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Hobe Sound Beach Shop's Turtle Times

Our History is a Treasure: Chapter Nineteen *By Jan Otten*

Upon opening the lid of our Hobe Sound History Treasure Chest recently, up popped an interesting looking very long list, neatly accordion folded. As it spiraled open, the first thought was, "Oh my, somehow, I've received Santa's list of good girls and boys for the coming holiday season." But as I examined it more closely, I realized that it was a list of "words." Words? And then it hit me, "these are words in the vernacular" definitely relating to our hometown. Vernacular refers to "language native to a place."

If you think about it, each region has its own words and phrases that relate locally. Given this handy list right out of our treasure chest it seems important to share it! Because so many of our residents and visitors are from other parts of our country, they might find it fun to understand and grasp what local folks take for granted. Some you will shake your head and say, "yes, I know that." Others may be new to you, or you might have wondered what it meant when you heard it.

It's not possible to put the whole list here so you can look forward to more Hobe Sound related words and phrases in future issues of our *Turtle Times*! Here are some to get you started.

Hobe Sound

The name of our unincorporated village comes from an ancient civilization who populated this area a long time ago. When the Spanish first landed here, they encountered the "Jobe Indians." It was pronounced by the Spanish as "Hoë-Bay." Sometime later when the English arrived, they Anglicized the pronunciation to "Hobe" rhymes with robe. Though the region was renamed "Picture City" in the early 1920s, and the Zeus Park area was once called "Olympia", the name soon reverted to Hobe Sound as we know it today.

Snowbirds

Almost everyone is familiar with this name that refers to a person who migrates from the colder northern parts of North America to warmer southern locales, typically during the winter. For the most part they tend to be retirees or older folks who wish to avoid the snow and cold temperatures of northern winters but maintain ties with family and friends by staying in their northern homes the rest of the year. Recently, with technology and work from home possibilities, the trend is for a younger generation of snowbirds. The term was initially used in the early 1920s to describe migrant workers headed south for the winter. It wasn't until the late 1970s that it transitioned to meaning northerners moving to southern states in winter months.

And do you know what a Sunbird is? Yup, it's the opposite of a Snowbird. It is one who leaves warmer locales in the summer, migrating to cooler regions in the north.

Indian Mounds/Shell Mounds

Indian Mounds refers to Indigenous people's sacred burial ground. It is significant to living Indigenous Peoples as a cemetery where their ancestors are buried. It is a place of reverence, remembrance, respect, and prayer. (After recent hurricanes some burial grounds have been unearthed along our shoreline.) Mounds could be built out of topsoil, packed clay, detritus from the cleaning of plazas, seashells, freshwater mussel shells or fieldstones. The largest mounds were built out of packed clay. All were built with individual human labor. Native Americans had no beasts of burden or excavation machinery. Soil, clay, or stones were carried in baskets on the backs of laborers to the top or flanks of the mound and then dumped. Hundreds of thousands of man-hours of work were required to build each of the larger mounds. It is likely that the shells in shell mounds were thrown there after large community feasts. The earliest mounds seem to have functioned both as public landmarks for seasonal gatherings and platforms for villages. Many of the shell mounds within the interior of the Southeast seem merely to have been piles of discarded freshwater mussel shells that marked the location of annual harvests and feasts. Burial mounds were built in the Southeast throughout several cultural periods. Beginning around 700 AD in southern Florida, both pyramidal and conical mounds were the bases of conventional temples or the houses of important leaders. This architectural tradition continued until the 1600s, when most mound construction stopped in the Southeast.

Ficus / Banyan Trees

The trees that define Hobe Sound, leading the way to our beautiful beach and the barrier island known as Jupiter Island, were first commissioned by Permelia Reed in 1946. The Reed family greatly influenced the development and environmental protection of the mainland as well as Jupiter Island. The idea of planting the trees was to create a "Ficus Allee" canopy over Bridge Road thus creating the symbol representing Hobe Sound with a welcoming Arboreal Corridor that leads from the mainland to Jupiter Island. The trees are more formally known as Ficus Microcarpa in the banyan family -- a tropical tree with smooth light-gray bark and entire oblanceolate leaves (in botany terms means leaf of the lance-shaped form, tapering more toward the base than the opposite direction.) Ficus can grow in tropical climates to over 40 feet tall with an equal spread of the crown and produce great numbers of prop roots. Currently the Town of Jupiter Island maintains the trees both on and off the Island.



Bridge Road by Barb McLaughlin

Mangroves (per Wikipedia)

"Mangroves are salt-tolerant trees, also called halophytes, and are adapted to live in harsh coastal conditions. They contain a complex salt filtration system and a complex root system to cope with saltwater immersion and wave action. They are adapted to the low-oxygen conditions of waterlogged mud, but are most likely to thrive in the upper half of the intertidal zone.

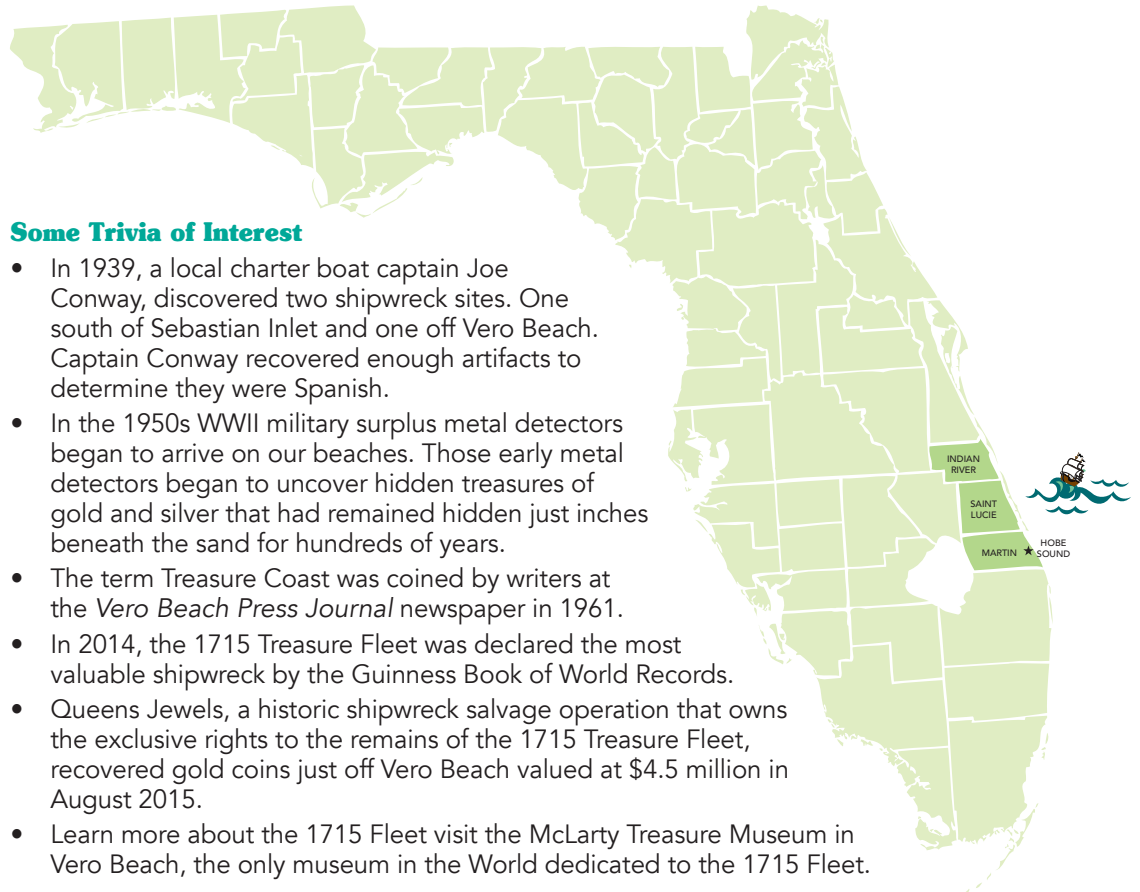
There is interest in mangrove restoration for several reasons. Mangroves support sustainable coastal and marine ecosystems. They protect nearby areas from tsunamis and extreme weather events. Mangrove forests are also effective at carbon sequestration and storage and mitigate climate change. As the effects of climate change become more severe, mangrove ecosystems are expected to help local ecosystems adapt and be more resilient to changes like extreme weather and sea level rise. The success of mangrove restoration may depend heavily on engagement with local stakeholders, and on careful assessment to ensure that growing conditions will be suitable for the species chosen."



Photo by Lisa Larsen, Pixabay

Treasure Coast

The Treasure Coast encompasses three counties on the east coast of Florida – Indian River, St. Lucie, and our own Martin County. How did this name come to refer to this particular area? It happened that over 300 years ago a fleet of 11 Spanish ships was sent to collect new wealth from the American possessions of the Spanish Empire and bring it to Spain. This treasure-carrying fleet was sunk by the winds of a hurricane, scattering gold, silver, and jewels over the seafloor offshore between the St. Lucie River and Cape Canaveral. Even today, lucky beachgoers often find "treasures" washed up on the shores, especially following a storm.



Some Trivia of Interest

- In 1939, a local charter boat captain Joe Conway, discovered two shipwreck sites. One south of Sebastian Inlet and one off Vero Beach. Captain Conway recovered enough artifacts to determine they were Spanish.
- In the 1950s WWII military surplus metal detectors began to arrive on our beaches. Those early metal detectors began to uncover hidden treasures of gold and silver that had remained hidden just inches beneath the sand for hundreds of years.
- The term Treasure Coast was coined by writers at the *Vero Beach Press Journal* newspaper in 1961.
- In 2014, the 1715 Treasure Fleet was declared the most valuable shipwreck by the Guinness Book of World Records.
- Queens Jewels, a historic shipwreck salvage operation that owns the exclusive rights to the remains of the 1715 Treasure Fleet, recovered gold coins just off Vero Beach valued at \$4.5 million in August 2015.
- Learn more about the 1715 Fleet visit the McLarty Treasure Museum in Vero Beach, the only museum in the World dedicated to the 1715 Fleet.

Turtle Nesting Area/Hatchlings

There is so much that can be written about the amazing Sea Turtles that choose the east coast of Florida to lay their eggs. But for this purpose, we will talk about their nests found on our local beaches. The mature nesting female hauls herself onto the beach, nearly always at night, and finds suitable sand in which to create a nest. Using her hind flippers, she digs a circular hole 40 to 50 centimeters (16 to 20 in) deep. After the hole is dug, the female then starts filling the nest with her clutch of soft-shelled eggs. Depending on the species, a typical clutch may contain 50–350 eggs. After laying, she re-fills the nest with sand, re-sculpting and smoothing the surface, and then camouflaging the nest with vegetation until it is relatively undetectable visually. She may also dig decoy nests. The whole process takes 30 to 60 minutes. She then returns to the ocean, leaving the eggs untended. Volunteers and scientists monitor the beaches



Photo by Daisy Brust, Pixabay

Sea turtle nests are often in excess of two feet deep, and seasonal erosion helps remove the leftover organic debris from the beach in preparation for the following season.
Photo: L. Wood

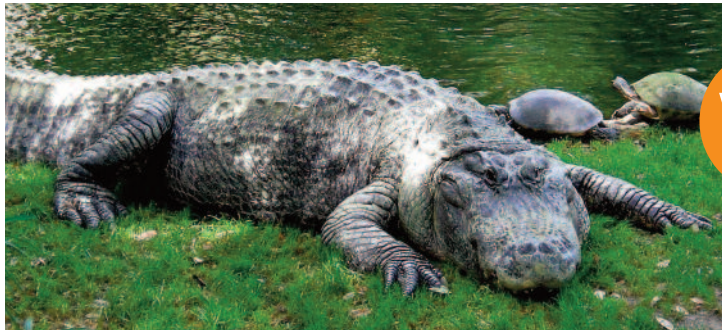


and place protective stakes around the nests to discourage purposeful or accidental damage to the nests. Six of the seven sea turtle species are endangered, so it is imperative that care is taken to avoid harm to the nests.

Hatchlings are the offspring of these amazing sea creatures. Sea turtles have temperature-dependent sex determination, meaning the developing baby sea turtle's gender depends on the temperature it is exposed to. Warmer temperatures produce female hatchlings, while cooler temperatures produce male hatchlings. The eggs will incubate for 50–60 days whereby the eggs in one nest generally hatch together over a short period of time. The baby sea turtles have the arduous task to break free of the eggshell, dig through the sand, and crawl into the sea. Most species of sea turtles hatch at night. However, the Kemp's ridley sea turtle commonly hatches during the day. (For detailed information about sea turtles by Dr. Larry Wood, please see past issues of *Turtle Times* at www.hobesoundbeachshop.com.)

Alligator/Crocodile Is there a difference between Alligators and Crocodiles? Which one is found in our area?

Alligators and Crocodiles are both reptiles belonging to the order Crocodylia, who have been in existence for over 80 million years. They share several similarities, including long snouts, powerful tails, short legs, and bony-plated backs. But there are some easy ways to tell them apart. First is the shape of the snout -- in alligators it's broad and U-shaped, while in crocodiles it's narrow and V-shaped. Then the teeth -- alligators' lower teeth are typically not visible when the mouth is shut while crocodiles have some teeth in the bottom jaw that are apparent, most notably the large fourth tooth. Another difference is color -- gray or black is probably a gator and olive or tan, a crocodile. The two reptiles also differ in location. Crocodiles are usually found in saltwater habitats, while alligators prefer freshwater areas. South Florida is the only place where you can find both crocodiles and alligators. American alligators occur in Florida, southern Texas, Louisiana, and parts of North and South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama, with their range appearing to inch northward in the last few years. And of worthy note, crocodiles are typically more aggressive than gators.



Alligator

SNOUT: wide, rounded and U-shaped.

TEETH: lower teeth are typically not visible when the mouth is shut.

COLOR: gray or black

RANGE: found in China and the southeastern portion of the United States, particularly Florida and the states along the Gulf Coast.

VS



Crocodile

SNOUT: narrow and V-shaped.

TEETH: have some teeth in the bottom jaw that are apparent, most notably the large fourth tooth.

COLOR: olive or tan.

RANGE: North, Central, and South America, Africa, Australia, and part of Asia.

Why Visit The Hobe Sound Beach Shop, A Tees Please Company?

1. For items you won't find on Amazon
2. A chance to feel, touch, try on what you're interested in



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17. Name brand items – Tommy Bahama, Cabana Life, Pacific Legends, Magic T's
18. Beautiful jewelry, Mosaico, Dune, Cool Jewels, and Periwinkle – some featuring sand from our own Hobe Sound Beach
19. Custom, one-of-a-kind items
20. Business related logo'd items for your employees, and for gifts and promotions
21. Unique Hobe Sound ornaments
22. Items for your day at the beach
23. The Hobe Sound Beach Shop's Turtle Times featuring the history of Hobe Sound, local articles of interest, as well as an advertising vehicle for local businesses

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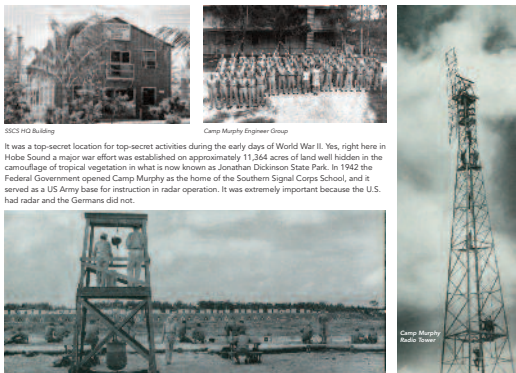


24. Our 14-month history calendar

If you love reading the Hobe Sound Beach Shop's Turtle Times, you'll love our new 14-month calendar December 2022 to January 2024!

Our new calendar captures some of the treasured history of Hobe Sound with highlights from the *Turtle Times*. Each month features a different story that reflects the treasures that are the creation and foundation of this amazing community.

Be sure to stop into the Hobe Sound Beach Shop to get one for yourself and you'll probably want a couple for gifts! Get yours before they're all gone.



More information on Camp Murphy may be found in the *Turtle Times* Volume 1, Number 6 at www.hobesoundbeachshop.com

July 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Gators vs Seminoles

Now that we've sorted Alligators and Crocodiles – how about Gators and Seminoles? For the most part we know that Gators are reptiles, and that Seminoles are native Americans and escaped slaves who settled in South Florida to hide from armies that would seek to harm them.

However, in the world of the twenty-first century, Gators and Seminoles are football teams and archrivals. Gators are attached to the University of Florida (aka UF), while Seminoles are attached to Florida State University (aka FSU.)



Love Bugs

Lovebugs are bugs that are usually paired together with a "mate." They will attach their bodies to their mate and fly in tandem together. They have black bodies and red heads, and they are typically 6-9 millimeters in length. Although referred to as bugs, these insects are actually flies more closely related to biting midges and mosquitoes rather than other bugs like grasshoppers or termites. Their time as flies is only a short period of their life cycle, so they spend more of their lives as larvae. Females lay their eggs on the ground and can have around 200-300 eggs. Although these bugs are a nuisance to drivers, they do not cause any physical harm to you or your pets. Lovebugs have made Florida their home because they thrive in warm, humid climates. Most often these flies are seen in swarms, usually during their two specific mating seasons--once in the spring (April/May), and again in late summer (August/September). Lovebugs are most commonly found swarming cars because they are attracted to the gases emitted from vehicles, particularly fast-moving vehicles, during the day. Notes of caution: 1) Because they swarm cars so thickly, they can create clouds that can seriously impair your driving visibility. 2) They can cause damage to your car's engine because Lovebugs can enter the radiator of your car, clogging your vehicle parts. In extreme cases, they can coat the car's grill to disrupt the engine's airflow. 3) They can damage your car's

paint. Surprisingly, they can cause more damage even if they're already dead. The remains of Lovebugs can damage the paint on your car because hours in the sun can cause their bodies to turn acidic. To avoid this, be sure to rinse and remove the lovebugs on the surface of your car within a day. 4) They can invade areas with excessive moisture. While these pests are commonly found on cars, that doesn't mean they can't enter your home. Humid areas have the potential to grow plants, and it creates a food and environment for Lovebugs to breed. They can easily make their way into dark, humid areas such as basements, attics, and storage rooms. 5) The females search for moist environments, complete with food sources, to lay their larvae—so keep an eye out for them on flower beds.



Iguanas

"Watch for Falling Iguanas!" That is something you might hear the local weather station announce on particularly chilly nights in South Florida.

Green iguanas are not native to Florida and they are not adapted to the sometimes-cold winter nights. Iguanas are cold-blooded, and so become lethargic in cold temperatures.

Cold-blooded creatures' body temperature changes along with shifts in the ambient temperature that occur in the air around them. Whereas warm-blooded animals, are able to maintain internal body temperatures higher than those of their surroundings. When temperatures around the cold-blooded iguanas drop, so does their internal temperature and this causes them to become increasingly inactive.

When external temperatures reach about 45 degrees Fahrenheit, iguanas exposed to these conditions enter a stunned or dormant state. Gradually they become so sluggish and immobilized that they may look dead — but aren't. These lethargic lizards are actually still breathing, and all their bodily



functions are continuing. But those functions are taking place much more slowly because the iguanas' blood is moving around their bodies at a greatly reduced rate. If temperatures stay in the 40s longer than eight hours, those persistent cold temperatures can become fatal to iguanas.

Iguanas generally sleep at night up in the branches of trees. Instinctively they grasp the tree branch and stay put, however when they go into the comatose or lethargic state, they lose that grasp and fall to the ground. In the morning as the day warms up, they regain their strength and vigor and go about their day as they normally do. Thus, the weather report, on chilly nights, "Watch for falling iguanas."

More about these destructive invasive reptiles in another issue of *Turtle Times*.



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