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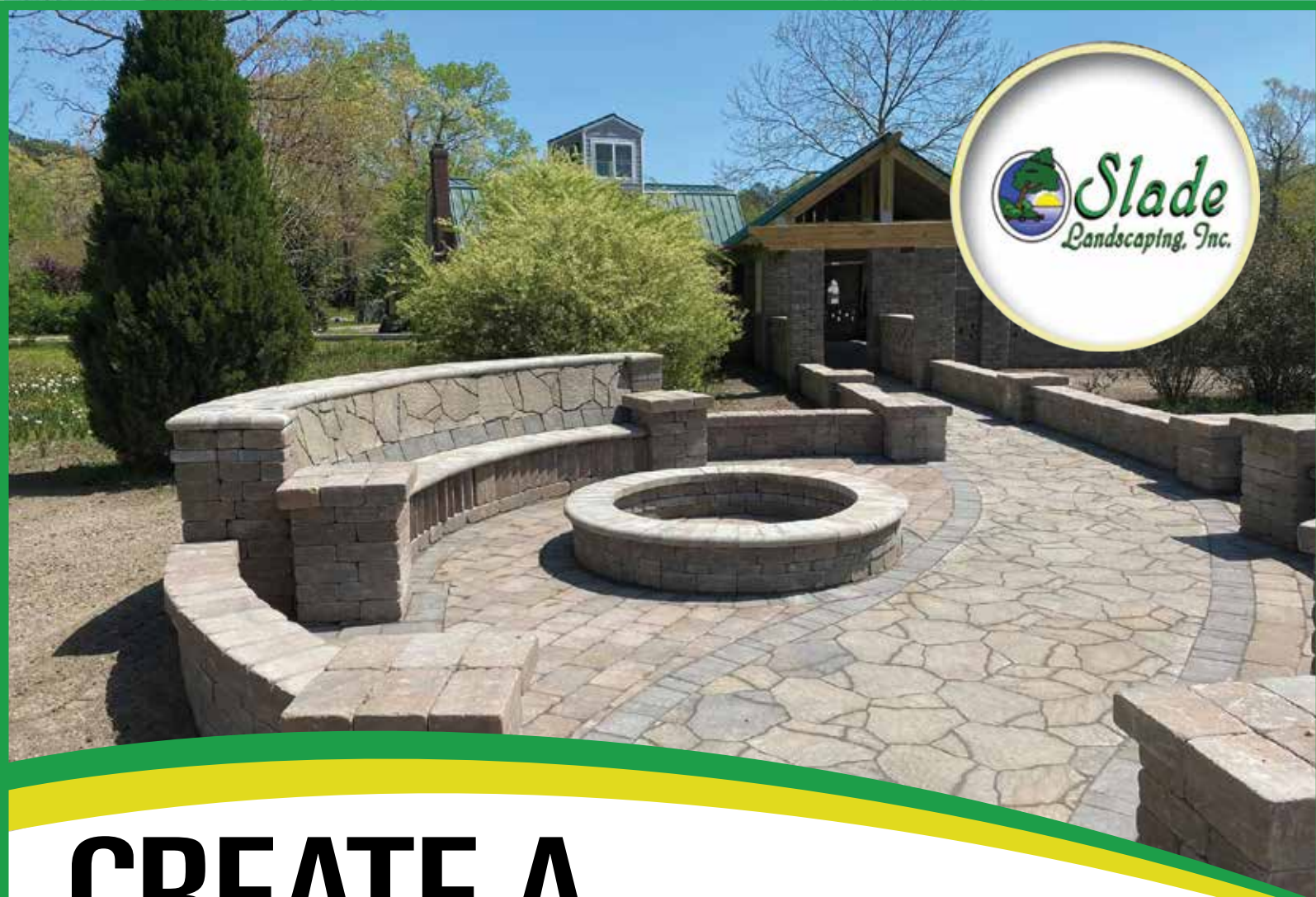
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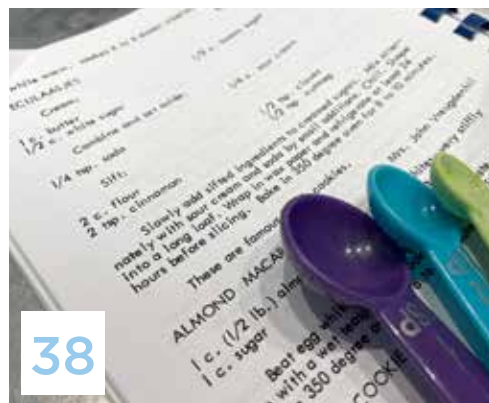
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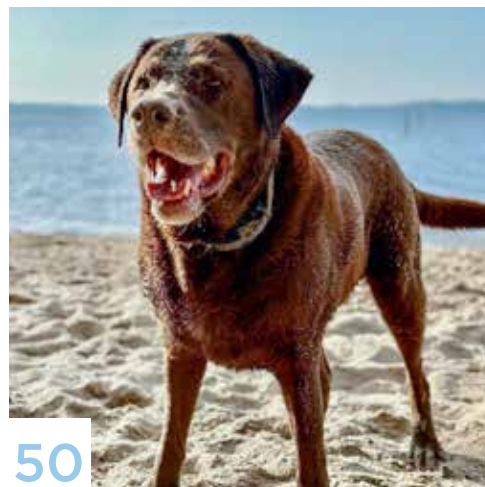
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## SOUND RIVERS 36TH-ANNUAL OYSTER ROAST

PHOTOS BY VAIL STEWART RUMLEY

Sound Rivers welcomed more than 500 oyster-lovers to its 36th Oyster Roast held at the Washington Civic Center on Nov. 11. Featuring a silent auction, two bands, beer donated by local craft brewers and more than 90 bushels of oysters, the annual oyster roast is both the environmental nonprofit's biggest fundraiser of the year and a signature event for Washington. All proceeds go to support the work of protecting the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico rivers — ensuring they are fishable, swimmable and drinkable for all. For more information, visit [soundrivers.org](http://soundrivers.org).



Andrew Howard and Keith Hackney



Sound Rivers Program Director Clay Barber and Pamlico-Tar Riverkeeper Katey Zimmerman



Dick and Becky Leach



Sound Rivers Board President Catherine Kastleman and JoSeth Bocock, past president





Jen Miller and Jimi Gibbs



Kirk Harris and Jill Paxson



Larry Hodges and Jim Kellenberger



Rico Pinnock and Nani Wilborne



Sound Rivers business manager  
Lauren Rowe and volunteer  
coordinator Emily Fritz



Trip and Leah Boyer



Dave and Joni Emmerling



## BELHAVEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

PHOTOS BY **BRENDA WRIGHT**

Dozens were dazzled by the diamonds and denim theme at Belhaven Community Chamber of Commerce's annual awards banquet hosted on Saturday, Nov. 4, at the Wilkinson Center.

Guests danced the rest of the night away with music from The Main Event Band. This was the first awards banquet the Belhaven Chamber of Commerce has hosted since 2019.



Ken and Amy Braswell



Henry and Wilhelmaine Hawks



Bo and Carrie Bonnie





**The Main  
Event Band**



**Bridgett Jefferson and Mark Gnagy**



**Cherry and Hugh Sutton**



**Jeanne and Tony Snodgrass**



**Carol Roop and Olga Friend**





Kim and Bob Watson



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# Perserving Nature

A look back at the origins of Goose Creek State Park

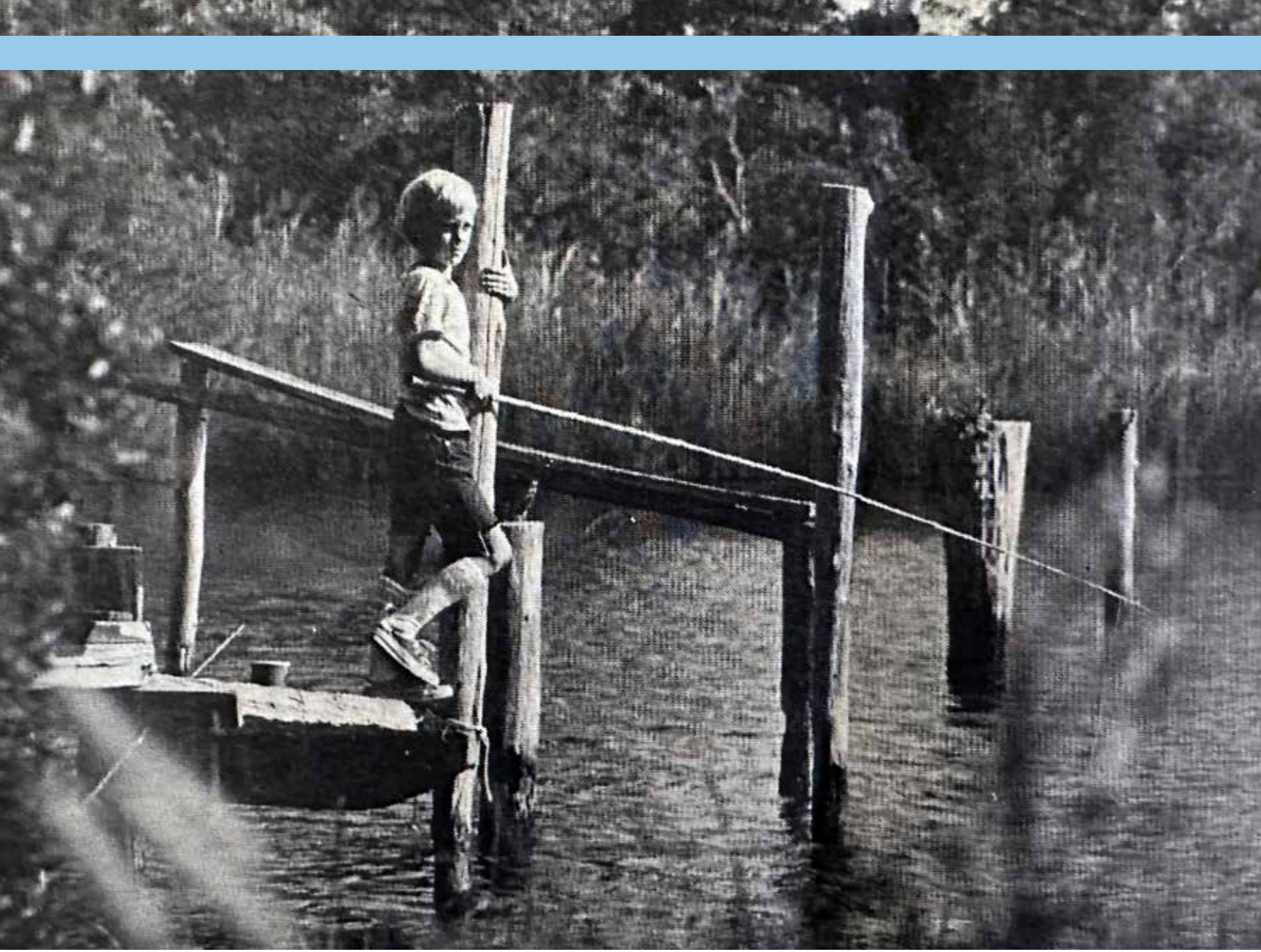
STORY BY **CLARK CURTIS**  
PHOTOS SUBMITTED

**H**istoric records indicate that the first known inhabitants of the Goose Creek area were members of the Pamlico and Secoto, two Eastern Woodlands indigenous tribes. During the colonization of Eastern Carolina during the 1600s, the Pamlico and Secoto fell victim to widespread disease, which was transported by settlers from Europe. Those who survived the disease would eventually be killed or driven from the land during the Tuscarora War in the early 1700s. A war between the Tuscarora indigenous tribe and its allies and the European settlers, which lasted four years and claimed the lives of 200 settlers and 1,000 members of the Tuscarora and other indigenous tribes. Another 1,000 Tuscaroras were sold into slavery, with more than 3,000 forced from their homes and land. It was considered to be the bloodiest battle in North Carolina during the colonial period.



Goose Creek State Park announced, October 1974





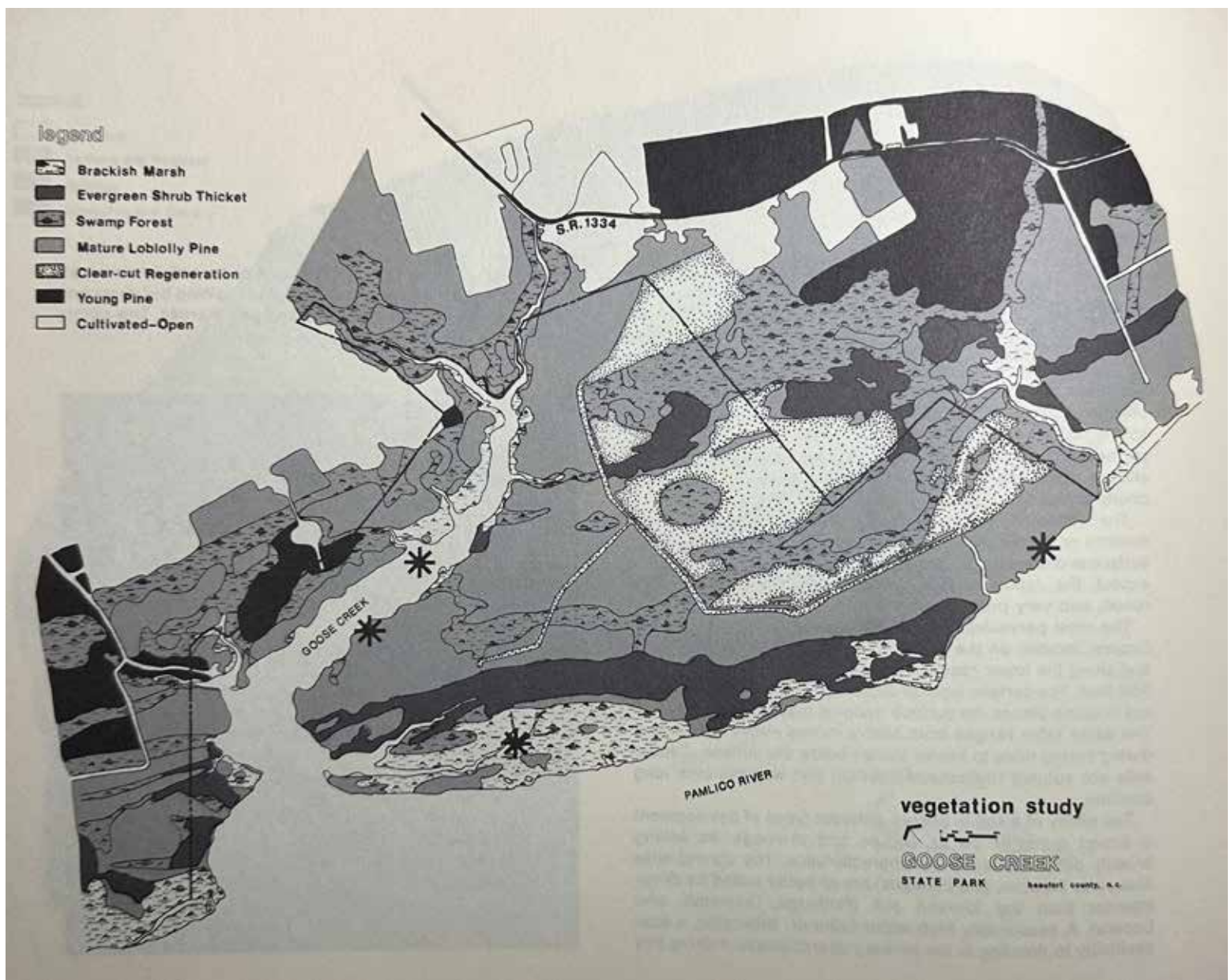
*Goose Creek State Park* is a hidden gem nestled in the heart of Beaufort County, North Carolina. Spanning 1,672 acres, the park beckons visitors to explore diverse coastal landscapes, from wetlands along the Pamlico River to a captivating cypress swamp accessed by a picturesque boardwalk. The park's historical significance is evident in remnants of boat piers, a trackless railroad bed, and the charred remains of tar kilns, offering glimpses into the region's lumber industry heyday.

The park welcomes nature enthusiasts with a range of amenities, including a boat ramp, amphitheater, auditorium, outdoor classroom, picnic shelters, visitor center with exhibits, beach access along the river, and a bathhouse.

## **Goose Creek State Park**

**2190 Camp Leach Road  
Washington, NC 27889**





"After 400 years, we are getting back to an appreciation of those things we so long took for granted. You know, there aren't many rivers and trees like the ones you see here."

**NC Governor James B. Hunt, Jr.**  
during the 1978 dedication of the park











**Members of the Southern Albemarle Association**

One of the earliest known land owners was Captain Thomas Blount, who traveled from Europe and explored the Pamlico region—eventually landing near Ragged Point in 1701, the present site of Goose Creek State Park. As Blount and countless others made their way to America from Europe, they were also in search of ways to make a living and provide for themselves and their families. One of which, as it turned out, was producing naval stores—products such as turpentine, pitch, and rosin, which were used to maintain and waterproof wooden boats and transatlantic ships. “Up until that point, most of the naval stores came out of Scandinavia,” said Goose Creek Park Ranger, Joseph Martin. “Since the colonists were very familiar with the shipping industry and how ships were built, they soon discovered there was an abundant supply of resources here in Eastern North Carolina, because of the native longleaf pines. Some of the richer landowners would

subdivide their land, which provided other families the opportunity to begin producing naval stores. They soon learned the products they were producing were far superior to those coming from Scandinavia, which opened up a global market.”

Martin added there are still approximately 60 tar kilns located throughout the park, which were used to extract the product from the wood. “Because so much of the area was untouched, there were lots of naturally downed trees that could be used in the process. The kilns didn’t actually burn the wood but allowed it to smolder. The smoldering caused the hardened rosin in the trees to leach out. It was then collected in a ditch and funneled into a cast iron pot, where it was boiled off and distilled to make turpentine, pitch, and rosin. This proved to be a very lucrative business for all involved.”

By the late 1800’s the Eureka Lumber Company, the largest sawmill operation in

Washington at the turn of the 19th century, had purchased large tracts of land in and around what is now Goose Creek State Park. There, they harvested the overabundance of native old-growth bald cypress, and longleaf pine for its milling operation in nearby Washington. In the 1950s, Weyerhaeuser, which owned the vast majority of land in the same area, took over Eureka’s lumber operation and land.

As Martin pointed out, the history of the park would not be complete without mentioning the changes that have, and continue to occur, within the ecosystem. “It started out as a place where you could see where the fresh and saltwater ecosystems met,” said Martin. “The hardwood swamps were typically more inland in the freshwater areas, while the marsh grasses and low scrub brush were more typical along the beaches. Over time, it has transitioned more to a salt marsh ecosystem, as we see a lot of die-off of the hardwood swamps. We are also seeing





**Soil and Conservation Service State Conservationist, Jessie L. Hicks, signs \$1.6 million agreement for the expansion of public recreation facilities at the park, 1977.**

a lot of shore erosion—anywhere from 10 to 20 feet, all the way up to 100 feet, along the water’s edge. This can be directly attributed to the increased salinity in the area.”

Martin says to combat the change, they are taking proactive steps to try and bring the shoreline back to its historic footprint. That includes buffering the riparian zones, which are the edges of rivers, streams, lakes, and other bodies of water, by planting vegetation to mitigate some of the loss, and ecosystem restoration in the upland areas that are exposed to the water. It also includes commercial thinning, planting, and controlled burns of the lush longleaf pines. “Change is

probably inevitable, but we are doing our part to try and slow it down,” said Martin.

“Goose Creek State Park encapsulates all of our history and preserves it for future generations,” said Brown Library Historian, Stephen Farrell. “Its natural boundaries and what it has to offer from its tributaries, waterways, trees, and animal species, predates everything we celebrate in our modern society. It prevents modern development from casting aside that natural element to our history. I think that it is paramount in learning where we go in the future by looking back at our past and seeing where we came from.”



**Park ranger Phoebe Wahab inspects grave marker at one of three cemeteries located in the park**



# The evolution of Goose Creek State Park

## 1969

- The NC Division of State Parks conducted several field trips along the Pamlico River at the request of several citizens from Washington in the Spring of 1969, to explore potential state park sites

## 1970

- June 1970, the Goose Creek area was found to possess the qualities needed for a North Carolina state park
- A unique estuary site where salty areas met with fresh water, along with upstream marshes and swamps
- It was 30 miles east of Washington and 60 miles from the ocean
- An area that was somewhat protected from future development
- September 1970, the NC Board of Conservation and Development, agreed to carry out a detailed site investigation
- During the investigation, it was determined that the majority of the property being considered was owned by Weyerhaeuser

## 1971

- In the summer of 1971 representatives from Weyerhaeuser approached the Board of Conservation and Development, requesting a more comprehensive study of the Pamlico region be carried out for the purpose of investigating alternative park sites
- Weyerhaeuser made its request based on its contention that the proposed area was one of its most valued “banks” of timberland, which could be cut in the wet season when none of the other lands would permit logging operations
- During the ensuing months, the Division of State Parks conducted an exhaustive study of both sides of the Pamlico River
- The conclusion only strengthened its previous findings—that the Goose Creek area was of primary value as a state park

## 1972

- In May, Weyerhaeuser representatives met with the Department of Natural and Economic Resources and the Board of Conservation and Development
- An abbreviated or revised plan was presented by Weyerhaeuser, which included 1,200 acres within the original proposed area
- Later that month at the Conservation and Development Board meeting in Washington, NC, the plan was approved
- In October a resolution showing support of the local citizens was adopted by the Southern Albemarle Association, a body representing the people of the six-county area surrounding the park
- The resolution, addressed to Governor Robert W. Scott, recommended the establishment of Goose Creek State Park

## 1974

- September 25, negotiations with Weyerhaeuser were completed and Goose Creek State Park was officially established
- A total of 1,208 acres of land was acquired at a cost of just over \$1.1 million





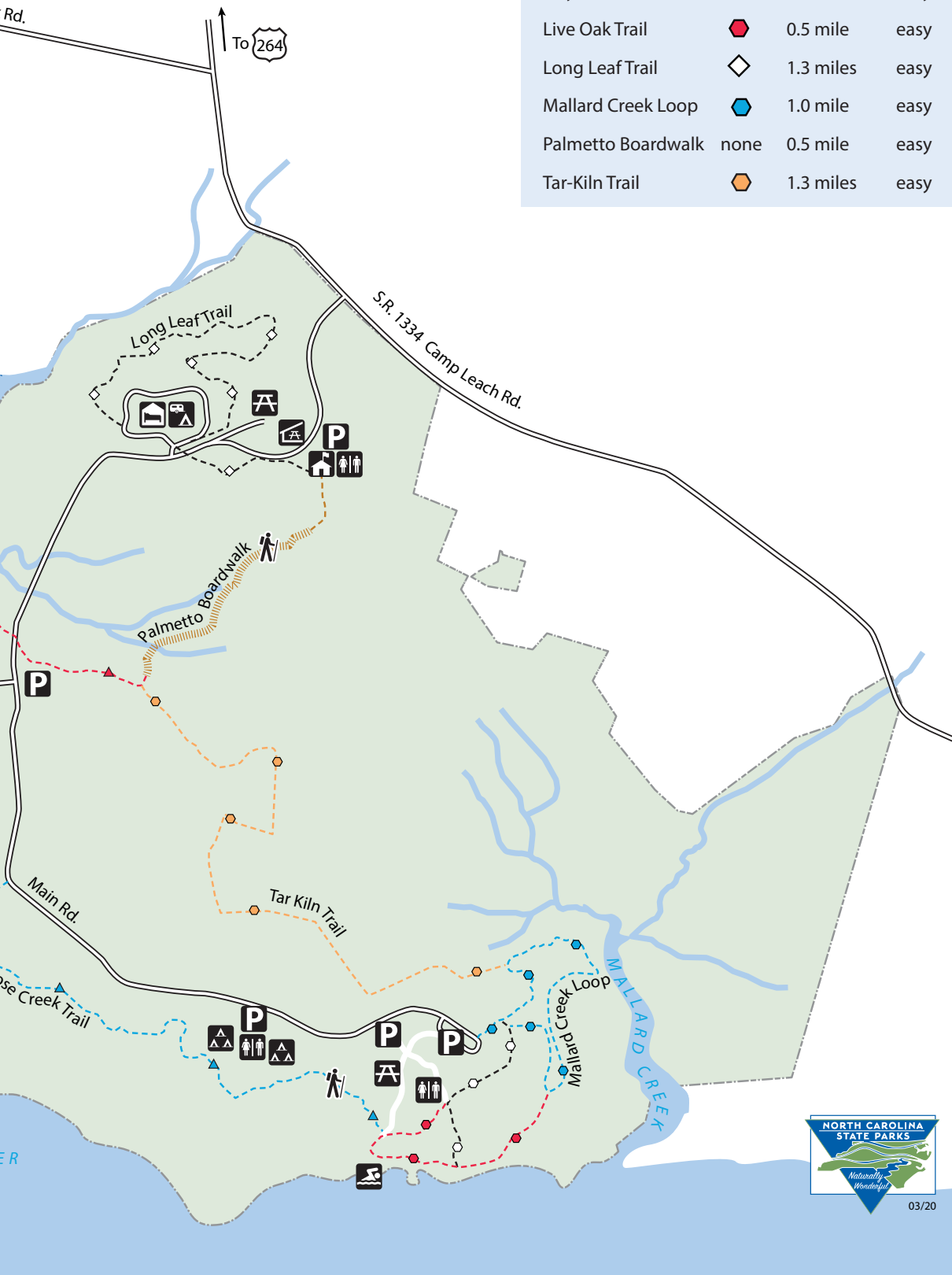




# Goose Creek State Park







Trails			
Flatty Creek Trail		0.3 mile	easy
Goose Creek Trail		2.5 miles	easy
Huckleberry Trail		0.3 mile	easy
Ivey Gut Trail		1.8 miles	easy
Live Oak Trail		0.5 mile	easy
Long Leaf Trail		1.3 miles	easy
Mallard Creek Loop		1.0 mile	easy
Palmetto Boardwalk	none	0.5 mile	easy
Tar-Kiln Trail		1.3 miles	easy

## Planning Your Visit

For more information, reservations, or to plan your visit, reach out to the park directly at [goose.creek@ncparks.gov](mailto:goose.creek@ncparks.gov) or call 252-923-2191. You can also explore the park's offerings and stay updated on events by visiting the official website: [www.ncparks.gov/state-parks/goose-creek-state-park](http://www.ncparks.gov/state-parks/goose-creek-state-park).

Discover the beauty, embrace the tranquility, and let Goose Creek State Park be your gateway to nature's timeless embrace. Whether you're a seasoned camper or a day-tripper, Goose Creek State Park promises a memorable experience for all.

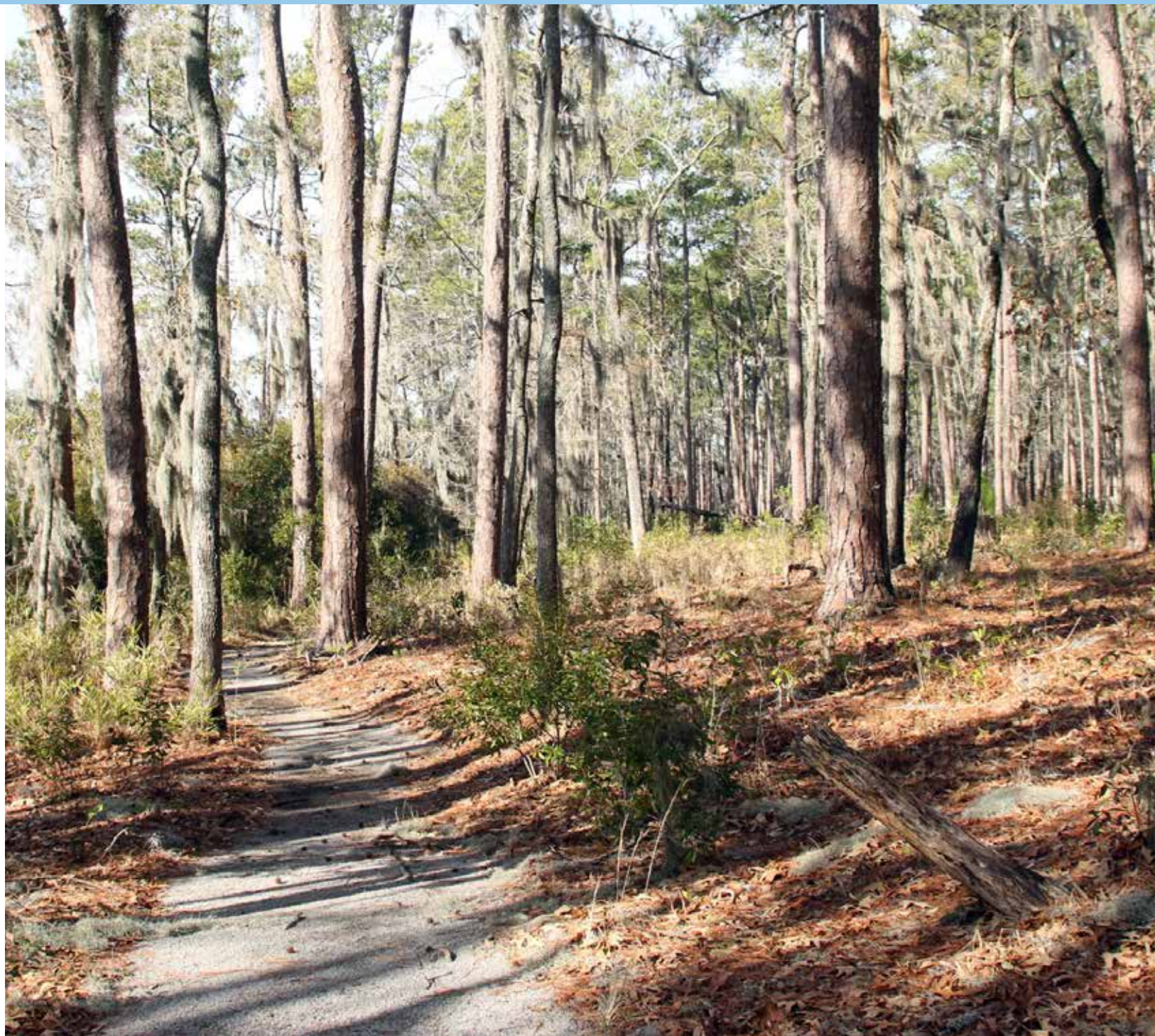
## Park Regulations and Hours

While day use of the park is free, fees apply for camping, specific event permits, and facility reservations. Pets are welcome but must be leashed, with owners responsible for cleaning up after them. Goose Creek State Park is closed on Christmas Day, and day-use gates (excluding the main gate) close one hour before the park's posted hours.

Park hours vary seasonally, with November to February operating from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and March to October extending to 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The visitor center is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.







With plenty of trails to explore, kids at Goose Creek State can open their eyes to a vast natural world that could lead to a lifelong appreciation for nature and wildlife.

# DISCOVER





Keep your eyes peeled along the drive through Goose Creek State Park to see Box turtles sunning themselves on fallen trees.

## Kids explore a new world at Goose Creek

STORY AND PHOTOS BY **HOLLY JACKSON**

**V**isiting Hanging Rock State Park, Raven Ridge State Park, Jockey's Ridge State Park and Jordan Lake State Recreation Area opened young Nick Botello-Hernandez's eyes to a natural world greater than his imagination.

Botello-Hernandez has his father to thank for taking him on trips to local, state and national parks. They are what led to his fascination with wildlife and desire to be a park ranger. He is now a Park Ranger at Goose Creek State Park (GCSP).

"He loved to do road trips. We'd be in the car for hours and then from there we would end up at some random location. That stuck with me over the years - getting exposed to nature at a young

age - that eventually when it came time to choose a career - I was looking at different careers that dealt with parks and recreation or nature," Botello-Hernandez said.

He has been a Park Ranger at Goose Creek State Park for five years.

Taking kids to Goose Creek State Park (GCSP) and others like it will help them discover new interests and foster their curiosity about the nature surrounding them. The ability to ask questions and be educated about his environment is what further motivated Botello-Hernandez to get involved at North Carolina State Parks, he shared.

For families and individuals, GCSP offers campsites, a popular





**Park Ranger Nick Botello-Hernandez has his father to thank for his love of nature and wildlife. A childhood filled with trips to State and National Parks led Botello-Hernandez to his dream job working as a park ranger.**

swim beach, kayaking, boating, hiking and fishing and educational programming to enjoy.

What Botello-Hernandez enjoys most about Goose Creek is learning about wildlife in the park.

“I’m always exploring in the park. That being, I put on waders and go trucking through the marsh looking for species, plant or animal species. I like to know things. By knowing them, then if someone asks me ‘what am I looking at’ I can be better prepared,” Botello-Hernandez shared.

If he happens to find an animal he’s unfamiliar with - which is few and far between - he immediately researches all there is to know about the animal. The most interesting animal he found at GCSP, in his





opinion, was the snake...

Botello-Hernandez hopes he can impart his knowledge and love of local wildlife to visitors. He brings Box turtles and an Eastern Kingsnake up close so kids can learn how to appreciate local wildlife rather than be afraid of it.

"Usually, most adults have fears of certain species - that being snakes a lot of the time. Getting kids exposed to wildlife shows them that certain species are not as bad as people say," Botello-Hernandez said.

Kids don't have to wait until they are all grown up to be a ranger like Botello-Hernandez. They can join the Junior Ranger Program at GCSP, today. Through self-led educational activities and programs, kids can learn all about and explore GCSP and similar state parks. They can discover local wildlife, plant life and local history all while at GCSP. Junior park rangers will even have a chance to help Park Rangers care for Goose Creek by completing community service projects.

By getting your child interested in visiting state parks like Goose Creek, you may inspire them to become a park ranger. A park ranger's role is vital in the maintenance and continual preservation of natural ecosystems and cultural features which are often threatened.

GCSP honors its 50th anniversary this year. If current staff at the park and if GCSP's founders weren't interested in building a State Park in Beaufort County then as Botello-Hernandez speculates, "the land would not be as clean and as well preserved" as it is now thanks to the efforts of many people over the last five decades.

Looking ahead at the next 50 years at GCSP, Botello-Hernandez hopes he can begin more events and festivals that will entice visitors to the park. "I want more concrete things that people look forward to every year," he said.

For more information about what's happening at Goose Creek State Park, follow Friends of Goose Creek on Facebook and/or Goose Creek State Park on Instagram. Visit <https://www.ncparks.gov/state-parks/goose-creek-state-park>

Goose Creek is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in January and February. Hours differ throughout the year. It is located at 2190 Camp Leach Road in Washington.

## Recreational Activities

Goose Creek State Park is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts, offering a plethora of activities for all ages. Hike along 8.5 miles of picturesque trails, paddle the Pamlico River, take a refreshing swim, cast a line for fishing, or simply enjoy a leisurely picnic in the midst of nature.

For those seeking an overnight adventure, the park provides various camping options, including camper cabins, tent sites, trailer and RV sites (all equipped with electric, water, and sewer hookups), and group tent sites. Campers aged 62 or older and military members enjoy a \$6 discount per night (excluding group campsites).

## Boating and Trails

Explore the waters of Goose Creek with a boat ramp at Dinah's Landing, allowing motorboating, sailing, and windsurfing. Kayakers and canoeists can access the creeks at Dinah's Landing and near the campground.

Six hiking trails await nature enthusiasts:

### *Flatty Creek Trail*

One-mile loop over wetlands

### *Goose Creek Trail*

1.9-mile journey through a cypress swamp

### *Ivey Gut Trail*

Two-mile forest trail from the main road to the campground

### *Live Oak Trail*

0.4-mile path passing an old cemetery

### *Palmetto Boardwalk Trail*

0.7-mile boardwalk through a hardwood swamp

### *Mallard Creek Trail*

1.26-mile trail offering views of Pamlico River



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INSTATE GETAWAY



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# Let the good times roll in New Bern

SUBMITTED BY **NEW BERN MARDI GRAS** PHOTOS BY **CRAIG POWELL PHOTOGRAPHY**

**H**ave you ever wanted to attend Mardi Gras in New Orleans, but couldn't make it or the trip was too far? Have no worries, because you can spend a weekend in New Bern letting the good times roll.

The historic Ghent Neighborhood is hosting its eighth annual New Bern Mardi Gras Festival on Saturday, February 10, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This family friendly, rain-or-shine event will feature a footrace, parade, vendors, artists, food trucks, live music all day, puppet shows, and the Mardi Gras King & Queen. All ages are welcome and encouraged to dress in costume.

Festivities will be held on Spencer Avenue between 5th and 7th Streets with the entertainment stage at 6th and Spencer Avenue.

There will be New Bern Puppets throughout the day.





The parade will begin at 1:30 p.m. at Spencer Avenue and 7th Street and will end at Spencer Avenue and 2nd Street. Event parking will be available at Temple Church.

*For more information visit <https://NewBernMardiGras.com>.*

### THE MARDI GRAS MILE

This is our second annual Mardi Gras Mile that will take place on Saturday, Feb 10, at noon during the New Bern Mardi Gras Festival in Historic Ghent. This will give our racers a one-of-a-kind experience to

run through the streets with the crowd lined up to cheer them on. Racers are encouraged to wear their best Mardi Gras Attire. Race information and runner registration will be through Run the East ([runtheeast.com](http://runtheeast.com)).

Proceeds from this race will benefit the We Can Be Association. The We Can Be Association is a local non-profit organization that provides assistance for equipment funding, therapy scholarships, and family/caregiver education to exceptional children in Eastern N.C.

## ENTERTAINMENT LINEUP

- 11:00 a.m. Down East Dulcimers
- 12:00 p.m. Mardi Gras Mile Walk/Run (signup)  
We Can Be Association
- 12:45 p.m. Alisa Mike
- 1:30 p.m. Parade
- 2:00 p.m. Nicky Harris
- 3:00 p.m. Boomerang
- 4:00 p.m. Bridge Atlantic





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## TERRA CEIA TREASURES

## From their kitchen to yours

FOOD PREP, PHOTOGRAPHS AND STORY BY VAIL STEWART RUMLEY

*"We may live without friends**We may live without books,**But civilized man cannot live without cooks,**And the best of cooks need recipes."*

So reads the Terra Ceia Christian School cookbook, "From Our Kitchen to Yours." The book was first published in 1971, more than three decades after the school was founded by the Dutch families that had settled in Terra Ceia. The first of those families arrived in Beaufort County from the Netherlands in 1925, recruited by a representative of Broad Acre Farms, who traveled overseas in search of good labor.

"Well — it was two reasons," said H. Van Dorp, when asked the reason he left Holland for Beaufort County, in a 1950 *Our State* magazine article. "In the first place, Holland is a mighty crowded country. Too many people and too little land. In the second place, we didn't know what the Germans might do next. We decided we wanted security, and we figured the best place to get it was in America."

To America, they brought their farming skills and a traditional way of life. In America, in North Carolina, they built a community, a school and a lasting reputation for growing the finest of tulips, peonies, daffodils and more.

They also brought recipes from their homeland to their new eastern North Carolina home. These are just a sampling of the traditional Dutch fare that can be found in the original Terra Ceia Christian School cookbook. From Mrs. John Griekspoor's Dutch Apple Bread, to Ellene Van Wyk's Speculassjes, a delicious, light shortbread cookie, these recipes harken back to days of old, and the old country. So step back in time and place with the folks who established an unique part of Beaufort County's history — from their kitchens to yours.





## CHEESE STRAWS

Recipe by Mrs. Van W. Respass

*"The Terra Ceia Cookbook, From Our Kitchen to Yours,"  
Terra Ceia Christian School, Terra Ceia*

*3/4 cup shortening (part butter); 1 1/2 cups sharp cheddar cheese; 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese; 1 1/2 cups sifted flour; 1 teaspoon salt; 1 teaspoon paprika.*

Cream shortening until light and fluffy; add cheese. Sift together dry ingredients; add to creamed mixture and mix well. Put dough through cookie press, using ribbon design plate; or form dough into small balls about 1 inch diameter. Put on baking sheet about 1 inch apart. Please pecan half on each, if desired. Bake in a moderate oven, 350 degrees, for 15 minutes for balls; 10 minutes for straws.

## PERSIMMON PUDDING

Recipe by Velna Newberry

*"The Terra Ceia Cookbook, From Our Kitchen to Yours,"  
Terra Ceia Christian School, Terra Ceia*

*2 cups persimmon pulp; 4 eggs, slightly beaten; 1 3/4 cups milk; 2 cups flour; 1 1/2 cups sugar; 1 stick butter, melted; 1 teaspoon cinnamon; 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg; 1 teaspoon vanilla.*

Sift dry ingredients together. Mix pulp, melted butter, beaten eggs and milk. Add dry ingredients and mix well. Pour into well-greased pan. Bake one hour at 300 degrees. Best in fall when persimmons are ripe.

## KRAKELINGEN

Recipe by Carol Van Essendelft

*"The Terra Ceia Cookbook, From Our Kitchen to Yours,"  
Terra Ceia Christian School, Terra Ceia*

*1 pound butter; 1 pound flour; dash of salt; 1/2 cup water.*

Mix like pie dough. Let stand in refrigerator overnight. Roll out; cut in strips the size of a pencil. Dip both sides in sugar. Shape each piece into a figure 8. Bake in 375-degree oven until brown on bottom.





## DUTCH APPLE BREAD

*Recipe by Mrs. John Griekspoor  
"The Terra Ceia Cookbook, From Our Kitchen to Yours,"  
Terra Ceia Christian School, Terra Ceia*

*1/2 cup shortening; 1 cup sugar; 2 eggs, beaten; 1 cup apples, chopped; 2 cups plain flour; 1 teaspoon baking soda; 1/2 teaspoon salt; 1 1/2 tablespoons sour milk; 1/2 cup nuts; 1 teaspoon orange extract; 1 teaspoon vanilla.*

Mix in order given; pour into greased loaf pan. Sprinkle on top one tablespoon cinnamon and one tablespoon sugar. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour.



## SWEDISH MEATBALLS

*Recipe by Mrs. Case Westerbeek  
"The Terra Ceia Cookbook, From Our Kitchen to Yours,"  
Terra Ceia Christian School, Terra Ceia*

*1 1/2 pounds ground beef; 1 pint sour cream; 1/2 cup cornflakes, crushed; 1/4 cup water; salt and pepper; 1 small onion, minced.*

Mix meat, onion, cornflakes crumbs, water, salt and pepper and two tablespoons sour cream. Roll into balls and brown in hot fat. Add small amount of water to pan and the rest of the sour cream. Cover and cook over low heat for one hour.





## SPECULASSJES

*Recipe by Ellene Van Wyk*

*"The Terra Ceia Cookbook, From Our Kitchen to Yours,"  
Terra Ceia Christian School, Terra Ceia*

*1 cup butter; 1/2 cup white sugar; 1/2 cup brown sugar; 1/4 teaspoon baking soda; 1/4 cup sour cream; 2 cups flour; 2 teaspoons cinnamon; 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves; 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg.*

Cream together butter and sugars. Combine baking soda and sour cream and set aside. Sift together flour, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg.

Slowly add sifted ingredients to creamed sugars. Mix alternately with sour cream and baking soda by small additions. Chill. Shape into a long loaf. Wrap in wax paper and refrigerate at least 24 hours before slicing. Bake in 350-degree oven for 8 to 10 minutes.

These are famous Dutch cookies.

## SAUCYSES (PIGS IN A BLANKET)

*Recipe by Mrs. Albert Hubers*

*"The Terra Ceia Cookbook, From Our Kitchen to Yours,"  
Terra Ceia Christian School, Terra Ceia*

*3 pounds lean pork sausage; 4 cups sifted flour; 2 tablespoons baking powder; 1 tablespoon salt; 3/4 cup lard; 1 egg; 1 cup milk.*

To make pigs: Season sausage with salt and pepper. Shape cylindrically into 30 to 36 (2-inch) pieces.

To make blankets: Sift together flour, baking powder and tablespoon of salt. Blend lard into dry ingredients. Beat egg into the cup of milk. Spoon a well into dry ingredients. Pour milk and egg mixture into dry ingredients. Mix well but quickly. Roll out dough on lightly floured board and cut into 3-inch squares. Roll sausage pig in each, sealing well. Place in a baking pan, 3/4 of an inch apart. Bake at 350 degrees until brown, about 30 minutes.





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Early College High School received the National Blue Ribbon Award in 2023. Receiving the National Blue Ribbon Award is a prestigious accomplishment that recognizes the outstanding performance and achievements of a school. This annual recognition from the US Department of Education, spanning four decades, acknowledges schools that demonstrate high student performance or notable progress in closing achievement gaps. Being one of only 353 schools nationwide and one of eight in the state of North Carolina to receive this award is a testament to the excellence and dedication of the school staff and administration.

The school had to meet the state's performance requirements in various key areas such as reading, math, attendance, and graduation rates.

Dr. Emily Pake states, "The dedication of our staff to challenge students and enforce rules and teaching strategies contributes to a consistent and robust educational environment. This commitment not only sets a high standard for academic achievement but also fosters a culture of discipline and excellence. Such efforts are instrumental in creating a positive and conducive learning atmosphere that prepares students for academic challenges and future success".

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# Winter sight fishing for redfish in the Pamlico

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

**W**e are very excited to offer a new type of winter trip. In the cooler months beginning around early November, our estuarine waters become very clear and stay that way throughout the winter into the early spring. In the shallow flat of the river shorelines and adjacent sound side bays, we often spot schools of wintering redfish, offering opportunities for sight fishing these 15-30 inch reds on conventional spinning or fly fishing gear. At times, we see schools of over a hundred fish, but more frequently they travel as singles, in pairs, or in smaller schools of 10-50 fish.

Sight fishing for winter reds has traditionally been a fishery down in the tidal salt marshes of southeastern North Carolina and the South Carolina and Georgia Low Country; not something we do up in the Pamlico Sound. This exciting winter offering adds another quality angling experience to our already very diverse fishery. We have special setup for targeting these fish. We utilize our 18 ft. flatbottom skiff to access areas inches deep. The skiff is outfitted with a two-person sight fishing tower on the bow for an elevated perspective and a poling platform on the stern for ultimate stealth.

Our water remains clear enough for sight fishing through early April. When the water warms, natural algae begin to grow, causing the water to appear more stained and less clear. Weather and wind play a big factor in how these fish behave. During very cold weather, the fish tend to be less aggressive and more lethargic due to lower metabolism from the cold. During warmer periods, they are much more aggressive and respond better to the artificial lure or fly. Although full sunlight with no cloud cover is optimal, we can still catch them on partly cloudy and even cloudy days. The really dark grey, low



**Eight-year-old Henry Andrews with a nice redfish he caught while sight fishing in the Pamlico. (Richard Andrews)**

light days are tough. Too much wind also makes this fishing a challenge, but we don't need perfectly calm conditions to catch them either. Although tough weather is common in the winter in North Carolina, we also an abundance of mild, beautiful days all winter long, so I encourage you to come try some sight fishing right here in our own backyard.

Come take a look for yourself and experience what it's like to stalk, spot, and cast to these fish in very shallow water. For charter inquiries, visit [www.tarpamguide.com](http://www.tarpamguide.com), email [richard@tarpamguide.com](mailto:richard@tarpamguide.com), or call 252-945-9715.

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





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# Love is in the air, celebrate with wine to share

BY MARY MEHLICH

**V**alentine's Day is a day to celebrate each other and the love you share. Whether you are planning a special meal or sharing a box of decadent chocolates you shouldn't have to overthink your choice of wine. It should bring you joy and anticipation. Remember love is in the air!

When pairing wine with a meal remember red wines usually pair best with red meats, chocolate and cheese. If you prefer white wines a rich white Burgundy will pair well meats, cheeses, etc.

White wines pair best with poultry, seafood and salads. If you are a fan of red wines, I suggest a cru Beaujolais (gamay) or a dry Rose with these meal selections.

There are several styles of wine to indulge in on Valentine's Day. I am going to share a few ideas and hopefully one will stand out to you and what you are planning for your celebration. Here are some of my favorites.

## JUVE Y CAMPS BRUT CAVA ROSE OF PINOT NOIR

*Winemaker Notes:* This cava seduces with its bright cherry red color and beautiful effervescence. It reflects the character of the variety, with its cherry and strawberry notes enveloped in honey, toasted bread and a faint floweriness. It is intense, fresh and exuberant in the mouth, with a rich, aromatic finish. Pair with each other.

## DIBON ROSE CAVA OF PINOT NOIR

As tiny bubbles rise to the surface, aromas of raspberry and black currant come through. The same carry over to the palate with that wonderful sensation only bubbles can bring. It has a finish of elegance and depth. Pair with a decadent cheese plate.



## VIGNO ANTICHE '84 PROSECCO EXTRA BRUT (GLERA)

'84 opens up with fabulous tiny bubbles that tickle your nose. It is a fairly intense style of dry prosecco. Flavors of apple and pear and a bit of spice. Mid palate comes with citrusy lemon and lime flavors. It finishes with a crisp acidity and lingering tickle that makes prosecco a fan favorite. This one does not disappoint! Perfect pairing with your Valentine breakfast menu.....

## DOMAINE HOUCHART COTES DE PROVENCE ROSE

*Winemaker Notes:* Domaine Houchart has a wonderful Salmon color which highlights the aroma and palate which are bursting with flavors of red berries, strawberries. Hints of citrus and a very lively mouth feel. Serve as an aperitif, with salads or with savory tarts.

## AMARIS SWEET RED WINE (TEMPRANILLO/GARNACHA/MACABEO)

What better day to indulge your tastebuds with this sweet Spanish red. Flavors of red

fruit and spice glide across your palate and pair perfectly with the chocolate of your choice!

## DOMAINE ROMANIN POUILLY FUISSE "LAMURE"

Gentle, ripe lemon freshness accompanies creamy notes on the nose of this wine. The palate has freshness and energy but expresses the generosity of a with lovely roundness. The finish has precision, brightness and length. Pair with poultry dishes or meats and cheeses.

## ANCIENT PEAK ZINFANDEL

*Winemaker Notes:* This Zinfandel makes an immediate statement with bright, jammy aromas of raspberry, cinnamon spice and vanilla cream. Luscious, rounded flavors of red cherry, raspberry and blackberry unfold across a beautifully weighted mouthfeel, all under-pinned by deeper hints of roast coffee and black pepper. Smooth, juicy acidity brings impressive balance to a uniquely elegant finish. Perfect pairing with dark chocolate hearts or redmeat/cheeses.





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## *Washington is a pet's paradise*

BY ZACH FLEMMING AND MCKENZIE CARSON

**A**s proud owners of Winston, our lively Chocolate Lab, Washington's undeniable charm and dog-friendly community hold the key to our affection.

Our mornings kick off with a refreshing stroll along the Riverwalk, taking in the scenic beauty of the river from Festival Park. Winston's enthusiasm for a game of fetch adds an extra dose of joy to our routine. The highlight of our mornings is encountering familiar faces, particularly the Dock-master, whose golf cart brims with tempting treats we know Winston is eager to receive.

Navigating through Main Street, we make pit stops at cherished spots like Main Cup, where Winston relishes in a pup cup, and Big Bargain Furniture, where he is doted upon with several rounds of milk-bones. Our journey culminates at the welcoming 1906 Bistro, a favorite haunt for our family and friends. While Winston thoroughly enjoys the canine snacks, there's always a hint of longing in his eyes as if he wishes to savor a sip of whiskey, he's namesake is Churchill after all.

You might wonder how we could top such delightful experiences in town. Well, the weekends hold the answer as we embark on a short drive to Goose Creek State Park. The park offers a haven with miles of trails, a sandy beach, and serene water access. It is the perfect getaway. After a day filled with paddleboarding, swims and hikes, we conclude our adventure with a visit to Petals and Produce for a final round of dog treats, capping off a perfect day in Washington.

In the quiet night, Winston curls up, content after his extraordinary Washington adventure; and we head out to enjoy treats of the humankind: cocktails and Chef Jamie's cuisine at the Hackney.

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