

# under the sun

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON  
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JOSHUA CRISCOE (left), Nathan Huff (center) and Victor Heenan take a break from swimming last week at Camp Seabreeze at the N.C. Baptist Assembly.

## Make Them Happy Campers

Summer's Here And Kids Need Something To Do

BY DOUG RUTTER

Summer vacation is only two weeks old and the kids are already getting restless, whining about having nothing to do.

Does this sound familiar, parents? If it does, maybe it's time to look into sending little Johnny or Mary to a day camp.

Camp Seabreeze, sponsored by the North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Caswell Beach, is already in full swing.

Every weekday from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m., you can find between 40 and 50 campers ages 5 to 13 on the Baptist Assembly grounds.

For 10 weeks each summer, kids participate in swimming, beach activities, games and crafts.



PAUL OSBORNE takes the plunge in the N.C. Baptist Assembly swimming pool.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DOUG RUTTER

Gaylin Huff, conference coordinator at the Baptist Assembly, said the camp will continue through Aug. 12. "Right now we're full for the rest of the summer, but sometimes spaces open up, especially at the end of the summer," she said.

Campers spend each morning at the outdoor swimming pool. After lunch and an hour of quiet time, campers participate in various indoor and outdoor activities in the afternoon.

"It's just a recreational camp they can attend during the summer break," Huff said. "It's mostly recreational, but there's some instruction."

Huff said the camp helps get kids away from the television set during the summer, and gives parents a break too.

Camp Seabreeze, which costs \$65 per week, started about six years ago. "It started because there was a need for something like that in the community," Huff said.

Most of the children who spent last week at Camp Seabreeze said they like swimming the most. "Swimming and lunch," said Victor Heenan of Southport.

"We play a lot," added 7-year-old Joshua Criscoe of Long Beach. "We play on the playground. It's kind of like monkey bars and we got a sandbox."

Nathan Huff of Long Beach has been attending Camp Seabreeze for about four years and said he looks forward to it each summer. "Sometimes we go different places on campus, like yesterday we went to the first aid building," he said.

While most spots in Camp Seabreeze have been filled

for the summer, the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department is still taking registration for its upcoming day camps.

Camps are scheduled as follows: June 27-July 1, ages 6-9; July 11-15, ages 10-13; July 18-22, ages 6-9; Aug. 1-5, ages 10-13; Aug. 8-12, ages 6-9.

Hours are 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day. The cost is \$50 per week, and discounts are available for families with more than one child at the camp.

Planned activities include swimming, arts and crafts, nature study and field trips to a bowling alley, water slide and the N.C. Aquarium at Fort Fisher.

A staff of four supervisors will run the camp, which accepts 24 children per week.

To register for the day camp, call Emma McGraw at the recreation office at 253-4357 or 1-800-222-4790.

## The Tool-Using Nuthatch

BY BILL FAVER

Much has been written about the ability of the Darwin's woodpecker finch in the Galapagos Islands to use tools to extract grubs from wood. This amazing bird uses spines or sticks to probe holes for food and to assist it in feeding. Like the woodpeckers and this finch, the brown-headed nuthatch likes to feed on larvae and insects in the bark of pines and other trees.

Since the nuthatch's bill is small and not adapted to cutting into bark as the woodpeckers can do, the small bird opts for use of a tool to get at the larvae it can hear working under the bark. The preferred tool is a thin, hard piece of bark it can use in its bill to chip away the outer layers to expose the fat grubs. Since it has no way of holding on to the "tool," it drops it to feed and must find another piece to continue probing the bark.

The brown-headed nuthatch is smaller than a sparrow and is stocky and short-billed. Its back is bluish-gray with a brown crown and its breast is pale buff. There is a whitish rump spot and a dark brown eye-line and a whitish throat.

This nuthatch seems to prefer pine forests in the coastal plain areas from southern Delaware to Texas and Oklahoma.

Its nest is made of bark strips,



PHOTO BY BILL FAVER

THE BROWN-HEADED nuthatch is an example of a tool-using bird.

stems, grass and wood chips at the bottom of a cavity in a dead tree or in a nest box and is usually placed anywhere from two to 50 feet above the ground.

Eggs are whitish with brown spots and can number from three to nine. Incubation by both sexes takes about 14 days, and

young leave the nest after about 18 days.

Its food consists of insect larvae and insects, spiders and pine seeds.

This small bird spends most of its time among the tall branches and twigs of large trees. To find a nest is an exciting experience and to see it engage in its tool-using

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