



Oak Island Beach Preservation Society, Inc.

The Beach Preserver

July 2026

www.beachoki.org

Be a
Beach Lover!

BOARD of DIRECTORS

CHAIR

Cheryl Cook

CO-CHAIR

Andy Spradley

TREASURER

Bill Van Lew

ADOPT-AN-ACCESS/ BIKE RACKS

Lee Ann Lyon

SCHOLARSHIPS

Carolyn Habib

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Mary McBride

WEB ADMINISTRATOR

Crissy Martin

BOARD MEMBERS

Lathan Mills

Amanda Rainwater

VOLUNTEER BEACH CLEANUP COORDINATOR

Skip Cox

TOWN REPRESENTATIVE

Scott Thornall, Public Works

Welcome to the dog days of summer!

We hope everyone had a safe and happy Fourth of July as we celebrated 250 years of American independence. The holiday is always a special time, especially here along the coast, where our communities came together to enjoy the many traditions that make this season so memorable. From the spectacular fireworks displays throughout the area to the Oak Island Beach Day festivities and Southport's Fourth of July celebration, it was certainly a busy and exciting time for our coastal community.

While the summer heat is in full swing, we continue to enjoy the longer daylight hours and the many opportunities to get outside and connect with our community. At BPSI, we've had a full and rewarding season with Farmers Markets, Beach Sweeps, the Aquarium Educational Series, and ongoing beach access management efforts.



Inside this newsletter, you'll find information about our remaining summer events and activities. We hope you'll join us and look forward to seeing you around the community.

OKI Farmers' and Artisans' Market Participation

BPSI participated in several of this year's Farmers' and Artisans' Markets. If you haven't had a chance to visit the market yet, you've been missing a real treat! In addition to the many talented local artists showcasing their handcrafted goods, you'll find an abundance of fresh produce, delicious food and beverage vendors, and a wonderful community atmosphere.

This year, we introduced a new attraction at the BPSI tent that's all about our favorite subjects—the beach and the ocean! Our **Prize Spinning Wheel** was a huge hit with children (and plenty of adults, too!). Participants spin the wheel to win a prize, then answer a beach or ocean-related question. We've been delighted by the thoughtful answers and impressed by how much so many young beachgoers already know about our coastal environment.

We've also enjoyed meeting residents and island visitors while sharing information about our preservation efforts. Children especially love making shell necklaces, taking our Beach Oath, and signing our Beach Preservation Banner as a promise to help protect our beautiful coastline.



I promise I will:
Keep off dunes and plants
Pick up trash
Fill all holes
Keep glass off the beach
Protect sea turtles
Remove all gear from the
Beach by 8:30pm each day

Fort Fisher Aquarium Summer Series

Our second program in the Fort Fisher Aquarium Series took place on July 9 at the OKI Rec Center. Aquarium representative, Kristen, captivated both children and adults with fascinating information about our sea turtles, including their life cycle, survival rates and why it is so important to continue protecting these incredible animals.



While endangered sea turtles cannot be brought to public programs, Kristen used engaging props to help everyone understand turtle anatomy and the many challenges sea turtles face in the ocean. She also brought along her friendly land turtle, who was a big hit with the kids!



Did you know:

Sea turtles help control jellyfish populations by consuming them. Their decline can lead to jellyfish overpopulation, which.....

Disrupts marine food webs, causing the overpopulation of jellyfish to outcompete fish for food as well as affecting species that rely on smaller fish and plankton for food.

Causes jellyfish blooms that alter nutrient cycling in marine ecosystems, impacting the oceans overall health and can clog cooling systems of coastal power plants.

Can lead to more encounters with humans, resulting in higher rates of stings.

Final Fort Fisher Aquarium Summer Series

Don't miss our final program of the season, ***Fantastic Fish***, on Thursday, August 13, from 1:00–2:00 p.m. at the OKI Recreation Center. We encourage families with children, grandchildren and visiting young guests to attend these educational and fun programs. All events are FREE and are held at the Oak Island Recreation Center. While registration is not required, it is helpful for seating purposes. If you have any questions, please contact crissydmartin@gmail.com.



The NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher is beginning an exciting renovation and expansion project that will transform the facility into an even more engaging destination for visitors. The Aquarium is expected to be closed for approximately two to three years while construction is underway.

Highlights of the expansion include:

- North Carolina's largest shark habitat
- A new interactive touch pool featuring sharks and rays
- A live coral reef habitat
- A state-of-the-art education center

While the Fort Fisher Aquarium is closed, the Aquarium experience will continue with a new temporary location at Independence Mall in Wilmington. Aquarium staff will offer educational programs, exhibits and community outreach from the mall location, while animal care specialists and facilities staff will remain at the Fort Fisher campus to care for the animals and maintain the site throughout construction.

For more details, visit: <https://www.ncaquariums.com/oceans-more-to-come>

Beach Flash Sweeps and Why They Are Important

Our most recent flash sweep was held on Tuesday, July 7 at the 57th Place West beach access. Many thanks to our beach lovers who came out for a 5-minute Flash Sweep. It's amazing what can be collected in such a short amount of time.

Please consider participating in our upcoming Flash week which will take place on Tuesday, July 21, 8:00 am at the 9th Place East Beach Access. We would appreciate all who come out to help. We welcome individuals as well as groups; business, church, family, school, social, athletic, etc.

Why are the flash sweeps so important

- ◇ Flash Sweeps are a fun and meaningful way to help keep our beaches clean while raising awareness about the importance of protecting our coastal environment.
- ◇ In just a short amount of time, participants are often amazed by the amount of litter and debris that can be collected from the beach. Every piece of trash removed helps protect wildlife, preserve our natural beauty and create a cleaner, safer shoreline for everyone to enjoy.
- ◇ Flash Sweeps provide a great opportunity to meet fellow community members and visitors who share a commitment to caring for our beaches. We hope you'll join us at an upcoming sweep and be part of the effort to keep our coast beautiful!



Volunteer News

Attention Access Parents and Dog Box Fillers

You should have received an email from Lee Ann Lyon asking whether you would like to continue being responsible for your beach access or dog box. If you haven't responded yet, please take a moment to do so. Lee Ann needs to know which beach accesses and dog boxes will continue to be covered and if there are any that still need volunteers. She can be reached at LeeannLyon@aol.com.

Thank you all for the time and effort you put into helping keep our beach clean and well maintained. Your dedication is truly appreciated!

Farmers' and Artisans' Market Tent

Thank you to two wonderful young men, Dylan and Connor, who volunteered to help us out with a very busy crowd at our Farmer's Market tent. A huge help!

Fall 13-Mile Beach Clean Up

We are excited to host our second annual Beach Clean Up this Fall. We had a productive Spring clean and anticipate we will have a great turnout again in the Fall. We are working on a date and will publish this sometime in August. Thank you again to all who participated!

Board Members Needed!

Board members commit to three-year terms. All are welcome to attend a Board meeting and get to know our mission, members, projects and events. We meet at the OKI Senior Center adjacent to Town Hall the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Please contact us with any questions at okibpsi@gmail.com. Additionally, if you know any non-members who might have an interest, please pass this along to them.

New and continuing memberships helps us to reach our goals and obtain our mission statement below. We are looking to increase our numbers. If you have a friend, neighbor or family member who you think might be interested in supporting our mission through membership, please pass this newsletter on to them, forward them the Membership QR code or provide our website information: <https://beachoki.org/get-involved/>



MEMBERSHIP

OUR MISSION

The Oak Island Beach Preservation Society, Inc., is dedicated to education and community engagement, enhancing the Oak Island beach experience and leaving the beach better for everyone now and in the future.

Sponsor Partnerships

Partnerships with local businesses are integral to our Mission and demonstrate your commitment to helping do critical beach conservation work in the community. As a Business Sponsor, you will help fund educational summer classes for our youth residents and visitors, bring insightful speakers to the island for spring and fall seminars, and help support our work to keep our beaches clean and our community informed. We have three levels of sponsorship available to help meet your needs, Bronze, Silver and Gold. Please review the levels and benefits on the website link provided. Should you have any questions, we are here to help answer them. <https://beachoki.org/business-sponsorships/>.

Thank you to our current sponsors, Carolina Stitchworks and Beach Road Furniture!

Carolina Stitchworks owner, Emilee Dube, creates beautifully unique wall-hanging sized art quilts. Locally, they are on display at Crossroads Gathering Place in Oak Island.

Emilee also displays her art at the Banner Elk Artists Gallery: beartistsgallery.com

You can reach Emilee through her website or email:

carolinastitchworks.com or

carolinastitchworks@gmail.com



October is Beach Road Furniture's *Give Back Month* where a portion of all sales go to support local non-profit, Lump to Laughter and their work to help women diagnosed with breast cancer.

Beach Road Furniture is the area's exclusive dealer for many well-known furniture brands. The business has been run by family for almost 40 years.

Check out our new T-shirt design on our website. The shirts are also available at our Beach Preservation events!



MEMBERSHIP

THANK YOU

To all those who renewed in July and continue to support our mission of beach preservation, you make our efforts possible. Thank you!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Date: _____ Type: New _____ Renewal _____

Name (print): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Would you like to receive email newsletters? Yes _____ No _____

Mail to: Oak Island Beach Preservation Society, Inc.

PO Box 183

Oak Island, NC 28465

Do you have a friend or neighbor who is interested in joining?
Please share this form with them, or use our membership QR code on page 6.

Our board members are all volunteers, and it is only with your support, that we can fulfill our mission.

Interested on serving on our board?
Complete the application on our website at beachoki.org

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

_____ Beach Lover Individual.....\$ 20

_____ Beach Lover Family.....\$ 35

Lifetime Membership—individual or family

_____ Lifetime Seashore Protector.....\$ 500

_____ Lifetime Island Preservationist.....\$ 1000

Annual Business Membership.....\$ 200

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, July 21, 8 am

Flash Sweep, 9th Place East
(watch for additional dates on our Facebook and Instagram pages)

Thursday, August 13, 1 – 2 pm

Aquarium Series, *Fantastic Fish*
OKI Rec Center

TBD

Fall 13-Mile Beach Cleanup

Upcoming Staff Activities

August 4

Board Meeting at OKI Community Center
7:00 pm

September 1

Board Meeting at OKI Community Center
7:00 pm

(Board meetings are open to the public)



CONNECT WITH US:

Email: okibpsi@gmail.com

Facebook: *Oak Island Beach Preservation Society, Inc.*

Instagram: *OKIBPSI*

Web: <http://beachoki.org>



Oak Island Beach Preservation Society's *THE BEACH PRESERVER*



Next Board Meeting: August 4



Oak Island Beach Preservation Society, Inc.
PO Box 183
Oak Island, NC 28465