

Club Profile

Brunswick County Historical Society

By LINDSAY KRIZ
STAFF WRITER

On June 21, 1956, some Brunswick County residents came together to create the Brunswick County Historical Society with the mission "to collect, preserve, study, evaluate and publicize the history of Brunswick County, NC."

The group meets four times a year on the second Monday of February, May, August and November, with meetings devoted to presenting materials about Brunswick County and the Lower Cape Fear area through lectures, slides and discussion.

The group heard from Norma Lee Eckard, president of Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range, during its Nov. 13 meeting at Brunswick Community College. She told members about the upkeep of the range, which was built in 1918.

August's meeting featured John Golden of Wilmington, a folk singer/storyteller who collects and performs coastal Carolina folklore and history. He presented a historical interpretation of the Civil War blockade runner, Captain Roberts, through songs and stories.

Richard Powell of Southport presented "Miracle in Philadelphia: The Making of the Constitution" at the May meeting.

To kick off 2017, BCHS invited Diane Kuebert, regent of the Brunswick Town Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, to speak about her group at the February meeting.

"The emphasis is Brunswick County topics and structures," BCHS member Gwen Causey said.

The BCHS website, bchs1764.org, includes a list of historical sites in



Staff photo by Lindsay Kriz

Norma Lee Eckard of Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range presents information about the range to the Brunswick County Historical Society at its meeting on Nov. 13 at Brunswick Community College.

the county like Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson in Winnabow and Fort Caswell in Caswell Beach. The site also includes sites related to historical events in the county, like Hurricane Hazel which is commemorated with a marker at N.C. 133 at Yaupon Drive in Oak Island and the marker for the original boundary house, where commissioners met to establish the North Carolina-South Carolina state line in 1764. The boundary house was also a popular spot for historical travelers. Its marker can be found on U.S. 17 at S.R. 1168 (Country Club Road) in Calabash.

The group's newsletters dating all the way back to February 2010 can be found on its website under the "About Us" tab.

The February 2017 issue of the newsletter began the 58th volume; Volume 1 No. 1 was printed September 1961. Member Dave Lewis

serves as newsletter editor.

And if you want to delve into the history of the group itself, its complete set of newsletters can be found in the Wilson Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and at the New Hanover County Public Library North Carolina Room in Wilmington.

The only requirement to join BCHS? "Just to have an interest," Causey said.

Dues for the 2018 year will be payable by February 2018 unless you are a life member. Annual dues are \$15 for an active member or \$150 to become a lifetime members. To learn more or to join, contact BCHS secretary Roberta Brady at 253-4886 or rbrady@atmc.net.

Lindsay Kriz is a staff writer for the Beacon. Reach her at 754-6890 or lkriz@brunswickbeacon.com.

Officers

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Richard Hollembeak
Vice President:
Sally Robinson
Secretary:
Roberta Brady
Treasurer:
Bob Armour
Directors:
James Robinson,
Jim Marlowe,
Dave Lewis

Meeting times

Four times a year on the second Monday of February, May, August and November. Tentative dates for 2018 are Feb. 12, May 14, Aug. 13 and Nov. 12.

Website

bchs1764.org