

463,750 Visitors

24,083 Students Hosted

614 Volunteers

33,499 Volunteer Hours

Accolades – 2019

2019 Shore Picks Best Family Attraction

2019 Shore Picks Best Local Tourist Attraction



355,305 Visitors

23,463 Students Hosted

278 Volunteers

20,089 Volunteer Hours

Awards

AZA Party for the Planet® Contest Winner



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Thank you for your love and support of the North Carolina Aquariums and Jennette's Pier! We are pleased to share this 2019 edition of the Annual Review highlighting another record-setting year for the private nonprofit Aquarium Society. Your donations, memberships and gift shop purchases provide the financial backing that makes our public-private partnership work. With your support, we're proud to help advance the Aquariums' mission through a wide variety of exhibits, programs and initiatives. Our Aquariums are statewide leaders in education and conservation — not only as visitor destinations but in their year-round work in conservation — celebrating wild creatures and wild places and actively saving animals from extinction. With 1.3 million annual visitors, the Aquariums also play a critical role in North Carolina's thriving tourism economy. As partners, we thank you for helping make them among the very best public aquariums in the nation.



CHARLTON BURNS
Board Chair

NORTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM SOCIETY CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

At the time of the publication of this document in April 2020, the North Carolina Aquariums and Jennette's Pier are temporarily closed following the state directive to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Given how quickly this situation is changing, we will continue to provide updates on our websites and through our social media channels. Please check back frequently for the latest information on openings and hours of operation. You can also keep up with your favorite aquatic animals on our social media outlets.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude for your continuing support. Your generosity is helping sustain the Aquariums and their work to provide animal care and facility upkeep during this time. Our team is working diligently to ensure the best possible health and well-being of our animals, and we look forward to reopening and welcoming you back to the Aquariums once this critical situation has subsided.

290,863 Visitors

11,072 Students Hosted

175 Volunteers

12,018 Volunteer Hours

Awards

Certified Green Travel Destination by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ)



178,912 Visitors

> 10,000 Students Hosted

7 Volunteers

400 Volunteer Hours

Awards

Best of Weddings – *The Knot*

Couples' Choice Award® – *WeddingWire*



NC AQUARIUM SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charlton Burns, *Chair*
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Charleston, WV

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Charlotte, NC

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Helen Wells
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Wilmington, NC

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Greenville, NC

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Newport, NC

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Ahoskie, NC

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Wilmington, NC

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Nags Head, NC

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Greensboro, NC

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Wake Forest, NC

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Wendell, NC

Heather Flynt, *Controller*
Wake Forest, NC

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Raleigh, NC

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Raleigh, NC

Hap Fatzinger, *Director*
NC Aquarium Fort Fisher

Liz Baird, *Director*
NC Aquarium Pine Knoll Shores

Larry Warner, *Director*
NC Aquarium Roanoke Island

Mike Remige, *Director*
Jennette's Pier Nags Head

EAGLE LANDING EXHIBIT OPENS AT PINE KNOLL SHORES AQUARIUM

It was fitting that the new *Eagle Landing* exhibit made its debut at the Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium on July 4, 2019. A 3,000 square-foot oasis with large perches and a rock pond, *Eagle Landing* was designed entirely by Aquarium staff. It is now home to the Aquarium's rescue eagles, Uwohali, pronounced "oo-woe-hah-lee," and Shagoie Watha, pronounced "sha'go-ee-ya Wa-ta." These two flightless bald eagles would not be able to survive in the wild, so the Aquarium is providing them a home and life-long care.

Uwahali, meaning "one who soars with the creator," was the first bald eagle to arrive at the Aquarium. A juvenile, she had both wings amputated near the wrist after being electrocuted by what staff believes was an

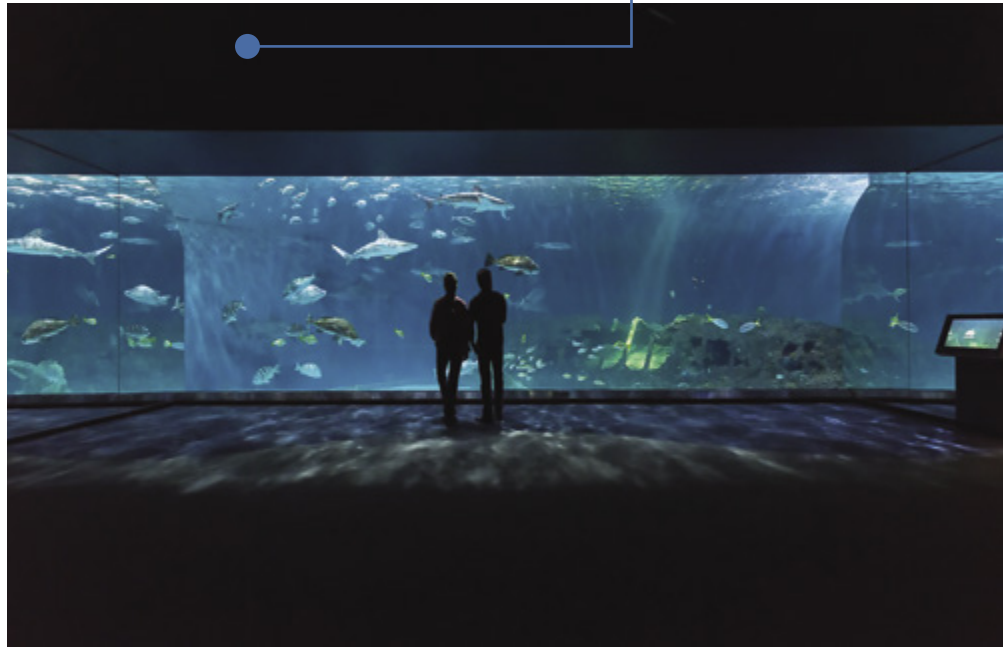
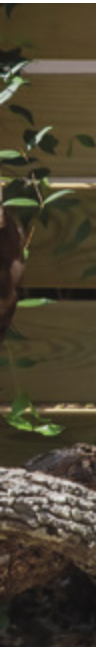


encounter with power lines. Shagoie Watha, meaning "one who causes an awakening," is an adult female that had her left wing amputated just below the elbow after being found with an irreparable injury. Both birds were given names that describe the strength and resilience they have shown and reflect their strong connection to American Indian culture found in North Carolina. To select the names, the Aquarium worked with the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs and North Carolina's tribes to create a short list of names for each bird. Final selection was based on votes from Aquarium Facebook fans.

The birds are trained through positive reinforcement to build new skills and learn new behaviors. This helps with health assessments and veterinary care, and also enables the birds to be comfortable in new situations. This training was especially important last year before Hurricane Florence when other birds in the Aquarium's care were moved to new and safer locations inside the building during the storm.

NC AQUARIUMS NAMED AMONG THE BEST IN USA TODAY READER POLL

In the spring of 2019, the North Carolina Aquariums were ranked seventh in the nation in a *USA Today* Readers' Choice Award. The results of the poll indicate that the Aquariums are making a positive impression on the more than 1.3 million annual visitors. The Aquariums and Pier are dedicated to connecting guests with the natural world and are leading attractions in the state. In addition, the Aquariums, each accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, are committed to saving animals locally and globally with a focus on Carolina gopher frogs, sand tiger sharks and sea turtles.



A JOINT VENTURE

Carteret Health Care's Joint & Spine Center has joined forces with the Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium as it cares for two bald eagles. This partnership highlights and strengthens the importance that rehabilitation plays on quality of life, regardless of the species or injury.



"Just as our hospital heals and offers compassionate rehabilitation care of orthopedic patients, we are extending our reach to assist these two special local wildlife as they continue to rehabilitate in a new sanctuary. Typically,

strong and independent, the bald eagles were injured and needed restorative health assistance, similar to the care we provide for patients every day," noted Dick Brvenik, CEO of Carteret Health Care.

Helping to grow the mission of inspiring appreciation of our aquatic environments, the hospital's generosity will equip the Aquarium with the resources needed to take care of the injured eagles.

"As our national emblem, these eagles are the perfect symbol of strength and determination, very much like our patients at Carteret Health Care during their healing and recovery," said Brvenik.

OTTERS ON THE EDGE OPENING SUMMER 2020

The close of 2019 brought excitement to the Fort Fisher Aquarium as they prepared for construction to begin on the long-awaited *Otters on the Edge* exhibit. Funded by the Aquarium Society, private donations and Aquarium income, this 3,000 square-foot exhibit is a renovation of existing space located in the Aquarium's freshwater conservatory. In addition to the otter exhibit, the renovation will also relocate the rescued bald eagle, Maverick, to a new outdoor habitat in the Aquarium's garden, and includes replacement of roof panels and the Aquarium's fire suppression system.



Photo Credit: Loveland Living Planet Aquarium



The world's smallest of the otter species, Asian small-clawed otter populations are considered a vulnerable species according to the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. Their numbers have been steadily declining due to habitat destruction and degradations, pollution and a growing wildlife trade. Working with the Association of Zoos and Aquarium's Species Survival Plan (SSP), the Aquarium will initially care for a family of four otters.

Many have seen the North American river otters that are cared for at the Roanoke Island and Pine Knoll Shores Aquariums. Like the Asian small-clawed otters, the North American river otters once were in peril as they were extensively hunted in the 19th and 20th centuries. Today, their numbers have recovered through conservation and reintroduction efforts and they are now a species of least concern. The Aquarium hopes that by helping visitors understand how we can all take action for these animals, similar improvements can be made for populations of Asian small-clawed otters. Saving animals both locally and globally is at the heart of the Aquarium's work. Helping visitors understand the threats animals face will hopefully inspire actions that will benefit both wildlife and wild places.

FAMILY'S LOVE OF THE AQUARIUM AND ANIMALS LEADS TO SPONSORSHIP

After serving on the Aquarium Society Board of Directors for 21 years, David Womack is no stranger to the quality of work and the exceptional educational opportunities provided by the three Aquariums and Pier. After years of family enjoyment, David, his wife Sydney and their family decided to sponsor the new otter exhibit, *Otters on the Edge*, at the Fort Fisher Aquarium. "Being on the board has been such a meaningful experience for me, and the Aquariums and Pier themselves have given great joy to my family," noted David, who goes on to say, "The relationship between the Society and the Aquariums is the best public-private partnership in the state."

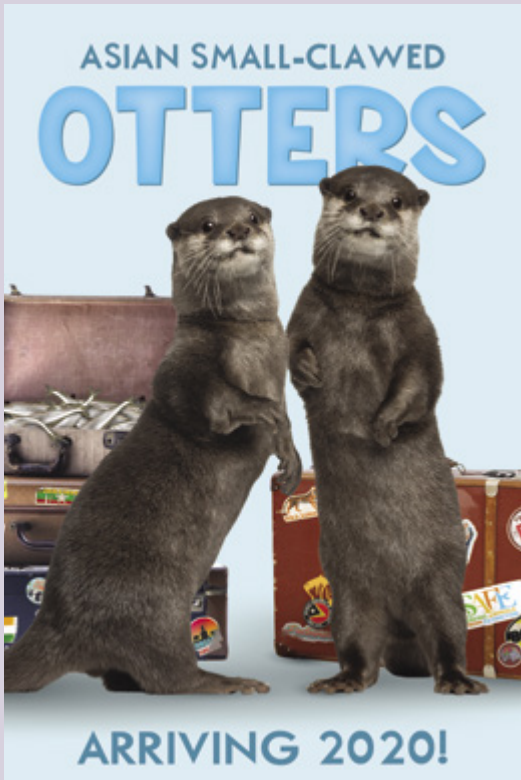


Photo Credit: Tallie Wiles

The Womacks have two grandchildren that have grown up in Wilmington visiting the Fort Fisher Aquarium. Sydney, who is passionate about all animals, is looking forward to the opening of the new otter exhibit. "I love that we are involved in helping this endangered species from southeast Asia. Plus, they are so cute and fun to watch," she notes.



DAVID AND SYDNEY WOMACK

David believes the Aquariums and Pier are grounded in the cultural heritage of the state and represent some of North Carolina's most important assets. "I support the mission of the Society to enhance what the Aquariums and Pier are able to accomplish with state funding," he notes. Womack was the Chair of the Aquarium Society Board in 1999 when Hurricane Floyd battered eastern North Carolina and decimated the state's reserves. This prevented the state from going through with plans to expand the Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium and build Jennette's Pier. "When the state was supporting hurricane relief efforts, the Society was able to assist by securing a bond allowing the plans to proceed. Without those funds all the work would have been lost," noted David.

AQUARIUM SCHOLARS CONTINUES TO MAKE A BIG IMPACT ON STUDENTS

To address the challenges some schools face in bringing students to the Aquariums and Pier, the Aquarium Society created *Aquarium Scholars*, a unique program funded through a consortium of private donors. This program expands access to science and environmental educational offerings for underserved students in Title I Schools across North Carolina. Through a partnership between the North Carolina Aquariums, our state's public schools, and Aquarium Society donors, students now have access to the Aquariums' unique STEM-based education programs. Teachers from Title I Schools apply for *Aquarium Scholars* funding. Funding can be for class field trips to one of the three Aquariums or Jennette's Pier, for Aquarium outreach, in which educators bring programs to schools, or for virtual learning

opportunities, where educators conduct live online programs. *Aquarium Scholars* engages students with fascinating aquatic animals, important environmental and conservation messages and other unique educational opportunities for thousands of students who might otherwise never experience a visit to the Aquariums or the coast.

The program launched in December 2017 with the first students participating in early 2018.

For more information, deadlines and an online application, teachers can visit ncaquariums.com. Start by selecting the closest or preferred location, fill out its grant application and submit between **July 20, 2020 and September 7, 2020.**



SPONSORSHIP ENHANCES SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Smithfield's Chicken 'N Bar-B-Q has made a five-year commitment to sponsor two outreach vehicles along with the *Aquarium Scholars* program. These vehicles allow Aquarium staff to deliver outreach programming to schools and other groups as well as participate in events or fairs away from the Aquariums. The vehicles are equipped to safely transport the animals and provide plenty of space

for tables, displays, and other outreach equipment and supplies. They are used extensively with our *Aquarium Scholars* program to deliver outreach programming to students at Title I Schools across the state.



AQUARIUM SCHOLARS DONORS

FOUNDERS

RA Bryan Foundation

Duke Energy Foundation

NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation

Grady-White Boats

Wells Fargo Foundation

INVESTORS

Harold H. Bate Foundation

Bill & Bob Dobo Trust

Dominion Energy
Charitable Foundation

Goodnight Educational Foundation

Allan C. and Margaret L. Mims
Charitable Trust

Tetlow and Roy Park Aquarium
Legacy Fund

George Smedes Poyner Foundation

Rotary Club of Kinston

Smithfield's Chicken 'N Bar-B-Q

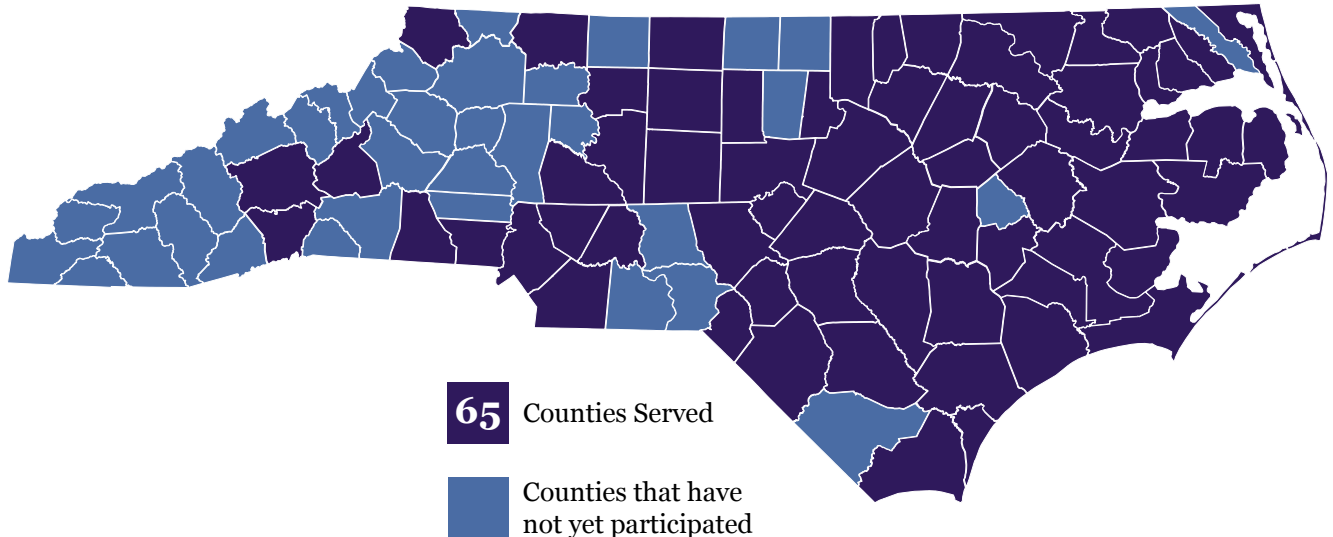
Southern Bank Foundation

Triad Foundation

Walters Family Foundation

100% of Aquarium Society Board
of Directors members

AQUARIUM SCHOLARS OUTCOMES SPRING 2018 — SPRING 2020



2019 AQUARIUM SCHOLAR OUTCOMES

Total Grants Awarded

\$122,280

Virtual Education

5

Number of Grants Awarded

140

Field Trips

91

Outreach Visits

44

16,893 Students Served

16k+

TOTAL OUTCOMES FOR THE PROGRAM SINCE 2018

Total Grants Awarded

\$286,864

Virtual Education

14

Number of Grants Awarded

352

Field Trips

225

Outreach Visits

113

> 35,000 Students Served

35k+

“SKIP A BAG, SAVE A TURTLE” INITIATIVE

The Cottage Shop and Kellogg Supply Company, Aquarium Society Business Members on the North Carolina Outer Banks, presented the Aquarium with a check for \$1,500 which was raised from their “Skip a Bag, Save a Turtle” initiative started in the spring of 2019.

The two stores, each with several locations, gave customers the option of skipping a bag when they made their purchase. For every bag skipped, they donated 10 cents to sea turtle conservation. In addition, customers on their own accord, offered cash donations. They plan to continue this in 2020 and hope to involve other businesses in the program.



PARTNERSHIP SUPPORTS EDUCATION MISSION

Collaboration is key in any community and that's exactly what's fueling the education mission of the Roanoke Island Aquarium and Jennette's Pier. Thanks to a sponsorship with The Outer Banks Hospital, two classrooms, one at the Aquarium and one at the Pier have been sponsored and new classroom signage has been installed.



“We love having neighbors like The Outer Banks Hospital, who have stepped up to generously support the Aquariums’ education mission,” said Jim Mulvey, director of development at the Aquarium Society.

“Their commitment and community involvement is invaluable and this partnership will provide support to great programs at both the Aquarium and Pier.”

“We are proud to sponsor the two classrooms at the Roanoke Island Aquarium and Jennette’s Pier to help educate our community of the importance of conservation,” noted The Outer Banks Hospital President, Ronnie Sloan. “Healthy lives depend on a healthy planet, so this is a natural union. Proper management of our natural resources helps to keep human and marine life well so that we can all live our lives to the fullest.”

2019 DONORS

\$500+

A Touch of Glass
Tootsie Adderholdt
Advance Signs & Service, Inc.
Deborah Albert
Aon – Rebecca McCabe
Association of Zoos & Aquariums
Atlantic Elevators
Atlantic Strategies Group
Atlantis Lodge
Marvin & Cynthia Barnes
Harold H. Bate Foundation
Bayside Body Shop
Beach Bagels
Beaufort Future, LLC DBA
Fishtowne Brew House
Bembridge Insurance Agencies
Jonathan W. Berry
William & Marianne Berry
Myra Best
Cheryl Bickers
Betsy Blackwell & John Watson
Biggs Cadillac, Buick, GMC Truck
Bill & Georgia Belk
Diane L. Bottenfield
Dawn Bourne
Branz Technologies
Mary Craig & Brick Brown
R.A. Bryan Foundation
Charlton & Peg Burns
Adrienne Cahill
Dan Cameron Family Foundation
Cape Fear Garden Club
Capital Ready Mix
Richelle Carter
Carteret Health Care
Carteret Landing
Chadsworth Columns
Kay & Ken Chalk
Lucille M. Chaveas – In Memory of
Kevin W. Yurecka
Marc & Sissy Chesnutt
George E. Clark III
Coastal Business Development
Coastal Carolina Neuropsychiatric
Center
Coastal Countertops & Tile
Clifford G. Coffey
Steve & Louise Coggins
Comprehensive Rehabilitation &
Pain Specialists
Sally & Alan Cone
The Corcoran Family
Drew & Vickey Covert
Crystal Coast Tourism
Development Authority
Dairy Queen
Braxton Davis
DBA Mama Kwan's Grill & Tiki Bar
Dominion Energy Charitable

Foundation
Kimberly Dougherty
Ashley Dozier – In Memory of
Graham Dozier
Duke Energy Foundation
Leslie Eason
Chris Edwards
Richard M. Ellett
Emerald Isle Realty
William C. Ethridge Foundation
Ashe B. Exum
Samantha Farris
Stephen & Sharon Foley
Steve and Linda Foley
Contractors
FotoFX – Dave Tichenor
Dick & Billie Futrell
Norah & Eric Gerz
Paula Gillenwater
Goodnight Education
Foundation
Grady-White Boats
Lena & Brian Greer
Virgil G. Grinstead
John Hackney Agency
Thomas & Susan Hackney
A.C. & Dot Hall
Allan & Nancy Harvin
Judy A. Higley
Megan Hill
Ella Ann L. & Robert P. Holding
Foundation
Olivia Holding
Hope from Helen – Jennifer
D. Butler
Igoe Creative
Infinity Custom Cabinets
Island Automation PC
The Ivy Cottage
Shawni Jernigan
Jersey Mike's Subs Carolina
Beach
W. M. Jordan Company
Jeanne S. Kain
William N. Keadey
Art & Alice Keeney
Kelly's Restaurant
Lisa Kemplin
Roger Kemble
Kitty Hawk Kites
John Kutzer
Arlene Lents
Patricia Liptrap
Kenneth Lisse
Ashley Lowrance
Henry & Linda MacDonald
Alex & Carolyn MacFadyen
Regina Mack
MAMEA – Mid-Atlantic Marine
Education Association

Mann Custom Boats
Bob & Carol Mattocks
David & Lesley McAdams
– McAdams Foundation
Charles A. McCawley – In Memory
of Mercy & Sam McCawley
Sam & Kim McConkey
Margo McKnight
Brian Todd Mesimer
The Brent Milgrom Family
Foundation
Philip M. Miller
Minnesota Zoo Foundation
Lindsay Miracle
Mary Y. Mismas
Melanie Moe
Susan Moffat-Thomas
Adrienne Moore
Mt. Olive Pickle Company
Charles Nash, DDS PA
Gene & Diane Natali
NC 529 College Savings Program
NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation
NEST – Network for Endangered
Sea Turtles
Network for Good
Greg & Laura Nichols
North Carolina Community
Foundation
North State Foundation
Ocean Grill & Tiki Bar
Kristen Oliva
David O'Loughlin Family
Omega Sports
Ortega'z Grill
Outdoor Lighting of
Wilmington, Inc.
The Outer Banks Hospital
Perry Patterson & Joel Leander
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Pennymen Group
Perquimans Central School
Wes & Stewart Perry
Walter & Pam Phillips
Charles & Mary C. Pierce
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Jean Preikszaitis
Danielle Rawlings
ReBath of Wilson
Chuck & Bonnie Revelle
Malvin Riggins & Company
Loren M. Rogers
John Roof
Alesha S. Roseman
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The Rotary Club of Kinston
Jenny Rudd
Wayne & Amy Schriever

Carl & Leigh Seager
SeaSide Dentistry
Wes & Jacque Seegars
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Jon & Karen Segal
Sharkbites Snack Bar
Adam & Sarah Shay
Stanley & Mary Shelton
Ronnie & Jody Sloan
Ellen Slough
George Smedes Poyner
Foundation
Cindi N. Smith Realty
Rhonda G. Smith
Smithfield's Chicken 'N Bar-B-Q
Southern Bank Foundation
Alexander & Jennifer Speal
Debra Stewart & Edwin Speas
Buck Suiter Family
Overton S. Suiter, Jr.
Sun Realty
Bill & Mary Hannah Taft
John Tantum, Attorney at Law, PA
George & Suzanne Taylor
Stephen Taylor
Susan L. Teffar
Transportation Impact
Triad Foundation
Tri-Tech Service Company
Twiddy & Company Family
Lorraine Twohig
Lisa Urbine
The Walker Family – Matt, Nicole,
Madison, Peyton & Oscar
Walters Family Foundation
David L. Ward, Jr.
John & Susie Ward
James D. Washburn, Jr.
James Waters
Mary C. Watzin
Lori B. Webb
Jane Webster
Wells Fargo Foundation
Julian White Rawl
Stan White Realty & Construction
Will You Escape the OBX
Nancy Wildermann
Willis Cable Construction
Hope Williams & Tom Bersuder
Wilmington Eye, PA
Monique R. Winn
David & Sydney Womack
Gary W. Wright
Elizabeth Wright & F. Mandel
Peter & Darlene Young



LIGHTS, CAMERA, DONATION!

The Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium Wins \$25,000 for Sea Turtle Conservation

The Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium was named first-place winner of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Party for the Planet® video contest and received a \$25,000 conservation donation.

Party for the Planet®, an eight-week long observation between Earth Day (April 22) and World Oceans Day (June 8), is one of AZA's largest public engagement efforts to inspire respect, protection, and conservation of wildlife and wild places. This year, the theme "Spring into Action," encouraged families to volunteer within



their communities. For the contest, AZA-accredited facilities submitted video summaries of the impacts of their events, which were evaluated on volunteerism impact, community engagement and conservation message, and narrowed to ten finalists before going to public vote on Facebook and YouTube.

The Aquarium's winning video, Restore the Shore: #OverFlo, highlighted efforts with the community on World Oceans Day to restore shoreline habitat damaged by Hurricane Florence. Together, with the town of Atlantic Beach and North Carolina Coastal Federation, over 70 volunteers participated in dune restoration, marsh grass planting and clean-up along five miles of coastline. The Aquarium also hosted activities focused on showing the community how to create wildlife-friendly gardens and habitats at home.

The Aquarium has designated the AZA Saving Animals From Extinction (SAFE) North Carolina Sea Turtle Conservation Plan as the recipient of the \$25,000 donation.



EVERYONE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Even the smallest of hands have big impacts! First graders at Perquimans Central School in Hertford County learned about sea turtles and conservation steps they can take to reduce pollution. Led by their teacher, Laura Duncan, students sold reusable bags and homemade bracelets to raise money for the Sea Turtle Assistance and Rehabilitation (STAR) Center at the Aquarium on Roanoke Island. Late in the year the children were given the opportunity to engage with the animals they had been learning about thanks to funds provided by an *Aquarium Scholars* grant.



DON'T TRASH WHERE THEY SPLASH



GRACE KRELL
Owner and Founder of
SweetSip, LLC

Conservation is hitting a chord at the Aquariums and Pier gift shops with foldable straws consistently being a top-selling item. Together they're doing their part to change habits and educate visitors about the need to reduce single-use plastics. To further reduce impacts, the gift shops worked with Pepsi Bottling Ventures in 2019 to replace plastic soda bottles with aluminum cans at all four locations. What can you do to limit single use plastics and protect aquatic life? Start by replacing plastic water bottles with refillable bottles and use pitchers of water when possible. "SweetSip" the vendor for this foldable straw is the product of an entrepreneur, Grace Krell, an ECU student.

"Right before I entered college, SweetSip was created with years of hard work. Through this business, I wanted to decrease the amount of plastic in our environment, one straw at a time. With the help of one of my earliest supporters, the North Carolina Aquariums, we have been able to combat this plastic pollution."

BUSINESS MEMBERS

(\$300 Annually)

101 Mobility
Abruzzo's Pizza
Ace Marine Rigging & Supply
Adventure Wildlife Service
Alert Construction
Amos Mosquito's Restaurant
Anderson Heating & Cooling
Austin Fish Company
Autumn Care of Myrtle Grove
Avian and Exotic Animal Care
B&M Roofing Contractors
Basnight's Lone Cedar Café
BeachCare Urgent & Family Medical Center
Beaches-n-Cream
Bee Here Now
Big Sky Design
Bluewater Real Estate and Vacation Rentals
Boeck Chiropractic Clinic
Brandi's Diner
BT Carawan Lawn Care
Burns & Wilcox
Byrd Quality
The Cameron Report
Carolina Designs Realty
Carolina Pain Center
Carteret – Craven Electric Cooperative
CB Warrior Kids
Clancy & Theys Construction
Christopher Clark & Associates, DDS
ClinLab Consulting
Coastal Carolina Orthodontics
Coastal Carolina Regional Airport
Coastal Dentistry
Comprehensive Dental Center
Conphalt
Crossbridge Financial Group
Dare County Tourism Board
Davies Contracting
DFS Pharma
DLK Repair Corporation
Dorothy Kirtley Real Estate
Down Under Divers Club
D-Rex Pharmacy
El Gato Pelon
Finch and Company
First Flight Adventure Park
Foley Contractors
Full Throttle Speedway
Gallaher Management Group
Graham's Senior Living Homes
Grants Creek Nursery
Gubbs Vending
James Himes & Wendy Himes Lutz
Holiday Inn Express
The Holiday Trav-L-Park Resort
Intracoastal Realty Corporation
Island Essentials
Jack Mackerel's Island Grill
Johnson Family Dentistry
Kellogg Supply Company
Ryan Kerlin Painting
Kirkman, Whitford, Brady, Berryman & Gordan, PA/Attorneys at Law
Kitty Hawk Kites
Kurtis Chevrolet

Lookout Ford
Lower Cape Fear Hospice
Mashburn Appraisal Group
Matchmaker Logistics
Charles K. McCotter, Jr., Attorney at Law
McFadyen Engineers
MedSource Pharmacy
Modern Exterminating Company
Moeller, PA
Mollie A. Fearing & Associates
James E. Moore Insurance Agency
MSOC Health – Management Service On Call
Mutiny Bay Adventure Golf
Mystic Aquarium
Newport Family Practice
The Outer Banks Hospital
Outer Banks Visitors Bureau
PA Stoeber-Enof EA Services Company
Paws & Claws Animal Hospital
Paynter Security Consulting Group
Pleasant Farm & Garden
Port City Land Surveying
Potter's Seafood
Prawn
ProGreen Turf & Landscape
Ram Rent-All
ReBath of Wilson
The Reel Outdoors
Linda Rike Real Estate
Robinson & Stith Insurance
Rocky Top Catering
S3 Architects
SAGA Realty & Construction
Sally Johns Design
The Saltbox Café
Saltwater Metals
Sam & Omie's Restaurant
Rick Soles Property Management
SoundBank
SoundSide Restaurant
Southern Shores Realty
The STEM Labs
StormPro Consultants
Suburban Electric Services
SweetSip
Timberlands Unlimited
Tripp's Pressure Washing
Unique Perspective Window Coverings
Uptown Properties
Victory Chrysler Dodge Jeep
Doug & Mary Weaver
Al Williams Properties
Williams Hardware
Wilmington Police Recreation Association
Windjammer Inn

BUSINESS LEADERS

(\$500 Annually)

Atlantic Elevators
Atlantis Lodge
Capital Ready Mix
Coastal Business Development
Coastal Carolina Neuropsychiatric Center
Coastal Countertops & Tile
Comprehensive Rehabilitation & Pain Specialists
DBA Mama Kwan's Grill & Tiki Bar
FlanneryBuilt General Construction

Grooms Equipment
Infinity Custom Cabinets
Island Automation PC
W. M. Jordan Company
Lisa's Pizzeria
Malvin Riggins & Company
Mann Custom Boats
MCO Transport
The Brent Milgrom Family Foundation
Mt. Olive Pickle Company
Nance's, Inc.
Charles Nash, DDS PA
Ocean Grill & Tiki Bar
Plus Communications
SeaSide Dentistry
Cindi N. Smith Realty
Stan White Realty & Construction
Sun Realty
John Tantum, Attorney at Law, PA
Tri-Tech Service Company
Wilmington Eye, PA

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(\$1000 Annually)

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Advance Signs & Service, Inc.
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American Chemistry Council
Aon – Rebecca McCabe
Association of Zoos & Aquariums
Atlantic Strategies Group
Joseph & Missy Balleydier
Marvin & Cynthia Barnes
Harold H. Bate Foundation
Tracy B. Bayne
Bayside Body Shop
Beach Bagels
Bembridge Insurance Agencies
Bill & Georgia Belk
Jonathan W. Berry
William & Marianne Berry
Myra Best
Biggs Cadillac, Buick, GMC Truck
Betsy Blackwell & John Watson
Frank L. Block
Bonzer Shack Bar & Grill
Dawn Bourne
Branz Technologies
Mary Craig & Brick Brown
R.A. Bryan Foundation
Charlton & Peg Burns
William C. Butler
Dan Cameron Family Foundation
The Cannon Foundation
Cape Fear Garden Club
Carolina Beach Jeep Go Topless
Carteret Health Care
Carteret Landing
CB Sub Shop, LLC.
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Chesnutt, Clemmons & Peacock, PA
Marc & Sissy Chesnutt
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The Corcoran Family
Drew & Vickey Covert
Crystal Coast Tourism Development Authority
Dairy Queen
Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation
Lauren Donnachie
Ashley Dozier – In Memory of Graham Dozier
Duke Energy Foundation
Emerald Isle Realty
William C. Ethridge Foundation
Catherine Everett
Ashe B. Exum
FotoFX – Dave Tichenor
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Norah & Eric Gerz
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Art & Carolyn Green
Green Sheep Water
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A.C. & Dot Hall
Hanover Pediatrics
Allan & Nancy Harvin
Ella Ann L. & Robert P. Holding Foundation
Olivia Holding
Hope from Helen – Jennifer D. Butler
Igoe Creative
The Ivy Cottage
Jersey Mike's Subs Carolina Beach
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Kelly's Restaurant
Lisa Kemplin
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Henry & Linda MacDonald
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Bob & Carol Mattocks
David & Lesley McAdams – McAdams Foundation
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NC 529 College Savings Program
NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation
NEST – Network for Endangered Sea Turtles
New Knowledge Organization
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North State Foundation
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Outer Banks Community Foundation

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 The Rotary Club of Kinston

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 Carl & Leigh Seager
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 Jon & Karen Segal
 Sharkbites Snack Bar
 Adam & Sarah Shay
 Ronnie & Jody Sloan
 George Smedes Poyner Foundation
 Smithfield's Chicken 'N Bar-B-Q
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 David L. Ward, Jr.
 John & Susie Ward
 Wave Foundation
 Jane Webster
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Julian White Rawl
 Will You Escape the OBX
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 Hope Williams & Tom Bersuder
 Willis Cable Construction
 David & Sydney Womack
 Elizabeth Wright & F. Mandel



AQUARIUMS WELCOME NEW DIRECTORS IN 2019

The Roanoke Island and Pine Knoll Shores Aquariums welcomed new directors this past year. Larry Warner became director at Roanoke Island, after Maylon White accepted the position of division director for the Aquariums. Warner's career in museums and aquariums spans 32 years with more than six of those at the Roanoke Island Aquarium where he was instrumental in the development of the Soundside Pier, the hands-on *Operation: Sea Turtle Rescue* exhibit, the STAR Center sea turtle hospital, and the Aquarium's \$6.5 million renovation which was completed in 2016. Most recently, he acted as the director of exhibits for Connecticut's Mystic Aquarium, overseeing the development of numerous conservation-based exhibits.

The Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium welcomed Liz Baird after Hap Fatzinger moved to the position of director of the Fort Fisher Aquarium. Having been instrumental in the development and cultivation of the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences' education and outreach program, Baird has nearly 30 years of experience in shaping the way individuals see, learn and appreciate the world around them. She is also credited with founding the national "Take A Child Outside week" program to reconnect children and nature. As a 2010 recipient of the environmental educator of the year award from the Environmental Educators of North Carolina, she is committed to sharing the wonder of science and nature.

SPOT A SHARK USA SUPPORTS OCEAN LIFE BALANCE

The Aquariums launched Spot A Shark USA, a collaboration between the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the North Carolina Aquariums, in 2018. This “citizen scientist” program engages recreational divers, exploring the North Carolina coastline, to take photos of sand tiger sharks and upload to **SpotASharkUSA.com**. Since its inception, the Spot A Shark USA program has already produced significant results. Preliminary research reveals site fidelity in six female sand tiger sharks. While sand tiger sharks were known to aggregate around coastal shipwrecks, it was unknown whether the same individual sharks returned to these wrecks over time. Photos collected by citizen scientists for Spot A Shark USA documented that six female sharks returned to the same or nearby shipwrecks adding to a growing body of evidence that shipwrecks are an important habitat for top predators like sand tiger sharks.

In addition to the information provided through the Spot A Shark USA program, Aquarium researchers are successfully tagging sand tiger sharks to learn more about the species along our coast. You may wonder why sharks are so important. At the top of the food chain, sharks are crucial to ocean life balance as they keep second tier sea life from exploding and eating all the smaller fish, thus depleting the natural ecosystem of the sea.

The success of the sand tiger shark research is due in part to partnerships with multiple AZA aquariums and zoos and South-East Zoo Alliance for Reproduction & Conservation (SEZARC).

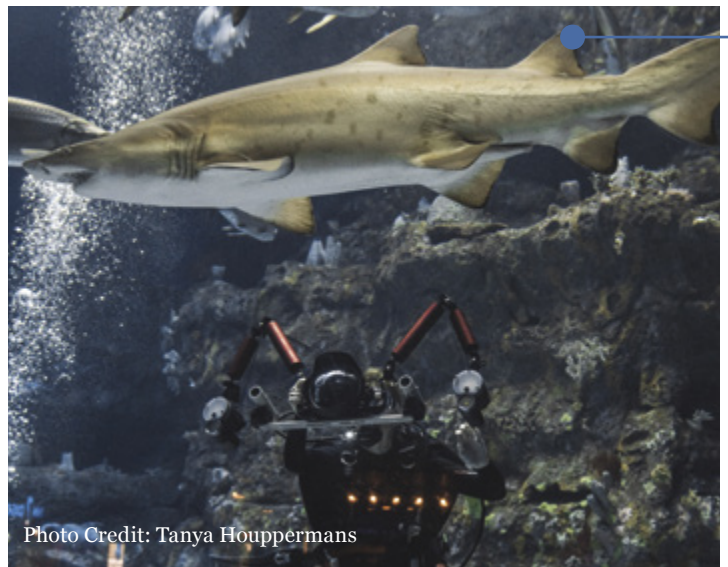


Photo Credit: Tanya Houppermans

A NEW START REHABILITATED SEA TURTLES RETURN TO OCEAN

Each year the Aquariums, in cooperation with state organizations, staff and volunteers, rescue and rehabilitate turtles that are injured, stranded and cold-stunned. The year 2019 was no exception with 232 turtles admitted and 103 released. Turtle rehabilitation often takes more than a year, so many of the turtles released in 2019 were from a previous year's rescue or they may have been rehabilitated at another aquarium and brought to the North Carolina Aquariums for release.

DIVIN' FOR LIONS LIONFISH MITIGATION PROJECT CHARTS SUCCESS

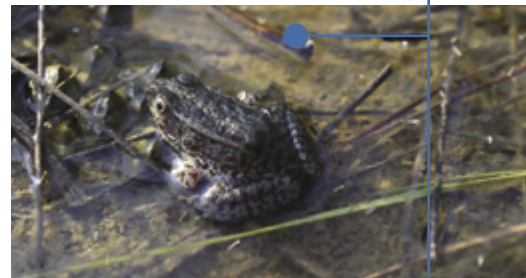
Initially started in 2017, with an Aquarium Society grant, the Roanoke Island Aquarium has been working to control the exploding lionfish population. Rapidly taking over reef and wreck sites and depleting food sources for native fish, lionfish are an invasive species.

In 2019, divers expanded their search area from four dive sites to six. They found less lionfish at the prior sites and only one at the two new sites, however more exploration is needed. Divers also noted that the size of the lionfish have decreased from 12" in length in 2017 to 9.5" in 2019. Cooking classes geared toward education on how to cook the species was suspended due to decreased availability.

Since the start of the program 391 lionfish have been collected; 104 in 2019. Due to these efforts, an estimated 1,955,000 individual prey fish have been protected.

SUSTAINABLE PROPAGATION

From jellies and seahorses to cubbyu and pipefish, the Aquariums have long been engaged in sustainable propagation. Modular Larval Rearing Systems (MoLaRS) at each Aquarium help teams collect and raise fish larvae within in-house systems to reduce the need for collecting fish from the wild. This is just one of many projects that demonstrate the Aquariums' commitment to conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.



LEAPING INTO ACTION SAVING THE GOPHER FROG

The Aquariums have been partnering with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to head-start endangered Carolina gopher frogs. Each spring, researchers survey local ponds, collect a small portion of eggs and hatch them in Aquarium care. The tadpoles are raised to juvenile frogs and then released to the original population location. Before release, each frog is tagged with a Visible Implant Elastomer so it can be identified if recaptured. Since the work began, more than 1,659 endangered frogs have been released.

GRAND BENEFACTORS

(Gifts of \$1 Million or More)

NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund
NC Waterfront Access & Marine Industry Fund
Pepsi Bottling Ventures/Pepsico
Triad Foundation

BENEFACTORS

(Gifts of \$500,000 - \$1 Million)

Dare County
Bill & Barbara Dobo
Bob & Dot Dobo
Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation
FotoFX – Dave Tichenor
NC Association of Outdoor Advertisers
NC Coastal Recreational Fishing License Program
NOAA – National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
David & Sydney Womack

GUARDIANS

(Gifts of \$100,000 - \$500,000)

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Burroughs Wellcome Fund
The Cannon Foundation
Centura Bank
Crystal Coast Tourism Development Authority
Duke Energy Foundation
Mary Whiting Ewing Foundation
First Citizens Bank
AJ Fletcher Foundation
General Federation of Women's Clubs of NC
Grady-White Boats
Tom & Bee Gwynn
Olivia Holding
Bill & Marilyn Hull
Institute for Museum & Library Services
Kealy Family Foundation
Ben & Jean Kilgore
Mary Katherine Lawrence & Art Klose
Bob & Carol Mattocks
Percy W. & Elizabeth G. Meekins Charitable Trust
NC Coastal Area Management Act
Nucor Steel
Hank & Jane Smith Patterson
George & Suzanne Taylor
Michael & Debbie Thompson
Town of Nags Head
Union Concrete

CONSERVATORS

(Gifts of \$25,000 - \$100,000)

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Association of Zoos & Aquariums
Marvin & Cynthia Barnes
Harold H. Bate Foundation
BB&T
Bill & Georgia Belk
Steve Bell
Alice Bost
R.A. Bryan Foundation
Charlton & Peg Burns
Carteret County

Carteret Health Care
Carteret Publishing Company
Coastal Beverage Company
Drew & Vickey Covert
Dare County Tourism Board
Tom Davis Fund
Emerald Isle Realty
First National Bank
Dick & Billie Futrell
A.C. & Dot Hall
Hatteras Yachts
Ella Ann L. & Robert P. Holding Foundation
Art & Alice Keeney
Kelly's Restaurant
Kurtis Chevrolet
Carter & Janie Lambeth
Alex & Carolyn MacFadyen
Sam & Kim McConkey
Allan & Margaret Mims Foundation
Munson Aquatic Conservation Exhibit Award
National Marine Sanctuary Foundation
NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation
NC State University Sea Grant
NEST – Network for Endangered Sea Turtles
New Hanover County
North Carolina Community Foundation
Nutrien
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OceanReef, Inc.
David O'Loughlin Family
The Outer Banks Hospital
Outer Banks Visitors Bureau
Park Foundation
Warren & Barbara Perry
Walter & Pam Phillips
Lonnie & Carol Lynn Poole
Buddy & Stu Pope
Thomas Reese
Chuck & Bonnie Revelle
Rockett, Burkhead & Winslow
Safari Club International
Safrit's Building Supply
Jason & Melody Seely
George Smedes Poyner Foundation
Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation
Smithfield's Chicken 'N Bar-B-Q
Southern Bank Foundation
Buck Suiter Family
Mathew & Maureen Sullivan – In Memory of Eugene Sullivan
Sunlite Supply
Bill & Mary Hannah Taft
Time Warner – Connect a Million Minds
Transportation Impact
Triangle Land Conservancy
Twiddy & Company Family
Wachovia Foundation
Gary L. Wagner
Walters Family Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation
Yadkin Bank (East Carolina Bank, Vintage South Bank)

SPONSORS

(Gifts of \$5,000 - \$25,000)

Deborah Albert
Tootsie Adderholdt & Alice Engel
Ambrose Signs

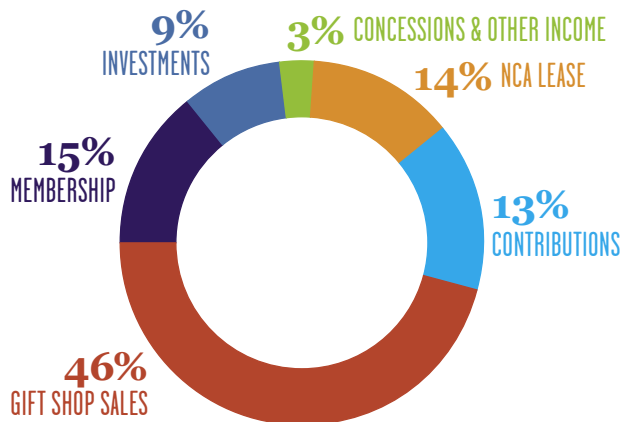
Association of Zoos & Aquariums/Walt Disney Company
Atlantic Strategies Group
Atlantis Lodge
Casey Ball & Dan Tomlinson
Bembridge Insurance Agencies
Jonathan W. Berry
William & Marianne Berry
Myra Best
Biggs Cadillac, Buick, GMC Truck
Betsy Blackwell & John Watson
Frank & Wendy Block
Marvin & Rebecca Blount
Bluewater GMAC
BMH Architects
Gil Burnett
Dan Cameron Family Foundation
John & Ann Campbell
Cape Fear Garden Club
Capital Development Services
Carteret County Sportfishing Club
Carteret-Craven Electric Membership Cooperative
Craig Castor
CenturyLink
Kay & Ken Chalk
Cherbec Foundation
Marc & Sissy Chesnutt
Clancy & Theys Construction
Coldwell Banker Sea Coast Realty
Community Foundation of Southeastern NC
Cooperative Bank for Savings
The Corcoran Family
Dairy Queen
Walter Daniels
Discovery Diving
Dive Rite
Ashley Dozier – In Memory of Graham Dozier
DuPont
Embarq Corporation
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Charles & Becky Evans
Ashe B. Exum
First Union Foundation
Florida Aquarium
Jake & Mazie Froelich
Georgia Aquarium
Goodnight Education Foundation
Art & Carolyn Green
Lena & Brian Greer
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MAMEA – Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association
Susan E. Martin
Ann Maxwell

David & Lesley McAdams – McAdams Foundation
Margo McKnight
Harvey McNairy Foundation
Microsoft TechSoup
Minnesota Zoo Foundation
Susan Moffat-Thomas
James E. Moore Insurance Agency
Mt. Olive Pickle Company
Mystic Aquarium
National Aquarium – Baltimore
NC 529 College Savings Program
NCDENR Office of Environmental Education
New England Aquarium
North State Foundation
Greg & Laura Nichols
OBX Bank/Monarch Bank
Ocean Foundation
Olympus Dive Center
Outer Banks Community Foundation
Outer Banks Dive Center
Bill & Connie Parker
PaverScape Designs
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Jon & Karen Segal
Jim, Judy & Robin Serne
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Hope Williams & Tom Bersuder
Wooten & Batchelor Families
Bill & Lyndia Wright
James Gordon Wright
Peter & Darlene Young

2019 FUNDING AND REVENUE

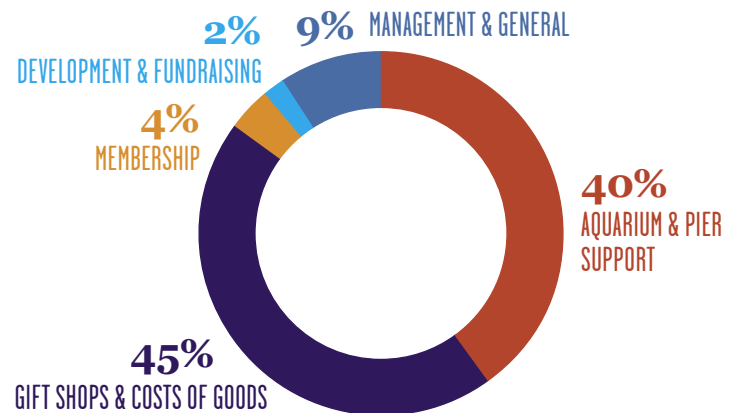
The Aquariums and Pier's enduring success is thanks to a dedicated staff, enthusiastic volunteers, broad support from state leaders and private support made available through the Aquarium Society. Using an entrepreneurial approach, the Aquariums now fund half of their operational needs from earned revenue and private contributions.

2019 AQUARIUM SOCIETY



REVENUE (Rounded)

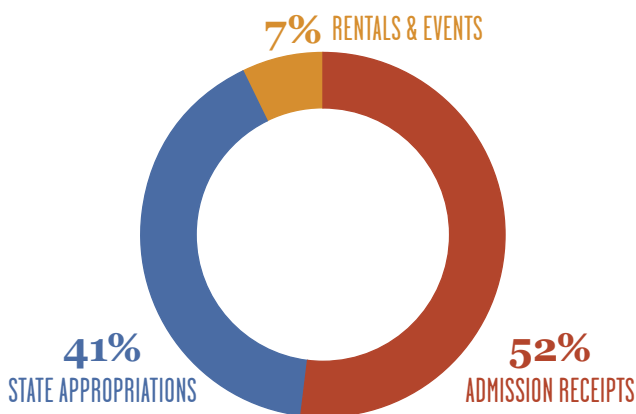
Gift Shop Sales	\$5.7 million
Membership	\$1.8 million
Contributions, Grants & Scholarships	\$1.6 million
Concessions & Other Income	\$400 thousand
Investments	\$1.1 million
NCA Lease for the PKS Aquarium	\$1.7 million
Total Revenue	\$12.3 million



EXPENSES (Rounded)

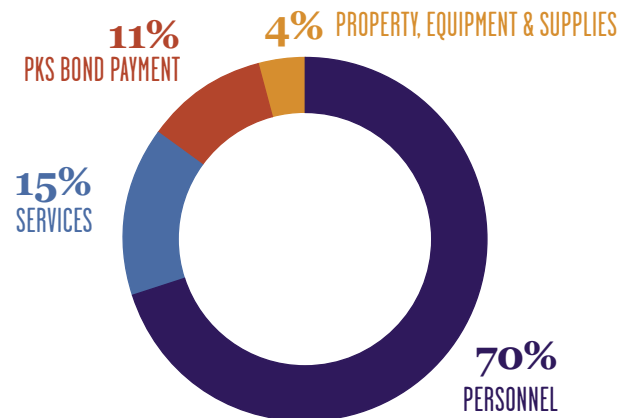
Aquarium & Pier Support	\$4.0 million
Gift Shops & Costs of Goods	\$4.5 million
Membership	\$400 thousand
Development & Fundraising	\$200 thousand
Management & General	\$900 thousand
Total Expenses	\$10 million

2019 NC AQUARIUMS & JENNETTE'S PIER



REVENUE (Rounded)

State Appropriations	\$7.4 million
Admission Receipts	\$9.2 million
Rentals & Events	\$1.3 million
Total Revenue	\$17.9 million



EXPENSES (Rounded)

Personnel	\$11.4 million
Services	\$2.5 million
Property, Equipment & Supplies	\$700 thousand
PKS Bond Payment	\$1.8 million
Total Expenses	\$16.4 million



North Carolina Aquarium Society
3125 Poplarwood Court, Suite 160
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