



The Bay Run



Newsletter of
The Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers
and Friends Association, Inc.

Volume 23 Issue 13
June 2015

"Our mission is to preserve the history of the
Delaware Bay and River Lighthouses, Lightships and their Keepers"

I'M BAAACK!! OLLIE RETURNS

By Oliver J. Oyster

It's been awhile since I've been in touch. I've been busy traveling, discovering the world, looking for a mate and "finding myself". Last year I had the pleasure of going to Peru with the editor. It's a very beautiful country but I didn't find their female oysters very attractive plus I had a problem understanding the language. As I soon found out, most females are hard to understand or figure out in any language. You guessed it – now that I am 3 years old and mature, I'm looking for a mate. So, here I am, back at the Cape May Canal, near the Rutgers University Oyster Research Facility. According to what I have read and seen, a really beautiful oyster is produced here in the lower Delaware Bay. A really beautiful oyster, exactly what I am looking for – a special, plump, beautiful female with great qualities with whom to share my life.



It is my understanding that many people don't know about this Rutgers University operated facility or its scope of operation. This facility opened in 2008 to study any marine organism but has thrived on cultivating baby oysters, seeding New Jersey's oyster industry. They have a system for drawing seawater the oysters need from the Cape May Canal, cultivating the seed and then the seed is sold to commercial oyster growers or donated to groups who are attempting a restoration of coastal ecosystems. These oysters are not the same nor do they have the same qualities that a wild oyster has.

This all seemed very interesting to me. I figured it was an ideal place to find the perfect mate. Wild oysters have elongated or irregular shapes and attach together in clumps whereas, these oysters retain a fairly round shape and have a certain sweetness; a high quality oyster—my dreams will be answered, at last. So over to the Lower Township side of the Canal I head and attach myself to a rock to look over the prospects. My eyes are drawn to a particularly beautiful bivalve mollusk resting in a mesh bag. I decide to drift in closer to check her out and possibly meet her. She seems to be a gem of a girl, kind of shy at first. I manage to get her attention by falling off the rock to which I was attached. She showed no signs of irritation so I figured she should be able to put up with a guy like me. We started conversing and I knew immediately she was definitely cultured as we talked about all kind of subjects. Time just seemed to stand still. Be still my heart!

This was it; I knew I had found my soul mate at last. She invited me to hang around the Canal so we could get to know each other better. I was so happy, I thought I would pop. Her name is Shelley. I found out that she knows my aunt, my cousin Pearl's mother. Small world!! One never knows what the future holds in store? Hopefully we can go out to filter some water together so stay tuned for my next adventure. Til then...

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Angelo S. Rigazio, Jr.



It looks like spring has sprung; it’s about time. With warmer days and a lot of sunshine, we will be spending more time outside. Cabin fever is over at last.

Cape May County was recently designated a Coast Guard Community with many activities held at the base on May 8, 9 and 10. There were: helicopters flying overhead, cannons being fired off, tours of small ships and small boats, trolley tours and educational displays throughout the Coast Guard Base. I spent Saturday at the base handing out information about our upcoming Delaware Bay Lighthouse Cruises and exhibiting our lighthouse displays. A lot of people seemed to be interested. Thank you Joanne and Charles Bolton for lending a hand and talking with those people who were interested in lighthouses. All in all, it was a great day.

Enjoy the warmer weather and remember to keep the light shining. Angelo

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*The Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers and Friends Association, Inc. (DBLHKFA)
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Even though there was an excellent article about our winter meeting at Tuckerton Seaport in the last Newsletter, I would like to add a few points of interest. While Paul Hart (a great tour guide) was conducting the tour on the second deck of the lighthouse, I noticed a model of a search and rescue vessel; so I had to check it out immediately. Much to my surprise, it was a model of the Agassiz, the 125' ship that I was assigned to while stationed at Cape May, NJ. It sure brought back a lot of memories which you will read about in our next Newsletter.

Our annual keepers banquet was held at the Sea Isle City Yacht Club on April 12. I would like to thank all of those who dedicated many hours to make this event a success—those who attended and also to the staff at the yacht club for the delicious buffet and their service. Also, many thanks go to Katie Moser and Bill Geilfuss for the presentation on their lighthouse adventures which was enjoyed by all.

Congratulations to board member, Jim Gardner, our Volunteer of the Year, who has contributed not only to our organization, but who has put in a great deal of work and a lot of time volunteering at East Point Lighthouse. *Happy Spring to you all. Hope to see everyone at our June 13 meeting in Mauricetown, NJ.*

LIGHTHOUSE CRUISES

Just A Reminder – Get your reservations for the Delaware Bay Cruises in Early!

The schedule for this summer is as follows:

Sunday, July 19 to Ship John Shoal and south leaving dock at 3:30 PM (4 hour cruise)

Sunday, August 2 to Harbor of Refuge and Delaware Breakwater leaving the dock at 3 PM
(Note: This cruise is 5 hours.)

Sunday, August 16 to Brandywine and North leaving dock at 3 PM (4 hour cruise)

Saturday, August 29 to Ship John Shoal and south leaving dock at 2:30 PM (4 hour cruise)

For reservations: Elma Gardner (856) 825-0123, e-mail: elmagardner@verizon.net
OR Darlene Rigazio (609) 884-1329 e-mail: darlenej50@yahoo.com

Cost of cruise \$45 for adults, \$20 for children under 12 years of age.

Payment due 2 weeks BEFORE the cruise; checks (payable to DBLHKFA) can be mailed to:
Maxine Mulligan, Treasurer, 1049 Simca Terrace, Vineland, NJ 08360.

10 OF OUR WACKIEST ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS IN AMERICA

Still not decided where to head this summer? Check out a couple of these wacky roadside attractions as listed in Budget Travel.

1. Cadillac Ranch – 10 Cadillacs sticking into the ground head first; a tribute to the unique tail fins designed from 1949 to 1963.
2. Longaberger Basket Company has a \$30 million dollar replica of one of their baskets which houses office facilities for 500 employees.
3. The Extraterrestrial Highway near Area 51 in Nevada.
4. Check out Carhenge in Nebraska.
5. There is an interesting “Awakening Sculpture” in Washington, DC’s National Harbor
6. In Natural Bridge, VA there is a Foamhenge, a replica of the original Stonehenge in England.
7. Lucy the Elephant in Margate, NJ was built in 1882. Take a tour for just \$8.
8. There is a replica of the Greek Parthenon in Nashville, TN. Visit for a fee of only \$7.
9. In Louisville, KY, stop by the see the 120’ tall Big Bat outside of the Louisville Slugger Museum
10. And then there is the Coral Castle in Homestead, FL. It was supposedly built with the help of extraterrestrials.

by Peggy Stapleford Activities/Program Chair



Saturday, June 6 – Delaware Bay Day at Bayshore Project Bivalve, NJ

Saturday, June 13 -- Summer picnic meeting at the ***Patterson Tidy House— 10 AM Coffee & Social Hour; 11 AM Meeting – 12 Picnic lunch (*bring your own*). 9074 Highland Street, Mauricetown, NJ 08329 (856) 785-9927. (*NOTE: Charcoal grills available.*) Directions included in Newsletter. Approx. 2 PM -- Tour courtesy of Mauricetown Historical Society. You are also welcome to visit the East Point Lighthouse— approximately 10 miles from this location.

Saturday & Sunday, June 20 & 21 –Maritime Days at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse, North Wildwood, NJ. Come out and enjoy the displays, vendors, entertainment, the ocean breeze and don't forget to tour the lighthouse. Stop by our tent. (*Volunteers always needed.*)

Sunday, July 19 – 4 hour Delaware Bay Lighthouse Sunset Cruise to Ship John and south in the Bay. For more information, please contact Elma Gardner (856) 825-0123 or Darlene Rigazio (609) 884-1329.

Sunday, August 2 – 5 hour Old Fashioned Delaware Bay Lighthouse Moonlight Cruise to Harbor of Refuge and north in the Bay. Contact Gardner or Rigazio.

Friday, August 7 – National Lighthouse Day at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse, North Wildwood, NJ. Plan to attend, listen to the program and join in the fun; plenty of food and vendors. (*Volunteers needed*)

Sunday, August 16 -- 4 hour Delaware Bay Lighthouse Sunset Cruise to Brandywine and north in the Bay. Contact Gardner or Rigazio.

Saturday, August 29 – 4 hour Old Fashioned Saturday Night Delaware Bay Lighthouse Moonlight Cruise to Ship John and south in the Bay. Contact Gardner or Rigazio.

Saturday, October 3 – Fall meeting to be held at the Charlesworth Inn located on Delaware Avenue in Fortescue, NJ. 10:15 – Social hour (coffee & donuts); 11:15 – Meeting; 12:15 lunch (order from menu); 1:15 Program presented by Shirley & Jim Fonash who will be discussing the affects of Hurricane Sandy and information on Miah Maull Lighthouse. Sample menu and more information to follow in the Fall Newsletter.

Saturday & Sunday – October 17 & 18 – Lighthouse Challenge of NJ throughout the State. Visit 11 land-based lighthouses, one museum and two life-saving stations in one weekend. Participants will pay \$1 at their first stop and receive a souvenir at each location they visit. The “Challenge” is to visit each site and collect all 14 souvenirs. All completers will be included in a drawing in which one person will win \$1000 in prizes. Check this out on Lighthousechallenge of NJ on Facebook or visit the Web Site at www.lighthousechallenge.nj.org (*Volunteers always needed.*)

Saturday, January 9, 2016 – Winter meeting at Lobster House in Cape May, NJ; Jeff Stewart, owner of Brandywine Lighthouse, will speak on his plans for the Lighthouse. Stewart also owns The Whale Watcher. Lobster House menu and more information to follow in the Winter Newsletter. (*Snow date January 16*)

*****Directions to Patterson-Tidy House in Mauricetown, NJ:**

Route 55 South to Route 47; follow Route 47 to where Rt. 47 and Rt. 347 split. Stay on Route 47, making a right at the WAWA. Follow Mauricetown Bypass Rd. make the first left after the bridge and into Mauricetown; then the first right onto Highland Street. The house is located about a half mile down on the right, next to the Bayberry Cottage Gallery. The front of the house is white with green shutters with the house #9047 on the front door frame.

From the south: Follow route 47 North turning left at the light at the WAWA. *Follow instructions above.*

DESTINATION CAPE MAY – EXIT 0

Cape May, described as “a bit of New England charm wrapped in Southern Hospitality,” is the nation’s first seaside resort. Well known for its Victorian architecture, this community is now considered a three-season resort. Tourists coming to town to check out the Victorian homes should not miss the Emelyn Physick Estate on Washington Street which was completely restored during the 1980’s. The Estate serves as the base of operation for the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities (MAC).

First settled in the 17th century as a whaling village, Cape May still relies heavily on fishing, both recreational and commercial, for its economic success. It has evolved from a tiny whaling village to a premier resort community. Twice a year, the skies over Cape May darken with the migration of a variety of shore and land birds. Autumn features not only raptors but beaches that erupt with color as clouds of monarch butterflies pass by on their southbound journey to Mexico. The back bays are ideal for viewing nesting osprey in their native habitat.

While visiting this area, don’t forget to check out the Cape May Lighthouse built of brick and standing 157’ 6” tall. It not only warns ships of the shallow water but more importantly guides vessels into the broad mouth of the Delaware Bay. The Concrete Ship, Atlantis, the World War II Observation Tower, the Wildlife Sanctuary at Cape May Point and other points of interest are also in this area. A little more than 20 years ago, the sandy soil of South Jersey, coupled with the coastal climate, was discovered to compare favorably to that of the finest wine-growing regions of France and California. Take the opportunity to stop by and sample some of the wines of Cape May Winery, the first winery in Cape May. It has since been joined by more than a dozen other wineries, all of which produce spectacular and award-winning wines.

All of this located in and around the grounds of Cape May Point State Park, New Jersey’s southernmost tip – GARDEN STATE PARKWAY’S EXIT 0.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

If you are planning to attend a major league ball game this summer, you’ll find a greater than ever mix of creative and off-the-wall culinary delights. The parks are still serving hot dogs, peanuts, and Cracker Jacks but it will be just as easy to find short ribs, mini fried rice balls with pepper jam; waffle cones stuffed with mashed potatoes and fried chicken covered with honey mustard, churro dogs on donut buns topped with whipped cream; as well as a variety of vegan and gluten-free options. Everything for the choosy connoisseur.

Here are a few choice culinary delights offered at the concession stands to the delight of their fans: Going to see the Pirates in Pittsburgh? For \$7.50 you can have a beef burger with bacon, cheddar cheese and a fried egg squeezed between two glazed donuts covered with yellow, black and white sprinkles. Happen to be in Minnesota watching the Twins, check out the giant turkey drumsticks covered in sauce for \$9.75. At Turner Field in Atlanta, GA while taking in a Braves game you could order “The Hammer” so named for Hank Aaron. It is available for \$14 and consists of fried chicken, bacon, cheese and onions between two crispy waffles. In Arlington, TX while watching a Rangers game, try a 2 foot long hot dog smothered in chili, nacho chips, jalapeno and onions.

Still hungry? At Minute Maid Park in Houston, for \$8 you could have the “Barbeque Baker” a potato containing pulled pork smothered in cheese, with onions, jalapenos and a special barbeque sauce. Then there is “The Schmitter,” named for the Phillies former third baseman Mike Schmidt. At Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia, a “Schmitter” consists of cheese steak (what else?), layered with salami, onions, tomatoes, and special sauce smothered in cheese. It’s \$8.75. Last but not least is the “Strasburger” sold at Washington Park, home of the Nationals. It is an 8 lb. 8,000 calorie burger that sells for a whopping \$59. Bon appetit!

BITS 'N PIECES

***Memorial Day 2015 commemorating 150 years since the end of the Civil War and the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII. Remembering this Memorial Day all those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom. A special thank you to our veterans for their service.

***Best wishes to our secretary, Darlene Rigazio, who recently retired after working for 25 years for Cape May County. Thanks for all you have done for our organization. Rest, relax and enjoy!!

***Did you know that New Jersey held the distinction of having more wrecks along the coastline due to its proximity to Philadelphia and New York? More boats traveled this corridor for immigration and business than any other; once the vessels ran aground, they seldom survived. Before 1839, Massachusetts had a series of "houses of refuge" imitating the British system. These "houses of refuge" were the beginning of the US Life Saving Service which eventually merged with the Revenue Cutter Service to create the modern day United States Coast Guard.

***In 1939 Union Oil Company, known for its gas stations with the bright orange ball that featured the numbers 76 for "Spirit of 76" gasoline, issued a series of post cards called "Photographic Scenes of the West." The promotion was called, "See the West with 76 Gasoline." Since they were trying to sell gas, it naturally showed an automobile with the image of Old Point Loma Lighthouse in the background. Today the card, which would now be 76 years old, is a real slice of history. Old Point Loma Lighthouse in San Diego, CA, presently a part of the Cabrillo National Monument, was built in 1885 and deactivated in 1891. *(Article courtesy of Jim Moffatt)*

***In January of this year, divers from the Florida Aquarium and Southeastern Archaeological Services helped the US Coast Guard place a reef ball monument in 15 feet of water off Egmont Key establishing the USS Narcissus as Florida's 12th underwater archaeological preserve. The wreck site lies about 2 miles off the northern end of Egmont Key. In 1864, the Narcissus saw action at the Battle of Mobile Bay, where legend has it that Rear Admiral David G. Farragut yelled, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!" On good days, you can still see major features of the vessel, including a portion of the wooden hull, drive shaft, propeller and steam engine now home to a 200 pound goliath grouper. *(Tampa Bay Times)*

***Looking for day trips this summer? Visit Historic Cumberland County for a maritime adventure. Climb the East Point Lighthouse (a famous landmark for local artists and tourists); take a sail on the AJ Meerwald Schooner (an authentically restored 1928 Delaware Bay Oyster Schooner); enjoy historic Mauricetown (an antique lover's haven) and check out the pristine "Wild and Scenic" Maurice River. Stay overnight and enjoy a day of fishing in the "Weakfish Capital of the World," Fortescue. The shoreline here is home to one of the largest shorebird migrations in the world, second only to Alaska.

***Shirley and Jim Fonash, who co-own the Charlesworth, are happy to announce the reopening of their 90 year old landmark restaurant after rebuilding from the extensive damage it suffered from Superstorm Sandy two years ago. (856) 447-4928. Another great eatery along the Delaware Bay in Fortescue is Jim Glass's Fortescue Grill. Stop in to savor, not only the delicious food, but the beautiful view of the Delaware Bay. These are great places to have lunch before our cruises. "Bayside Dining On the Beautiful Delaware Bay"

***For the third year in a row, New Jersey takes the top spot in auto insurance. The national average is about \$815 per vehicle and the great state of New Jersey tops out at an average of \$1,200. Add to that other areas in which we are at, or near the top, such as income tax, sales tax and especially property taxes. It makes one wonder why people aren't moving out in masses! *(Salem Guide)*

***The government of Egypt has announced that they plan to build a replica of the Pharos of Alexandria replacing the original. The Pharos, a 400' lighthouse, was built around 300 AD and toppled by an earthquake in 1303 AD. It is one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. *(Lighthouse Digest – May, 2015)*

CRUISING THE WILD AND SCENIC MAURICE RIVER

Rod had taken this cruise about five years ago but I decided I would like to go this year to possibly learn something about the river I had lived near my entire life. Captain Dave Scherer welcomed us aboard the Joyce-Ann stating that these cruises were "The Best Kept Secret in South Jersey". It was a very interesting, informative and educational cruise. Viewing the beautiful scenery along the shore while checking out the many varieties of birds only added to the trip.

The Maurice River (*pronounced Morris*) and its tributaries, the Menantico, Manumuskin, and the Muskee, flow through five southern New Jersey municipalities, four of which are located in rural Cumberland County. The points of entrance of these tributaries are marked by yellow signs. The Maurice River's name is thought to be derived from the Prince Maurice, a 17th century Dutch ship reputed to have sunk in its waters. The Maurice River is approximately 50 miles long, making it the 2nd longest, largest tributary to the Delaware Bay. The river starts as small fresh water creeks, overhung with trees, meandering through Vineland and Buena Vista Township; by the

CRUISING THE WILD AND SCENIC MAURICE RIVER

Continued from page 6

time the river reaches Millville, Maurice River Township, and Commercial Township, its size has increased and it is navigable by motorboat. This serpentine river then widens to become Union Lake at Millville. From there it winds through south Millville and, eventually divides Commercial and Maurice River Townships on its way to the Delaware Bay. The distance between the bends in the river is called a reach. **(Picture A)**

Historically the Maurice River has an extensive maritime history centered around oystering and the fishing industry. This rich cultural background is the primary reason for the inclusion of the river system in the Wild and Scenic Program. Together with the area's unparalleled natural resources, including numerous threatened and endangered plant, animal, and bird species, it makes the watershed a unique place to visit. The mouth of the river is a critical staging area for migratory shorebirds--endangered species such as osprey, bald eagles, the southern gray tree frog and the rail bird.

(Picture B) Cumberland County has the largest concentration of eagles in the state. With the addition of osprey stands along the river's route, the osprey population has come back. **(Picture C)** Also taking advantage of this serene area, were swans, ducks and geese. **(Picture D)** Purple Martin houses were visible along the shore. **(Picture E)** Captain Scherer stated, "If you live near the water, you want as many Purple Martins as you can get."

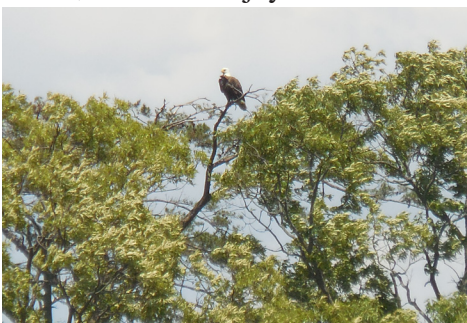
The Burcham farm is the last dyked marsh farm on the Maurice River, the sole survivor of the many dyke farms in the Delaware Valley and the only dyke wall farm still operating in the state. Due to this dyke wall system, this farm has persevered through many storms. **(Picture F)** Cruising through the area named, "The Bluffs," our attention was drawn to the white line of silica sand ingrained in the bluffs. **(Picture G)** This sand is still used in making the highest quality of glass on the East Coast. A combination of ground oyster shells and silica sand was once used to make the first window glass. Red clay, used in making bricks, was also found in this area. Thousands of years before European settlers, Native Americans used the resources of this river. Every river has a history—a compilation of stories and lore that gives the river a life intertwined with the people who know it best. Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and Its Tributaries, Inc. has a River Recollections Project that explores these stories.

This is just a short summary of what we learned on this cruise. If you are interesting in spending a couple of hours cruising on the Maurice River, please contact Captain Dave Scherer at (856) 327-1530 to make required reservations. The cruise times are: Wednesday Evening Sunset Cruise (*call for time*); Fridays and Saturdays 1 – 3 PM and 4 – 6 PM. Rates: Adults \$20, Seniors \$15; Children 5-16 years old \$10, children under 5 years are free. Relax, learn and enjoy!

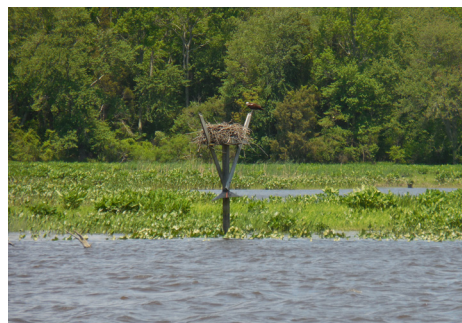
Photos courtesy of Mulligan and Guimara.



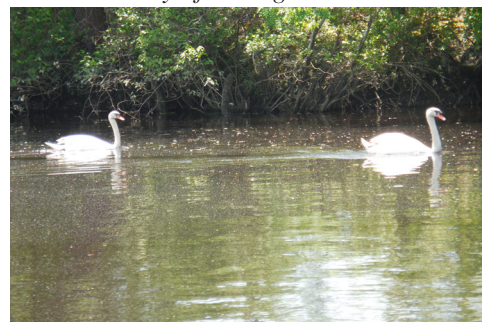
(Picture A)



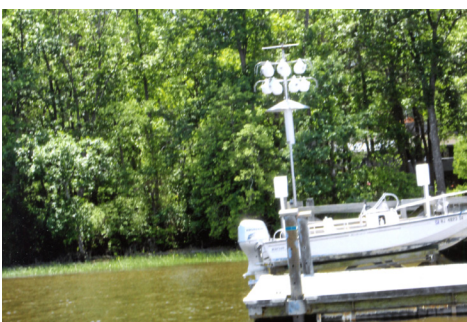
(Picture B)



(Picture C)



(Picture D)



(Picture E)



(Picture F)



(Picture G)



Lighthouse members enjoying our guest speakers



Our President thanking our guest speakers, Bill Geilfiuss & Katie Moser



President Rigazio presenting plaque to Jim Gardner, our "Volunteer of the Year"

Spring in South Jersey - At Last!!!!



Photos courtesy of Mulligan.

