



**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

Sandi Kendrick, *Horry County Arts & Cultural Council*

A fresh, new face to the Horry County Arts & Cultural Council (ACC) organization, Sandi Kendrick has served as the organization's Executive Director since 2007. Horry County ACC was established as an organization to support the artists and art organizations in the Horry County community in which the Myrtle Beach Area is located.

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

Phone: (843) 349-7122

E-mail: skendrick@sc.rr.com

Myrtle Beach Area Low Country and Carolina Coastal Cuisine Expert

Becky Billingsley, *Myrtle Beach Restaurant News and The Food Syndicate*

One of the Myrtle Beach Area's most memorable features is its low country cuisine, a staple of southern cooking. And – as one of low country and Carolina Coastal cuisine's biggest proponents, Becky Billingsley, founder of MyrtleBeachRestaurantNews.com discusses the area's restaurants, chefs and cuisine. A former culinary journalist for such local outlets as the *Myrtle Beach Sun News* and *Coastal Carolina Dining*, Billingsley brings an impressive knowledge of the area cuisine.

To contact Becky about the Myrtle Beach Area's low country and Carolina Coastal cuisine:

Phone: (843) 293-1501

E-mail: becky@thefoodsyndicate.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 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

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

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