Hotel Ballast
Located in the heart of Downtown Wilmington along the boardwalk of the Cape Fear River with on-site restaurants and within walking distance of popular attractions, shopping, entertainment and many more restaurants.

Our convention rate is $154 (plus 13% tax) for 2 in a room; $10 for each additional adult. The rate is good for May 29-June 4, 2023 and for 3 days pre/post the event. This special rate only applies to reservations made no later than Saturday, April 29, 2023. Self-parking fee $15 per night; valet parking $20.

Conventional Special Rates
Use Group Code CHG

Telephone registrations:
Local: (910) 763-5900
Group Code for Special rates is CHG

On-line registrations:
www.hotelballast.com
enter the requested dates, select Special rates & enter the Group code CHG

Cutoff Date: 4/29/2023 to receive your special rate.
**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

**TOURS & FIELD TRIPS**

- **Mon. 29**
  - Field Trips
    - Dive Trip
    - Gardens Tour
    - Fossil Trip

- **Tue. 30**
  - Field Trips
    - Masonboro Shelling Trip
    - Ft. Fisher & Aquarium
    - Dinner Cruise

- **Wed. 31**
  - Registration
  - Silent Auctions
  - Opening Ceremonies
  - Programs
  - Welcome Party

- **Thur. 1**
  - Silent Auction
  - Programs
  - Live Auction

- **Fri. 2**
  - Silent Auction
  - Programs
  - Business Meeting
  - Banquet

- **Sat. 3**
  - Bourse

- **Sun. 4**
  - Bourse

**WELCOME PARTY**

In the first half of the 20th Century one of the great dance halls in the US was the Lumina Pavilion at Wrightsville Beach. The house band was Jelly Leftwich's Duke University Orchestra but all the big bands played the Lumina; among them Cab Calloway, Louis Armstrong, Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey and Benny Goodman.

After WW II the big bands and the Lumina faded away but a new dance, the Shag, rose to popularity. There is much controversy about where it originated but there is no question it was in the Carolinas. Today there are Shag clubs from Myrtle Beach to Atlantic Beach.

The 2023 Welcome Party will feature the special rhythm and blues music used for the Shag, a demonstration of the dance and perhaps an opportunity for shellers to try it.

**DINNER CRUISE**

- Tuesday Eco cruise with Capt. Doug and on-board dinner

**BIRDING and SHELLING**

A trip to Masonboro Island with Capt. Joe Abbate

**3 GARDENS TOUR**

- Airlie
- Arboretum
- Carnivorous

**FOSSIL HUNTING TRIP**

Join Dr. David Campbell on a trip to the Lake Waccamaw area to look for some of the more than 800 fossil mollusks from the Lower Waccamaw Formation found here.

**FT. FISHER and AQUARIUM**

Visit the Civil War historic site of Fort Fisher, known as the Gibraltar of the South. The last sea port to supply the Army of Virginia.

**WRECK DIVING**

- by request only - contact Mark Johnson for info
  - Phone: 843-324-5212
  - Email: keyrat@earthlink.net