

At the Maritime Museum

By Phyllis Makuck

The N.C. Maritime Museum at 315 Front Street in Beaufort is a special resource for our area—a great place to take visitors for a morning or afternoon and a great place for locals and visitors to participate in a range of activities. This summer, the Maritime Museum is offering a full schedule of events suitable for young and old.

Boating classes will include the following: traditional boat handling on Fridays and adult sailing on Saturdays; sea kayaking, marsh kayaking and nautical skills during

the week. For sailing and traditional boat handling, the museum will provide watercraft from its in-water fleet. For kayaking, you have the option of bringing your own kayak or using one provided.

The museum's Watercraft Center will also be offering a variety of classes on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the summer: boat building, knotting and splicing, lofting, lift half modeling, oar making, and sail making. For children, summer classes and camps are available: a Junior Sailing Program, Summer Science School, and the new Science to Sail program—combining junior sailing and coastal adventures.

Summer camp offerings are based on grade level. Sessions vary from half day to ten days:

- Entering grades one and two: Seashore Life I and Pirates I

- Entering grades two and three: Seashore Life II and Pirates II

- Entering grades three and four: Boats, Boaters, and Boat Modeling

- Entering grades three through six: Science to Sail

- Entering grades five and six: Coastal photography and Seashore Life III

- Entering grades seven and eight: Coastal photography and Coastal Exploration

The summer schedule will also include a full schedule of museum talks. A presentation at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, July 15 will feature the Watson Shell Collection, a rare group of shells from Japan, the Philippine Islands, the West Indies, Africa and the Middle East, collected by Brantley and Maxine Watson of Durham. The Watsons originally donated their

exceptional collection to Duke University's Museum of Art in 1976, and in 1982, the shells were brought to the Maritime Museum in Beaufort. In 2008, the collection was put in storage because lighting conditions were causing their colors to fade, but they will be back on display for the program "Watson Shells Revisited." Doug Wolfe, North Carolina Shell Club member and museum volunteer, will present a history of the collection and an explanation of the biology of shells.

Reservations are not required for museum talks, but are required for all classes and camps. Space is limited. For reservations and more information, including costs, exact times, and dates of programs, call the Maritime Museum at 728-7317 or go to www.ncmaritimemuseum.org.



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