

Cape Chronicle Newsletter - January 30, 2023

Barber, Michael C <Michael_Barber@nps.gov>

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Cape Chronicle

Newsletter

Cape Hatteras NS Fort Raleigh NHS Wright Brothers NMEM

Photos of the Week



A North Carolina Department of Transportation vehicle ferry travels to Ocracoke Island via Hatteras Inlet. Visit ferry.ncdot.gov for more info. NPS Photo/Kurt Moses



One Hatteras National Seashore visitor prepares to surf fish on a ferry morning. NPS Photo/Kurt Moses

News

- Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site and Wright Brothers National Memorial combined to host nearly 3.6 million visits in 2022.
 - Last year was the third busiest year on record at Cape Hatteras National, behind only 2021 and 2002. America's first national seashore hosted 2,862,844 visits and booked 60,973 campsites in 2022.
 - In 2022, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site and Wright Brothers National Memorial hosted 296,650 and 437,331 visits respectively.
- Visitors to Fort Raleigh National Historic Site will one day be able to enjoy an enhanced walk along the park's wooded Freedom Trail.
 - A total of ten new educational panels and several life-sized silhouettes are being developed that will lead visitors along a 1.25-mile journey describing hardships endured by enslaved people who risked everything in their efforts to reach Roanoke Island.
 - The phased project, funded by [OBX Forever](#), [National Park Foundation](#) and the [National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom](#), is currently scheduled to begin this spring and conclude by the end of this year.
 - Freedom Trail enhancement project updates will be provided via Fort Raleigh's [website](#) and social media accounts. The project will also be discussed on Feb. 14, during Ranger Nelson's Dare County Library presentation (details below).
- Sign up to receive general information about all three parks by texting NPSOBX to 333111. Text CAHAORV to 333111 for Cape Hatteras National Seashore beach access alerts.

Events

Dare County Library Adult Speaker Series

Roanoke's Forgotten Colony: The Freedmen's Colony of 1863-1867

- **Date:** Tuesday, Feb. 14 from 11 a.m.-12p.m.
- **Location:** Kill Devil Hills Library Meeting Room or Online [[Registration](#)]
- **Park Ranger:** Josh Nelson, educational ranger
- **Details:** Centuries after the lost colony, Roanoke Island became home to a new colony, a Freedmen's Colony, which was established by the army to prepare the formerly enslaved people for life after the war. In February of 1862, the Battle of Roanoke Island left the Outer Banks under Union control, which made Roanoke Island a safe haven, a place of refuge for those who sought the protection of the Union Army. Although some freedom seekers continued their journey northward, many of the refugees remained on the island in the Freeman's Colony that lasted until 1867.

Bird Identification Workshop

- **Date:** Friday, March 3 from 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
- **Location:** Online-only [[Registration](#)]
- **Park Ranger:** Amy Thompson, biological technician
- **Details:** This interactive bird identification program will focus on key characteristics, such as overall profiles, foraging behaviors, and habitat, which can aid birders on all levels to identify a species quickly and confidently. There will be a focus on families of birds commonly found on the Outer Banks, such as shorebirds, seabirds, wading birds, songbirds, and many others. Whether you are backyard birding or strolling the beach, this workshop is geared towards helping you refine your identification skills.

Modernist Tides: NPS and Mission 66 development on the Outer Banks

- **Date:** Tuesday, March 28 from 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
- **Location:** Kill Devil Hills Library Meeting Room or Online [[Registration](#)]
- **Park Ranger:** George Jaramillo, historical architect
- **Details:** The National Park Service's Mission 66 program attempted to modernize the service by introducing new visitor facilities, recreational structures, trails and fixtures that we come to expect from the NPS today. This talk will explore the history and impact of this program across the Outer Banks including the visitor centers at the Wright Brothers Memorial and Fort Raleigh National Historic Site.

Text NPSOBX to 333111 for park text alerts

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The *Cape Chronicle* e-newsletter provides brief, timely and newsworthy content throughout the year. For more information on the three parks that make up the Outer Banks Group, visit www.nps.gov/caha, www.nps.gov/fora and www.nps.gov/wrbr. [OBX Forever](#) is the official philanthropic partner for these three national park sites.

The [National Park Service](#) preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations.

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Questions or comments? Email michael_barber@nps.gov.