

Holden Beach Information

Town Hall..... 842-6488 and 842-6080
 Town Administrator... Thomas Birmingham
 Building Inspector..... Dwight Carroll
 Mayor, John Tandy..... 842-2834
 Commissioners:
 Gay Atkins, Mayor pro tem
 Graham King, public safety
 Harold Stanley, finance
 William Williamson, water
 Lyndon Holden, sanitation
 Police Chief, Raymond Simpson..... 842-6707
 Tri-Beach Fire Dept..... 842-6868
 Coastline Rescue Squad..... 842-2222

Holden Beach Regulations

The town of Holden Beach prohibits the following:

- Climbing or operating motor vehicles on or removing vegetation from dunes;
- Motor vehicles and wind-powered vehicles on the strand;
- Open fires;
- Littering on the strand, roadway or private property;
- Loud or offensive noise, including music, profanity or obscene language;
- Pets not on a leash;
- Surfboards on the strand or in the water within 500 feet of any fishing pier;
- Use of skateboards on Ocean Blvd. or the bridge or bridge ramps;
- Discharge of firearms;
- Hunting, with or without dogs;
- Use of paths through the dunes or crossing over private property.

Visitors are urged to:

- Obey speed limits;
- Fish with nets in accordance with regulations, available at the Town Hall;
- Use designated public or private beach accessways only;
- Park off the pavement in unposted areas only;
- Cook on the beach only in containers made for the purpose, such as B-B-Q cookers.

Holden Beach May Be Tooth Fairy's Dream

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN
 It's no secret that North Carolina (and Brunswick County) estuaries and ocean waters are a paradise for shell-bearing animals, creating a paradise, as well, for the seashell collector.

Amongst the riches of whelks, periwinkles and Scotch Bonnets (the state shell) are aeons-old sharks' teeth of all sizes.

In old geologic times, present inland areas were under water and sharks congregated where there was a concentration of food, such as the points where coastal rivers met the ocean.

In time the ocean retreated and fossilized sharks' teeth were left, to be discovered hundreds of years later when bulldozers excavated the land for development or vacationer's prowled the strand, eyes open for relics of the sea.

Holden Beach has an abundance of eyeteeth that have fallen from the menacing jaws of these sea animals and fossilized 20,000 years ago. Ruth Athey, a shell expert on Holden Beach, said, "I find them all the time, though not the big ones."

"Big ones" can be six inches in diameter and are usually found in quarries or fossil pits, according to Gloria Barrett, another Holden shell lover. "I've seen some of these, but never found one myself."

She does, however, have a myriad of the curiously graceful fossils, ranging from tiny teeth just one-half inch long to those about two inches in length. Most are black, the last

stages of fossilization, but a few are white. "Those aren't very valuable," Barrett said.

As teeth begin to fossilize, they turn blue, Athey explained. At some

stage the teeth are pink-colored, a variety discovered largely in a Maysville quarry.

According to Athey, each tooth lost by a shark is immediately replaced.



ALFA CARR displays some fossilized shark relics found at the Cackle Shell on Holden Beach. Beneath the shark's jaw she holds is a small fossilized shark body and an array of teeth of various sizes.

The length and shape of a tooth help identify the species from which it came and the size of the shark in question.

A favorite use of sharks' teeth, Athey said, is in necklaces. Strung on fine wires, they make a dramatic piece of jewelry.

"I worked at the Cackle Shell for a few years, and several times each summer someone would come in with three-inch specimens," she said.

Two publications to help the fossil collector, both by Jerard Case, are "A Pictorial Guide to Fossils," \$25, and "Fossil Sharks—A Pictorial View," \$5.

Craft items utilizing the many shells found on Holden Beach are wreaths, floral arrangements and many kinds of jewelry.

Athey said she gives craft classes for Holden Beach campers and finds plenty of materials right there on the strand.

She belongs to a shell club and a shell study group on the island. Barrett is also a member of the latter, and said she has learned a lot from discussion and reading about beach treasures.

Novices should be reminded of the best times and places to do their "shelling." Athey said low tide, new or full moon, and after a storm are the most favorable times for good finds. "And off-season, of course," she added.

The east end of Holden Beach is prime territory, but she noted with regret, "I saw lots of people taking a lot of sand dollars. Soon there won't be any."

Those interested in visiting or joining the shell organizations can call Athey, 842-3144, or Barrett, 842-9522, for further information.

Holden Beach

Holden Beach is the combination of two land masses, separated by an inlet, that were filled in by Hurricane Hazel in 1954. The portion from the east end to the pier was known as Holden Beach until incorporation in 1969, when the west end, including Robinson's and Colonial Beaches, was included.

The pre-Hazel beach had been a land grant, given to Benjamin Holden by the King of England in 1756, and it passed thereafter to his son Job, grandson John, and great-grandson John. It was then divided among John's six children, one of whom was Luther, father of John Holden, now living on the beach and father of realtor/developer Alan Holden.

Development was slow until tourism began to be a factor in American life after World War II.

The first bridge was built across a creek to the mainland in 1925, but construction of the Intracoastal Waterway in the 40s eliminated it. Ferry service connected the island and the mainland till 1954 when a turnbridge was built. In 1986 a curving highrise replaced the old bridge.

Holden Beach now has a permanent population of 342 and 1,587 housing units.

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HOLDEN BEACH

FISHING

PIER

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"WHERE THE HUNT BEGINS"

EXTENDED HOURS
 MON-FRI 9-6
 SATURDAY 8-1

754-5135



COMMERCE ST.
 (BEHIND JOE'S B-B-Q)
 SHALLOTTE