

**Core Sound Waterfowl Museum
& Heritage Center**

Education Programs



Hancock Family at Willow Pond (Joel Hancock, 2011)

“At the End of the Road”

1785 Island Road

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www.coresound.com

(252) 728-1500

VISIT DOWN EAST

Where tradition is shaping the future.



Mitchell Fulcher Pintail Decoy

Immerse your students in the traditions of one of North Carolina's truly remarkable coastal regions – Down East Carteret County. At the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center, students will have the opportunity to talk with men and women who have carved out a unique lifestyle along the shores of N.C.'s Outer Banks and Core Sound. Your students will learn how nature has molded the character of the region's people and will experience aspects of a lifestyle lived close to and in harmony with nature's elemental forces.

Here at the Museum, your students can engage in scientific study of the environments, natural habitats and ecosystems that shape the past and the present, and explain how life on the Outer Banks and Core Sound is one of resourcefulness and strong tradition. Through this experience at the CSWM&HC, students will be able to make the connections between clean water and viable fisheries, between healthy ecosystems and plentiful wildlife. Whether it's getting "up close" as a carver chops out a duck from a juniper block or exploring the "wilds" of freshwater and salt marsh environments, a visit to Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center is to experience "WHERE TRADITION IS SHAPING THE FUTURE."



Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center (Pam Morris, 2009)

ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION

All North Carolina school groups including school staff, bus drivers and chaperones receive free admission to the museum. [Groups requesting ferry service to the banks or other special services should expect to pay a nominal fee to the vendors who provide those services. See details in the program descriptions.] Donations are always welcome!

To preregister, please call (252) 728-1500 ext. 24 or send an e-mail to annkelly@coresound.com and our education staff will reply within the next business day to discuss the program details of your visit and to complete your reservation. You will receive confirmation notice of your visit by e-mail outlining the specifics of your program as well as time/date.

Museum reservations are made on a first-come, first-serve basis. You need to contact us early for your preferred dates.

GIFT SHOP

Students may visit the Gift Shop during their stay at the museum. Students must be accompanied by an adult with limited numbers of students permitted in the Gift Shop at one time to make sure each student has the opportunity to view the local books and artwork available in our shopping area.

LUNCH

The museum does not have a cafeteria or snack bar facilities. School groups should plan to bring their own snacks, drinks and a bag lunch. Teachers may take their children to the Shell Point picnic pavilion at the Cape Lookout National Seashore Visitor Center located next to the museum for lunch. The view overlooking Core Sound with Cape Lookout Lighthouse appearing on the horizon is worth the day's trip. P.S. Feed the gulls at your own risk!



Cape Lookout Lighthouse (Michael Starks, 2010)

MAY GROUPS VISIT WITHOUT PREREGISTERING?

YES – Groups are always welcome at the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center. The museum is open Monday thru Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Sunday 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

If available, museum staff may provide a brief 15 minute orientation to the museum, the Cape Lookout National Seashore Visitor Center and the surrounding grounds. In addition, student groups may then choose from these self-guided activities:

- **Museum Tour** - Tour museum exhibits at your own pace or request a supplemental student worksheet for a self-guided tour. Clipboards and pencils are provided at no cost. (Allow 30-45 minutes.)
 - K-4: *Core Sound Treasures*: Locate Core Sound sights and sounds in the museum exhibits.
 - 5-12: *Heritage Hunt*: Discover Core Sound history by answering questions that correspond to museum exhibits.

- **Cape Lookout National Seashore Visitor Center** - View the film, “Ribbon of Sand,” narrated by Meryl Streep. This beautiful film features the words of Rachel Carson, environmental pioneer, and explores the entire coastal region from Ocracoke Inlet south to Cape Lookout. The visitor center is located next door to the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center and highlights the natural history of the area. Open daily from 9:00 am -5:00 pm. Call (252) 728-2250 for a listing. (Allow 30-40 minutes.)

- **Willow Pond Loop** - Take a hike on the Willow Pond Loop. This 1/3-mile trail winds through maritime forest and around a restored 3-acre freshwater pond environment with gorgeous views of wetland habitats and maritime woodlands. An observation duck blind allows up to 15 students to view waterfowl and other animals on the pond. Quiet please! (Allow 30-40 minutes.)



Fall on Willow Pond (Michael Starks, 2010)

- **Soundside Loop** - Take a hike on the Soundside Loop of the Cape Lookout National Seashore Visitor Center grounds. This 4/5-mile trail connects with the Willow Pond Loop and winds along the eastern shore of Harkers Island. The trail, along with a boardwalk and observation deck, passes through maritime forest and along salt marsh habitats. (Allow 45 minutes – 1 hour.)

INTERPRETATIVE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Local volunteers lead these program and activities on Core Sound traditions.

Teachers may request one or more interpretive programs as part of their group's visit.

- **Decoy Carver Demonstration** - Children learn about the history and tradition of carving decoys while observing a carver's skill and techniques handed down over generations. (Allow 30-40 minutes.)
- **Pine Cone Birdfeeders (K-4)** - For the birds! Students will make a pine cone birdfeeder using peanut butter and bird seed. Each child's feeder is packed in a Ziploc bag for easy transport home. (Allow 30 minutes.)
- **Decoy Duck Head Painting (K-8)** - In one of the museum's most popular activities, student learn about the identification of waterfowl species, waterfowl anatomy, the purpose of plumage, types of habitat, and basic painting techniques as they paint blank replicas of waterfowl heads.
The cost is \$3.00 per student.
(Allow 45 minutes.)



Decoy Painting is a favorite at Core Sound! (Contributed)



Decoy Carver Kelley Nelson sharing with students in David's Room at Core Sound
(Pam Morris 2010)

- **Growing-up “Down East”** - Visit with a native “Downeaster” who introduces the students to the hardships and pleasures of growing up along Core Sound. (Allow 45 minutes.)
- **The Wild Horses** - Learn about the fascinating history and adaptations of the wild horses that have inhabited the banks for many years, as told by a member of The Foundation for Shackleford Horses or staff members from the National Park Service. (Allow 45 minutes.)
- **Boatbuilding** - Explore boatbuilding exhibits and visit the *Jean Dale*, a restored 1940s Core Sound workboat to learn about the impact of the boatbuilding tradition on the Down East communities. (Allow 45 minutes.)

CURRICULUM BASED ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

Students get up and involved in these lively programs.

Teachers may request one or more of the following programs to supplement their trip to the museum. These programs reinforce classroom concepts and are correlated to the N.C. Essential Standards for Science in each grade level.

Have You Seen My Duckling? (Pre-K, K)

Students take a first look at the life of a duck. They use their 5 senses to make observations about the body structures, behaviors, and basic needs of ducks and ducklings. A visit to Willow Pond provides students with the opportunity to visit a common duck habitat, and perhaps catch a glimpse of a feathered friend. (Allow 45 minutes.) (NCES: K.L.1, 1.1 & 1.2)

Everybody Needs a Home (1st)

Students visit the local environments of Willow Pond and the maritime forest that support the needs of common North Carolina plants and animals. Through observation they identify the basic needs of a variety of living things. Students then consider their home as a "habitat" that provides food, water and shelter, and compare their homes with those of other animals. (Allow 1 hour.) (NCES: 1.L.1, 1.1 & 1.2)

A New Duck (2nd)

Students investigate the life cycle of a duck from birth into adulthood. From eggs to ducklings and into drakes and hens, the changes in a duck's life correspond with the seasons of the natural world. A visit to Willow Pond offers an opportunity to predict how the present time of year might relate to the stages in a duck's life. (Allow 1 hour.) (NCES: 2.L.1, 1.1)

Maritime Forest Foray (3rd)

Walk into a maritime forest and look closely! Students investigate the live oaks, pines, and shrubs of the maritime forest and how they can survive the sandy and salty environmental conditions of the North Carolina coast. Students explore the forest floor, take tree bark rubbings, examine leaves and cones, and predict how temperature and light affects plant life in a forest. (Allow 1-1 ½ hours.) (NCES: 3.L.2, 2.1 & 2.2)

The Wonders of the Waterfowl World (4th)

Discover how form and function are linked in the world of ducks and geese. Students observe and record how waterfowl characteristics and variation provide advantages and disadvantages for life on Core Sound. With a special focus on bird coloration, examine how plumage can camouflage or draw the attentions of a mate. (Allow 1 hour.) (NCES: 4.L.1, 1.2 & 1.4)

Web of Energy (5th)

Compare the energy flow of life in the salt marsh with that found in the fresh water of Willow Pond. Using scavenger hunt cards, students explore these two ecosystems and identify and analyze the functions of producers, consumers, and decomposers within each environment. After discussing the interrelationships that tie these communities together, students construct an energy web of each by representing organisms found in these environments. (Allow 1 ½ -2 hours.) (NCES: 5.L.2, 2.1, 2.2 & 2.3)

Water Quality of Life (6th)

Investigate the factors that determine the growth and survival of aquatic/marine life. Students identify several aquatic/marine organisms and assess the relative environmental quality of Willow Pond and/or the salt marsh of Core Sound. Using sampling techniques and indicators of pH, water temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and nutrients, students assess the water quality necessary for aquatic/marine life. (Allow 1 hour for each location.) (NCES: L.6.2, 2.3)



Learning along Willow Pond (Pam Morris, 2010)

Hurricanes on the Edge (7th)

The coast of North Carolina has experienced countless hurricanes through the centuries. Students examine the atmospheric properties that can be studied to predict hurricane formation over the warm waters of the Atlantic. Students evaluate the impact of hurricanes on Down East coastal communities, track a historic hurricane, and create a preparedness and evacuation plan. Will this be the year of *the* storm? (Allow 1 hour.) (NCES: 7.E.1 (1.3 & 1.4))



Satellite View of the Banks (NASA, 2000)

The Blue Traveler (8th)

With the roll of a die, students simulate the movement of water within and between natural and constructed systems. Students identify water users, describe the movement of water within the hydrologic cycle, and discuss how understanding water's movement on the planet supports water conservation measures. The activity can be extended with a discussion and hike around Willow Pond, the salt marsh, or the museum's rain garden and storm water wetland area. (Allow 1 ½ hours for the activity only.) (NCES: 8.E.1, 1.1)

INTO THE SUNSHINE AND FRESH AIR (GRADES K-12)

These experiential learning programs provide hands-on study of the ecosystems of Core Sound. For these outdoor programs, students must wear closed-toe shoes and bring a towel and a change of clothes. Protective sun screen and bug spray are also recommended. Teachers may choose from several outdoor programs led by museum staff.

Salt Marsh

Students investigate a fragile ecosystem that serves as the nursery for many marine organisms as well as seafood species. They will be introduced to the plants and animals that call the edge of Core Sound home. Younger explorers get an up-close look from the boardwalk that stretches over the marsh, while older students are welcome to wade. Prepare to get muddy and wet – there's no way to avoid it. (Allow 1 ½ -2 hours.)

Willow Pond

Students trek through maritime forest and investigate the secrets of a restored freshwater pond environment. They collect and observe resident macro invertebrates and older students have the opportunity to test for water quality indicators – pH, water temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and nutrients. (Allow 1 -1 ½ hours.)

Cape Lookout (recommended for 5th – 12th Grade)

To the Banks! Travel by coastal ferry from Harkers Island to Cape Lookout National Seashore and the Cape Lookout Lighthouse to combine a study of marine science with coastal history and culture. Observations of diverse environments from the ocean to the sound will give students an appreciation of the need to protect and manage vital coastal ecosystems. (Allow 4 hours at a cost of \$15.00 per participant.)

Natural Inspirations

Let the natural beauty and wildlife of Core Sound ignite the creative spirit! Various locations around the museum provide excellent views of the coastal environment where students can capture the gentle waves with watercolors, sketch soaring gulls, or pen poetry about the delicate balance of life on the Banks. (Art supplies are not provided.)

CUSTOMIZED PROGRAMS

The museum education staff is happy to work with you to develop a unique program that meets your specific classroom needs. Please contact the museum in advance to discuss a specialized program or activity.

Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center
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Partnerships & Resources

Our Community Volunteers

Cape Lookout National Seashore

NC Arts Council

Ducks Unlimited

NC Grassroots Science Museums

NC Wildlife Resources Commission

Project WEBFOOT

Project WILD

Project WILD Aquatic

Project WET

“Sound Ideas: Elementary Project Estuary”

“The Wonders of Wetlands”

“Science Is...”



Mission

To establish a facility that will enhance the community, state and region by creating a resource which brings together the historical, cultural, artistic, environmental and educational elements needed to preserve the rich waterfowl heritage of eastern North Carolina associated with the Core Sound area.