

Center Calendar Offers Smorgasbord

A busy spring continues at the N.C. Marine Resources Center, with a number of special events planned through May.

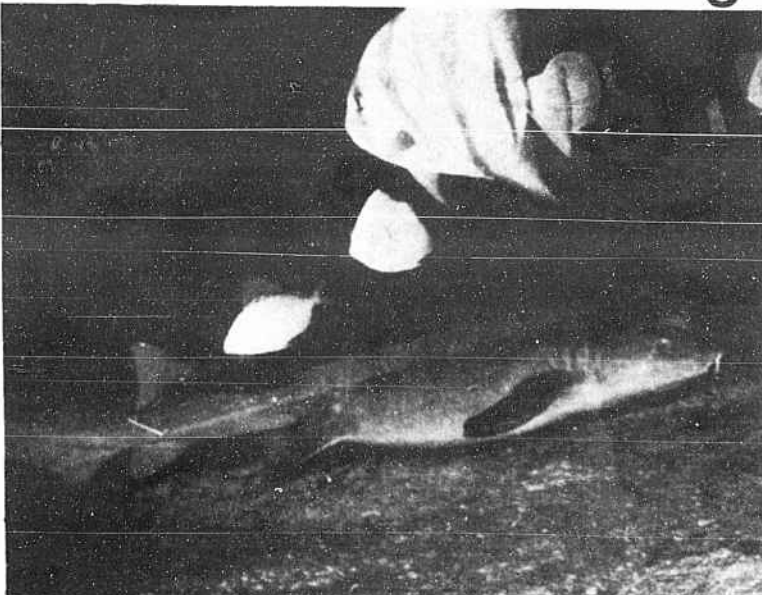
Resource staff members go into the field on Tuesday, April 16, for a 6:30 p.m. seminar on ocean safety at Shallotte Middle School.

Lectures in the 2:30 p.m. "Spring Sunday" series include "Fishes of North Carolina" by Scott Rodden on April 14; "Rice Plantations of the North Carolina Coast" by James Clifton on May 5; and "Indians of Coastal Carolina" by Dr. Dale McCall on May 26.

Two special programs in April require pre-registration: a 2 p.m. workshop on nature printing set for the 10th, and the day-long Spring Wild Foods Day on the 27th, a classic event that regulars make a point of returning for. Participants collect and prepare the makings of an evening communal feast. Call (919) 458-8257 to register for either event.

Throughout April water colors by Nancy Sprinkle are featured in the lobby exhibit, while in May the lobby will house an "About Fish" exhibit.

Film favorites return on weekends this season with "The Invisible Reef," April 6; "The Living Coast," April 7; "Estuary," April 13; "The



A 17,000-GALLON SHARK TANK at the N.C. Marine Resources Center at Fort Fisher offers a close-up view of this smooth dogfish, a species found off North Carolina's coast from about October to July. The center offers a variety of educational programs and exhibits relating to the coast, as well as several nature trails. Two future exhibits will focus on scuba diving and water pollution.

STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Dolphin," April 20; "After the Whale," April 28; "The Private Life of the Herring Gull," May 4; "The Octopus," May 18; "So Little Time," May 19; and "The Sea Turtle" on May 25, in conjunction with the center's annual turtle release which follows at 2:30 p.m. All films are shown at 2 p.m.

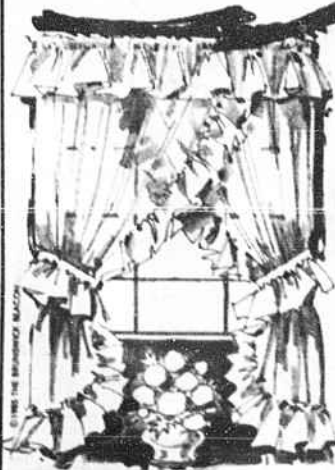
Aquarium feedings can be viewed Saturdays and Sundays at 4 p.m., while the children's story and craft hour meets each Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in the children's corner. Aquaria house a variety of marine creatures and the Touch Pool allows visitors to observe and handle harmless marine animals.

Entries in the center's Summer Photography Contest will be accepted through May 30.

The center is located on U.S. 421 about 20 miles south of Wilmington, just below Kure Beach. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free though there may be a small charge for special programs.


Nature trails that lead to the salt marsh and beach are available for hiking, bird watching, photography or renewal of spirit. Pets and audio equipment are not allowed.


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