



The Bay Run



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

Volume 39 Issue 22
Summer 2020

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



"HAUNTINGS AND FOLKLORE OF SOUTH JERSEY AND DELAWARE"

Since Halloween is again on the horizon, it is an appropriate time to take a look at some of the local legends and folklore in the area. The most famous legend for South Jersey, is the legend of **The Jersey Devil**. Some residents think this monster actually exists. It has been described as a flying, kangaroo-like creature with the head of a goat, bat wings, hooves and a forked tail and is said to move quickly emitting a blood curdling scream. This legend originated back in the 1700's when the Leeds family inhabited the **New Jersey Pine Barrens**. According to one version of this story, Mrs. Leeds gave birth to her 13th child after a painful, difficult labor. She cursed the child calling it a devil. People claim to have seen this monster in the South Jersey area usually at dusk, twilight or early evening. SO BEWARE if you happen to be out and about in South Jersey during any of the above mentioned times!!

Then there is the **Atco Ghost**. Legend has it that a little boy was hit and killed years ago by a drag-racing drunk driver. (NOTE: *There once was a drag racing track in Atco, "back in the day".*) This accident took place on Burnt Mill Road, on the fringes of the Pine Barrens. Today many people visiting this sparsely populated road claim to have seen the apparition of a small boy playing basketball in the road. Interested visitors can travel to the end of the road where the accident happened, turn their car around, flash their headlights three times and focus on the lamp posts in the distance. Viola, an apparition is said to appear.

Located in the Pine Barrens, on the border of Camden and Gloucester counties, **The Blue Hole** is a small, mysterious body of water said to be bottomless and deadly. Tales of unexplained whirlpools and swiftly moving currents pulling down swimmers have long been part of this baffling lore. Those who have luckily escaped claim they felt something or someone pulling them down. Locals warn others to stay away and never swim in The Blue Hole. Even in the hot summer months, The Blue Hole remains cool and perfectly clear while other nearby bodies of water in the Pine Barrens have more of a brown hue.

In the nineteenth century, African-Americans in the piney woods of Salem County worshiped in **John Berry's Methodist Church**, believed to have been both a house of worship and a stop on the Underground Railroad. Several stories depict the chapel being terrorized by the KKK. The chapel was abandoned in 1923 for a new house of worship but the church burned down leaving just the cemetery. Nowadays area residents claim one can still hear parishioners dancing and singing hymns while others claim to hear metal scraping and people screaming.

The **Indian Curse Road** in New Jersey legend began back in the 1980's when the Department of Transportation began construction of Route 55 disturbing a supposedly sacred Indian burial ground between Mantua and Franklin Township.

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Angelo S. Rigazio, Jr.

Greetings from the president's desk once again. I hope you all survived the high heat and humidity of the summer. For us it was a lot of high winds and either very dry days or days of down pouring rain. We had tropical storm, Isaias, move through our area leaving behind damage from high winds and flooding from the heavy rain. Tree limbs and branches were piled up along the roadways waiting to be picked up by the township or city road crews. There were many homes in our area without electricity. This summer is one I will not soon forget, not to mention the entire year of 2020, an unforgettable year for all of us.

The annual cruises to see the Delaware Bay lights were cancelled. It just did not seem probable for everyone to wear a mask and practice safe distancing while cruising the Delaware. The Executive Committee hopes COVID-19 will be over by next year so we can resume our trips and our lives. These cruises are our biggest fund raiser each year.

Every afternoon I take a ride through the nearby towns. Driving along the beaches of Cape May and West Cape May, it is unbelievable to see how many people are vacationing here this summer, some wearing the required mask, following the rules and regulations and some not. The restaurants all have outdoor tables and umbrellas set up on the sidewalks and even in the streets. The city has closed a lot of the side streets to vehicles to give these vendors more space for their tables. Beach chairs are now allowed and most of the little shops are open with restrictions, allowing only a certain number of people in the store at one time.

This year the number of vendors and lighthouse climbers were limited due to the COVID regulations. Consequently, we were not able to participate in National Lighthouse Day on August 7. The NJ Lighthouse Challenge is still planned for October 17 & 18. Please check our web site for any changes.

Our garden has been keeping us busy picking tomatoes, string beans, cucumbers, zucchini and blackberries. We have plenty of tomatoes canned for the winter.

I hope to see everyone soon. Stay safe. Remember – Keep the Lights shining. *Angelo*

THE BAY RUN is the official publication of The Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers and Friends Association, Inc. and is published quarterly throughout the year. A subscription to the newsletter is included with the cost of membership, Annual Membership dues are \$25.00 for the calendar year beginning March 1st. Back issues are usually available for members joining mid-year. Materials are copyrighted and may not be reproduced without permission of the DBLHKFA, Inc.

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*The Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers and Friends Association, Inc. (DBLHKFA)
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The majority of our summer plans were cancelled due to the COVID-19 rules and regulations. We were hoping to schedule a meeting sometime before the end of the year. As of this printing, we do not know if the New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge will take place in October. Hopefully we will see you in 2021.

Having plenty of time to think, read and check through some items, I came across an article that reminded me of stories my grandmother use to tell me when I was a child. I loved to hear her stories about “Teddy” Roosevelt and his “Rough Riders”. My grandmother was a teenager when Roosevelt and his men use to train at a camp located in Montauk, Long Island, NY, near the area where she was living at the time. (I am originally from Bridgehampton, Long Island.) My grandmother and other young ladies would travel to the Rough Riders camp, prepare breakfast for the men, and return in the evening to prepare dinner. These girls would also clean and straighten up the barracks and were assigned to other domestic duties. They were known as “house girls”. In the meantime, during their time off, these teenagers would travel by horse & buggy to Easthampton, Long Island (about 25 miles) to attend school.

Even though the men were a typical cavalry unit and experienced horsemen, the Rough Riders would ride their horses on the soft sands of the beach at Montauk refining their techniques while practicing shooting from horseback and training in other formations. They also worked on personal habits such as: conduct, obedience and etiquette.

Roosevelt was serving as Assistant Secretary of the Navy when the war with Spain was declared in 1898. Since he was anxious to participate directly in the war, he resigned his position with the Navy to join the volunteer cavalry. His “Rough Riders”, 1st US Volunteer Cavalry, became the most famous of all the fighting units; their hour of glory came when they made headlines for their role in the Battle of San Juan Hill.

Later on in life, as an adult, I visited the Roosevelt home in Oyster Bay, Long Island. The home, built in 1884-85 was named Sagamore Hill and was once referred to as the “Summer White House”. It is now preserved as a national historical site. It was here Teddy Roosevelt, former Governor of New York and former President of the United States, passed away peacefully in his sleep at the age of 60 in January 1919.



MEMBER, ANTHONY “TONY” GILETTO HONORED

At a surprise presentation on June 20, 2020, member Anthony Giletto was presented with a Quilt of Valor by the local South Jersey Quilts of Valor Chapter #11255. The quilt is a single lifetime award presented to a living service member or a veteran touched by the war. Serving in the US Army, Sergeant First Class Anthony Giletto was active during the Korean Conflict, assigned to the Chowrom Valley area to protect the area allowing the US military access to the South Korean capital of Seoul. He was overseas for 19 months – 9 months on the front lines in South Korean and 10 months in Japan.

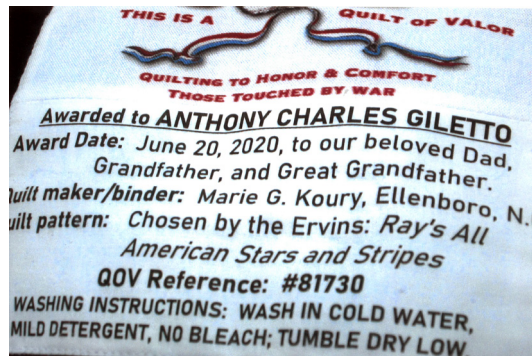
These Quilts of Valor do not have to be red, white and blue but must follow a patriotic theme. The recipient is wrapped in the quilt as a comforting, healing and protective tradition. Tony's quilt had 5 stars, one star representing each of his daughters. Family and friends were present to help celebrate this honor. He is our organization's Co-Chair for Ways & Means and the Scholarship Committee. Tony, congratulations from all of us and thank you for your service. (NOTE: If interested, you can check out the web site Quilts of Valor Foundation at www.QOVF.org)



Left: Quilt of Valor

Right: Tony wrapped in Quilt of Valor

*Bottom:
Wording
inscribed on quilt*



CAROLE F. REILY SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ANNOUNCED

Every year our organization presents a \$500 scholarship to a deserving high school senior whose characteristics most emulated those of our Founder, Carole F. Reily. Relatives of our members are eligible. We are pleased to announce that this year Devon J. Moser is our 2020 scholarship winner. Devon, the daughter of Robert and Louise Moser and granddaughter of our Sunshine/Hospitality and Ways & Means Chairperson, Katie Moser, is a resident of Morrisville, PA. Her future plans are to attend Penn State University and major in psychology. Devon's goal is "to become a clinical psychologist and help people live a happier and emotionally stable life." Congratulations Devon and much success in your future endeavors.



Scholarship winner Devon Moser

HAUNTINGS AND FOLKLORE OF SOUTH JERSEY AND DELAWARE

continued from page 1

Mysterious deaths are linked to the workers on this project. One worker was run over by an asphalt roller truck; another fell to his death working on an overpass. Additional workers and members of their families suffered strange maladies or passed away unexpectedly. Something to think about while traveling on Route 55 in South Jersey.

Other stories of hauntings involve roads built on Native American burial grounds take place on **Black Diamond Road** in Smyrna, DE. Mysterious orbs and shadows have been found in the backgrounds of photos taken there. It is thought that restless Native American spirits are trying to find peace. It is said that the **Bay Oaks** section of Lewes, DE was also built on a graveyard, which was once the sacred burial ground of Native Americans. On **Salem Church Road**, a family of six was hanged for witchcraft in the early 1900's. Drivers still claim to see this vengeful family crossing the road, making this area a frequent spot for accidents.

Blevins House in Smyrna, DE has a long history of hauntings. Orbs of light appear, dark shadowy figures and silhouettes of hell hounds can be seen, whispers heard and chilly vortexes can be felt as one wanders through the property. The second and third floors of **Bellevue Hall** in Wilmington are closed to visitors since they are especially haunted. Ghosts can be heard laughing and shouting as they flick lights on and off while some of the spirits are rearranging the chairs. The **Cannonball House** of Lewes, DE has a cannonball lodged in its side, which is a remnant of the War of 1812. The house has been described as "very haunted" since screams, footsteps and voices have been heard and reported by many people.

The story is told that the area around **Fort Miles** in **Cape Helopen State Park** is still patrolled by a phantom soldier formerly stationed there. The soldier remains on his ghostly duty behind Tower 12. If visitors get too close, they will hear a growling or they will be yelled out. If you are lucky, you'll spot his face in the background of some of your photos.

Earning the honors as the "most haunted place in Delaware" is **Fort Delaware** located on Pea Patch Island. Fort Delaware has been featured on the TV show "Ghost Hunters" whose thermal cameras picked up lots of activity in the tunnels. Loud noises like cannon fire reverberate throughout the grounds. Guests have reported feeling hands on their shoulders, having their necklaces stolen and hearing the booming of cannon. It is believed that ghosts of the Civil War soldiers and prisoners haunt this area.

Folklore and other stories of communities passed through generations by oral tradition can be used for entertainment or explanations of mysterious happenings. The details may change over time, but the message remains the same. If you want to step out of your comfort zone, you can explore some of South Jersey's and Delaware's eerie, creepy places. Check them out for yourself-- **IF YOU DARE!!** (AAA – "South Jersey First," September/October 2016; Internet, 2020)

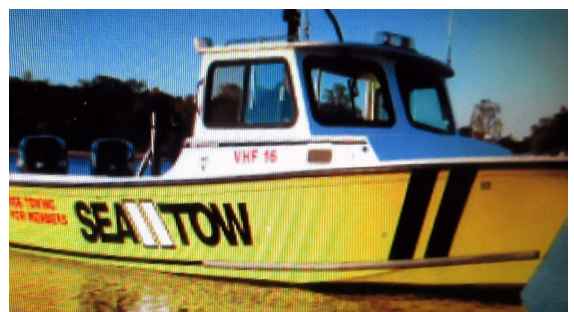
SEA TOW

(Editor's note: Recently, I was fortunate enough to spend some time with the owners of Sea Tow Sebastian, FL. It was very interesting listening to stories of their rescues at sea and other events.)

Involving dedicated teams of captains, crews and support staff, Sea Tow stands by 24/7 to serve members of their organization and other boaters. Sea Tow's vessels are ready to perform towing, ungrounding, jump starts, fuel delivery and other on-water assistance operations. The Sea Tow boats are easily recognized by their distinct yellow hulls.

Captains and Sea Tow co-owners, John & Amy Donaldson, are USCG licensed covering the area from Melbourne down through the Sebastian Inlet and south to Vero Beach in Florida. They began operating the local Sea Tow Franchise in 2013 and eventually purchased it in 2017. Amy doesn't see gender as a barrier on the open water. In fact, that's the case with many of the Sea Tow franchises across the country where multiple women serve in the role of captain.

Besides the rescues in which they have been involved, Amy enjoys the wildlife encounters as "magical moments on the water". She relayed stories of having dolphins come up alongside the boat and "blow air". Also, there are times when the Donaldsons are busy rinsing off the boat at the dock, the manatees come around for a fresh drink of water. Amy stated seeing leopard rays stacked on top of each other like a deck of cards, so thick you can't see the ocean bottom. One of the most beautiful natural sights she recalls was seeing the bioluminescents creating a large blue glow in the water at night *continued on page 6*

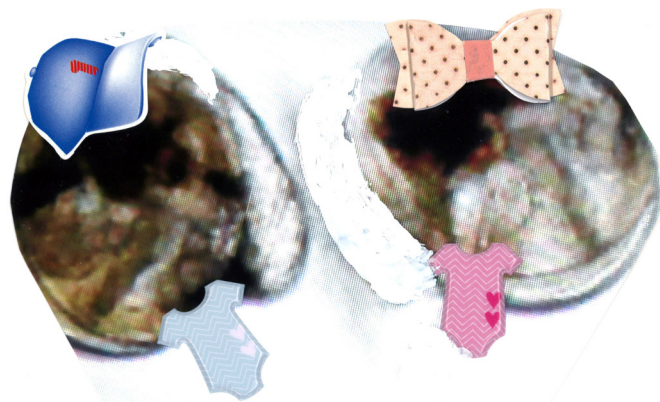


OLIVER & SHELLEY OYSTER ANNOUNCE THE BIRTH OF TWIN SPATS

“Just have to share the happy news that has us so excited and let you know the reason why we both are so delighted.”

It is with great pleasure that we announce the birth of twin spats, a girl and a boy, to make our family complete. The blessed event took place August 1, 2020 in the oyster beds off the coast of Port Norris, NJ. The spawning season is from June to mid-August when the water reaches 68 degrees or higher. Please note the birth took place in a month not containing the letter “R” as tradition dictates. Within 12 to 24 hours, their shells began to develop and eventually they will develop a foot which will help them crawl and attach themselves to a hard surface on the bottom of the bay or river. The hard surface is usually the shell of an adult oyster (a relative) entering into a metamorphoses phase. Here, with the help of relatives, our spats will mature for at least a year enabling Shelley and me to continue our filtering jobs.

Our spats will be feasting on naturally occurring phytoplankton. Their maturing depends on the salinity in the water plus the water temperature. If the water is too cold, we will have to hibernate. We expect them to grow up to an inch per year while Shelley and I continue parenting while working. Oysters contain both male and female reproductive organs so no matter what takes place, we hope to still have one of each. Becoming parents is so exciting. I will keep you updated on the growth of our precious babies. (*University of Maryland Oyster Hatchery*)



NAME THE SPATS CONTEST:

Please help us name our babies.

Submit your suggestions to: Memax1@juno.com OR regular mail to: M. Mulligan, 1049 Simca Terrace, Vineland, NJ 08360. You will be contacted if your suggestions are selected. Thanks. *Ollie & Shelley*

SEA TOW *continued from page 5*

when she and John were returning from a distress call.

Having a passion for the water, Amy was a competitive swimmer when she was younger and is also an accomplished scuba diver. She states: “As demanding as the Sea Tow life can be, sunrise and sunsets sure beat life in a cubicle.” Amy has received many awards and has been honored for her work with Sea Tow. Besides being very actively involved in Sea Tow, Amy & John maintain a ranch and are raising two children.

Sea Tow is the “Road Service at Sea”. Since 1983 Sea Tow has been the innovative leader of on-water assistance, servicing the United States, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. Members are provided with a 24/7 direct connection with Coast Guard-licensed captains should they need help. This pioneering concept, coined by Captain Joseph Frohnhoefer, was established in Southold, NY 36 years ago when the US Coast Guard ceased response to non-emergency boating calls. In addition to on-water assistance, the network handles salvage and recovery missions and responds to natural disasters, environmental hazards and oil spill cleanups.

INDIAN (NATIVE AMERICAN) SUMMER FALL 2020

Why is a certain time of the fall labeled Indian Summer? There are many theories. Some say this label comes from the early Algonquian Native Americans, who believed that the condition was caused by a warm wind sent from the court of their southwestern god, Cautantowwit. The most probable origin of the term goes back to the very early settlers in New England. Each year they would welcome the arrival of a cold, wintry weather in late October when they could leave their stockades unarmed. But then it would suddenly turn warm again and the Native Americans would decide to have one more go at the settlers. This time was called “Indian Summer”.

Some of the criteria for a true Indian Summer are: the atmosphere is hazy or smoky, there is no wind, the barometer is high and the nights are clear and chilly; these warm days must follow a spell of cold weather or a good, hard frost. These conditions must occur between November 11 and the 20th. (*Farmer's Almanac, 2020*)

DBLHKFA INVENTORY / CHRISTMAS SALE

DBLHKFA INVENTORY/CHRISTMAS SALE

Merchandise Order/Inventory List – Looking for something different for Christmas? Our merchandise makes great Christmas gifts.

Souvenir Items from recent NJ Lighthouse Challenges:

| | |
|---|--------|
| NJ Lighthouse Challenge Pin (no date) | \$2.00 |
| NJ DBLHKFA 2017 Lighthouse Challenge Metal Pins | \$2.00 |
| NJ Ceramic Challenge Pins 2019 | \$2.00 |
| NJ Challenge Deck of Cards 2019 | \$5.00 |
| NJ Challenge Coloring Books 2018 | \$2.00 |

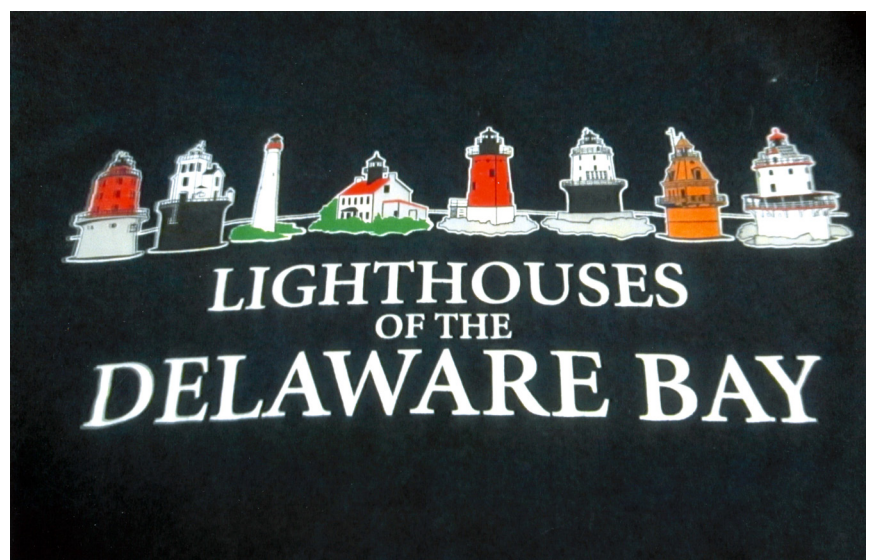
SPECIAL Order ONE of each of the above PAY \$10.00

Pack of 11 assorted Delaware Bay Lighthouse postcards \$3.00

NEW DESIGN (front or back) C honoring ALL Delaware Bay Lights

ITEMS A, D, E

ITEM C (new design)



DBLHKFA INVENTORY / CHRISTMAS SALE

continued from page 7

- (A) DBLHKFA logo hat \$12.00
- (B) DBLHKFA Badge (Out of stock)
- (C) NEW DESIGN T shirt featuring 8 Bay Lighthouses \$25.00
 Lighthouses on front of shirt: Available sizes –
1 small light blue; 15 medium orange, black, red, white
19 large orange, light blue, green, black, red, navy, white
20 XL light blue, green, aqua, black, grey, red, navy
 Featuring 8 Bay lighthouses on back of T shirt \$25.00
5 Large robin egg blue & navy; 4 XL robin egg blue & navy
- (D) NO pocket polo shirts \$15.00
1 medium grey; 8 large red, light blue, green, black, navy
4 XL green, black, red; 10 2XL light blue, green, red, navy
4 3XL light blue, black, navy
 Pocket polo shirt 2 medium: white, grey; NO LARGE \$15.00
1XL grey; 4 2XL white, blue, grey
- (E) T-shirt w/Embroidered DBLHKFA (Ship John Shoal 1877) \$20.00
12 small brown, green, aqua, yellow; 8 medium brown, aqua, yellow;
5 2XL brown, green, yellow; 14 3XL brown, green, aqua, yellow
- (F) DBLHKFA logo sweatshirts – SOLD OUT