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The date on your mailing label indicates the month and year that your membership expired or will expire

# 100 YEARS OF NORTH CAROLINA STATE PARKS CELEBRATION EVENT April 22-24, 2016

The North Carolina State Park system had its beginning in 1916 when the state purchased 795 acres of Mount Mitchell, the highest peak east of the Mississippi River located in Yancy County, to save it from destructive lumbering practices. The establishment of Mount Mitchell State Park was just the beginning of a growing movement of conservation and preservation of North Carolina's natural resources spanning the decades that followed. One-hundred years have now passed since this first state park came into being. Today the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation comprises 35 state parks (of which Fort Macon State Park was the second to be acquired in 1924), four state recreation areas, twenty state natural areas, and a number of state rivers and trails, all comprising 224,000 acres. Throughout these 100 years, the mission of the N.C. State Park system has been to serve the people of North Carolina and their visitors by:

- 1. Preserving and protecting natural areas of unique or exceptional scenic value for the inspiration and benefit of all generations.
- 2. Establishing and operating state parks that provide recreational use of natural resources and outdoor recreation in natural settings.
- 3. Portraying and interpreting plant and animal life, geology, and all other natural features and processes included in various state parks.
- 4. Preserving, protecting and portraying scientific sites of statewide importance.

Throughout 2016, North Carolina State Parks will be celebrating its centennial with a series of ceremonies and observances in the various state parks. The inaugural observance to kick off this celebration will

commence at Fort Macon State Park on April 22-24, 2016. A dedication of new cannons at the fort and a concert by the Marine Corps Band will be held on Friday evening, April 22, followed on Saturday, April 23, and Sunday, April 24, by large-scale living history reenactments of the battle of Fort Macon in the War Between the States. Please contact Fort Macon State Park at 252-726-3775, or email at fort.macon@ncparks.gov for more information on scheduling and events during the observance.

	SCHEDULE	<b>OF EVEI</b>	NTS —	
	SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
9:00 AM	Fort interior opens to public Federal Dress Parade / Drill (Glacis)	9:00 AM	Fort interior opens to public	
	Laundress (pavilion area)	9:30 AM	Confederate Dress Parade (Glacis)	
9:30 AM	Confederate Company and Artillery Drill (Parade ground)	10:00 AM	Company Drill (parade ground)	
	Women's Fashions of the Victorian Period (pavilion area)	10:30 AM	Flag Talk (parade ground) Children's Drill (Glacis) Laundress (pavilion area)	
10:00 AM	Flag Talk (parade ground) Children's Drill (Glacis) Laundress (pavilion area)	11:00 AM	Women's Fashions in the Victorian Era (pavilion area)	
10:30 AM	In preparation for the battle, all spectators will be asked to move to viewing areas (interior areas of the fort will be cleared of spectators)	11:30 AM	Fort Tour	
		12:30 PM	Flag Talk (parade ground) Laundress (pavilion area) Children's Drill (Glacis)  In preparation for the battle, all spectators will be asked to move to viewing areas (Interior areas of the fort will be cleared of spectators)	
11:00 AM	The Siege, Attack and Capture of Fort Macon			
12:00 PM	Battle concludes / troops return Fort Tours	1:30 PM		
1:00 PM	Women's Fashions of the Victorian Period (pavilion area) Company Drill (parade ground)	2:00 PM	The Siege, Attack and Capture of Fort Macon	
1:30 PM	Laundress (pavilion area)	3:00 PM	Battle concludes / troops return	
2:00 PM	Flag Talk (parade ground) Children's Drill (Glacis) Women's Fashions of the Victorian Period	3:00 PM	Artillery Drill on 6-pounder cannon (parade ground)	
	(pavilion area)	4:00 PM	Program Concludes	
2:30 PM	In preparation for the battle, all spectators will be asked to move to viewing areas (interior areas of the fort will be cleared of spectators)	OTHER ACTIVITES THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND		
3:00 PM	The Siege, Attack and Capture of Fort Macon		Civil war era music Songs & music from the era	
4:00 PM	Battle concludes/troops return	Medicine in the 1860s  How battle wounds and injuries were treated during the war (Casemates)		
4:30 PM	Artillery Drill with 6-pounder cannon (parade ground)			
5:00 PM	Program concludes		Naval displays	
5:30 PM	Fort Interior Closes	Includes steam engines, small arms, navigational instruments & rope/canvas work (Casemates)		

8:00 PM

Artillery demonstration - night fire

# OUT

**Cartridge Making for Kids** Learn how to make Civil War musket cartridges (Casemates)



### A NEW BUTTERFLY FOR FT. MACON STATE PARK

#### **Allison Leidner**

The Crystal Skipper has called Fort Macon State Park home for thousands of years, but it only received an official name this past fall. In the last issue of the Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society, Dr. John Burns of the Smithsonian Institution – National Museum of Natural History formally described the crystal skipper with the scientific name *Atrytonopsis quinteri*. There are only a ??? butterfly species at Ft. Macon State Park, so adding a new one to the list is quite remarkable.

Seeing the crystal skipper at Ft Macon, or other places like Bear Island of Hammocks Beach State Park, is relatively easy – as long as you go the right time of year and attune yourself to looking for a small brown butterfly "skipping" through the sand dunes, or perhaps sucking nectar from purple or white flowers. Luckily, when Dr. Eric Quinter of the American Museum of Natural History was looking for a moth back in 1978 at Ft. Macon, he saw this butterfly and brought it to the attention of Dr. Burns, a world expert on Atrytonopsis butterflies. After carefully researching the physical structure (morphology) of eggs, caterpillars, and adults, as well as considering its location and habitat use, Dr. Burns determined that it was different enough from the nearby dusted skipper (*Atrytonopsis hianna*) to be its own species.

If you want to see the crystal skipper, you can head out to the sand dunes from about mid-April to the end of May, or from about mid-July to mid-August, with a little bit of variation each year. At other times of the year, the crystal skipper is in the egg, caterpillar, or pupal stage. The common name for the crystal skipper comes from a few sources. First, skippers are a group of butterflies that "skip". Second, the crystal skipper is only found along a 30-mile stretch of barrier islands in Carteret and Onslow counties, NC, an area sometimes called the Crystal Coast. And finally, if you squint a bit, the white spots on its wings look like crystals.

The crystal skipper has a close relationship with a dune grass called seaside little bluestem. This is the hostplant for the species, which means it is the plant on which females lay eggs and serves as a food plant for caterpillars. Because it has been protected as a park, Ft. Macon has lots of seaside little bluestem. In other parts of Bogue Banks, seaside little bluestem can be abundant in protected areas, places where houses are set far back from the beach and support sand dunes, "empty" lots, and unlandscaped yards.

However, outside the park there is much less habitat. And what habit remains is broken up into small areas, which isolates larger crystal skipper populations and habitat. Therefore, the smaller habitat areas outside of the park are

### SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

#### **Randy Newman**

The North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation took notice of the hard work of the park staff, Friends of Fort Macon, and volunteers when it officially named Fort Macon State Park its "Park of the Year". The park was chosen for its 'exemplary contribution to the North Carolina state parks mission of stewardship, public service and education,' and specifically recognized for initiatives in expanded recreation opportunities, volunteerism, interpretive programming and sustainability.

A couple of my personal highlights was the Friends of Fort Macon stepping forward and funding the new nature trail that park visitors had on their wish list. Currently, the park has opened 1.7 miles of the 3.2 mile trail. The trail will be completed and entirely open on April 23rd. We will host our first 5K race May 7th to raise additional funds to keep upgrading the trail. The other highlight that sticks out for me is the friends groups' continued support to "help arm the fort". The friends' group has committed to complete the cannon battery on top of the fort facing the inlet. We have two additional 32-pounders and one eight-inch Columbiad being built--along with the carriages. It is our goal to have these three cannons on top of the fort for the April 22-24th state park centennial celebration. I would like personally to thank the Friends and Wayne Community college for their hard work in making this project a reality. The value of the three guns is \$160,000.

Last year will always be a special year for Fort Macon State Park. However, I am very excited about what 2016 has in store for the park. What a way to start--with 800 park visitors attending the "New Year's Eve Cannon firing" and the 125 hikers on the 1st day hike to start the New Year. North Carolina State Parks turn 100 years old this year, and Fort Macon will have a celebration event on April 22-24th. We are planning a military band concert and two days of battle reenactments.

The park still needs volunteers to assist in staffing the visitor center information desk, and giving guided tours of Fort Macon. If interested, please contact the park office at 252-726-3775.

Since taking over as Superintendent in 2009, I had Friends' President, Tom Kelly and Friends' Treasurer, Paul Molnar to guide me in hopefully making the proper decisions for the park. Both of these great men are stepping down from their post after years of service on the Friends' board. The park has accomplished so much since 2009 and so much of the credit is because of them. I personally want to thank both of them and their special wives who did so much to make Fort Macon the "Park of the Year" but also in my eyes, the park of the centennial.

Thank you again for your support, *Randy Newman* 

# TREASURER'S MESSAGE



#### **MEMBERSHIP**

The Friends of Fort Macon rely on new members and member renewals. The label on your newsletter has the date that your membership expired or when it is due.

#### **DATA BASE**

The Friends would like to develop a data base for future use.

Some of the uses would be electronic newsletters and notice of future and special events.

Please respond by sending an email to friendsoffortmacon@gmail.com.



June 3 Carteret Sunshine Band (community orchestra)

June 17 Unknown Tongues (Cajun/zydeco)

June 24 Scearce & Ketner (Carolina beach "seagrass")

July 15 Wild Honey (country/folk)

July 29 The Morehead Brass (pop, classics)

August 5 4EverAll (contemporary mix)

The Friends of Ft. Macon's 2016 concert series is proudly sponsored once again by Parker Buick—GMC, and Parker Honda of Morehead City.

Please visit our website: www.friendsoffortmacon.org

and like us on Facebook: Friends of Fort Macon

FORT MACON STATE PARK
MOSQUITO RUN 5K

North Carolina State Parks turn 100 years old in 2016 and what better way to celebrate our anniversary than by joining our FIRST ANNUAL 5K RUN!

MAY 7, 2016

RACE DAY REGISTRATION @ 7:00 AM RACE @ 8:00 AM

FORT MACON STATE PARK BATHHOUSE PARKING LOT

# REGISTER BY MARCH 30TH and RECEIVE FREE RACE T-SHIRT

Pre-Race Adult \$30
AFTER MARCH 30TH \$35

Pre-Race Youth \$15
AFTER MARCH 30TH \$25
(17 & Under)

Register at Fort Macon's Park Office
Benefits Friends of Fort Macon

key to connecting and supporting a healthy crystal skipper population within the park. Greater connectivity helps maintain genetic diversity and provides a way for butterflies to repopulation areas if a hurricane or other natural event reduced or eliminated a population.

Protecting the crystal skipper and its habitat inside the park is critical to ensure that the crystal skipper continues to call Ft. Macon home, but actions will also be needed throughout Bogue Banks. Protecting sand dunes, planting seaside little bluestem, restoring degraded areas, and landscaping with native plants can all help protect this region's "newest" butterfly.

To learn more, see the following resources:

- Scientific article formally describing the species: http://images.peabody.yale.edu/lepsoc/jls/2010s/2015/2015-69-4-275.pdf
- Scientific articles describing the ecology and conservation of the crystal skipper: http://www4.ncsu.edu/~haddad/Publications/articles/Leidner\_Haddad\_ConsGen\_2010.pdf http://www4.ncsu.edu/~haddad/Publications/articles/Leidner\_Haddad\_ConsBio\_2011.pdf
- Crystal Skipper Blog post on the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation website http://www.xerces.org/blog/the-crystal-skipper-north-carolinas-newest-butterfly-species/
- Coastal Review Online story http://www.coastalreview.org/2015/12/crystal-skipper-earns-species-status/

## BOARD MEMBERS

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# Come to Our MONTHLY LUNCH MEETINGS

You may be missing a great opportunity if you haven't attended the first Wednesday (of the month) lunch meetings at Golden Corral Restaurant. Not only is there a short update on the "State of Fort Macon" by Superintendent Randy, there's a fascinating talk by an expert that you may not want to miss. The subject of recent speakers (all found by our leader, Tom Kelly) have included dolphins and whales, area ferries, 19th century life, Shackleford Banks horses, astronomy, etc. If you have attended some or all of these very interesting talks, you know how informative and amusing the speakers are. Added to that, the lunch cost is very reasonable (for Seniors), and the other diners are most convivial – a guarantee that you will truly enjoy your lunch meeting program.

#### Friends of Fort Macon

2303 East Fort Macon Rd Atlantic Beach, NC 28512

#### 2016/2017

**Membership Renewal Dues** 

Individual/Family: \$15 Contributor: \$30 Donor: \$50 Sponsor: \$75 Lifetime: \$200

**Business/Organization:** 

\$75 one year / \$125 two years / \$195 three years

**Business Lifetime: \$500** 

#### **OUR BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS**

Atlantic Veneer Beaufort, NC

**Gary Partin** Goldsboro, NC

Safrit Building Supply Beaufort, NC

**Munden Funeral Home and Crematory** Morehead City, NC

Coastal Press & Signs Morehead City, NC

> **Karl Weiss** Woburn, MA

Al Williams Properties Atlantic Beach, NC

**Stampers Jewelers** Beaufort, NC

David P Robertson, DDS Morehead City, NC

> **Chalk and Gibbs** Morehead City, NC

Charlotte Metrolina Civil War Roundtable Charlotte, NC

Casper Marine Service Swansboro, NC

Williams Investment Corp. Charlotte, NC

Randall Parker Morehead City, NC Atlantis Lodge, Inc. Salter Path, NC

Estate Planning Center Morehead City, NC

> Tours by Degrees Wilmington, NC

> **Emerald Marine** Cape Carteret, NC

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