



The 2024 William Friday Teachers Retreat Carolina Voices: Enriching the Mind, Rejuvenating the Spirit “Down East”

Held in honor of Todd Miller

Founder, former Executive Director & Senior Advisor to the [North Carolina Coastal Federation](#)

Sunday, June 23 – Tuesday, June 25, 2024

The Beaufort Hotel | Beaufort, NC

Generously sponsored by the [North Caroliniana Society](#)

Sunday, June 23

The Beaufort Hotel | 2440 Lennoxville Road, Beaufort

11:30 – 12:15 Arrivals and Buffet Lunch

12:15 – 12:45 **Welcome & Introductions**

Christie Norris, Director of Education | NC Department of Natural & Cultural Resources

Opening Activity, Michelle Burrows, Director | A+ Schools of North Carolina, NC Arts Council

12:45 – 2:00 **Building Community in the K-12 Classroom**

Cannie Hunter, Communication Faculty | Fayetteville Tech

Motivated, engaged, and thriving students are a teacher’s dream, right? At times, given today’s challenges in education, it’s easy to forget that we have the opportunity and power to foster a true sense of community in our classrooms. In this session we will explore how to cultivate a learning community with variety, creativity, and students who are willing to participate and engage. Cannie Hunter, a passionate communication instructor, will present a toolkit of strategies for multiple grade levels to aid you in curating a classroom community that is safe, inclusive, and supportive for our students – that will ultimately make your job easier.

2:00 – 2:15 Break

2:15 – 3:15 **Freedom Songs: From Slavery to Civil Rights**

[Mary D. Williams](#) | Performer & Adjunct Professor, Duke Center for Documentary Studies

Vocalist Mary D. Williams will help us understand the role music played from enslavement through the Civil Rights Movement, illustrating how music provides an effective entry point for uniting us as we examine history. (*Listen to Mrs. Williams on [NPR](#) or read about her work in this [Walter Magazine](#) feature.*)

- ❖ Teachers will receive a free copy of Mrs. Williams’s CD, [Blood Done Sign My Name](#), for use in the classroom!
- ❖ Learn about one of the many ways music was important to local culture by watching [this 2-min. piece](#) on the [Menhaden Chanteymen](#). An additional 9-min. video is available [here](#).

- 3:15 – 3:35 **Artful Connections**
Michelle Burrows, Director | A+ Schools of North Carolina, NC Arts Council
- We will take a few minutes to make connections with each other, foster a sense of community and express gratitude for the experiences so far.
- 3:35 -4:30 Break and Hotel Check In
- 4:30 Please meet outside in front of the hotel by 4:40 pm to claim your spot on [Beaufort Historical Association's](#) 1967 English double-decker bus, which will take us to downtown for our evening activities.
- 4:30 – 4:50 Travel to Maritime Museum
- 4:50 – 5:50 **Group 1: Behind the Scenes at the [North Carolina Maritime Museum - Beaufort](#)**
- The North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort reflects coastal life and interprets lighthouses and lifesaving stations, the seafood industry, motorboats, and more. Studies in marine life, science, and ecology are available for all ages. It is also the repository for artifacts from Blackbeard's wrecked flagship, including cannons, grenades, and more. Museum staff will provide an overview of the collection, as well as lead us in a sample activity to explore their resources.
- Group 2 (stay on the bus): A Private Tour of [Bonehenge Whale Center](#)**
- The Bonehenge Whale Center is dedicated to the study and preservation of marine life, particularly focusing on whales. From its educational exhibits to cutting edge research on marine ecosystems and whale species, you'll get a private look at one of the most unique facilities in the state!
- 5:50 – 6:50 **Group 1: A Private Tour of [Bonehenge Whale Center](#)**
Group 2: Behind the Scenes at the [North Carolina Maritime Museum - Beaufort](#)
- 6:50 – 7:20 **A Tour of Downtown Beaufort with the [Beaufort Historical Association](#)**
- Downtown Beaufort has a very rich history, including tales of rich past of pirates, star-crossed lovers, and Civil War spies. We'll cruise by a few prime locations on our way back to the hotel.
- 7:30 – 9:00 **Teacher Appreciation Dinner**
- Dr. Maya Angelou said that "Each person deserves a day away in which no problems are confronted, no solutions searched for. Each of us needs to withdraw from the cares which will not withdraw from us." Let the stress and difficulties of the classroom slide off your shoulders, because tonight is about enjoying great company over a meal in celebration of *each of you!* Our dinner program will include:
- **A Toast to Teachers** – *Christie Norris | Director of Education, NC Dept. of Natural & Cultural Resources*
 - **Welcome from Secretary Reid Wilson** | *NC Department of Natural & Cultural Resources*
 - **Introduction of Our Event Honoree & Remarks** from Todd Miller | Former Executive Director & Senior Advisor to the [North Carolina Coastal Federation](#)
 - **"Teach the Darkness Away"** – [Dr. Jim Clark](#), President, [North Caroliniana Society](#)

Monday, June 24

THIS is Core Sound: A Day on Harkers Island & Cape Lookout

“To understand Cape Lookout you must see it the eyes of people whose ancestors once lived there. Beyond the unspoiled landscape, are the remnants of a life here that we can no longer see – the history and people who once played here, children whose parents worried and worshipped through hard winds and cold winters on the banks, men who saved lives along the beaches, boys and girls who attended fragile one-room schools, who fished the waters and watched for whales, shipwrecks, and storms. This truth is fundamental to Cape Lookout National Seashore and it is the common thread that binds Down East together.” ([Source](#))

- 8:45 – 9:10 **Arrivals & Continental Breakfast | Harkers Island Visitors Center | 1800 Island Road, Harkers Island, 28513**
The [Harkers Island Visitors Center](#) & and [ferry](#) is a **35-minute drive from the hotel**. Please arrive no later than 9:00 am, in preparation for ferry boarding and a prompt **9:15 am departure**. We will have grab-and-go continental breakfast items for you by the ferry (sandwiches, bottled water, pieces of fruit, etc.) If you like a more substantial breakfast, you may want to build in time to pick up something in Beaufort. Restrooms are available inside and outside the Harkers Island Visitors Center. Ferries operate on a schedule; ours departs at 9:15 am and cannot be delayed for late arrivals.
- 9:10 Ferry Boarding
- 9:15 – 9:45 **Ferry Ride to [Cape Lookout](#)**
While we have made ferry reservations for you, ferries are still public transportation and operate on a prompt schedule. Please make sure you arrive in time for a 9:15 am departure. These ferries are covered (but open) catamarans, and our truck tour will be in the back of flat-bed trucks with bench seating and smaller UTVs. Make sure to consult our registrant information page for tips on what to wear/bring.
- 10:15 – 10:45 **Arrival and Overview of the Morning | Cape Lookout Pavilion**
[Karen Willis Amspacher](#), Executive Director | Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center
Welcome to the true “Down East!” Karen Amspacher, one of the nation's leading authorities on America's maritime heritage and with deep roots on Harkers Island & the Cape, will provide a quick overview of our day's plans. Time will also be provided to walk over to the lighthouse (it is currently closed for climbing, however) and restrooms are available at the lighthouse visitor's center.
- 10:45 – 12:15 **Truck Tour of Cape Lookout Historic Village & Seashore**
South from the [Cape Lookout Lighthouse Complex](#) is the [Cape Lookout Village Historic District](#), the uninhabited remains of a former village on [South Core Banks](#). The 810-acre village (founded in 1887) includes the former Cape Lookout Life-Saving Station, the decommissioned Cape Lookout Coast Guard Station, the remains of a WWII Army coastal defense complex, as well as several former fishing cottages. Experience a one-of-a-kind exclusive adventure, as we journey into the unspoiled landscape of the Cape Lookout National Seashore to learn about the people who lived here, the natural landscape that is unparalleled in beauty, and the culture and heritage that still survives, despite pending threats.
- ❖ For related lesson plans on teaching your students about life, heritage and history Down East, visit the Core Sound Museum's [Teacher Resources](#) page.
- 12:30 – 1:00 Return to Harkers Island via Ferry

- 1:00 – 2:00 **Enjoy a “Down East Family Supper”(for Lunch!) | Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center**
 Even though its lunch, we can’t let you leave without experiencing a Down East family supper! We’ll enjoy fresh seafood and engage with locals to learn more about the history, heritage and living traditions of Coresounders.
- 2:00 – 3:00 **Exploring Core Sound Heritage with Duck Decoy Carving**
[Waterfowl carving heritage](#) runs deep through the history of the Core Sound area and is characterized by many aspects beyond the art of carving - from people, duck calls, artists, photographers, folklore, collectors, and more. We’ll take some time to explore this rich aspect of Down East heritage, and even have some time to work on our own decoy.

OPTIONAL: Take some time to explore the [Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center](#), characterized as “A gathering place for the heritage and traditions of Core Sound — a place to experience the people, place, and community.” With several galleries and collections, feel free to stick around and learn (the Museum is open until 5 pm), or head back to the hotel and enjoy your free evening out and about in [Beaufort!](#)

Enjoy your afternoon and evening free! (Dinner on your own.)

Tuesday June 25

- 8:00 – 9:00 Breakfast will be available from 8 am – 9 am; feel free to pop in at whatever time you like to eat and get coffee’d up for the day.
- 9:00 -9:15 **Morning Connections**
Michelle Burrows, Director | A+ Schools of North Carolina, NC Arts Council
 As we kick off our last day together, will use the arts to explore and express our experiences from our time thus far. The reflective minutes are designed to help you process your thoughts and gain insights into significant moments and takeaways.
- 9:15 – 10:30 **North Carolina Native Communities 101**
Stephen Bell (Lumbee), MSW | [American Indian Education Coordinator](#), Guilford County Schools & America 250 NC Freedom Fellow
 North Carolina is home to 8 Tribes and 4 urban Indian organizations, making the state’s past and present rich with Indigenous histories & cultures. In this session, we will work to gain a richer understanding of contemporary American Indian communities around the state that dispels common misconceptions and stereotypes, while building awareness that can better serve both Native and non-Native students and families in our schools.
- 10:30 – 10:45 Break
- 10:45 – 12:00 **Breaking Through Barriers**
[Corinne Smith](#) | Director, of CAP Operations & [GEAR UP](#) at Appalachian State University & Coordinator, [NC EPFP](#)
 We know the challenges of teaching have never been greater. In this active session, we will explore the art of teaching and reconnect with why you chose this profession. We will also consider the vast challenges that face you, but more importantly, how you can work to break through them and continue cultivating the tangible differences you make in countless lives.

12:00 – 12:45 Lunch

12:45 – 2:00 **From Piracy to Privateering: What Archeology Teaches Us About North Carolina History**
Dr. Charles Ewen, Director of Phelps Archaeology Laboratory, East Carolina University

Were those Roanoke colonists actually “lost” in 1587? What treasure lies on Blackbeard’s sunken ship, whose wrecked remains are offshore only a few miles from where we sit today? Learn what archeology can teach us about some of North Carolina’s most interesting and curious histories.

2:00 – 3:00 **Artful Reflections & Closing**

Christie Norris, Director of Education | NC Department of Natural & Cultural Resources
Michelle Burrows, Director | A+ Schools of North Carolina, NC Arts Council

As we prepare to say goodbye, we will use the arts to explore and express our experiences from the past three days. This time is designed to help you process your thoughts and gain insights into the significant moments and takeaways from the William Friday Teachers Retreat.

Pre-Readings (to acquaint you with the diverse history of Beaufort and Harkers Island)

- [“We Are Five Africans Seeking Freedom:” A Civil War Story from Beaufort, NC](#)
- [The Last Daughter of Davis Ridge](#)
- [“IT’S BORN IN US”: A Conversation with Barbara Garrity-Blake and Karen Willis Amspacher](#)
- [Catch: North Carolina Seafood](#)
- [Hatteras Island Weather](#)
- [Harkers Island Boat Builders](#)
- [“They have got hold of the Bible”— Beaufort, N.C. and the Civil War](#)
- [The Color of Water](#) (This is a 10-part series by David Cecelski that explores Jim Crow in North Carolina’s coastal region. Scroll to the bottom to read each entry in order.)

Pre-Viewings

- [Menhaden Chanteymen: Music was on the Water](#)
- [Core Sounders: Living From the Sea](#) - The Emmy-nominated television documentary about the community of fishermen on Core Sound in the area known as Down East in North Carolina.
- [The Carolina Brogue](#) – Two excerpts of this documentary are available at the bottom of the page.
 - A lesson plan on The Outer Banks Brogue is available [here](#).

Take Advantage of All Our Programs and Resources for Teachers!



Learn more about the **Dept. of Natural & Cultural Resources’ Learning Happens Here initiative** and stay up to date with our programs, resources, and sites around the state at <https://www.dncr.nc.gov/learninghappensherelanding>



[Visit CarolinaK12.org](#) for upcoming events, lesson plans, and more.



Special thanks to the **North Caroliniana Society** for their deep appreciation of K-12 teachers and their funding that makes the annual William Friday Teachers Retreat possible.

Thank you also to the **Wayne County Friends of Public Education**, local Wayne County residents who fund eight additional spaces in this statewide Retreat for Wayne County educators.