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NC Aquariums Take In Nearly 450 Rescued Sea Turtles in Record Event

The sudden arrival of winter weather early in January along the North Carolina coast led to a record number of cold-stunned

sea turtles needing rescue and rehabilitation. In just a two-day period, more than 600 turtles were caught in frigid water temperatures near shore, unable to swim due to a hypothermia-like response.

The North Carolina Aquariums regularly provide care for weak or injured turtles. From this cold-stunning event alone, the Aquariums have taken in nearly 450 turtles in need of help.

"Conservation is a cornerstone of our mission," said North Carolina Aquariums Director David Griffin. "In this event, the three Aquariums and the Pier were ready and willing to lend help in the care of these turtles."

The effort to rescue and rehabilitate sea turtles is led by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, which has collaborated with a number of federal, state and private organizations in this week's effort, including: North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island, Jennette's Pier, North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores, North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher, Center for Marine Sciences and Technology, North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Cape Lookout National Seashore, Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Hatteras Island



Wildlife Rehabilitation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service.

Many turtles have made a quick recovery, but some need additional time and care. Aquariums' staff and veterinary teams perform regular health checks on the turtles and, prior to release, will place a microchip tag in each one.

In partnership with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, about 200 of the turtles were transported south for a beach release. The rest of the turtles will remain in the care of the Aquariums and the Turtle Hospital until they're cleared for release, which could take a few weeks.

Most of the rescued turtles are juvenile green sea turtles, but there are a few loggerhead and Kemp's ridley turtles, as well. Five out of the seven sea turtle species worldwide can be found along the coast of North Carolina.

Centennial Documentary to Premiere on UNC-TV Today

22 state parks plan special viewing parties

Saving the Best: North Carolina State Parks at 100, a documentary celebrating the parks system's 2016 centennial, will be the centerpiece of premiere viewing parties at 22 state parks on January 27, according to the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation. The hour-long show will also air at 8 p.m. that evening on UNC-TV.

The production by Tom Earnhardt is a tribute to the men and women who work in the parks, volunteers who give their time and energy and the 17 million visitors who visit state parks each year. The project was supported by the State Employees' Credit Union and Friends of State Parks.

Earnhardt, a longtime contributor to UNC-TV on nature and outdoor topics, teamed with videographers and co-producers Mark Crews and Tucker Hayes. Mixing stunning footage and aerial views of park landscapes with interviews and a soundtrack from the Southern String Band, the team created a montage of 41 state parks and the people working as stewards of those landscapes.

"This film is a terrific story about North Carolina; it's about who we are and where we came from. It's also about the people who make our parks run, probably the most dedicated people as servants in our parks system, an extraordinary group of stewards," Earnhardt said. "The goal of this program is to excite the people of North Carolina about the parks system and to educate them about the great efforts of those who work in the parks."

"The premiere parties will be an opportunity for park staff, families, friends, supporters and the public to come together and celebrate as the 2016 centennial begins, and to talk about centennial events planned for each park," said Mike Murphy, state parks director.

Times for the showings at state parks will vary from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and details are to be found at ncparks.gov/saving-the-best. The parks participating are: Haw River, Hammocks Beach, Lake Norman, Raven Rock, New River, Gorges, Medoc Mountain, Chimney Rock, Fort Macon, Hanging Rock, Weymouth Woods, Jones, Pettigrew, Cliffs of the Neuse, Goose Creek, Carolina Beach, Crowders Mountain, Lake Waccamaw, Umstead, Jordan Lake, Kerr Lake and South Mountains.

Bowman Class of 1977 Reunion Meeting

The Bowman Senior High School Class of 1977 will hold a reunion meeting on Saturday, February 6 at 3 p.m. at the Lady Bug Restaurant in Wadesboro. Among the items covered at the meeting will be election of officers.

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Wadesboro Auction House has been contracted by the family of the late Linda Morris of Polkton, NC to sell her remaining personal property at Auction at her beautiful residence. The majority of the auction will take place indoors.

Please see the pictures of the Estate on AuctionZip.com.

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