

@The Library

Happenings in January

Closing. Bogue Banks Public Library will be closed on Monday, January 16, for Martin Luther King Day.

Activities for children. Preschool Storytime for ages 3-5 is held each Thursday at 10 a.m. with Ms. Brita.

- Thursday, January 5, will be "Birds of a Feather."
- Thursday, January 12, will be "Snow Way."
- Thursday, January 19, will be "Just Chillin'."
- Thursday, January 26, will be "Happy Chinese New Year!"

Book exchange and sale. Stop by the paperback Book Exchange and trade for a free paperback book.

Bogue Banks Book Nook. The Book Nook is open Monday through Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. There are over 3,000 books for sale. Be sure to check out the ongoing silent auction; new items are added frequently.

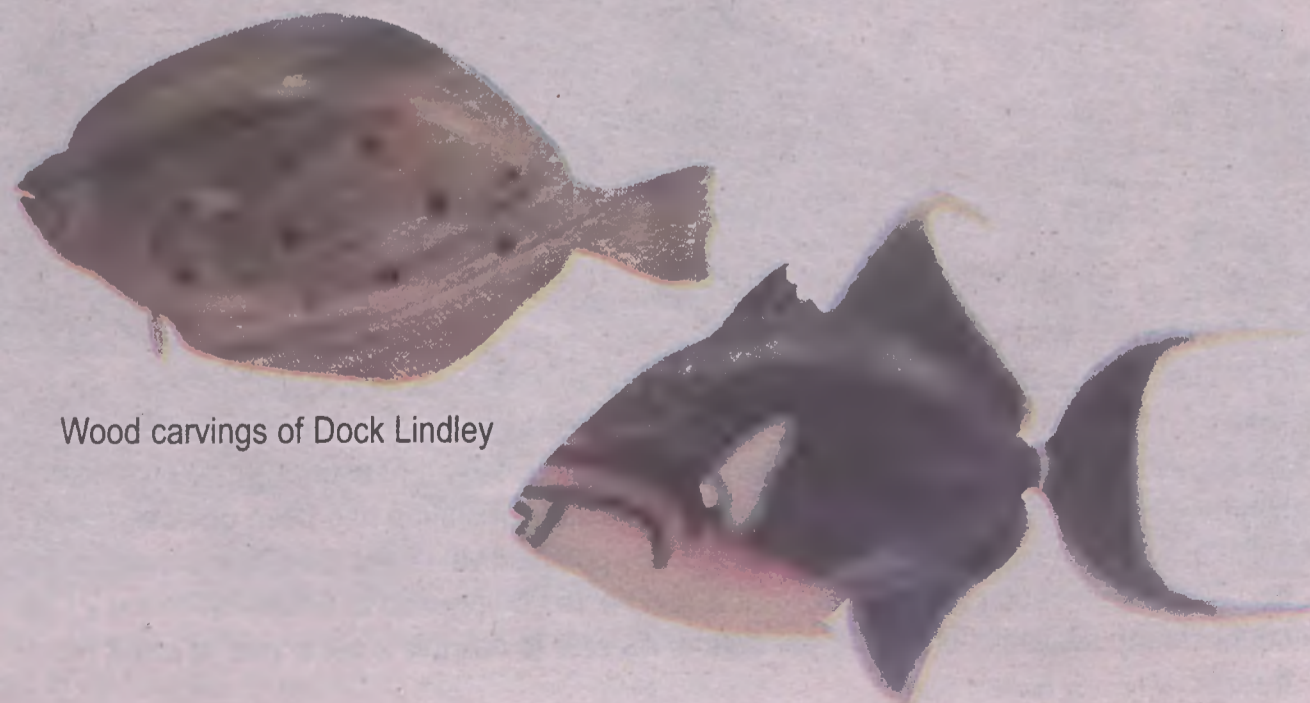
Art exhibit. Throughout the month of January, the art gallery will feature the wood carvings of William "Dock" Lindley. Mr. Lindley was born in Atlanta, Georgia, and his family moved to South Carolina when he was young. As he progressed through school, it became evident that he possessed artistic abilities.

Upon graduating from high school in Raleigh, he attended East Carolina University as a business major. After years of having a sales career, he decided to pursue his talents in art full time. He began by taking a correspondence class and received a diploma for studies in Master Art. He also took lessons from various local artists. In his spare time he started painting, using mostly oil. In addition, Mr. Lindley is a self-taught wood carver, known for his realistic representations of over 50 species of fish. All carvings are his original design, with attention to detail in full and half mounts.

He opened his own business, Papa Doc's Art, in 2000. His carvings have been shipped throughout the United States, as well as Mexico, Canada, France, Denmark and England. His carvings can be purchased through art shows, festivals, and via his business website, papadocsart.com.

The showcase will feature the miniature paintings of sea life created by Ocean, NC, artist Marjorie Echols. Ms. Echols attended Western Connecticut State University and Wooster Community Art Center in Danbury, Connecticut, and has owned several art galleries in both Connecticut and North Carolina. She taught art for many years and became the founder of Still River Artist Association. Her work may be found in collections in the Eastern United States and the Bahamas, as well as being archived in the Tate Gallery in London. She is currently a member of Art for the Hospital in Morehead City and is a signature member of the National Acrylic Painters Association.

No reception is planned for January.



Wood carvings of Dock Lindley

Blue-eyed Snakes

By Frederick Boyce

The New Year is seen as a time of renewal, so it is probably a good time to expound upon a rather special quality possessed by all snakes—their fabled ability to renew themselves by shedding their skins entire. At any given time, one might observe a snake, either in the wild or in captivity, that has blue, milky-looking eyes and a dull, bluish sheen overall. Such a snake is getting ready to shed its skin, a process known technically as ecdysis.

All snakes, indeed all reptiles, periodically shed their skins as they grow, but only snakes consistently shed theirs in one complete piece. How often a snake sheds will depend on a variety of factors, including species, age and basically how fast the snake is growing, which is, in turn, dependent upon food availability and a number of other environmental factors. Some snakes shed about once a month, others once every few months and some large vipers or giant constrictors may shed only once or twice in a year.

During the shed cycle, a bluish mucus is secreted by cells just beneath the outer layer of skin. This fluid functions as a bath for the new skin forming below, and as a facilitator for the detaching and sloughing off of the old skin. As no snake has

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The sloughed skin of a large timber rattlesnake as found in Carteret County in early 2016. The dark crossbars, or chevrons, are plainly visible. Such skins are rarely found in the wild, being favored by birds and other animals as nesting material.—Photos by Fred Boyce



An "opaque" black racer in the Croatan National Forest. Note the blue eyes.