



# PATSY POND NATURE TRAIL GUIDE

Croatan National Forest  
Ocean, NC

A project of the  
North Carolina Coastal Federation  
and Croatan National Forest

# TRAIL INFORMATION



- ♦ **Hiking and Walking Trail** are for foot access only.
- ♦ **Trail open for public use**, year round, during daylight hours only.
- ♦ **Not permitted:** Smoking, fires, alcohol, recreational/off-road vehicles, dumping, and firearms.
- ♦ **Visitors are strongly encouraged** to wear highly visible orange vests or hats during hunting season:  
October-February  
April-May
- ♦ **Please do not remove** or disturb wildlife or plants.
- ♦ **Stay on the designated trails** and leave nothing behind except your footprints.
- ♦ **Beware of biting insects**, venomous snakes and poisonous plants on the trail.
- ♦ **Not all berries are safe** for human consumption. Please, do not eat any unless you can positively identify them.

## **PATSY POND NATURE TRAIL**

The Patsy Pond Nature Trail is part of the Croatan National Forest. It winds through an area referred to as *Longleaf Pine Flat Woods*, which is an open woodland of longleaf pines with low growing herbs and shrubs.

## **HISTORY OF THE CROATAN**

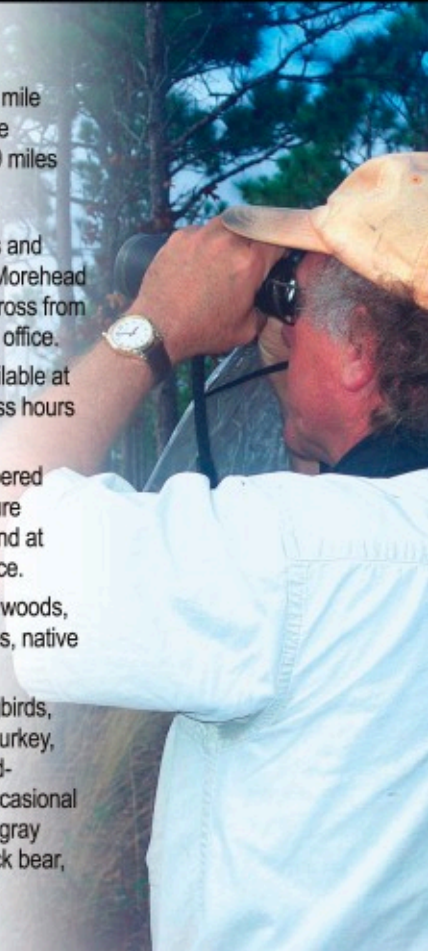
The Croatan National Forest includes 156,576 acres and spreads over three counties: Carteret, Craven and Jones. The word Croatan means "Council Town" and was derived from the name of the North Carolina Native American Tribe called the Croatoans. The Croatan is almost surrounded by the following significant waterways: Neuse, Trent, White Oak and Newport Rivers. This placement helps to explain the forest's historical role in the NC economy through agriculture and the manufacturing of pitch, tar, rosin, turpentine and lumber for ship masts and construction.

## **FUTURE OF THE CROATAN**

Many people do not realize that the future of the Croatan is in their hands. Development pressures surrounding the Croatan National Forest are becoming more prevalent, therefore placing stress on the plants and animals that inhabit the forest. Many people hike and camp in the forest as a way to appreciate its unique beauty. There are also people who choose to recreate in the forest in a manner that is destructive to wildlife and their habitat. Dirt bikes, four-wheeling and dumping within the Patsy Pond Natural Area are illegal activities. The Croatan's future is up to all who use the forest. Please report any inappropriate activities to the North Carolina Coastal Federation.

# RULES AND TIPS FOR VISITORS

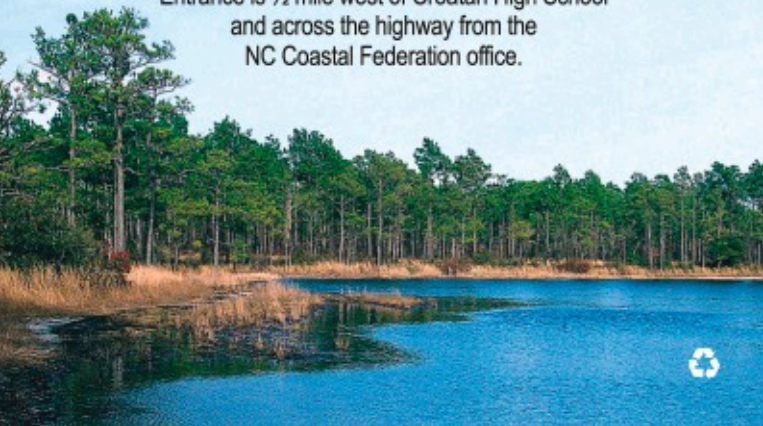
- ◆ **DIFFICULTY:** Easy.
- ◆ **LENGTH:** **Green Trail** = .75 mile  
**Blue Trail** = 1 mile  
**Yellow Trail** = 1.9 miles
- ◆ **PARKING:** Available at site.
- ◆ **ENTRY/EXIT POINTS:** Begins and ends on Hwy 24 between Morehead City and Cape Carteret, across from the NC Coastal Federation office.
- ◆ **FACILITIES:** Restrooms available at NCCF office during business hours M-F, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.
- ◆ **INTERPRETIVE TRAIL:** Numbered signs correspond to brochure available at TRAILHEAD and at NC Coastal Federation office.
- ◆ **HABITAT:** Longleaf pine flat woods, natural ponds and sinkholes, native flora and fauna.
- ◆ **POTENTIAL WILDLIFE:** Songbirds, wading birds, osprey, wild turkey, woodpeckers (including red-cockaded woodpecker), occasional white-tailed deer, gray fox, gray squirrel, flying squirrel, black bear, lizards, turtles and snakes.



# HOW TO FIND US



Trailhead is located on Hwy 24 midway between Cape Carteret and Morehead City, in the community of Ocean. Entrance is ½ mile west of Croatan High School and across the highway from the NC Coastal Federation office.





# North Carolina Coastal Federation

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3609 Highway 24 (Ocean) • Newport, NC 28570  
252-393-8185 • [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org)

Our mission is to conserve the natural beauty and productivity of our coast so that it remains a great place to live, work, and visit. Since 1982 the NCCF has worked with citizens to safeguard the state's coastal rivers, creeks, sounds, and beaches. We are the state's only non-profit organization focused exclusively on protecting and restoring the coast of North Carolina through education, advocacy, and habitat preservation and restoration.

## **Croatan National Forest**

141 E. Fisher Ave. • New Bern, NC 28560  
252-638-5628 • [www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc](http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc)

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