

SWAN QUARTERLY

Early Summer 2009

Hyde County's Inner Banks Magazine

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Issue # 8

Cover Photo by Ingrid Lemme

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North Carolina's Inner Banks region offers more than 3,000 miles of largely undeveloped coastline; two deep water ports; numerous rivers, estuaries, lakes, the Albemarle Sound and the Pamlico Sound; the Intracoastal Waterway; rail; the state ferry system; the 29-county regional hospital network of University Health Systems; and, 36 institutions of higher learning.

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www.YouTube.com: search "Inner Banks Waterfront"

2 0 0 9 E A R L Y S U M M E R

the SWAN *quarterly*

PUBLISHERS: INGRID AND NELI LEMME



*A mother serves her
sugar with
A bit of peppermint
To clarify the passages
That carry what she
meant.*

✧ Quote of the Quarter ✧

The Swan Quarter Watershed project has qualified for \$5.3 million from the Obama administration's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act because it is ready to go, according to a Thursday news release from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

DEAR READER

A couple of beautiful events are right ahead of us. Mother's Day, I fondly remember the years when my boys were little and gave me their cute drawings and flowers that they had taken from the garden. My most precious gift this year is that I will become a 'Grandma' for the first time, in August. Our

son Thorsten, who lives with his wife in Germany, presented us with the wonderful news on Christmas morning. Well and then our 22nd annual Engelhard Seafood Festival, do not miss! - Yup, and the couple in this photo is us ;) - my husband and I, at the Aurora Fossil Museum.



A Mother's Day Gift

Mom loves any gift that come from the heart of her child, trust me. "It doesn't have to be anything expensive, it's the thought that counts, I love things

that you make yourself." says my own mother. Well not all of us are that creative and after visiting Gibs new gift shop (upper floor) in Engelhard, there is no need to. I love to wrap photos or poems that I put in

pretty frames. I found 2 nice picture frames at \$ 2 each at the new Village Consignment store in Swan Quarter.





..On the Board Walk..

*Boat of the
Quarter*

*Kid of the
Quarter*

*Reader of the
Quarter*

*Little Kid of the
Quarter*



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DESIGN created the
Swan Quarterly LOGO

**MAY 10TH
MOTHER'S
DAY**

**MAY 15-16
Engelhard
Seafood Fest**

**June 6-8
Ocracoke Fest
Ocracoke**

**JULY 4
INDEPENDENCE
DAY FESTIVITIES**
ocracokevillage.com

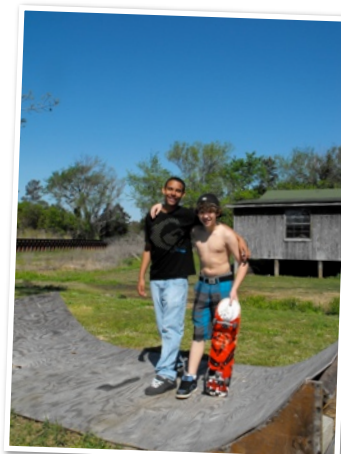
**Sept. 27
Ocracoke
ArtWalk**

*Man of the
Quarter*



*Lady of the
Quarter*

*Best Friends of
the Quarter*



*Good Neighbors
of the Quarter*



A real funny Hyde County Story from Lisa Braswell

These are Captain Marty Brills pets—two pigs and a goat—Marty lives in Hyde County and works for Marine Fisheries as well as Radio fishing reports. Well my boyfriend is Jim Brill, Marty's nephew and we were over around Christmas. These three animals are the funniest things I have ever seen. It was really cold but we were all outside cooking on the grill and admiring the pigs and goat. About the time it started to sprinkle rain, the goat(female) jumps down out of her little house and rounds up the pigs (both males) and runs them into the little house. She actually herded them into the house. Either before or



after that we are all in the house and the animals are in a pretty secure electric fenced area and all of a sudden we look and the goat is standing on the deck staring into the dining area at us all. I said Marty how did she get out and he said, she just jumps the fence and then she will jump the fence and let herself back in. And low and behold we looked back out the door and there is the goat, inside the electric fence. Now that is a content goat! One more thing is I spoke with Capt. Marty not long after that and his daughter, Savannah got a new puppy and the puppy was near the sliding glass door jumping up on the door

playing. Well all of a sudden the goat RAMMS the sliding door and they thought it was going to break and afterwards couldn't believe that it didn't but that goat was trying to play. These animals are just adorable I thought you may want to tell a funny Hyde Co. story.

Sincerely, Lisa Braswell / PS. Marty said I could send you the pictures!

LISA BRASWELL REALTY - 109 Holly Hills Ct., Manteo N.C. -

All photo on this page are send to us by Miss Lisa! Thank You!



Swan Quarter Watershed project qualifies for \$5.3 million!

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up-to-date real estate offerings from across
North Carolina's beautiful Inner Banks.



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*"Stimulus to help N.C. village finish dike
construction"*

By Catherine Kozak

The Virginian-Pilot

© April 17, 2009





Stimulus to help N.C. village finish dike

Folks in this farming community started talking back in the 1960s about building a dike to protect their low-lying village and farms. It wasn't until the 1980s that they started it. On Thursday, they finally got the money to finish it. The Swan Quarter Watershed project has qualified for \$5.3 million from the Obama administration's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act because it is ready to go, according to a Thursday news release from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Some may argue that funding to complete a dike for Swan Quarter, devastated by two hurricanes in the past 10 years, was long overdue.

"Floyd was bad enough, but Isabel was terrible," said William F. Williams, an 80-year-old Swan Quarter resident. "It was a tidal wave, just about." Williams, the chairman of the county's dike steering committee, said no barrier stood between the surging sound and the village when Isabel struck in September 2003. "Nope, and it accounts for why water was in my living room about two miles away," he said. "It came across a field." Phase by phase, in fits and starts, the 12-mile dike project between Hydeland Canal and U.S. 264 along Pamlico Sound has been under construction since 1988. The first half, or seven phases, is in front of farmland. Phase 11, which protects the village, was finished last year. Phase 12 is about to begin. Two more after that, and it'll be completed. Carl Classen, the county manager, said that Isabel proved that Swan Quarter, surrounded on three sides by water, is a sitting duck to a storm coming up the Pamlico Sound.

But every phase of the project in one of the state's poorest counties was hampered by a lack of funds. "It's been a very long time coming," Classen said. "Swan Quarter doesn't rank as high as New Orleans in some people's minds." When Isabel hit, the Hyde County seat - at 2.6 feet above sea level - was under 8 feet of water. The courthouse, originally built in the mid-1800s, was inundated; reams of county records had to be professionally dried. The downtown post office was condemned.



STIMULUS TO HELP N.C. VILLAGE FINISH DIKE BY CATHERINE KOZAK

Water logged county vehicles had to be destroyed. County business was conducted for years out of trailers scattered throughout the village as new facilities were built.

"I don't think they'll ever totally recover from this. There's not much going on in the village," Williams said. "You've got one service station and one farm equipment place. The new restaurant just closed. The grocery store and the hardware store-to-be have moved out to the bypass. And some people have left. They don't want to go through it again."

Williams said that a 6.7-foot-high earthen dike runs six miles along the sound and farmland, protecting thousands of acres from salt water damage. That was the first half, called the West Quarter Double Bay Project, done in seven phases.

Shortly after it was finished, he said, a March storm blew through and the tide rose, but the water was held back.

"That dike paid for itself right then," Williams said.

So far, four phases of the six-mile Swan Quarter Watershed project - the second half - have been completed, leaving about two more miles. It is a little taller and made of much more expensive PVC sheet piling, he said.

Phases one to 11 have cost a total of about \$4.6 million, most of it for the latter part. Costs to do Phase 12 are estimated at \$2 million. All told, about 11,000 acres - cropland, woods and village - will be shielded by the dike.

Before the most recent phase was completed, Williams said, residents would constantly ask him when the village part of the project would be done.

After living through Isabel, he said, villagers feel safer now "because we had water where we never had it before."

Writer: Catherine Kozak, (252) 441-1711, cate.kozak@pilotonline.com - Thank you Miss Cate for your story! *The photos of the dike were taken by Ingrid Lemme and are showing the dike during and after the construction.*





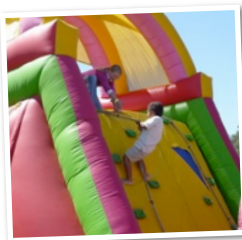
22nd Annual Engelhard Seafood Festival May 15-16

If you are a lover of fresh seafood and enjoy having a day of fun with your family, then make your way to the Hyde County community of Engelhard, NC located on the shores of the Pamlico Sound, for the Twenty-Second Annual Engelhard Seafood Festival on Friday and Saturday, May 15-16, 2009.

This 22nd Year promises to be the BEST ever.

A family oriented event, the Festival begins on Friday night with Fire Department dinner.

Following the dinner, the Miss Engelhard Seafood Festival Pageant will be held.



On Saturday the festivities will begin at 9:30 am with the opening ceremony. Music lovers will enjoy their choice of country, rhythm and blues, rock, gospel, bluegrass and beach music performances throughout the day. A Mariachi Band will even be performing!

The day will conclude with a "Street Dance" beginning around 9:30 at Martelle's Feedhouse

Restaurant located on Highway 264. The featured band for the "Street Dance" is Saints of Soul!

Children and adults alike will enjoy the variety of amusement rides and games. This year we are adding clowns and a scavenger hunt! Activities begin at 10:00 am and conclude at 7:00 pm on Saturday.

Arts, crafts, and historical displays, the Little Mr. & Miss Seafood and the Miss Engelhard Seafood Festival pageants all are a part of the festival. And, of course, there will be an abundance of good food; seafood, hotdogs, hamburgers, specialty items, baked goods, and other tasty treats!

Free parking will be available at the Engelhard Hotel and Engelhard Medical Center.

Hyde County Transit will be providing shuttle service from the Lawn Mower pull to the festival as well as to and from the parking areas. Photos and text from:

www.engelhardseafoodfestival.com





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Soft crabs are a delicacy here!

One of the last remaining seafood companies in Hyde County, Newman Seafood, is the place to go if you want fresh seafood, right off the boat. Local commercial fishermen bring their boats right up to the dock and unload their fresh catches daily. Fish, shrimp, crabs, and other seafood available in season. Be sure to take the time to visit the Newman's crab-shedding facility. If you've never witnessed a crab shed its shell, this is the place to do it. Soft crabs are a real find here! Location: 644 Landing Road, Swan Quarter, NC 27925 - Seasonal, Daylight Hours Only. Phone: (252) 926-1288



The Soft-shell crab is a crustacean seafood that can be eaten whole if cooked shortly after molting their hard shell.

Hyde County

As crabs grow larger, their shells cannot expand, so they molt the

exteriors and have a soft covering for a matter of days when they are vulnerable and considered usable. Fisheries put crabs beginning to molt aside, until the molting process is complete in order to send them to market as soft-shells. Crabs are kept alive until immediately before cooking so they are fresh. Usually crabs must be eaten within four days of molting to be useful as soft-shell crabs.





Village
Consignments
&
Crafts



Village Consignments & Crafts

My dining room table is old and run down and definitely needed a real nice tablecloth. Well I found it at Miss Emily's new store, and its looks not only very pretty, but it was brand-new! Consignment is a great reason to check your closet of items that no longer fit and also brings you a little money or credit towards other things. Make sure everything you take in is clean, no missing buttons, stains, etc. That counts for decorations and household items as well. There are also wonderful handcrafted items and good art, made in Hyde County. I love consignments and rummage sales, it's like treasure hunting for me.



< *Emily C. Thomas*

is the soul and driving force of the new Village Consignment & Crafts Shop in Swan Quarter!

Old and New Goods Doing Good

Ten percent from each sale is donated to the Swan Quarter Fire Department! - Location: right on Main Street in the village of Swan Quarter, next to the Hyde County Court House. 252-926-5121





Directions

Highway 264 from Washington, North Carolina east to Belhaven, continuing an additional 20+ miles to Rose Bay Oyster Company adjacent to Hwy 264 on South side. Watch for large oyster shell pile.

Hours

Monday through Saturday 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Where Rose Bay Products can be found:

Local Eastern North Carolina seafood shops, Winn Dixie (Raleigh Division), some Piggly Wiggly stores and many local seafood restaurants. Wholesale distributors in Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York. On-site at the plant - Hwy 264, Swan Quarter, NC.

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Photo: Ingrid Lemme



Rose Bay Puts An "R" In Every Month

Rose Bay Oyster Company

subscribes to the old fashioned way of processing oysters - cold-shucked by hand. This HACCP and USDA approved method of shucking allows a premium product with exceptional shelf-life capacity. Rose Bay private oyster beds in conjunction with their long-standing Gulf Coast relationships allow continuous year-round supply.



Rose Bay has introduced a value-added frozen breaded oyster that is available in a five pound master case. This high value product allows exact food-costs in that the preparer does not have to buy breading or pay labor for preparation. Literally, the product can be ordered, cooked, and presented on the plate for serving within five minutes. Most important is the fact that it will taste just like a fresh prepared breaded oyster.

Rose Bay

Fresh shucked oysters in pints, quarts, gallons. Shell oysters in pecks, half bushels, bushels, and sacks. Value-added products: Lightly Breaded Wild Harvested Oysters, 5 lb. master case, IQF half-shell oysters. Monday through Saturday 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. You find them in local Eastern North Carolina seafood shops, Winn Dixie (Raleigh Division), some Piggly Wiggly stores and many local seafood restaurants. Wholesale distributors in Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York. On-site at the plant - Hwy 264, Swan Quarter, NC.





A Day-Trip to Ocracoke Island

We took the ferry from
Swan Quarter, Hyde County on the Inner Banks
to Ocracoke, Hyde County on the Outer Banks
on a glorious spring day.

We spend the day on the precious island
and then took the ferry to Hatteras.

www.hydecountychamber.org/visitorsguide.htm



Photo: Ingrid Lemme



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Visiting Neighbor Ocracoke

As anyone who lives on the Inner Banks knows, if you get company from afar, they also want to see the Outer Banks. And Ocracoke is a must, you haven't really seen all if they missed out on Blackbeard's hideout. We entertained company from Germany over Easter week and since we live

in Swan Quarter village, there is no question that we caught the ferry from there. Normally we would take the bikes, pay \$ 3 per person, including the bike, but this time we took the car since it was our intention to leave Ocracoke with the Hatteras ferry and return by Manteo. It was a fine 2 ½ hour ride,

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www.ocrafolkfestival.org

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blue sky, soft waves and good company. You may make your ferry reservations now also online and reservations in advance we highly suggest. Arriving at Ocracoke on a sunny day with these amazing sights is worth alone the

trip, Edmund and Rosemary assured us, that was before they had seen all. We parked the car at the main parking lot at the ferry and walked downtown.

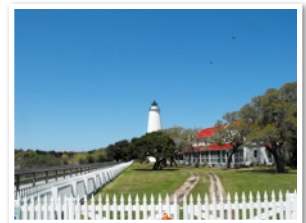
Unfortunately not open to the public. We stopped for lunch, this time at Howard's Pub and we all enjoyed it very much. Of course our guests wanted to see "America's #1 award-winning beach"



Pelicans hanging out at the docks galore! For North Europeans, it was a delightful sight, and not only for them. We visited many of the local shops and continued to the historic Ocracoke Lighthouse, that was

#1 BEACH
Ocracoke received the recognition in 2007. We had a wonderful day !

Photos: Ingrid Lemme



Move to Ponzer, late '40s - Judi Raburn continues...

Moving day. It's Saturday morning and the movers have loaded up the truck. I begged and pleaded with my dad to wait for me to find Spot, my cat. He was paying the movers by the hour and won't wait long for a cat. The van pulls away and I'm crying my eyes out, "Please daddy, please don't leave my cat!" Besides leaving the family pet, I'm leaving behind the only home I've ever known in my nine years, the small town of Belhaven. We're moving to the country to live with granddaddy in Ponzer. Times are tough and grandma died a few months ago. Granddaddy needs someone to look out for him. I cried all the way to Ponzer that day, cried all night and most of the weekend. But mama kept saying, "Come Monday morning when you go to school on the school bus, you take a box with you and go back to our house and get that cat." So, she gave me hope. Hope that I could do something and perhaps find my cat and bring him to our new home in Ponzer. It was a long weekend, but finally Monday arrived. Mama gave me a box with holes cut in it to put the cat in. She also gave me fried chicken left over from Sunday dinner in hopes to entice the cat with. Since I had to wait until lunch time to leave the school grounds to go to our old home, the morning lagged endlessly. Finally lunch time arrives so I go with box and chicken in hand. Get there and call Spot. Spot comes running. He's hungry just like mama said he'd be (he was used to eating two good meals a day and it had been since

are so happy to see each other. Spot gobbles both happy..... until..... I tried to put him in some time (remember I'm just nine years old) school. Spot was a smart cat! About a half a and runs and hides in a bush. "Please come that time, a little boy named Harry came and and I said, "Yes, please help me." I even penny loafers if he'd help me. He did and I captured Spot and put him back in the box, provided by Harry. I think Spot knew how succumbed to the box with no more struggles.



Saturday morning when he was fed last.) We up the chicken. We play and cuddle and we're that box! After struggling with him for quite I finally get Spot in the box and head back to block down the street, he got out of the box back Spot, please come back," I cried. About asked if I needed some help catching the cat offered him two pennies I had stuck in my was glad to pay him. With Harry's help, we this time tying it securely shut with a rope much I wanted him to come with me and All afternoon Spot was in the box beside my

desk in the classroom. (Thank you, Ms. Ricks for being such an understanding teacher. This was in the 1940s - with today's rules and regulations, that wouldn't be allowed in the schools and no teacher would let you do that). Then time came to catch the school bus back to Ponzer. Bryan, the school bus driver said I couldn't bring that box with a cat in it on the bus. I got off the bus and started to walk all the way to Ponzer (10 miles). I guess Bryan felt sorry for me and relented and let us ride home on the bus. We've arrived at our new home in Ponzer. Spot was happy to see my mama too. Spot surveyed his new surroundings and stood up on his hind legs peeking out the window and saw a pig for the first time in his life. He was growling at the sight of this pig because he had never seen anything like that before. He probably thought it was a dog with a strange bark. Life was good there in the country for Spot. He liked roaming in the big yard and fields. But I missed my friends in town and found Ponzer in the 1940s to be so very, very isolated. Without Spot in my life it would have been unbearable. Spot will always reside in a special "spot" in my heart.,,, continues next issue

The Ponzer Ruritans with the assistance of nine trained professionals from East Carolina University hosted the new safety program for motorists, Car Fit, on Saturday, March 28 at the Ruritan building parking lot. Many local citizens, including the Hyde County Sheriff's car, showed up to have their cars inspected and adjusted to "fit" them.





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 ,
 AND SO MUCH MORE

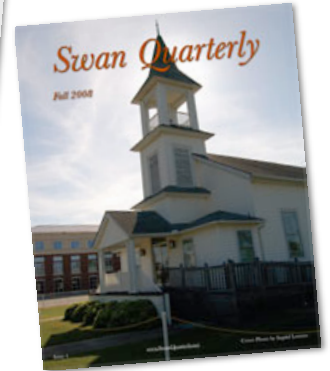


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