

SOUTHERN SHORES CIVIC ASSOCIATION



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Susan Ippolito
President

2026 has already been an eventful year for the Southern Shores Civic Association. I was honored to take over as President in January and am so appreciative of our other wonderful board members who will be serving with me this year. We have a great team in place and even though it's only April we have already accomplished so much!

The year started out with several storms that created problems for many of our properties and especially our crossovers. A big thanks to George Beach, Properties board member, and his assistant, Joel Newton, for addressing the crossover situation quickly. They cleared much of the sand themselves and were able to hire a crew to do some of the heavier lifting. As our dunes grow, thanks in large part to the beach grass planting, the crossovers will most likely continue to be inundated with sand. We love our larger dunes, but we are struggling to keep the crossovers clear. We are aware that this is becoming more of a problem and are having many discussions about how we can keep the crossovers clear while staying within budget and complying with CAMA regulations. Maintaining the crossovers and amenities at Hillcrest is practically a full-time job. Thank you George and Joel for all the time and effort you put into making our oceanfront properties shine!

Thanks to our Westside Parks board member, Luke Falconer, the Pickleball fence is scheduled to be replaced in the next several weeks. The old fence, although not that old, was not strong enough or high enough to survive people climbing over/under it and PB players crashing into it. The new fence will be 10 ft tall and much heavier duty so should be able to handle break-ins (which will hopefully stop!) and enthusiastic players without damage.

Luke has also been hard at work getting quotes for the replacement of the South Marina bulkheads and reconfiguration of the slips. The details are still being worked out but we are close to having a final design. This large, expensive, project is necessary as the bulkheads are in danger of failing. The project will be paid for out of our reserve accounts, which is why we continue to work to build up our reserve accounts. There are many parts to Luke's board duties. He does an amazing job keeping on top of the westside properties (west of Duck Rd). It is a lot to juggle! Thank you Luke!

Laura Richer, our Volunteer Coordinator board member has been working diligently with her assistant, Dixie Weir, to plan this year's events. The events for the year start out with our annual Earth Day clean-up and will continue with other events such as a volunteer appreciation event in May, our summer songwriters concert series, and the end-of-year Santa Ride. The SSCA always need volunteers for various jobs (Little Free Libraries, doggie bag stations, parking monitors, etc.) so if you are interested in getting involved, please contact the office. Thank you Laura and Dixie for the countless hours you are dedicating to our volunteer and social needs

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

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President

Kenny Woyer, our communications director, has implemented many improvements to our technology and communications processes since he has been on the board. I truly don't know what we would do without him; he is always able to help up out with the board members' computers or phones, the office electronics and systems, and is able to answer any questions/problems we throw at him. He is also excellent at creating this newsletter each quarter! I'm excited to continue to move the SSCA forward with our technology and communications and I really appreciate Kenny's knowledge and experience to help us do so!

Speaking of technology, I am very excited to announce that we are in the process of creating a new SSCA logo and website! We are all very excited about it. Nancy Sheehan, our Long-range Planning board member, has taken the lead on it with help from Kenny Woyer, and our employees Susan Silbernagel, Deidre Howard, and Maslin Seal. I am really excited to see what great things they come up with!

Nancy Sheehan has been working for almost a year on our by-law changes. The much-needed changes have been sent out to the members, and you should have each received an email invitation to vote on the changes. Thank you Nancy for your hard work on this. It is a thankless job with a lot of attention to detail and Nancy has done a great job keeping us all on track.

Nancy has also been working with the NC Resilient Coastal Communities Program in conjunction with the Town and has facilitated the Circle Pond Clean-up, among her many other tasks. Thank you Nancy for your commitment to our environment and the long-term success of our community!

As you will read below, Sue Bigbee, Membership and Slip Rentals board member, has been working hard to update our processes for both membership and slip rentals. She has already implemented many helpful changes and has made the process for both much more efficient. She has consistently had 100% compliance with the slip rental fees which makes a big difference in our bottom line. We appreciate everyone paying your membership dues and slip rental fees in a timely manner and I appreciate how Sue stays on top of it all! Thank you Sue!

Our new treasurer, Jim Major, has hit the ground running and is fully up to speed on all aspects of the job. I'm sure it hasn't been easy for him with the outgoing treasurer (me) still hanging around trying to explain all the little things that the treasurer does. Thanks, Jim, for being patient with me and for bringing so much experience and expertise to the job!

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Susan Ippolito
President

Tisa Head agreed to come back this year to fill in as secretary and it is great to have her back on the board! She is doing a great job as secretary and has even started using AI to create a summary of our minutes. We all really appreciate her historical knowledge and enthusiasm on the board.

When I sat down to type the President's newsletter, I did not intend to thank all our board members individually but as I was writing I was reminded of how much every one of our board members does every day to make our community special! We truly have a great team, and I appreciate everyone's time and hard work!

I also appreciate all our members and volunteers. Thank you all for being part of our SSCA community!

TREASURER'S UPDATE

Jim Major
Treasurer

Greetings and I appreciate the opportunity to serve as Treasurer of SSCA in 2026. Since joining the Board in January, I've gained a much deeper appreciation for all the work our Board, members and volunteers do to maintain our SSCA amenities. In just the first 90 days of the year, we hired a contractor to replace the fence around our pickleball court, cleaned up much of the winter storm damage around our crossovers, installed improved speed bumps in the Hillcrest parking lot and supported volunteer efforts to clear unwanted vegetation around the Circle Road pond.

As always, please talk to your neighbors who are not members and encourage them to join. The SSCA dues and the hours that the board and the volunteers put in truly make the Town of Southern Shores what it is, a beautiful place to live. Through the end of March, we have collected almost 85% of our dues (revenue) budget for calendar 2026, but our pacing is slightly behind that of 2025. As we approach the peak summer season, signing up or renewing additional members will ensure we can fully fund all our budgeted maintenance and special projects over the remainder of 2026.

We continue to look at 2 large projects in 2026 or 2027. The South Marina needs upgrades and repairs, and we have received preliminary quotes for replacing the existing infrastructure and optimizing the footprint to potentially allow for more wet and/or dry slips. This project is in the early stages; we are exploring all our options within budget constraints.

The other project is an expansion of the north marina pavilion targeted for late 2026 or sometime in 2027. We've made good progress with our engraved brick patio fundraiser, with over 150 of the available 300 bricks having been sold to date. Please consider buying a custom engraved brick as a lasting tribute to your family, friends, pets and to our Southern Shores community. Order forms can be found in the SSCA office, or you can order online here.

I hope you have a wonderful spring and early summer. Thanks for all you do to make our community a success.

WESTSIDE PARKS AND MARINAS

Luke Falconer
Vice President

The SSCA has contracted for a new 10 foot fence at the Pickleball Courts at Sea Oats Park. The previous fence was not tall enough or strong enough and we were having problems with people climbing over it, going under the fence and even pickleball players damaging it as they ran into it. The new fence should solve those issues. We expect the new 10 foot fence will be installed between April 14 and 28th and we are working with vendor now on the exact schedule. The Racquet Club will let the community know when we have the exact dates.

We worked with CAMA consultant on options for the South Marina. The bulkheads at the South Marina are in bad shape and need to be replaced. The board reviewed several options and, based on cost and Return on Investment, decided to repair the bulkheads and reconfigure the current slip layout. This should be undertaken in the January 2027 timeframe. We will work with boat owners to move boats to other slips during construction.

With our very cold winter there were multiple plumbing repairs required this spring. Loblolly Marina had a broken hose bib which was replaced. The N. Marina Ramp side had a leaking yard hydrant, which was repaired and replaced as well as a second yard hydrant that was broken. North Marina Pavilion side had a broken pipe near Slip 12 and 13 which has been repaired. South Marina leaking yard hydrant was also repaired. If you see a plumbing issue / water leak please contact SSCA office.

We contracted for major tree trimming at South Marina and North Marina Pavilion side which has been completed. We installed LED lights in the pavilion shed and installed new piling caps at N. Marina ramp side. At Soundview park there was a lot of debris on the bulkhead which was moved to an area beside the ramp for removal during cap board replacement later in the Spring. Thank you to the anonymous member who helped move debris from the beach to above the bulkhead! We really appreciate you going above and beyond!



WESTSIDE PARKS AND MARINAS

Luke Falconer
Vice President

Upcoming events

Bulkhead cap board replacement at Soundview park to happen over the next few months.

Sunset View park – we plan carpentry updates to benches and stairs
At the N. Marina Ramp side the Northeast deck replacement is scheduled for April 2026.



MEMBERSHIP

Sue Bigbee
Board of Directors

All SSCA properties are private property owned by SSCA members. These properties include the North, South and Loblolly marinas, the North Marina pavilion, the 34 beach crossovers, Hillcrest Tennis Courts, Seat Oats Pickle Ball Courts, Sea Oats and Soundview Parks, and the Sunset and Kingfisher Overlooks. Your membership in the SSCA is critical to the maintenance and repair of the parks, parking areas, marinas, beach accesses, and other common properties that serve your community. It also shows your support for those who volunteer with the SSCA to keep it running - from the board members to the beach clean-up organizers, parking monitors and to those crucial volunteers who pound the nails to keep our community properties repaired. We are truly a community of volunteers! Membership dues help to support the maintenance and improvements of all these amenities. Membership is totally voluntary, but it is so vital to our community!

Through April 7, about 85% of our SSCA memberships have renewed. If you have not renewed your membership yet and want to continue to support the SSCA, please renew it as soon as you can (this can be done online at sscaobx.org). The dues for full-time residents, second homeowners, and non-seasonal long-term renters are only \$70. The dues for seasonal rentals (including those with rentals through Vacasa, VRBO, AirBnb, etc., as well as traditional local rental companies) are \$100. Racquet Club and Boat Club memberships are separate. A Boat Club membership is \$30 each and a Racquet Club membership is \$25 each.

SLIP RENTALS

Sue Bigbee
Board of Directors

Boating season is right around the corner. The wait list for wet, dry and kayak slips show us that demand for slips remains steady. But the good news is the waiting list for wet slips is down to 21 members from a high of 51. We're currently offering available slips to members that signed up for a slip in late 2025 and 2026!

A quick reminder. If you released a slip this year, remove your boat ASAP. The new slip owners are starting to put their boats in the water and need access to their new slip.

NEW IN 2026...

Electronic Enrollment – Slip Waitlist

- We are planning to convert to an online enrollment process for the slip rentals (boat slip, dry slip (parking) and kayak rack) beginning sometime this year. In the future, you will log on to the SSCA website and be able to complete an application form for a slip. Once we have all the kinks ironed out, we'll reach out to members and provide further information.

Transient Boat Slip and Dry Slip

- We have some good news for boaters. We have a transient boat slip and a transient dry slip located at the North Marina (west side by the Pavilion) that members can rent by the week. If you have family in town and want your boat in the water for the week, you can rent the boat slip and dry slip for the week. Just call the SSCA office to arrange for rental. The price for both the boat slip and the dry slip (trailer parking) is \$250/week. If you only need the boat slip the price is \$175/week.

South Marina Bulkhead Repairs

- We are currently exploring options to repair the bulkhead, and reconfigure the slips at the South Marina. This will most likely be done in late 2026 or early 2027. When a final decision has been made we will provide further information and updates and will work with the boat owners to relocate their boats during construction

MARINA AND BOAT SAFETY REMINDER

Sue Bigbee
Board of Directors

- **Avoid parking citations and towed vehicles or trailers;** make sure you've affixed your SSCA decal with the boat club emblem on your vehicles and your boat trailer. If you have guests that are using the marina they must have the guest passes with the boat emblem visible on their dashboard
- **DO NOT PARK in the numbered spaces** at Loblolly and the North Marina unless you are the member that is renting that space. We will cite and tow your vehicle if you do.
- **Current registration stickers** must be affixed to boats moored at all the SSCA marinas
- **It's snake season.** Check your boat thoroughly to avoid chance encounters with venomous or non-venomous reptiles.
- **Storms and Inclement Weather.** We've had several serious weather events this year that have impacted boats in our marinas. When a storm is predicted you need to check your boat before and after the storm. Boats need to be secured at the dock, loose items secured so they don't become projectiles, and batteries charged on bilge pumps etc.
 - **Identify a friend or neighbor that can check your boat for you if you're out of town.** The SSCA is not responsible for your boat or any damage it causes, that is the sole responsibility of the boat owner. Plan ahead, find a "Boat Buddy" to act in your absence
- **Unauthorized Barges accessing and mooring at North marina.** Members having bulkhead work done requiring a contractor to access the SSCA ramp and marina must first contact the main office. You must complete and submit a form identifying the contractor and work to be performed as well as the proposed timeline. Authorization by the SSCA Board of Directors is required.

Happy boating!!

PROPERTIES

George Beach
Board of Directors

On January 31, 2026 a nor'easter moved up the east coast of the country resulting in significant impacts to coastal communities. In Southern Shores all thirty three of our beach crossovers were impacted by heavy sand accumulation, and some crossovers were made impassable. In the following weeks, and with the help of volunteers and contractor, we were able to clear all the crossovers and restore them to use. The storm also created a steep drop off in front of some crossovers and we installed posts and rope to aid beachgoers getting to the beach. In addition, we are experiencing very rapid dune growth resulting in the lower stairs of many crossovers being consumed by accumulating sand.



Beginning in January a group of SSCA volunteers began a long term restoration project on Circle Pond. Over the years an invasive weed has invaded the pond causing a loss of water and natural habitat. Volunteers have worked steadily to finish a first cut of the weeds which were bagged and disposed of at the county landfill. In the coming months a second cut will be made to clear the pond of the weeds. Once that cut is made heavy gauge tarps will be placed on the banks of the pond in an effort to kill the root system. A web page is under development to chronicle the work at the pond and members are encouraged to volunteer in this effort. Please check the events calendar for future volunteer weekends.



VOLUNTEER AND SOCIAL EVENTS

Laura Richer
Board of Directors

Our **Annual Southern Shores Cleanup** event which took place on Saturday, April 18, 2026, was a great success. Whether you love our beaches, parks, marinas, or tennis and pickleball courts, there was something for everyone! Thank you to everyone who came out and helped. The weather was perfect and we all enjoyed some pizza and social time after all the hard work. We had over 70 volunteers who worked at 6 locations throughout Southern Shores. This is an important effort each year as we get our properties ready for the summer. We could not do it without you!

At the after party, we had representatives from The Southern Shores Volunteer Fire Department, The Master Gardeners, Surfriders and Beach Grass Planting, North Carolina Resilient Coastal Communities Program, OBX Tree Doc and Frank Spurill from OBX CPR. Home Depot donated much of our supplies. A big thanks to everyone!!

Thank you to Southern Shores Pizza for your generous support of our Earth Day event. Your contribution helped us keep our volunteers fueled and appreciated.



The poster features a central globe surrounded by tropical foliage. At the top, a green banner reads "ANNUAL SOUTHERN SHORES EARTH DAY COMMUNITY CLEANUP". Below the globe, the date and time are listed: "18 APRIL 2026 9AM-1PM". The text "Help us keep Southern Shores beautiful for all to enjoy! Pizza and refreshments will be served at the end of the event!" is centered below the date. At the bottom, the Chicahawk logo is displayed, along with a QR code and the text "Scan the QR Code for more information and to sign up!". Logos for the Southern Shores Volunteer Fire Department and the Southern Shores Fire Department are also present.

ANNUAL SOUTHERN SHORES
EARTH DAY COMMUNITY CLEANUP

18 APRIL 2026
9AM-1PM

Help us keep Southern Shores beautiful for all to enjoy!
Pizza and refreshments will be served at the end of the
event!

Chicahawk
Southern Shores, NC

Scan the QR Code for
more information and to
sign up!

VOLUNTEER AND SOCIAL EVENTS

Laura Richer
Board of Directors

Songwriters at Sunset Concert Series

On the **first Sunday of each month from June to September**, timed with the sunset, SSCA will once again host an amazing array of talented singer/songwriters including Carrie Brockwell, Ben Long, Birddog, and Logan Vath. This year's concert series will kick off on Sunday, June 7.

Bring your guests and a picnic with your favorite beverages! There is plenty of covered seating and parking. You don't even need to leave the neighborhood or buy a ticket. Just join us for an amazing sunset as the backdrop to a special and intimate concert series, in our own backyard, planned just for us. Scan the QR code on this flyer to listen to a playlist!



THE SOUTHERN SHORES CIVIC ASSOCIATION
presents

SONGWriters AT SUNSET CONCERT SERIES

June 7 | 6:00-8:00pm | Carrie Brockwell
July 5 | 6:00-8:00pm | Ben Long
August 2 | 6:00-8:00pm | Birddog
September 6 | 5:30-7:30pm | Logan Vath

Scan me and listen now!



NORTH MARINA PAVILION
END OF SASSAFRAS LANE
SOUTHERN SHORES, NC

You are invited to come enjoy the beautiful sunset and lovely live music on the first Sunday of each month from June to September.

Bylaws and Long-range Planning

Nancy Sheehan
Board of Directors

New Bylaws Approved

Thank you to all SSCA members who took the time to review and vote on the proposed 2026 Bylaws. We appreciate your engagement – it's what keeps our community running smoothly and transparently.

Over the past year, the Board of Directors undertook a review of our governing documents. The goal wasn't to reinvent the wheel, but to tune things up by making the document clearer and better aligned with how the SSCA operates today.

What changed? We added a mission statement, updated the voting and communication methods, clarified roles and responsibilities, and improved descriptions of the Board's financial oversight and property-related.

The adoption of the 2026 Bylaws reflects our shared commitment to strong, thoughtful governance. These updates will help guide the SSCA's work in the years ahead while preserving the values that define our community.

Thank you again for being part of the process—and for your continued support of the Southern Shores Civic Association.

Bylaws and Long-range Planning

Nancy Sheehan
Board of Directors

Thank You for Your Feedback

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the recent SSCA website user experience survey. We received over 174 responses from members representing year-round residents and second-home owners, many of whom have been part of the community for more than a decade. Your thoughtful feedback is incredibly helpful as we consider how the website can better serve our community.

A clear takeaway from the survey is that members primarily use the website as a practical tool—to renew memberships, check the community calendar, and access newsletters and announcements. Many respondents shared that the site is simple and functional, important features to maintain. At the same time, several feedback themes emerged, indicating opportunities for improvement.

First, navigation and organization. While many members can find what they need, it can sometimes take more time and effort than expected. Suggestions included clearer menus, fewer clicks, and more prominent links to commonly used information such as the community calendar.

Second, membership and account access. Some members experience challenges with logging in, renewing memberships, or managing account details—particularly in households with multiple users or properties. Simplifying this experience will be a goal of the new website design.

Third, events and the community calendar. Members value staying informed about events, but noted that the calendar is not always complete or easy to use. There is a strong interest in a calendar that can be filtered and that reflects all SSCA activities. We will be exploring options as we move forward.

Fourth, design and usability. While the current site is appreciated for its simplicity, some members suggested a modest refresh—such as updated visuals, improved readability, and mobile device compatibility. We will keep these suggestions in mind as we move forward.

Our goal will be to make thoughtful improvements that enhance usability and access to information, while preserving the simplicity that members value.

Again, thank you for your time, feedback, and continued support of our SSCA community.

Welcome to OBX Spring! ... Some days it's in the 40's and some are in the 80's! ... Summer is almost here!

IF you haven't already, don't forget to join our SSCA Racquet Club! There is no better way to enjoy time with Friends than a little competition on the Courts!

REMINDER: To use the Tennis and Pickle Ball courts, you must be a Racquet Club member and have an active Southern Shores Civic Association membership. To renew, or update your membership, contact the SSCA office. The number is included below. Once your membership is renewed, you will receive the gate code for both racquet club courts.

Racquet Club Socials

- Our Racquet Club Spring Social is set for Sunday April 19 with Tennis & Pickleball Open Play from 2:30 to 5pm and then starting at 5pm the Social Hour begins at the North Marina Pavillion. An opportunity for some good play, followed by some good food! No real business is scheduled for this gathering.
- Our Fall Social is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 27 from 2:30pm to 5pm.

Current and Future Facility Improvements

- Tennis Court surface crack repairs have been completed by a Racquet Club Member who graciously volunteered to take care of this much needed repair. The weather finally cooperated to get this work completed.
- We are targeting June 2027 (Next year) for the Tennis Court Resurface project. Two of three vendor bids have been received. We are waiting for the third bid submission.
- The Pickleball NEW Fence has been approved. Start date not yet identified but is expected to be installed in the near future. The New Fence will be similar in height (10 feet) and sturdier matching the type of fence at the Tennis Courts. The concrete pads have been added on the East & West sides of the Pickleball Courts to accommodate the benches removing the benches & those sitting on them from areas of play. Once completed the Pickleball courts will feel and play much better for all. We will update club members when the installation schedule is confirmed as the courts will not be accessible during construction.

How to book a reservation.

TENNIS

For Tennis, All Play is by reservation using the Sign-Up Sheets located inside the courts located at 320 Hillcrest Drive. Gate Code is required to access Courts: If you enter the code and the door will not open – Don't forget to PRESS C and then the 4 numbers. The "C" clears the lock from prior entries. If you have forgotten the gate code please contact the SSCA office.

PICKLEBALL

For Pickleball, All Play is by reservation through YOURCOURTS.com. Pickleball Courts are located at 253 Sea Oats Trail. Gate Code required to Access Courts: If you enter the code and the door will not open – Don't forget to PRESS C and then the 4 numbers. The "C" clears the lock from prior entries. If you have forgotten the gate code, please contact the SSCA office.

HOW TO ACCESS YOURCOURTS ... We are in our third year using YourCourts to reserve time for Sea Oats pickleball. Once you enroll and login, the app is very easy to use and the feedback is favorable.

- If you are a **new user**, follow the below steps:
 - a. Enter this website address in your browser window OR click this link:
<https://www.yourcourts.com/yourcourts/security/showLogin/836280>
 - b. Enter your SSCA primary or secondary email address and the temporary password **sscalogin**
 - c. Click the blue "**Log In**" bar
 - d. You will be prompted to create a new secure password for your YourCourts account. Password does not have to match SSCA password
- **Existing users** just login.

If you are **Vacationing**, please contact your rental company for YOU COURT access instructions, or Pickleball@sscaobx.org for more information.

"Please note that it may take up to **two weeks** after your new member enrollment with SSCA before you can reserve time at the pickleball courts using YourCourts."

OPEN PLAY OPPORTUNITIES AT TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL COURTS

A reminder to everyone about open play at our SSCA Tennis Courts at 320 Hillcrest Drive and Pickleball Courts at 253 Sea Oats Trail.

For Tennis, we have three Open Play times reserved each week (all times are Summer hours).

1. Wednesday Mixed Doubles Play – Meets 5pm to 7pm. If more than 4 players, format is short 4-game sets with no ad. Play is casual, but all levels are welcome. Email Tennis@sscaobx.org for more information or to have your name added to the weekly group email reminder.
2. Friday Women's Play - meets at 8 am. Format is flexible depending on how many players arrive to play. No reservations are needed. Just bring your game.
3. Saturday Men's Play - meets at 8:30 am. Format is flexible depending on how many players arrive to play. No reservations are needed. Just bring your game.

For Pickleball, April 13 through May 14, Open Play is available Monday through Thursday on the following schedule. We have two one-hour sessions and if you want to play in both please sign up for both times.

1. Monday and Wednesday - 9am to 11am.
2. Tuesday and Thursday – 3pm to 5pm.

Login into YourCourts as described above. The Reservation Screen will appear with a Schedule for the current day. You may join a Pickleball Open Play session or reserve a court for Casual Play. You can scroll to other days and can reserve up to 4 sessions per week and up to two weeks in advance. The Reservation Instruction window to the right includes information you need, like rules of play and the gate code. Members will get a reminder email. Guests of members are limited to 3 sessions per week.

Pickleball Open play may be reserved up to 4 times per week and is limited to the first 12 signups. If a session is full, add your name to the waiting list and you will be notified if there is a cancelation.

NEWBIE AND INTERMEIDATE PICKLEBALL CLINIC

If you are new to pickleball or played a while ago and feel you need a refresher, we have a FREE Clinic every Friday at 1pm. We alternate weeks between Newbie and Intermediate, so check the calendar for the best clinic for you. Please use the YourCourts app to reserve a slot. We suggest reserving with a friend to ensure there will be enough participants.

Please email Pickleball@sscaobx.org for more information.

OTHER REMINDERS FOR SAFE AND FUN PLAY

1. Please be courteous to other players and our neighbors by refraining from unnecessary noise. If you cannot make a reserved time please cancel sooner rather than later. In YourCourts you can simply change your time to any other open time and preserve your number of allowed reservations. If you cancel outright, you lose an allowed reservation.
2. Please keep our beautiful courts and parks clean by taking your trash to the bins in the parking lot. If something is not right at the courts, please let us know.
3. If you have not joined the Racquet Club or have forgotten the new gate code, please contact the SSCA office.

BOAT CLUB



Dates for the 2026 events are as follows:

- May 2 Swap Meet
- July 11 Independence Day
- August 29 Crab Fest
- October 24 Halloween
- November 14 Oyster Roast
- December 12 Holiday



Boat Club Merchandise

You can now order SSCA Boat Club merchandise online. Local pickup only. Get your Boat Club swag today!

[BOAT CLUB WEBSITE](#)

PORCH TALK

Kenny Woyer
Board of Directors

Local chatter, neighborly news, and all the stuff you'd hear from a rocking chair.

A big thank you to everyone who came out to support our Earth Day cleanup! Your time, energy, and community spirit help keep Southern Shores beautiful and make this annual tradition possible year after year. We're so grateful for our amazing volunteers whose efforts continue to make a real difference in our community. Enjoy a few photos from this year's event below, and keep an eye on our social media pages for a video recap coming soon!



GOLDEN SWAMP WARBLER IN LOCAL HABITATS

Chowan University Students Study the Golden Swamp Warbler in local Habitats
James "Bo" Dame, Heather L. McGuire, Skadi D. Kylander

Department of Biology, Chowan University
Department of Biology, East Carolina University



Have you ever seen a flash of bright yellow while in the woods along the Outer Banks? You likely just encountered a prothonotary warbler (PROW), also known as the Golden Swamp Warbler. PROW are Neotropical migrant songbirds that breed throughout the eastern U.S. and southern Canada while overwintering in Central and northern South America. They are the only eastern cavity nesting warbler, and their preferred habitats are swamps and dense woody streams. Eastern North Carolina in general, and northeastern North Carolina in particular, have some of the highest known densities of breeding PROW with locally abundant populations along and near the Outer Banks.

Since 2015, students in the Department of Biology at Chowan University have been studying the breeding biology of PROW at five sites in northeastern North Carolina (Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge; Kitty Hawk Woods Coastal Reserve; Pine Island Sanctuary – Corolla, NC; Meherrin River – Murfreesboro, NC; and Bertie Beach – Merry Hill, NC). Our work advances goals of the Prothonotary Working Group (PROW WG) and provides undergraduate research opportunities. The PROW WG, established in 2014, is a consortium of conservation and research partners whose objectives are to identify and fill knowledge gaps, quantify threats and identify factors limiting population growth, and develop a conservation plan and implement actions that reverse declines.

Nest boxes and PROW WG protocols are used in our project to estimate abundance and conduct nest monitoring activities. These include targeted mist-netting and/or trapping at the nest box, banding individuals, counting eggs/juveniles in the nest box, and observing behavior around the nest (e.g. feeding). Nest boxes allow for a controlled and repeatable approach for banding, monitoring, and estimating survivorship and productivity. Our study aims to document long-term reproductive success and breeding activities (e.g. timing of reproductive activity).

GOLDEN SWAMP WARBLER IN LOCAL HABITATS

Worldwide PROW populations declined more than 40% from 1966–2015, and the current rate of decline is estimated to be about 1% per year. The major cause of this decline is believed to be habitat loss due to land use change and sea level rise. Forest management practices, urban/suburban sprawl, and wetland migration due to sea level rise are critical issues impacting PROW breeding habitat in our region. Our work contributes to a larger effort to understand PROW breeding biology in order to conserve and protect their habitat.

Chowan University (CU) is a small (~ 600 undergraduate students) liberal arts and minority serving institution. A significant population of our students are first-generation college students. The Department of Biology offers degree programs leading to a BS in Biology including for those interested in pursuing careers in the environmental sciences.



Banded male getting his tail feathers measured at the Bertie Beach site in Merry Hill, NC.



4-5 day old nestling preparing to be weighed at Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge.



Skadi Kylander (class of 2022) documenting a female's brood patch.



Jelani Alcorn (class of 2024) checking nest boxes at the Meherrin River Field Site with Skadi Kylander (class of 2022) looking on.

Order Online NOW!



Engraved Brick Fundraiser for the SSCA Pavilion on the Sound

Join us in building the Forever Shores Patio!

Purchase an engraved brick to celebrate pets, friends, and family and to leave your mark on a lasting gathering space for the Southern Shores community.

Together, the SSCA Board and the SSCA Boat Club are planning

an expansion of the North Marina Pavilion. The new space will better serve our community, allowing for larger community and private gatherings and eliminating costly tent rentals. While some funds have been set aside, additional support is needed to bring the project to life.

To help bridge the gap, the SSCA is launching an engraved brick fundraiser. These bricks will become part of the Forever Shores Patio, a brick patio which will be incorporated into the new addition plan.

Celebrate your loved ones, your love for Southern Shores, and your love for the Outer Banks while helping create a lasting addition to our SSCA Pavilion on the Sound!

Purchase a brick by printing and completing the order form and mailing or dropping off the form with a check to the SSCA office. Bricks are \$100 each. Only 300 bricks are available so purchase yours today!!



\$100 - 4x8 Brick

3 lines of text, 20 characters per line (including spaces and punctuation)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

MAIL FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

Southern Shores Civic Association
13 Skyline Road
Southern Shores, NC 27949

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Southern Shores Civic Association