

The Shoreline

Vol. 15, No. 8

A Shoreline Community, Pine Knoll Shores, N.C.

August 2020

A Native Orchid In Pine Knoll Shores

By John Fussell

Scientist seeks help in finding elusive blooms



Blooming Three Birds Orchid—Native Orchid Conference/Wikimedia Commons/Public Domain

At you may recall reading at this time last year, there is a very special little orchid that occurs in the maritime forests of the Roosevelt Natural Area and on town property between the Natural Area and Roosevelt Boulevard. This is the Three Birds Orchid (scientific name *Triphora trianthophoros*).

This orchid may grow to about six inches high, although more typically they are only half that—plants may barely top the leaf litter of the forest. Although small, usually less than an inch wide, the flowers are very pretty. They are white, typically tinged with pink (some may be largely pink). Typically, a plant has three flowers, thus the name Three Birds Orchid (and the species epithet of *trianthophoros*). The heart-shaped clasping leaves are less than an inch long.

The Three Birds Orchid occurs across much of eastern North America, but has a

very spotty range. It is considered to be endangered or threatened in many states. In North Carolina, it is found mostly in the mountains, especially the southern and central mountains.

East of the mountains, the species is essentially absent. Curiously, two little outposts of the species occur far eastward of the mountains, actually

(Continued on page 7)

The window of opportunity for a sighting of the Three Birds Orchid is narrow, and your help in documenting its continued presence in our area is much appreciated. If you are able to get a picture of your sighting, please send it to jofuss@ec.rr.com with any details you can share.

**New Feature:
Pour Decisions**
See page 6

**Important Water
Safety Advice**
See page 20

FROM THE DESK OF THE MAYOR

Tacks in the Road

By Mayor John Brodman

My two-cents worth

John Brodman, our new mayor, was sworn into office at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners on July 8, 2020, which was only three business days before the deadline for submissions for the August issue of The Shoreline. Beginning next month, John assures us that he will continue to honor the long-standing tradition of writing a monthly column to keep citizens informed about his views on the issues facing the town. This month, however, we are using the mayor's column to share with you the brief remarks made by John after his swearing-in and a brief synopsis of his background.—The Editors



Mayor John Brodman

Remarks by John Brodman after being sworn into office as Mayor of Pine Knoll Shores at the July 8, 2020 meeting of the Board of Commissioners

It's late, so I'll be brief. First I want to thank Acting Mayor Clark Edwards, the Mayoral Search Committee and the Board of Commissioners for honoring me with this opportunity to serve as your mayor. I accept the appointment with humility.

Nevertheless, I have to point out that this is a highly unusual set of circumstances and not an ideal way for anybody to become mayor. I, like everyone else here, regret the sudden passing of our former mayor, Ken Jones. I

(Continued on page 11)

**Standard
Pre-Sort
Permit #35
1, NC 28512**