

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

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Fall Is Best Of All In Brunswick Islands

Perhaps things may slow down a bit, but Labor Day does not signal the end of the beach season as it once did in the Brunswick Islands.

More and more people are discovering that fall truly is one of the best times to visit the coast. It's the time one can turn off the air conditioner and enjoy cool evenings while it's still hot enough in the daytime to swim and get a suntan.

It is the time, too, for oyster roasts and festivals, beginning with the annual Dixon Chapel roast the first week in October and continuing through the N.C. Oyster Festival later in October and the N.C. Festival by the Sea at Holden Beach the last of the month.

It is a time when non-resident property owners whose houses have been rented all summer long to renew their acquaintances.

Golf, great any time, is super in the fall, as are fishing and boating.

An added attraction in the fall is less crowding of restaurants, beaches and other public facilities, as well as less traffic on the roads.

Fall sunsets are often breath-taking, and the haze of summer gives way to the crisper, clearer skies of autumn.

With all of this it's no wonder more and more people are discovering that fall is best of all!

Write Us

The Beacon welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed and include the writer's address. Under no circumstances will unsigned letters be printed. Letters should be legible. The Beacon reserves the right to edit libelous comments. Address letters to The Brunswick Beacon, P.O. Box 470, Shallotte, N.C. 28459.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Why Should Taxpayers Pay For Bridge To Benefit Few?

To the editor:
 This is to express my feelings and concern about public access and closing of the west end at Holden Beach. My husband and I are retirees. We bought land in Florida about ten years ago. We had our hearts set on Florida. We came down to the Brunswick Isles for a vacation about six years ago. We fell in love with this area and in December we will have been here two years. The ocean, beach and people are great.
 We live on the mainland but we go over to the west end for walks, fish and shells. We no longer can. Our access has a barricade. Need I say more?
 The public access is a farce. It is for the people who live on the second row, not the public. No parking signs litter the road. If the people on the west end want the public out why don't they buy an island and put their own bridge in? That is how the elite live.

About the bridge. I felt it was much needed. I have second thoughts. All that is needed is a ferry. Why should we taxpayers pay for a million dollar bridge and a very few benefit from it?
 The chamber of commerce has literature out advertising the Brunswick Isles. They need to add a statement, "Look but don't get out of the car." Also Holden Beach is advertised as a "family beach" as soon as you cross the bridge. Need I say more?
 God put the ocean for everyone to enjoy.
 While you build your sand towers the ocean brings more sand to the shore. And when you destroy them, the ocean laughs with you. Verily, the ocean laughs always with the innocent, according to "prophet" Kahil! Gibran.

Mrs. Betty Paroda
 Supply

Diana, Elena: Lessons In Waiting

Waiting.
 We here in Brunswick County thought we knew about waiting after last September. Three, even four days we watched and waited as Diana hugged our shore, indecisive, temperamental, but still pretty much the grand lady in a huff.

After it was over, coastal residents scoffed at how little destruction had occurred and wondered what all the fuss had been about. Winds, tides, the whims of a storm—all had worked in our favor.

Still, we could tell others the value in waiting.

Now, sitting here at my MDT 350, I wonder if there are people in Florida and elsewhere along the Gulf Coast who could—or soon will be able to—tell us something about waiting, waiting for a hurricane with winds so strong it batters a coastline 55 to 75 miles away. A hurricane that is prompting warnings and evacuation notices along 500 miles of low-lying, densely populated coastline—the kind of area that takes a long time to evacuate.



Susan Usher

And where it takes a long time to evacuate, that means more waiting than you and I have experienced. Can you imagine evacuating a coastal city the size of New Orleans in six hours or even 12? Can you imagine how long after a bad storm it would take to get such a city secured well enough for property owners to return and begin cleaning up?

Along the Gulf, they're waiting for a hurricane that has changed her mind, not once, but at least twice. Elena tacked along the Gulf Coast, then played around, spending much of the holiday weekend off Cedar Key before heading back up the Gulf Coast packing 125 mph winds and a Category 3 punch.

Elena's movements tickle unpleasant memories of Diana heading north, bound for Pender County, before swinging back for a second, longer look at Brunswick.

As had happened here, relieved evacuees got restless and wanted out, miserable after a day and a night in a Red Cross facility equipped for shelter, not comfort. A shelter that might go unappreciated until one has no home to return to.

But for now they wanted out: "The hurricane's gone, so let's go home." It took National Guardsmen to keep people from returning home prematurely. Apparently they had forgotten about Diana's excellent lesson, that some places are nice enough to visit twice.

Sitting here, I only hope the people of the Florida panhandle, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama are paying attention to orders to evacuate for a second time.

Here in Brunswick County, a lot of people just didn't want the hassle of a second trip to the shelters after the hurricane's mild first brush with the

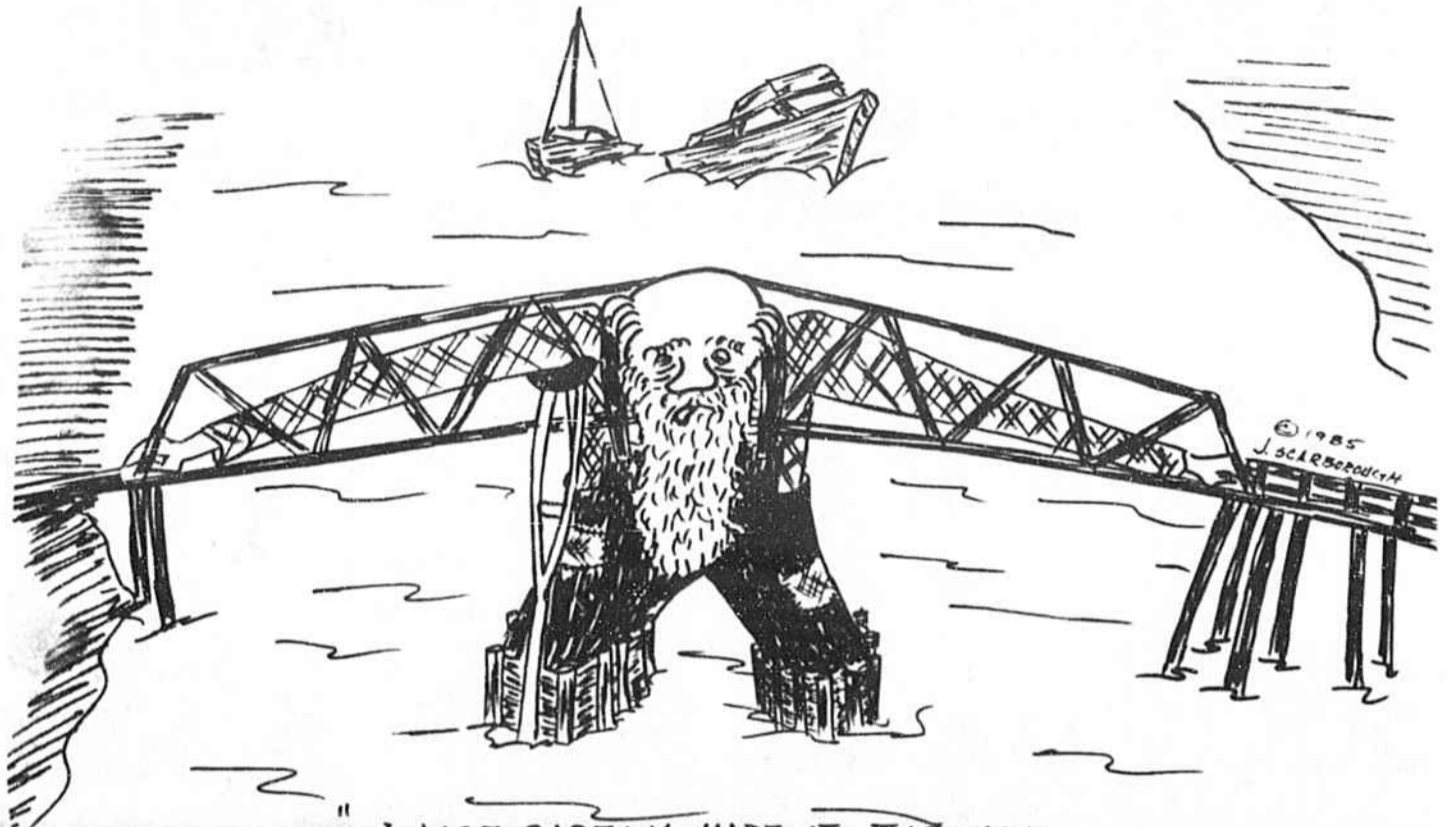
coast. When new notices went out on Wednesday afternoon as Diana returned, they balked. In fact, one entire town—because of the unpopularity of a possible second evacuation with its citizens—waited until later in the night to order evacuation, adding to the situation the inconvenience of darkness and the fright caused by late-night orders issued over a bullhorn.

Even then some refused to leave Holden Beach until the storm was at its most intense—and the town didn't make them leave.

Then, when the storm reached its greatest intensity, at least one household wanted off. At the risk of their own safety, volunteer fire and rescue workers took them off the island.

Yes, I hope residents follow the evacuation orders along the Gulf Coast, regardless of the inconvenience caused.

Fortune smiled on us last September. They may not be so lucky.



When You're At A Total Loss For Words

There is a cliché often used to guide writers who must originate a weekly column on the editorial page.
 "When you can't think of anything to write about, don't write about how difficult it is to come up with a column idea each week. People get tired of reading about that every week," the saying goes.

Well, in the two years that I have been staff writer for The Brunswick Beacon, I am happy to note that I have refrained from that terrible cliché. It seems I have managed to find something to write about each week, except for this week.

Call it a loss for words. In fact, it really is. Knowing that this is my last column for The Beacon has stunned my senses and numbed my fingers. I am leaving to return to Chapel Hill this week and later back to school.



Terry Pope

To list all of the things and people that I will miss while away from Brunswick County would be too numerous to even attempt. A list of all the problems that arise from such a move would also be extremely long.

For example, while this column is being written, the fate of Poco, my four-year-old cocker spaniel, is still undecided. It is not certain if Poco will get to reside in Chapel Hill or must remain a resident of Maco,

where he would share a home with two cats and three kittens, none of which pay him any attention.

Poor Poco has been the subject of several columns in the past, some of my favorites, including the time he spotted a blue heron wading down the canal at Heritage Harbor at midnight. There was also Poco's problem with fleas that neighbors and readers helped find home remedies for, before the fleas could win that battle.

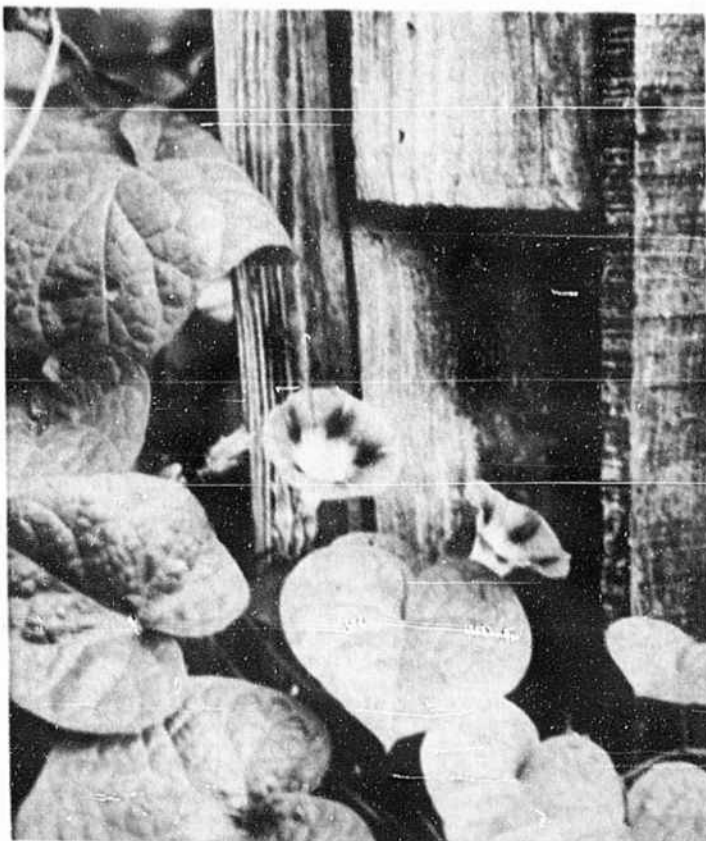
But viewing the area through a reporter's eyes is different, and the simple fact of the matter is, I'm not sure I want to be on this side of things anymore. Brunswick County is my home, where I have lived for more than 20 years, where I was raised, where I caught my first fish and where I found my first sand dollar.
 Without a doubt, the experiences

I've encountered during my two-year return to the South Brunswick Islands as a news reporter have been tremendously rewarding. I've had very few complaints.

So when I sat down to write my last column, I kind of figured I had earned the chance to say, "I can't think of anything to write about." Every writer takes that approach at least once in his or her career.

I just saved my chance until the end. When I really didn't have anything to write about and was at a total loss for words, except to mention the usual good-byes and such.

But being at a loss for words does not reflect life as a whole. As Madame Curie stated it best, "We must have perseverance and above all, confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something."



Excellent Locations For Nature Photography

Seashores and beaches are excellent locations for nature photography. The varied subjects from sunrises to seashore critters to full-color sunsets give almost any photographer an opportunity to try out creative skills and abilities to record scenes and events.

With the variety of cameras available almost any one of us can take good pictures if we will take the time to note several suggestions which might prove to be helpful. First suggestion would be to match the film we plan to use with the lighting conditions we might encounter. If adjustable cameras are used, make sure the speed of the film (ASA number) is properly set on the camera or that the f-stop is properly set for the ASA number. Care must also be taken to use a shutter speed (1-50th, 1-100th, etc.) appropriate to the "action" expected. This will cut down on blurred pictures due to camera movement. Proper focus is also necessary to insure sharp image quality of your pictures.

If your camera is non-adjustable, you may not have the control over these features that other cameras have. But you can still try to follow



Bill Faver

the same ideas of holding the camera steady to reduce blurring and to make sure you are the recommended distances from the subject to get good picture quality.

Probably the most important thing for most of us if we have mastered the mechanics of our particular camera is composition. Composition is basically how the picture is arranged. We need to examine the scene carefully as we look through the view finder. When our eyes see things we usually filter out the undesirable aspects of the scene. The camera doesn't do this. Have you ever photographed a pretty girl against the side of a building only to get a picture back with a drainpipe from her head to the roof? Or cut a bird in half with a horizon line? It is very helpful to take the time

necessary to analyze what is in the viewfinder and ask yourself just what will be in the picture.

One helpful suggestion on composition is the rule of thirds. Rather than centering a subject in the middle of the frame, try moving it to the sides or toward the top or bottom. Visualize dividing the scene into thirds horizontally and vertically. Where these lines would meet are the focal points for location of your subject. It is often more pleasing to put the horizon line at one of these "thirds" rather than to cut the picture in half.

Other hints for composition have to do with the placement of the subject such as in groups of three or five rather than even numbers, in shapes of "L" or "O", as a triangle, in curving lines as "S" curves or "8", etc. Think about some of the ways pictures have pleased you, look at pictures in magazines and books, and remember some ideas to try.

Subjects are unlimited. You might try shells and flowers for starters. They remain stationary and are usually in good light and easy to find. Move in close and fill the frame with your subject. Don't forget sunrises

and sunsets, for they bring special lighting effects usually very good even if the exposure and setting are not exact.

One of the best ways to enjoy our South Brunswick Islands is with a camera and you can spend a day, a week, or a lifetime exploring for interesting and varied subjects.

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