

News Release



Cape Fear Garden Club, Inc.
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Lower Cape Fear Bird Islands Cruise
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Photo By: Lori Harris, Member, Cape Fear Garden Club

Cruising the Bird Nesting Islands of the Lower Cape Fear River

Wilmington, NC: The Cape Fear Garden Club is once again hosting the Lower Cape Fear Bird Islands Cruise. On Sunday, May 1st, at 1:00 pm, the Winner Cruise Queen will leave Carolina Beach Marina for a four hour cruise of the nesting islands in the Lower Cape Fear River. These islands, of over 100 acres, are an Audubon bird sanctuary and host the largest gathering of wading birds in NC; significant in that 12 percent of the world's population of White Ibis nest here each spring.

Bring your camera and binoculars to view nesting areas of many coastal water birds including ibis, herons, pelicans, egrets, gulls and many other species. Pack a picnic lunch if you would like. Soft drinks will be sold on board ship. Our guides for this narrated cruise will be noted ornithologist and retired

UNCW Professor Emeritus of Biology, Dr. James Parnell, along with NC Audubon Deputy Director, Walker Golder and NC Audubon Director of Education, Andy Woods.

Tickets are \$35.00 for Adults and \$25.00 for Children 12 years of age and under, are available beginning February 1, 2010 at: **Wild Bird & Garden**, 3501 Oleander Drive, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28403 or call (910)343-6001. Checks may be made payable to "Cape Fear Garden Club" to: **Lower Cape Fear Cruise**, c/o Melinda Stewart, 5084 Edinboro Lane, Wilmington, NC 28409. All proceeds from the cruise will go to support the NC Audubon Society in the care and maintenance of Battery Island.

The Cape Fear Garden Club, Inc. is the oldest and largest garden club in North Carolina and among the largest garden clubs in the nation. The organization is best known for producing the annual Azalea Garden Tour, featuring the finest and most exquisite gardens in Southeastern North Carolina, along with the beautiful Cape Fear Garden Club Azalea Belles. Profits from the Cape Fear Garden Club Azalea Garden Tour® are distributed throughout our community as beautification and horticulture grants; scholarship grants at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and Cape Fear Community College; and support for conservation efforts at Battery Island, a National Audubon Society bird sanctuary. Well over \$1 million has been distributed in the past 57 years, including more than \$71,000 from the 2010 tour. The Cape Fear Garden Club, Inc. manages four departments, 19 Standing Committees, and 13 Special Committees. Each year, Cape Fear Garden Club, Inc. awards thousands of dollars in grants for beautification and horticultural projects, produces the annual Cruise of the Lower Cape Fear Bird Island tour, conducts flower arranging workshops, hosts horticulture specimen contest monthly, and photography of the Cape Fear Garden Club Azaleas Garden Tour. The Cape Fear Garden Club, Inc. meets monthly from September to May at the Cameron Art Museum. For more information about the Cape Fear Garden Club, Inc. © please visit us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/CapeFearGardenClub> or on our website at www.capefeargardenclub.org.

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