



# The Bay Run



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

Volume 12 Issue 1  
Spring 2012

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

## Discover the Discovery Project

*Home of New Jersey's Tall Ship "Schooner A.J. Meerwald"*

**BAYSHORE DISCOVERY PROJECT**  
also home of the Delaware Bay Museum

The Bayshore Discovery Project's mission is to motivate People to take care of the environment of New Jersey's Bayshore region through education, preservation and example. Established in 1988, the organization spent eight years painstakingly restoring the 1928 Delaware Bay Oyster Schooner A.J. Meerwald. Now on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Bayshore Discovery Project recently completed the restoration of the 1904 Oyster Shipping Sheds and Wharves, which served as the centerpiece of the oyster industry back when Port Norris was known as the "Oyster Capital of the World"

The sheds serve as home port to the Schooner A.J. Meerwald and house the Delaware Bay Museum and Folklife Center, a gallery and gift shop and the Oyster Cracker Café. Bayshore Discovery Project hosts events and educational programs throughout the year, including the "Second Fridays by the Bay" and the outstanding *Delaware Bay Day* annually on the first Saturday in June. A seafood and folklife festival devoted to anyone who enjoys fresh local seafood, made to satisfy any seafarer or landlubber, plus Bay history. This is also the first A.J. Meerwald Cruise of the season from Home Port (More History of the Oyster Industry on page 7)



Photo courtesy of Steve Greer Photography



Oyster Shipping Sheds CRRNJ Boxcar and Boardwalk



A.J. Meerwald under cover from harsh elements



Volunteer youth from Moorestown Friends School

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**A BEAM From  
The Presidents  
Desk By  
Angelo S. Rigazio, Jr.**



**President’s Message**

Well, it appears, spring will be here early this year. We are having nice warm weather already, let’s hope Mother Nature doesn’t throw us any surprises.

As you all know, memberships are renewable each year in March, so don’t forget to send your renewal form and check back if you haven’t done so to date. Our Mission depends on you annual support. I don’t want you to miss a single issue of our “Bay Run” newsletter, that keeps us all updated on the happenings in our organization and over all interesting articles. Thanks to the team that spend endless time developing and researching for each interesting articles .Jim Moffatt, Maxine Mulligan and other contributors also our photographers Bill Geilfuss and Dr. Bruce Middleton. They all do such a fine job.

Cruise dates have been set and approved, with our first one on July 15<sup>th</sup>, an outstanding cruise to Harbor of Refuge Lighthouse (this was my Keepers location) Hope to see you there. Be sure to check to web site and newsletter for all of the important dates. I am hoping to have as many former lighthouse keepers as possible attend National Lighthouse Day on August 7<sup>th</sup> at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse in North Wildwood. It would be nice to have a reunion that day as we celebrate this national event. Lots of activities will be planned for every member of your family. You can’t miss this great first time event! Please contact me if you would like to be part of this celebration. Till then...

**“Keep the light shining”**

Angelo



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**The Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers and Friends Association, Inc. (DBLHKFA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit preservation and educational organization.**

## Winter Membership Meeting at Tincum Rear Range Light

Our well attended meeting at the Paulsboro Sportsmen's Club had the good fortune to hear guest speaker Jim Milsted. He spoke about Tincum Rear Range Light, his life experiences, during his boyhood climbing the outside of the light, history of Paulsboro and the immediate area. To bring Paulsboro into perspective it is directly across the Delaware River from Philadelphia International Airport. There are two large refineries in Paulsboro. Tincum Rear Range Light is located in the middle of one of them since, the government would not allow the lighthouse to be moved, so the refinery buiklt around it. Jim spoke of "blow out" tides some cause by extreme northwest winds and a full moon. People could walk across the river at low tide in some areas. There is both trash and treasure in the Delaware. "Hour-glass" effect under bridges create whirlpools, many swimmers have drowned The channel changes affected the buildings causing Tincum Front Range Light to be moved 3 times. Two historic places along the Delaware are Fort Billings, was built as the highest point during the Revolutionary War to stop the British from advancing to Philadelphia. Lincoln Park, at the turn of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, more than 17,000 people would cruise there from Philadelphia on a summer weekend. Thanks to Jim Milstead, his recollections were like an educational tour back in time as we learned more about the Tincum Lights and the Delaware River.(Photos on page 7)

### THE LIGHTHOUSE

*Excerpts from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow poem*

**And as the evening darkens, lo! how bright.  
Through the deep purple of the twilight air, Beams  
forth the sudden radiance of it's light with strange,  
unearthly splendor in the glare.  
And the great ships sail onward and return  
bending and bowing o're the billowy swells' and  
ever joyful as they see it burn, they wave their  
silent welcomes and farewells.  
The mariner remembers when a child, on his first  
voyage, he saw it fade and sink, and when  
returning from adventures wild, he saw it rise  
again o'er oceans brink.**

## Write Down Your Thoughts!

Articles you would like to see in your "The Bay Run" newsletter. Why you became a member ? Areas of interest that would be convenient for Membership Meetings, the Annual Picnic and the Annual Meeting and Lighthouse Keepers Reunion. Your Board of Directors and Committee Chair persons are always looking for fresh new ideas that will increase our attendance and membership. E-Mail or write down your thought to President Angelo at [Keeperang54@yahoo.com](mailto:Keeperang54@yahoo.com) 108 Willow Dr, North Cape May, NJ 08204

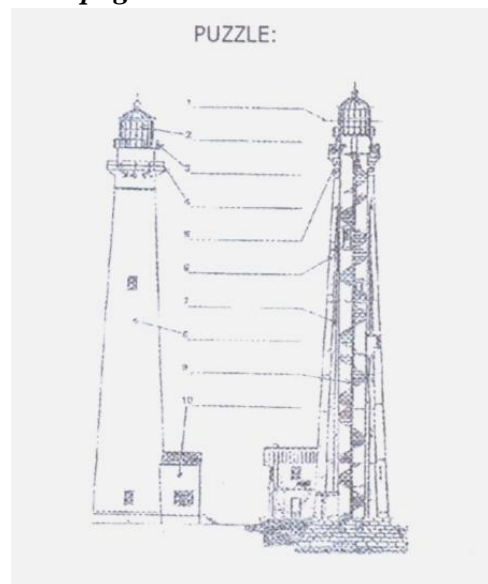
Chairman Rod Mulligan at  
[Memax@Juno.com](mailto:Memax@Juno.com)  
1949 Simca Terr.  
Vineland, NJ 08360

We all appreciate your continued interest, support and membership in DBLHKFA.

For those members who have not renewed their 2012-2013 Membership there is a Membership Renewal Form included in this newsletter. Annual renewals were due by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

For those members who have renewed to date. Your New Membership Card is attached to this newsletter

**QUIZ TIME!** Things a true pharologist (those who study lighthouses) should know  
At Cape May Lighthouse fill in the blanks with their proper terms: Vestibule house, Lantern gallery, Spiral staircase, Focal plane, Watch gallery, Lantern, Tower, Watch room Inner wall, Outer wall  
Answerers on page 6



## FROM THE CHAIRMAN



### Of the Board Rod Mulligan

A National Lighthouse Celebration is planned for Tuesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. Our organization has been invited to take part in this celebration at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse in North Wildwood, NJ. It is now in the major planning stages, Steve Murray, the coordinator at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse various dignitaries have been invited, so far former Congressman Bill Hughes, US Coast Guard Commander and the Coast Guard Band. There will be Ham Radio Operators sending and receiving information and messages worldwide. There will be activities for every member of the family, lighthouse tours and many events regarding the history of lighthouses, lighthouse keepers and the men who served from the earliest days of the maritime life saving services.

#### So Much to See and Due

Can you imagine Sailing on the A.J. Meerwald this Spring, Summer or Fall. It is an experience of a lifetime especially for children who will learn about the River and Bay ecology. I have had the opportunity for several years to work on the restoration of the Schooner with so many interesting and dedicated people. The Bayshore Discovery Project offers courses in restoration of the Schooner, Sheds and Wharf all of which require constant attention and upgrading.

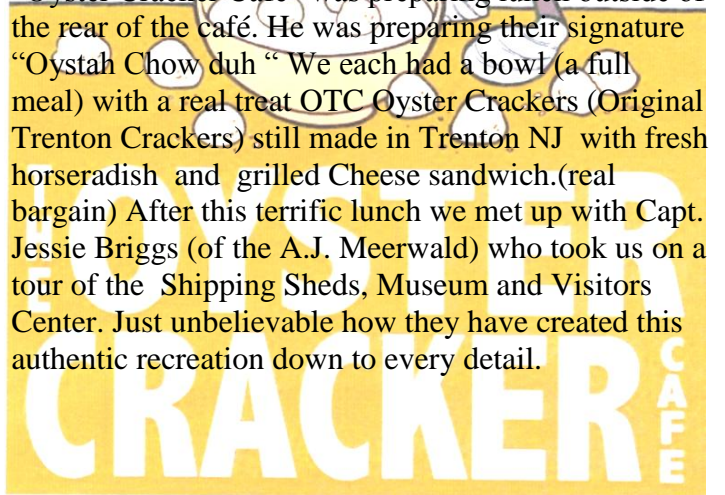
Honoring Clarence A. "Bunky" Higbee, Jr.

I'm sad to report that we lost a good friend on December 3, 2011. Clarence "Bunky" Higbee, Jr. owner of Higbee's Marina, Bait Shop and Luncheonette and the Miss Fortuscue Party Boat for the past 45 years. Our Carole Reily used to be there every weekend displaying/selling her lighthouse postcards and Delaware Bay Lighthouse merchandise. As a resident "Bunky" lived at the same location for 74 years. A champion race car driver he was inducted into the Southern NJ

Hall of Fame for Racing. Active in his community: Lifetime member of the Fortescue and Downe Twisp Fire Company's He will be sadly missed by everyone who came in contact with "Bunky" Higbee, Jr.

**Visit to Bayshore Discovery Project** On March 23<sup>rd</sup> it was a perfect spring day when Jim Moffatt and I visited BiValve, NJ and the newly renovated Shipping Sheds, the Schooner A.J. Meerwald under winter cover. Plus, the very enlightening visuals of Port Norris's heydays then a major center of the "Oyster Industry" from the turn of the century until the '30's We also visited their History Museum Visitors Center.

The weather was perfect and the chef from the (yes!) "Oyster Cracker Cafe" was preparing lunch outside of the rear of the cafe. He was preparing their signature "Oystah Chow duh" We each had a bowl (a full meal) with a real treat OTC Oyster Crackers (Original Trenton Crackers) still made in Trenton NJ with fresh horseradish and grilled Cheese sandwich. (real bargain) After this terrific lunch we met up with Capt. Jessie Briggs (of the A.J. Meerwald) who took us on a tour of the Shipping Sheds, Museum and Visitors Center. Just unbelievable how they have created this authentic recreation down to every detail.



### VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

On this day there were 15 students from the Moorestown, NJ Friends School some 50 mile north of BiValve who had spent five days scraping, wire brushing, painting, varnishing shining brass under the leadership of Meredith Hanamiriam, for the upcoming season of sailings of the A.J. Meerwald. This is one of their Community Service Projects There are many other schools participating in helping to keep the Schooner in to Shape.

To volunteer contact info@ Bayshorediscovery.org or call 856-785-2060 Website is: www.bayshorediscovery.org

### COULD THIS BE YOUR LAST COPY OF "The Bay Run?"

*Unfortunately a ship can't sail without sails or fuel and your Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers and Friends Association can't continue our "Mission" without your annual Membership Renewal*

**PEGGY'S CORNER  
NEWS n' VIEWS**

*By Peggy Stapleford*

*Activities/Program Chair*



**DBLHKFA 2012 ACTIVITIES**

**SPRING MEETING**

**Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**

Tatham Lifesaving Station

117<sup>th</sup> St & 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave Stone Harbor, NJ

Bring Brown Bag Lunch & Beverage

Topic: History of Tatham LSS Station

*(Directions inserted in this Newsletter)*

**SUMMER MEETING-PICNIC**

**Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2012**

**Cape May County Zoo . 11:00 A.M.**

*Coffee and Donuts Social*

*12 Noon Membership Meeting*

*1:00 P.M. Picnic-There is a grill available*

*Remember!! bring your own picnic goodies*

***“Bring the Family-Great for kids”***

**Our location is at Picnic Area #6\***

*\*When you come to the entrance gate ask for directions to our DBLHKFA Picnic Area #6*

**HEREFORD MARITIME DAYS**

**Saturday July 7<sup>th</sup> & Sunday July 8<sup>th</sup> We need  
volunteers to help out!!**

**AUGUST “A Great NEW Event”-**

**NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE DAY**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012 “National**

**Worldwide Lighthouse Celebration” Ham Radio  
Operators sending and receiving Worldwide from  
Hereford Inlet Lighthouse. Children’s activities,  
music, Civil War Enactors, Food, and variety of  
vendors. Plus Lighthouse Keepers to discuss life on  
their lighthouses of Delaware Bay PLUS! many  
interesting Maritime exhibits**

**LIGHTHOUSE CHALLENGE**

**Of NEW JERSEY**

**Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Join us at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse**

**OUR ANNUAL MEETING and KEEPERS  
REUNION BANQUET**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup> 2012**

**Don’t Miss It! Mark the date down NOW**

**Location to be announced in the  
Summer Issue of your “Bay Run”**

**WHO NEEDS HELP!!**

*There are many Maritime Groups who can  
use your help. Starting with your own  
Association.*

*We are dedicated to assist with numerous  
“Outreach Programs” but we need more  
member volunteers. These programs  
showcase our “Mission” Please get involved.*

*You will meet great knowledgeable*

*volunteers and have fun doing it*

*Contact Pres. Angelo (609)884-1329*

**Or any Director listed on page 2**

**Some other Volunteer contacts: Historic**

**Absecon Lighthouse Stephanie Carr**

**(609)449-1350**

**Historic Cape May Lighthouse**

**(800) 275-4278**

**Hereford Inlet Lighthouse**

**(609)522-4250**

**GHOSTLY FUN in CAPE MAY!**

*Take advantage of the rare full moon tours and the  
Full Moon Climb and Full Moon Ghost Hunt July  
15<sup>th</sup>, Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>, Sept 12<sup>th</sup> 8 to 10 p.m. Included is the  
original Cape May haunted house the Emlyn  
Physick Estate tour. Afterward return to the  
Carriage House Tearoom for dessert and discuss  
your findings .Tickets \$30 Call 800-275-4278 for  
reservations, information.*

**NEW BOOK Local History**

***“For Those in Peril” A history of the Ocean City  
Life Saving Station***

**Kimball Baker, writer historian is offering the  
profits from the sale of his book to the restoration  
of the Ocean City Life Saving Station and  
Museum.**

**Send check for \$11.45 includes shipping to P.O.  
Box 24, Somers Point NJ 08244**

## *Discover the World of Bivalves*

What better place to explore the world of bivalves (Oysters and Clams) than right here at the Bayshore Discovery Project Museum and Folklife Center at the totally restored Oyster Shipping Sheds and Wharves. Twenty three years of major effort and five million dollars later The Bivalve Center profiles the heart of the Oyster Industry, past and present. During the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Oyster Schooners were rafted up to seven deep at the wharves after a week of harvesting.



*(Oystermen fresh back with their haul of oysters)*



*(Oyster Shuckers at the Bivalve Shucking house)*

Oystermen carted thousands of baskets of oysters a day from schooners to floats, from floats to scows (flat bottom boats from scows to wharves and finally from wharves to boxcars waiting on tracks just outside the sheds. As many as 127 boxcars a day hauled oysters from Bivalve to New York and from there to the rest of the country.

Boxcars were loaded with ice at each end of the cars to preserve the oyster even out to Kansas City and points west. The original sheds were built by the Central Railroad in 1904 to accommodate the oystermen to get their harvests to market.

The museum and Folklife Center explores the place the oyster industry in America's early industrialization and the role of the African Americans played in shaping the culture and economy of South Jersey's bayshore region.

### **Tools of the Shucker's Trade**



Pictured are the Shucker's Oyster Pails they received ten cents for a full shucked pail. Oyster shell bins, Oyster basket and shucking tools used by hand.

### *Many Thanks to "Kelly"*

We are indebted to our webmaster Kelly Mulligan who lives in Virginia. Kelly does such a fantastic presentation of keeping our website current also, he keeps tabs on the number of hits plus, records the lists of the countries that are responding. Since our report last Fall approximately 1500 visitors, mostly on weekends. Most requests from the US, Russia and the Ukraine. They are especially interested in our Delaware Bay lighthouses. According to Kelly, surprisingly the most requests are for our "The Bay Run" newsletters. Could we be picking up some new members from their E-Mails?

### *Speaking of Membership!*

HAVE YOU?... Passed on a copy of your "The Bay Run" to a friend, relative or neighbor inviting them to become a member. We always have extra copies if you would like them to pass around. Without new membership or membership renewals we can never achieve our Mission. If you haven't made a Membership Meeting or Outreach recently you're missing a great opportunity to meet some very friendly and dedicated Lighthouse people This Spring, Summer and Fall you have some great programs in which to participate. COME JOIN US! IT'S ALWAYS FUN!

## Tinicum Winter Meeting Photos



R toL Maxine Mulligan Treasurer,-  
Darlene Rigazio Secretary President  
Angelo Rigazio, Chairman Rod Mulligan,  
Peggy Stapleford Activities/Programs

Stained Glass of  
Tinicum Rear  
Range Light

## Kissing the What?

Board Member Katie Moser “Caught in the act”  
Kissing her favorite Lighthouse. West Quaddy Head  
Lighthouse, Lubec, Maine.  
Some are known to kiss the “Blarney Stone but not  
Katie she goes for lighthouses.



**Did You Know?** Historic Absecon Lighthouse  
celebrated 155 year of service to the maritime  
trade on Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> 2012. They also  
entertain Girl Scout sleepovers and same day  
birthday parties. For details for tours and special  
events [www.abseconlighthouse.org](http://www.abseconlighthouse.org)

**Answers to Cape May Lighthouse Quiz** 1-Focal  
plane 2-Lantern 3-Lantern Gallery 4-Watch Galley 5-Watch  
room 6-Outer wall 7-Inner wall 8 Tower 9-Spiral staircase 10-  
Vestibule house.

Cape May Lighthouse “FULL MOON CLUB”  
starting May 5<sup>th</sup> and the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every  
month. What better way to view the stars and  
moon from the top of this historic lighthouse.  
[www.capemaymac.org/Lighthouse](http://www.capemaymac.org/Lighthouse).

**Torch cams to give views from  
Lady Liberty...Yes! “Give me  
your tired, your poor...your  
Internet-connected masses  
yearning to see”.**

A gift for her 125 birthday she got a high tech gift  
webcams on her torch that will let viewers gaze out  
at New York Harbor



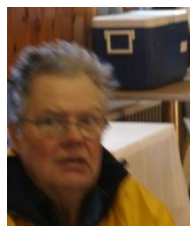
Joanne and Charles Bolton



Jean Jone and Tony Giletto



Joe and Pat Jones and  
Speaker Jim Milstead



Ron Simmons



V.P. Dusty  
Pierce in Tinicum Shirt



Pres. Angelo thanking Speaker Jim  
Milstead and presenting check for  
Tinicum RR Light

## Remember! Members get 1<sup>st</sup> Cruise Choice!

Contacts for Reservations and/or more complete Cruise information\*

Elma Gardner 856-825-0123 [elmagardner@verizon.net](mailto:elmagardner@verizon.net) Jean Jones 856-825-3386 [jeanjones@fast.net](mailto:jeanjones@fast.net)  
Maxine Mulligan 856-691-8224 [memax1@juno.com](mailto:memax1@juno.com) Darlene Rigazio 609-884-1329 [darlenej50@yahoo.com](mailto:darlenej50@yahoo.com)

All Cruises leave from Fortescue, NJ on the Bonanza II

Cruise Date – Lighthouse Destination - Departure Time on page 8 in this newsletter

\*Cruise prices have not been determined at this time due to rising Fuel Prices although your Association  
plans to hold Cruise prices to the bear minimum increase.

# “You Just Can’t Make This Stuff Up!”

The rescue of this 99 pound subadult Loggerhead Sea Turtle... The turtle was spotted floating and struggling to breathe by members of the Graue family during a dive trip aboard the *Jolly Roger* on December 17<sup>th</sup> 2011. *Jolly Roger* crew members took the appropriate steps when confronted with a protected species in need of help. They called for permission to rescue, to the Florida Wildlife Hotline.



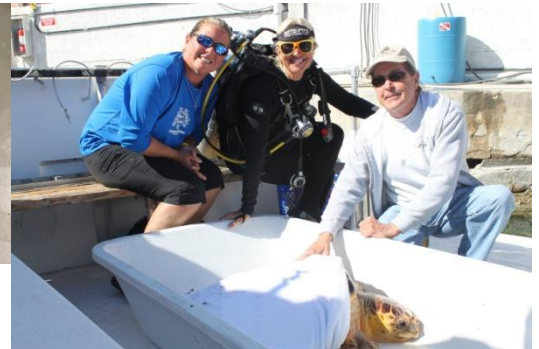
Captain Bonnie Clydesdale\* entered the water and used a life jacket to hold the turtle above water as crew members used the swim ladder to bring the turtle aboard. With the turtle unable to breathe, they used a tool as a bite block to safely hold the turtles mouth open so Captain Greg Carey could he deflate and remove the **“Puffer Fish” (or Blowfish) with a screwdriver and pliers** This type of fish is not part of the normal diet for sea turtles Puffer Fish try to avoid their predators. They have the ability to double their size by expanding their elastic stomachs with water as happened in this situation. Some produce a toxin, lethal if eaten by humans. Turtles often eat discarded plastic, etc. by humans who disregard these potential hazards.



Capt Carey deflates Puffer fish



Puffer Fish removed



Releasing “Puffer” back to sea

Captain Hooks crew members, Bonnie, Clydesdale, Danise VandenBosch and Turtle Hospital (YES! Turtle Hospital) founder Richie Moretti prepare to release **“PUFFER” the turtle** off the Reef Hopper dive boat after 20 days of rehabilitation. There are 22 turtles currently at the Turtle Hospital, Eleven permanently due to their injuries, mostly boat hit damages, disease, etc.

**\*Editors Note:)** Bonnie Clydesdale gave us a great personal accounting of the sinking of the U.S. Battleship General Vandenberg off the Florida Keys in our Summer 2009 “The Bay Run” Bonnie is the relative of Maxine and Rod Mulligan Your familiar with Maxine, our treasurer, her family is notorious for sinking ships, more recently the USS Radford and now rescuing turtles But! they give us great details, not available anywhere else, which makes our “Bay Run” shine! Just kidding Maxine your one in a million for getting us great stories

## 2012 DELAWARE BAY LIGHTHOUSE CRUISE SCHEDULES

### SUNSET CRUISES

Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup> 3:30 pm  
(Harbor of Refuge)

Saturday August 12<sup>th</sup> 4:30 pm  
(Ship John)

Make-up date in case of cancellation-Sunday, September 9

### MOONLIGHT CRUISES

Saturday August 4<sup>th</sup> 4:30 pm  
(Ship John)

Saturday August 25<sup>th</sup> 4.00 pm  
(Brandywine)

