

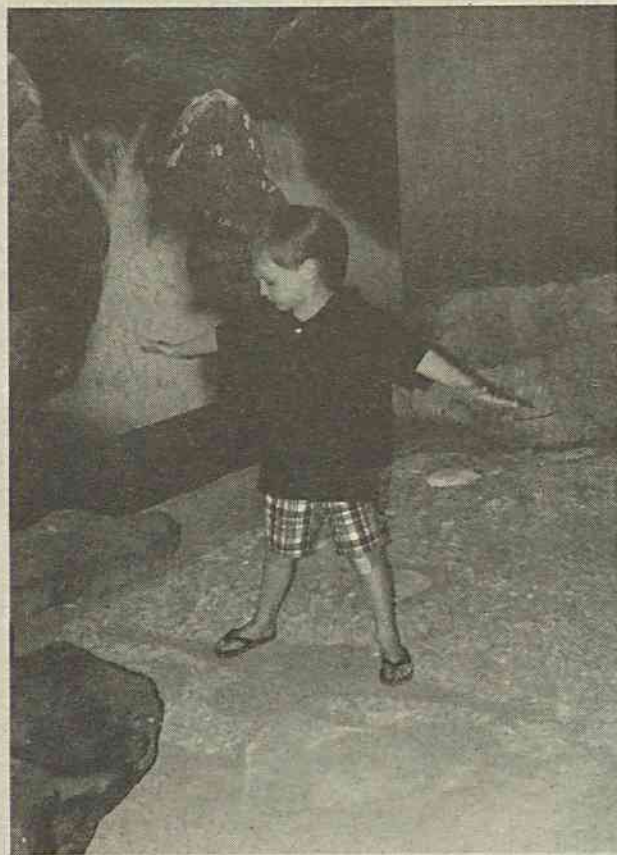
@The Aquarium

Artists Go Wild in Aquarium Exhibit. From deer to ducks and black bears to baby birds, enjoy wildlife as seen through the eyes of artists in a new exhibit at the Aquarium. North Carolina's Wildlife from the Mountains to the Coast features 27 works by members of the North Carolina Wildlife Artist Society. The organization brings wildlife artists, wildlife advocates, wildlife art collectors and outdoor enthusiasts together to convey conservation messages through art. "It is the duty of the wildlife artist to record the habitat, the day-to-day activity and the beauty of our flora and fauna so others may learn and implement whatever they can to protect and nurture..." the



Society says in its self-description. The works at the Aquarium include oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastel, charcoal and photography. The exhibit, near Discovery Classroom, is free with admission or membership and runs through July 5.

Mountain Motion Pool Makes Waves. Immerse yourself in a cool mountain trout pool and chase fish with your toes without getting your feet wet at the aquarium. The new, interactive *Mountain Motion Pool* turns an alcove in the Mountain Gallery into a virtual pool, "alive" with colorful brook trout and shiny minnows swimming over a bed of pebbles. Step into the scene and the water ripples just as if had you waded into the water. Also, watch the fish react. Curious ones come closer to take a look; others dart for cover under scattered stepping stones. Real boulders along the side offer vantages for imaginary fishing or pool-side daydreaming. A photo mural backdrop of a mountain stream cascading over mossy rocks and matching running water sound effects complete the experience. You provide the action. A mirror that reflects your moving shadow, aided by computer technology, provides the magic. The exhibit is open and is free with admission or membership.



The new *Mountain Motion Pool* at the North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores reacts to movement to create the illusion of wading into a mountain pool full of trout and minnows.

The Aquarium is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Admission is \$8 for ages 13-61, \$7 for ages 62 and over, \$6 for children 3-12; no charge for children 2 and under and North Carolina Aquarium Society members.

DINING ABOUT

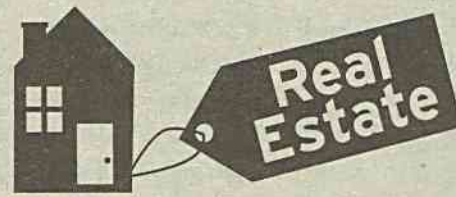
Bea and Ben Sorrencified

Locals and visitors alike marvel at the quantity and quality of restaurants on the Crystal Coast. From familiar chain eateries to one-of-a-kind gourmet restaurants, we have a wonderful range of choices when we decide to eat out. But there is something still missing from our dining options: legitimately ethnic restaurants. However delicious, the Asian, Italian, and Caribbean dishes available in area restaurants are often seriously adapted to American tastes

and therefore far from their true ethnic roots.

So it is that the recently opened Taverna Mythos in Morehead City—a Greek restaurant—brings a new and welcome dimension to locally available cuisine. Located at 711 Evans Street in the waterfront section of Morehead City, Taverna Mythos offers a variety of traditional Greek dishes that will likely satisfy your yearning for ethnic food that is close to its ethnic roots. The restaurant's menu, in fact, will give diners both the Greek names and English descriptions of your food options. And as you read through the menu, the Greek instrumental music playing in the background seems to confirm the ethnic seriousness of the restaurant.

Whether for lunch or dinner, the Taverna Mythos menu includes several delicious appetizers that with a few exceptions are singular on the Crystal Coast. On both menus, for example, you will find "melitzanosalata," a spread composed of pureed roasted



How Much is a Tree Worth?

By Marian Goetzinger - Pine Knoll Shores Realty

The answer to that question is the same as the answer to, "How much is my property worth?" It's worth what a willing and able buyer will pay.

On our first visit to our daughter's new home in Texas I was thrilled with the tree in her back yard. It is a huge old oak with branches sprawling above most of the yard. My two grandsons have swings and wind chimes here and there and the deck is built carefully around the tree to avoid any harm to it. A tree specialist has told them that the tree is at least 100 years old. The house and yard would not be the same place without that wonderful tree.

Ted and I slept in Brian's room on the second floor overlooking the back yard. Upon waking the first morning, I pulled up the blinds and looked right into the faces of three squirrels playing on limbs just a few feet from the window. What a special way to start my day.

Our daughter said, "We bought this house because of that tree." I'm sure that's true. I remember when Ted and I were looking at lots to build our new home. We found one in MLS that was priced right and in the perfect location for us. It was bigger than others we'd looked at and we couldn't wait to drive over and take a look. We didn't even get out of the car. The lot had been totally cleared! How much is a tree worth? Well, we drove away from a \$200,000 lot because it had none.

So if you have a home with no trees, please plant some today. It takes years for them to develop, so hurry and get them started. And think carefully before you cut down a tree. If you won't protect it for the environment, then do it to enhance the value of your property.

I'm proud to live in a tree city and grateful for the covenants that protect trees in Pine Knoll Shores. Look around and take pride in the old trees around us, the Maritime Forest and the newer crepe myrtles along Pine Knoll Boulevard and everything in between.

How much is a tree worth? Each one is priceless!