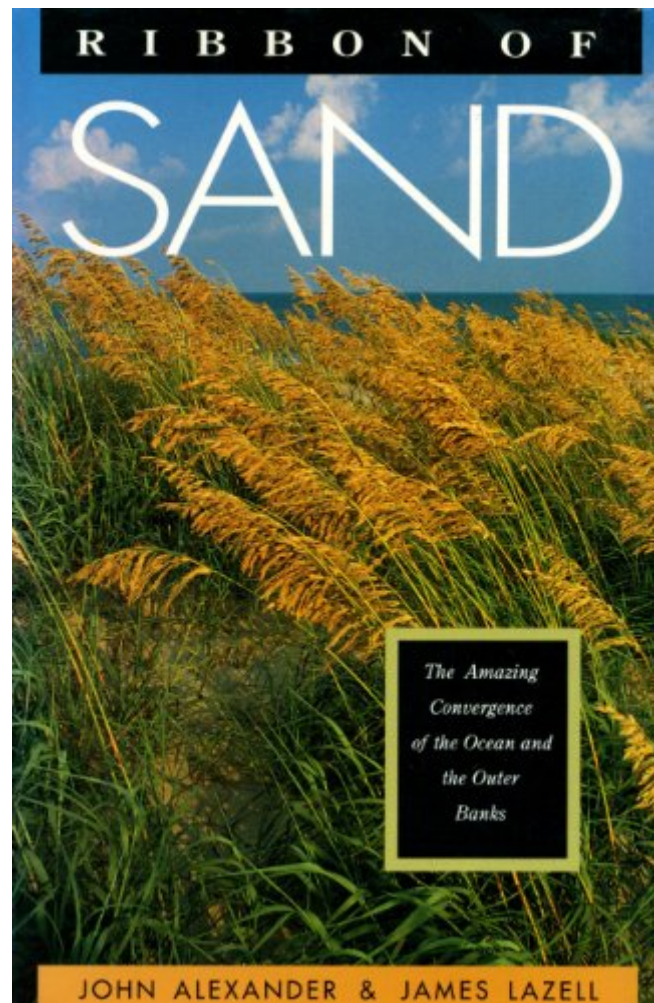




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Ribbon Of Sand: The Amazing Convergence Of The Ocean And The Outer Banks



Synopsis

Wind, currents, tides, and sand. Kingsnakes and rice rats. The disappearance of the Lost Colony, the raids of the pirate Blackbeard, and the Wright brothers' first attempts at flight. The Outer Banks is a place like no other.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've been going to Hatteras Island since 1972 so it's probably obvious that I love the place. If your interested in either the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, the Wright Brothers, Blackbeard, geology, reptiles (sea turtles and a very specific snake) or nature in general you'll most likely find this book interesting. The book will lead you to a better understanding of the natural processes and special concerns that the Cape Hatteras National Seashore faces. Ribbon of Sand explains the dynamic, fragile and unique ecosystem that is the Outer Banks and the relatively recent pioneers in botany, geology and herpetology that have studied the area and flipped conventional science upside down. I'd venture to say that if you've ever visited (or plan to visit) the area and have an interest in natural sciences that you'd also enjoy this book. The book presents some history but from a perspective of how nature helped shape history - an approach I find refreshing. I re-read this book before every trip

to Hatteras and it brings back great memories along with reminding me that I'm visiting a special place on this earth that's alive and constantly changing.

This is another book about the Outer Banks. The Outer Banks is a ribbon of sand. Just a strip of land in the ocean off the coast of North Carolina..This book is very interesting and very good

A very interesting discussion of the geology of the outer banks interspersed with its history and kept most interesting and readable. This book explains the existence of the outer banks in a very understandable format.Nicely done.

I purchased this book to learn more about the Outer Banks, which I have long wished to visit and where we will spend a week this summer. It is an amazingly interesting and informative book. Geology, geography, biology, weather, ecology, politics, and more are all discussed as is the importance of each in relation to the others. I found the book engrossing and would recommend it even if you are not going to this unique area of the world. Now when the kids ask me why there is a forest in the dunes I will be able to tell them and I will be much better able to appreciate the beauty of the place.

The book was reviewed & purchased after briefly looking at several pages. The Outer Banks in NC is a great topic & subject.

Good book!

The book touches on different elements and how they come together to make the outer banks what it is. The best way to describe this novel, is that it is essentially a token guide book. One could call an "Outer Banks for Dummies" Alexander presents the story of the outer banks as one of a long lost paradise that is no stranger to the elements of change. At the same time, he also depicts its resilience in the face of all the change. From his description of wind, tides and the impact of water on the landscape, to the riveting history and stories of Blackbeard and the Wrights brothers first flight, this novel will keep you occupied and animated. I believe this book was written in a way to romanticize the story of the Outer Banks. At the same time, Alexander provides a lot of information that one would describe as a textbook appropriate category. This book should be widely read mainly because of how it explores and exposes the Outer Banks, Alexander's play on words and

deliverance of fact makes it clear and concise to understand how everything works on the island. It's the perfect guidebook!

Anyone who has visited the Outer Banks -- and many who have only seen them from the famous 1970-era Apollo space shot -- knows that the islands are unique, fragile, and someday going to be overrun, either by trashy tourism or, eventually, nature. Alexander and Lazell hope, but are hardly convinced, that nature will get the chance to run its long course. Beyond the fascinating subject, the authors' chapter by chapter analysis of the forces that compete on the Banks -- sand, wind, land, forest -- is a clarifying approach to writing about the science of the Banks. In separate chapters, Alexander and Lazell then effectively show how the forces combined to impact Blackbeard's last battle and the Wright Brothers efforts to fly. The final chapter, Convergences, is like reading a decade-early preview of the impact on the islands of Hurricane Isabel. I would call Alexander and Lazell prescient, but I suspect they themselves would be the first to admit they were simply documenting the inevitable future. Only problem with this excellent book is that the writing feels as if it was done either in turn or by compromise, and is often far less compelling than its subject matter. Still, Ribbon of Sand offers some science, some entertainment, and a whole lot of appreciation for this wonderful speck of the world.

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