

New Guide Easy To Read, Fun To Use

BY SUSAN USHER

Be glad Dr. Peter Meyer likes "messing about" with family members at the beach and in the coastal marshes.

Otherwise, we wouldn't have the Wilmington physician's newly published *Nature Guide to the Carolina Coast*. That would be too bad, because its 148 pages are chock full of basic information about the places we like to live near, play in and explore.

Using the book is almost like having Meyer at your side, chatting enthusiastically and knowledgeably as you walk along the shore or salt water marsh and spot a shorebird, a crab, perhaps some sea lettuce—or even a strange creature known as a "touroid" trudging over a sand dune "wearing loud Hawaiian print shirts, funky shorts, weird hats..." and socks with sandals.

Along with the passionate respect and love for the coast of an environmentalist, Meyer the naturalist also has a sense of humor.

While several well-researched and illustrated specialty books are available for the more scientifically inclined, this is the kind of guide most of us having been waiting for. If you really do want to know their Latin names, check the list in the back, along with a bibliography for those who want to read more detailed studies.

Meyer writes in an informative, easy to read manner. He uses his own sketches as illustrations and to make distinctions. For example, he shows us how the lightning, knobbed and channeled wheelks differ.

Forty-eight pages are devoted to 104 full-color plates of birds, fish, shells, crustaceans and other animals found along the coast, as well as sea oats and beach grass. Meyer took some of the photographs; others are by local photographers such as James F. Parnell, a professor at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

A vinyl-clad cover means this book is truly portable, suited for boat or beach.

Individual chapters are devoted to birds, crabs and other crustaceans, shells, fish and "others." Each chapter works from an overview to specifics about individual animals and plants. He tells where they live, how they reproduce, how to recognize them and what they eat.

His explanations are simple. By the end of the book, you're wishing he had been your 10th grade biology teacher.

For example, remember the small crab you found in that oyster last winter? You probably ate it, still wondering what it was. It was an oyster crab, or pea crab. This crab lives with the oyster and, at least most of the time, shares its benefits. Sometimes it becomes a parasite, "eating the tissue of the oyster and also robbing it of food," writes Meyer.

NATURE GUIDE TO THE CAROLINA COAST



PHOTOS BY CATHY MEYER

DR. PETER MEYER of Wilmington has written a coastal guide for beachgoers who are curious about what they see, but aren't scientists.

After a year inside the oyster, a male pea crab with take "nuptial flight" in search of a female, mate and then die.

In his closing chapters and appendices, Meyer also delves into a discussion of the Carolinas' coastal environment, seafood preparation and nutrition and a delightful full description of the "touroid".

About hurricanes, he offers this advice: "If nothing else, remember two things about hurricanes: 1) IF A HURRICANE APPROACHES, GET AWAY FROM THE COAST, and 2) GET AWAY EARLY, LONG BEFORE THE STORM STRIKES!"

He goes on to tell why. Meyer also warns that the beauty of the coast is fragile, its various habitats interdependent—and threatened now by mankind.

Don't check this one out from the library. If you spend any time along the coast at all, you'll find Meyer's *Nature Guide* entertaining, educational and easy to use. You'll want a copy of your own. It's available locally.

Spencer Recognized As Officer And Executive

Spencer Recognized

Vicki Spencer was recently recognized as a senior development officer and institutional foundation executive.

At the recent Council of Officers of Resource Development conference in Southern Pines she received a certificate from Henry Bernhardt, president of Institutional Development Associates (IDS) and Gerald James, IDS senior vice president.

Ms. Spencer has been resource development officer for Brunswick Community College since 1985 and also serves as executive director of the BCC Foundation. She implements and manages campaigns for annual giving, special gifts and major gifts through the foundation.

She has completed more than 144 hours of instruction and participated in more than 72 hours of workshops and seminars in the various facets of resource development, institutional foundations and public relations.

Clemmons Appointed

Judy Clemmons of Supply has been appointed to the Brunswick County Child Protective Service Review Committee.

She will represent the Brunswick County Board of Social Services on the committee which meets monthly to review cases involving children who may need protective services.

Under the direction of Gov. Jim Martin, a committee has formed in each county to help link government and community agencies in their battle against child neglect.

"This committee gives you a first-hand look at some very difficult cases," said Brunswick County DSS Director Jamie Orrock.

Nine Recognized

Nine people who helped organize and implement the Leland area Salute to the Troops celebration in July received certificates of appreciation from the Leland Town Council.

Barbara Smith, Vickie Gooch, Rosemary Long, Jack Bragg,

Alphonsa Sanders, Jean Speight, Ruby Brown, Gave Mitchell and Brian Benton were honored.

Ms. Long said \$308 remaining in donations has been given to the Wilmington YMCA to support military service people who may need financial help in the region.

Trooper Graduates

Joseph A. Tucker Jr., of Calabash, was one of 45 troopers who graduated from the 87th State Highway Patrol Basic School ceremonies Friday, Aug. 23, in Raleigh.

Tucker has been assigned to Troop C-V, Snow Hill. He will report to duty on Sept. 3.

Troopers took 985 hours of instruction during the 25-week school, taking 69 courses in human relations, criminal and constitutional law, firearms training, precision driving and other law enforcement subjects.

Tucker will continue his education through on-the-job training and in-service schools during his career with the State Highway Patrol.

Staff Welcomed

Several new staff members were welcomed to Bolivia Elementary

School at the start of the new year. Joining the faculty are Kim Reinhardt, preschool; Rebecca Harris, academically gifted and talented; Tommie Arnold, Chapter I reading; and Catalina Henao-Robledo, speech and hearing impaired.

Shepard Honored

Martha Shepard, of North Myrtle Beach, S.C., has received the 1991 Dr. Frist Humanitarian Award by Grand Strand General Hospital in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Ms. Shepard works in the radiology department. The award is given to a hospital employee who demonstrates compassion and selflessness in his or her work.

It is named for Dr. Thomas F. Frist, chief medical officer and one of the founders of Hospital Corporation of America, sponsor of the award.

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