




SEA TRAIL
EAST ENTRANCE

Volume XVIII, Number 7
July, 2009

President's Message

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It is good to see so many of you out enjoying our amenities as well as our beautiful beach. I often think back to 1990 when I first came to Sea Trail with my family. This new destination became a planned annual vacation for us. After our two weeks, as we headed back to work and the children to school, I would wonder if I could possibly retire here some day. It is hard to believe that Fran and I have been here permanently for four years this August. Now, we eagerly await our children coming to visit each summer for their vacation.

In last month's Sea Trailer, I mentioned the final report of the Access Committee being accepted and supported by members of the Master Association. As we begin to implement the recommended changes, I would like to give more detail to why the board feels a change is needed at this time.

Currently, all property owners have a gold card which provides access to our amenities as well as allowing you to charge purchases in the pro shops and bars. The current gold card access system has several limitations, some of which are presented below:

- The system is not controlled by the Master Association, is not web based, and has no central point of control.
- The system cannot detect or report any door that is ajar or forced open and cannot communicate from access points to a central location.
- The system cannot add, delete, and temporarily suspend users from a central location. To delete a user, each individual lock must be modified and the system is limited to twenty cancellations. An engineer is required to modify the locks.
- Previous owners, as well as those who have not paid their annual dues, could still have access cards.
- The current system cannot be updated to address these limitations.

The Access Committee established the following criteria for a new access card system that would be controlled by the Master Association:

- The system must be maintained 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- The system must be web based, user friendly and be able to access all points with one card that could communicate to a central location.

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- The system must be able to be modified to accept new issues, deletions, suspensions, temporary issues and have room for future growth of property owners.
- The system must be able to expand as our needs warrant additional access points and be able to integrate video use for security purposes.
- The system must be able to permit remote access to all access points.

The committee identified vendors who could meet the criteria and invited them to submit proposals, meet with committee members and permit committee members to visit other locales using their product. After a thorough review, the committee recommended ADT Brivo Webservice system.

A contract has been signed with ADT and installation of hardware will begin shortly. Total conversion is expected this fall, at which time all property owners will be given a new access card. As for now, continue to use your gold card to gain access to the pools, work out facility, library and for charges to your Sea Trail account.

Special thanks to the Access Committee members: Ron Cybyske, chair, John Rothermel, Tom Pickel, Neil Weiss, and Walter Marsh for a timely, professional report and recommended changes. Your efforts will benefit all property owners at Sea Trail.

Card Access Committee

The President's message provided information regarding the decision process for the new card access system. We want to provide more information regarding the implementation of the new system.

The new system will require the issuance of a new card. However, you will continue to use your gold card for purchases at Sea Trail. The new card will provide access to the MAC building and pool, the library, chapel, the new tennis court, the Pink Palace building, tennis court and pool, the exercise room and the sauna/whirlpool. The system selected was the ADT access system that provides for a calendar defined area access. If you want to use the MAC or Pink Palace, you will still be required to reserve the room from Jennie Gregory.

During July the committee, will be testing the calendar system to become familiar with all the options available. July, August and September will find the committee working on the hardware installation and planning for the conversion. As part of the new access system, we will be installing additional surveillance cameras at the MAC and new cameras at the Pink Palace. This will occur in conjunction with the access hardware. In late September we will start converting access to the MAC and Pink Palace meeting rooms. In late September, early October, we will issue new access cards to all Master Association members. Once we have a significant number of cards distributed, we will convert to the new system. This should be completed no later than the second week of October.

We will provide monthly updates as to our progress. If you have any question regarding the conversion, please contact any of the committee members. They are Ron Cybyske, Walter Marsh, Tom Pickel, John Rothermel, and Neil Weiss.

Communications Committees

We hope everyone is having a good summer. Please have a safe and happy Fourth of July. Following are the reports from the Welcome and Facilities Committees.

The **Welcome Committee** has been busy this past month, and they want to take this opportunity to welcome the following new neighbors:

John and Diana Misiaszek

Nancy Santisi welcomed John and Diana who moved from Springfield, VA, and now live at 611 Oyster Bay Drive. John is a retired US Navy helicopter pilot and Diana, a legal secretary. They love gardening, kayaking and traveling. John and Diana had the opportunity to travel a lot with John's career and hope to continue to travel in their retirement. We were very fortunate to have John and Diana attend our last TGIF. Everyone really enjoyed meeting them, and they seemed very much at home.

Mary and Bob Donnelly

Janice Johnson welcomed Mary and Bob. Even though they have been retired since 2007 and living in Calabash, their new home in Sea Trail is now finished and they are delighted to finally move in. They are from Centerville, VA, and their new address is 213 Planters Ridge Drive. Before retirement, Bob was a bank examiner, and Mary was an administrative assistant. Both Bob and Mary have been attending TGIF for some time and we are all so happy to have met them. They certainly have a good start in Sea Trail: Mary belongs to the Garden Club, Bob is involved with pinochle and bowling, and they are in the Gourmet Club. They say they love it here, and we are so happy we officially welcomed them.

Michael and Betty Ann Luff

Michael and Betty Ann moved to 510 Planters Ridge Drive in September '08 and were recently given the official Sea Trail welcome. For many years the Luffs used Sea Trail as a home base while they searched for the perfect retirement spot. After several years of scouting other developments, they decided that Sea Trail "felt like home" and decided to build and settle here. Betty Ann started her career in the Salem Public School System where she worked for 5 years as a literacy volunteer. For the next 30 years, she worked as the Global

Purchasing Manager at DuPont in Wilmington, Delaware. She loved working with advertising agencies around the world. She retired from DuPont in 2006. Betty Ann is learning to knit, and she likes to sew and read and, of course, like many Sea Trailers, visit the beach. Mike's career has been in transportation services. Prior to moving to Sea Trail, he was the Director of Sales at LoBiondo Brothers Motor Express. He currently works as a Professional Sales Consultant for Ocean City Chevrolet. In his spare time Mike likes to golf, hunt and fish and watch all types of sports. The Luffs have one son, Jason who lives in Sewell, NJ with his wife, Alison, and two children, Vivian, 4 and David, 2. They also enjoy the company of their two cats, Boots and Missy who have been with them for 15 years. Betty Ann says, "We have met so many wonderful people in Sea Trail and that just confirms that we made the right decision to live here."



Welcome to the community. We are also pleased to announce that we have a new Welcome Representative for Oyster Bay Drive. Thanks Fran Sheehan for accepting this position.

The **Facilities Committee** reports that many of the Gold Cards have lost their magnetic programming. It is believed that this loss of programming may be due to the cards being exposed to items that have a magnetic field, e.g. cell phones, microwaves, TVs, etc. Please do not keep your gold card near any item with a magnetic field. We hope that everyone likes the look of the updated bathrooms at the MAC. The Committee members put a lot of time and effort into this project, and the results show.

Lastly, for anyone that helps clean up after functions at the Pink Palace—when storing chairs, three stacks of ten (10) go into the alcove in the exercise room—no more. The remaining chairs are to be stored in the shed behind the Pink Palace. We appreciate your help.

— *Ralph Kennedy, Chair (rdkstma@aol.com)*
Communications Committee

Clubs and Activities

Bridge

Couples Bridge

Results for June Couples Bridge are as follows: Charolette and Ed Darrow, Carol and Marv Peters, Nerina and Rudy Cilento.

Couples bridge will not meet in July and August. Look for announcement for September in the September Sea Trailer. —*Marv Peters*



TGIF Celebrates the 4th of July

Get ready to join your friends and neighbors as TGIF celebrates the 4th on Friday, July 3rd, at the Pink Palace. To help with the festivities, we are proud to announce that the Sea Trail Songbirds will be on hand to lend their renditions of some of our favorite patriotic songs.

Your hosts for the evening, Tom and Marge Layden and Mike and Mary Alice Jerome along with the Songbirds, are looking forward to visiting with and entertaining you. Please join them between 6:00 pm and 7:30 pm at the Pink Palace. Your guests are most welcome. Bring an appetizer, your favorite beverage and, of course, your best sing-a-long voice. Dress code for the evening: **RED, WHITE, and BLUE.**

While there, why not plan to have your picnic afterwards on the pool deck. The grills are ready and waiting. Remember please: no glass is allowed on the pool deck so plan accordingly.

We look forward to seeing you on the 3rd!
— *Ron and Madeline Dubas*

Pinochle

We meet at the Pink Palace every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. We play double-deck and we are a friendly, patient group. If you would like to just come and "observe" for an evening, you are certainly welcome to do so. Couples and singles are invited.

Food Committee

On Tuesday, July 14th, from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm, sponsored by Sea Trail Golf, there will be a Member Mixer on the Jones/Byrd Patio. This will include a cookout with \$3.00 hamburgers/cheeseburgers, \$1.50 hotdogs, \$1.00 draft beers and sodas. No reservations are needed for this event and reminders will be located in the Golf Shops.

The 2009 Homeowner (Plantation) Weekend will be held during the of Labor Day weekend again this year. Friday evening, September 4th, Magnolias will be open with a Pasta Buffet for \$12.95 plus tax and gratuity.

Saturday, September 5th will begin at 7:30 am with an elegant breakfast buffet in Magnolias with omelet stations, ham carving stations and many more delicious food selections. Following the breakfast the golf tournament will be held with a 9:00 am shotgun start.

The awards ceremony will be held from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the Jones/Byrd Salons I and II, as well as the patio area. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be provided. Cost for the weekend, to include the breakfast, golf tournament, and awards ceremony, will be \$30.00 per person. You do not have to play golf to participate in the weekend but the cost will remain the same. The above details for the weekend are tentative, as of this article, and may change prior to the invitations being sent in early August. Reservations will only be accepted after the official invitations have been mailed.

Have a safe and happy Fourth of July. If you are going to visit family or friends, drive safely.

— *Diane Kreuzburg*

Granny's Closet

Granny's Closet is a list of items that are held by individuals who are willing to lend them to us when we have a need for them, cribs, high chairs, and medical items, crutches or a walker. Please call the following if you need anything from Granny's Closet....Eileen Chamberlain, 579-3111, Priscilla Donaldson 575-2270, or Anita Clark 575-1049. Eileen Chamberlain is coordinator of these items and if you have something you would like to include or delete from Granny's Closet, please call her.

Clubs and Activities (cont.)

Sea Horse Book Club

Our next meeting will be held on July 7th at the Pink Palace at 3:30. Our selection for July is Loving Frank by Nancy Horan. You will get the inside story of the love affair Frank Lloyd Wright had while living in Chicago in the early 1900's. Our August pick is The Ride of Our Lives by Mike Leonard.

If you enjoy reading and sharing your ideas, consider joining our lively group. You will not be disappointed. Contact Joyce Hellmann at jmhellmann@atmc.net or 579-0273. Happy Reading!

Non-Denominational Bible Study (NBS)

Most of our study groups have stopped meeting for the summer months and plan to start again in September. To learn more about NBS groups in Sea-trail or to join a group or to start a new group in your neighborhood, call Ann Otten @ 579-5239.

With Independence Day just around the corner, I have been doing a lot of thinking about the condition our country is in right now. Our morality, integrity, faith and economy are all being threatened.

Our country was birthed by Godly men and on Godly principles over 200 years ago but we are falling away from those principles. Our Nation needs our prayers. The President, his advisors, Congress and all local and national leaders need our prayers now. Now is the time for Americans to stand strong and remain bold in faith, courage and prayers and not succumb to fear. Our prayers need to be sincere and based on God's Word in the Holy Bible so we can pray with confidence and for God's will for our nation.

I close with one of God's promises to us: "If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways: then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land". - Book of 2nd Chronicles, chapter 7, verse 14.

— Ann Otten

September Dining Around

Just a reminder to save the date, Monday, September 14th, 2009, for the first Dining Around event of the fall season.

We'll be dining that night at Pomodoro's in Myrtle Beach. So mark your calendar and plan to join your neighbors for a wonderful dining experience. Details will follow in next month's Sea Trailer.

— Kathleen and Dick Barthelme

TGIF

Hard to believe, but we are already planning for July gatherings of TGIF. For those of you new to Sea Trail or those of you who only visit occasionally, we welcome and encourage you to attend one of our TGIF gatherings at the Pink Palace. It is a great way to be introduced to your community and to get acquainted with your neighbors. Gatherings are held from 6:00 to 7:30 pm on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month. The rules are simple: bring an appetizer to share, your own beverage and have fun.

Your hosts for July 3rd are Mike and Mary Alice Jerome with Tom and Marge Layden. This foursome has promised to put on a special TGIF in celebration of the 4th. The Sea Trail Songbirds will be on hand to lend this gathering a patriotic voice.

Remember, the grills on the pool deck are ready and waiting for you so plan to have your 4th of July eve picnic on the deck following TGIF. As always, no glass is allowed on the pool deck so plan accordingly.

Having people over for the July 4th weekend? No problem. Remember, family and friends are always welcome to attend.

July 17th Mike and Jane Dickman with
Mike and Carol Pozdol

August 7th Larry and Judie Daniels with
Ron and Elaine Poston

We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming gathering. Remember, the fun starts when you get up, walk around and mingle with old friends and make new ones.

— Ron and Madeline Dubas

Clubs and Activities (cont.)

Garden Club

The next meeting is July 14th at 10:00 at the Pink Palace. It will be a DAR program on the History of Southport. Bring donations of non-perishable food items to be donated to BFA.

President Kate Goodrich called the 201st meeting to order at 10:02. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Kate welcomed our guests. Kate explained that this would be a very short meeting because immediately following would be the Garden Club Tour. Elaine Poston and MJ Goss explained the proceedings.

Treasurer, Pat Booth, informed the club that the balance as of June 9, 2009 was \$8,309.83.

Nora Hickam is stepping down from her post as chairperson for the Outreach and Pantry Committee. A replacement is needed. Nora announced that non-perishable foods items are to be brought to the July meeting to be donated to BFA.

The Fashion Show to be held at the October meeting is in need of models. Please contact Anita Clark if interested. Belks from Myrtle Beach is providing the fashions.

The July program will be presented by DAR members on the History of Southport.

Also, the 2009 scholarship recipients from West Brunswick HS will read their winning essays.

The 50/50 was won by Ruth French.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20am.

— *Joyce M. Hellmann, Secretary*

Sea Trail Prayer Support Circle

Happy Fourth of July to all our Sea Trail family and friends from the members of the prayer circle! We know you must be so thankful to be living in our great country, and we hope you give thanks for that very special blessing and are flying your flag! We have a prayer taken from an old church bulletin in 1990 and think it would be good to repeat.

Prayer for Our Country

Almighty God, who has given us our country for our heritage, we humbly beseech Thee to make us worthy of this noble land. Make us mindful of Thy great mercy, and endue us with Thy Grace that we may better serve Thee and our nation. Continue to Bless our land, Preserve our democracy. Let truth and wisdom flourish; Bind us into a united nation and give wisdom to those who govern us; Make us mindful of our great heritage; Fill our hearts with love; Bring all nations into harmony that Peace shall reign upon the earth now and forever more. Amen.

— *God's Peace. Sea Trail Prayer Support Circle*

For prayer requests, contact some of our members listed below. Confidentiality assured.

Marge Gallop	Oyster Bay	579-7676
Myrt & Ron Klein	Oyster Pointe,	579-1354
Gloria Lee	Osprey Court	579-0949
Carol Marchell	Rice Mill	579-9561
JoAnn Jenkins	Sugar Sands	579-5973
Rosemary Walker	SS	579-9709

Please Note: The Guy Moulton brick memorial service is scheduled for Saturday August 1st at 4:00 p.m. Mark your calendar!

Sea Trailer Staff

Editor: Ellen Lehrer — 575-5340
theseatrailer@atmc.net or lehrere@atmc.net

Staff Writers: Anita August — 575-0751

anitahrd@aol.com

Kate Goodrich — 575-5389

kjgood@atmc.net

Denis Doyle — 579-4336

ddoyle@atmc.net

Membership & Address Changes (due 15th of the month):
Debra Bordeaux — 287-1192 dbordeaux@seatrail.com

Please send all articles and submission to the Sea Trailer:
theseatrailer@atmc.net or lehrere@atmc.net.

Deadline for all submissions: 22nd of the month

Golf

Bagdrop

July will be another very active month for the Sea Trail Ladies Golf Association. On July 15, we will be holding our Rally For A Cure tournament. The sign-up sheets and information for sponsoring a hole and/or donating a flag are available in the computer room and have also been emailed to each STLGA member.

On July 29, we will be having the Memorial Tournament. This tournament will also allow us to build our own foursome. A very special part of this tournament is that all proceeds are donated to our chapel here at Sea TaTrail. This includes our \$2.00 to play in the tournament as well as anything else that is contributed.

We received a request from Brunswick Family Assistance for help. Our current economic situation has put a significant strain on families in this area. In our last meeting a decision was reached for STLGA to hold a day of food donations. Look for additional information about this in the near future.

Our pairing coordinators for July are Nancy Hanania at 575-2469 and Pat Lupi at 579-7929.

Sea Trail Ladies Golf Association is one of 12 leagues in Brunswick county that participates in the Ladybirds tournaments. To be a member of Ladybirds you must be a dues paying member of STLGA and have a USGA 18 holes handicap of 40 or less. The sign-up sheets are posted on the computer room bulletin board, and who gets to play is based upon the order in which the checks are received. The first 10 checks received will play, and alternates will be contacted to play as needed. Just sign-up and deposit your check made out to STLGA in the black lock box in the computer room.

Sea Trail will be hosting the next tournament on July 27. Look for the sign-up sheet to be posted around July 1. I have it from a reliable source that Sea Trail will probably need to furnish more than 10 players. In the last tournament played at Farmstead, Sea Trail had 12 players competing in the eight flights. Of that 11 players came away with prizes for their performance. Congratulations to all of you that represented us so well!

July is a hot month for us here. Be sure to stay well hydrated and enjoy your golf.

— Kathy Ivey, Publicity



Crooked Gulley Neighborhood Golf Tournament

The 2009 Annual Crooked Gulley Golf Tournament, which includes Baroney Place Dr., Discovery Lake, and Deacon Court, will be held on Labor Day, September 7th. The flyers will be handed out in mid-July with details and a sign-up form.

Chairpersons:

Bob and Barbara Cunningham (579-9729)

www.bcunningham219@yahoo.com

Ray and Janine Coakley (575-3304)

www.seatrails.jones15@yahoo.com

13th Annual Kings Trail Open

Get ready for 13th annual Kings Trail Open and Social with your friends and neighbors. Below are a few details for planning:

When: Saturday, September 13, 2009

Where: Maples Golf Course (12:15 starting tee times)

Pink Palace for evening social (6:00 pm)

Hosts: Judy & Joe Wewerka – 919.870.0015

(judy.wewerka@hotmail.com)

Betsy & Don Slover – 910.579.6028

(erslover@yahoo.com)

We hope to have a great turnout and encourage everyone to participate! If you are interested in helping with the event, please contact Judy. We would appreciate your support for the following: evening social, greeter (name tags, raffle tickets), facility set-up and clean up, creation of ice-breakers/brain teasers, desert goodies, photographer.

Mark your calendar and plan to have some fun!

RICE MILL OPEN

The registration form for the Rice Mill Open to be held on September 3, 2009, will be delivered during the last week of June. If you are away during that time, send a request for an electronic copy to Tony Imondi (timondi@atmc.net). Deadline for registration will be August 17.

Thank You

To all of my caring friends at Sea Trail, I want to express my thanks to you for the support and caring that you have shown to me during these past few weeks since Jim's passing. Your phone calls, cards of encouragement, visits, food brought to our home, attendance at his memorial service, and most of all, your continued prayers, have lifted my spirits and given me courage for this new journey. I'm so thankful that Jim and I were able to spend seven precious years together here at Sea Trail. It really has become home to me. Thank you! *Nancy Thomasson*

Special thanks to Lil Schorp and Betsy Irwin for their help with a successful plant sale, and to all who purchased flowers and plants over the many weeks. Over \$3000 was raised to assist Hope Harbor Home. Your support is greatly appreciated. *Charlie Giordano*

Thanks to the wonderful family at Sea Trail for all the cards, meals and goodies during my confinement with my compression fractures and cracked rib! It's going to be a long 10 weeks without my favorite golf but my wonderful caregiver Ed has made it more durable with all of your help! We continue to be blessed with this paradise living! *Susan Seidel*

To My Many Sea Trail Friends: My family and I thank you for the love and care and all the food and visits in our time of need. God knew what was he was doing when led us to this Paradise where people rally round those who are in need. Thank you so much and may God bless you all. *Heni*

New Property Owners and Changes

New Owners

Gayle and Skip (Eugene)
Schmoyer
260 Clubhouse Rd. 11C
910 579-4866
gbschmoyer@atmc.net

Robert and Mary Donnelly
213 Planters Ridge Dr.
910 575-5319
donnellyr@atmc.net

Changes

George Lefelar
lefelar@verizon.net

Susan and Sherrill Ferguson
Sferguson44@nc.rr.com

Herb and Carol Welch
Hwmaples4t@atmc.net

Elaine Sigismondo
e_sigismondo@yahoo.com

Thomas Downs
Lot 133 cooked Gulley Circle
New 845 551-2871
tdowns@aol.com

Webster Co. LLC
New contact
Jonathan Webster
263 Clubhouse Road
Club Villa Unit 10B
New Mailing Address
7109 Darnley Place
Charlotte NC 28226
704 544-2898 (home)
704 201-5674 (cell)

Frank and Antoinette Ferro
Lot 6 Oyster Pointe Dr.
New mailing Address:
6907 Yew Court
Frederick, MD 21703

John and Karen Zalar
140 Avian Dr.
Champions Unit 3717
New Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 7807
Ocean Isle Beach, NC. 28469

Hossein and Dawn Rezai
165 Royal Poste Rd.
Unit 2911

William and Cindy Newman
623 Kings Trail Dr.
Mail Address:
32 Lake Dr. Candler, NC. 28715
828 777-3632

Tom and Kay Carlson
Corrected Address:
145 Royal Poste
Unit No. 3108

Andrea Peebles
215-1102 Kings Trail Dr.
New Mailing Address:
270 Woodlands Way SW # 5
Calabash NC 28467
910 579-2314

Ann Marie Sweeney
Lot 132 Cooked Gulley Circle
New 845 774-9666
Am.sweeney@comcast.net

Jim and Lori Wilson
228 Kings Trail
Club Villa Unit 24-B
910 579-4085
Tarheel8589@carolina.rr.com
loriwilson@carolina.rr.com

Could You Ace the Citizenship Test?

When immigrants want to become Americans, they must take a civics test as part of their naturalization interview before a Citizenship and Immigration Services (INS) officer. The questions are usually selected from a list of 100 sample questions that prospective citizens can look at ahead of the interview (though the examiner is not limited to those questions). These are some of the more difficult ones. Candidates are *not* given multiple choices in the naturalization interview, which is conducted *orally*.

1. How many stripes are there on the U.S. Flag?
A. 10 B. 13 C. 50 D. 51
2. Who is the current chief justice of the Supreme Court?
A. Barack Obama B. Harry Reid C. Sonia Sotomayor D. John G. Roberts, Jr.
3. In what year was the Constitution written?
A. 1776 B. 1787 C. 1876 D. 1812
4. Which of these is guaranteed by the First Amendment?
A. Freedom of the press B. Right to bear Arms C. Right to happiness D. Right to trial by Jury
5. How many Supreme Court Justices are there?
A. 3 B. 9 C. 10 D. 13
6. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
A. July 4, 1776 B. July 4, 1787 C. July 4, 1812 D. July 4, 1876
7. Which of the following amendments to the Constitution does NOT address or guarantee voting rights?
A. 19th Amendment B. 24th Amendment C. 15th Amendment D. 7th Amendment
8. How many changes or amendments to the Constitution are there?
A. 9 B. 10 C. 13 D. 27
9. Which of the following is NOT one of the constitutional requirements to be eligible to become president?
A. Must be at least 35 years old by the time he/she will serve
B. Must have lived in the United States for at least 14 years
C. Must be a natural-born citizen of the United States
D. Must have served as governor
10. How many representatives are there in Congress?
A. 50 B. 100 C. 102 D. 435

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/13442226/>; "Do You Have What it Takes to Become a Citizen?"

Answers: 1. (B); 2. (B); 3. (D); 4. (A); 5. (B); 6. (A); 7. (D); 8. (D); 9. (D); 10. (D)

Sea Tails

“Birdwatching in Sea Trail”



By Anita August

Or “My World, and Welcome to It!”

In 1987, Diane and Vic Hahn had retired from Minneapolis, and were comfortably settled in a rented home in Carolina Shores. They had purchased a lot in “the Shores,” and had planned on building their retirement home there. Vic had enjoyed a career with the Otis Elevator Company, and as they had moved around the country with his career, starting in Michigan, then to Ohio, then Indiana, and finally Minnesota, Diane was always busy making a home for them and their three children. Along the way, she developed an interest in the birds that frequented the Hahns’ back yards, and soon, she was pursuing birdwatching.

Her interests were encouraged in 1965 when Vic bought her first pair of binoculars, an essential tool for anyone serious about birdwatching. She avidly began documenting the birds that she was able to identify. Diane says that the single most important step in learning to recognize the various birds was to learn their calls. She accomplished this by listening to audio tapes. Nowadays, you can more readily hear birds’ calls by accessing bird sites on the internet.

By the time Vic and Diane retired, Diane was an accomplished and avid birdwatcher. While they were settling comfortably into Carolina Shores, Diane was always scouting new areas to see more bird species. One day, she happened along what is now a golf path on the Maples course. Back then, there were only a couple homes built along Creek View, and Sea Trail Drive was only a sandy “dirt” road! It was there that Diane spotted the fantastic site of hundreds of wading birds roosting in the trees. Their bright white plumage was in stark contrast to the dark green foliage. Diane quickly identified many birds nearby. There was an active osprey nest, Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Reddish Egrets, Anhingas, and Glossy Ibis. Diane quickly decided that this was where she *really* wanted to build their retirement home.

After visiting the site, Vic agreed, and they promptly bought the lot where their home now sits. They were able to sell the Carolina Shores lot, and continued living in the rented home there while Vic designed their new home, and oversaw its construction.

Throughout the years, Vic had assisted Diane in her hobby by creating “bird friendly” environments wherever the family lived. Their Sea Trail home is no exception. Vic has set up several birdbaths, and run water supplies to each of them. He has created an arcing stream of water, using copper tubing. Water attracts birds to an area more than bird houses, bird seed or other food sources. Diane maintains that, more than simply a water source, moving water is what truly draws the birds into her yard. The steadily dripping copper piping provides a “shower” for the birds, and the sound of the dripping water attracts them.

Vic also set up a way for Diane to hear the bird calls while she is in the house. Using a common “baby monitor,” he set up the receiving end of the system on their back deck, and the broadcasting end in their kitchen. Whenever a bird is on their deck, or nearby, and begins singing or chirping, Diane can hear it, and come to the window, knowing what type of bird she will see. Over the years, Diane has identified over 207 species in Brunswick County, and 136 in their back yard here in Sea Trail!

While people often park their cars along Beach Drive to view and photograph the trees laden with roosting wood storks, Diane encourages Sea Trail residents to walk the paths bordering the Maples golf course. Begin walking the path behind Creek View, and continue walking over toward the pump house, up to where Clubhouse Road crosses over the Calabash Creek, at about 5:30 p.m. or after, to see the wood storks. They are especially prevalent from early July through September. In October, their numbers dwindle as they begin their winter migration further south.

It takes powers of observation to distinguish some of the water fowl. Ibis, egrets, and wood storks can all appear to be similar. Primarily, differences can be seen in the size, shape and color of the bird’s bill, and the color of its legs. Wood storks are large birds, 33-45 inches tall with a 58-71 inch wingspan. When standing, the wood stork appears all white, with black or gray legs and pink feet. When flying, the edges of

(Sea Tails continued)

the bird's wings are black. The head is dark brown with a bald, black face, and the thick down curved bill is "dirty" yellow. Young wood storks are a duller version of adult birds, with a more pale bill.

Wood storks build large stick nests in dense foliage, preferably near water. When they find a favorable location, there can be up to twenty-five nests in one tree. These birds breed once a year, usually laying 3-5 eggs in a clutch. The eggs are incubated 27–32 days. Incubation duties are shared by the female and the male. Each chick weighs approximately 2 ounces when they hatch. The chicks are helpless and unable to fly at first. Competition for food is fierce, and if food is scarce, only the older chicks will survive. Week-old chicks must be fed about 15 times per day. They grow rapidly. By 14 days, each will weigh 10 times their hatching weight. During the breeding season, wood storks need over 400 pounds of fish to feed themselves and their offspring. During warm weather, parents also collect water and bring it to the nest to drool into the chicks' mouths. When the chicks reach four weeks of age, both parents can leave the nest to search for food. This process continues until the chicks fledge. Young wood storks may continue to return to the colony for another 10 to 15 days to roost or to try and get food from their parents. A colony is considered successful if its parents average at least 1.5 fledged young per nest.

Wood storks must continually defend their nests against various predators, which include vultures, grackles, racoons, and skunks. Racoons are the leading predator of nests, and can cause almost complete nest and egg destruction, especially in drought years. Adult wood storks are safer. They can occasionally fall prey to alligators.

Diane was fascinated by the spring's flourishing owl nests that we featured in May's *Sea Tails*. Now, the increased owl population has created a change in the roosting habits of many of the birds that Diane and Vic typically see in their back yard. The owls have taken to using that area for their "hunting" grounds, and the other birds are feeling somewhat threatened by the presence of the large owls. They have moved closer to the pump house in their afternoon and early evening roosting. Enjoy your stroll along the golf path, and enjoy sighting the unique and spectacular bird groups which Sea Trail is privileged to provide a home!



Pictures by Joe Lafferty

Follow-Up to Article on Hummingbirds in May Sea Trailer:

For a close-up look at eggs and baby hummingbirds in their nest, click <http://community-2.webtv.net/Velpics/HUM/> or copy the address and paste it into the address box in your browser.

Special Events

MS Bike Ride

I have registered for the fall MS 150 bike ride. Rather than bugging all of you by phone who have supported me in the past I will just handle it by email. This will be my 21st ride and many of you have supported me for many of them by joining in the fight to find the cure for the devastating illness, Multiple Sclerosis. Many strides are being made, but nothing has been found to be totally successful.

Again I am asking for your contributions. Over the past three years the chapters that I am involved in have raised more than \$1,000,000 each year. Your donations through me have been in excess of \$8,000 each of those years. If you wish to contribute please make a check to; MS Society and mail it to me or call and I will pick it up. I would appreciate closing out by August 15. Thanks again for all the help in the past.

Roy Cundiff, 598 Kings Trail

Plant A Row for Brunswick Family Assistance

A nationwide public-service campaign co-sponsored by the Garden Writers Association Foundation and the Scotts Company of Marysville, Ohio, Plant a Row is a people-helping-people project predicated on gardeners producing more vegetables, fruits and herbs than they can reasonably use connecting with those who don't have enough nutritional food.

Donations will be weighed at the site and receipts issued for tax-deduction purposes. No amount of produce is too small. Brochures giving an overview of the Plant a Row program and including inserts detailing collection sites, dates and times are available. (*Editor's Note: I have an electronic version of the brochure giving collection dates, times and sites. Please email me at lehere@atmc.net.*) For more information, please see the website, <http://www.gardenwriters.org/par>.

SwapShop

For Sale:

Sky Caddie SG5 with the color screen. In great condition. Belt clip, USB adapter and AC charger included. Sky Caddie software is directly downloaded from website. Asking \$250 (sells new \$399.95). Call Dick Lehrer 575-5340 for demo and to check out the unit.

July 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 STLGA 7:08-9:21 JB to BF Pinochle 7 PP	2 Pilates 800 PP Ladies Bridge 9:15 PP	3 Yoga 10 PP TGIF 6 PP	4 
5	6 Aerobics 8 PP Men's Golf Con- ditioning 5 MAC	7 Strength Training 8 PP Book Club 3:30 PP	8 STLGA 7:08-9:21 BF to JB Pinochle 7 PP	9 Pilates 8 PP Ladies Bridge 9:15 PP	10 Yoga 10 PP	11 Water Aerobics 8 PP
12	13 Aerobics 8 PP Men's Golf Con- ditioning 5 MAC	14 Strength Training 8 PP Garden Club 10 PP Sea Trail Mixer	15 STLGA Rally for a Cure 8:30 Maples Pinochle 7 PP	16 Pilates 800 PP Ladies Bridge 9:15 PP	17 Yoga 10 PP TGIF 6 PP	18 Water Aerobics 8 PP
19	20 Aerobics 8 PP Men's Golf Con- ditioning 5 MAC	21 Strength Training 8 PP	22 STLGA 7:08-9:21 JB to BF Pinochle 7 PP	23 Pilates 800 PP Ladies Bridge 9:15 PP	24 Yoga 10 PP	25 Water Aerobics 8 PP
26	27 Aerobics 8 PP Ladybirds at Sea Trail Men's Golf Con- ditioning 5 MAC	28 Strength Training 8 PP	29 STLGA Memorial Tournament 7:37-8:43 Maples Pinochle 7 PP	30	31	

STGLA Pairings for July: Nancy Hanania 575-2469 Pat Lupi 579-7929