

Report for Meeting of the North Carolina Historical Commission, Summer 2022

Prepared by Angela M. Thorpe, Director, NC African American Heritage Commission

FISCAL, LEGISLATIVE, & ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

Governor Roy Cooper released his recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Two items were recommended for the NCAAHC: a recurring park manager position to manage NC Freedom Park (estimated completion January 2023), and funds to design and construct the African American Monument on State Capitol Grounds.

TRAIL UPDATES

North Carolina Civil Rights Trail

In the spring of 2020, the AAHC received funding from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation to develop and launch the NC Civil Rights Trail in partnership with Visit NC and the NC Office of Archives & History. The project will identify and mark (digitally and physically) North Carolina sites key to the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, or critical to advancing civil rights in the state. This project has created one interactive, evergreen digital map of North Carolina civil rights sites, and will ultimately yield fifty physical, community-based markers by the end of.

To date, fourteen markers have been awarded:

1. New Ahoskie Baptist Church (Ahoskie)—Installed August 2021
2. 1951 Adkin High School Walkouts (Kinston)—Installed November 2021
3. Shelby Sit-Ins—Installed February 2022
4. Cameron Village Sit-Ins (Raleigh)
5. Joseph Holt, Sr. and Elwyna Holt—Holt Family (Raleigh)
6. Ocean City Beach (Topsail Island)—will be installed July 1st, 2022
7. Elizabeth City Sit-Ins
8. Kinston Sit-Ins
9. Blair Park Municipal Golf Course (High Point)
10. Monroe, NC Wade-Ins
11. 1963 Brevard High School Football Team
12. Greensboro 6—Gillespie Golf Course
13. Johnson v. Branch (Enfield)
14. Halifax County Voters Movement (Enfield)

A third round of applications are being accepted until August 2022. NCAAHC staff anticipate opening a fourth and final round of applications, during which the N.C. Civil Rights Trail Coordinator will execute in-person statewide outreach to garner more applicants and to reach applicants in spaces where there is low representation on the trail.

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Freedom Roads

NCAAHC Trails Coordinator, Ashley Adams, developed several new physical resources for Freedom Roads, including rack cards to be placed at a series of historic sites. Ashley's work has included developing historical tabletop waysides chronicling freedom seeking stories at the following sites:

- Stagville State Historic Site
- Brunswick Town/Ft. Anderson State Historic Site
- Somerset Place State Historic Site
- Great Dismal Swamp State Park
- Elizabeth City State University

Waysides were developed collaboratively with the North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites & Properties, North Carolina State Parks, and history professors at Elizabeth City State University. Waysides will be fabricated and installed at these sites in the Fall of 2022.

African American Music Trails of Eastern North Carolina

The African American Music Trails of Eastern North Carolina, which were developed in partnership with the NCAAHC and the N.C. Arts Council, have come under the stewardship of the NCAAHC. Currently, the NCAAHC is planning for trail reactivation. Early reactivation work will take the form of booking and installing trail-related traveling exhibits in early 2023, refreshing and developing new digital content, and community engagement around the future of the trail.

PROJECT UPDATES

An Eagle on His Button (NPS Network to Freedom Grant, 2021-2022)

This funding enabled [digital educational resources centered on the U.S. Colored Troops](#) to be developed in partnership with Tryon Palace and Carolina K-12. Educators from across the state will receive training on how to apply these resources to the classroom. Currently this work is being led by NCAAHC Trails Coordinator (contract) Ashley Adams.

"Africa to Carolina: Next Steps in the Journey" (Institute of Museum and Library Services Grant, Awarded July 2020)

Following a thorough national search, Amber Pelham, a graduate of the Public History graduate program at New York University and a Hampton University alum, was selected as the two-year Research Fellow for the AAHC's "Africa to Carolina: Next Steps in the Journey" project. Amber began her role at the end of January 2021.

Amber performed additional research on the slave trade in the colony of North Carolina and has developed robust drafts of an introductory exhibit centering on the relationship between the Transatlantic Slave Trade and North Carolina. The exhibit underwent a thorough, stakeholder-centered review process in the Summer and Fall of 2021, as well as a thorough review by the North Carolina Historic Sites Exhibit Coordinating Committee in early 2022.

Slightly variable versions of this exhibit will be installed at Bath State Historic Site, Brunswick Town/Ft. Anderson State Historic Site, Edenton State Historic Site, Somerset Place State Historic Site, Tryon Palace, Roanoke Island Festival Park, and the NC Maritime Museum at Beaufort in the Spring and Summer of 2022.

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The project will also fund the development of an “Africa to Carolina” web portal. This website will be designed to showcase information and resources that we know and have currently, with the intention of building upon it after the conclusion of the project in alignment with the larger goals of the Africa to Carolina initiative. A seasoned web contractor, Phil Bicking, joined the project team to build the web portal in July 2021.

“Africa to Carolina” was selected as a semifinalist for the **Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation’s Inclusive Public Art Initiative**. If selected as a finalist in 2023, funding would enable the project to expand to place public art markers in coastal disembarkation communities.

“A Tale of Two Ships: Part Deux” (Institute of Museum and Library Services Grant, Awarded June 2021)

Funding will enable the AAHC to continue doing archival research on *La Concorde* overseas in France, Martinique, and Guadeloupe. This work will yield academic scholarship, digital content, and expansive interpretation in DNCR institutions.

Due to pandemic-imposed travel restrictions, the project team pushed overseas travel to early 2023. In the meantime, and in alignment with the grant award, the project team collaborated with the *Queen Anne’s Revenge* Conservation Lab to plan the third annual *LaC/QAR* research convening in February 2022.

NCAAHC associate director, Adrienne Nirdé, is working with the North Carolina Museum of History and the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Beaufort to install exhibit updates in these institutions that reflect the history of *La Concorde*.

Green Books “Oasis Spaces” Project (African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund Grant, Awarded July 2021)

The AAHC will lead the planning project to conceptualize development of a national marker and digital mapping program for existing Green Book sites. Working in conjunction with colleagues from the SC African American Heritage Commission, we will work to identify, develop, and build out infrastructure for the project. After piloting the project in North Carolina and South Carolina, the resulting framework for identification, research, online tool development, mapping, and marking sites could be scaled up for national implementation beyond the life of this planning project. Stakeholder work sessions for this project will commence in June of 2022.

NCAAHC Resource Library (North Carolina Humanities American Rescue Plan Grant, Awarded September 2021)

This award funds “Growing Our Griots: Strengthening North Carolina’s Black Heritage-Keepers” in alignment with the NCAAHC Strategic Plan and as a follow up grant to an NC CARES: Humanities Relief Grant the NCAAHC received last year. “Growing Our Griots” will provide a multi-part virtual professional development series to African American heritage practitioners in 2022. The series will cover these topics:

- Fundraising 101 for African American Heritage Institutions
- Grant Writing Basics: Crafting and Completing Grant Applications, Letters of Intent, and Funding Proposals
- Marketing & Digital Engagement 101 for Small Institutions & Groups
- Beginner’s Guide to African American Cemetery Preservation



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- Emergency Preparedness for African American Cultural Spaces
- Preserving Historic African American Properties in NC: Pt. 1—State Resources; Pt. 2—Local Resources
- NC Heritage Practitioner Roundtable

The project will also create technical leaflets centered on common heritage-based technical assistance questions and concerns. The leaflets, detailed below, will be made available online via the NCAAHC's website in August of 2022:

- How do I secure funding?
- How do I start a museum?
- How do I save my historic property?
- What do I do with this thing? Preserving artifacts and archival materials.
- How do I physically commemorate important history?
- How do I get started with preserving an African American cemetery?
- How do I find my family history?

News from the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties: June 2022

Michelle Lanier

- This spring's good weather and easing of COVID-19 restrictions brought welcome waves of visitors to sites across the state, including the return of school field trips. In both April and May, the division's overall visitation came within 8% of pre-pandemic rates. Most sites approached pre-pandemic visitation rates, and some far exceeded them, including Alamance Battleground, Bentonville Battlefield, Historic Edenton, House in the Horseshoe, James K. Polk Historic Site, and Vance Birthplace. The reasons for these increases include new interpretation, active outreach efforts, diverse events, and access to walking trails and greenways.
- As part of the division's commitment to the safety of every visitor to and employee of State Historic Sites, at least one staff member from each site attended CPR/AED training this spring, and AEDs were distributed to every site.
- The Harriet Jacobs Project, a public art initiative planned for 2024 at Historic Edenton State Historic Site, was selected as a semifinalist in the Z. Smith Reynolds Inclusive Public Art initiative. This designation comes with a \$5000 planning grant to support the creation of a full application for the project.
- The dormitory buildings of the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum at the Palmer Memorial Institute have been included on the 2022 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. The list is compiled annually by the National Trust for Historic Preservation to raise awareness of the threats faced by some of our country's greatest treasures.
- Sites hosted a wide variety of events, including Halifax Day, Carolina Gold Rush Day at Reed Gold Mine, Bentonville Battlefield's 157th anniversary commemoration, the dedication of a new NC Highway Historical Marker at Town Creek Indian Mound, and visits from the Slave Dwelling Project and African American foodways researcher Dontavius Williams at James K. Polk. Concerts resumed at Roanoke Island Festival Park. CycleNC visited Edenton and Somerset Place.
- Throughout the spring, the division's True Inclusion Committee and outside firm Biwa|Emergent Equity (B|EE) organized four orientation sessions, introducing all division staff to B|EE and their ongoing work supporting and facilitating the expansion of the True Inclusion Initiative.

News from the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties: June 2022

Michelle Lanier

- We were excited to welcome new staff across the division, including Tanesha Anthony as Site Manager at the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum at the Palmer Memorial Institute and Catherine Linton as Registrar in the division's collections branch.
- State Capitol staff held the first in a series of listening sessions about "From Naming to Knowing: Uncovering Slavery at the North Carolina State Capitol," their major research and digital humanities project recording the names and stories of enslaved workers who built the Capitol.
- The Horne Creek Farm support group's annual spring heritage apple tree sale was a resounding success, with the full inventory selling out before noon.
- In May, community listening sessions for the Golden and Ruth Frinks Freedom House project began in Edenton. These sessions, which will continue through the summer, aim to collect community members' memories of the Frinks family and hopes for the future of the house. Earlier the same month, Historic Edenton staff, State Historic Sites home office staff, and other DNCR staff members including Deputy Secretary Waters gathered in Edenton for a facilitated conversational circle, discussing the project and level-setting shared values.
- The North Carolina Transportation Museum's Jim Crow segregated passenger rail car was listed on the National Register of Historic Properties.
- A variety of traveling exhibits came to our sites, including "Down Home: Jewish Life in North Carolina" at the State Capitol, "NC Digs!" at Roanoke Island Festival Park and "She Changed the World: North Carolina Women Breaking Barriers" at Duke Homestead. NCTM's "History on Two Wheels" exhibit is on loan to the Mountain Gateway Museum & Heritage Center.
- Sites presented a variety of special programming, including women's history tours in March and a new series for descendent families at Historic Stagville.
- In collaboration with the Mountain History and Culture Group, Vance Birthplace presented its annual lecture. This year's speaker, Dr. James Owen with Western Carolina University, presented a lecture titled "Native Songs of Southern Appalachia: Social Change and Cherokee Music Traditions."

News from the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties: June 2022

Michelle Lanier

- James K. Polk Historic site premiered Phase 1 of their research and digital humanities project, "The Enslaved Polks," illuminating the stories of the people enslaved by the Polk family in North Carolina and across the South.
- Division and departmental staff made visits to sites which will be added to the division of State Historic Sites in upcoming years: Thomas Day Home and Workshop in Milton, Shallowford in Forsyth County, and Hayes Plantation in Edenton. They met with stakeholders, gathered information, and initiated planning processes for everything from utility improvements to building preservation to trail construction.
- Sites across the state were proud to host visits from Secretary Wilson and Deputy Secretary Waters. Historic Halifax was particularly honored to have Secretary Wilson as keynote speaker at Halifax Day.
- Staff members represented the division at many conferences and symposia this spring, including the NC Military History Conference, the Keeping History Above Water conference in Norfolk, VA, and the U.S. Civil Rights Movement Sites Symposium in Atlanta, GA.
- In late March, staff members from across the division attended the annual NC Museums Council Conference in Rocky Mount, NC. They presented panels on subjects including new interpretive approaches and virtual internship programming. Additionally, the #TrueInclusion social media working group was invited to present about the initiative during the conference's DEIA Showcase tabling session.
- Division staff and a variety of sites are working closely with the Office of State Archaeology, the Underwater Archaeology Branch, and archaeological teams to record sites, increase knowledge of archaeological study across the division, and plan for upcoming summer digs.
- Staff, as always, have gone above and beyond in their efforts for the division, their sites, and each other – from attending myriad trainings, to driving many miles across the state to get a fellow employee home after their vehicle was damaged in a car accident; from publishing articles in specialist journals and giving public presentations, to bottle-feeding a newborn lamb in their homes until it was strong enough to return to its flock.

**Report of Division of Historical Resources
To the North Carolina Historical Commission
June 22, 2022**

Ramona M. Bartos, Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Division in general:

- **Vacancies.** We are in the process of filling several vacancies, including three key positions in our Survey / National Register branch of the State Historic Preservation Office, including our National Register coordinator, and Preservation Specialist positions for southeastern NC and eastern NC. (As context, the Survey / National Register branch is at 50% full-strength, and staff is stretched thin, but still managing a high level of responsiveness and constituent service.) We hope to have these vacancies filled this summer. We will also be recruiting for a Restoration Specialist for a newly constituted western Piedmont /foothills service territory in response to high constituent demand there. We are also in the process of filling vacancies created by retirements, including the Eastern Office's administrative assistant (held by Stan Little, who served in this capacity for nearly 3 decades) and the Historical Research Office's Historical Publications Editor for the *North Carolina Historical Review* (held by Anne Miller after a quarter century of conscientious service as Historical Publications Editor, responsible for preparation of over 90 editions of the *North Carolina Historical Review* during her tenure).
- **Statewide compensation plan.** We have submitted requests for reconsideration for several job classifications under the updated statewide compensation plan, particularly to reinstate the former Specialist I and Specialist II classifications for the Historic Preservation Office as well as to establish organizational chart equilibrium for supervisors and rank-and-file staff across the division, rather than the unevenness the plan set in place. We have also shared salary studies with our human resource staff as evidence that public history salaries are not reflective of what is paid in the open market; it is imperative that our staff have competitive salaries for cost-of-living increases in the Raleigh and Asheville metro areas for both recruitment and retention purposes.
- **New partnership explorations.** In the last month, the Division has met with the Black Family Land Trust and the Asian American Center at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill to explore new partnership opportunities and to exchange information about our organizations' missions.
- **State Hazard Mitigation Plan.** The Division will be working with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety on the new 5-year update of the state hazard mitigation plan to foster preservation of North Carolina's historic communities and archaeological sites and to extend our services in terms of making North Carolina more prepared and resilient against natural and manmade hazards.

- **America 250.** The Division is also working on a two-pronged identification, mapping, and preservation project to encourage preservation of lesser-known, extant American Revolutionary War battlefield and skirmish sites in North Carolina. We have also made a presentation to a statewide coalition of land trusts operating in North Carolina about this effort to foster engagement and partnerships, and have also met with our colleagues at NC State Parks' statewide trail program to gauge their interest and participation.

State Historic Preservation Office (HPO)

National Park Service Underrepresented Communities Grant award. Our agency has been awarded \$50,000 as part of the nationally competitive Underrepresented Communities grant program of the National Park Service, for the State Historic Preservation Office to conduct additional survey work on extant Green Book properties, prepare a Green Book Property Multi-Property Documentation Form to initiate National Register nominations for eligible properties, and to prepare an individual nomination for the Magnolia House in Greensboro, based on its status as a Green Book property. We hope to have the grant agreement signed soon and get underway this summer.

National Register of Historic Places. The state can boast **8 new** National Register listings as of mid-April from our February National Register Advisory Committee (NRAC) meeting, which both recognize important places in North Carolina history and, in the case of privately owned property, provide economic development opportunities:

- **3 historic districts (Dallas update and new ones in downtown Asheboro and Pilot Mountain);** much community interest and involvement;
- **2 manufacturing mills (Burlington and Lincolnton);** both are slated to be historic tax credit projects;
- **1 hotel with Frank Lloyd Wright involvement** (Skyline Lodge in **Highlands**);
- **1 church -- historic African American church at Watkins Chapel AME Zion Church in Mooresville;**
- **1 piece of railroad rolling stock** (Southern Railway Passenger Car Number 1211, state owned at the NC Transportation Museum, and **one of the last segregated railway passenger cars** left in the United States; this one is receiving a large National Park Service Civil Rights grant for its restoration).

The second of 2022's three NRAC meetings was held on June 9. The following nominations were considered:

- Pilot Life Insurance Company Home Office, **Greensboro**
- Westside High School, **Chadbourn** (historically African American school)
- Kimberlee Apartments, **Charlotte**
- City Motor Company, **Salisbury**
- Mutschler House, **Wake Forest**
- **Eunice Waymon (aka Nina Simone) Birthplace, Tryon**

- Lynncote Historic District, **Tryon vicinity**

Our thanks to our NC Historical Commission members who do double-duty as serving members of the NRAC.

Restoration Services Branch; building showcase planning. Planning is back underway for the next Building Showcase in **Ahoskie**, now scheduled for September, following local staff departures and health challenges. Following earlier successful programs in Elizabeth City and Tarboro, the day will highlight historic buildings available and eligible for rehabilitation with state and federal tax credits.

Certified Local Government (CLG) grants. The deadline for CLG grants applications was April 22; we typically award \$120,000 in local preservation “seed” project grants for projects ranging from new National Register nominations, architectural / archaeological surveys, bricks and mortar needs, and educational / outreach projects. **HPO Grant Coordinator Michele McCabe led staff review in early June of approximately a dozen proposed projects**, including several cemetery studies, and we hope to have an announcement from our State Historic Preservation Officer Dr. Darin Waters soon as to this year’s awards.

Local Government Work.

- **Disaster resiliency training.** This month, our office is conducting two sessions of a special **disaster resiliency training for local historic preservation commissions affected by Hurricane Florence and Hurricane Michael with the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC)**. Local government coordinator Kristi Brantley reports nearly 100 constituents have signed up for this free educational opportunity, designed to bolster our state’s preparedness for natural disasters.

KHAW – Keeping History Above Water presentation. The HPO joined colleagues from both OSA and the Division of State Historic Sites to make a well-received **presentation** in May 2022 at the biennial national conference **Keeping History Above Water in Norfolk, Virginia, in May, regarding the successful implementation of wave attenuator technology at Brunswick Town / Fort Anderson State Historic Site**. We believe this technology – which combines both natural and cultural resource protection – is a model for other historic places in America, threatened by “water where it doesn’t belong”. This site is particularly significant as a place known to indigenous people, where enslaved and free persons alike arrived in North Carolina, where North Carolina helped to launch the American Revolution, and as the site of some of the best-preserved colonial wharves and Civil War earthworks exist anywhere in America. The conference itself was a valuable professional development opportunity for members of our Division to learn about other states’ approaches and policy issues regarding this increasingly important topic for us in North Carolina.

Office of State Archaeology (OSA)

Wyse Fork Battlefield. The Office together with the HPO continues to work with the public and federal and state agencies under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for the proposed improvements to US Highway 70, west of Kinston in Lenoir and Jones Counties, that will impact the Wyse Fork Battlefield (March 1865).

NAGPRA work. OSA is now engaging in consultations with various federally-recognized American Indian tribes under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) for the repatriation of human remains and funerary objects found in its collections after inventory work.

Cemetery interest. Public interest in cemetery protection continues unabated, and we are initiating efforts to accelerate our research into historic and unmarked cemeteries statewide to create an even more robust database and mapping layer to foster citizen engagement and public awareness of cemetery locations and maintenance.

Western Office

- **“Water where it didn’t belong.”** The January 2022 flooding incident that occurred when a water line located in an attic air handler unit broke, causing water damage on all five levels of Western Office, including space used by the Western Regional Archives of the State Archives of North Carolina, is well on its way to being rectified. We experienced damage to ceilings, light fixtures, a few pieces of furniture, and the elevator equipment main circuit board, rendering the building’s one elevator inoperative for two weeks. Thankfully, water damage to collection items stored on the third floor in the Western Regional Archives were minimal, and all items were dried and recovered. Repairs are nearing completion with special kudos to Regional Supervisor Jeff Futch for his great work in bringing the office back online.
- **Western Regional History Day.** The 2022 Western Regional History Day Contest successfully occurred in March as a remote event.

Historical Research Office

- **Highway Historical Marker program.** The program held its first marker committee meeting in May after a several-year hiatus due to lack of funding.
- **Flyleaf.** The office continues our increasingly **popular monthly interview outreach series** “Flyleaf” to highlight recent scholarship on North Carolina history. Recent topics since our last report to the North Carolina Historical Commission include “Sallie Stockard – Adversities Met by an Educated Woman of the New South” (March 2022); “Underwater Archaeology in

North Carolina” (April 2022); and “A Religious Test in America: The 1809 Motion to Vacate Jacob Henry’s NC Legislative Seat” (May 2022 with Irish professor Seth Barrett Tillman).

- **Biennial report.** The last biennial report is now being prepared by our graphic designer for publication, and we hope to have it ready for you shortly.

Our deep thanks to the Commission for its support of and engagement with our Division.

NCHC Report-June 22, 2022

Division of Archives and Records

On behalf of the Division of Archives and Records, I am pleased to submit some brief highlights of recent collection development, programming, and other activities from the last three months. Collaborations among division staff, across the department, and with external stakeholders have resulted in some popular programming.

Previous reports included information on the robust records management training provided by our records analysis unit. The availability of online training tools allowed the unit to expand the reach of these workshops. In the last three months alone, the unit conducted 13 workshops for over 1,000 participants. Topics covered included records management principles and practices, files and filing, and essential records identification. Two workshops were for university personnel. Unit staff received very positive feedback on these workshops, not just in content, but in their management of the program and presentation style. This unit is to be commended for the reach and reception of these spring workshops. North Carolina is a leader among state archival programs in records management training and resources. The unit currently is developing records management guidance documents for incoming and outgoing state agency employees.

Spring was a busy season for the development of other division programs, both for general audiences, as well as for conferences and other outlets. Staff provided sessions at the NC Community College Library Association's annual conference, virtual conference for the National Council of Public History, Society of North Carolina Archivists, and the NC Preservation Consortium. Division staff manned a booth at the NC Social Studies conference to provide teachers with information about division resources for educators. Our oral historian provided workshops on oral history best practices for the NC Community College Association, the Town of Waxhaw, and the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. He also consulted with the City of Greensboro on starting an oral history project as part of their historic preservation efforts. Public programs included our quarterly NC Trivia nights with the State Library, a program on poetry with State Poet Laureate Jaki Shelton Green, new research on the Regulators featuring Orange County Register of Deeds Mark Chilton, and "Outlander: Fact and Fiction." Staff also assisted with a Museum of History "History+Highballs" program on the Mecklenburg Resolves. Our conservator spoke to the Order of the First Families of NC about preservation work on the Carolina Charter of 1663. Sarah Downing of the Western Regional Archives used a collection as the basis of a presentation for the NC Library Association meeting on storytelling in special collections. Her talk "The Gift that Keeps on Giving: The Ruiz and Brown Family Papers," highlighted how the collection has been used in exhibition, social media, and in generating interest in collection donations. Audio-visual archivist Van Evans co-presented a session at the recent Longleaf Film Festival with Marsha Gordon of NCSU. Staff provided other programs upon request for homeschool and public school groups, historical societies, genealogical groups, and local museums. Tours picked back up again this spring with school groups, Daughters of the American Revolution chapters, and a chapter of the NC Questers all visiting the archives.

Eight *Connecting the Docs* podcast episodes are currently in development. Two episodes have been recorded, both focusing on the western part of the state. The first is about the unique dialects found in that region and the second underscores the vibrant music culture of the region. The other six episodes are in progress. We will have a series set to highlight the process of appraising, collecting, and digitizing government records. Another series in development looks at

the eastern portion of the state. This series showcases Outer Banks' foodways, school records, and African American heritage.

In some updates on important collection acquisitions, the Outer Banks History Center acquired their first LGBTQ collection with the donation of the Outer Banks Pride organization records. An addition to PHC.196 Raines and Cox Studio Collection was created for the James Battle negatives. The Battle addition is a small but major addition to our collection, approximately 0.5 cubic feet of mostly 4 x 5 or smaller black and white negatives taken in Wilson and the surrounding areas, 1951-1955. The negatives were originally donated in 2015 in a box labeled "African American" by the descendants of Raines and Cox. Among the photos are portraits of segregated firemen, churches, schools, and a young G. K. Butterfield with his father, a local dentist who was the first person of color elected to a town council spot in Wilson since Reconstruction and founder the local chapter of the NAACP. Our audio-visual archivist deemed it important to get a separate contract from Mr. Battle because the work represented his personal and professional work created in the darkroom of the studio. Mr. Battle later had a distinguished career in the Air Force. The Western Regional Archives added the Asheville and Buncombe County Preservation Society Collection to their holdings. The materials include information and images of buildings that are no longer standing, grassroots activism and historic preservation, and is a wealth of historical and architectural information. It compliments several existing collections, such as the Doan Ogden Architectural Collection. Two major runs of newspapers that have not been a part of our collection are being microfilmed with the images sent to the NC Digital Heritage Center for inclusion in their digital newspaper holdings. These include the *Pilot* from Southern Pines and the *Red Springs Citizen*. The Government Records Section transferred some Lenoir County court volumes for permanent preservation and accepted 1,551 cubic feet of state agency materials for storage in our records center facilities.

The oral history program continues to grow with the addition of a full-time temporary archivist and a summer intern from the departmental HBCU program. Recent collection additions include fifteen oral histories across three projects. Six interviews were added to the Covid-19 Government Employee Project, eight interviews to the School Integration/Desegregation Project, and one interview to our Military Collections. Some highlights from this batch of interviews include Bill Hess, a 99-year-old World War II veteran for the Military Collection, Dr. Julie Casani the Chief Medical Officer at NC State (Covid-19 Government Employee Project), and several members of the extended Jones Family giving insight into how school desegregation and integration took place in Northampton County.

Staff from all sections continue to provide increased access to collections through processing projects, enhancements to our online catalog, digitization projects, and additions to the TranscribeNC transcription portal. The Outer Banks History Center staff completed processing on Aycock Brown's papers and photographic prints. This is an important coastal collection, especially the photographs. His papers include about 50 boxes of prints and dozens of press clipping and scrapbooks documenting the Outer Banks from the 1930s-1970s, among other things. Digitization of selected prints from the collection is an ongoing project in the Digital Services Section. The Outer Banks History Center experienced the reach of social media when a recent posting of an image from the collections received quite a bit of attention, reaching over 225,000 people in a few days. New additions to the digital collections in the last three months include materials in the Revolutionary War collection and the Regulator Movement collection. Preparations are underway to rebox and then digitize the Revolutionary War pay vouchers in anticipation of the upcoming America250 commemoration. Since March 1,244 hours of

transcription have taken place on TranscribeNC and 1,704 transcribed pages were added to the digital collections for increased patron access. New collections loaded into TranscribeNC for work include a new round of World War II letters and the North Carolina Red Cross county histories.

Edits, additions, and new collection data continue to be added to our online catalog. Staff of the Imaging Unit has been adding information about the search room microfilm holdings which will make these materials searchable online for the first time. Government Records archivists are systematically cleaning up data about state agency records to link the materials with the history of the agencies as names and functions changed and grew. This will provide a more robust and accurate search experience for patrons. They also continue to add details about archival state agency records into the catalog. Staff in the section shifted 1,666 cubic feet of archival state agency records from a satellite storage facility to the State Records Center to provide for easier patron access through the search room.

The 2020-22 grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to the State Historical Records Advisory Board closed out and the final report was submitted. The 2022-2023 grant is underway, including a new round of Traveling Archivist Program consultations and visits. Participants in this round of the program include Brevard College Library, Dare County Public Library, Durham Tech Library, the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, the NC Black Repertory Theater Company, and the Winston-Salem African American Archive. All participants have participated in virtual consultations with site visits being scheduled for this summer and fall. The Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies is also managed by the division, and they recently awarded their first mini grants to the Wachovia Historical Society and the Gaston County Museum. The Cultural Resources Emergency Support Team (CREST) program received a grant from the Foundation for the Advancement in Conservation that will support a summit of the CREST team members and a training day.

The division benefitted from the work of several graduate student interns this spring who worked with our digital services and government records staff to complete projects that included adding indexing data to online collections and digital materials. We now have three wonderful HBCU summer interns working with the oral history collections, records analysis unit, and the America250 commemoration programming.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah E. Koonts
State Archivist

NC Historical Commission Meeting – June 22, 2022

Division of State History Museums State Historical Commission Highlights Report

The museums have been very active since the last Historical Commission meeting. Highlights of the activities from each museum during the period since the last Historical Commission meeting are listed below. Visitation continues to pick up at all the museums. Visitation continues to pick up at all the museums. From January 1, 2022 through May 30, 2022 visitation at each museum was as follows:

NC Museum of History – 104,332
Maritime Museum in Beaufort – 40,549
Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum – 33,448
Museum of the Albemarle – 27,271
Museum of the Cape Fear – 14,288
Maritime Museum in Southport – 11,100
Mountain Gateway Museum – 5,878

May Highlights

North Carolina Museum of History:



May 13 – 14, 2022, Longleaf Film Festival

Longleaf 2022 was in-person after two years of virtual fests. We screened 68 films—narrative and documentary shorts and features, animated films, high school student films, music videos, and more—all with a North Carolina connection. More than two dozen films were premieres of some sort. Nineteen

prizes were awarded on Saturday evening, recognizing excellence in film production.

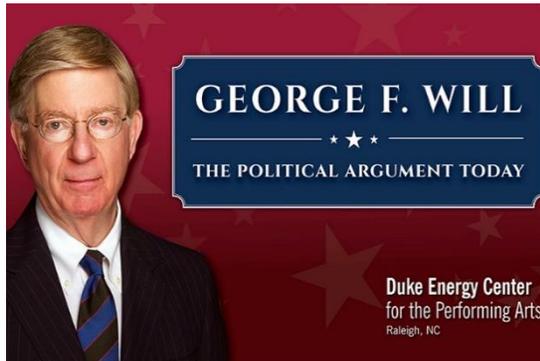
During the weekend, **more than 700 people attended the festival** which included 12 two-hour film blocks, a Reception, two workshops, and a Wrap Party. Movies-N-Moonlight—the outdoor screening—*almost* happened but was moved to Daniels just before the rain came down! Of course, in many ways Longleaf Film Festival is a year-round program, with retooling during the summer, launching in August (opening for submissions), responding to submitters, juror film reviews, and more, along with participating in social media every single day.

The top festival prizes were:

African American Cultural Celebration Prize: Matt Scott Jones, *Veneers*
Latin American Communities Prize: Jose Gonzalez, *Ouroboros*
Judges' Choice Winner/Documentary Film: Barry Thornburg, *From the Soul*
Judges' Choice Winner/Narrative Film: Andy Brewster, *Caesura*

Media highlights included: [WRAL](#), [WECT Wilmington](#), [Spectrum](#) (hourly, statewide), [WRAL's Weekends Best Bets](#), CBS17 with Bill Young and [WBTW Charlotte](#).

Thursday, May 19, 2022: North Carolina Museum of History Foundation Distinguished Lecture Series, 2022: George Will, at A. J. Fletcher Opera Theater, Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts.

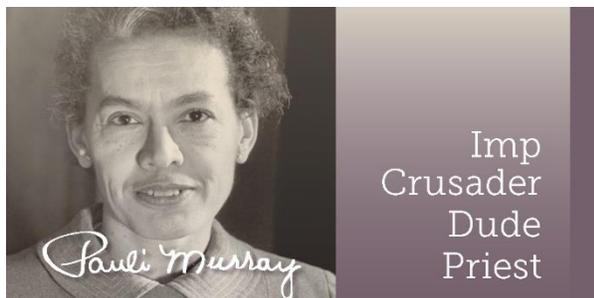


The *Wall Street Journal* called George Will, “perhaps the most powerful journalist in America.” That is likely correct. For nearly five decades, Will has been a journalist for the *Washington Post*, observing our government and its leaders.

For nearly ninety minutes, **to almost 600** attendees in the Fletcher Opera Theater, Will shared his thoughts on the role of government, the power of innovation, and the meaning of democracy. Throughout the evening, he off-set these weighty topics with historical trivia and baseball anecdotes, revealing his life-long love of his hometown Chicago Cubs. Overall, his thoughts on the future of American democracy were surprisingly positive. His belief in the resiliency of capitalism and the American people was both reassuring and challenging, qualities that were expected from such a distinguished writer and political observer.

Presented by the North Carolina Museum of History Foundation and the News and Observer with additional support from the Sloan Family Foundation, the Good night Educational Foundation, Highwoods, Properties, Mr. and Mrs. Everette C. Sherrill, and Mr. and Mrs. Paul F. Hoch

May 28, 2022. *Pauli Murray: Imp, Crusader, Dude, Priest* exhibition opened.



Pauli Murray: Imp, Crusader, Dude, Priest is an exhibit that chronicles the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray as a significant 20th-century human rights activist, educator, lawyer, poet, and Episcopal priest.

Dr. Pauli Murray was a key player in the fight for African American, women’s, and LGBTQIA+ rights. At the same time,

Murray was negotiating their own racial identity, struggling to earn a good living, and seeking more understanding of their sexuality and gender. Through photographs, quotes, audio, and text, the exhibit invites a deeper understanding of 20th-century American life.



Visitors to this exhibit, created by [Durham's Pauli Murray Center](#) for History and Social Justice, can explore a variety of life-size photographs and an annotated timeline to learn more about the life of Pauli Murray.

North Carolina Regional Museums:

Mountain Gateway Museum in Old Fort:

At the Mountain Gateway Museum in Old Fort, the month of May was all about education. Participants in Montreat Conference Center's "Road Scholars" program came to learn about the Scots-Irish presence in western North Carolina. School groups toured the traveling bicycle exhibit, "History On Two Wheels," and West McDowell Middle School students classroom-tested the museum's new "Traveling Treasure Trunks" program about mountain mining. MGM's staff also participated in Tourism Day at the I-40 Welcome Center in Haywood County and assisted the DNCR marketing staff with its booth at Merlefest 2022.

Museum of the Albemarle:



MOA Continues to Work on Virtual and In-Person Exhibits and Educational Programming, including but not limited to:

- Two Hybrid (both in-person and virtual) History for Lunches: "Reliving the 70s Through Music" and "Step By Step On The Road To Excellence: P.W. Moore Junior-Senior High School From Beginnings to 1934."
- Outreach Through Social and Traditional Media with a weekly article submitted to *The Daily Advance* for publication each Sunday.

Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex



- On Saturday, May 7, the museum hosted a local antique car group for their spring Fun Run. Eight restored cars dating to the early 1900s parked at the museum for approximately two hours, with club members posing for photographs, and answering questions from visitors and staff.

- The Cumberland County Public Library has released three of four short videos on the technology of the 1897 Poe House filmed earlier this year for their State and Local “History Presents” series. Research for the

videos was conducted by Megan Maxwell, 1897 Poe House Education Coordinator, and presented by volunteer Ruth Aldridge. Ruth discusses heating and cooling, electric lights, and entertainment in the early 1900s. The videos have received hundreds of views through the CC Public Library and Museum of the Cape Fear social media pages.



Education Curator MaryEllen Riddle created and submitted an interactive program to the Smithsonian’s “2022 MADE BY US CIVIC SEASON” to be paired with the museum’s video “The Black Experience On North Carolina’s Outer Banks During the Civil War and Early Reconstruction.”

The Museum Exhibit project bids were opened and reviewed at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, May 11. The project is moving forward. The Museum Director and the Administrative Director of the Friends attended a meeting of the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau Board and also met with Dare County Commissioners to expedite the county’s matching \$500,000.

Collections Manager Lynn Anderson has submitted her retirement and will be leaving us as of June 30. She has been a key part of our museum staff for the past 12 years. While we are sorry to see her go, we wish her well and hope she enjoys having more time for travel and to spend with her family.



After a hiatus of two years, the Annual Wooden Boat Show is back and proved to be one of the most successful yet. Museum visitation for the day was 1,348. The store had the best day of the year bringing in \$3,805.59, the highest of any boat show since the current manager started tracking that event's sales. Estimated show attendance exceeds 2,500. The Collections Department book

sale raised a record \$800; and our Friends group recorded the most new member sign-ups at the event, including a lifetime membership. A Facebook Live video just before the Boat Show started received 744 views and had 39 reactions. Two posts on Instagram from the show had a combined 195 likes. A Facebook link to the blog post naming show winners on the museum's website had 22 reactions and 26 link clicks, and the post itself had 133 views (2nd only to the homepage, which had 232).

Maritime Historian David Bennett has welcomed two summer interns. Jackson Leonard and Phillip Strickland are currently assisting him with research for the commercial fishing exhibits in Southport (scheduled to open in the fall) and in Beaufort (expansion planned for 2023).



Curator of Education Katy Menne collaborated with the Museum of Natural Sciences and educators from that museum helped with the outreach program. They reached 600 elementary students from East Robeson Primary School. This is the first time the Maritime Museum in

Southport and Natural Science Museum have worked together.

On April 26, Site Manager Lori Sanderlin spoke with the Oak Island Parks and Recreation "Social Butterfly" program to share offerings from the museum as visitors and program participants. She packed up Sensory Backpacks, Salty Dog Cooking supplies, scavenger hunts, tactile maps, and camp crafts to take on the road.

The Museum will be hosting temporary exhibits in the exhibit hall until our Commercial Fishing exhibit is complete and installed. The first up is the African American Music exhibit from DNCR, which is scheduled for 6 months. After the music exhibit, museum staff is working with the Gullah Geechee community to install an exhibit on sweetgrass baskets. Grown in coastal communities, these grasses are dwindling, and it has a huge impact on the culture and livelihood of people in our region.

April Highlights

North Carolina Museum of History:

Friday, April 20, 2022: Tar Heel Junior Historian Annual Convention



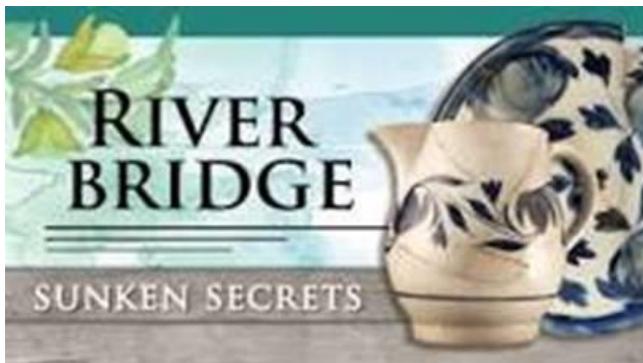
The 2022 THJHA Annual Convention was a virtual event. 33 groups registered for the program with 454 student viewers from 17 different counties.

This year the NCSD Bears Club from the North Carolina School for the Deaf led us in the State Song with ASL. We were also pleased to include a welcome video from Deputy Secretary Dr. Darin Waters.

The interactive student workshops expanded on this school year's *Tar Heel Junior Historian* magazine themes of Resiliency and Behind the Scenes at the Museum. The workshops were interactive with very lively chat sessions. The first workshop was a behind-the-scenes tour of the Museum's Collection section, artifact storage areas, and conservation. The second workshop of the day included a hands-on activity using the materials mailed to clubs before the event. Students learned about accession numbers and got to register an object to start their own collection. The final workshop of the day was a recorded performance of *War Bonds: The Songs and Letters of World War II* by EbzB Productions followed by a live Q&A session with the writers and actors.

Annual Contest winners were announced at the end of the Convention with a congratulatory video from Museum Director Ken Howard. Winning entries will be displayed for one year in *History in Every Direction: Tar Heel Junior Historian Association Discovery Gallery*.

Saturday, April 16: River Bridge: Sunken Secrets opened.



This exhibition examines the history of a trade port called River Bridge on the Pasquotank River north of Elizabeth City. In use for hundreds of years by Indigenous people, the name of the site, River Bridge, comes from a bridge built before the Revolutionary War that allowed for easier travel in the twisting backwaters of eastern North Carolina. The site also featured customshouses and warehouses, where

workers loaded and unloaded cargo, people shopped for goods, and news circulated from both sides of the Atlantic. Today, the only reminders of this once-important center of commerce are a

few support pilings and several vessels submerged just below the river's surface, as well as a large collection of artifacts, many of which are spotlighted in this exhibition.

River Bridge is a traveling exhibition that resulted from a collaboration between the Underwater Archaeology Branch of the NC Office of State Archaeology and the Museum of the Albemarle.

Check out [this](#) interview with WRAL's Mikya Thurmond to learn more.

North Carolina Regional Museums:

Mountain Gateway Museum in Old Fort:



The spring weather created great opportunities for staff and guests alike to get out and explore. Jesse Bricker represented us at the NC Transportation Museum for their Trains and Tractors festival. 4th graders at Old Fort Elementary enjoyed hunting down and tasting symbols of North Carolina. They even heard debates from Brittany Joachim and Jesse Bricker on what our state soda should be (Cheerwine won).

Lake James held their creek education program for the Old Fort Elementary 5th graders on our grounds in honor of Earth Day. Lastly, the museum celebrated Pioneer Day. It was a successful event that welcomed approximately 3000 guests and also welcomed back heritage crafters, musicians, and food vendors.

Museum of the Albemarle:



MOA Continues to Work on Virtual and In-Person Exhibits and Educational Programming, including but not limited to:

- Lobby banner display opening: “War of 1812: A Nation Forged By War”.
- Two Hybrid (both in-person and virtual) History for Lunches: “In Pursuit of Dorothea: The Lost Colony Ship” and “Chris Maxa of HQ Kites & Designs USA.”
- Outreach Through Social and Traditional Media with a weekly article submitted to *The Daily Advance* for publication each Sunday.

Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex



- The museum presented “Past-times and Professions of the 19th Century” in Arsenal Park on April 9. This living history event featured an old-time medicine show by Shades of Our Past, music by the Huckleberry Brothers, spinning demonstrations and displays by Fayetteville State University on the history of the school and local 19th century African American churches. This event was funded by a grant from the Arts Council of Fayetteville and Cumberland County, matched by funds from the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex

Foundation, Inc.

- The exhibit *North Carolina Women Making History* will close May 1. *Let's Play! A Time Warp to Toys of the Past* will open June 1 and run through September 4.



The museum hosted the 7th Annual Graveyard of the Atlantic Underwater Heritage Symposium on April 2nd after a two-year hiatus. It was very well received with over 110 attendees for morning and afternoon sessions and was recorded for streaming.

Candidates for the administrative specialist I position were interviewed On March 29th and 30th. The interview team unanimously chose Ms. Molly L. Trivelpiece as the most qualified applicant. Molly started on April 18, and she is a most welcome addition to the staff.



Collections staff went to the QAR Lab and brought back twenty-five artifacts to be incorporated into the Blackbeard exhibit. There's a new coin, another shackle, and some musket/pistol parts among them.

Bonehenge Whale Center hosted its first open house on Friday & welcomed more than fifty visitors during the day's scheduled tours. The center is operated by the non-profit

Carolina Cay Foundation, but our Natural Science Curator Keith Rittmaster operates it under a MoA with the state.

A production crew from *Our State* Magazine was on site shooting a video with Maritime Historian David Bennett. The June issue has a feature on workboats of North Carolina, and they were here to interview him about the history of workboats in the state and to shoot some b-roll within the museum and at the Watercraft Center.



The museum was the host agency for Brunswick County Local Interagency Coordinating Council Spring Fling where 30 neurodiverse children and their parents participated in stations around the museum for hands-on learning.

The museum inaugurated Spring Break Camp, a new, 9 – 5:30 offering where participants can go for one or all five

days. Parent feedback has been remarkably positive. We are considering running it again next year.

Education Curator Ms. Katy Menne was selected to present at SEMC 2022 in the fall.

March 2022 Highlights

North Carolina Museum of History:

The North Carolina Museum of History celebrated Women's History Month and the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War with programs, a webpage, and interviews!

Women's History Month:

*Spectrum's Tim Boyum interviewed Charles Knight regarding [Glory Hancock](#). North Carolina native Glory Hancock was likely the first nurse to enter WWI.

*2 programs: [History at High Noon: Highland Brewing Company](#) and [Tar Heel Tales: Read Across America with Tameka Fryer Brown!](#)

*[Women's History Month at the Museum](#) celebrated the history of North Carolina women.

The Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War was recognized by 2 in-person programs:

*Saturday, March 12: Film Screening: [The Wall that Heals](#) by Tim Stevens, North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame Member.

*Saturday, March 26th: [Etchings in Stone](#)

Additional highlights:

March 2022: *The Tar Heel Junior Historian Magazine* was released. Over 3,000 copies of the *Behind the Scenes* issue were sent to THJH's current student members and subscribers statewide.

March 26, 2022: North Carolina Museum Council's Award of Excellence was presented to Raelana Poteat for the museum's [360 Virtual Tour](#).

March 30, 2022: The North Carolina Museum of History presented a new virtual program series: **NC Special Edition**. The inaugural program: [Russia's War Against Ukraine: How We Got Here and Where Are We Heading](#).

North Carolina Regional Museums:

Mountain Gateway Museum in Old Fort:

March usually memorializes Ireland's Saint Patrick, but Mountain Gateway Museum celebrated western North Carolina's Scots-Irish heritage with two groups of "Road Scholars" from Montreat College in Black Mountain. MGM's staff also got into spring cleaning by having the museum building re-painted and the eroded banks of Mill Creek stabilized and repaired, thanks to DNCR's Capital Projects unit. In addition, museum staff helped judge National History Day regional projects, attended the annual NCMC conference in Rocky Mount, and welcomed aboard two new temporary, part-time employees.

Museum of the Albemarle:

MOA Continues to Work on Virtual and In-Person Exhibits and Educational Programming, including but not limited to:

- Two Hybrid (both in-person and virtual) History for Lunches: "Native Americans of Northeastern NC – A Brief History" and "Women Breaking Barriers in Northeastern NC: Kathy Rawls, Director of the NC Division of Marine Fisheries" First women director of the division for Women's History Month.
- Exhibit/Display openings: "Reliving the 1970s – Toy Edition" (small case display) and "The War of 1812" lobby banner exhibit.
- Outreach Through Social and Traditional Media with weekly article submitted to *The Daily Advance* for publication each Sunday.

Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex

Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex: March 2022

1. MCFHC and North Carolina Civil War and Reconstruction History Center staff set up an information table at the annual Bentonville reenactment on March 19.
2. Visitation has picked up. An Easter photoshoot occurred on the front yard of the 1897 Poe House. A group of soldiers from Fort Bragg took a guided tour of the museum and Poe House.

3. The MCFHC continued its monthly distribution of "History to Go" boxes. The March theme was "The American Revolution." April will be "Textiles." These are funded by the MCFHC Foundation. Staff applied for a grant from the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County to enhance the boxes, increase the amount available, and offer special monthly on-site educational programs linked to the themes. The staff is waiting to hear from the Arts Council.
4. The exhibit "NC Women Making History" remains on display through April 30. This will be followed by the toy exhibit, "Let's Play," opening in June.

GRAVEYARD OF THE ATLANTIC MUSEUM, HATTERAS

Education Curator Mary Ellen Riddle worked with Pat McGuire, co-host of The History Things Podcast, on a two-hour podcast regarding the maritime history and culture of the North Carolina Outer Banks.

Riddle also worked with Karen Whittingham, interpreting services specialist, on an American Sign Language program and a program for people with visual impairments.

The Museum project was posted on the State Construction website, HUB website, and newspapers on February 28. The Pre-bid meeting was held on March 16 at 11:00 am. As this is a Formal Contract bidding process [over \$500,000] contractors will have four (4) weeks to bid. The Bid Date was set as Thursday, March 31st at 2:00 pm.

NORTH CAROLINA MARITIME MUSEUM, BEAUFORT

Associate Education Curator Christine Brin has developed a new after-hours, adults-only tour that talks about the racier side of our artifacts during an hour+ walking tour of the museum. She originally had two tours scheduled. But after the May date sold out soon after the program was announced/posted and with April two-thirds full, she recently added two more dates, which have already seen sign-ups. The Museum was also contacted by staff from the South Carolina Maritime Museum about bringing a group to experience the tour, and they have a private tour scheduled later this month.

We welcomed our first school groups back to the museum with students from two different middle schools visiting in the last week.

Conservator Michelle Crepeau welcomed her first intern, Kyler Copeland. Kyler is a student at Carteret Community College who plans to transfer to Appalachian State in the fall and pursue a history degree. He will be working about 20 hours a week in the conservation lab assisting Michelle with various projects. The internship was funded through an IMLS grant.

Facilities Manager Mike Peters led active-shooter training for staff and volunteers. Peters, a former police officer, emphasized that while it was unlikely the Museum would be a target, it's important to be prepared for any eventuality. The training focused on an individual's three potential responses — flight, hide or fight — and some ways to apply them specifically within the museum.

NORTH CAROLINA MARITIME MUSEUM, SOUTHPORT

In preparation for the Commercial Fishing exhibit, Ms. Sanderlin is taking an Introductory Fisheries Science class through Sea Grant.

Museum won the NCMC DEAI Award for its tactile maps in the welcome area at the visitor services desk.

The NC Maritime Museum at Southport was notified last week that they are the recipient of a 2022 EENC Mini-Grant to create a hurricane Discovery Cart. This cart, used by volunteers, will interpret the history and science behind hurricanes in our area. There will be hands-on activities for people of all ages and abilities.