

The exterior's solid white coloration serves as its identifying mark to mariners by day. The original whitewash "recipe" called for blending lime, salt, Spanish whiting, rice, glue, and boiling water and was applied while still hot.

A fourth-order Fresnel lens was installed in 1854, replacing the old reflector system. Its hand-cut prisms and magnifying glass greatly intensified the light. Early in the Civil War, the lens was dismantled by Confederate troops but was re-installed in 1864 by Union forces. Originally an oil-burning light, the Ocracoke Light was electrified in the early decades of the 1900s.

Now fully automated, the lighthouse no longer needs a resident lightkeeper to tend to its daily needs, though the double keepers' quarters still stands on the site today. The U.S. Coast Guard now oversees the operation of the light which equals 8,000 candlepower and casts a stationary beam that can be seen 14 miles at sea. A battery powered back-up light operates during power failures.



The Ocracoke Light is the second oldest operating lighthouse in the nation. With its aid, yesterday's sailing vessels safely navigated the channels. Today, fishing and pleasure boats pass within its view. Time, however, has not changed the often-tricky character of the shoal-ridden inlet. The historic lighthouse still stands by to make the waters safe.

Story courtesy of the National Park Service

JOIN US on Thursday, May 18, from 1-2 p.m. to celebrate 200 years of light! If you can't make it to the in-person celebration on Ocracoke, we'll be live-streaming it on our Facebook page.



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P.O. Box 1635,
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Here's what's inside:

Coming Soon:

Freedom Trail
at Fort Raleigh



Summer 2023 Park Programs

REDISCOVER OUR OUTER BANKS NATIONAL PARKS



Check out our latest park news and events on our website or social media and find more reasons to love our OBX national parks!



Outer Banks Forever



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200 Years of Light:

A Brief History
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Island Lighthouse



Plus: ADOPT A SEA TURTLE NEST SEASON IS HERE!