

SOUNDSIDE LEARNING

THIS WEEK ON CORE SOUND

COMING UP AT CORE SOUND

- **September 1:** *Parlor Talk*, "The Albatross Fleet - Hatteras-Marshallberg Connection" @ 2 PM
- **September 13:** *Community Night*, "Florence Four Years Later," Supper @ 6 PM and Program @ 7 PM

Sound Reading Material For You & Your Child



Song for a Whale

By Lynne Kelly

From fixing the class computer to repairing old radios, twelve-year-old Iris is a tech genius. But she's the only deaf person in her school, so people often treat her like she's not very smart. If you've ever felt like no one was listening to you, then you know how hard that can be. When she learns about Blue 55, a real whale who is unable to speak to other whales, Iris understands how he must feel. Then she has an idea: she should invent a way to "sing" to him! But he's three thousand miles away. How will she play her song for him?

Grade Level: 5-7
Pages: 304

Fiddle Me This

If you are lucky enough to walk along our beautiful shorelines, you need to look down every now and then to enjoy the hurry-scurry of some of our smallest natives! Fiddler crabs, or sand fiddlers as we often call them, are amazing to watch as they quickly move out of your way.

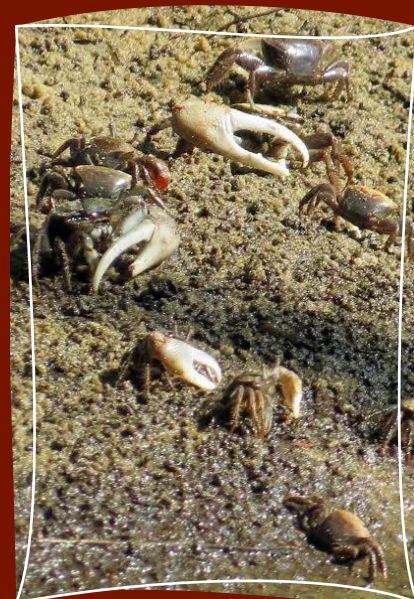
Sand fiddlers get their name from the motion of the males' small claws while they eat. The constant movement of the claw from the mouth and back makes it appear as if the crabs are moving bows across their large claws like playing a fiddle.

These crabs are social creatures that live in large colonies. Their neighborhoods are easy to spot for they are marked by hundreds of small holes in our coastal mud that are openings to two- to three-foot deep L-shaped burrows! These tunnels are used for mating, resting, hibernating in the winter, and escaping the heat in the summer. Sand fiddlers also scamper to their holes to avoid predators and during high tide the burrows become storm cellars. The crabs seal their entrances with sand plugs and hunker down to avoid being swept away by strong tidal currents.

The next time you spot a sand fiddler village, notice the piles of small sand balls around each of the hole openings which are created by the excavation of the tunnel. This digging is beneficial to our marsh by aerating the soil and bringing organic matter rich in nutrients to the surface. This stimulates the growth of the marsh grass which means sand fiddlers are much more than mere entertainers for visitors to our coast.



photos from ocracokeobserver.com



Summer Reflections

What a summer! Returning to face-to-face camps and workshops was thrilling for all of us at the Museum this summer. We worked hard to reach as many of our youth and educators as possible while continuing to grow and learn ourselves.

Students were exposed to a wide array of educational experiences throughout the summer. Some experienced the marine science field from squid dissections and boat building mathematics to drone piloting and living-shoreline conservation. Still others explored photography composition and painting on canvas with professionals in those fields while more learned how to build bridges and boats, paint Redheads, and appreciate our beautiful heritage with knowledge of our area, fishing, and decoys.

One member of our teacher network, Mrs. Catherine Norris, shared, "The Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center is a fun place to learn about the heritage and history of the area while exploring science. This summer our campers created, built, and studied various topics inside these walls, but they also investigated living organisms and habitats outside of them."

This summer teachers travelled Down East gaining a unique perspective of their students' lives by experiencing our heritage-rich communities first-hand. From Cedar Island to Cape Lookout, they were privy to stories, histories, concerns, and opportunities that intertwine creating a glimpse into our home. Teachers left us with a greater appreciation and understanding of who they will now welcome into their classrooms.

I whole-heartedly agree with Mr. Chris Yeomans, an instructor for several of our camps, when he reflected, "Having a full season of camps this summer in a face-to-face situation has been great. Seeing kids' excitement as they participated in hands-on activities is what it's all about. The young people are the next generation of Core Sounders who will keep our traditions going for generations to come."

All of us at the Museum are excited about our future learning opportunities with our visitors, both young and old. Keep an eye on upcoming opportunities so you and your families may learn with us. We are waiting for you at the end of the road.

