



AT THE TOP



Hawksbill Turtle
Eretmochelys imbricata

Endangered Hawksbill turtles are found in shallow, tropical waters where sponges are abundant and sandy nesting places are within reach. Adults weigh from 100 to 150 pounds and live up to 50 years. Mating occurs every two to three years and takes place in shallow waters close to shore. Eggs laid in pits dug in the sand hatch in 60 days. Young Hawksbill turtles are unable to dive deep and spend their early years floating amongst sea plants at the surface.



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23rd Annual Fall Tournament

The 23rd annual Fall Surf Fishing Tournament will run from Thursday September 25 through Saturday September 27. If you've never attended, you are missing a fun event for both the novice and the alleged expert. It's a great opportunity to exchange fishing tales and make new friends!

Tournament registration is from 9:00 to 11:00 AM on Thursday September 25 at Cabin 10. The mandatory pre-tournament meeting begins there at 11:00 AM. Expected guests include concessionaire Davis Shore Ferry Service and representatives of the Cape Lookout National Seashore. Lee Paramore of the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries plans to participate by examining fish carcasses, providing fish tagging kits, and educating us with the latest fishery resource management information.

The fish weigh-in is from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon on Saturday September 27. Lunch, door prizes and tournament winner presen-

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ORV Plan Alternatives Workbooks In!

The National Park Service and the Cape Lookout National Seashore are in the process of developing an off road vehicle plan for Cape Lookout. Workbooks were provided to the public to provide input into how individuals think this should be done. The extensive six part document gave individuals ample opportunity for that input which ranged from keeping the status quo to radical environmental regulations.

Wouter Ketel, Management Assistant, at the Cape Lookout National Seashore tells me they have received more than 85 Work-

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tations should wrap-up by 2:00. Plan your boat reservations accordingly.

Vickie King and Ed Caskey are the contacts for tournament sponsors this year. Contact Vickie or Ed if you know of any sponsor's interested in donating cash or merchandise. Bill Stiles is providing our Saturday lunch. Check out our current and past sponsors at www.diffclub.com and support them with your business.

Attached are five raffle tickets for the Honda 2000i generator. Mail the short stubs with a check for \$25.00 to DIFF before September 1, or bring it to the Tournament. You do not have to be present to win.

The Fall Tournament has continued to grow, reaching 180 entries last two years. We ask for your patience and common courtesy in dealing with the large number of people at the tournament. Please hurry to complete the enclosed 2008 Tournament Rules and Entry Form. All entries must be postmarked no later than July 31. The normal \$60.00 entry fee is required and your \$20.00 annual membership dues must also be paid. Mail it to DIFF, PO Box 72395, Durham NC 27722. The rules are also posted at www.diffclub.com.



Mark Weir

book submissions prior to the June 5th deadline. He believes this is more than was expected, although much fewer than Hatteras received. An outside planning contractor is reviewing the workbooks and will render them into a useable format by late October. The National Park Service will take that data and develop new alternatives which will again be presented for public comment.

Stay tuned.

Editor

President's Letter

As I finish up the first half of my first year as president of our fine club, I have learned much more than I ever expected and I have worked harder than I ever intended. Even though I certainly do not mind the work, it has left me with little time to fish. More time to fish is really the reason I got into leadership, first on the board and now as President. I should have known that would not be the case but something more important has been placed on my plate, our plate, than fishing today, and that is fishing tomorrow.

The majority of us who fish at Davis Island understand the threats that are facing us today with the ORV issues, sea turtle nesting, size and creel limits, and the endangered shorebirds that inhabit the island with us. Those, along with the ever increasing gas prices do make for some interesting talks leaning over the bow of the ferry or reading the posts on the various websites, but that does little to ensure our fishing tomorrow. Today, we are faced with some issues that did not confront the leadership and membership of DIFF 20 years ago, but remember, our organization was founded in an effort to protect our right to fish. Our right to fish is one that is still worth fighting for today. I do use the word fighting figuratively but we still need a "take one for the team attitude". Therefore, I would like to challenge each member to take up this fight and help to protect the island, the resources on the island and the right to fish. I have three challenges to put before you and expect our membership to step up to the plate.

Strike one! I have noticed that the membership is getting older and older. Now there is nothing much we can do about aging, but we can work towards providing opportunities for younger members. DIFF does a couple of things to ensure opportunities for younger fishers to learn how to fish correctly. We have a team/family tournament coming up this November that will be a great time to introduce a younger person to our love of surf fishing. We also have provided an opportunity for 3 partial scholarships and a study grant. Board member Niles Chumley tells me that we only had one of these scholarships awarded this year to the only young person that applied! I think back to the past two spring tournaments and remember as successful as they were, we did not have the youth participation that we expected. Also, we have not had anyone one in the club take part in the "Fish with a Ranger" program in the last 4-5 years. So, strike one I think is a swing and a miss thus far. We can do better on this one.

Strike two! Many long hours were spent by board member Scot King in formulating the DIFF response to the ORV workbook sent out by the National Parks Service. A memo and some directional information were sent to each member and past member. I was recently informed that not many users of Cape Lookout even took the time to fill this important document out. Needless to say, the workbook was long, complicated, and many that spoke with me felt it was not worth the time, but it was the only venue we had at the time to voice our opinion and it was what the Park Service requested. For Scot King, I applaud you, for the 75 plus that turned in the workbook, you have my sincere salute too. For those that had the opportunity and did not, well you have just taken your second swing for a miss. But we still have opportunities. We need to take advantage of these and put DIFF in the spotlight. Write our politicians and let them know how much we enjoy the opportunity to use this resource, how much money we send to the "Down East" economy, and what it means to us to fish. The ORV situation is still a hot topic. Let the political arena hear your opinions.

Our third pitch. Look at the opportunity that we have to serve. DIFF, and for that matter, Cape Lookout is always in need of help. We need leadership, we need volunteers, we need folks to men-

tor to the young and teach them we DO NOT destroy what God made.

As stated earlier we have not had an adult to head the "Fish with a Ranger" program in years. We operated last year without a full board of directors, this should not happen with a club membership as large as ours. We only gave away one of the scholarships we worked to provide for your families, again to the only person that applied. We can do better, we must do better, I am certain we will do better. Get involved with other agencies that support our mission, there are many. Introduce your children, nieces, nephews, the kid down the street to fishing. Show them how to do it right. Most of all let us know that we can count on you, inquire about serving a term on the board, or let us find a slot for you. We can make a difference. Let us know if the board can better serve you or our cause and do not go down without swinging!

Con Grant



Spring/Winter Tournament

As we all know by now, the Spring tournament was put on hold until November this year.

After the Board discussion and vote, we decided to move the tournament to November 1-2, 2008, having the tournament the weekend before election day.

We will run the tournament in the same fashion as we have the previous two Spring Tournaments. We will start with an on-site registration at 10:00 AM at the cabins, on November 1 and start fishing as soon as all are registered. There will be no pre-registration. We will end the tournament at 2:00 pm on Sunday. This will be a team format with family members and friends on teams of four. Individuals will be assigned to teams. A tournament entry fee of \$10.00 and a current DIFF club membership is required. All entry fees will be awarded as prize money to the top four teams. Awards are based on a total number of points per team. Points are tallied and turned in on Sunday, based entirely on the honor system. For those that enjoy catch and release fishing, this is your tournament. Right now we have 16 species of fish on the chart, eliminating the rays and sharks of previous years. We may add species depending on what is biting at this time of the year. We will also try to provide a hot dog lunch to all participants.

We want all of you to exercise your voting right on the following Tuesday, but we would love to have you join us for the Winter 2008 Diff Club Fishing Tournament. Check the DIFF club website after the Fall tournament for more details later or give me a call at 803-329-1265.

Con Grant



The Hook of Full Circle

Not many people will ever get to experience what I have experienced in my life time so I think this is an opportunity to share what the bonds of friendship, respect and fishing have done for me. Many of you have had the opportunity to meet DIFF member, Bob Jenkins, and have heard him called "Coach". Many of you do not know that he is one of the most highly regarded coaches in the nation. He has coached all levels of teams from youngsters to Olympic qualifiers. He has won thousands of meets and games at the highest competitive level in the nation. His resume' is mind boggling and tops in the nation, but you get the point, he is good and still at it.

Our story started as most all stories of this type begin. He rescued me from a high school Physical Education class and did not ask me but told me I was going to be a half- miler on the track team. I had not a clue what that meant, and I think back 40 years as to how that not only changed my life but has framed and detailed every aspect of my life even to this day.

I was from a single-parent home with a mother that worked two jobs everyday and sometimes on the week-ends and a father that was not in the picture at all. I was already picked to work in the local blue denim mill, working 2nd shift after school and week-ends. The mill superintendent told me almost daily, "I can put you to work full-time duffing cloth and can start you off at \$2.25 and hour". That offer was very tempting for a kid that wanted a 64 Mustang with an 8-track tape player.

That did not happen. Coach took me from a kid running scared in a PE class to the point that I was running home from football practice, on week-ends, and summers way before jogging was cool. He took us to places we had never seen or even thought we could see like Charleston, Florida, Chapel Hill, Tennessee. When the time came for me to graduate, the offer to pick lint out of my eyes was still there but so was something no one in my family had ever accomplished---college. I ran cross country and track for 4 years, never any good but good enough to always have a place on the team and get some reductions in college expenses. I graduated and he hired me to be his assistant. Thirty two years later, we are both still at it, Coach

coaching, me I moved on to school administration.

Ok, that is half the circle. One day about 10 years ago, he walked up and out of the blue, I said coach, let's go fishing. He said tell me more, I sprung the Cape Lookout story on him and he said sounds good. We went to the island on cold April week with a group of about 10. Later I thought to myself, I should have known he was going to fish longer and fish harder than anyone on the island. That he did. We both waded out on the point and I'm thinking this is just too cool, all those years he taught me how to run, how to win, how to succeed and now I am teaching him how to tie on a drum rig! At almost 70 years of age, he was in rubber waders up to his chest, hunting for black drum with shrimp. I was out there with him too. I was worried but happy because I saw the same intensity I saw when we ran a meet to the wire and he was doing all he could to win. On one trip back to the truck to get more bait, I notice all the others in our party in the trucks, out of the cold, most of them asleep, shaking their heads, or eating. I put the bait back in the cooler walked back into the surf and said, "Coach, let's go home it's over." He turned, looked at the two truck loads of much younger fishermen and said, "Are they tired already?" Again, I smiled and

said they didn't run for you coach.

Later on one of our many trips since that cold April, I remember saying, "Coach, do you know how you make discus throwers focus on follow through, well you could get 25 more yards out of your cast if you would just follow through at the end and not just stop the rod". It was not easy at first to tell him, I did not know what to expect. I just "told" coach he was wrong and he liked it! He thanked me and asked me was he getting better after each cast. I even told him he needed to practice more at home if he expected to get to the big boys. I was coaching the Coach. And for the last few years, he has said, you just tell me what I doing wrong and what I need to do. He is now a fishing sponge, soaking up everything I tell him, a student of our sport. This part of the circle has answered a question I have had for a long time, how does he still do it? The answer is simple the follow through is the tough part. He takes someone else's children and makes men and women out of them. He never stops learning, never stops trying, never stops giving, and never stops competing.

Now every time my truck door opens to go fishing, he knows he is welcome to go. Full circle with Coach, priceless!

Con Grant (left, Coach Jenkins, right)



DIFF Club News

Davis Island Fishing Foundation
P.O. 72395
Durham, NC 27722

NOTICE

DIFF Fall Fishing Tournament September 25-27, 2008 details in insert



**Davis Island Fishing
Foundation**

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Email us at: diff@diffclub.com

DIFF...Beyond fishing!

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 annual spring and fall fishing tournaments sponsored by the Club.

If you are interested in joining DIFF, visit our website, diff@diffclub.com for membership form.

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

