

Carteret Arts Forum

By Lilia Klee

Carteret Arts Forum (CAF) presents noted military historian and author Robert L. O'Connell to discuss his book *Fierce Patriot: The Tangled Lives of William Tecumseh Sherman*. With the 150th anniversary of the march on Atlanta in 2015, the time is right for a reexamination of Sherman. *Fierce Patriot* is a fascinating account of one of this country's most iconic and seminal figures.

Sherman was a man of many facets, according to O'Connell. As a military strategist, he developed an improvisational, more democratic, adaptable and innovative army and dedicated his life to keeping the United States united. His Civil War exploits are well known, but few know of his instrumental role in the building of the transcontinental railroad, his early exploits in Florida during the Second Seminole War before that territory became part of the United States, or that he inadvertently helped set off the Gold Rush in California. As O'Connell puts it: "By the time he retired from the U.S. Army in 1884, Sherman had become virtually a human embodiment of Manifest Destiny. Florida, California, reclaiming the Confederacy, winning the West: He had been just about everywhere." Then there was "Uncle Billy," the charismatic and beloved public persona that Sherman crafted to inspire his army and would carefully maintain through his lifelong battles with the press. Finally, there was Sherman the family man, who was adopted into a powerful and influential political family and would eventually marry his own stepsister, Ellen Ewing.

Mr. O'Connell received a Ph.D. in history at the University of Virginia, and spent 30 years as a senior analyst at the National Ground Intelligence Center. He is presently a visiting professor at the Naval Postgraduate School, and was a contributing editor to *MHQ: The Quarterly Journal of Military History*. He is the author of numerous books, including *The Ghosts of Cannae: Hannibal and the Darkest Hour of the Roman Republic*; *Of Arms and Men: A History of War, Weapons, and Aggression*; and *Soul of the Sword: An Illustrated History of Weaponry and Warfare from Prehistory to the Present*.

The presentation will be on Thursday, April 7, at 10:30 a.m. at the Elks Lodge, 400 Miller Farm Road in Morehead City. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased online at carteretartsforum.com or at the door. Youth and college students with a valid college ID may purchase tickets for only \$5. An optional lunch (separate charge) will follow the presentation. Information about the meal and how to make a reservation will be posted on the CAF website once the details are finalized. Visit the website or contact John Clarke, event chair, at 515-0887 or johnc@carteretartsforum.com for more information.

The mission of Carteret Arts Forum is to bring enriching cultural experiences to Carteret County and surrounding areas.



Robert O'Connell—Photo by Stacey Evans

The Country Club of the Crystal Coast

...where friends connect

By Bill Knecht

Spring is coming, which means it is time to play some tennis and golf at The Country Club of the Crystal Coast before all of the tourists arrive. Any nonmember who plays golf or tennis at the club is a member for the day and may enjoy lunch and/or dinner at the club on the day of play.

There is news to report: the club is going to be offering a new sport activity for its members and the public starting in April. It is known as soccer golf, sometimes referred to as FootGolf, which is gaining in popularity throughout North Carolina and the United States. Currently, the soccer golf courses nearest to Carteret County are in Greenville, Goldsboro and Wilmington.

Soccer golf, which combines the elements of golf and soccer into one golf-like sport, is fun for the entire family. The game is played with a soccer ball, and the object is to kick the ball into a 21-inch hole with the fewest number of kicks. An 18-hole course will be located on the front nine holes of the club's golf course.

The Carteret County Chamber of Commerce will have a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 1 at 3 p.m. at the club, followed by an open house at 5 p.m. A few holes will be open for practice at no charge after the ceremony. Then on Saturday and Sunday, April 2-3, the soccer golf course will be open from 4 p.m. until dark at a special reduced price of \$5 per person. If use of a cart is desired, fees will be extra. Bring your children and grandchildren out to enjoy this new sport. More details about what days and times the course will be open and rates to play, including special league and team rates, will be announced in the near future. For more information, please call General Manager Chip Chamberlin at 726-1034, ext. 12. Call the pro shop at 726-1034, ext. 10, to book a time to play.

The club hosts an open house almost every month for prospective new members. If you missed the last open house, the next one is planned for March 4 from 5-6 p.m. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and beverages are served, and attendees are invited to stay for the club's popular burger night after the open house. Those who wish to order from the club's regular menus instead may do so, and gluten-free options are also available. We look forward to seeing you at the club, *where friends connect*.

On January 23 the club hosted NC Court of Appeals Judge Doug McCullough, who spoke about his book *Sea of Greed*. The book is based on Judge McCullough's work as an assistant US attorney prosecuting the smuggling of drugs into Beaufort (NC) and elsewhere.

During 1978-1988, coastal smuggling of drugs was the major criminal activity in eastern North Carolina. The *Lady Mauricette* case was one of many coastal smuggling ventures investigated and prosecuted during that time, and became the only case that resulted in the eventual indictment and conviction of a head of state. What began as a routine drug smuggling case in Beaufort ended with America's largest drug bust, the US invasion of Panama and the conviction and overthrow of Panama's notorious Manuel Noriega. If you haven't read the book, I highly recommend it.

On a date in April yet to be determined, the club will host author Martha (Marti) Peterson, who will speak about her book *The Widow Spy*, which is based on her life as a CIA spy. The book describes her journey from steamy Laos as a young bride to Langley, Virginia, as a CIA officer, and to frozen Moscow and back. The evening will be open to the public. Please watch for more details when a date is set.

The club will offer free computer classes for members on March 14, 15, 17 and 18, at 5 p.m. each day. For more information, please contact the club at 726-1034.



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