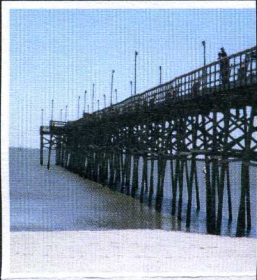


Oak Island Tribune



Oak Island Open Pier Tournament

On June 20th and 21st at the Oak Island Pier and Ocean Crest Pier there will be a fishing tournament which is a unique pier fishing tournament that lets participants fish for their favorite catch, or fish for all species found around a pier such as flounder, blues, trout, kings, etc. Fishermen may enter one or all three of the species categories. Tournament winners are paid cash prizes. For information on how to register call 278-4747 or 278-5518 or email www.oakislandpiertournament.com

Oak Island Beautification Club 10th Annual Garden Tour & Plant Sale

The Oak Island Beautification Club is sponsoring its 10th Annual Garden Tour and Plant Sale on Sunday, May 17, 2009. Garden Tour from 1:00-5:00 pm and the Plant Sale from Noon-4:00 pm Tickets will go on sale April 10, 2009 and are \$6.00. They can be purchased at Chamber of Commerce, 4841 Long Beach Road, Oak Island Recreation Center, Curves for Women, Southport Visitor Center, Blue Crab Blue, The Yaupon Tree, Southport Visitor Center, Curb Appeal.

Day of the Tour

Plant Sale at the Oak Island Recreation Center 3003 East Oak Island Drive, Oak Island, NC

Also at the Recreation Center on the tour will be a Brunswick County Master Gardeners' Plant Clinic along with refreshments, tickets, and maps. Tickets will be \$8.00 the day of the tour. This is a self-guided tour. You may go to the house in any order you prefer.



Not One of the Locals!

Beach Vitex

Opposite Leaves
Gray-Green, Blue
Flowers

Purple Berries

Beach Vitex

Regenerating on
sprayed area



Beach Vitex (*Vitex rotundifolia*) is a woody shrub native to Korea and its neighbors. In the 1980s, Beach Vitex was imported to the Carolinas to help stabilize sand dunes. It has spread from its original plantings, crowding out native dune plants and threatening sea turtle nesting areas.

Not a good neighbor!

Beach Vitex does not trap wind blown sand as efficiently as native species like Sea Oats, and its long runners can grow into the areas where sea turtles nest. Hatchlings risk entanglement in the runners [up to 60 feet long] from vitex shrubs.

Beach Vitex outgrows beneficial dune plants with its runners and fast growth [bushes growing up to 10 feet per year]. It can withstand drought and salt, and can produce 10-20,000 seeds per square yard of bush cover. Wind, animals and water spread the seeds. No sunny area on Oak Island is safe from spreading vitex.

Controlling Beach Vitex on Oak Island

Oak Island has an ordinance declaring Beach Vitex a PUBLIC NUISANCE. It is illegal to have the plant growing on your property on the island. The Public Works department works with the greenhouse staff to chemically halt the growth of vitex and remove the plants. The chemicals are sprayed on in spring and summer; in autumn they are swabbed directly on vitex stems.

Help us spot it!

Beach Vitex has a woody stem. Its leaves are round, silvery gray-green, 1-2 inches long, and have a spicy odor like eucalyptus when crushed. Summer flowers are purplish-blue, about an inch wide, in small clusters at the ends of branches. Fruits that appear in late summer are round, 1/4" across, and purplish-black when ripe. Leaves drop in winter, so identification of the plant is difficult then.

To see other pictures and learn more about Beach Vitex, visit www.beachvitex.org. If you find Beach Vitex, report it to the Town of Oak Island for removal. The local contact is Bettie Thorne, 278-6323