



# Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

P.O. Box 623, Carolina Beach, North Carolina 28428

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## Newsletter

Volume 21, No. 8

August, 2014

Darlene Bright, editor

History Center Hours: Tues, Fri, Sat 10-4

Rebecca Taylor, production

**New Web Site!** [www.Federal-Point-History.org](http://www.Federal-Point-History.org)



### August Meeting Monday, August 18, 2014 7:30 PM

The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold its monthly meeting on **Monday, August 18, 7:30 pm at the Federal Point History Center, 1121-A North Lake Park Blvd., adjacent to Carolina Beach Town Hall.**

Our speaker this month is **Mike Giles**, from the **North Carolina Coastal Federation**. He will speak on the Federation's mission of sustaining a healthy and vibrant coastal ecology. Founded in 1982, with offices in Manteo, Newport and Wrightsville Beach, the organization has a staff of almost 20 who focus on helping to preserve and protect the natural, cultural, and economic resources of the North Carolina coast.

Mike joined the staff in May 2006. Mike is a North Carolina native, and before joining the federation, he served as the open-space land manager for Durham County for five years. Mike has extensive stewardship, enforcement and advocacy experience, gathered from positions with the National Park Service and the Army Corps of Engineers and as chief park ranger for Mecklenburg County. He studied wildlife management at N.C. State University, which included additional research and course work in coastal ecology. Mike monitors the Southeast Region from the Wrightsville Beach regional office.

### President's Message: From Elaine Henson

I am delighted to begin my tenure as president of FPHPS and welcome your ideas and suggestions. Many of you may know that post cards are my passion and I hope to share one from my collection each month. This one of two lucky soldiers and a bevy of bathing beauties is one of my favorites. You can see many of the boardwalk

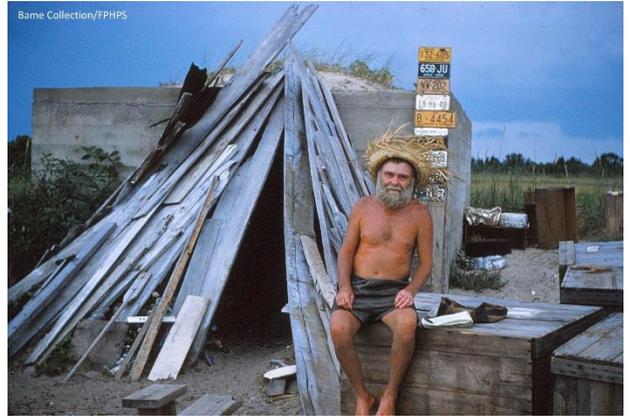


businesses along each side including Benway's, Wave Theater, Frank's, Shooting Gallery, Henderson's and the irrepressible Britt's DoNuts. An August 9, 1941 article in the Carolina Beach Sun stated that an average of 25,000 postcards were being mailed from the beach every week, many from soldiers visiting from nearby Fort Bragg, Camp Lejeune and Camp Davis, hard to believe isn't it? -- Elaine Henson



**Oral History**  
**Joseph Ryder Lewis, Jr.**  
**Part V – The Hermit and the Buffer Zone**  
**Interviewed by Ann Hertzler and Jeannie Gordon**

We've been down there [Kure Beach] some times, but we certainly had nothing to do with the Hermit. The Hermit would get a ride to Carolina Beach and go to the grocery store, and he'd be standing out there on the highway, trying to get a ride back. There weren't many people...I wouldn't even let him in the back of my truck. That's how close I was to the Hermit.



The highway used to go out further. There was a big mound on the front of Ft. Fisher that finally got washed away and they had to move the road back to where it is now.

The buffer zone was for Sunny Point. It was where ammunition went in. I think they drew a three-mile limit around it. That's what they took as the buffer zone. And people that were living on the river, at that point in time, were forced to move out. The old church that we had down there had to go. I think it was around '57 or the early 60's.

When I went to work for the Corp in '52, we'd never heard of an environmentalist. They didn't even exist. When I first started out we were actually doing construction for the Army in '52 in various places. We got into river basin studies and that's where we were working with river basins. To see where you could build a dam that would be a value as far as retaining flood waters, releasing minimum water during drought periods.

When I came back to Wilmington in '57, we were doing river basin studies and the Wilmington District, at that time, the Wilmington District was pretty well confined to river basins. Here in NC, the Wilmington District, the lower limit was the Cape Fear River and the upper limit was the Roanoke River, which is right up against the Virginia line. We were evaluating the river basins in that area. Evaluating the Cape Fear River basin and the Neuse River basin, we finally built two dams that I helped work on.

When I was growing up, it was perfectly proper to dredge and use the dirt to fill in a swamp area. That's illegal today. So, one of my environmentalist friends referred to me as the Dam Engineer. He said the only thing I wanted to do is build dams. When I retired, I said, well, when we start having water shortages east of the Mississippi River, it's not because we don't have water, it's because we refused to develop reservoir sites to hold flood water.



**Like us on Facebook: "Federal Point History Center"**  
**And join the conversation!**

*Federal Point Historic Preservation Society  
Events Calendar Summer/Fall 2014*

**Monday September 15, 2014: Membership Meeting. 7:30-9:00 pm.** Norm Melton, will talk about his personal experiences while “Growing Up on the Carolina Beach Boardwalk.”

**Monday October 20, 2014: Membership Meeting. 7:30-9:00 pm.** Local historian and author, Elaine Henson, will present an illustrated talk on the history of the “Cape Fear Beaches.”

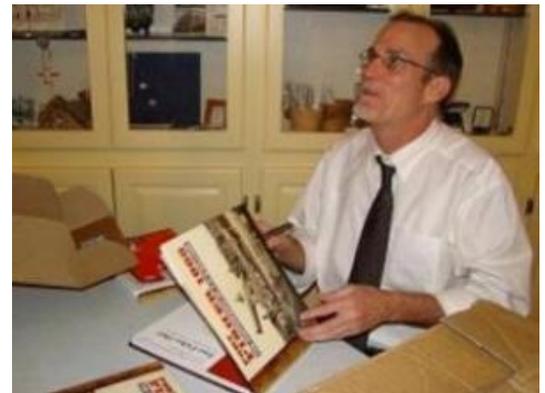
**Monday November 17, 2014: Membership Meeting. 7:30-9:00 pm.** LeRae Umfleet, of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources will return to us with her program on “Women in World War One.”

**Monday December 15, 2014: Holiday Potluck 6:30-9:00 pm.**

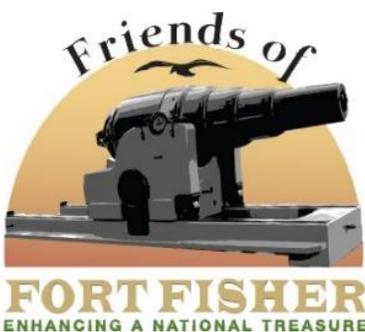
***ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. They are held at the Federal Point History Center, 1121-A North Lake Park Blvd. (Just south of the Carolina Beach Town Hall.) Visit the History Center, open Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 10-4. For more information call: 910-458-0502.***

***United Daughters of the Confederacy  
Sesquicentennial Talk  
Saturday September 6, 2014 – 10:00 AM***

On Saturday September 6, 2014 Cape Fear Chapter 2, United Daughters of the Confederacy will sponsor a lecture featuring Dr. Chris Fonvielle to mark the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War in Wilmington. Dr. Fonvielle’s topic will be “1864: The Beginning of the End of the Civil War in North Carolina.



This program is free and open to the general public. The program begins at 10:00 am at the Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church located at 409 S. Fifth Ave., in downtown Wilmington, NC. Refreshments will be served. Dr. Fonvielle will have his newest book, *Faces of Fort Fisher, 1861-1864*, available for purchase and signing. For more information call Pat Gasson at 910-392-0381



**From the Friends of Fort Fisher  
Looking for Descendents!**

The Friends of Fort Fisher are gathering contact information for any descendents of soldiers involved in the building of Fort Fisher or any of the other forts in the Cape Fear area. They would also like to find descendents of men who fought in the battles for Fort Fisher, Fort Holmes, Fort Caswell, Fort Johnston, and Fort Anderson, as well as blockade runner captains, crew and pilots, basically anyone who was involved in the

Wilmington Campaign. Visit their website at: [www.friendsoffortfisher.com](http://www.friendsoffortfisher.com) for links to projects and events including the 150<sup>th</sup> Battle reenactment and the descendents reunion in January 2015. Contact John Golden at [johngolden@ec.rr.com](mailto:johngolden@ec.rr.com) for more information.

## Cape Fear Camera Club Exhibit

Pictures by Keith Kendall



### Society Notes Darlene Bright, History Center Director

- ❖ The History Center recorded 58 visitors in July. We had 35 at the July meeting. The gift shop took in a healthy \$303.70; NOT counting all the cookbooks sold. The History Center was also used by Got-‘em-on Live Bait Fishing Club. **PLEASE NOTE: We have a couple of long sleeve T-shirts and some FPHPS sweatshirts on sale. T-Shirts - \$5.00. Sweatshirts - \$12.00. Great for yard work or other grungy projects.**
- ❖ Please welcome new members **Mary Lackey** of Wilmington, **Sandi Hinton** and **Jan Dunlap** of Greensboro and **Ethan Crouch** of Carolina Beach. Several people have found us through our Facebook presence.
- ❖ Thanks to **Demetria Sapienza**, and **Lois Taylor** for helping get the Newsletter in the mail this month.
- ❖ Thanks AGAIN to **Andre’ Blouin** for all the time he’s put into the new website. The website is up and it’s chock full of all kinds of great information. Please take time to visit: [www.federal-point-history.org](http://www.federal-point-history.org). **Tony Phillips** is keeping things growing on our Facebook page. If you are on Facebook please take time to “like” us and share our posts.
- ❖ **And don’t forget!** If you take a trip with **Wilmington Water Tours** please tell them you are a member of FPHPS! If you do we get a portion of your ticket price. Call us 458-0502, or them 338-3134. [www.wilmingtonwatertours.net](http://www.wilmingtonwatertours.net)



## Featured Business Member

### KURE BEACH FISHING PIER

Man...you should have been here last week!

By Tony Phillips

*~ Open 24 hours a day ~*

**NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED!!!**

**Opens April 1st through November 30th**  
**One Rod and Reel per Person \$5.00 per Fisherman**  
**King Fishing - \$12 \* May 15th - October 1st**  
**\* 3 Rods \* 6am to Sunset**  
**Shark Fishing - \$12 \* June 1st - Sept. 15th**  
**\* 3 Rods \* 12 am to 6am**



What more can you say about Kure Beach Fishing Pier? Are you kidding?! You can talk all day about this, the oldest pier on the East Coast.

Originally built by L.C. Kure in 1923, it has been owned by Mike Robertson since 1984. It has been hit by several hurricanes, but since being raised to 26 feet and going back to three pilings, it has weathered the storms well including a Category Three Hurricane.

Many a family have discovered Kure Beach Fishing Pier and fell in love with it coming back year after year to visit the pier and the town of Kure Beach. With the Webcam on top of the Pier Store, you almost feel like you are right there from a thousand miles away. And, there have been many, many visitors who are proud to say that they did indeed drive a thousand miles to stay a week in Kure Beach and on the pier.

There is something that Mike Robertson does not draw attention to but, something we would be hard pressed to do without. This is the Charity Sponsored Fishing tournaments such as the annual Cape Fear Disabled Sportsman's Fishing Tournament. Last May, almost 400 participants showed up and registered to fish on the pier before noon that day. Mike donates the pier, ice, support and much more to these tournaments each year with no fanfare. These charity events take his whole business for almost a whole day. Mike just walks by and smiles.



The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society is very proud to have the Kure Beach Fishing Pier as a Business Member and we encourage all of our newsletter readers to go by and say thanks for your support. While you are there, enjoy shopping in the Pier Store gift shop, enjoy a huge cone of ice cream at a very modest price, or just walk out to the end of the pier and feel the wind like no other place on the island. See the pier 24/7/365 on the Surfchex webcam at <http://www.surfchex.com/kure-beach-web-cam.php>

**Officers**

President – Elaine Henson  
Vice-President – Tony Phillips  
Secretary – Juanita Winner  
Treasurer – Demetria Sapienza

**Directors**

John Gordon	Jean Stewart	John Moseley
Andre Blouin	Leslie Bright	Bryon Moore
Skippy Winner	Jim Dugan	Barry Nelder

**Federal Point Historic Preservation Society****P. O. Box 623****Carolina Beach, NC 28428**

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***Please Support Our Business Members!***

**Atlantic Towers****Ned Barnes, Attorney****Britt's Donut Shop****Carolina Marine Terminal****Charles Henson Painting****Coastal K-9 Bakery, Inc.****First Bank****Frank's Pizza****Got-Em-On-Live Bait Club****Hanover Iron Works****Historical Society of Topsail Island*****Island Gazette*****Kure Beach Fishing Pier****Bob McKoy- Network Real Estate****Olde Salty's****Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce****Pleasure Island Foundation for a Sustainable  
Community****Primrose Cottage****SlapDash Publishing****Tom Sayre Construction****Tucker Bros. Realty Company****Wilmington Water Tours****Winner Marine Construction****Winner RV Park**