

**MYRTLE BEACH AREA TEEMS WITH EXPERTS, EXPERIENCES,
AND ENDLESS STORIES TO TELL**

A destination as diverse and historically rich as Myrtle Beach cannot easily be described. Luckily, locals who reside along the Grand Strand know it inside-and-out – and love to share their passion for the area with anyone who'll listen. Sit down for story time with a Myrtle Beach Expert to learn of the community's many offerings, ranging from golf to plantations, NASCAR to low country cuisine, and nature to family fun.



Myrtle Beach Area Golf Expert

Bill Golden, Myrtle Beach Golf Holiday

Myrtle Beach has long been known as the "Golf Capital of the World" and Bill Golden is the expert when it comes to the myriad of courses in the Grand Strand. As the president of Myrtle Beach Golf Holiday, a not-for-profit organization promoting Myrtle Beach's golf vacations and events, Golden represents nearly 100 world class courses and resorts.

To contact Bill about the Myrtle Beach Area's golf scene:

Phone: (843) 477-8833 ext 231

E-mail: bgolden@golffoliday.com

Myrtle Beach Area Amusement Recreation Expert

Donald Sipes, Family Kingdom Amusement Park

As the Grand Strand's only oceanfront water and amusement park, Family Kingdom is *the* place to visit for families looking for the classic Myrtle Beach amusement park experience. As the General Manager of Family Kingdom for the past 15 years, Donald "Donnie" Sipes understands the beach, family and amusement attractions that continually attract visitors to the area.

To contact Donnie about the Myrtle Beach Area's amusement recreation culture:

Phone: (843) 946-9821

E-mail: donnie@family-kingdom.com



Myrtle Beach Area Nature Expert

Ann Malys Wilson, Myrtle Beach State Park

An avid lover of everything outdoors, Ann Malys Wilson has worked as the Interpretive Ranger at Myrtle Beach State Park for the past 13 years. In this position, she is able to educate and introduce visitors to the Myrtle Beach Area's coastal environment and carefully watch the activity of South Carolina's state reptile – the threatened loggerhead seas turtle. Her experience and passion earned her the title of 2007's South Carolina Marine Educator of the Year.

To contact Ann about the Myrtle Beach Area's nature experiences:

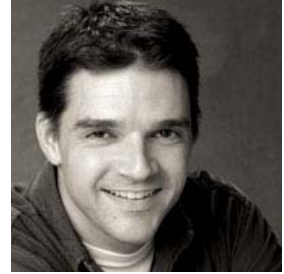
Phone: (843) 238-0874

E-mail: awilson@scprt.com

Myrtle Beach Area Arts & Culture Expert

Thom Penn, *Atlantic Stage Theater Company*

Thom is the Artistic Director of Atlantic Stage and is also a Teaching Associate in the Theatre Department at Coastal Carolina University. Thom Penn has been acting professionally for 16 years, has an MFA from Southern Methodist University and has appeared regionally in many theatre productions. Thom is committed to arts education and believes in the power of the arts to enrich and revitalize a community. As an Artistic Associate of Atlantic Stage, he hopes to contribute to the growth of an artistic tradition here on the Grand Strand.



To contact Thom about the Myrtle Beach Area's Arts & Culture scene:

Phone: (843) 424-0224

E-mail: thom_penn@atlanticstage.com



Myrtle Beach Area Lowcountry and Carolina Coastal Cuisine Expert

Chef James Clark, *Waterscapes Restaurant at the Marina Inn at Grande Dunes*

One of the Myrtle Beach Area's most memorable features is its Carolina Coastal and Lowcountry cuisine, a staple of southern cooking. And – as one of low country and Carolina Coastal cuisine's biggest proponents, South Carolina raised Chef James Clark, Executive Chef of one of the top restaurants in Myrtle Beach, James brings an impressive knowledge of the area cuisine.

To contact James about the Myrtle Beach Area's Lowcountry and Carolina Coastal cuisine:

Phone: (843) 315-7869

E-mail: James.Clark@Grande-Dunes.com



Myrtle Beach Area Plantation History Expert

Lee Brockington, *Hobcaw Barony Plantation*

With over two decades of plantation history experience, Lee Brockington currently acts as senior interpreter at the Hobcaw Barony Plantation, where she leads school field studies and organizes lectures and workshops about the plantation's history. Having authored two books about the Myrtle Beach area's plantations - *Plantation Between the Waters* and *A Brief History of Hobcaw Barony* - Brockington's looks to shatter the myths and stereotypes of plantation culture.

To contact Lee about the Myrtle Beach Area's plantation history:

Phone: (843) 546-4623

E-mail: brockington@belle.baruch.sc.edu



Myrtle Beach Area African American History and Gullah/Geechee Expert

Veronica Gerald, *Ultimate Gullah*

Veronica Gerald is a notable scholar on Gullah history, a Gullah Geechee Heritage Commissioner and author of *The Ultimate Gullah Cookbook*. She also owns a Gullah shop in Conway and organizes tours that explore and educate individuals about the places and people of the Gullah community. There are several exclusively designed tours that visit areas in Conway, Myrtle Beach, Murrells Inlet, Pawleys Island, Murrells Inlet, Charleston and Georgetown.

To contact Veronica about the Myrtle Beach Area's African American history:

Phone: 843-488-4885

E-mail: ultimategullah@hotmail.com



Myrtle Beach Area 20th Century Historian and Photography Expert
Jack Thompson

As a 20th century history buff with a passion for photography, a conversation with Jack Thompson is not to be forgotten. As a 13-year-old boy, Jack hitchhiked to Myrtle Beach with \$2.67 in his pocket ... and never left. His first job was to photograph the pretty girls on the beach that were promptly used as the first marketing campaign to get people to the area – it worked! Myrtle Beach truly comes alive with Jack’s endless supply of anecdotal stories.

To contact Jack about the history of Myrtle Beach:

Phone: (843) 626-3194

E-mail: jthompsonphotos@msn.com



Myrtle Beach Area Entertainment Expert

Jordan Gilmore Watkins, *Gilmore Entertainment/Carolina Opry*

With a love of theatre and entertainment, Jordan Gilmore Watkins, Director of Marketing for Gilmore Entertainment is the go-to expert for knowledge about the Myrtle Beach Area’s entertainment attractions. It is Watkin’s expertise in everything entertainment that helped the Carolina Opry – a live, family, musical entertainment show - win the prestigious South Carolina Governor’s Cup for “Most Outstanding Attraction,” as well as rave reviews from such outlets as *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, and *NBC Nightly News*.

To contact Jordan about the Myrtle Beach Area’s entertainment offerings:

Phone: (843) 913-1453

E-mail: jgwatkins@cgp.net

Myrtle Beach Area Weddings/Honeymoon Expert

Cheryl Cox, *Grand Strand Bridal Association*

As an Horry County native, Cheryl Cox was born and raised in Conway, and obtained a diploma in Fashion Merchandising from American Business & Fashion Institute and received her Bachelors Degree in Psychology and Masters in Education from the University of South Carolina. Ms. Cox was a bridal buyer of regional markets for more than fourteen years and taught fashion merchandising at a local technical college. After establishing her wedding consulting business, she introduced The Wedding Showcase The Grand Strand’s Premiere Wedding Show in 2000. In 2005, Ms. Cox founded the Grand Strand Bridal Association. The association’s professionals are peer reviewed to ensure brides receive the best quality possible when planning their weddings along the Grand Strand. Throughout the years, Ms. Cox has met with many celebrity wedding and etiquette professionals such as Preston Bailey, Colin Cowie, Marcy Blum, Millie Martini Bratten, Darcy Miller, Dorthea Johnson and Peggy Post to ensure she brings to the Grand Strand the most exciting and cutting-edge planning in weddings and events.



To contact Cheryl about the Myrtle Beach Area’s wedding/honeymoon offerings :

Phone : 843-235-1238

E-mail : wedbyclc@aol.com

For additional information on the Myrtle Beach area, visit www.VisitMyrtleBeach.com or call 1.888.Myrtle1.

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