

Book Nook Celebrates Anniversary

By Barbara McCreary

The old adage “time flies when you’re having fun” is certainly applicable in the case of the Book Nook. How can it already be one year since we opened our first floor location in the Bogue Banks Public Library building? I remember the weeks and weeks the board spent planning the big move from upstairs to our more spacious location and our grand opening ceremony with its yellow ribbon-cutting on August 7, 2016.

The Book Nook, sponsored by the Friends of the Bogue Banks Public Library, is our primary way of raising funds to help support the library. The profit from our book sales, along with our ongoing silent auctions, supports programs such as July’s annual Storytelling Festival and the summer reading programs for children and adults. We also support the library by providing funds for the purchase of audio-visual equipment, DVDs and books.

We are grateful to our community for donating the gently used books that we carry in the Book Nook. Our shelves are full of titles by popular authors such as James Patterson, Nicholas Sparks and Nora Roberts that make great beach reading. These you would probably expect, but what you may not expect are the unusual, esoteric, sometimes-quirky, hard-to-find books that we also carry. We stock shelves of military history, biographies and memoirs, books about gardening, sports, cooking, business/finance, hobbies, health and travel. We carry poetry, drama, inspirational books, psychology, psychiatry, classics and humor. One bookcase is devoted to large print books. We have a large selection of children’s books, including picture books, chapter books and selections for young adults. There is something for everyone, young and old alike.

We are proud of the positive comments left by visitors to our Book Nook. One visitor wrote: “Great resource” while another said, “Love this place, very neat and orderly.” We welcome suggestions and have implemented some of the public’s beneficial ideas.

So if your TBR (to be read) pile is beginning to shorten, if you need a cool, quiet respite from the summer heat, and if you love a good bargain, please stop by the Book Nook to browse. Our selections turn over quickly, so be sure to stop by often. Perhaps you’ll run into a friendly face such as Pine Knoll Shores residents and board members Kay Howe, Judy Henry, Jeanette Jenkins or Betsy Mercer as they restock the shelves. Handyman board member Steve Flora may well be there sprucing up the place. You may catch Treasurer Bill Johnston collecting money or Vice President Stacey Veros picking up new membership forms. I am often there sorting and putting together ideas for future silent auction packages. Any of us will be glad to help you or to chat about one of our favorite pastimes—reading. You can also pick up a free bookmark from our greeting table.

So what is my favorite part about volunteering in the Book Nook? That’s hard to say. As a retired librarian, it lets me keep my hand in a profession I love. It’s fun to think of creative book display ideas. I enjoy entering the room and finding empty gaps in the bookcases. That means someone has found treasures to take home and that we can refill those spaces with other good books.

The Book Nook is open Monday through Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., the same hours as the library. We use an honor system for payment. If you need change, just ask at the library desk.



Open space on the Book Nook shelves is a welcome sight for volunteers—and then the space is immediately filled with new offerings.—Photo by Barbara McCreary

Turtle Season Begins in PKS

By Peggy Deneau

The 2017 sea turtle season in Pine Knoll Shores is off to a terrific start. Our first nest came in before the end of May, and by now (July 10) there are already seven nests on our beach.

When a new nest is found, we search for the eggs, digging carefully by hand, wearing gloves. When the eggs are located, one egg is removed and opened. The contents are emptied into the ocean, or into a hole dug on the beach. The shell, which is the only part of the egg exclusively from the mother turtle, is then folded up and placed in a test tube of alcohol. The test tube is labeled with the nest location and date, and sent to a lab. The resulting DNA analysis tells us which female laid a particular nest, and if she also laid others in the area. It will also prove conclusively which type of turtle laid the nest.

Things are a bit unusual this year. We have at least one, and possibly two, green turtle nests.

These turtles normally nest in late August and September, later in the season than our usual loggerheads. They also lay far fewer nests in our area, with years going by without a single one. I have also heard that Salter Path/Indian Beach has two Kemps Ridley nests. These turtles are endangered,

and do not normally nest here at all. The blustery, stormy weather offshore, excessively high tides or the changes from cool and dry to hot and humid may have something to do with these strange happenings. Maybe the turtles are confused, but it is certainly exciting for the volunteers.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all our great volunteers, and our 10 new ones: Kim Elliott, Anne Charlton, Libby and John Gallagher, Robbin Talley, Norine McLean, Amy Quinn, Brian McGovern, Rebekah Foley and John Davis. John comes from Havelock to walk our beach (as does our librarian/volunteer Donna Freeman). Rebekah comes to us from Morehead City. Brian McGovern is our newest turtle patrol driver, and also is a volunteer with VIPS (Volunteers in Police Service) here in town. Volunteer Cary Spencer, who joined our program last year, deserves special mention. She has been known to make special trips to check on our nests, and in addition to her own section of the beach, is also willing to walk for others who can’t. She is extremely enthusiastic, and comes from Beaufort to walk our beach.

There is nothing more exciting for me than to see a new volunteer find something for the first time. What a thrill for both of us. We have a really wonderful program now with all our dedicated volunteers, as well as the turtle patrol vehicle, courtesy of Police Chief Ryan Thompson. We are all looking forward to the nesting and hatching for the next couple of months. With luck, we won’t lose any nests to tropical storms or hurricanes. I hope our luck from last season holds out.



Volunteer Linbe Blackford (top) holds an egg to be used for DNA analysis, and volunteer Lisa Park is pictured standing between the entrance and exit crawls of Nest #6.—Photos by Peggy Deneau