

Turtle Time

Peggy Sagmiller

It is mid-June, and no turtles have nested in Pine Knoll Shores yet. It may seem strange, but the water temperatures are still considered a bit cool. Everything north of Onslow Beach is really slow, but should be improving any day now. Hopefully, it won't be long before we have some nests.

So far, there are four Loggerhead nests on Bogue Banks. Two nests are at Fort Macon, and one is in Atlantic Beach. Just recently one was laid in Emerald Isle.

Although we have no nests or crawls, we have had four stranded turtles in Pine Knoll Shores. Two were young Green Turtles. One, a female, was emaciated. The second Green had been crushed. It may have surfaced into a boat hull or Jet Ski. The third turtle was an endangered Kemps Ridley. These turtles do not nest here, but are swimming offshore. This turtle was alive when found, but died while we waited for someone to open the aquarium. It was also emaciated.

The last stranding in Pine Knoll Shores was a half-grown Loggerhead with two fishhooks imbedded in its jaw. Both hooks were rusted and trailing eight to ten inches of line. This turtle was also alive, but died within minutes. Someone most likely played him on a line until he was exhausted, then cut him loose. The hooks in the jaw would have made eating difficult.

Here's hoping things improve soon.

What's Up With Parks and Recreation?

By John Brodman

Parade. Mark your calendar for Pine Knoll Shores' annual 4th of July parade at 10:00 a.m., beginning and ending at Garner Park. This event has really grown in the last few years, and a lot of summertime visitors and grandchildren participate. So decorate your wagons, bikes and strollers, paint your faces and come on down. There will be a fire truck on display and music for the parade march.

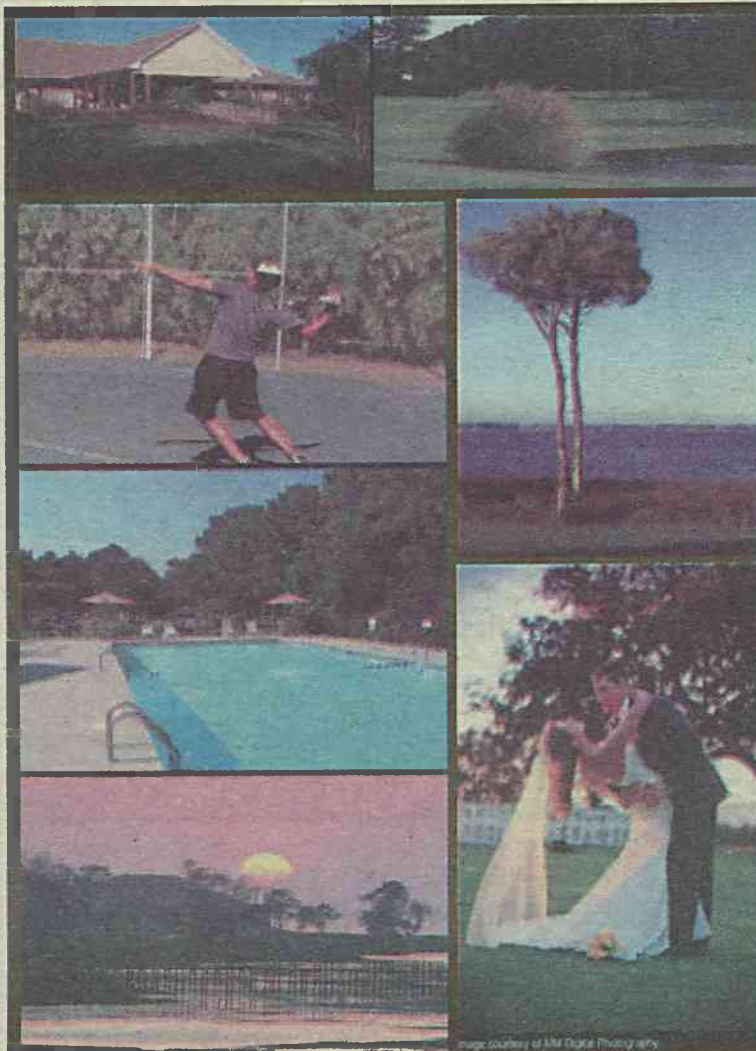
Clean Sweep. Another event you won't want to miss is our annual July 5th clean beaches sweep, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Iron Steamer beach access. Join your friends and neighbors for an informal beach cleanup on the

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