

Let's make up for last year's weather and support this beautiful project.

Our October meeting will be a workshop to make the decorations for our Hospice Tree. Bobbie Ready and Lois Jean O'Keefe are our chairpersons.

ANN HITCH

OCEAN BEACH PATROL

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to all of the volunteers that assisted this past summer in displaying the safety equipment, cleaning walkways, refuse collection and all the other efforts that helped make our "sittum" an enjoyable place to visit. Our helpful volunteers included Art Miller, Bill VonThaden, Bob Ruggiero, Ken Brendstrup, Paul Troup, Frank Herbst, John Hobart, Dick Wiker, Bill Mann, Bob Erath, Ken Doremus, Jack Millis, George Balog, John Paulson and Charles Romine.

From our many town residents and guests who use our beaches, thanks for your efforts.

Anyone interested in participating in the Beach Patrol Program for next summer, please contact Bob Ruggiero 247-7208.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

After enduring another season of battling the ever present pesky mosquito, one of our residents, Charles Romine, forwarded an interesting article that addressed an alternative method of mosquito control that could be added to the town mosquito spraying program.

The Gambusia Minnow or mosquitofish is the most widely used fish in the world for mosquito control. These fish have been known to consume over 200 mosquito larvae an hour. They also feed on a variety of prey ranging from aquatic insects to plankton and algae. These versatile fish could be stocked in the many ponds in the area that are breeding places for mosquitoes. Any program that controls the area mosquito population should be considered so that our residents might enjoy outdoor activities without the nuisance of numerous mosquito bites.

OWLS' PATIENT OF THE MONTH: MINK

The Tamberellis [former PKS residents and OWLS volunteers] were spending a few days near Beaufort on their boat, and called to say they had rescued a baby otter. It was swimming feebly in the Intracoastal Waterway, so exhausted that when Mary put out a net, it swam right into it and hung on for dear life. Upon its arrival at the shelter, we took one look and realized it was a baby mink -- the white patch on the chin is a dead giveaway! Her natural curiosity and playfulness had probably gotten her lost - too far out to find her family. She was exhausted and very hungry, but otherwise healthy. We held her overnight and let her eat her fill of mice.

Minks den along rivers and bays, digging burrows in the banks. If we could find some tell-tale holes along the shore, we stood a good chance of returning the young mink to her mother. Using a volunteer's small boat, we slowly cruised along for an hour or so.. and then had a stroke of incredible luck. There, playing close to shore, was an adult female and two young!! Could it be?? Moving quietly, we released "our" baby over the side. She swam straight to the others and began to nuzzle her mom. With a good warm feeling inside, we left...having noticed that the minks' coats looked far better on them than on people!!

OWL'S yard sale is Saturday, November 3 at Morehead Plaza [the old Sports Corner building]. To donate items, call Patsy Canfield - 247-4835.