

# WASHINGTON

T H E M A G A Z I N E

## Reggie Fountain

*A need for speed leads to maritime innovation*

ALSO INSIDE

### BOAT BUILDING

WHS PROGRAM SAILS IN MARITIME INDUSTRY

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# BCCC FOUNDATION LEGACY LUNCHEON

PHOTOS BY BCCC

Students attending Beaufort County Community College who receive aid through the BCCC Foundation had a chance to dine with their benefactors on March 15. The luncheon brings together future nurses, medical lab technicians, business owners, welders, and nail technicians, along with the scholarship donors. The BCCC Foundation gave out over \$190,000 through scholarships.



Shonita Johnson, Amelia Woolard, Amahja St. Clair, Amelia Woolard, Erin Shanno, and Allison Lepkowski



Shonita Johnson, Amahja St. Clair, and Samantha Toler



Deloris Clemons and Dr. LaTonya Nixon



Deloris Clemons and Pam Shadle





Sherrick Howell, Tommy Hodges, Fonda Duarite, and Judy Fulford



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Monisha Stokes and Jo Linda Cooper



Sherrick Howell, Brianna Stokes, and Christy Edwards



Millie Ebron,  
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Mark Nelson,  
Amelia Woolard,  
and Allison  
Lepkowski

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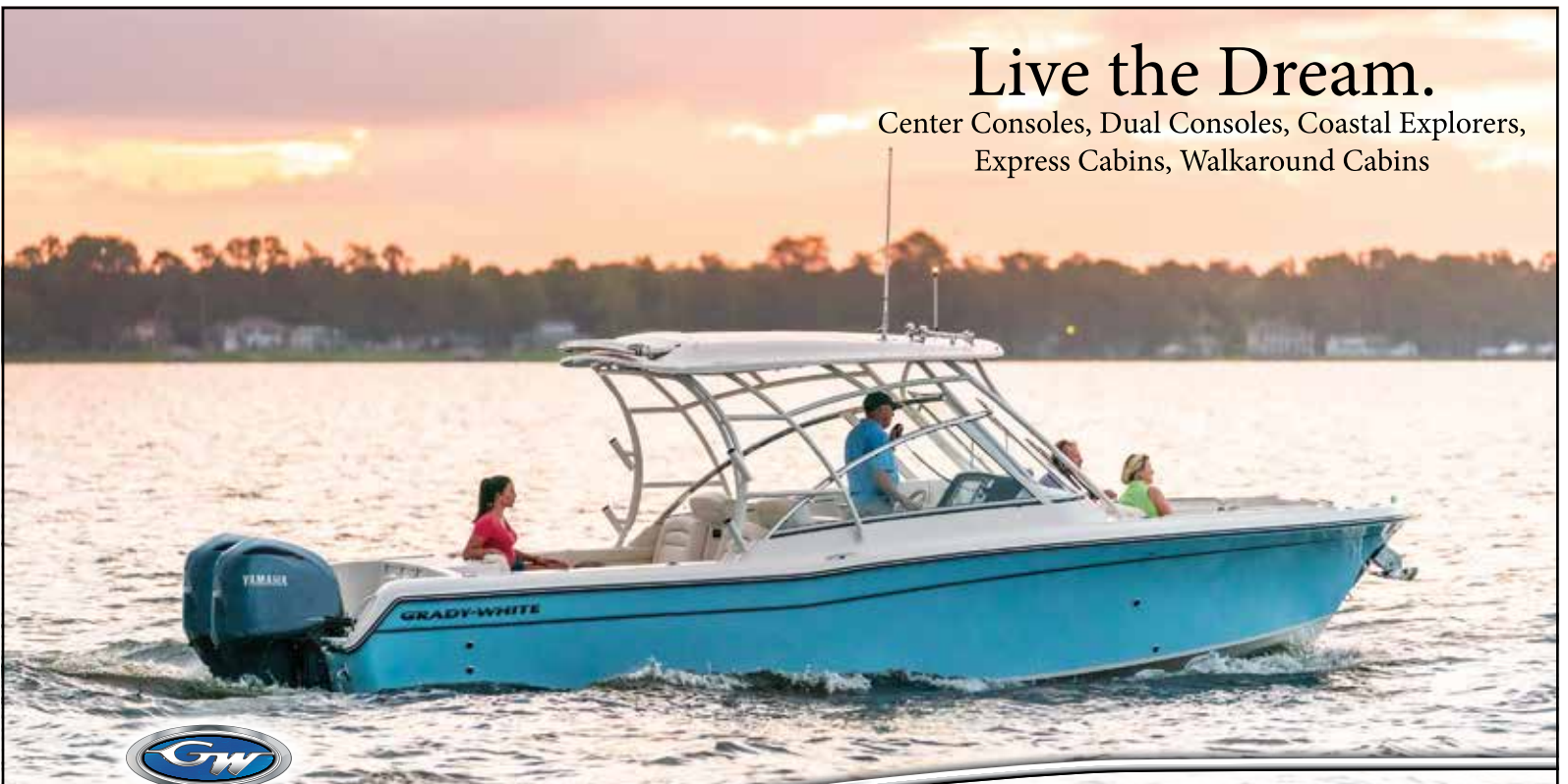



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# PLASTIC OCEANS PROJECT FUNDRAISER

PHOTOS BY HOLLY JACKSON

Plastic Oceans Project held a gala at Spoon Rivers restaurant in Belhaven on Friday, April 21, 2023. Plastic Ocean Project is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to bring awareness to a “plastic pollution crisis” in the ocean and what people can do to reduce plastic waste ending up in the ocean. According to the organization an average of eight million tons of plastic enters the ocean every year.



Ray Larcher and Diana Lambeth



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Beth and Walston Peters



Don Stark and Keith Calder



Mark Smith, Kathleen Sutter, Theresa Lowry, and Don Michaud



Cherry Sutton and Mark Gnagy



Jan and Dave Dawson



LOCAL ICON

A portrait of a man with dark hair and a serious expression, wearing a dark blue racing suit with yellow trim. An American flag is draped over his left shoulder. In the bottom left corner, a racing helmet with orange, black, and blue stripes and white stars is visible. The background is a clear blue sky.

# ADMIRAL OF BOAT INNOVATION





PHOTO USED WITH PERMISSION FROM FOUNTAIN

# *Reggie Fountain's relentless pursuit for speed*

STORY BY **HOLLY JACKSON** PHOTOS BY **ASHLEY VANSANT, HOLLY JACKSON, JOHN POTTS**

**A**n eight-year-old, Reggie Fountain stepped onto a boat at Camp Seagulls in Arapahoe, North Carolina. It was owned by the father of Fountain's friend. Traveling up and down the Neuse River as a child, Fountain got his first taste of boating - a taste that would later evolve into an insatiable hunger for having the best boats on the water namely his own.

Fountain, of Tarboro, North Carolina, spent his adolescence water-skiing the Tar River with friends. "By the time I was 12, I was getting pretty heavy into boats," Fountain said. With assistance, Fountain built







ABOVE PHOTO  
BY JOHN POTTS



BOTTOM PHOTO  
BY JOHN POTTS

**The Executioner was the first boat under the Fountain name in the early 1980's. This year, the boat came back into Fountain's possession more than 40 years after it was constructed.**



his first boat.. "It wasn't much of a boat, but it floated." That boat, built in 1952, had a 10 horsepower motor and could go 35 miles per hour, Fountain recalled.

A stark contrast to the boats his company's namesake - Fountain Powerboats - would build and race decades later.

In the 1970's Fountain entered the professional boat racing world as a driver with an amateur boat and an outboard motor from Mercury Marine. He funded his passion for boat racing with money he earned while selling life insurance with Northwestern Mutual and owning several apartment complexes in Greenville, North Carolina, he said.

Fountain was an independent racer in 1975 who joined Mercury Marine's racing team with Bill Seebold and Earl Bentz. He was with the team for four years and in that time they collected numerous first place trophies from

competitions around the world.

A few years later, Mercury stopped its racing team, because "we won all the races we went to so everybody we were racing against - Johnson Motors, McCulloch Engines - all of the people we were competing against quit racing the factories, because the Mercury factory won all the races. So Mercury quit racing, too," Fountain said.

Fountain won the 1976 and 1978 Formula One World Championships prior to opening his namesake boat manufacturing company.

Fountain's start in boat manufacturing began with purchasing and altering Excalibur hulls. He made so many modifications to the hulls that he thought it best to start his own company. The first boat to be built was the 31-Executioner that had twin turbocharged engines.

More than three decades from its inaugural

year, Fountain Powerboats built more than 10,000 boats and generated \$1 billion in sales and in the process left a legacy in the boat racing industry.

Reggie Fountain's most famous accomplishment happened in Washington on the Pamlico River. In 2004, he and Ben Robertson set an American Powerboat Association world record flying past onlookers at 171.880 mph on a 42' Fountain Powerboat. It was a new record for vee-hull performance.

Of the 201 races Fountain competed in over a 30 year period, he won first place in 101 of them. He had eight crashes and the others he placed in either second, third or fourth.

"It was a lot of work," Fountain said about being among the best in the boating industry. It was non-stop with boat races, fishing tournaments, boat shows and testing boats - not to mention flying around the country





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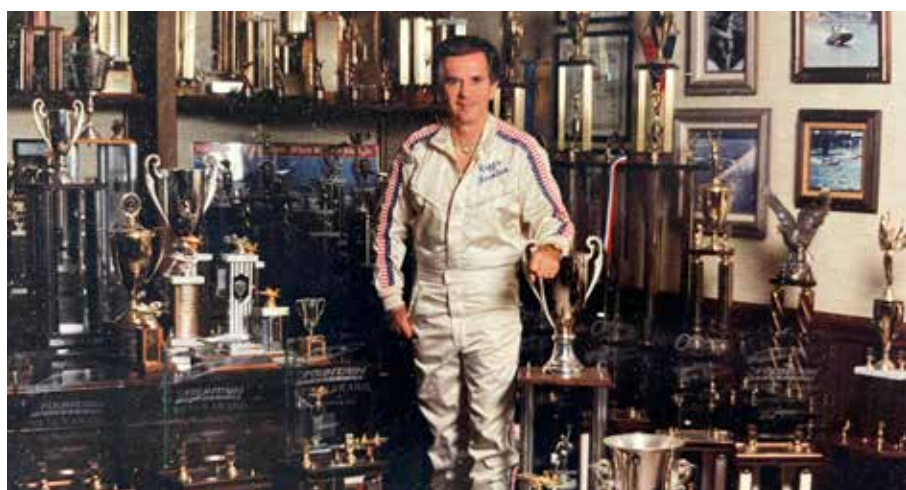






Fountain resides in Chocowinity near the former Fountain Powerboat factory which is now owned by Iconic Marine Group.





Of the 201 races Fountain competed in, he won first place in 101 of them even winning Formula One World Champion races in 1976 and 1978. Photos used with permission from Fountain.

meeting with dealers.

At 83, Fountain said he would do it all over again. “Yeah, I would. There’d probably be some things I’d change along the way,” he said laughing.

In 2010, Fountain stepped away from the company and it was sold to Iconic Marine Group. A parent company that owns Donzi and Baja Marine groups. Fountain Powerboats are still manufactured in Beaufort County at a facility in Chocowinity.

Fountain continued to say throughout his career as CEO of Fountain Powerboats, he met lots of good people. Two of those being his closest friends Wayne Woolard and Mark Spencer.

Woolard, of Bath, met Fountain when he was nine years old and Fountain was 23. Woolard recalled meeting Fountain through a mutual friend at Havens Gardens in Washington. Woolard enjoyed seeing the new Corvette Fountain would purchase every year and his new speed boats.

“When you’re a kid and there’s a stranger, most strangers might speak to you, but they don’t really want to have anything to do with you. Reggie was not like that...He made you feel comfortable around him,” Woolard said. He and the other boys his age looked up to Fountain with his trophies, new Corvettes and a pretty girl on his arm. “The biggest thing about him was - it didn’t matter who was around him, he made you feel at home,” Woolard continued.

Even as a child, Woolard could tell that Fountain “was on a mission” to do something great.

It wasn’t until after Woolard’s college graduation that he and Fountain became friends in 1981. The men bonded over their shared interest in barefoot water skiing. They would ski from Washington to Morehead City and back which is about 86 miles one way, Woolard said.

Skiing was the key to why Fountain Powerboats were so much faster than other brands.

Just as Woolard would make changes to his skis to make them faster like the addition of steps, Fountain made his boats faster than anyone else by making changes to the hull. A Fountain powerboat could have the same horsepower as any other boat, but changes like a stepped hull and a nose like a bird’s beak made the Fountain boat much faster than any other brand. It was all about making the boat more aerodynamic, Woolard explained.

Woolard didn't officially work for Fountain Powerboats, but he provided Fountain with a wealth of insight that helped Fountain design his iconic boats.

Woolard shared that his best memory of Fountain was "watching him innovate with the boats and watching him mingle and deal with the public."

"He is the friendliest person you'll ever meet," Woolard said, "and it's not a show. He's not selling you a boat. That's his persona."

The one thing Woolard wants people to know about Fountain is how invested he was in building the brand. Fountain used his personal money, money he could have retired with, to create Fountain Powerboats. In the beginning, it was difficult building a company that required millions of dollars when Fountain had a certain income.

"It was because of his personality, his drive that it worked," Woolard said. "I would like for people to know the sacrifice that he made to do what he did."

Driven, determined, enthusiastic, passionate and strong-willed are words Mark Spencer used to describe Fountain. Spencer and Fountain have been close friends for 45 years.

"He makes things happen just through determination," Spencer said. "What he built down there at that boat company when he started from zero is really pretty amazing."

Fountain and Spencer met when Spencer worked for Powerboat Magazine covering a Formula One race. Spencer, then a young journalist, introduced himself to all of the boat drivers at a race. When he met Fountain, they "hit it off instantly," Spencer said.

Spencer eventually moved away from the magazine, started his own marketing company for boat companies and Fountain was his first customer. Whether working together or not, Spencer said his friendship with Fountain has stayed strong.

"Our friendship is as strong today as it was way back in the 70's," Spencer said.

Spencer said Fountain possesses a "larger than life" personality which is illustrated by his mansion among one-story homes in Chocowinity, the Elvis statue that greets guests as they enter the front of the home. At dinner,



Photo by John Potts

Fountain will order a regular Coke and add two packets of sugar to it, and park his Dodge Hellcat SRT in a handicap parking space.

"That's just how he lives life. He just goes from the gusto,"

"He is one of a kind. There is nobody like Reggie," Spencer continued.

Wyatt said when it came to racing powerboats with his father nothing was ever given to him, because it had to be earned. "When you have a father like that, people have this perception that with a father like him you have a silver spoon in your mouth. You have what he has, but you don't. That's not how he does it. I had to earn what I got," Wyatt said.

He continued to say Fountain gave him opportunities, but it was up to Wyatt to be successful. "It was up to me to take advantage of those opportunities and make the most of them and learn from him."

The experience of racing with Fountain was a "constant push to be the best you could be and realize your full potential," Wyatt said.

The boats Reggie Fountain built are inextricably linked to himself. In fact, they are more like an extension of his personality, Wyatt described.

When looking at a dashboard on a

Fountain Powerboat, there are many buttons with various functions to perform how the driver needs it to. It can maneuver rough or calm waters by the press of a button.

Reggie Fountain operates the same way, according to Wyatt. He knows how to handle any situation good or bad with ease, because of his ability to "read people," he said.

"If it's rough seas, tough racing, business, tough decisions, tough customers Reggie has a button you can press for that. If it's smooth sailing, laid back customers, older customers, younger customers he's got an ability to read people," Wyatt said.

Wyatt entered boat racing in his 20's and won multiple World and National Championships racing high performance offshore boats on the SBI and APBA circuits.

He worked his way up the ranks at Fountain Powerboats becoming VP of Sales and Marketing. He marketed and sold over \$90 million of custom high performance boats worldwide from 2003 to 2010.

Since 2010, Wyatt and Reggie's relationship has grown stronger, Wyatt shared.

Like his father, Wyatt said he would "absolutely" do it all again "with no doubt" in his mind.





## IN FINANCE, EVERYONE COUNTS!

Sabrina Cobb serves as the Assistant Finance Officer of Beaufort County Schools. While she's worked with the school system for a year and a half, her experience with the state reaches over 16 years.

Her passion for accounting and business drives her daily, working hands-on with the school district's budget. Her day-to-day operations include working closely with school bookkeepers and serving as the district's internal auditor. She states that "a lot of people are fearful of internal audits" but after attending a recent seminar one of the key speakers stated something that she uses to this day, "Internal audits help keep honest people honest."

Sabrina expresses her appreciation for the current finance team of eight, stating, "I love the people I work with; we offer continuous support to each other and truly work great together." Her enthusiasm for her job and smile is contagious, offering advice to those who want to be in the same field in the future. "Be prepared to learn something new every day," she states, "and don't ever limit yourself."

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# BUDDING BOAT BUILDERS





Cutline

## *WHS Boat Building Academy is a gateway into the maritime industry*

STORY AND PHOTOS BY **CLARK CURTIS**

**T**he Washington High School Boat Building Academy is a true pipeline for students interested in a career in the maritime industry. Boat building has a long history in Washington and it continues to thrive with over ten boatbuilding companies located throughout Beaufort County. Ken Adams, a third-generation boat builder with family roots that trace back to his grandfather who was a master shipwright in England, is the carpentry and boat building

teacher at the academy. “Having been a boat builder for over 30 years of my life, I was given the green light back in 2016 to explore the possibility of creating a boat building academy,” said Adams. “We started looking at other programs around the state, of which there weren’t that many. We had an opportunity to tour the boat building school at Cape Fear Community College in Wilmington, to get a feel for the types of things we could provide our students. I also met with several of the boat builders here in Washington to gauge

their interest and needs for talent. It finally all came together when we submitted the paperwork with the state for a boat building specific program which was approved.”

On any given day the students can be seen eagerly and meticulously working away in the shop as part of the Boat Building I or Boat Building II curriculum. Boat Building I is an introduction to boat building. Here students learn the basics of boats and boat building and are introduced to different boat types, boating



vocabulary, building materials, and building techniques. Boat Building II focuses on understanding and applying the processes and skills to use a building plan, create a materials list, cost analysis, and a hands-on boat building project. “Our prerequisite for Boat Building I is Construction Core and or Drafting I,” said Adams. “The bottom line is that we are giving each student the skill sets and knowledge needed to take information from the blueprints and turn it into something real out in the shop, which highly improves their opportunities to jump straight into the maritime industry. We also have students from our electrical, welding, and business classes who enroll in the program. If the maritime industry is not of their choosing, they still have the training needed to pursue other jobs that may be of interest to them.”

“I wanted to develop a lot of skills so when I graduate from high school I have more opportunities,” said Windsor Griffin a senior at Washington High. “Taking these classes has given me more experience and rounded my skills to make me even more desirable to employers.”

For students looking to expand their knowledge and obtain an associate’s degree, they can do so through a coordinated effort with Beaufort County Community College (BCCC) and its boat building program. “It is so nice to have BCCC’s program up and running, which serves as a pathway for our students to go on and receive an associate’s degree,” said Adams. “Those who have completed Boat Building I & II can also enroll in an apprenticeship program at BCCC which entails three days in class and two days working on-site at MGM Yachts and being paid \$15 per hour for both in-class and on-site work.



Cutline



Cutline





Cutline

Once they graduate that hourly rate jumps to \$17 per hour. It is simply a great way for our students to be able to enter the maritime industry prepared and ready.”

“I’m going to sign up for the apprenticeship program as soon as I complete Boat Building II,” said Jared Joseph, a senior at Washington High. “Plus, by taking Boat Building I & II, I also get college credit at BCCC. Once I complete that, my hope is to go to work at either MGM Yachts or Garrett-Bay Boats.”

The program is proving to be a win-win for both the students and the local businesses. If the students elect to go directly to work upon graduation from high school, they have the training to do so. If they choose to go to college first, a path has been tailored for them to do that as well. “We have received a lot of positive feedback from our local maritime business partners,” said Adams, “and we will continue to foster those relationships. I also can’t thank the folks enough at Grady-White Boat for all of their efforts to help support the program and bolster a more robust local labor force.”

Adams also points out that one of the nice things about being a boat building academy is that students from other high schools in Beaufort County also can enroll. As for future plans. “We hope to bring in a four-ton crane for training and certification,” said Adams. “We also hope to introduce forklift training down the road. And eventually, introduce bigger and more complex projects that will include the building of 15-foot boats and larger. We want our students to be prepared to step into any type of position in the maritime industry straight out of high school.”

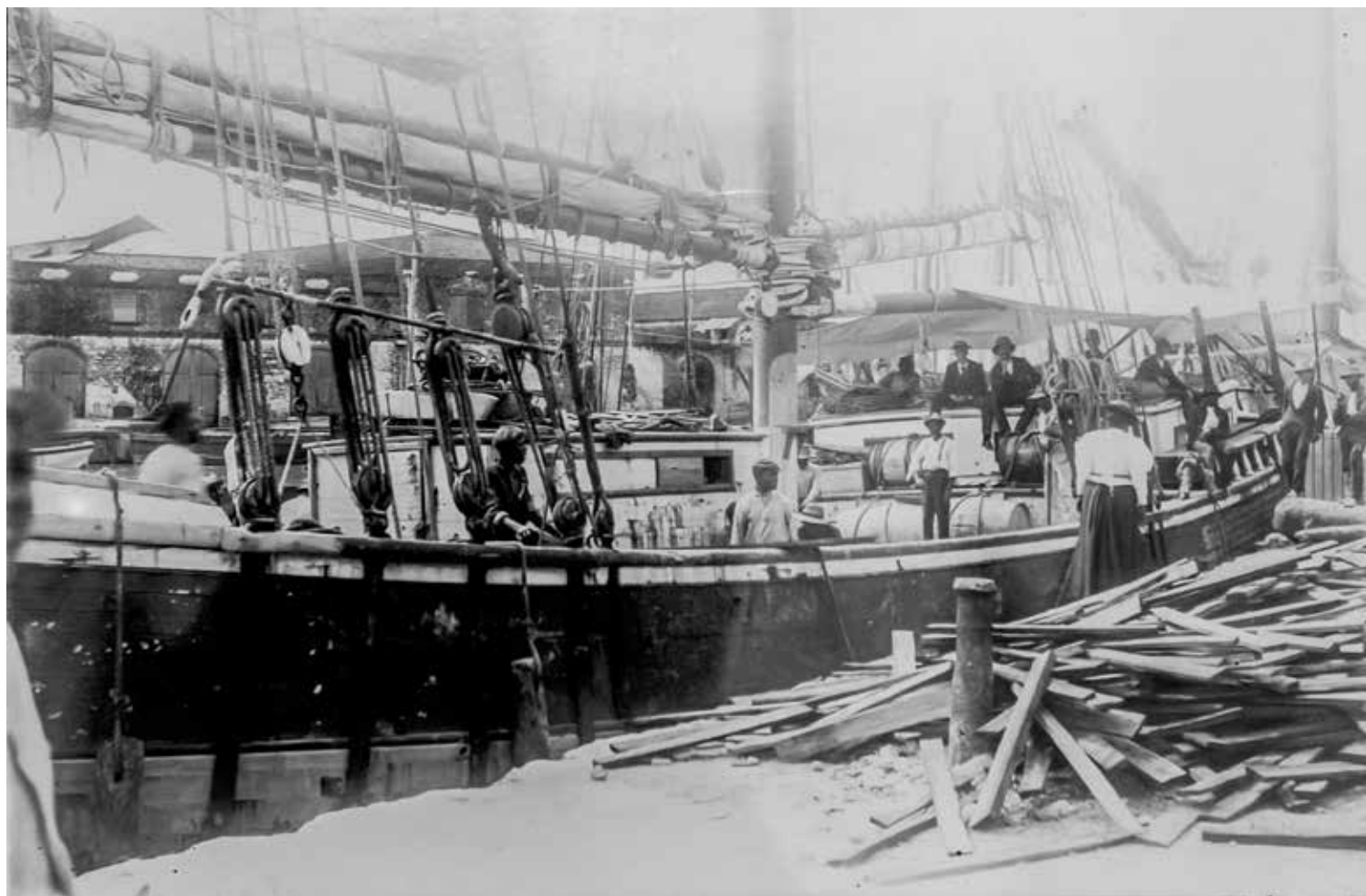
Adams added the academy has also teamed up with the sailing school. “They have given us some donations to help fund some of our projects, which has included scholarships for our students to attend sailing school. We also build some of the small eight-foot sailing boats for the Optimist Club that are used by the school.”

Zamien Smallwood, who won’t be graduating until 2025, already has his sites set on the big picture. “I signed up for the course to learn about more ways to get a career. My brother already works in the boating business and I would like to follow in his footsteps. I like working with my hands and I really enjoy the class. My goal is to get my certificate in boat building and stay here in Washington or wherever my degree takes me.

# SHIPPING MOGULS

## *Fowle Family traded by ship from New England to West Indies*

STORY AND PHOTOS BY RAY MIDGETTE



The Schooner Cora moored in Barbados. Only known photo of a Fowle ship.

**I**t's early June 1855. The schooner *Friends* cast off her lines from the Fowle wharf at the foot of Respass Street, laden with naval stores and cotton, bound for New York. Purchased in 1852 by the Fowle shipping firm of Washington, N. C., the schooner *Friends* measured 81 feet and displaced 150 tons. She was carrying cargo to New York on what hoped to be a routine voyage.

But it would be far from insignificant.

### THE BROTHERS

During the previous three decades, the Fowle firm routinely dispatched large sailing vessels on trading excursions along the eastern seaboard, ranging from Boston in the north to the West Indies to the south. Samuel Richardson Fowle, who dispatched the "*Friends*," moved from Massachusetts to Washington, N. C., 1815. He joined in business with his older brother, Josiah, who

had already established a warehouse and piers on an island in the Pamlico River known as "The Castle." Their enterprise consisted of shipbuilding, supplying naval stores, and transporting lumber, much of which was shipped to New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, as well as the islands of the West Indies. On return from northern ports, the Fowle ships would bring manufactured goods to be traded with Washington merchants or



A portrait painting of Samuel Richardson Fowle, a man with dark, wavy hair and a mustache, wearing a dark suit and a white cravat. The background is dark and textured. A red horizontal bar is at the top of the image.

Samuel  
Richardson  
Fowle



sold to the townspeople. And from the West Indies, the vessels would transport sugar, molasses, coffee, salt, and an occasional parrot to town.

When Samuel's grandson, James Luther Fowle, joined the family business, he expanded the fleet of sailing ships in trade with the West Indies. He established a large retail outlet on the corner of West Main and Respass in Washington, selling timber, farm products, clothing, and other merchandise. Schooners were the main transport vessels used between 1835 and 1887. From the mid-1830s to the end of the century, the Fowle businesses expanded into farming cotton and tobacco.

Sadly, a familiar hazard for the Fowles was soon to strike the schooner "Friends."

### CHICAMACOMICO

Following a short voyage down the Pamlico River and across the sound by the same name, the schooner Friends arrived at Ocracoke Inlet. The following day, June 12, Captain James Longman and Mate W. H. Tichenor took aboard a harbor pilot to guide their vessel across the bar. Once in open water, the two crewmen, George Ryder and William Adams, assisted the pilot in leaving the ship. Friends set a northeasterly course under fair skies and a calm sea.

Following a half-day sail, the symbol of the infamous Graveyard of the Atlantic, Cape Hatteras Light, appeared off the port bow. These waters were known to 19th Century sailors for sudden shifts in the weather, going from calm to raging storms with little warning, often taking a toll in the form of shipwrecks.

Such was the case for the crew of the "Friends." Within a few hours of passing the cape and as night fell, the



Top photo: Former Fowle store. Bottom photo: Nameplate salvaged from the schooner Friends. Photo courtesy of Historic Port of Washington.





A “vendue” on Hatteras Island. Photo courtesy of the Outer Banks History Center.

men and their ship soon experienced gale-force winds and a rising sea.

By 8 am the following morning, Friends found herself in a maelstrom. She was abreast of the small Hatteras Island village of Chicamacomico, today known as Rodanthe. The crew struggled to stay afloat and not sacrifice their tall ship to the sea.

In a message to S. R. Fowle, the captain, and crew of Friends describe what happened next:

"We tried the pumps the vessel remaining tight as usual at 8 AM...at 10 AM tried the pump & found that the vessel was leaking fast...at 11 AM sounded the pumps & found two feet water in the hold...at 12 Meridian there were feet of water in the hold...we thought it advisable to throw over the deck load still kept the pumps going...the land insight... the vessel becoming rather unmanageable we thought it best to run the vessel on the beach for the preservation of life & property...about 7 PM the vessel struck bottom..."

Fortunately for the captain and his crew, the ship did not break apart upon striking the beach, and they survived to tell their story.

### THE "VENDUE"

As was common in the 1800s following a shipwreck along the Outer Banks, the Commissioner of Wrecks advertised the auction sale of the cargo recovered from Friends. This event was known as a “vendue.”

The Commissioner of Wrecks posted the following:

"Notice This will be Sold on Monday the 2nd day of July about 2 miles South of Chickamacomico the Schr Friends of Washington NC .. and cargo consisting of 50 bbl of Spirits of turpentine 870 bbl of tar & turpentine 14 bales of cotton. Sold the order of the Capt the Sale to commence at 11 o'clock on the above day."

Loss of vessels to storms was not uncommon. Of the over 20 schooners owned by the Fowles during the 19th Century, eight were lost to the sea, and Union forces confiscated one during the Civil War. So ends the story of the schooner Friends. We don't know if the ship was re-floated or salvaged. Like many of her peers, the schooner may have been abandoned to the whims of a merciless sea to be dismantled and gradually covered by the shifting sands of the Outer Banks.



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# I (DON'T NECESSARILY) WANT TO BELIEVE



Above: An antique chest of assorted dolls, some of which are said to be haunted, possessed or otherwise afflicted can be found at The Cryptozoology and Paranormal Museum in Littleton. Across: Origins of the FeeJee Mermaid date back to early 19th Century Japan, but soon found its way into the collection of P.T. Barnum.





Cutline

## A trip to Lake Gaston includes a stop at the Museum of Everything Else

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DAVID D. SINGLETON

**I**t's a big world out there, and since the dawn of human time, we hominids, in order to find solace in this dark and mysterious planet around us, have tried to find ways to compartmentalize as a means to help us try and make some sense of it all. Man/woman, left-handed/right-handed, democrat/republican are all pass-fail toggles on the giant plinko board of life, mnemonic devices invented to help us organize and process information. After talking with Stephen Barcelo, Director for the Cryptozoology and Paranormal Museum in far-flung yet picturesque Littleton,

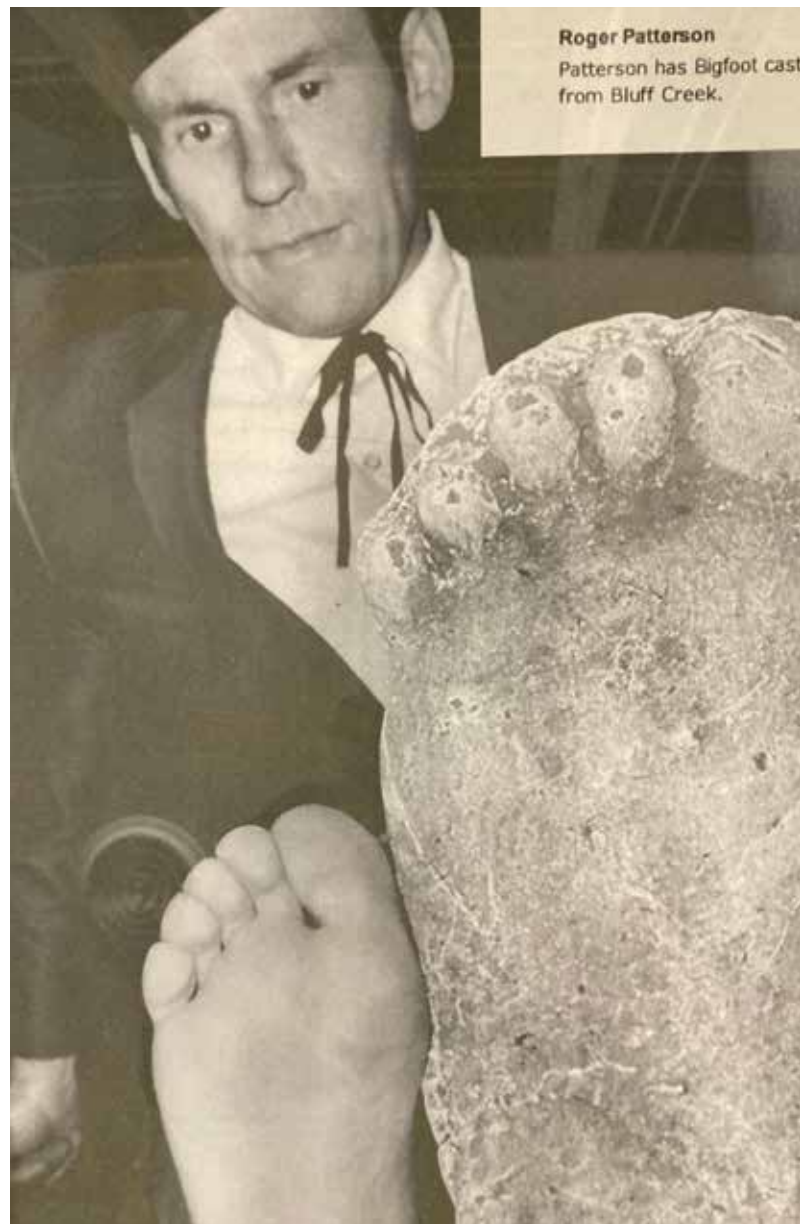
I learned another handy demarcation. You're either a 'Bigfoot Guy' or you're not.

I considered the gauntlet thrown. Couldn't I pay a visit to the quaint and tiny hamlet approximately 80 miles north by northwest, hungry for intrigue and perhaps a tiny slice of interstellar melodrama, without falling into one camp or the other? Are there no conscientious observers, no academics left to ponder the nearly existential and sensory manifestations of the proverbial edge? After spending some time perusing the artifacts and giving pause to the unknown, the words

of beat generation author Ken Kesey come to mind, "you're either on the bus, or you're off the bus." If you're not a true follower in the Church of Bigfoot, you're a heretic. You either lay witness to the visitation by little green men, or you're green with envy.

I get it. It's self-protection. Opening one's self up to the experience is to make oneself vulnerable. My job for the day is to keep an open mind, for as long as I can, even as conventional wisdom is challenged by every footprint plaster cast of the Yeti, every common precept undermined as I carefully





**Replicas and rendering of Bigfoots have taken many forms, but all seem to characterize the beast as half-man, half-ape. Plaster casts of an alleged footprint of the Yeti, or Bigfoot, are shown to dwarf the tootsies of the typical human.**

step my way past each insect-eyed plastic alien.

Today had started out primarily as a visit to Lake Gaston, the serene patch of thirty square miles of cold blue water squeezed in between North Carolina and Virginia. I had fond memories here as a child: Uncle Bud with his annual pig pickin' at his modest but serviceable cabin, tiny bottles of soda, waterskiing around copperheads. This was the stuff of childhood in the late 1960's.

Gaston today seemed impervious to those memories. My lunchtime visit to the

state recreation area on the eastern end was surrounded by barbed wire and lots of warning signs. Positioned at what appeared to be the southern terminus of a damn, this is an oddball parcel no one seemed to know what to do with; and with the possible exception of cat fishing, they still don't. After a short but scenic drive through the rolling terrain of pine and jasmine, Littleton was a welcome sight. It wasn't difficult for my next stop to steal the headlines.

Barcello's collection, in a damp cinderblock relic just north of Littleton's

bucolic downtown has a broad mission: The Crytozoology and Paranormal Museum is "dedicated to the study and display of creatures and phenomena not recognized by traditional science." That's a tall order by any stretch of the imagination, but the imaginations around these parts are pretty limber. What even is traditional science? Seems like everything is on the table these days. With a course of study (also known as Cryptids) that reads like a list of Grade B Sci-Fi flicks, I've dubbed it the 'museum of everything else.'



Cryptids, by their very nature are hard to figure. They take unusual, often hybrid-species forms, show up at all hours and tend to be just vicious enough to keep we humans at bay. The Honey Island Swamp Monster, The Vampire Beast of Bladenboro and The Lizard Man of Scape Ore Swamp are among the many featured creatures with names that read like a Barnum & Bailey sideshow, but with a southern twist.

Louisiana's St. Tammany Parrish is the purported home of the Honey Island Swamp Monster, sometimes known as Cajun Sasquatch or Rougarou. Legend holds that Rougarou was descended from a band of chimpanzees that escaped a train wreck in the remote swamp near Pearl River a century ago. These apes not only survived, but metastasized into a murky, singular seven-foot bi-ped who occasionally wreaks havoc on local livestock. Footage of the strange beast was said to be captured by a wildlife photographer in 1963, a busy year for sightings of the strange and the unusual.

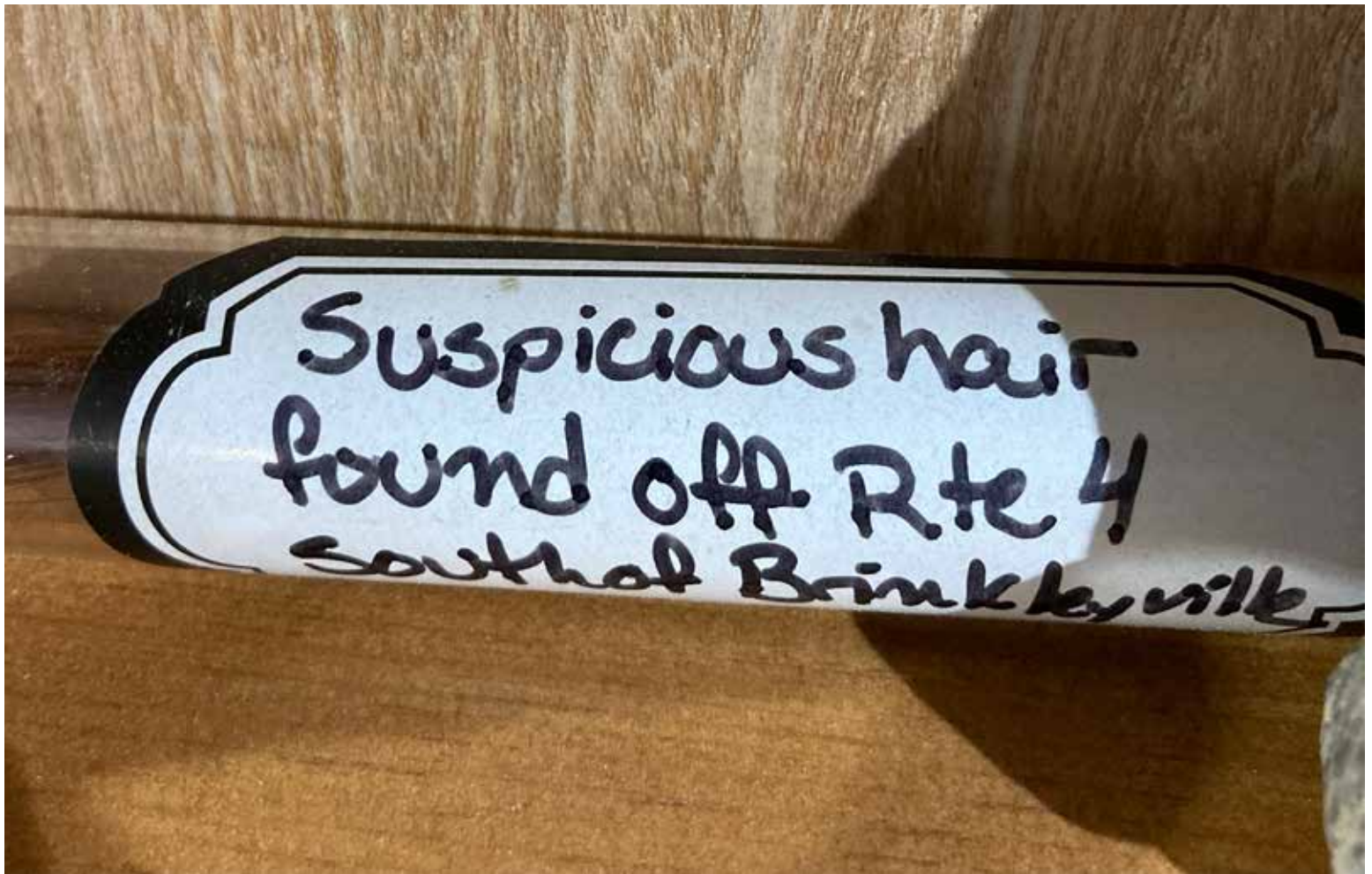
Also topping out at seven feet tall is the Lizard Man of Scape Ore Swamp. The year was 1988. Seventeen year-old Christopher Davis was driving home late one midsummer night down a steamy back road in South Carolina when he catches a flat. Davis is soon approached by a scaly, three-fingered 'lizard-man' who was all "wet-like and red-eyed". Davis escaped, but the Lizard Man was just getting started. Reports started coming in from all over Lee County of cars damaged by the cursed soul. Reports of the Lizard Man being gunned down on Hwy. 15 were recanted under pressure from the local authorities, who seemed to be enjoying the publicity.

It's a cold night in the winter of 1953 and over one hundred farmers and townsfolk of Bladenboro form a hunting party, ready to traipse off into the swamps. Their quarry? The Vampire Beast of Bladenboro. The beast here in question is no apparition, and no hoax. Something has been killing off area dogs, rabbits and chickens in ways that just aren't natural, and the posse aimed to put a stop to the carnage. The Beast had been sighted several times, but the descriptions varied



**Top:** a other-worldly mural adorns the side of the specialty museum, located near Lake Gaston in Littleton. **Above:** a familiar yet still slightly off-putting alien sculpture keeps an eye on museum goers.





Above: "Suspicious hair" held in a specimen vial and reportedly discovered near Brinkleyville. Nearby Medoc Mountain State Park has been the location of several reported Bigfoot sightings.

wildly. Some say the beast was a panther or deranged bobcat. Others say he was more like a coyote or wolf-like. When the sheriff finally gets to the scene, he calls off the expedition, figuring a band this stirred up and confused was less likely to find the Beast than to shoot each other.

Those of course are just samples for wild and the weird world that is the Crypto-Para Museum. There are haunted dolls, a dybbuk box claimed to be so riddled with evil that it has to be kept under glass and of course, all manner of alien souvenirs and chatchkis. Take the time to marvel at all of the plaster impressions of the star of the show, ye olde Bigfoot, but don't look too closely. Try not to be skeptical just because all of the casts are of different size feet. It's hard to be a "Bigfoot Guy" with that kind of attitude.



Left: An early version of the Ouija board, made before the popular and secularized Parker Brothers version. Right: The dybbuk box is said to contain "malicious spirits."





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# Refreshing Rosé sake for perfect summer pairings

BY MARY MEHLICH

**R**OSE... The perfect choice for warm weather. From the beautiful color in your glass to its refreshing taste on a warm day, Rosé has become the go to “it” wine over the last few years, and in fact seems to be gaining popularity due to its universal appeal.

Rosé is a style of wine just like red or white wine. It can be made from white or red grapes as it gets its color from macerating on the skins to extract color and flavor. When the juice and grape skins marry, the color of the skins bleed into the juice creating the color of the wine. This process is called maceration in winemaking terms. Rosé is not typically made by mixing red and white grapes. Occasionally, you will see one with a very small percentage of white (5 to 10 %) blended in.

Rosé is usually dry, however Rosés from Anjou have a slight sweetness to them. Rosé can be made from any red wine grape. Even though these wines have gained popularity in the states in recent years, they have been a mainstay in many European countries for centuries. Most notably Provence in France. They have been producing more Rosé than any other style of wine. Italy and Spain have also been producing them for some time where it is called Rosado or Rosato. I have seen an increase in imported Rosés from many countries over the last five years or so.

Here are some examples of Rosés made with a single varietal:

**Pinot Noir:** Pinot Noir is grown widely in cool-climates and offers poise and ripe fruit flavors in rosé.

**Grenache:** As one of the most widely planted red grape varieties in the world, it's no surprise that Grenache (or Garnacha in Spain) makes quaffable and juicy rosé. It expresses lifted red fruit flavors and lively characteristics.

**Sangiovese:** Originating from Italy, Sangiovese has bold characteristics that often translate to subtle spice in rosé. In addition, its red fruit flavors flourish in versions from Italy and other New World wine-growing regions, like California and Columbia Valley Washington.

**Zinfandel:** Blush made from Zinfandel (aka White Zinfandel) is famous for its hay-day in the 80s. Back then, sweet – and very cheap – versions from California saturated liquor store shelves. Today, drier, more balanced Rosés, are proving popular with notes of melon and strawberry.

Other grapes proving to be popular to make rosé are Syrah, Cabernet Franc and Gamay.

Here are examples of Rosé made as a blend:

**C o m b i n e d w i t h** Grenache, Cinsault, Syrah and Mourvèdre grapes blend to make Provence Rosé from France. It's most notable for its fresh and



crisp palate with light and fruity flavors. Rosé from Provence is by far one of the most famous and highest quality versions you can buy.

Around Lake Garda, where the Veneto and Lombardy regions converge, the production of Rosato is a long-standing tradition. Known locally as Chiaretto, meaning “light” or “pale,” it was first made in the area in 1896, which makes the region one of the oldest rosé producing areas in Italy. There, the most famous appellation for Rosato is Bardolino Chiaretto. It was recently renamed Chiaretto di Bardolino, so bottles may carry either designation. The wines are

made exclusively from red grapes grown in the province of Verona. Corvina is the main variety utilized, blended with Rondinella or Molinara, all grapes that are also used in Amarone, Valpolicella and Bardolino for the region's classic reds. Chiarettos boast floral, red berry, citrus and spice sensations.

Leave it to say there are many delicious Rosés/Rosados/Rosatos out there to enjoy. I recommend you step outside of your known favorites and try something new. These wines are wonderful as an aperitif. They also pair with most Summer fare. My favorite way to enjoy a cool, crisp Rosé is with friends.



# SUMMER FARE

## *Long days, warm nights and delectable dinners*

FOOD PREP, PHOTOGRAPHS AND STORY BY **VAIL STEWART RUMLEY**



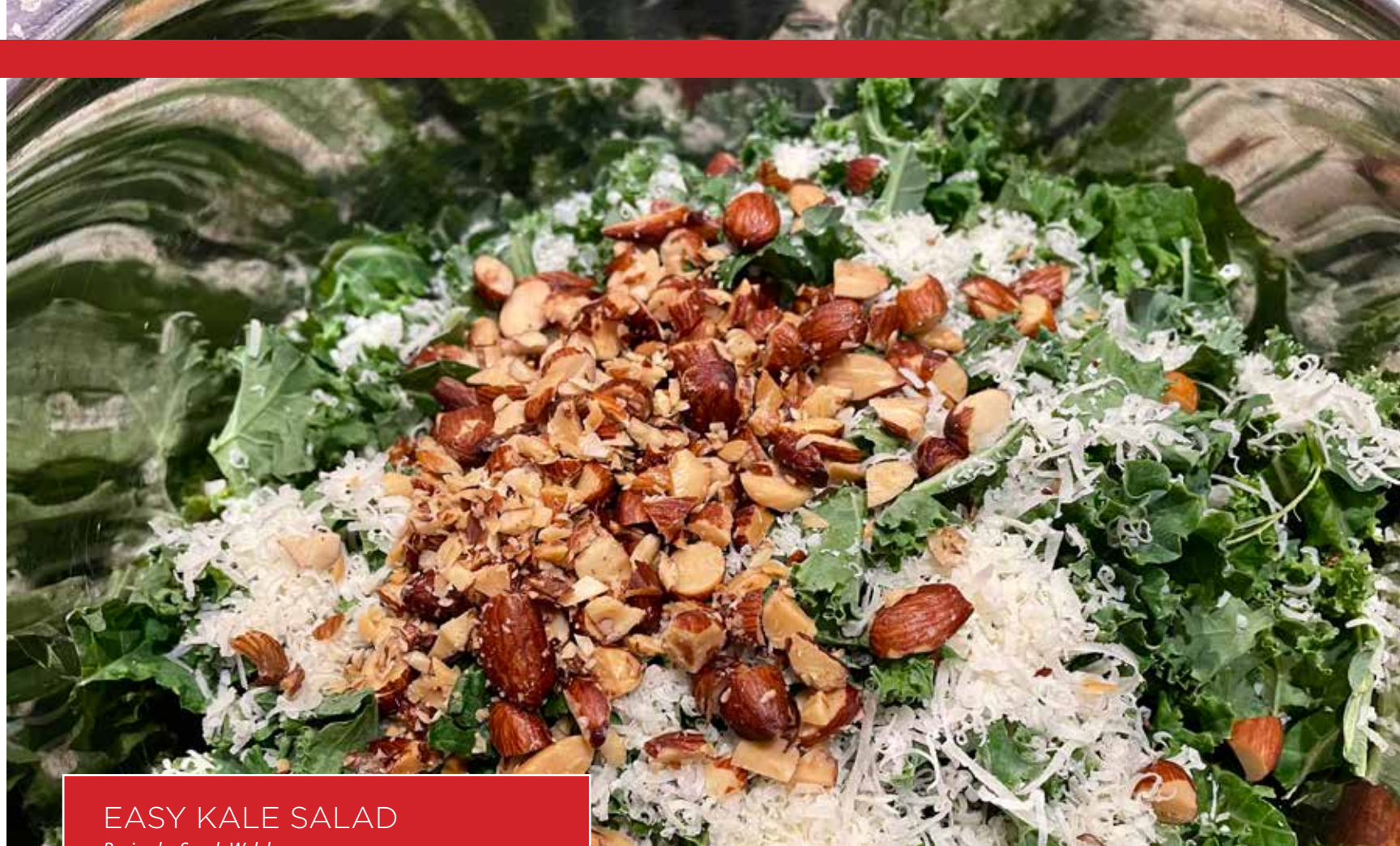
The days are getting longer and meals are getting lighter as the lazy days of summer approach. Eastern North Carolinians know hot summers, where river breezes bring respite from the humidity and a good thunderstorm knocks a degree or two off the temperature.

As with every season, what's to eat changes, turning toward what's in season — and as the days grow longer, what's not going to weigh us down in the heat.

Take advantage of the lighter side of Beaufort County's favorite recipes, with Marian Carawan's Gingered Green Beans, fresh from the garden or farmstand, or grab some shrimp from the local seafood market and whip up Rhonda Boyd's lemony Skillet Shrimp Pasta for dinner. Seasonally speaking, Sarah Welch's Easy Kale Salad and Delores Mayo and Carolyn Lee's Squash Puppies are the perfect accompaniment to any summery main dish.

Go light, buy local and welcome summer with a smile and some of the best suppers, from some of the best cooks, that Beaufort County has to offer. Enjoy!





## EASY KALE SALAD

Recipe by Sarah Welch

1 large bag of kale, pre-washed and chopped; 1 cup parmesan cheese, shredded; 8 ounces almonds, sliced. Dressing: 1 cup olive oil; 1/3 cup lemon juice; 1 teaspoon salt; 5 whole cloves garlic.

*Remove any hard stems from chopped kale. Toast sliced almonds at 350 degrees for 10 minutes; let cool. Mix together all dressing ingredients (just peel garlic cloves, cut them in half and let them steep in dressing for at least 10 minutes, then remove). Toss all ingredients together and serve.*

## BROCCOLI SALAD

Recipe by Leigh Swain

"Favorite Recipes," St. Clair's Church of Christ, Bath

2 medium heads broccoli, cut in small pieces; red grapes, halved; white grapes, halved; 1/2 pound sharp cheddar, cubed; 1/2 pound Swiss cheese, cubed; 1 pound cooked and crumbled bacon; 1 cup chopped pecans.

Dressing: 1 cup mayonnaise; 1/2 cup sugar; 2 tablespoons white vinegar.

*Assemble salad ingredients in a large bowl. For dressing, mix vinegar with sugar, dissolving well. Fold in mayonnaise. Pour over and mix with salad. Refrigerate well before serving. This recipe can be made the night before — it gives flavors the time to blend. Also change ingredients to suit your tastes (add cauliflower) or work with what you have (less bacon or one type of cheese).*

## SQUASH PUPPIES

Recipe by Delores Mayo, Carolyn Lee

"Heavenly Treasures," Hodges Chapel PH Church, Chocowinity

5 to 6 squash, cooked and mashed; 1 egg; 1/2 cup buttermilk; 1 medium onion, finely chopped; 3/4 cup self-rising cornmeal; 1/4 cup all-purpose flour.

*Mix all ingredients together. Drop by spoonful into hot oil. Fry until browned.*





## PASTA WITH CHICKEN AND SUN-DRIED TOMATOES

Recipe by Melinda Locklear

1/4 cup olive oil; 3 large, boneless chicken-breast halves, cut into 1-inch cubes; 1 onion, chopped; 2 garlic cloves, chopped; 1/2 teaspoon fennel seeds; 1 cup carrots, peeled, cut into matchstick-sized strips; 1/2 cup finely chopped and drained, oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes; 12 ounces bowtie pasta, freshly cooked; 1 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese.

*Heat oil in a heavy skillet over medium-high heat. Add chicken and sauté until brown and cooked through, about six minutes. Using a slotted spoon, transfer chicken to a large bowl. Keep warm. Add onion, garlic and fennel seeds to skillet and sauté until onion is tender, about six minutes. Stir in carrot and sun-dried tomatoes and continue cooking until carrot is crisp-tender, stirring occasionally, about two minutes. Transfer mixture to bowl with chicken. Add pasta and Parmesan and toss well.*

## GINGERED GREEN BEANS

Recipe by Marian Carawan

*"Second Heavenly Helpings,"*

Swan Quarter Baptist Church, Swan Quarter

3 cups chicken broth; 1 pound fresh green beans; 1 tablespoon butter; 1 small sweet onion, diced; 2 cloves garlic, minced; 2 tablespoons fresh ginger; 1/4 teaspoon salt and pepper.

*Bring broth to a boil in a large saucepan, over medium heat. Add green beans and cook 10 minutes or until crisp-tender; drain. Melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add onion, garlic and ginger; sauté two minutes. Add beans, salt and pepper; sauté one minute or until thoroughly heated.*





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## SPANAKOPITA (GREEK SPINACH PIE)

Recipe by Vail Stewart Rumley

16 ounces frozen spinach, thawed and drained; 1 large yellow onion, chopped; 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped; five eggs; 8 ounces crumbled feta cheese; 2 tablespoons fresh dill, chopped; freshly ground black pepper; 1 (16-ounce) package of phyllo dough; 1 cup extra virgin olive oil.

*Pour a tablespoon of olive oil in a pan; sauté onion and garlic, until onions are soft. Squeeze out excess water from the thawed spinach and add to pan, cooking for another couple of minutes, until spinach is warm. Beat eggs in a large bowl. Add spinach, feta cheese, dill and pepper and mix well.*

*In a 9-by-13-inch casserole dish, lay down the first sheet of phyllo dough and brush thoroughly with olive oil; layer at least six more sheets (you can do more!), also brushing thoroughly with olive oil, then evenly spread the spinach filling over the bottom half of the pie. Continue layering the phyllo sheets, brushing with oil. Fold edges in and brush with oil.*

*Bake at 325 degrees for an hour — the crust should be crisp and golden brown.*

*(\* Cook's note about phyllo: At least 12 hours before preparing your spanakopita, take one of the packages of phyllo dough (package contains two) out of the freezer, and let it thaw in the refrigerator. Phyllo is delicate dough — to keep it moist enough to work with, unroll and place between two very slightly dampened dish towels.)*



## PECAN PIE

Recipe by Bette Bonner Bradshaw, Julia Rumley

"Our Celebration Cookbook," First Presbyterian Church, Washington

1 stick softened butter; 1 pound light brown sugar; 3 eggs; 6 tablespoons milk; 3 tablespoons flour; 2 teaspoons vinegar; 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla; 1 cup chopped pecans; two unbaked frozen pie shells (regular, not deep-dish).

*Mix all ingredients in the order listed. Pour into the two pie shells. Place in a COLD oven and bake at 300 degrees for about an hour.*

*Serve with vanilla ice cream to give it a summery flare.*

*(Cook's note: This is one of my grandmother's recipes, but neither my father nor I remember her ever making it! However, this is a really easy and lighter version of pecan pie — it's also delicious!)*



## HAZEL'S WOOPIE PIE SANDWICH COOKIES

Recipe by Hazel James Moore

"Praise God Let's Eat," Christ Vision Church, Blounts Creek

2 eggs, room temperature; 2/3 cup shortening; 2 tablespoons vanilla; 4 cups self-rising flour; 1 cup cocoa; 2 cups milk, room temperature.

*Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Beat the eggs. Mix all the ingredients together until smooth. Place a teaspoon in a glass of cold water, scoop out by the spoonful and begin spacing cookies about 3 inches apart on an ungreased cookie sheet. Dip the spoon back into the water to help keep the dough from sticking to the spoon. The mixture will flatten out to about a saucer-size cookie. Bake for eight to 10 minutes. Remove immediately from pan and cool on a rack. Prepare filling.*

*Filling: 3 egg whites, room temperature; 1/2 cup shortening; 2 cups powdered sugar; 1 tablespoon vanilla; 1/2 teaspoon salt.*

*Beat the egg whites until stiff. Next, mix until smooth, all the filling ingredients with the stiff egg whites. Take the cooled, flat side of the cookie and spread on the filling, making the sandwich. Enjoy!*





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# *Resurgence of the Redfish in the Pamlico*

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY **CAPT. RICHARD ANDREWS**

**W**hen I first started guiding in 2010, we didn't see as many red drum (redfish) in the Pamlico as we do now.

Every few years, we'd have a good spawn and see a "bumper crop" of rat (small one to two year old fish) in the river. They would all be about the same age and size and we would watch them grow up here and then emigrate out to the ocean once they grew to about 30 inches in length. This is a natural phenomenon, as these fish use the estuary as a nursery areas as juvenile fish and as they reach young adults or adolescents, they leave and return to the estuary to spawn as adult fish each August and September. What was noticeable about my initial years as a guide was that we'd only see that one age class of fish about every three or four years while watching them grow for two or three years here in the estuary before they left. Now we are beginning to see a more stratified age class in the stock. Now each year for the past several years I am seeing smalls (10-15" fish), mediums (15-22" fish), and larges (22-30" fish) all at the same time. Having multiple age classes or different size fish at the same time in their nursery area is an indicator of a healthy stock.

As fish stocks and numbers are often cyclical and influenced by environmental factors during their spawn or over long periods of time, often longer than humans can track, I believe our incredible red drum fishing is due to the long term conservation of our adult red drum. For many decades, the harvest of adult red drum (mostly 40-52" fish although no fish over 27" can be harvested) has really paid dividends. We now seem to have more adult redfish than we've ever had simply because we haven't harvested them over a long period of time. More adult fish means more spawning and more juvenile fish, so this trend we are seeing is a direct result of the conservation of the adult fish. I believe that no fish population



**11-year old Tripp Andrews with a nice winter redfish caught while sight fishing in the Pamlico in January. (Richard Andrews)**

on the planet can withstand an unreasonable or unsustainable level of harvest of the adult spawning fish (especially the adult egg carrying females) and expect to sustain a healthy stock. Red drum is no exception, and we have a perfect template to use to manage other fish species with similar life expectancies. A good example is striped bass. While they don't live as long as red drum, striped bass can benefit from such similar management.

In a time period of declining fish stocks due to decades of poor management and over harvest facilitated by the state, the red drum (our state fish) are experiencing some success. Anglers throughout the Pamlico are enjoying this upward trend and experiencing some consistency to the fishing year after year. Traditional methods of bait fishing (live bait or

cut bait) are still popular, and other methods such as fly fishing and sight fishing are quickly catching on. Yes, I said sight fishing. In the cooler months of the year and in certain areas throughout the warmer months, these schools of redfish ranging anywhere from a just two or three fish to hundreds of fish can be spotted, stalked, and caught on fly or spinning gear. It's quite exciting and while not totally new, it's quickly gaining traction as one of the premier methods for fishing in our area. For your next red drum fishing adventure, check out our website at [www.tarpamguide.com](http://www.tarpamguide.com) and contact me if you have any questions or to schedule a day on the water.

*Richard Andrews captains a private fishing boat and knows all the best spots in Eastern North Carolina.*




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# TAKE A LITTLE TIME

## *Enjoy the slower pace of life*

BY AUSTIN SMITHWICK

**T**he easy answer is the water. I've been on and in the water all over the country. You can find bigger, smaller, clearer, cleaner, warmer, colder, calmer, rougher... insert any adjective.

Our water is special. You can literally explore the world from Washington. Head east in a boat and you are navigating the same waters pirates did 300 hundred years ago. Head west in a kayak and explore some of the most serene freshwater our nation offers. The variety of ways you can enjoy the water is almost limitless. Fish, wakeboard, ski, swim, paddle, tube... If you're here long enough, you'll hopefully get the chance to do all of these and more.

But it's not just the water.

People from Beaufort County are cut a little different. We're frugal, hot, sweaty. We're that place people pass over on the way to the beach. We're also beautiful, diverse, inviting, and generous. You mix all these together and you get an amazing community. People here appreciate the finer things in life, but we also understand the best things in life are those you have to work for. We hunt, fish, farm, explore... the things that get your hands dirty. We drive big boats and eat at upscale restaurants. Our community is safe, the kind where you don't have to lock your doors. The kind where you want to raise a family. We're not scared of our own shadow. Influences in Washington push and pull in every direction but make our town interesting and beautiful, just like our sunsets.

It feels like our town population should be bigger. The amount of social, cultural, scholastic, athletic and religious offerings we have are inspiring. I challenge anyone to find a town our size with such a spread. We have more things to do and more ongoing activities than communities several times bigger than ours. After years of relative slumber, our little Washington is waking up to all it can be. History and the past are mixing with new ideas and new people. This confluence makes Washington a delightful place to call home, just like our river.





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A woman with dark, wavy hair, wearing glasses and a light pink button-down shirt, is smiling warmly at the camera. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

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