



Light up Topsail Beach

On April 18, 2025, we will celebrate the
250th anniversary of Paul Revere's Ride.
7 p.m. at The Assembly Building
7:45 p.m. We will Light Up Topsail Beach

Free! Bring the family for this historic night



topsailhistoricalsociety.org



You are invited



topsailchamber.org

Bumblebee Buzz April 2025

Preserving the Past, Enjoying the Present, Building the Future.

A Note From The President:

Winter has passed, spring has arrived, and summer will be here before long!

Over the winter, the Historical Society remained active by hosting our monthly luncheons, conducting our first-ever CPR/AED sessions (a special thank you to Onslow County Community Paramedics and the Topsail Beach Fire Department), and celebrating our dedicated volunteers with a Mardi Gras party.

Looking ahead to summer, we have several exciting programs lined up:

- The Missiles & More Museum is now open for the season!
- The Aquarium Program, presented by the NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher Outreach and sponsored by The Town of Topsail Beach, will commence on June 11. .
- Turtle Talks, presented by the Topsail Turtle Project through the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center, will start the first week of June.
- Bingo, one of our most popular programs, will begin on June 5.

Additionally, our membership drive for 2025-2026 begins on May 1st. Look

for your membership form in the mail shortly thereafter. If you would like to join online, please visit our website, www.topsailhistoricalsociety.org, click on the "Become a Member" tab at the top, and scroll down to the Membership Application Form. We sincerely hope you consider renewing your membership and supporting us in fulfilling our mission.

Have a wonderful Spring!
Regards,

Cindy



April 18, 2025

Gather at the Historic Assembly Building at 7 P.M. to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Paul Revere's ride.

A reenactor will read "Paul Revere's Ride" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, then attendees will disperse to the beach and various access points. The Topsail Beach Fire Department will signal with two bright lights on the water tower. Bring your flashlights, cell phones, or battery-operated lanterns. No flames or sparklers allowed for safety. Volunteers from the sea turtle hospital will outline a turtle, the Reel Housewives of Topsail Island will form a ribbon, and the the Historical Society will shape '1775' on the beach.

Families, churches, and civic organizations are encouraged to participate.

Jeff Wenzel of Above Topsail will record the event with a drone.

Our 2025-2026 Membership drive Starts May 1st
Look for you application in your mailbox

OR Click on the button below to become a member or Renew your membership today!

[Become or renew your membership here!!](#)

We appreciate your support and participation.
Every Membership and Donation helps us fulfill our Mission!

2024 Distinguished Service Award presented at March 13th Luncheon



The Historical Society recognized two long-time friends and leaders of the Society with a Distinguished Service Award. Steve and Edna Smith have worked as a team to provide vision and guidance for the Historical Society's mission for many years. Steve provided clear concepts to move the society and was an omni-present problem solver for maintenance of the Assembly, Society finances, and day to day operations. Edna was instrumental in moving the scholarship program forward, providing training and guidance for trustees and staff, as well as leadership in establishing our Ghost Walk Program. Both Steve and Edna were generous with their time serving the local community and Eastern North Carolina. We are fortunate that one expression of their love for Topsail Island was through their service to the Historical Society.

Photo: Edna Smith receives award from Larry Combs, HSTI Trustee

Photo Credit: John Morris

Luncheon and Lecture News

Join us for our last two luncheons of the 2024-2025 season

10 April

Join us in celebrating the 2025 HSTI Scholarship Winners. These students have dedicated significant effort to their projects and presentations to earn these scholarships. [Register today](#) to meet and have lunch with these accomplished teens.

Nathan Deitz, a Topsail High School Senior, is receiving a scholarship for his essay, *Sloop Point Plantation: A Timeless Legacy on the North Carolina Coast*
Allana Chase, also from Topsail High School, is receiving a scholarship for her essay on Camp Lejeune.

Allie Miller, from Pender Early College, is receiving a scholarship for her embroidered work on the Talos Missile display.

Sinead Morrow, also from Pender Early College, is receiving a scholarship for her painting of the Burgaw train station.



8 May

NC Venus Flytrap during the American Revolution

Join North Carolina Maritime Museum in Southport Programming and Education Curator Shannon Walker to learn about the little plant that sparked a craze that would involve a royal governor, the who's who of 18th century scientists, and a high seas adventure.



The Missiles & More Museum is OPEN!

- ☐ March, April through 23 May
Wednesday through Friday from 10 AM to 2 PM..
- Starting 27 May through 10 October
Monday Through Friday 10 AM to 2 PM. ☐

The Historical Society of Topsail Island invites you to explore pirate legends, sunken Spanish treasure, and the history of Operation Bumblebee. Learn about the WASPs and their impact on women's roles in aviation and discover the history of Greater Topsail Island. Join our outdoor fossil dig for treasure hunting and explore more inside the Historic Assembly Building!



Historical Society of Topsail Island Presents

BINGO

THURSDAYS JUNE 5 - AUGUST 21, 2025

Doors Open at 5:45 PM
Early Bird Games at 6:30 PM - Main Games 7:00 PM

Historic Assembly Building 720 Channel Blvd, Topsail Beach, NC
TopsailHistoricalSociety.org

Patriot Night
JULY 3



All proceeds support
The Historical Society
of Topsail Island's
mission to preserve
and promote the
history of the Greater
Topsail Island area.

Pirate Night August 7



Bumblebee
Night
June 19



PLEASE NO OUTSIDE
FOOD OR BEVERAGES
CONCESSIONS
AVAILABLE ON SITE

Volunteers let the good times roll!

The Historical Society of Topsail Island held a Mardi Gras-themed party on March 4th at the Historic Assembly Building to honor volunteers. Volunteers from various groups, including the Missiles and More Museum, Autumn With Topsail, Jingle Bell Ball, Bingo, Pender County Ghost Walk, and Board of Directors, were recognized for their service.

Linda and Dave Stipe were crowned King and Queen for their years of volunteering. Laurette Gordon, director of the Missiles and More Museum, awarded certificates to all docents who worked 40+ hours last season. The event featured catering by Fusion Blue Cuisine and king cakes from Twisted Sisters Bakery.



Photos:

Above: Linda and Dave Stipe, Queen and King of the event

Below: Docent award: (l-r) Carrie Roudebush for Wayne Peal, Denise Blanken, Laurette Gordon (M&MM director), Mark Litchney and Marianne McGillin.

Not pictured: Kevin Eitel, Dale Eisman, Eric Johnson, and Joe Bednar.



Volunteer Opportunities: Active Volunteers Build the Future!

How would you like to be involved?

~Luncheons ~Education ~Bingo! ~Autumn with Topsail

~Fundraising ~Engaging Speaker ~Jingle Bell Ball

~Museum Docent ~Living History Demonstrator

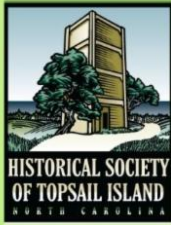
Do you have computer/online/virtual platform skills?

Graphic Design?

WE NEED YOU!!

Sign Me Up!!

HSTI SUMMER AQUARIUM PROGRAM, PRESENTED BY THE NC AQUARIUM AT FORT FISHER OUTREACH, SPONSORED BY THE TOWN OF TOPSAIL BEACH



These engaging programs cater to families with school-aged children, but everyone is invited to join in!



WEDNESDAYS AT 1:00 PM

**HISTORIC ASSEMBLY BUILDING
720 CHANNEL BLVD. TOPSAIL BEACH, NC**



JUNE 11 – SEA MOONS



**JUNE 18 – HABITAT FIXER
UPPERS**



JUNE 25 – FANTASTIC FISH



**JULY 2 – HERMIT CRAB'S
FRIENDS**



JULY 9 – TURTLE TIME



**JULY 16 – NATURE'S
COLORING BOOK**



She Said Yes!!

**Your wedding venue search starts and ends here!
The Historic Assembly Building is Where Memories Are Made!**

The unique and historic Assembly Building with its beautiful island setting, is located on the Sound front of Topsail Beach. Our location offers magnificent sunset views!

From an industrial vibe, Boho-style, or traditional style wedding, everything is possible at the Assembly Building! With a capacity of up to 250 people, we provide THE perfect setting for any occasion!

Large or small.

From the most intimate celebration with your nearest and dearest to a grand affair with all your family and friends we provide THE ideal setting!

Family Reunions | Celebrations of Life | Birthdays | Anniversaries
Corporate Retreats | Business Meetings | Workshops

Endless Celebrations Happen Here!

Click on the button below for more information about renting the Historic Assembly Building for your next event!

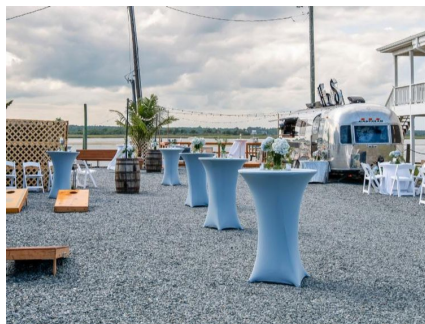
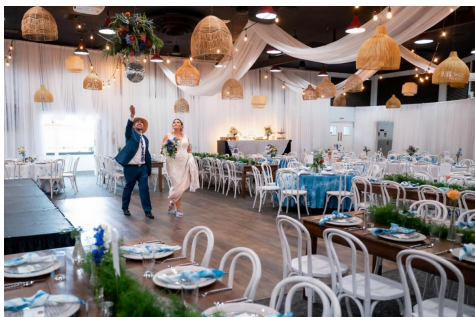


Photo credit Stella Spera Photography - Topsail Design and Studio L.L.C.



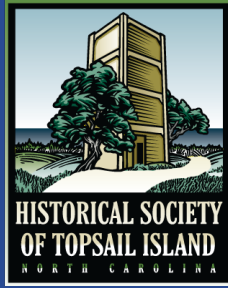
Start Your Celebration Here!



Historic Top Secret Walking Tour of Topsail Beach

This easy, free, one-mile walking tour will take you on a fun, historical adventure through the downtown area of the Town of Topsail Beach. This hike will accommodate strollers and folks with limited mobility.

Learn More!



Mission Statement

The Historical Society of Topsail Island is dedicated to the collection, preservation and promotion of the history of the Greater Topsail Island Area.

[Visit our website](#)



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