



NORTH CAROLINA
**MARITIME
MUSEUMS**
SOUTHPORT

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- Nov. 1 - Dec. 31:
Totem Pole
Exhibit
- Nov. Thur. 3:
Ft. Johnston Tour



- Nov. Thur. 10:
Brunswick Town
Tour
- Nov. Fri. 11:
Closed
- Nov. Tues. 15:
3rd Tues Evening
Adult Program -
Celia Rivenbark
- Nov. Thu. & Fri.
24 & 25 - Closed

The Mullet Wrapper

November 2011
Volume 8
Issue 11

Here's Celia! Celia Rivenbark Third Tuesday Evening Adult Program

November 15, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**Award Winning Author, Humorist,
Syndicated Columnist**

Join the NC Maritime Museum and the City of Southport at the Southport Community Building as we present author and humor columnist, Celia Rivenbark. Enjoy anecdotes and excerpts from her books, *You don't Sweat Much for a Fat Girl*, *We're Just Like You, Only Prettier*, *You Can't Drink All Day If You Don't Start in the Morning*, and *Stop Dressing Your 6-Year-Old Like a Skank*. (featured on Good Morning, America!) Light refreshments will be served. **This is a FREE EVENT. Seats will fill up fast! Please call the Museum to register at 910-457-0003.**



Firehouse Pottery Studio's Totem Poles Visit NC Maritime Museum at Southport

Four pottery totem poles, with a local maritime theme, are calling the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport home for the months of November and December.

The totem pole's potters are students of Kimberly Smittle-Caroon, who teaches four pottery classes for Brunswick Community College in Southport at the *Firehouse Pottery Studio* on Nash Street. "I think this year's show, "Totem Poles and Masks", is one of our best ever."

After choosing a maritime theme, each class had to work closely together and develop the totem poles' dimensions, height, width, color scheme and attach certain pieces at just the right time while the clay was drying. "Loading these large pieces into the kilns was enough to give a person palpitations!"

The Totem Pole Show has arrived at the NC Maritime Museum at Southport. It never fails, every time someone sees the totem poles for the first time their first reaction is, "WOW!" and they are a must to see.



Bonnet's Creek was originally named Fiddler's Dreen.

Dreen is the Gullah word for drain or creek. The Gullahs, or Geechees, are Creole people who are indigenous to the coastline of the Southeastern United States, from North Carolina to Georgia. The creek's name was changed to Bonnet's Creek during modern time, as a result of the capture of the disreputable pirate, Stede Bonnet.

Fiddler's Dreen was located on the north side of Southport. In 1718, the infamous pirate, Major Stede Bonnet, hid his vessel there, repairing it for the upcoming hurricane season. It was during this time, that Colonel William Rhett was commissioned by South Carolina's Governor Robert Johnson to bring the pirate to justice.

Rhett's two ships were well manned and heavily armed. As Rhett neared the Cape Fear River, the tides were low and his ships ran aground. Bonnet could see the masts of the

two ships from where he was hidden and sent scouts to investigate. When he discovered the ships were most likely seeking pirates, he understood he was trapped. He realized his best chance was to try to slip by Rhett's ships. As the tide came in, Bonnet set sail and Rhett ordered his ships to bear down and cut off Bonnet's retreat. During the chase, all three ships became beached on the sandbars. The "Battle of the Sandbars" ensued. Soon the tide rose again and Rhett's vessel was the first to be freed. Rhett's boat raked Bonnet's *Royal James*. Major Bonnet ordered his boat scuttled but the crew refused and all of the pirates were caught. They were brought to Charleston and awaited trial for several weeks. Stede Bonnet and many of his men were eventually found guilty and hung.

People began referring to Fiddler's Dreen as Bonnet's Creek.

In later years, at the head waters of the creek near Leonard Street in Southport, communal gardens were grown. They were called the Swamp Gardens. A local fisherman by the name of Wriley Willis dredged the creek basin to build a dock for his fish house. He came upon the remains of an old wooden ship that had been put together with wooden dowels rather than iron spikes. Old bottles were also found at the site.

Today, the creek is nearly dry, with only a historical highway marker to denote it's past significance. *As told by George Willis to Leland Smith.*



Benches made by Joe Medlin now grace the porches of the NC Maritime Museum at Southport, much as they did when the building served as barracks for Fort Johnston.



Adult History Programs

Nov 3, 10-11:30 a.m.
Fort Johnston with Leland Smith

Nov 10, 10-11:30 a.m.
Brunswick Town with Jim McKee

Participants will meet on location. Program is free. Please call the museum at (910) 457-0003 to register.



Museum Store offering 20% discount for all members

During the month of December

Pottery

T-Shirts

**Pirate
Novelties**

**Prints
And
Posters**

Art Glass

Books

**Model
Ships**

Flags

Jewelry

and more...



News From the Friends of the Museum (FOM)

PYRATE MASQUERADE



Thank you to all who helped or participated in the 2nd Annual Pyrate Masquerade. It was so much fun! Arrrrrrrrgh!!!!!! If you missed it this year, be sure & come to our event next year.

A special thanks to the Pyrate Masquerade Committee: Al Biasotti, Linda Bowen, Jim Carey, Morgan Harper, Peggy Popelars, Frank Roehrig, Mary Strickland, Barbara Stockbridge-Davidson, Angela Trent & Shirley Wilson.

We would also like to thank our businesses, board & committee members who donated money, products or worked the event. The businesses are: Downtown Southport, Inc., Endless Summer Sailing Charters, Scuba South Diving Company, The State Port Pilot & Wal-Mart.

The individuals are: Wayne & Jill Berry, Al & Ginny Biasotti, Linda & Joe Bowen, Sally Buchanan, Jim & Barb Carey, Ian Davidson, Morgan Harper, Thomas Hughes, Ken Karn, Joan & Walt Madsen, Arden O'Daniel, Peggy & Frank Popelars, Frank & Eileen Roehrig, Cornelia Rogers, Mary & Wayne Strickland, Barbara Stockbridge-Davidson, Angela & Jim Trent, Sharon & Philip Venis, Shirley & Woody Wilson.

We would also like to thank the pirates who joined us for the evening. The Motley Tones, a musical group from the pirates, entertained us royally.

Thank you again for everyone who participated in any way to make the Pyrate Masquerade a fun-filled evening. We couldn't have done it without you!!!

Shirley Wilson



Thank you Brookie Preik for a humorous, entertaining and thoroughly enjoyable evening October 18th at our 3rd Tues. Evening program.

Program Sponsor: **Sponsors are needed for the 3rd Tuesday Evening Adult Programs. Please call the Museum for details. (910)457-0003**

Set-up thank you: Thank you to Al Biasotti, Woody Wilson and Linda Bowen for helping with setup for our October 18th program. Your help is so appreciated.

A Volunteer is needed for coordinating 3rd Tuesday Evening Adult Program set-ups.

Thank you to the Maritime Museum staff for the wonderful food served at our October 18th program. It was delicious!

Membership: Thank you to the new members who have recently joined our Friends group. We welcome and appreciate your membership. Please remember that you can join or renew your membership by mail, the website or at the Museum. Please consider bringing a friend to our next program & encourage them to join. If you have any membership questions, you can email me: Shirley Wilson at wayfarer1@ec.rr.com or call me at 910-454-4327 or call the Museum at 457-0003.

For anyone who would like to renew or become a new member, information is provided.

_____ new member _____ renewing member
 Lifetime - \$2,500 Legacy - \$1,000 _____
 Benefactor - \$500 Patron - \$250 _____
 Sustaining - \$100 Family - \$50 _____
 Individual- \$25 Additional - Building Fund \$ _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 E-Mail _____

(Your information will only be used by The Friends of the NC Maritime Museum at Southport)

- () Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.
- () Please contact me about becoming a program sponsor.
- () Matching Gift, Employer Amount _____

(Name/Address) _____

Payment Information: Check payable to: *Friends of the NC Maritime Museum at Southport* enclosed _____. Or join using PayPal on our website: www.ncmaritimemuseums.com

Memberships are valid for one year from the date of issue & are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by Law for a 501©3 organization.

THE MULLET WRAPPER



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**MARITIME
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NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
**CULTURAL
RESOURCES**
WWW.NCCULTURE.COM

Museum Hours

Tuesday - Saturday
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Free Admission
Daily Tours at 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.



The Museum at Southport is one of three North Carolina Maritime Museums. The other Museums are the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum in Hatteras and the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort.

The Mullet Wrapper newsletter is a publication of the NC Maritime Museum at Southport. The publication is fully funded by the Friends of the Museum at Southport whose members receive monthly mailings and discounts on some programs and Museum store purchases.

3RD TUESDAY EVENING ADULT PROGRAMS

Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2011, 7-9 p.m. - Celia Rivenbark, Southern Humorist

All Tuesday programs are free and held at the Southport Community Building unless otherwise noted. Advanced registration is requested

Adult History Programs



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FOM

North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport

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