

A photograph of a living room with a large sofa, a coffee table, and a lamp, framed by a decorative border. The room features a large window with a view of a golf course and a building. The sofa is upholstered in a light-colored fabric and has two patterned pillows. A wooden coffee table with a woven top is in front of the sofa. A lamp with a woven shade sits on a side table. The ceiling has a decorative lattice pattern. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font.

FEATHER & FORM: A WATERFOWL HERITAGE WEEKEND AT THE SANDERLING

MARCH 20TH - 22TH, 2026



Waterfowl Heritage Weekend

The Sanderling Resort presents an exclusive three-day immersion into the Northern Outer Banks' storied waterfowling heritage. This curated, limited capacity weekend celebrates the region's deep connection to waterfowl hunting, decoy carving traditions, and coastal conservation, cornerstones of Currituck County culture since the late 1800s when wealthy industrialists discovered what locals had always known: the Northern Outer Banks is "Coratank," a Native American word meaning "land of the wild geese."





Day 1 | Arrival Friday

Friday Evening kicks off with a Rare Decoy Sporting Arts Showcase curated by the Carolina Decoy Collectors Association. Decoy expert Robbie Smith—Sporting Art Director at Leland Little Auctions—presents the history of Northern Outer Banks carvers, with special focus on Alvirah Wright (1872-1951), the legendary Camden County boatbuilder whose hand-carved ruddy ducks and canvasbacks remain among the most sought-after hunting decoys in American folk art. Featured carver Chandler Sawyer, an 11th-generation Currituck native and great-great-grandson of renowned carver Bob Morse, will meet with guests and demonstrate traditional carving techniques he practices as one of the South’s most celebrated living carvers. The evening continues with an Oyster Roast featuring a raw bar from Cousins’ Oysters and a traditional oyster roast from The Lifesaving Station's kitchen set aside the glowing backdrop of sunset on the Currituck Sound. The evening will conclude fireside with DIY s’mores and a rum tasting from Outer Banks Distilling.





Day 1 | Arrival Friday

Check-in & Registration

Beach House Lobby

3:00 pm

Rare Decoy Sporting Arts Show

Great Hall

4:00 pm

Oyster Party

Sunset Ballroom & Deck

5:30 pm

Fireside Rum & S'mores

Beach House Firepit

8:30 pm

Stargazing

Observation Deck

9:30 pm



Day 2 | Saturday

Saturday begins with the Earl Slick Breakfast, named for the conservationist who opened The Sanderling in 1985 and donated the historic Pine Island Hunt Club to the National Audubon Society. Morning excursions to Historic Corolla Village include tours and talks at two landmark sites: the Corolla Maritime Museum, where Robbie Smith and Chandler Sawyer will discuss Joseph P. Knapp, the New York publisher and philanthropist who founded More Game Birds in America in 1930 (which became Ducks Unlimited in 1937) from his 37-room Mackay Island estate; the Whalehead Club, the 1920s art nouveau mansion built by industrialist E.G. Knight and his wife Marie after hunt clubs refused her membership, with a private tour led by Samantha Payne, Head of Visitor Relations. Guests return for a Hunt Camp Lunch at the Pine Island Club—the oldest standing traditional hunt club in Currituck County (built 1913)—with celebrated chefs Mac and Jeff Buben of Sea Chef Dockside Kitchen at Oregon Inlet. The day concludes with an outstanding Wild Game Dinner prepared by Chef Dean Neff of Seabird in Wilmington, a 2024 James Beard Outstanding Chef finalist celebrated for his commitment to sustainable, locally-sourced seafood and coastal foodways.

Transportation to offsite locations provided.





Day 2 | Saturday

Earl Slick Breakfast

Lifesaving Station

7:30 am

Corolla Tours and Talks

Corolla Maritime Museum

Whalehead Club

Corolla Lighthouse

9:00 am-12:00 pm

Hunt Camp Lunch & Tour

Pine Island Club

12:30 pm

Sunset and OBX Distilling Cocktail Class

Keeper's Loft

4:00 pm

Wild Game Dinner

Lifesaving Station

6:30 pm



Day 3 | Sunday

The weekend concludes with a self-guided sunrise birdwatching excursion along the Atlantic Flyway, followed by a farewell breakfast at The Lifesaving Station.

This intimate gathering offers an unparalleled experience for sporting art collectors, water fowling enthusiasts, and those passionate about coastal heritage and American folk art set against the stunning property of The Sanderling Resort.

Sunrise Birdwatching Excursion

Resort

7:00 am

Breakfast

Lifesaving Station

8:30 am





FAQ

What is Included in the retreat price?

Pricing for a single occupancy starts at \$1,995 & double occupancy starts at \$2,870. Includes accommodation for 2 nights, all organized meals, bars & receptions, activities, swag bag/welcome amenity, admittance to all attractions, transportation to activities (not from airport), service fees, taxes, resort fee, etc. Food and alcohol provided at dinners and receptions events are included.

How is payment collected?

Payment is collected once booking online.

What do I need to pack?

In March, the weather in Duck is typically cool with temperatures in the 60's. Events will be both indoors and outdoors. Guests should dress for time outdoors, including comfortable pants, warm layers, waterproof or wind-resistant jackets and comfortable shoes. Earth tones and classic waterfowl style are encouraged. Daytime activities call for comfortable, practical clothing, while evenings are casual but polished—sweaters, collared shirts, and cozy layers.

Where is the retreat held?

The retreat will take place at The Sanderling Resort, located on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Specific meeting locations on property will be shared prior to arrival. Transportation will be provided to off-property events.

Can guests stay without attending offsite events?

Spouses and non-event guests can tag along on the trip, please book accommodations for 1 person for the package. These guests cannot attend meals or activities.

What are the check-in and check-out times?

Standard check-in is at 4pm, and check-out is 11am. All efforts will be made for early arrivals.

What is the cancellation policy?

Cancellations made within 30 days are eligible for a full refund.

Can locals attend?

Yes, locals can attend and not have overnight accommodation but have access to all other events. Local pricing is \$1,200 including all taxes, fees, transportation, etc.



Your Guides



Sherman Harris
Lifesaving Station



Dean Neff



Jeff & Mac Buben
Sea Chef Dockside Kitchen



Robbie Smith
Decoy Expert

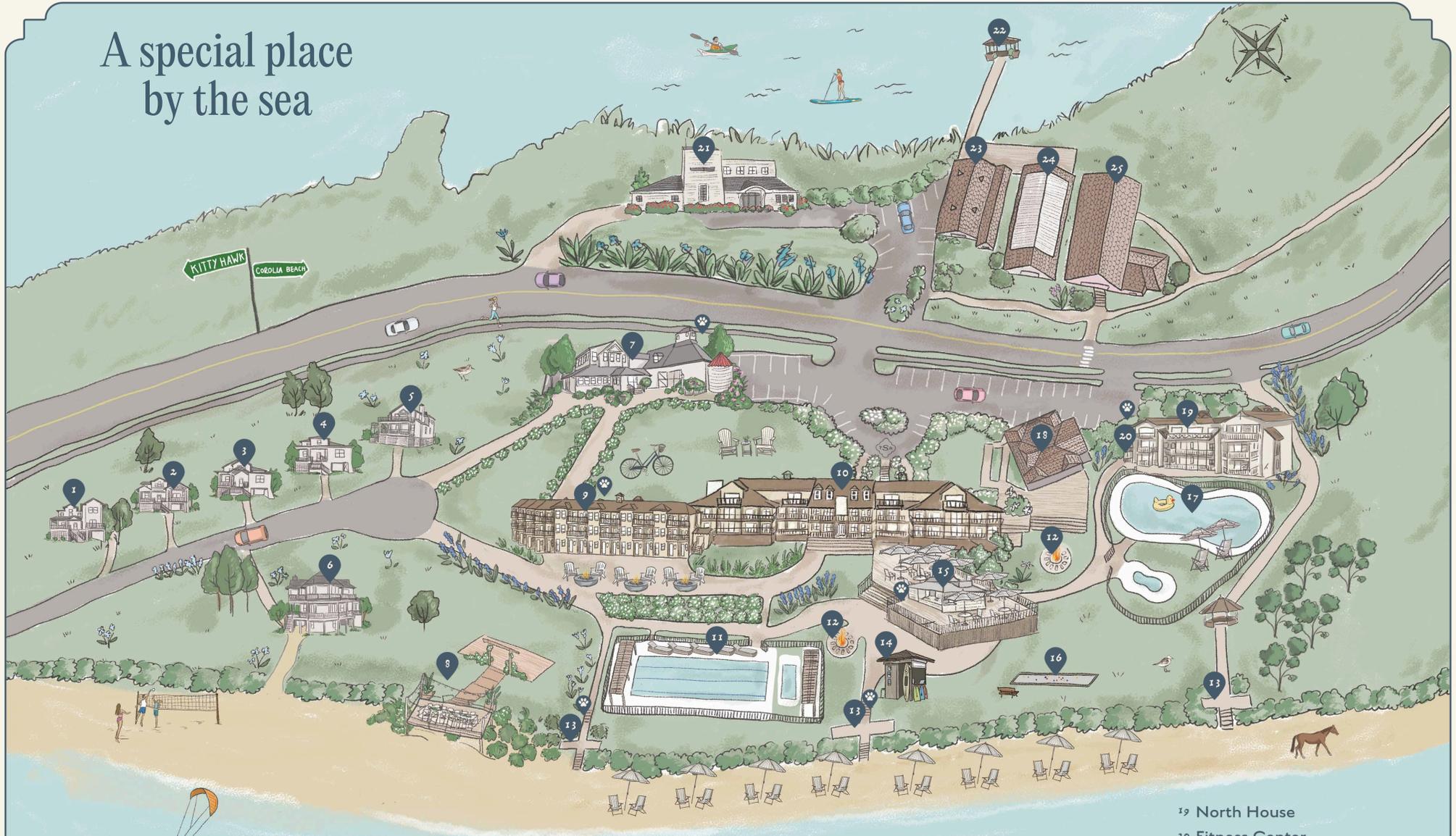


Samantha Payne
Whalehead Club



Chandler Sawyer
Maritime Museum

A special place by the sea



- 1 Sandpiper Residence
- 2 Evans Residence
- 3 Swan Residence

- 4 Griggs Residence
- 5 Harris Residence
- 6 Caffey Residence
- 7 Lifesaving Station
Restaurant & Keeper's Loft

- 8 Event Lawn & Observation Deck
- 9 South House
- 10 Beach House & Lobby Bar
- 11 Tranquility Pool
- 12 Firepit

- 13 Beach Access
- 14 Activity Center
- 15 Sandbar
- 16 Bocce Ball Court
- 17 Resort Pool
- 18 Event House

- 19 North House
- 20 Fitness Center
- 21 Theodosia Restaurant
- 22 The Pier
- 23 The Great Hall
- 24 The Sunset Ballroom
- 25 The Spa & Boutique
- 🐾 Pet Amenity Station