



DIFF CLUB NEWS



AT THE TOP



Loggerhead

Caretta caretta

Four species of sea turtles are found in the waters around CALO. Only Loggerheads nest here with any frequency.

Nesting occurs throughout the Park during the summer months when 300 pound females nest up to seven times a season laying 100-125 eggs every 14 days. Eggs hatch in 55-65 days and the babies head for the sea. The survivor's life span is 30 years with sexual maturity at 10-15 years.

Park Rangers and biologists protect the nests from predators such as raccoons and *us* by roping off sections of beach creating detours for vehicles.

As we respect these occasional diversions, we will contribute to the survival of another magnificent creature at CALO.



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Eldridge Catches Big Red, Claims Bragging Rights

The Twentieth DIFF Club Surf Fishing Tournament was held September 29 through October 1, 2005. Roger Wise, DIFF President and Bob Vogel, Cape Lookout National Seashore Superintendent welcomed everyone on a beautiful early fall morning.

A record 145 contestants signed-in; approximately 50 were first time entrants. We began with a 5-minute icebreaker, exchanging fishing tales with new members. I

described the DIFF Tournament as a social event, not a professional tournament. It is simply about bragging rights, with prize money used as a way to keep score. I reviewed key tournament



Johnny Eldridge, Jr.

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ORV Management Planning Interim Plan for Protected Species

In 2006, Cape Lookout National Seashore will begin an extended public planning process leading to the development of an Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Management Plan. The ORV Management Plan will formalize how the park will manage vehicle use within the national seashore while protecting seashore resources from degradation. The plan is required by law, it must be supported by an Environmental Impact Statement and it is implemented through Federal regulations.

Prior to beginning the ORV management planning process, Cape Lookout National Seashore must develop an Interim Plan for Man

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rules, announced an increase in prize money from 5 to 6 places and announced the Pompano category. The group voted overwhelmingly for Black Drum as the final category, with a few votes going to Gray Trout and Ladyfish.

J. W. Smith described the “Redfish Bob” Puppy Drum category sponsored by J & M Restoration in Pineville and Stockyard Restaurant in Charlotte. A drawing set the upper limit at 7.25-pounds. J.W. also recognized

T.C. Raby as the oldest participant by presenting the James McCoy – Ervin Taylor plaque. Scott Mosley offered a prayer of thanks and good fishing.



J W Smith & T C Raby

The DIFF members faced the American flag as Helen Wynnberry played *The Star Spangled Banner* over our new sound system. With the ocean sparkling in the background it was a very inspiring scene. The tournament began with “Ladies and Gentlemen, Start Your Fishing”.

While lots of people fished for the big one, only nine Red Drum measurement sheets were submitted. The winning Red Drum was caught and released by Johnny Eldridge Jr. He received an additional prize, a custom rod and reel donated by Mark Childress of Great Island Cabins & Ferry Service, LLC.

Twenty-four “Redfish Bob” slot-size Puppy Drum were weighed ranging from 3.40 to 6.45 pounds. This category was very popular, increasing from only four fish weighed in last year.

Forty-two Blues were recorded from 0.45 to 4.15 pounds. Fifty-four Pompano were recorded from 0.20 to 0.65 pounds. Thirty-two Black Drum were weighed from 0.25 to 3.90 pounds.

Forty-five Whiting were recorded from 0.15 to 1.35 pounds. Tate Wilkinson, age 9 of Lucama, NC proudly weighed his winning fish. Tate had to leave before awards time, so his very proud grandfather, L.G. Fields received his check. He also received an additional prize, a filet knife donated by Mark Weir in memory of Raymond Shore of

Winston-Salem. Tate’s mother, Karen Wilkinson, tells this story: Tate turned nine September 21st and, unlike most children, he did not want toys, he wanted another rod and reel. His Grandfather, L G Fields, has introduced him to the Outer Banks and he absolutely loves it! He did go over for the Fishing Tournament last year, however, he did not enter since I made him come back for ball practice and a game.

He decided at that point that he was entering the Tournament the following year, which was this past weekend. All arrangements were made for him to miss 2 1/2 days of school so he could go.



Tate Wilkinson

Tate has had the opportunity to meet so many people that are so nice and accommodating. Caretakers, Ferry Staff, DIFF members, new friends, etc. have all been so receptive to a child being on the island. Everyone looked after him. What a great group of people and what a great thing to allow your child to participate in!

By the way, Tate has put the money up for the entry fee next year. Plans are already in the making...

Nineteen Flounder were recorded from 1.00 to 4.45 pounds. Mike Mathews received an additional prize, a rod and reel donated by Yadkin County fishermen in memory of John Thomas Powell of East Bend. We all missed seeing perennial Flounder winner Bob Thompson this year.

Alton’s Barbeque of Goldsboro NC provided a delicious Saturday lunch, sponsored by Great Island Cabins & Ferry Service, LLC. Jim Gather and Helen Wynnberry presented numerous door prizes.

Sharon Rivenbark of Wallace NC won the Honda 1000i generator raffle, donated by H&S Roofing of Charlotte. James Thompson won the custom rod raffle donated by Great Island Cabins & Ferry Service, LLC. B.K. Barringer

recognized Jack Dunaway for his many years of service to the DIFF club and his friendship to new visitors to the island.

The 2005 tournament was a big success thanks to the following people: B. K.



Jack Dunaway & B K Barringer

Barringer, Laura Barringer, Mark Childress, Jack Davis, Tim Doss, Jack Dunaway, Tom Dunaway, Jim Gaither, GIC&FS staff, Mike Laughlin, Rich Lambert, Mike McGee (NPS, CALO), Scott Mosley, Bill Stiles, Alvin Tans, Bob Vogel (NPS, CALO), Adam White, Roger Wise, Lynn Winstead (NPS, CALO) and Helen Wynnberry.

Plans are underway for the 2006 tournament. Final rules and entry forms will be available at the annual membership meeting. Contact Jim Gaither or Robert "Gaterman" Wilson if you know of interested sponsors. Support our current and past sponsors listed at www.diffclub.com. We are considering an additional family-oriented Tournament to be held in June. Watch for more information in the Newsletter and on www.diffclub.com.

If you have never attended a DIFF tournament, you are missing a fun event for both the novice and veteran. It is a great opportunity to exchange fishing tales and make new friends!

Mark Weir

**Tournament
Director**



Work-trip 2005

On Thursday August 18, 2005 twenty one Core Banks Surf Fishing Club(CBSFC) and Davis Island Fishing Foundation (DIFF) volunteers armed with two paint sprayers descended on the Great Island Camp like a herd of locusts to paint exteriors of cabins built by the NPS over the past two years. Adam White of

DIFF and Tom Monaco of CBSFC worked several weeks previously to organize the trip and draft volunteers. Bob Vogel and Mike McGee of Cape Lookout National Seashore coordinated the activity and provided all the supplies for painting the cabins including a brand new commercial paint sprayer. The volunteers were split into two crews providing support to the two sprayers. Dan Mott was the spray "meister" for CBSFC and Adam White and Jim Snyder shared the honors of this position for DIFF. The supporting cast for the spray teams covered the windows of the cabin with paper or plastic; moved scaffolding and ladders; transported 5 gallon paint pails and supplies; touched up areas missed by the sprayers; removed coverings from the windows after painting; moved generators powering the sprayers; and cleaned the cabin areas after painting. The weather was extremely hot so working conditions were not the best; however; the determined volunteers accomplished the task in record time and could have completed the job if paint had been available.

By mid afternoon on Friday August 19 the paint crews had gone through 130 gallons of paint completing 11 cabins. Four remained to be painted but were unable to be completed due to lack of paint and the inability to secure more while we were there. An additional cabin is being planned for the camp so next spring we may have the opportunity to finish the job.

Mike Laughlin, editor of the award winning DIFF newsletter, recorded much of the activity with his digital camera. Many of the photos are in this newsletter and all can be viewed on the DIFF web site.

Our thanks to Mark Childress and staff of Great Island Cabins and Ferry Service for their support of the work trip. Without their assistance we would not have been able to accomplish the work. The work trip was officially sanctioned under the Volunteers in the Parks Program administered by the National Park Services. Form No. 1086 Agreement for Sponsored Voluntary Services was completed and returned to CALO after the work trip. The 21 volunteers provided 220 hours to the project which is equivalent to nearly six weeks of full time effort.

Hats off to all volunteers! From CBSFC: Dan Mott; Wayne Brooks; Jerry Fowler; Pieter Westerbeek, Sr; Spencer Monaco; Dan Nietschman; Jim Daughtry; Van Daughtry participated.

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Whiting

(L to R) 5th: Allen Rivenbark; 5th: Vickie King; 4th: William Finchum; 3rd: Donald G Barefoot; 2nd: Chris Williford; 1st: **Tate Wilkinson 1.35 lbs** (not pictured...standing in is his Grandfather, L G Fields)



Blue Fish

(L to R) 5th: Breck Smith; 5th: Leslie Gladden; 4th: Matthew Newton; 3rd: Terry Johnson; 2nd Randy Bennett; 1st: **Steve Robertson 4.15 lbs**



Pompano

(L to R) 4th: William Finchum; 4th: Jack Dunaway; 4th: Clyde Cheek, Jr; 3rd: Kenny Long; 1st: **Jeremy Money; 1st: Sharon Rivenbark 0.65 lbs**

Win

20th Annual DI



Red I

(L to R) 6th: Larry M Parham; 5th: Sanf
3rd: James W Thompson, III; 2nd: Lan
Total length + gi



Rod Raffle
James W Thompson, III
Donated by Mark Childress

ners

FF Tournament



Drum

ford Thompson, IV; 4th: Ricky D Hayes; er Mitchum; **1st: Johnny Eldridge, Jr.** irth = 72.5 inches



Generator Raffle
Sharon Rivenbark
Donated by Ned Arthur



Black Drum

(L to R) 4th: Cody Alward (not pictured) 4th: Sharon Rivenbark; 4th: Allen Rivenbark; 3rd: Ronnie Pruitt; 2nd: Karen Snipes; **1st: Ryan Radford 3.90 lbs**



Flounder

(L to R) 5th: Anthony Smith; 4th: Herman Vick; 4th: Bubba Johnston; 3rd: Kevin McCormick(not pictured); 2nd: Robby Smith; **1st: Mike Matthews 4.45 lbs**



7.25 Red Drum

(L to R) 5th: Leslie Gladden; 4th: Dane Curtsinger; 3rd: Donald G Barefoot; **1st: Earl Brogden 6.45 lbs**; 2nd: Larry M Parham

agement of Protected Species. While continuing to accommodate visitor use, this interim plan will guide management practices for the protection of species over the next 3-4 years while the ORV management planning process is underway.

The seashore is required to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on actions that may affect threatened and endangered species. The seashore will consult with the USFWS on the interim plan to initially satisfy this requirement. Formal consultation with the USFWS is advantageous, since it ensures that the seashore's strategies for managing protected species and visitor use will meet legal requirements.

The seashore will develop the interim plan by conducting public informational and listening meetings in November, analyzing a range of alternatives, developing a biological assessment, consulting with the USFWS and finalizing a strategy for implementation by the spring of 2006.

The long-term ORV Management Plan will take at least three years to complete and will consider all aspects of ORV use on the seashore, not just its relation to protected species management. The content of the interim plan will be considered in the development of the ORV Management Plan and may change based on information developed as a result of the ORV management planning process.

The public is encouraged to participate in the public meetings on the interim plan, to learn more about species at risk at the park, and to provide their comments. Please keep in mind that the longer-term ORV Management Plan will be developed through an Environmental Impact Statement and Federal regulations, and that opportunities for input into those processes will be announced in coming months and years.

Please be sure to put your thoughts into writing and submit them during our public comment periods, it will ensure that we have a copy of your comments for our consideration and for the public record.

Wouter Ketel
Chief Ranger
Acting Supt. CALO Nat'l Seashore
(for Bob Vogel)

DIFF volunteers included Adam White; Blake Smith; Robert Wilson; Carlene Wilson; Kylie Brown; David Crawford; Rhonda Crawford; Jim Snyder; and Michael Snyder. Tom Monaco; Roy Byrd; Jack Davis and Mike Laughlin represented both clubs since they have dual memberships.

All meals on the island were offered by CBSFC and DIFF. Those of you who frequent the drum-wagon web page have read Gaterman's raves about "squash cakes". Carlene Wilson (Gaterlady) prepared these at one of our meals and they are something to rave about.



Tom Monaco
chickenmeister

Tom Monaco



Jack Davis
brushmeister



Dan Mott
spraymeister

President's Letter

If you were not part of our annual fishing tournament, you certainly missed a good opportunity to meet and fish with people whom you may only know online. Personally, I did not fish much because of grass in the surf which gave me the opportunity to meet and talk with lots of members. It was a great time for me to hear what our members had to say about the tournament and DIFF activities. Thank you for all the comments you had about our efforts for the island and our members.

I also have to give a big thank you to all companies and individuals that donated prizes or cash to our tournament. The folks at Great Island Cabins and Ferry Services did an outstanding job providing all levels of service to our members. I'm truly grateful for all they pro-

vided, especially the donation of custom fishing rods won by lucky members and the barbecue lunch on Saturday.

I was truly expecting a greatly changed island due to hurricane Ophelia and feared seeing what I had heard. The North Point had the biggest change with the development of a new inlet. There was absolutely a minimal amount of room for a large number of tournament participants. The South Point, however, was only slightly modified as an ever evolving mass of sand and dunes...a testament to the power of Mother Nature.

Before I get on my soapbox about upcoming events, I want YOU to consider serving on the DIFF Board of Directors. We will have three vacancies for next year due to retiring members and there is a great need for "new blood" and new ideas. Although not time consuming, it will require a commitment and desire to make a difference in how our organization operates. If you have prior experience on the Board, I urge you to come back since your "rest".

As Park Superintendent Bob Vogel mentioned during the pre-tournament activities, the Park Service is beginning the formulation of an interim plan for the protection of threatened and endangered species on the island. As stated by Mr. Vogel in an earlier presentation, this Interim Protected Species Strategy will guide management practices for protection of species over the next 3 - 4 years until the long-range ORV management plan and regulations are in place. Both plans have the potential to alter the use of the island as we know it. DIFF, as well as the general public, will have the opportunity to provide their thoughts on what these plans should include. Your first reaction may be that you have the right to drive on the island and nothing should stop that. I agree that we should have that privilege, however, our "rights proclamations" should include consideration of the island wildlife which may require minor alterations of island use. It is vital that all remember that future use of the island depends on a complete understanding of the upcoming events which will affect policies focused on wildlife and island preservation.

The plans required of the Park Service are not intended to limit use of the island in a mean-spirited way. The NPS is mandated by Federal Law to protect threatened/endangered species. All the grumbling in the world will not change this fact. Our best defense is to make informed suggestions regarding plan formulation. Please take time to research the positions of opposition groups such as Bluewater Network or National Parks Conservation Association. These are only two and there are many others who are well funded and determined in their causes. Read the extreme claims they make about our use of public land and resources. In fact, take a long look at the events at Cape Hatteras. Plenty of information is available online with a simple search. If this does

not motivate you into action, I'm not sure what will. In order to be effective in establishing our position and desires, we have to know what the competition is thinking.

A committee made up of various Board members and general membership is currently formulating DIFF's position regarding the plans required of the Park Service. Your thoughts are NECESSARY to ensure our desires are heard and represented at this critical time. Therefore, I am asking that you send me your comments via email to: rwise10230@aol.com. I prefer all comments in writing to ensure I do not overlook a member's thoughts. What you have to say is important to each of us. I cannot over emphasize how important it is that we move into action...NOW, not later!

Public meetings will be held at various locations during the initial phases of plan formulation which you can and should attend. This may take an extra effort on your part with the potential for long drives, but a well represented club can be effective in expressing our position. Please continue to access the Park Service web page for dates and locations of these meetings. Some are tentatively scheduled on or about November 8, 2005.

We have been asking for years to be included in this process and the time is here. Please take the time to assist us in protecting your "rights" as a conscientious and environmentally friendly user of our natural resources.

Roger Wise
President



North Point: New Drum Inlet

A reminder: Without access we would be denied the beauty of this spot...GET ACTIVE! Editor



DIFF Club News

Davis Island Fishing Foundation
P.O. Box 268
Mooreville, NC 28115

Notice

DIFF Annual Membership Meeting
Saturday, Feb 25, 2006
11:00 AM
Firehouse
Pineville, NC



Davis Island Fishing Foundation

P .O. Box 268
Mooreville, NC 28115

Officers

Roger Wise, President 336 766 9473
Mark Weir, Vice President 336 751 5135
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Jim Gaither 336 998 9398
Mark Weir 336 751 5135
Adam White 336 788 0478
Robert Wilson 252 235 5141
Charles Wright 704 857 7843
Helen Wynnberry 704 482 2634

Email us at: diff@diffclub.com

WE BRAKE FOR TURTLES

The Davis Island Fishing Foundation is a non-profit group dedicated to preserving the cultural, historic and natural heritage of Davis Island in Carteret County, NC.

The DIFF CLUB helps maintain the cabins at the Great Island camp and is involved in projects designed to protect the fish and wildlife population in the portion of Cape Lookout Seashore known as Core Banks South.

Club members can fish in an annual fishing tournament sponsored by the club each September.

If you are interested in joining DIFF, see the membership form inside.

This newsletter is published quarterly and edited by Mike Laughlin. 803 328 8915.

