



# At The Aquarium

The NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores is offering some fun activities for families as we look ahead to spring.

**“Small Sea Splendors” Art Exhibit.** Bright colors can be found in the most unexpected places—like a sea slug at the bottom of the ocean. A new art exhibit at the aquarium features some of the ocean’s small yet colorful creatures illustrated by the Colored Pencil Society of America (CPSA), District Chapter 114. The vivid drawings include sea slugs, radiant nudibranchs, and multi-colored shrimp and show how beautiful and colorful plankton and other micro-organisms at the bottom of the ocean’s food chain can be. The CPSA is a nonprofit organization for colored pencil enthusiasts working to promote colored pencils as a fine art medium, and members spent many hours researching the creatures to ensure authenticity. The exhibit is in the Spadefish Art Gallery and will be on display until the summer. Free with aquarium admission or membership.

**Forest Fairies to Sea Serpents.** March 5, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Put on some wings and a dash of glitter—and let your imagination fly during the aquarium’s annual Fairy Day. Forest Fairies to Sea Serpents is a free event (with admission or aquarium membership), full of fun and learning, where imagination and education come together. Build fairy and gnome houses on the nature trail and search for fairy and mermaid homes around the aquarium. Add to the fun and come dressed as a fairy, gnome, sea serpent or other mythical character. Watch aquarium staff feed different animals throughout the day, and learn the facts behind the myths of familiar creatures. Costumes are encouraged but not required.

Schedule of feeding events: 9:30 a.m.—Seahorse Feed, Tidal Waters Gallery; 10 a.m.—Hellbender Feed, Mountain Gallery; 11 a.m.—Otter Enrichment, Piedmont Gallery; 12 noon—Eel Feed, Ocean Gallery; 1 p.m.—Snake Feed, Coastal Plain Gallery; 1:30 p.m.—Freshwater Turtle Feed, Coastal Plain Gallery; 2 p.m.—Alligator Feed, Coastal Plain Gallery; and 3:15 p.m.—Living Shipwreck Feed, Ocean Gallery.

**Family Paint Night at the Aquarium.** March 25, April 8; 6:30-8:30 p.m., for ages 6 and up. The NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores is pleased to offer Family Paint Night Under the Sea. Participants are encouraged to bring their own snacks and non-alcoholic drinks while they make family memories during this relaxing night of creating artwork.

Instructors from Wine and Design on Wheels from Morehead City will provide all painting supplies and guide painters every step of the way. Aprons will be provided, but participants are advised to wear comfortable clothes they don’t mind getting messy.

There are a limited number of seats, so early registration is encouraged. No ticket sales at the door. \$45 per painter.

At press time for this issue of *The Shoreline*, face masks are required inside the aquarium for ages 5 and up. Please arrive 15 minutes early for check-in and seating.

**Carnival to Combat Climate Change.** April 2, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., in the aquarium parking lot. Learning about climate change, how to mitigate its impacts, and ways to help the environment shouldn’t be scary. This event allows teens, young

adults and other youth to discuss climate and environmental issues in an educational but fun way.

Community leaders in science and conservation will be stationed at booths and ready to talk about climate change. Educators will be hosting fun activities throughout the day. The event was made possible by a grant from NOAA in conjunction with Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CEL) Network. Free.

**Seaside Sensory Fun Day.** April 10, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Join the aquarium’s third Seaside Sensory Fun Day, which will be a day of discovery designed for children and adults (and their families) living with sensory needs. This day is all about exploring the aquarium using your senses. The 36-foot-tall smoky mountain waterfall will be turned off for this special day.

**Party for the Planet.** April 22-29 at the aquarium and online. The schedule of events will be posted nearer the date of the event and will include events like marsh grass plantings and a special Suds for Sharks event. On-site, there will be themed events all week. Learn about native plants, recycling and many other ways to celebrate the planet.

For more information for these and other aquarium events, visit [ncaquariums.com](http://ncaquariums.com) and click on Pine Knoll Shores/Experiences/Special Events.

**Spring Break Camps 2022.** Grades 1-3: April 18 (Ocean Odyssey) and April 19 (Island Adventure); Grades 4-6: April 21 (Ocean Odyssey) and April 22 (Island Adventure). Spring break camps for grades 1-6 at the aquarium merge fun and learning with outdoor adventures for children during the spring holiday break. Participants enjoy outdoor activities, animal interactions, discovery labs, and behind-the-scenes action. Participants must bring their own lunch and bottled water and wear closed-toe shoes. Remember to dress appropriately for the weather. Camps are held 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., and fees are \$40 (\$36 for members). Visit [ncaquariums.com](http://ncaquariums.com) and click on Pine Knoll Shores/Experiences/Camps for more information and required advance registration.

## The World’s Most Familiar Unfamiliar Snake (Continued from page 4)

which is adorned with two snakes, is a symbol of commerce and diplomacy. Much of this confusion probably dates back to a mistake made by one Captain Frederick Reynolds, an assistant surgeon in the U.S. Army Medical Corps in 1902, who suggested that the caduceus be adopted as a collar insignia for all military medical personnel. Though the mistake was caught by a vigilant staff sergeant, military bureaucracy won out and the caduceus was adopted. To this day, the U.S. Air Force, which obviously didn’t exist in 1902, is the only branch of the armed services that uses the correct medical symbol—the Staff of Aesculapius with one snake. (Not to feel too bad, however, a 2014 survey in India revealed that only six percent of physicians knew that the Staff of Aesculapius was the true symbol of medicine).

As for Aesculapius, he was eventually struck down by his grandfather, Zeus, with a thunderbolt, basically for “playing god,” a charge that has continued to be leveled against doctors down the ages.

*Frederick Boyce is the staff herpetologist at the NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores.*

**Sources:** The Asclepius Snakebite Foundation, [snakebitefoundation.org/symbolism](http://snakebitefoundation.org/symbolism)  
“The Caduceus vs. Staff of Aesculapius—One Snake or Two?” by George Bohigian, MD in *Missouri Medicine: The Journal of the Missouri State Medical Association* [customwalks.com](http://customwalks.com)