

Bonehenge Update by Keith – 06December2011

1) **Whale of a heart:** During the necropsy of the still-warm, fresh dead sperm whale back in 2004, the heart was carefully removed. It weighed approximately 115 pounds. After being transported in a large cooler to a freezer at the NOAA Fisheries Lab in Beaufort, the heart made its way to the NC State Univ. College of Veterinary Medicine and Louisiana State Univ. School of Veterinary Medicine where students and staff used this unique specimen for education and research. Next stop will be the Univ. of Tenn. Veterinary Anatomy Lab for study and plastination before the preserved heart is returned to its owner, “our” whale, while on display at the NC Maritime Museum in Beaufort.



The heart of our “Bonehenge” sperm whale. Photo by Dan Hillman, LSU

2) **What’s for dinner? Calamari!** During the necropsy, the stomach contents were removed and preserved. It contained primarily nematode worms and squid beaks with a few crustacean (shrimp?) parts and one small piece of trash (a food label). Researchers Ryan McAlarney and Michelle Standinger of UNC-Wilm. analyzed the stomach contents and found parts from 19 species of squid and 1 species of octopus representing approximately 600 prey items. Volunteers are now researching literature for information on the distribution of those cephalopods in hopes that may teach us something about the travels of “our” whale.



3) **Gimme five!:** Bruce and Pudge McCutcheon collaborated with Paul Nader to rearticulate the flippers. In the photo to the right, they are using a radiograph (x-ray) print to guide their work. The bones are aligned and held together with stainless steel pins. Polyethylene foam is used as spacers simulating connective tissue between the bones.



Ryan McAlarney and Michelle Standinger of UNCW analyzing stomach contents (squid and octopus beaks) from “our” sperm whale.

4) **All that Jazz:** On the evening of Saturday, October 15th at the History Place in Morehead City, jazz enthusiasts and Bonehenge supporters converged for a fabulous evening of exquisite musical and culinary treats. The Chapel Hill based Steven Anderson Trio even wrote and performed an original piece dedicated to our Bonehenge whale that segued into “Under the Sea”. Bravo!

4) **Oceanography classes visit:** Pictured below is Karen Davis’ Oceanography class from Beaufort Middle School during a recent visit to Bonehenge. The enthusiasm and great questions from these students have provided inspiration for us. Their thank you cards decorate the walls and their financial contributions towards our work help sustain the project.



The Stephen Anderson Trio
Saturday, October 15, 2011
The History Place
(10th & Arendell, Morehead City)
8:00 pm
Swinging Jazz out of the Oscar Peterson Mold

\$25 in advance
Purchase tickets at
The History Place Gift
Shop; Handscapes
(810 Front St. Beaufort;
Securely online at
Bonehenge.org

A Concert to benefit the
Bonehenge Project
(Bonehenge.org),
the reconstruction of a Sperm
Whale Skeleton to hang in the
NC Maritime Museum

For more information:
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