

Benton Beach Beacon



June 1997

All Roads Lead to Benton Beach, August 9

All roads lead to Benton Beach, Saturday, August 9, 1997 when Edwin Benton stages another old-fashioned clambake with the assistance of his brother, Roger Benton.

Circle the date on your calendar, remembering that the next day, Sunday, is the inclement weather date.

Seafood delicacies steamed in the below-ground oven will be available, but for those of you who may prefer to cook your own meats, there will be a bed of hot coals in the fireplace.

Food order blanks will be mailed to all family members in the next few weeks.

The Adventures of Pumpkin, Part II

by Joel Helander

The notoriety of Pumpkin, the orange Tabby cat of Sachem's Farm, has attracted the attention of several neighborhoods in the Sachem's Head/Indian Cove area.

In one of the last adventures published, Pumpkin helped the Guilford Rescue Squad at the scene of a medical emergency on Vineyard Point Road.

This spring, Pumpkin has discovered a back-up home on "Beauty Mountain," which is the two

million dollar weekend retreat for a New York City couple who have evidently pampered him royally. Pumpkin has a special corner near the sauna in the third floor spa; on the second floor he has his own chair; and on the first floor he can arrange to have an expansive brand tuna fish or 100% cream whenever his appetite demands.

On the weekend of May 3-4, it was essential to communicate a vital message to our Beauty Mountain neighbors relative to Monday's deposition for the boundary line problem. Although they were obviously at home, telephoning was repeated in vain.

Finally, a typewritten letter (folded about 20 times) was taped to Pumpkin's collar when he went out on his daily prow. If passenger pigeons could carry airborne messages behind enemy lines during the Civil War, there was no reason why an intelligent feline couldn't deliver the same through pasture and meadow in time of peace! Pumpkin has a well-established routine - and he delivered!

Our neighbor was out-of-doors and responded to the letter with an earnest and appreciative telephone call. Mr. B_____ exclaimed how he had never received mail delivery via the services of a cat; furthermore, he couldn't wait to share this true life story with associates at his Park Avenue Bank.

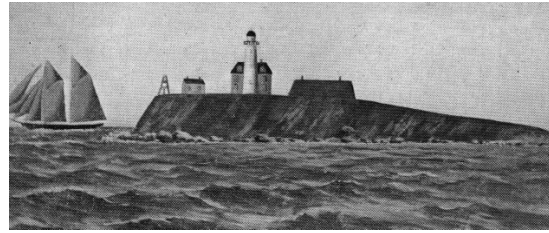
We trust that the bank employees will also appreciate Pumpkin's latest adventure, and, who knows, may extend an invitation for him for an adventure in New York City.

Beach Events: Summer 1997

Please remember that *special events*, such as large picnics and parties, need to be *scheduled* in advance and approved by members of the BBC Board. The Board is the clearing house so that conflicts can be avoided; however, a special event should not discourage regular beach-goers. Benton Beach is an expansive area.

Dates for special events will be disseminated from a calendar posted in the Beach House. It is not a sign-up sheet. Please contact Donna Spalding Chemacki, secretary, if you would like to coordinate a special event.

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|--------------------|--|
| Saturday, June 21 | Claudia Collinson's school party, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| Sunday, June 22 | Rain date for Claudia's party |
| June 24-28 | Fales/Schaefer family campout |
| Thursday, June 26 | Platt Nature Center c/o Heather Collinson, 10 a.m. - 12 noon |
| July 3-6 | Timothy Chemacki's campout |
| July 12-20 | Forrest/Lorri Helander family campout |
| July 21-28 | Holly/Jim Whelan family campout |
| Wednesday, July 23 | Platt Nature Center c/o Heather Collinson, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. |
| Saturday, August 9 | FAMILY CLAMBAKE!!!! |
| Sunday, August 10 | Rain date for family clambake |
| August 11-15 | Fales/Schaefer family campout |



Faulkner's Island

Faulkner's Island is one of the most prominent landmarks noticeable from Benton Beach. The following article was taken from the Internet (<http://www.ais.org/~lsa>) and briefly describes some of the island's past.

Falkner Island, originally called Falcon Island by the English because of its resident falcons, lies approximately 3 miles south of Guilford harbor. At low tide, the water recedes exposing reefs and rocks around the island. The channel between Goose Island and Falkner Island is 16 feet deep at most and 8 feet in some places.

The first of two lighthouses was constructed in 1802. It was the second lighthouse built in Connecticut. Along with it, a six-room wooden frame dwelling was built for the keeper and his family. The current lighthouse, built in 1871, is a 46-foot octagonal masonry tower, painted white. An unusual, spiral staircase on the outside of the lighthouse joins the lantern gallery to the north door of the watchroom a level below. The keeper's house was also replaced in 1871 with an eight-room, three-story dwelling, which burned down in 1976. Of the original buildings, only the fog signal engine house and a boathouse remain. The Fresnel lens was removed and taken to New Haven when the light was automated in 1978.

Falkner Island was once an important test site for navigational aids such as fog horns and sirens. Today, it is a protected nesting area for Arctic, common, and roseate terns. The island is part of the Connecticut Coastal National Wildlife Refuge.

Captain Oliver Brooks (appointed November, 1851) was no doubt the most famous of the keepers at Falkner Island. He served 31 years and attended to 71 ships, either wholly or partially wrecked. In November 1858, Brooks set out alone in a small boat to rescue 4 victims of the wrecked schooner "Noah F. Webb." He managed to reach the survivors after multiple attempts and brought them to the lighthouse

where his wife ministered to their needs. For this heroic act, he was awarded a gold medal by the Life Saving Benevolent Association. [©1995, Linda Sue Anderson]

In an effort gain public support to rescue the lighthouse from imminent doom as more and more of the island erodes, the Faulkner's Light Brigade, in conjunction with the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. occasionally allows the public to visit the island. These special times give us the chance to see up close the island that we've watched from afar so many days at Benton Beach.

This small island has a rich history, which is even further detailed in Joel Helander's book, entitled *The Island Called Faulkner's* (Joel E. Helander, 1988). Also, those with Internet access might want to visit the site <http://www.closetohome.com/ct/guilford/org/faulkners/>.

Campout Fever!

The new popularity of camping at Benton Beach is a testimony to the many improvements made by Benton Beach, Inc. since its inception in 1983.

Since camping maximizes beach use, all family members are asked to review the most recent addition of rules and regulations. These were issued last May 1996. They have been very effective in maintaining a system of order that serves to increase everybody's fun and enjoyment at the beach premises.

Please note the guidelines for the following: (1) Guests, (2) Evening Curfew, (3) Alcoholic Beverages, (4) Fires and Bonfires, (5) Dogs, (6) Clean Up, (7) Camping, (8) Boating, and (9) Parking.

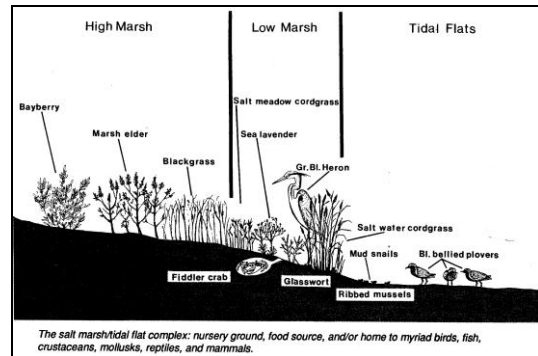
Last year, the upland area west of the beach AKA *Roger's Island* was established as an independent grassy grove. Campers are encouraged to use this area, if they would like, to insure new privacy for both them and other beach-goers.

Please Keep Vineyard Meadow Clean

Family members are kindly asked to use strict consideration in preventing encroachments onto Vineyard Meadow, particularly behind the berm north of the Beach and along the Beach Road shoulders.

Glass, concrete, and other materials have been gradually deposited in a couple problem areas. The cumulative effect over the years is encroachments onto the meadow floor - not too unlike the problem sites we have monitored in Vineyard Point backyards.

Deposits on a meadow floor, including clean materials such as leaves and clippings, eventually destroy the meadow and encourages new phragmites growth. The State Tidal Wetlands Act regulates *all activity* on tidal wetlands, including Vineyard Meadow.



Incidentally, we have been advised that the State of Connecticut Wetlands Restoration Unit has scheduled spraying and mulching of phragmites in our meadow at the end of summer 1997.

Monitoring our own activities in Vineyard Meadow is not always easy, but it is vital that we do for the sake of a beautiful tract of wetland protected by Benton Beach, Inc.

Thank you, all.

Lovebirds

by Roger W. Benton

One thing about retirement is that it gives you more time to enjoy the finer things of life. I never thought I'd become addicted, but I have grown to enjoy the wildlife in the Benton estates. For three years a male pheasant has been visiting our back yard to forage for grain under the bird feeder at our kitchen window. I believe he was raised and turned loose by Frank Ifkovic when he lived on Old Sachem's Head Road.

At the time, there was also a female that would accompany him on occasion. For those of you at the beach last summer, you will remember seeing a male who took up residence in the area as well as on Vineyard Point. For those camping over night, I understand he was quite obnoxious crowing outside the tents at 5:30 a.m. This was yet another pheasant also set free by Mr. Ifkovic.

In any event, our regular original visitors became known by Peggy and I as Albert and Victoria, named after a king and queen of England since they were so majestic. We became accustomed to their visits and always throw out extra bird seed when we knew they were there. The female never appeared as regularly as Albert and her visits ended last summer, entirely. We must assume falling victim to raccoon, fox, or coyote. Last winter, Albert would show up only once or twice a week and he seemed so forlorn and lonely, although his plumage was magnificent. The winter before he had lost all his long tail feathers and he looked rather motley all spring. I really felt sorry for Albert this spring so got the idea of acquiring a mate for him.



Our son-in-law Mike Schaefer lives very near a pheasant farm in Killingly, so I made the arrangement to purchase two females and met Mike with them at his place of work in Old Saybrook the end of March. Now the logistics of turning them loose had to be figured out and I decided to wait until Albert arrived at the feeder. I kept the two females in the cellar under the garage in an old duck pen I had and, wouldn't

you know, Albert didn't show up for a week. He arrived the morning of our biggest snow storm April Fool's Day. Not wanting to turn the girls loose under such harsh conditions, I waited and hoped Albert would show up the next day. Lo and behold he did, so while he was busy eating, I turned them loose. Such commotion you can't imagine. They took off in flight with Albert in pursuit, squawking all the way. One of the girls ended up by Edwin's pond, but the other landed nicely in my back yard with Albert along side. You never saw a happier pheasant. I watched for two hours while he was courting this new found friend. It was worth every penny I invested.

Now Albert has something to crow about. If they are apart, he continually calls for her to let her know where he is. He spends more time in our yard than ever before, probably hoping another lady will suddenly appear.

As I write this in mid-May, Albert comes for breakfast about 6:30 to 7 each morning and hangs around off and on until mid-afternoon when Victoria shows up very hungry. One day, as I opened the window to feed, she did a fly-by and landed on some staging nearby. They are both particularly fond of bread broken into small beak size pieces.

I can only hope Victoria is nesting somewhere. I did discover an abandoned egg one day in my back swamp, but after one month in a towel on the furnace, it surely is hopeless.

You may wonder about the second female. Well, it left Edwin's pond area after a day and we can only hope she discovered her own male in another territory. We haven't seen her again. We know the inevitable will someday come to Albert and Victoria, but in the meantime they provide us with hours of amusement and pleasure.

Notes

- Please call Donna Chemacki (203-245-2998), Benton Beach, Inc. secretary, for scheduling a special beach event. This is not necessary for small, spontaneous gatherings.

- Here it is - what you've all been waiting for! The new and improved tide tables for 1997 is attached for your "beaching" convenience!
- If you have never experienced the rare beauty of Faulkner's Island, get ready to mark your calendars! The Faulkner's Light Brigade, in conjunction with the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will host tours of Faulkner's Island and lighthouse on Saturday, September 6, 1997 (Rain date on Sunday). Please note that you must provide your own boat transportation to and from the island.



- Special thanks to Sharon Tito for her help with the graphics and to Bob Stack, also of Sonalysts, for reproducing and folding the newsletters.
- Please submit any articles or family updates to Tim Chemacki for incorporation into the next issue.

Timothy Chemacki
83 Mansfield Rd., Unit 325
New London, CT 06320
(860) 443-0409
email: timothy.chemacki@MCI2000.com



1997 Tide Table

May					June					July					August					September					October										
Day		High		Low		Day		High		Low		Day		High		Low		Day		High		Low		Day		High		Low							
	am	pm	am	pm		am	pm	am	pm		am	pm	am	pm		am	pm	am	pm		am	pm	am	pm		am	pm	am	pm		am	pm	am	pm	
1	T	6:34	7:10	12:26	12:57	1	S	8:24	8:49	2:18	2:36	1	T	9:07	9:26	3:01	3:13	1	F	10:31	10:46	4:25	4:37	1	M	11:25	11:41	5:20	5:37	1	W	11:29		5:24	5:46
2	F	7:39	8:10	1:32	1:58	2	M	9:22	9:42	3:16	3:30	2	W	10:00	10:17	3:54	4:06	2	S	11:14	11:28	5:08	5:20	2	T		12:00	5:56	6:13	2	T	11:48	12:03	5:58	6:21
3	S	8:40	9:07	2:33	2:55	3	T	10:16	10:33	4:09	4:22	3	T	10:50	11:04	4:44	4:54	3	S		11:53	5:48	6:01	3	W	12:16	12:35	6:30	6:49	3	F	12:24	12:38	6:32	6:57
4	S	9:38	10:00	3:31	3:49	4	W	11:06	11:21	4:59	5:11	4	F	11:35		5:29	5:40	4	M	12:06	12:30	6:25	6:40	4	T	12:51	1:09	7:04	7:25	4	S	12:59	1:13	7:07	7:34
5	M	10:31	10:50	4:24	4:41	5	T		11:53	5:47	5:58	5	S	11:48	12:17	6:12	6:23	5	T	12:43	1:06	7:01	7:17	5	F	1:27	1:45	7:38	8:02	5	S	1:37	1:51	7:43	8:13
6	T	11:22	11:39	5:15	5:30	6	F	12:07	12:38	6:32	6:44	6	S	12:29	12:57	6:52	7:05	6	W	1:20	1:43	7:37	7:55	6	S	2:04	2:22	8:14	8:42	6	M	2:17	2:32	8:22	8:57
7	W		12:11	6:04	6:18	7	S	12:51	1:23	7:16	7:29	7	M	1:09	1:37	7:31	7:46	7	T	1:57	2:20	8:13	8:35	7	S	2:44	3:03	8:52	9:25	7	T	3:02	3:19	9:07	9:46
8	T	12:26	12:59	6:51	7:05	8	S	1:35	2:06	7:59	8:14	8	T	1:49	2:17	8:10	8:28	8	F	2:36	2:59	8:50	9:16	8	M	3:28	3:49	9:36	10:15	8	W	3:53	4:13	10:00	10:43
9	F	1:13	1:46	7:38	7:53	9	M	2:19	2:50	8:42	9:01	9	W	2:30	2:57	8:49	9:11	9	S	3:17	3:41	9:30	10:02	9	T	4:19	4:42	10:27	11:11	9	T	4:51	5:14	11:02	11:44
10	S	2:00	2:34	8:26	8:42	10	T	3:04	3:35	9:26	9:49	10	T	3:11	3:40	9:30	9:56	10	S	4:02	4:28	10:14	10:52	10	W	5:16	5:41	11:26		10	F	5:54	6:18		12:08
11	S	2:49	3:22	9:14	9:33	11	W	3:50	4:22	10:12	10:39	11	F	3:56	4:25	10:13	10:45	11	M	4:53	5:19	11:04		11	T	6:18	6:43	12:11	12:29	11	S	6:57	7:23	12:47	1:14
12	M	3:38	4:13	10:03	10:26	12	T	4:39	5:11	10:59	11:31	12	S	4:44	5:13	10:59	11:36	12	T	5:49	6:15	11:47	11:59	12	F	7:20	7:45	1:13	1:33	12	S	7:58	8:24	1:47	2:16
13	T	4:30	5:05	10:54	11:21	13	F	5:30	6:01		11:48	13	S	5:35	6:03		11:49	13	W	6:48	7:13	12:45	12:58	13	S	8:20	8:44	2:13	2:34	13	M	8:55	9:22	2:45	3:15
14	W	5:25	5:58	11:46		14	S	6:23	6:51	12:24	12:38	14	M	6:30	6:56	12:30	12:41	14	T	7:48	8:11	1:44	1:58	14	S	9:17	9:41	3:09	3:32	14	T	9:49	10:17	3:39	4:09
15	T	6:19	6:50	12:17	12:38	15	S	7:16	7:41	1:16	1:28	15	T	7:26	7:49	1:25	1:35	15	F	8:45	9:07	2:40	2:55	15	M	10:10	10:35	4:02	4:26	15	W	10:40	11:09	4:31	5:02
16	F	7:13	7:40	1:11	1:29	16	M	8:08	8:29	2:07	2:17	16	W	8:21	8:41	2:19	2:29	16	S	9:40	10:01	3:34	3:51	16	T	11:01	11:27	4:53	5:19	16	T	11:31		5:21	5:53
17	S	8:04	8:26	2:02	2:17	17	T	8:58	9:16	2:56	3:05	17	T	9:14	9:32	3:11	3:21	17	S	10:33	10:53	4:26	4:44	17	W		11:52	5:43	6:10	17	F	12:00	12:20	6:10	6:44
18	S	8:52	9:11	2:50	3:02	18	W	9:46	10:02	3:44	3:52	18	F	10:06	10:23	4:01	4:12	18	M	11:23	11:44	5:16	5:36	18	T	12:18	12:42	6:32	7:02	18	S	12:51	1:10	7:00	7:35
19	M	9:37	9:53	3:35	3:45	19	T	10:34	10:48	4:30	4:38	19	S	10:56	11:13	4:50	5:03	19	T		12:14	6:05	6:29	19	F	1:10	1:33	7:22	7:55	19	S	1:42	2:02	7:51	8:27
20	T	10:21	10:34	4:18	4:27	20	F	11:20	11:34	5:15	5:25	20	S		11:46	5:39	5:54	20	W	12:37	1:04	6:55	7:21	20	S	2:03	2:26	8:14	8:50	20	M	2:35	2:55	8:44	9:22
21	W	11:03	11:15	4:59	5:08	21	S		12:07	6:01	6:13	21	M	12:03	12:35	6:27	6:46	21	T	1:29	1:56	7:46	8:16	21	S	2:58	3:21	9:09	9:48	21	T	3:30	3:51	9:41	10:19
22	T		11:45	5:41	5:50	22	S	12:21	12:55	6:48	7:02	22	T	12:54	1:26	7:17	7:39	22	F	2:23	2:50	8:38	9:12	22	M	3:56	4:20	10:08	10:49	22	W	4:28	4:50	10:41	11:18
23	F	11:57	12:29	6:23	6:33	23	M	1:10	1:45	7:36	7:55	23	W	1:46	2:18	8:07	8:34	23	S	3:19	3:47	9:33	10:12	23	T	4:57	5:23	11:10		23	T	5:29	5:51	11:42	
24	S	12:40	1:14	7:07	7:19	24	T	2:02	2:38	8:27	8:50	24	T	2:41	3:13	9:00	9:32	24	S	4:19	4:47	10:32	11:15	24	W	6:01	6:26	11:51	12:14	24	F	6:28	6:51	12:17	12:43
25	S	1:26	2:02	7:53	8:08	25	W	2:57	3:33	9:20	9:50	25	F	3:38	4:10	9:56	10:33	25	M	5:22	5:50	11:35		25	T	7:04	7:28	12:54	1:16	25	S	7:24	7:46	1:13	1:40
26	M	2:16	2:53	8:43	9:03	26	T	3:55	4:31	10:17	10:52	26	S	4:39	5:11	10:55	11:37	26	T	6:27	6:54	12:19	12:39	26	F	8:02	8:23	1:52	2:14	26	S	7:14	7:36	1:04	2:31
27	T	3:10	3:49	9:37	10:03	27	F	4:57	5:32	11:16		27	S	5:43	6:13		11:57	27	W	7:31	7:55	1:23	1:41	27	S	8:52	9:13	2:44	3:05	27	M	7:59	8:21	1:50	2:17
28	W	4:09	4:48	10:35	11:07	28	S	6:01	6:33	11:56	12:17	28	M	6:48	7:15	12:42	12:59	28	T	8:30	8:51	2:22	2:39	28	S	9:37	9:56	3:29	3:50	28	T	8:41	9:02	2:13	2:59
29	T	5:13	5:50	11:35		29	S	7:06	7:34	1:01	1:18	29	T	7:52	8:15	1:45	2:00	29	F	9:22	9:40	3:14	3:30	29	M	10:17	10:36	4:10	4:31	29	W	9:19	9:41	3:32	3:39
30	F	6:18	6:52	12:12	12:37	30	M	8:08	8:32	2:03	2:18	30	W	8:51	9:10	2:44	2:57	30	S	10:07	10:24	4:01	4:16	30	T	10:54	11:13	4:48	5:09	30	T	9:56	10:19	3:50	4:17
31	S	7:23	7:52	1:17	1:38							31	T	9:44	10:01	3:37	3:49	31	S	10:48	11:04	4:42	4:58							31	F	10:32	10:56	4:26	4:54

Times are for Guilford in daylight saving time** ** Branford add 5 min. ** Madison subtract 5 min.
Average rise & fall is 6 feet.

**Times after October 25, 1997 are indicated in standard time