

At the Aquarium

NC Aquarium named Party for the Planet contest winner

The North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores was named the first-place winner of Association of Zoos and Aquariums' (AZA) Party for the Planet video contest. The Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden placed second in the online public voting contest highlighting inclusive, family-friendly volunteer activities at AZA-accredited facilities. The first and second place winners of the contest will receive a \$25,000 and \$10,000 conservation donation, respectively, to a conservation program they support.

Party for the Planet, an eight-week long observance between Earth Day (April 22) and World Oceans Day (June 8) is one of AZA's largest public engagement efforts to inspire others to respect, protect and conserve wildlife and wild places. This year, with support from the Disney Conservation Fund, Party for the Planet featured a new theme, "Spring into Action," encouraging families to volunteer within their communities. AZA-accredited facilities submitted video summaries of the impact of their events, which were evaluated on volunteerism impact, community engagement and conservation message, and narrowed to 10 finalists before going to public vote on Facebook and YouTube.

The NC Aquarium's winning video, "Restore the Shore: #OverFlo," highlighted the aquarium's efforts with the community on World Oceans Day to restore shoreline habitat damaged by Hurricane Florence. Together with the North Carolina Coastal Federation and the town of Atlantic Beach, over 70 volunteers participated in dune restoration, marsh grass planting and clean-up events along five miles of coastline. The aquarium also hosted on-site activities focused on showing visitors how to create wildlife-friendly gardens and habitats at home. The aquarium has designated the AZA Saving Animals From Extinction (SAFE) North Carolina Sea Turtle Conservation Plan as the recipient of the \$25,000 donation.

"We had a lot of work to do after the storm to restore our coastline," said Windy Arey-Kent, aquarium education curator. "This was a wonderful opportunity to engage families and members of our community. These activities were educational and fun for participants, valuable for wildlife and habitats and showcased the aquarium's ongoing commitment to our community."

Second place winner Oklahoma City Zoo hosted their own pollinator planting event at the zoo. Over 600 guests planted a total of 676 plants while learning the importance of pollinators to a healthy ecosystem. The Oklahoma City Zoo selected Okies for Monarchs, an initiative of the Oklahoma Monarch & Pollinator Collaborative, as the \$10,000 donation recipient.

Over 120 AZA-accredited facilities took part in Party for the Planet activities this year, with various family-friendly projects ranging from trash cleanups to citizen science to habitat restoration. AZA members hosted over 140 events, engaged over 6,500 volunteers and dedicated over 16,000 hours to conservation projects. AZA members collected nearly 3,000 pounds of trash, cleaned 115 miles of coastline, planted 40,000 native and pollinator-friendly seeds and plants and recycled 12,000 pounds of electronics.

About AZA. Founded in 1924, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of zoos and aquariums



in the areas of conservation, animal welfare, education, science and recreation. AZA is the accrediting body for the top zoos and aquariums in the United States and 10 other countries. Look for the AZA accreditation logo whenever you visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you and a better future for all living things. The AZA is a leader in saving species and your link to helping animals all over the world. To learn more, visit www.aza.org.

BHA Events

The Beaufort Historic Association (BHA) continues to welcome visitors and offer programs and tours into the fall.

Harvest Time. This Living History program, designed especially for fourth grade classes, will feature demonstrations of Beaufort family life in the 1700s and 1800s. Children learn through hands-on activities about food preservation, candle dipping, woodworking and corn harvesting techniques demonstrated by volunteers in period dress. The programs will be presented from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on October 8-11 and 15-18.

Fall Fundraising Party. This gala fundraising party at 6:30 p.m. on October 12 will be held in the beautiful Aiken home in Beaufort. The artwork of Gosia Tojza will be featured and available for purchase, and there will be food from Beaufort Grocery Co. and music by Blue Moon Jazz. Tickets are \$100 per person.

Historic Site Double-Decker Bus Tours. Visitors to Beaufort are invited to hop aboard and see Beaufort's historic district from atop our 1967 English double-decker bus. Local narrators tell tales of Beaufort's rich past of pirates, star-crossed lovers, and Confederate spies. Tours are available Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and on Tuesday and Thursday at 1:30 p.m. Fees are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children ages 6-12. There is no charge for children under age 6.

Beaufort Historic Site Buildings Tour. All prized for their period collections and furnishings, the homes of history run the gamut from the rustic Leffers Cottage (c.1778) and the elaborately furnished Victorian Josiah Bell House (c.1825) to the award-winning restoration of the Federal-style John C. Manson House (c.1825). The historic buildings include the Carteret County Jail (c.1829); the Apothecary Shop and Doctor's Office (c.1857), containing priceless pharmaceutical and medicinal artifacts used in early Beaufort; and the Carteret County Courthouse of 1796, which is the only remaining wood-framed English Circuit courthouse left intact in North Carolina. Each building depicts a different period or aspect of life in historic Beaufort. Tours are given by experienced docents in period dress and are available Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (and also with a one-hour notice). Fees are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children ages 6-12. There is no charge for children under age 6.

Old Burying Ground Tours. The Old Burying Ground holds fascinating stories about Beaufort's 300-year-old history. Majestic live oak trees enshroud the historic gravesites within this cemetery, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. An experienced guide in period dress leads tours, telling tales of its many colorful characters. Tours are available on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 2:30 p.m. and also upon request with a 24-hour notice. Fees are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children ages 6-12. There is no charge for children under age 6.

To purchase tickets or learn more about these and other BHA programs, visit beauforthistoricsite.com, call the association at 728-5225 or stop by the welcome center at 130 Turner Street in Beaufort.