

FORT MACON RAMPARTS



Volume IX
Spring 2007

THEODORE ROOSEVELT STATE NATURAL AREA



A big **WELCOME** to our new ranger, **JOHN FULLWOOD**. He has been added to oversee the other portion of the Fort Macon State Park property, The Theodore Roosevelt State Natural Area which is located near the new North Carolina Aquarium in Pine Knoll Shores. He has written the following to inform us about his new responsibilities to protect this valuable natural resource.

Theodore Roosevelt
State Natural Area
by
JOHN FULLWOOD

Amid the development and traffic on Bogue Banks, between the Atlantic Ocean and Bogue Sound, there sits an undisturbed 273 acre site that is to be kept in "its natural state". Literally millions of people drive by this site every year and hundreds of thousands visit it but only handfuls are aware of it. Where is it? It is the Theodore Roosevelt State Natural Area, located in Pine Knoll Shores and it is surrounding the North Carolina Aquarium. What is it? It is a home to eight different natural communities, including the maritime forest. Theodore Roosevelt State Natural Area is truly a treasure for visitors to enjoy.

The land was part of a larger tract that extended from the town of Atlantic Beach to one mile west of Salter Path and was owned by Mrs. Alice Green Hoffman. Prior to her death in March of 1953, she left the property to her niece Eleanor, wife of Theodore Roosevelt Jr. and their children. In December of 1971, 298 acres were given to the State of North Carolina by the grandchildren of President Theodore Roosevelt. The deed of gift stipulated that the tract of land and its adjacent marshes be "kept in its natural state, maintained as a nature preserve, and used for the primary purpose of nature and wildlife education, estuarine studies, with emphasis on marine life, ecological advances, environmental balance and research in the methods of conservation". The exception of the requirement allowed for 25.04 acres to be used as a Marine Resource Center which is now the North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll

continued on page 6

THE DATE ON YOUR MAILING LABEL INDICATES THE MONTH AND YEAR THAT YOUR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED OR WILL EXPIRE IN THE FUTURE.

**TOM KELLY
ANNOUNCES THE SCHEDULE FOR
THE SUMMER 2007 CONCERT SERIES**

June 1—Sunshine band (35+ piece orchestra
playing classics to pops)

June 15—Unknown Tongues (Cajun/Zydeco
dance band)

June 29—Dick Cumberland and Stephen
Franckreich (Contemporary and jazz)

July 13—Carteret Grays Camp Band (music
from Civil War-era soldiers and sailors)

July 20—Morehead Brass Consortium (All-
brass, classical to contemporary)

July 27—Mac and Tammy McRoy Band
(Bluegrass, traditional and original)

August 10—Bogue Sounds (acoustic, American
and British Isles/Celtic)

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RAMPARTS EDITOR ----- LES EWEN
CONCERT ORGANIZER --TOM KELLY**

EX-OFFICIO

**PARK SUPERINTENDENT - JODY MERRITT
PRESIDENT EMERITUS - BENNETT MOSS**

**Once again thanks to
Gwyn Towles**



**we have another great set of
speakers:**

FEBRUARY

Tom Midyette

**“Reverend VanAntwert
&**

**The Influence of personnel
during the Civil War”**

MARCH

Phil Masters

“El Salvador and Beyond”

APRIL

Teressa Watts

**Director of Community Development
“Tourism”**

MAY - NO MEETING

Ice Cream Social(APRIL 22)

JUNE

Cheryl Kite

“Getting Acquainted with Tryon Palace”

JULY

Paul Fontenoy

“Steamboats”



**FORT MACON
MORTARS**
by
Paul Branch Jr.

FORT MACON'S MORTARS

The two mortars on the parade ground in Fort Macon usually garner at least passing interest from visitors to the fort. However, at first glance many people fail to realize that they are a type of cannon. Indeed, some visitors at times have asked if they were some type of cannonball *holder*. True, long barrel cannons are what one usually sees in movies and pictures rather than stubby-barrel mortars. Still, mortars are an important type of artillery and the two at Fort Macon deserve some comment concerning their place in the fort's history.

Fort Macon's two mortars are Model 1861 10-inch siege mortars, which were cast in early 1862 by Cyrus Alger and Company of Boston, Massachusetts. They are stamped on their muzzle faces with "No. 7" and "No. 8" and the date 1862, indicating they were the seventh and eighth mortars cast by the foundry in 1862. Number 7 weighs 1968 pounds, while Number 8 weighs two pound less. Each of their iron carriages (called "beds") weighs over 1800 additional pounds. They fire 10-inch diameter exploding shells that weigh 88.4 pounds each. They are able to lob a shell about 2100 yards (1.2 miles) with accuracy. The time of flight for the shell at this range is 21 seconds.

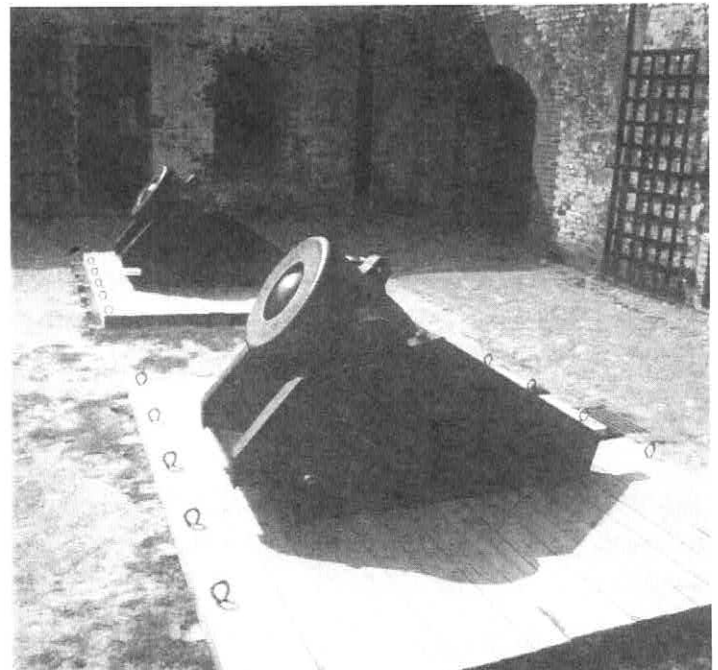
Mortars are used to lob explosive shells in a high arc onto enemy targets from above. They are usually set at about a 45° angle to fire their shells into the air. The shells then drop out of the sky onto the enemy below. Mortars are most

useful during a siege or static operations where enemy forces take refuge behind entrenchments, barricades or emplacements. Mortars are able to lob shells down into trenches and foxholes, or behind barricades or fortifications where the enemy cannot readily be reached by small arms fire or flat-trajectory artillery.

In the War Between the States, one of the factors contributing to the capture of Fort Macon by Union forces, in the April 25, 1862, bombardment of the fort, was a lack of mortars in the fort's armament. Confederates were unable to obtain mortars for the fort before Union forces attacked. Without them, the Confederates were therefore unable to knock out Union artillery emplacements during the bombardment, which were well hidden in the sand dunes west of the fort.

The Union on the other hand had no shortage of mortars for their operations. They brought four 8-inch and four 10-inch mortars to use against the fort during the bombardment. These were able to lob shells over the walls into the fort and drive Confederate gunners under cover while other Union cannons concentrated on penetrating the fort's gunpowder magazines to force its surrender.

CONTINUED PAGE 4



After capturing the fort, Union forces added three 10-inch siege mortars to the fort's armament in June, 1862. These were new mortars similar to the ones that had been used against the fort in the bombardment. One of the three was later removed and the two remaining mortars are the ones still present today. For most of the rest of the 19th century they were mounted on the northwest front of the outer wall facing the landward approaches to the fort.

In the Spanish-American War of 1898, Army Engineers remounted the two mortars in an emplacement at the south angle of the outer wall behind a protective earth mound called a traverse. A magazine for ammunition was established in the south counterfire gallery under the mortar emplacement. A short time later the mortars were moved to alternate firing platforms on the fort's parade ground. They remained in this location after the war ended.

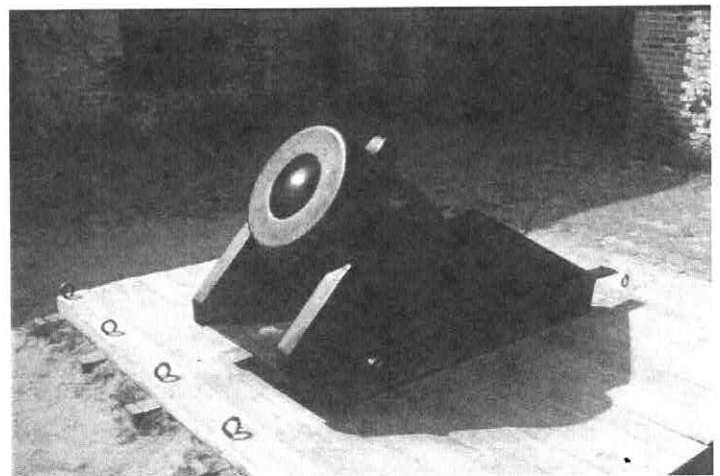
By 1902, the two mortars were the only cannons remaining at the fort, all others having been removed. In that year, the city of Raleigh applied to the Army to use both mortars as monuments in front of the entrance to the Soldiers Home on New Bern Avenue. The Army agreed to donate the mortar barrels, but not their carriages, to the city. For over forty years the mortar barrels then sat on concrete mounts outside the Soldier's Home. After the home finally closed, they were moved to the front of the Agriculture Building on Edenton Street where they remained until 1953.

In 1953, State Parks officials acquired the mortars for use at Fort Macon State Park. A restoration of the fort museum had just been completed and it was desired to have the mortars on hand to serve as examples of the type of cannons that had been used against it in the battle. At the time, it was not realized the mortars had actually come from the fort in the first place.

Accordingly, the mortars were hauled

back to the fort from Raleigh in a truck and placed in front of the entrance to the museum in the parade ground. Thus after just over half a century they were now back at the fort. Because their original carriages were long gone, they were simply placed on the ground in the parade. During the 1976-77 restoration of the fort they were mounted on stones. In 1997, through the efforts of the Friends of Fort Macon and the Atlantic Beach Merchants and Professional Association, two new iron replica carriages were fabricated for them by B & W/Core Sound Fiberglass at Sea Level. They are mounted on replicas of the wooden firing platforms that would have typically been used with them. Here they remain only a few paces from the last original firing position they occupied in the Spanish-American War.

At one time during the 19th century, there were over fifty heavy guns in Fort Macon's armament, including the two mortars. From the 1860s to the time the fort was abandoned in 1903, all were eventually removed by the Army as they aged out. Most all of these guns suffered an ignominious end by being broken up and melted for scrap iron. Of them all, only two escaped this fate to survive into modern times. They are the two mortars now standing silently today near the fort's sally port entrance.



10 inch mortar

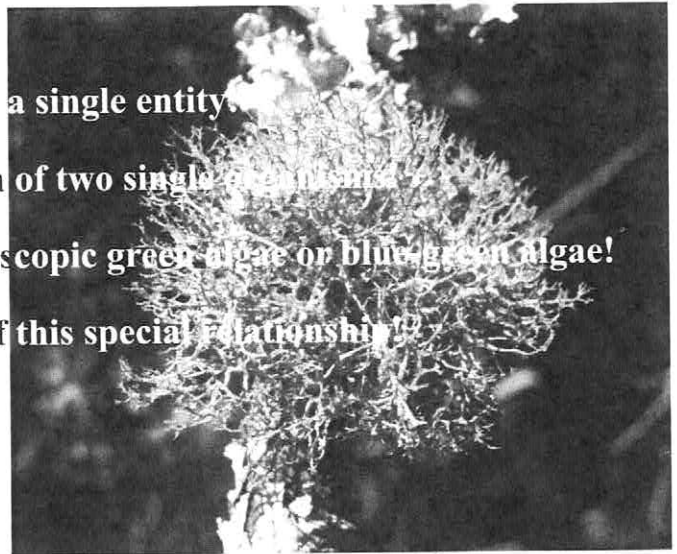
What are Lichens?

Lichens are not a single entity.

Lichens are a combination of two single organisms.

Lichens are part fungus and part microscopic green algae or blue-green algae!

Symbiosis is the name of this special relationship!



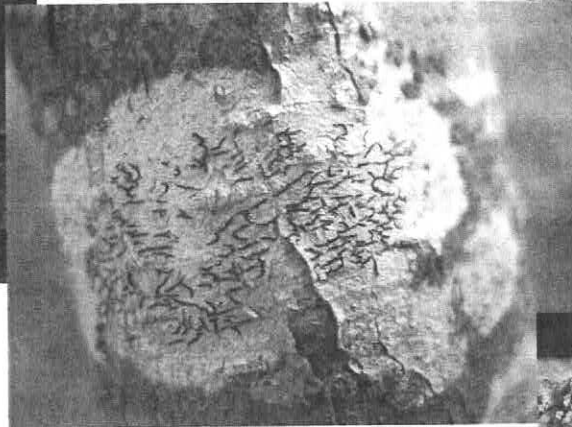
Golden Hair-Lichen



Ranger Randy Newman tells us about a new survey of lichens at Fort Macon. A wide variety of lichens indicate good air quality. Fort Macon has good air quality.



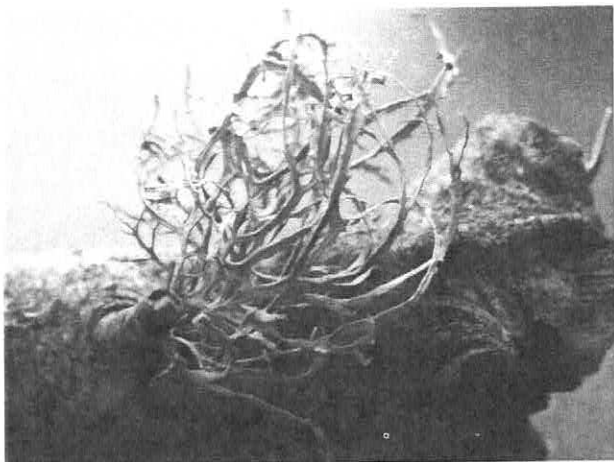
Christmas Lichen



Common Script Lichen



Carolina Shield Lichen



Southern Strap Lichen

Recently Gary Perlmutter with the North Carolina Division of Air Quality assisted park staff in conducting a survey of lichens for Fort Macon State Park and Theodore Roosevelt Natural Area. Forty two species of lichens were identified at Fort Macon and seventy-four species of lichens are currently identified at Theodore Roosevelt Natural Area. Photos and the complete checklist can be found on the Division of Parks & Recreation website <http://207.4.179.38/Checklist/find.php> Here are a few photos showing the diversity of lichens.

Shores.

Managed by the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation, Theodore Roosevelt is one of 16 State Natural Areas encompassing 27,643 acres. Rangers from Fort Macon State Park patrol the area, document plant and animal life, and with the help of Aquarium staff, maintain the two nature trails. Both trails follow along ancient dune ridges and wind through a landscape that is quickly disappearing along our coast. The Roosevelt trail is 1.2 miles long will take about an hour to hike. The trailhead is located off the western end of the Aquarium parking lot. The Hoffman trail, accessed through the Aquarium, is one half mile long and takes 30 minutes to hike.

For a location that is small in comparison to other state natural areas, the assortment of natural communities is remarkable. They include maritime forest, maritime shrub, brackish marsh, and salt marsh. In areas between the forested dunes, visitors can experience maritime swamp forest, interdune ponds, small depression ponds and maritime shrub swamps. Many species of plants and animals can be seen in their native habitats. Live oak, laurel oak, holly, cedar and pine make up the majority of the forest canopy while shrub thickets consist of wax myrtle, red bay, and wild olive. Salt marsh cord grass and needle rush can be found along the shallow shores of Bogue Sound. Birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and marine life call these areas home which makes for a great opportunity to view wildlife.

If you visit, please observe the trail head signs which are posted and tread lightly. We benefit today from the decisions of a few to preserve this property. And, it will be here for future generations too. Take some time to explore Theodore Roosevelt State Natural Area; you'll be glad you did.

TREASURER PAUL MOLNAR SUBMITS SUMMARY OF FINANCES FOR 2006

Operating Accounts:

Funds Received

Dues	\$6140.00
Donations	935.00
Concert Donations	962.34
Donation Box	
FOFM 5%	155.81
Fort 95%	2955.19
Rangers	1255.38
Tourist Development	<u>4752.91</u>
<u>Total Funds Received</u>	\$17,156.63

Use of Funds

Office Supplies	1003.63
Office Equipment	1012.93
Stamps	118.62
Postage	821.82
Printing	6,263.21
Training	55.00
Meeting Expense	260.15
USPS-Box	50.00
USPS-Mailing Permit	160.00
Concerts	1,500.00
Guides	685.72
Ice Cream Social	807.96
Rangers Expense	3,679.88
Misc	301.50

Donation Box to Ranger

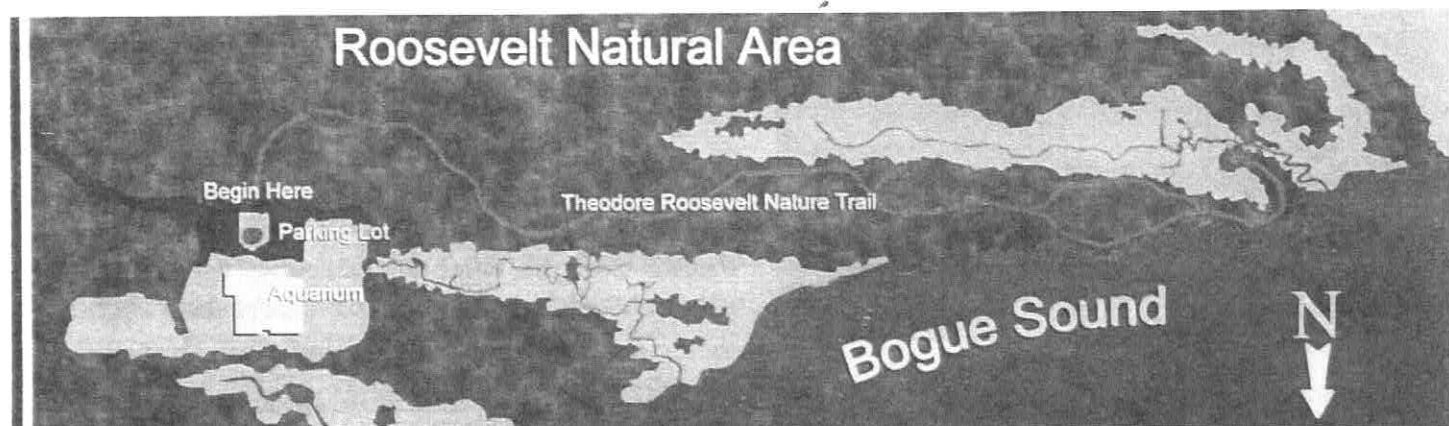
Account	<u>2,955.19</u>
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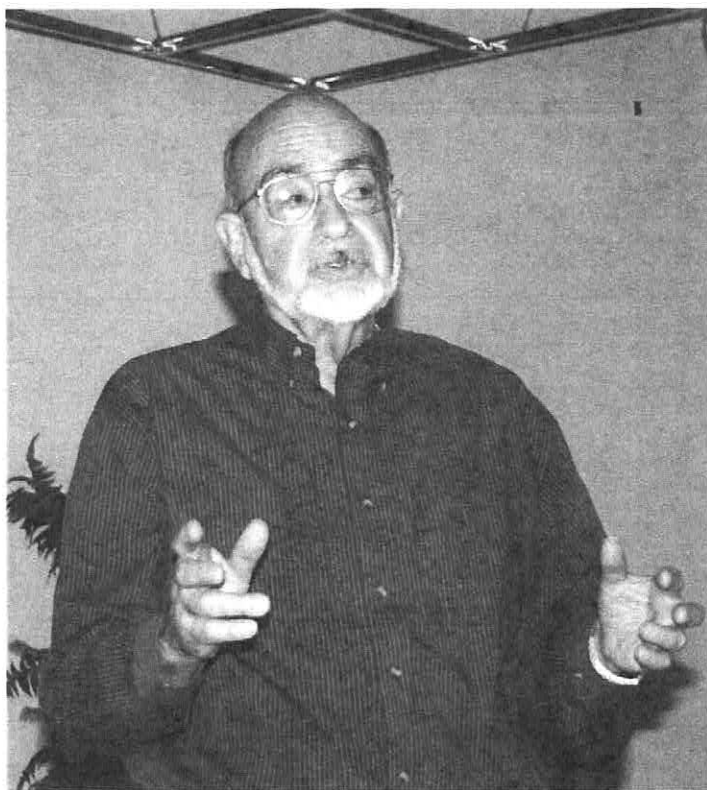
<u>Total Funds Used</u>	<u>(\$19,675.61)</u>
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Excess Funds Used Over Received

	(\$2,518.98)
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CD AND SAVINGS -	\$63,452.64
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BENNETT MOSS

Past-President

Past-Vice President

Originator of Fort Macon Summer Music Concerts

Editor of "The Ramparts"

Creator of

"This Day in History"

and so much more

deserts Fort Macon and
beautiful Carteret County
for

Gainsville, Georgia.

We wish Bennett and Helen
well in their new home!

I have known Bennett Moss since the 1990's. He was Treasurer of the Maritime Museum when I was on its Board.. He was a bus driver for BHA when I was chair of the bus drivers committee. Bennett got me involved with The Friends of Fort Macon and conned me into becoming its President. We both served on the board of the History Place. Bennett has been a good friend and an asset to our community. We will miss him.
Grayden Paul Jr. - President
Friends of Fort Macon

Fort Macon State Park has missed two of its greatest advocates and I have missed two very special friends since Bennett and Helen Moss moved to Georgia. Without Bennett's help I do not believe that we would have been able to receive funding for the fort in as timely manner as we did. His wit and humor will be missed at our monthly meetings. To Bennett and Helen I say thank you for all your time and effort toward Fort Macon and the friendship you gave me.
Jody Merritt - Superintendent -
Fort Macon State Park



FORT MACON TOUR GUIDES FOR 2006