



FOCUS ON CURRITUCK

A REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

APRIL 2004

7th Annual Flower And Garden Show To Be Held April 17th & 18th

Things are looking rosy for the Currituck Master Gardeners as they prepare for their 7th Annual Currituck Flower and Garden Show. This garden extravaganza is expected to be the group's best yet.



The two-day event is sponsored by the Master Gardeners in cooperation with NC Cooperative Extension Service - Currituck. It will be held Saturday and Sunday, April 17th and 18th, at Currituck County High School in Barco. Show hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Featured at this year's show will be gardens designed by the Master Gardeners from Currituck and Pasquotank counties, as well as a wide variety of plants for sale. Annuals, herbs, daylilies, azaleas, and hydrangeas are a few of the plants and flowers that will be available for purchase. Over 50 vendors will also offer an extensive array of garden items, from furniture to garden art, driftwood furniture, bird feeders, and more.

During the show, seminars and workshops will present up-to-date information on such topics as growing herbs, organic vegetable gardening, pruning crape myrtles, and growing daylilies and hydrangeas. Ongoing demonstrations will assist gardeners with ideas for garden design, pesticide management, and growing annuals. Master Gardener volunteers will also be available to answer questions.

The Secret Garden, a special attraction this year, will feature ongoing activities for the family. Children can participate in hands-on projects and explore mystery critters in the garden, while parents take a virtual visit to English gardens, browse garden literature, or relax amid the greenery.

Door prizes will be awarded and raffles will be held. For more information on the show, call the NC Cooperative Extension Service at 232-2262.

"Rich in Heritage,
with a Vision for
Tomorrow"



County Launches New Website Design

Learn, Interact, Explore...[visitcurrituck.com](http://www.visitcurrituck.com)

The Currituck County Board of Commissioners and County staff are pleased to announce that a new website design with expanded information is now available. Visitors to the site can access a wide variety of information...everything from the functions of County departments to news about upcoming events. Online services include the availability of numerous documents and forms, as well as the ability to complete surveys and register for recreation programs. In the coming months, citizens will also be able to pay their tax and water bills online. This is one way the County is trying to meet the community's needs for information and expanded services.



If we can answer your questions or provide you with additional information, please let us know. Public input is important to the County. Feel free to contact us with suggestions for this website and ways we can make improvements. You can e-mail us at contactus@co.currituck.nc.us, or you can call the Public Information / Citizen Affairs office at 232-0719.

Focus On Currituck: A Report to the Community is produced by the Public Information & Citizen Affairs Department.

Diane C. Sawyer, Director
Daniel F. Scanlon, II, County Manager
Post Office Box 39, Currituck, NC 27929
Phone: 252-232-0719
Website: www.visitcurrituck.com
E-mail: contactus@co.currituck.nc.us

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SERVICE TO HONOR VETERANS TO BE HELD NEXT MONTH

A special community observance will be held at Veterans' Memorial Park next month in conjunction with the dedication of the National WWII Memorial in Washington, DC. This special event, scheduled for Saturday, May 29, starting at 11 a.m., will recognize WWII Veterans and honor these special heroes in our community. It is being sponsored by Currituck County and the American Legion Post 288 in Coinjock.



The Currituck County Board of Commissioners will also hold a dedication ceremony in honor of the American Liberty Anniversary Elm. An American Elm has been planted at Veteran's Memorial Park and it will be officially dedicated during the May 29th community observance.

For additional information, contact Bob Kohler at 232-8723 or e-mail bobkohler@mchsi.com.

Board of Commissioners



Poplar Branch Township

S. Paul O'Neal, Chairman
252-453-3011
893 Waterlily Road
Coinjock, NC 27923

Moyock Township

Eldon L. Miller, Jr.,
Vice Chairman
252-435-6530
P. O. Box 127
Moyock, NC 27958

Crawford Township

Gene A. Gregory
252-336-4706
232 S. Indiantown Road
Shawboro, NC 27973

Fruitville Township

Ernie Bowden
252-453-2453
2155 Sandfiddler Road
Corolla, NC 27927

At-Large

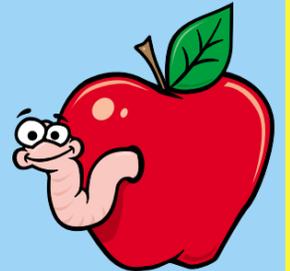
Paul R. Martin
252-232-3514
107 White Heron Drive
Currituck, NC 27929



Kindergarten Registration For The 2004-2005 School Year

Wednesday, April 21
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 5 -7 p.m.
at each of the county's
elementary schools

Children must be 5 years old by Oct. 16, 2004 in order to enroll. Parents should bring the child's original birth certificate, immunization records, and recent physical. Call the Superintendent's office at 232-2223 for details.



NC Dept. of Transportation Spring Litter Sweep

Volunteer for the Annual
Spring Roadside Cleanup
April 17 - 30

Call 453-2721 or the
Litter Sweep Hotline at 1-800-331-5864 for details

Holiday Schedule

**CURRITUCK COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL OFFICES
WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Observance Date</u>
Good Friday	April 9, 2004
Memorial Day	May 31, 2004
Independence Day	July 5, 2004
Labor Day	September 6, 2004

Currituck County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting Times
1st and 3rd Monday of each month
@ 7:00 PM

unless otherwise posted.

Meeting Place:

Currituck Historic Courthouse

Courthouse Road, Currituck

The meetings are open to the public.

Meetings are broadcast on the following Government

Access channels:

Mediacom Channel 18,

Cox Communications Channel 46, and

Charter Communications Channel 19.

Check with your local cable provider for times.

Currituck - For your information...

Upcoming Senior Center Events

April 21

Norfolk Tides Baseball

“Take me out to the ballgame...” Join in the fun of a trip to see the Norfolk Tides play the Durham Bulls at Harbor Park. Call the Currituck Center at 232-3505 to sign up.



May 7

Silver Arts Show at Southgate Mall

Paintings, drawings, photography, and other visual arts will be on display at this annual art exhibit. The show will feature art by Senior Adults from ten counties, including Currituck. Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; admission is free. Silver Arts is sponsored by the Albemarle Commission - Region R.

May 26

Senior Fitness Day

Education programs and activities promoting health and wellness will highlight this event. Senior Fitness Day is sponsored by NC Cooperative Extension - Currituck Center, Albemarle Regional Health, and Albemarle Commission. Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For details, call the Senior Center at 232-3505 or NC Cooperative Extension at 232-2261.



Prepare Now For Mosquito Control

The summer season will soon begin, and with the warmer weather come mosquitoes and the need for protection against the serious diseases they sometimes carry.

Asian tiger mosquitoes, which are often found in Currituck County, are known carriers of both West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis.

Spraying for adult “tigers” is not an effective means of control; however, these mosquitoes can be controlled by eliminating or reducing their breeding sites.



How to Control the Asian Tiger Mosquito

Mosquitoes need water to breed and grow. It doesn't take much water and it doesn't take much time. Almost anything that will hold water for one week or more can produce these pests. Many places around your home may be causing mosquito problems. Take the following precautions:

- Clean overgrown ponds and stock with fish
- Repair leaky faucets
- Change water weekly in outdoor containers such as birdbaths, flower pots, and pet bowls
- Discard old tires*
- Clean leaf-clogged gutters
- Throw away old bottles and cans
- Cover, turn upside down, or store indoors any items that collect water

For additional information about mosquito control, call Albemarle Regional Health Services at 482-3512 or Currituck County Public Works at 232-2504.

**Note: Tires under 20 inches and without rims can be disposed of at any convenience site, FREE! Tires over 20 inches should be taken to the Maple Transfer Station.*

Disaster Recovery Assistance Available

The **M.E.R.C.I. Northeast Disaster Recovery Center** in Edenton can help you if your home was damaged in Hurricane Isabel.

The center provides construction repair for people with home damage needs greater than FEMA or insurance reimbursements. Therefore, if you do not have enough money to repair your home, the center may be able to provide help.

To qualify for this **NO CHARGE** service, you must own a home in Currituck, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, or Washington counties.

M.E.R.C.I. is a mission program of the N.C. Conference of the United Methodist Church. Church affiliation is **NOT** necessary to receive help from this organization.

Call 252-482-3676 or 252-482-7868 for more information.

Primary Elections Changes

Filing and election dates for the 2004 elections have changed.

The new dates* are:

- **April 26**, filing begins at 12:00 noon
- **May 7**, filing ends at 12:00 noon
- **July 20**, primary election
- **November 2**, general election

**These dates are subject to change.*



Candidates for the following offices must file with the County Board of Elections:

- Register of Deeds
- County Commissioner — Crawford & Fruitville townships
- School Board — Moyock & Fruitville townships
- Walnut Island Sanitary District
- NC House
- NC Senate

All other offices must file with the State Board of Elections.

Please note that the Board of Elections office has moved to 2826 Caratoke Hwy., Currituck, approximately 1/4 mile north of the Historic Currituck Courthouse.



Currituck - Water Quality Report...



2003 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

CURRITUCK COUNTY WATER DEPARTMENT
PWSID #04-27-010
April 1, 2004

The Currituck County Water Department is pleased to report that the County's drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements.

In an effort to keep customers informed, the Water Department is providing the following information concerning water quality. Questions about this report may be directed to Leland E. Gibbs at 453-2155. Persons wanting to learn more about the County's Water Department may attend any of its regularly scheduled meetings, held on the second Tuesday of each month at the Water Treatment Plant Maintenance Building located in Maple. Please call for an appointment. Questions concerning water bills should be directed to the billing office at 232-2769.

About Your Water...

- The County's water source is 28 groundwater wells located off Maple Road drawing from the Yorktown Aquifer.
- All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.
- Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, and some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

The 2003 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report shows that Currituck County's water is safe and meets federal and state requirements.

For additional information about water quality, call the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2003, and the last test results of contaminants that were above the detection level but were not due to be tested in 2003.

2003 TEST RESULTS

Substance/Test Date Test Result Max/Action Level

Radioactive Contaminants (Tested January 2002)

Beta-photon emitters	12.84pCi/L	50pCi/L MCL
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Inorganic Contaminants (June 2001)

Copper (8-26-02)	.486 ppm	1.3 ppm AL
Fluoride	.13 ppm	4 ppm MCL
Mercury	.0009 ppb	.002 ppb MCL

Volatile Organic Contaminants (September 2003)

TTHM	27.9 ppb	100 ppb MCL
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Unregulated Volatile Organic Contaminants

(September 2003)

Chloroform	1.5 ppb	N/A*
Bromodichloromethane	5.0 ppb	N/A*
Bromoform	13.2 ppb	N/A*
Chlorodibromomethane	8.2 ppb	N/A*

*Unregulated substances have no Max/Action Levels

In this table, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)

– one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years, or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter

– one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) – picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Action Level (AL) – the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – The "Maximum Allowed" is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) – The "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.



Protect Your Home From Brush or Forest Fire

THE HOUSE:

- Use only fire resistant materials on the exterior of your home, including the roof, siding, decking, and trim.

- Chimneys should extend above the roof line and be topped with a half-inch mesh spark arrester.
- Enclose the underside of balconies and above-ground decks with fire resistant materials.
- Consider installing a sprinkler system



within the house. They may protect your home while you're away or prevent a house fire from spreading to other structures or woodlands.

HOME CARE:

- Keep your home's roof free of debris. Leaves, pine straw, moss and twigs that collect on the roof and in gutters invite disaster.
- Safely dispose of stove, fireplace, and grill ashes. First place them in a metal bucket, soak with water, and then bury them in mineral soil. Do not stack wood under decks.
- Faucets should be located on each side of your home and near any outbuildings. Have a coiled hose attached to faucets on opposite sides of your home.
- Hand tools such as rakes, shovels, and axes should be readily available along with a ladder that will reach your roof.

SURROUNDINGS:

Protecting your home from wildfire starts with the trees around it. Pay particular attention to the trees within 100 feet of your house:

- The wider the spacing between trees, the better.
- Hardwood trees tend to be less flammable than conifers.
- Rid trees of moss, abandoned nests, dead limbs, and other flammable material.
- Remove limbs within 15-20 feet of the ground.
- Remove limbs that extend over your roof, or those directly above or within 15 feet laterally of a chimney.



Your yard should serve as a firebreak:

- If you have a grass lawn that is dormant in winter, mow it closely after all growth has stopped and bag the cuttings.
- Rake all leaves or needles that are within 30 feet of a structure.
- Use bedding mulch or straw sparingly close to buildings.
- Certain popular shrubs are highly flammable. Select the least flammable shrubs that will achieve the desired effect in your landscaping.

FIREWORKS

NC General Statutes prohibit the buying, use, and/or sale of fireworks that are self-propelled, spin, or explode. In addition, children under the age of 16 are prohibited from possessing, purchasing, using, or selling any fireworks.

Questions may be referred to the Currituck Sheriff's Office at 232-3771, or Fire Prevention at 232-6641.

NC General Statutes: 14-414 - 14-415

Additional information on fire safety may be obtained at Currituck County's website: www.visitcurrituck.com.



Fire Prevention and Safety...

Can Emergency Responders Find Your Home or Business When You Call For Help?

In order to locate your residence or business in an emergency, fire, rescue, and law enforcement personnel must be able to easily see posted address numbers.

- Homes should have approved address numbers, building numbers, or approved building identification placed in a position to be clearly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property.

- Address numbers should be Arabic numerals or letters with plain, block type (not script or written). They should contrast with their background and be a minimum of 4 inches (102 mm) high with a minimum stroke width of 0.5 inch (12.7 mm).

- Buildings must be easily identified by emergency responders from the emergency vehicle. This includes the backs of buildings that face alleys or roadways. Many times the emergency response unit will be directed to the back entrance to a building; i.e., a strip shopping center. The back door of each tenant space should have the numerical address and the store name on or above the door.



Help 9-1-1 response teams locate your home in an emergency. Order 9-1-1 reflective street number signs to mount on your mailbox. Call Fire Prevention at 232-6641 for more information.

HOT TOPIC:

FIRE PREVENTION

Can Fire and Rescue Vehicles Reach Your Home in an Emergency?

Large, emergency vehicles may need to be able to access your home when an emergency arises.

- Design road width, grade and curves to allow access for emergency vehicles.
- Eliminate entrance gates and do not block driveways.
- Identify the entrance to your home by marking the drive with a sturdy, easy to read sign that gives your name and address.
- Make sure dead-end roads and long driveways have turnaround areas wide enough for emergency vehicles.
- Cut back overhanging tree branches above roads.
- Make sure your driveway has an all-weather driving surface that is free from potholes. Insufficient driveways can make it difficult for emergency and law enforcement vehicles to get close to your home and reach you with the appropriate equipment.

Backyard Burning of Trash is Dangerous and Illegal

Why People Burn Their Trash

Backyard burning is common but illegal. People burn trash for various reasons—either because it is easier than hauling it to the local disposal site or to avoid paying for regular waste collection service. In the past, backyard burning may have been the only way that many rural Americans could get rid of their waste. Today, however, almost everyone can obtain reasonably priced waste collection or take their waste to a conveniently located drop-off center as alternatives to backyard burning. Even though restrictions exist that are punishable by a \$10,000 fine, many people continue to burn.

Backyard burning refers to the burning of household trash by residents on their own property. Trash typically burned can include paper, cardboard, food scraps, plastics, construction materials, dog boxes, chicken coups, and tires—essentially any materials that would otherwise be recycled or sent to a landfill. Burning usually occurs in a burn barrel, homemade burn box, wood stove, outdoor boiler, or open pit. Air emissions from backyard burning are released directly to the atmosphere without being treated or filtered.

It's a Health Hazard

Most people who burn their waste do not realize how harmful this practice is to their health and to the environment. Current research indicates that backyard burning is far more harmful to our health than previously thought. It can increase the risk of heart disease, aggravate respiratory ailments such as asthma and emphysema, and cause rashes, nausea, or headaches. Backyard burning also produces harmful quantities of dioxins, a group of highly toxic chemicals that settle on crops and in our waterways



where they eventually wind up in our food and affect our health.

Burn Barrel Science

Typically, dioxins do not exist in materials before they are incinerated, but are produced when waste is burned. Significantly higher levels of dioxins are created by burning trash in burn barrels than in municipal incinerators. Household burn barrels receive limited oxygen, and thus burn at fairly low temperatures, producing not only dioxins, but a great deal of smoke and other pollutants. Unlike the barrels and boxes used in backyard

burning, large incinerators are required by EPA regulations to have stringent pollution control systems that reduce dioxin emissions primarily by preventing their formation. Backyard burning is also particularly dangerous because it releases pollutants at ground level where they are more readily inhaled or incorporated into the food chain.

For more information about backyard burning, call the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Air Quality (252-946-6481); NC Forest Service - Currituck County (453-6770); or the Currituck Fire Marshal (232-6641).



Volunteer Fire Departments

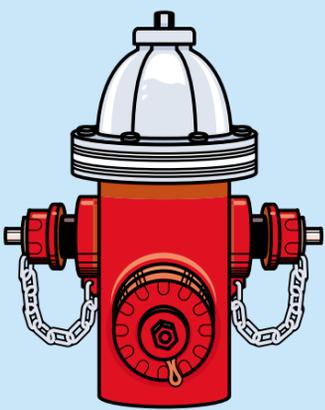
County, Volunteer Fire Departments Work To Lower Fire Insurance Premiums For Homeowners

The Knotts Island Volunteer Fire Department has been notified that it is now rated through the Insurance Services Organization (ISO), making all seven fire departments that serve Currituck County rated stations.

The NC Department of Insurance, using ISO certified inspectors, makes an independent evaluation of fire departments.

Stations that are rated result in lower fire insurance rates for qualifying properties.

Ratings may result in a decrease in property insurance calculations for insured properties within five road miles of a fire station. Homeowners and business owners are encouraged to contact their insurance company to see if the rating affects their insurance.



“The County and volunteer fire departments are making every effort to lower the ratings even further,” said James Mims, County Fire Marshal. “We’ve been adding fire hydrants along the County’s major roadways, and County staff and volunteer firefighters are continually participating in training. These efforts help the stations attain a better rating, that helps property owners get lower fire insurance premiums.”

Mims said that recruiting volunteers is also essential to the stations achieving a better rating. “We strongly encourage citizens to volunteer at their local fire department,” Mims said. “This is one of the best ways for stations to obtain the best possible ISO rating, plus it’s a rewarding experience. Volunteering at a fire department is a great way for the people to support and get involved in their community.”

The fire departments strive to offer the best service possible, which includes updating and maintaining equipment, fire suppression, fire prevention, auto extrication, and search and rescue. Department volunteers also assist County Emergency Medical Services staff and are pivotal to Emergency Management functions in regards to man-made and natural disasters. In addition, they are constantly staying on the leading edge of new and improved techniques, logging thousands of hours of training each year.

For additional information on how ISO ratings affect homeowners’ insurance premiums, contact your insurance agent.

Burning Permits Available Online

The N.C. Division of Forest Resources (NCDNR) reminds all residents and landowners that before burning vegetative debris, they must obtain a burn permit from NCDNR. Now NCDNR has made it easier for citizens by providing permits online. Visit www.dfr.state.nc.us for a link to the permit application.

After an application has been submitted, the NCFS Currituck County office will be notified and the applicant will immediately receive an e-mail confirmation.

Under the state open burning rule, homeowners may burn leaves, branches, and other plant growth if they live in areas with no public pickup. If local pickup is available, no burning is allowed. In all cases, it is illegal to burn trash, lumber, tires, newspapers, plastics, and other non-vegetative materials. For more information on the air quality rules related to burning, visit www.daq.state.nc.us, or contact County Ranger Aaron Gay at 453-6770.

The County’s fire departments accept applications from individuals who want to serve as volunteer firefighters. To apply, call that station directly; the telephone numbers are listed below. Applicants must be at least 18 years old.

**Crawford Township Volunteer
Fire Department, Inc.
232-3313**

**Knotts Island Volunteer
Fire Department
429-9905**

**Moyock Volunteer Fire Department
435-2281**

**Corolla Fire and Rescue Squad, Inc.
453-3242**

**Carova Beach Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
453-8690**

**Lower Currituck Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
453-2761**

**Virginia Beach (VA) Fire Department -
Blackwater Station (serves Gibbs Woods)**



The Volunteer Fire Departments Need Your Help!

**Sign up to volunteer at a local station.
Your involvement could result
in lower fire insurance
premiums for County citizens.**

Currituck - For your information...

REFUNDING OF BONDS SAVES COUNTY OVER \$3.1 MILLION

Currituck County has completed a refunding of the outstanding 1995 General Obligation Bonds, financing the Currituck County High School, and the Water Bonds Series A and B, financing the mainland water system construction. This resulted in cumulative savings in excess of \$3.1 million over the life of the bonds.



In addition, the final maturity of the water debt was shortened from 2029 to 2018, while the school bond maturity remains unchanged at 2015.

“Just as many home owners have refinanced their homes to take advantage of the current lower interest rates, the County has essentially done the same with these bonds,” said Dan Scanlon, County Manager. “By refunding the bonds, we’re saving taxpayers over \$3.1 million.”

The bond issuance process required a considerable amount of planning, meetings, and document preparation by the County’s finance staff, administration, and County Board of Commissioners. The refunding project was undertaken to help reduce the debt of the County and thereby save the citizens future tax dollars.



Summer Reading Program

“Discover New Trails @ Your Library” is the theme for this year’s Summer Reading Program at the Currituck County Public Library.

The program is open to children in kindergarten - 5th grade.

A kickoff event will be held Tuesday, June 15, 11 a.m. at the Library, located in Barco. Call 232-8345 for details.

CURRITUCK IS CALLING

Currituck is calling...can you hear
The chant of the Canadas, Snow geese
and Swan;
The lapping of waters against
bulkheads and shore
And the mighty Nor’easter’s roar?

Currituck is calling...can you feel
The warmth’ midst neighbors genuine
and as real
As the cool breezes sneaking up from
the sounds
And gale forces stronger than steel?

Currituck is calling...can you see
That round red moon winking at me
And the rising sun flaming up o’er
the edge
As pink clouds float out to the sea?

Currituck is calling...calling still
Calling out from the distant past
To a future with challenges vast
Providing opportunities for any and all
Who will hear and see and feel...
Currituck is calling...

Hope Slaughter, Moyock



County of Currituck
P.O. Box 39
Currituck, NC 27929

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Postal Patron

“Currituck County is committed to equal opportunity and nondiscrimination in all programs and services, and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, age, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, creed, ancestry, disability, or veteran status.”