

SOUNDSIDE LEARNING THIS WEEK ON CORE SOUND

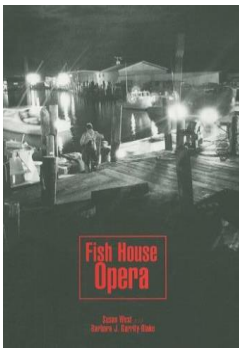


October 16, 2023

COMING UP AT CORE SOUND...

- **Wednesdays:** Preschool Mornings @ 10 AM
- **November 17:** Gallery of Trees Begins @ 7 PM
- **November 25:** Christmas Market 2023 -- *Vendors of all kinds ... Click Below for more information!*
[Christmas Market Info](#)

Sound Reading Material For You



Fish House Opera

By Susan West & Barbara J. Garrity-Blake

Fishing families live by the values considered truly American: independence, risk taking and honest hard work. yet in the competition over uses of the sea and protection on its resources, fishermen often become victims rather than equal participants in the search for solutions. Taking place in 16 "acts" on and beside the broad waters of North Carolina, Fish House Opera offers eloquent testimony on the issues facing commercial fishing families today. Here they share their delight in being fully engaged in a life well lived and their despair at seeing that way of life changed beyond their control.

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Pound Netting 101

Last week's newsletter piqued my interest in the many types of fishing that happens in our back yards, especially pound netting. I was fortunate to get Jeff Goodwin from Cedar Island to try his best to break down this way of fishing in a manner that I could understand. I hope you enjoy the knowledge that was shared with me about this tactical way of fishing.

As mentioned last week, pound nets have three sections: the lead, the heart, and the pound. The lead is a straight net that leads, hence its name, the fish into the heart of the trap. It can be as long as 200-300 yards in length and guides fish toward the heart. The heart, whose name comes from its shape, is the funnel that channels fish into the pound, or the trap. The pound is a webbed box with no top and no means of escape for the fish that swim inside. (Pound net systems do have escape panels for undersized fish to get out.)

Much like a fence, the nets are strung from pole to pole in the water. They may be set, for instance, at the edge of a shoal where the water is about 3 feet deep and extend out to 10 feet or so. When asked what was the hardest part of pound netting, Jeff said, "It's definitely the upkeep. You see, each pole is about 20 feet long and weighs 70-80 pounds. We stick them about 5 feet into the ground to hold the nets. And used to we could pound net for 3 or 4 months a year. So, if we had a bad summer, we knew our pound nets would get us through the winter. Now, with 1- or 2-week seasons, that's not the case. But we still have to do the same amount of upkeep for 2 weeks as we did for longer. Nets have got to be mended and hung; polls have got to be stuck." Jeff continued to say that boom trucks have been the best invention for fishing. "We tie a rope around our nets and poles and lift them from shore onto the boat now using a boom truck. My youngin don't need to complain about doing that not when I remember being 10-years-old aboard the boat pulling net and Daddy hollering 'Faster! Faster!'"

The weather determines how long a pound net needs to remain set in the water before it's fished. If it is a very windy week, daily fishing is needed. Calm conditions allow for fishing a net a few times per week. Jeff said, "Yes, I've had to fish my nets by myself and got it done, but it's not a fun job that way. Realistically, it's a two-man job."



Jeff Goodwin & Lindsay Creech

Boom Trucks

A boom truck is a type of hydraulic crane that is usually mounted on a commercial truck chassis. But ... as we know from living Down East, a commercial truck chassis is not a requirement! Here is a glimpse of why boom trucks have become an important part of our communities. The following is reprinted and edited from *Fish House Opera*, my book recommendation for this week!

“For those of you who don't know what a boom truck is,” wrote Cedar Island reporter Ed Butler, “and that's most of mankind, it's a rusty old pickup truck in whose bed is installed a battery-powered winch used for heavy lifting. “The boom is usually welded onto an otherwise retired truck, but “Benny Styron once crammed a boom into the trunk of his sorry Oldsmobile and it worked just fine.”



Jeff Goodwin's boom truck

Boom trucks are as natural to Carteret County fishing villages as skiffs in the yard, nets webbed between trees, and stacks of crab pots piled beside sheds. The mechanical workhorses tug heavy diesel engines out of vessels, toss pound nets onto boats, and yank tree stumps out of the ground. These street trawlers are the fishermen's jury-rigged beasts of burden, born out of necessity and kept alive by whatever it takes -- daily quarts of oil, baling wire, duct tape. Some boom trucks haven't seen an inspection sticker in years, and chug from house to dock in Cedar Island like junkyard refugees with a second lease on life. Despite their great utility, fishermen never considered the lowly, taken-for-granted boom truck worthy of celebration.”

Shadow Fun



- Choose an outdoor space in a sunny area. The area should include a hard surface, such as a driveway or sidewalk.
- Have your partner stand still, in whatever pose he chooses, while you use chalk to outline his shadow. Be sure to also outline the shadow-maker's feet to show where they were standing.
- Now go to a different spot and switch roles making you the new shadow-maker. Have your partner draw around your shadow and outline your feet.
- Come back after about 15 minutes and place your feet in the chalk outlines, exactly where they were before. Look carefully at your shadows. Have they changed position? Are they longer or shorter? Why do you think they're different now? Trace the new outlines of your shadows.



See how outdoor shadows change because the earth is always moving.