

Get your feet wet at aquarium

Crabbing and clamming expeditions, canoe trips, bird-watching tours of marshes, children's programs and edible marine animal workshops are among activities planned this spring at the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher.

Accessible via the Southport-Fort Fisher ferry, the aquarium includes exhibits of marine life found in southeastern North Carolina, an auditorium for viewing film on life found in local waterways, and a gift shop featuring a variety of items with nautical flair.

■ **Discovery Room** -- This hands-on program introduces participants to a variety of unique wetland habitats and the diversity of animal life found in them. Saturday and Sunday, noon; Monday, 3 p.m.

■ **A Touchy Subject** -- Uncover the hidden world of clams, snails, crabs, sea urchins, sea stars and other aquatic invertebrates that inhabit the coast. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 1 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.

■ **Select a Film** -- Step inside the auditorium and select a film on a variety of topics ranging from sharks and whales to frogs and ponds. Monday through Friday, 3 to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ **Shark Bites** -- Learn the truth about the toothsome creatures that roam the world's oceans and see a shark-feeding presentation. Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday, 2:45 p.m.

■ **Turtle Presentation** -- Find out more about these fascinating reptiles as the mysteries of their lifestyles, species and habitats are revealed. Friday, 3 p.m.

■ **Food from the Sea** -- Learn about and taste edible marine animals in this culinary workshop. Fee, \$5. Saturday, April 11, 11 a.m.; Saturday, May 9, 2 p.m.

■ **Gyotaku** -- Discover the ancient Japanese art of fish printing. Fee, \$8. Saturdays, April 11 and April 25, 2 p.m.

■ **Birding the Marsh** -- Explore the world of marsh and shore birds in this bird-watching extravaganza. Fee, \$3. Saturday, May 23, 10 a.m.

■ **Canoeing the Salt Marsh** -- Take a three-hour exploration of the Zeke's Island Estuarine Reserve by canoe. Activities may include crabbing, clamming, seining or birding. Participants should be able to swim and be capable of sustained physical exertion. Ages 12 and older. Fee, \$10. Saturdays, April 4, May 2 and May 30, 9 a.m.

■ **Recreational Clamming and Crabbing Combo** -- Join a hands-on workshop focusing on the art and fun of catching blue crabs and digging for clams. Participants should be prepared to get wet and muddy. Tie-up or water shoes required. Ages seven and older. Fee, \$4.

Saturday, April 2; Sunday, May 3; Saturday, May 16; Sunday, May 31, 10 a.m.

■ **Salt Marsh and Crabbing Expedition** -- This combination class will give participants the opportunity to discover the activities of marsh-dwelling animals and the variety of plants found in this rich environment, as well as take part in recreational crabbing. Ages seven and older. Fee, \$5. Sunday, April 19, 9 a.m., and Saturdays, May 16, 10 a.m., and May 23, 2 p.m.

■ **Surf Fishing Workshop** -- This program introduces participants to the sport of saltwater fishing. All equipment and bait provided. Ages ten and older. Fee, \$8. Sunday, April 5, 9 a.m.

■ **Children's Discovery Time** -- Creatures come alive in this story-

telling and critter-creating program designed for preschool children ages two through five. The series included 11 animals topics, such as amphibians, turtles, reptiles and dolphins. Fee, \$3. Wednesdays, April 8 and April 29, May 13, May 20 and May 27, 10 a.m.

■ **Holiday Button Crafts** -- Young artists ages four and older can learn to make Mother's Day and Earth Day buttons with glitter, paint, glue and more. Fee, \$4. Saturdays, April 18, 2 p.m., and May 9, 10 a.m.

■ **Aquarium Birthday Party** -- Celebrate your child's special day at the aquarium. Parents can choose their own nautical themes and the celebration includes an aquarium instructor, a decorated classroom, live animal presentations and take-home T-shirts.



Educational opportunities at North Carolina Aquarium

Setting sail for another season, March 28th!

Unwind with the Winds aboard "Stephania"...

Experience the beauty of dolphins at play, the serenity of a breathtaking Carolina sunset, and the excitement of being at the helm of our 37' sloop. Departing from picturesque Southport Marina.

◆ **MORNING TOUR SAIL - 9:15 am**
\$29.00 per person

◆ **AFTERNOON SAIL - 1:00 pm**
\$29.00 per person

◆ **SUNSET SAIL - 5:30 pm**
\$32.00 per person
Cheese tray included

◆ **MOONLIGHT SAIL**
\$32.00 per person
Call for sailing dates and times
4 person minimum



All trips are 3 hours and include complimentary beverages
Private Custom Charters Available - 1/2 day and full day - call for rates
Ask about our overnight accommodations - "Boat and Breakfast"

RESERVATIONS:
910-278-7249

