



The Bay Run



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

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

“REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS”

(Editor’s note: This edition of The Bay Run is dedicated to all the veterans who paid the ultimate price so that we might live in “the land of the free”.)

Last fall, we had the opportunity to visit “The Moving Wall Memorial” when it came to Buena, NJ; it was the first time the wall was in our area. A half-sized replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, the wall is a 6’ high, 300’ long display. Volunteers were available to aid those who wanted to find friends or loved ones among the 58,000 engraved names of those who paid the ultimate price while serving their country during the Vietnam War. Having the names begin and end at the center forming a circular wall represents a completion to the war. It was explained that when the Vietnam veterans returned home after serving, they didn’t get the respect that veterans of the wars before or after had received. Having the wall reminds people of the sacrifice a generation of Americans made. It also offers an opportunity for veterans who couldn’t visit the memorial in Washington, DC to visit with the people who served beside them. *(Press of Atlantic City, October, 2019)*



MEMORIAL ★ DAY ★



This half size replica of the wall in Washington, DC has been touring the country for thirty plus years. When at the dedication of the Wall in DC in 1982, John Devitt felt a “positive power;” consequently, he and other Vietnam veterans built “The Moving Wall. In October of 1983 in Tyler, Texas, the wall went on display for the first time. Two structures of this Wall now travel the USA from April through November, spending about a week at each site. *(Brochure, Borough of Buena, Minotola, NJ)*

We also had the opportunity to visit the Vietnam War Memorial Wall of Remembrance in Wildwood, NJ. This Wall is the first of its kind in the area, the only black granite permanent replica of the Washington, DC Vietnam Wall in the northeast. The names are etched in 240’ long sections of black granite. It was stated by returning veterans from

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Angelo S. Rigazio, Jr.



Hello from the president; here’s hoping you are all well and staying safe. For us it is another day at home watching TV. How much TV can one person watch?? I try to keep busy with yard work weather permitting but lately it doesn’t seem that the weather is very cooperative. We are trying to get a garden planted featuring: tomatoes, peppers, green beans and zucchini, but even that seems to be impossible.

Our spring banquet had to be put on hold until the fall. The Coast Guard Community Day event was cancelled. We must do what is essential and follow the rules in order to keep everyone healthy and free from this worldwide virus. Every afternoon I take a ride in the car by myself, down to the bay and see people walking their dogs, riding bikes, all keeping a safe distance from each other. I drive into Cape May and West Cape May to enjoy the beaches. The windstorm that passed through here in April left damage to Congress Hall and other buildings; the wind also uprooted several trees.

Some of the beaches have been open for walking, jogging and fishing. No one is allowed to have chairs or blankets on the beaches. Our grandchildren have not been able to visit but they keep busy with their schooling online which is sometimes difficult for them and their parents. They are even taking online dance classes. Their world and ours has been turned upside down for sure.

At this point, we are unsure if we will be able to have our annual cruises in July and August. All we can do is take it day by day, waiting, watching and hoping that the best is yet to come. Keep the lights shining. *Angelo*

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Since we have all been “self-isolating,” “quarantined,” “sheltering in place” and “social distancing” as directed, there is not very much to report. Hopefully all of this will soon go away and we can return to a “normal” way of living. I hope that all our members, friends and relatives are healthy and safe. It is impossible to schedule any events at this time but I hope to see you all in the near future. **BE WELL – STAY SAFE!!**

In the meantime, I’d like to share a poem that was written by the editor who has had sufficient time to ponder:

PONDERING THE PANDEMIC

While gazing out the window, my thoughts all seem to wander
 I wonder what is going on in the world out yonder.
 I spy our neighborhood groundhog grazing quietly in the grass;
 A flock of wild turkeys strut by in the woods en masse.
 A robin hops, a woodpecker knocks, some birds go flying by;
 White fluffy clouds float lazily up in the clear blue sky.

Horseshoe crabs lay their eggs; Monarchs follow their trek;
 A butterfly just decided to rest on our backyard deck.
 Trees are budding; flowers blooming;
 Grass is growing; time is zooming.
 Ocean waves come and go; the tides continually ebb and flow.
 Rain continues to pour, wind continues to blow
 Sunrise to sunset; daylight gives a longer glow.
 The world continues to revolve; time just seems to fly.
 The moon continues on its path in the heavens so high.
 Babies are born and people die.
 How much longer will this thing last?
 We have so much time to kill.
 Nature continues to move on while we are standing still.



by Peggy Stapleford Activities/Program Chairperson



SAVE THE DATES – Mark Your Calendars:

East Point Schedule: Grounds open. Special events coming up for summer.

Saturday, July 19 & Sunday, August 2 – Dates scheduled for Delaware Bay Cruises. Dates have been reserved but nothing is definite at this time.

Monday, August 17 – National Lighthouse Day celebrating all the lighthouses nationally. Our organization may be at East Point.

Saturday & Sunday, October 17 & 18 – Take the New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge. Visit all New Jersey's lighthouses in one weekend. "A Fall Weekend of Family fun!"

DID YOU KNOW?



A stagecoach ran between Trenton and Philadelphia in 1723 and from Philadelphia to Cape May in 1836. (*Historical pamphlet*)



The pony express operated in South Jersey at least 100 years before the one of the western plains. The South Jersey Pony Express ran from Cape May Point to Cooper's Ferry (Camden) in 1777. (*Historical pamphlet*)



The community of Town bank in North Cape May was founded by whalers from New Haven, CT and Long Island, NY in the early 1600's. Erosion and harsh winter storms have washed the original settlement into the bay. (*Historical pamphlet*)



Delaware is one of the few states that doesn't have a capitol building per se. Instead, the General Assembly meets in the Delaware Legislative Hall in The Green in Dover. This structure is a 20th century creation, a Colonial Revival Style building erected in the 1930's. (*National Geographic, 2018*)



Wilmington, Delaware was named for the 18th century British prime minister. (*National Geographic, 2018*)



Jersey City is the fastest growing city in New Jersey while Newark is the state's largest. Thomas Edison lived and worked on his inventions in West Orange from 1886 until his death in 1931. Vineland remains the state's largest city in area. (*National Geographic, 2018*)



May was named for the Roman goddess Maia who oversaw the growth of plants. Elders, derived from the Latin word "maiores", were also celebrated during May. June was named for the Roman goddess, Juno, patroness of marriage (June bride) and childbirth. July was named to honor the Roman dictator; Augustus Caesar claimed August as his namesake. Thanks to the Romans, we get the names of our "middle months". (*Farmer's Almanac, 2020*)

REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS *continued from page 1*

Vietnam that they were not exactly welcomed back “with open arms”. It is felt that this Remembrance Wall helps to wash some of the bitterness away.

Some interesting information was received from one of our Florida correspondents who took part in Wreaths Across America at Christmas. Her husband, John Dunn, a former member of the US Air Force, is buried in the Sarasota National Cemetery in Florida.

The following instructions were given before the wreath laying procedure took place this past Christmas: “The Wreath Escort arrives by 8 am. For the safety of the semi drivers and the motorcycle escort, do not attempt to cut them off or cut into the escort. This escort is accompanied by local Law Enforcement Agencies. Cases of wreaths will be unloaded at each section. The Wreath Ceremony begins at 10 AM. There is seating for approximately 1750 people at Patriot Plaza. Families are invited to lay the wreath first; their name will be announced and we will thank them for their service. Each volunteer receives two wreaths at a time. On December 14, 2019 14,565 wreaths were laid; interments in 2020, will increase this total to 22,000.” This is only one of the many National Military Cemeteries in our nation paying tribute to our veterans. As we all know, “The price of freedom is not free.”



DESTRUCTION OF SMALL TOWNS ALONG THE DELAWARE BAYSHORE – PART 2



We traveled to **Matt's Landing**, an estuary tidal wetland ecosystem where birds breed; an area where threatened and endangered plants and wildlife are protected. Hundreds of cormorants and other birds nest here. Matt's Landing, labeled as the “best crabbing area in South Jersey,” is home to several marinas and fresh seafood distributors as well as having public access to fishing and crabbing. It offers scenic bike and foot paths for the outdoor lover. On to **Thompson's Beach and Moore's Beach**, two of the worst affected areas of the Cumberland County Bay shore communities.

Thompson's Beach was named for Ed Thompson who once owned all of the area; eventually he divided the area into individual lots. These beaches were hit by a tidal wave in 1950. Unusually high tides, heavy downpours and 70 mph winds drove the water inland destroying everything in its path. Residents were forced to climb on roofs to try to survive. In 1980, another storm took out



DESTRUCTION OF SMALL TOWNS ALONG THE DELAWARE BAYSHORE – PART 2 (continued from page 5)



what was left of Thompson's Beach and Moore's Beach. What is left of the road entering this area ends at the water's edge. There is a bird observation boardwalk for bird watchers and other nature lovers.

Bay Point is the latest in a long line of Bay Shore towns to be returned to the bay. Ravaged by Superstorm Sandy, residents and business owners in the area reached an agreement with the NJ DEP and the Blue Acres program in 2014. The entire village is in the process of being bought out and returned to nature as publicly preserved wetlands. Now almost entirely depopulated, Bay Point still makes for a scenic drive and will continue to offer public access to the Delaware Bay and surrounding meadowlands.

Maurice River Cove, located where the mouth of the Maurice River meets the Delaware Bay, is eroding fast. This area is home to commercial fishing interests and the state's largest seafood processing plant, cultural installations and institutions. The cultural, economic and historic landscape of this area has been forever altered.

Reed's Beach and Pierce's Point are critical habitats for the horseshoe crabs and migrating shore birds. The US Corps of Army Engineers Restoration Program entails a one-time placement of sand to improve their habitats. Superstorm Sandy changed forever the communities of the Delaware Bay Shore. Without beach funding, New Jersey's Bay coast gets left behind. Oceanfront towns get millions of dollars to build jetties, seawalls, pump sand and raise houses, all projects needed to keep the ocean away. The Delaware Bay doesn't have the same tax ratable.



Bayside is a former resort and fishing area located east of Greenwich, NJ on the Delaware Bay; it was once a main source of caviar. The Central Railroad of NJ transported

DESTRUCTION OF SMALL TOWNS ALONG THE DELAWARE BAYSHORE – PART 2 (continued from page 6)

the processed seafood from Bayside to Jersey City for market. This area is now a natural preserve owned by Public Service Electric & Gas, overseen by the Natural Conservatory.

Cape May, Cumberland and Salem Counties offer secluded beaches and marshlands that are homes to countless species of shorebirds, sea life and wildflowers. One can also encounter quaint, quiet, historic oyster, fishing and shipbuilding villages. Discover the wonderful southern New Jersey Delaware Bay back roads and treasure its charms before they are ravaged by the bay and disappear completely.

(Editor's note: These Sunday trips were certainly an eye opener for this writer. I have lived in South Jersey my entire life but learned about these areas thanks to Megan Wren and Jessie Briggs, the guest speakers at our last meeting. When I was a child, I remember traveling to Thompson's Beach with my parents on a Sunday afternoon. My mom would pack a lunch and that would be our outing for the day. Now there is nothing left of Thompson's Beach. I had friends who rented at Reed's Beach during the summer; this area is also slowly deteriorating. Through writing these articles, I learned about other areas along the Bay Shore with which I was not familiar.)

THE LURE OF ANGLING LORE

For centuries, anglers' charms, omens, beliefs, and superstitions have explained—or given anglers excuses for—the results of a day fishing.

When the boat is leaving the dock, if a cat begins to purr, fishermen are pleased. It is believed that cats love fish and can smell them from afar.

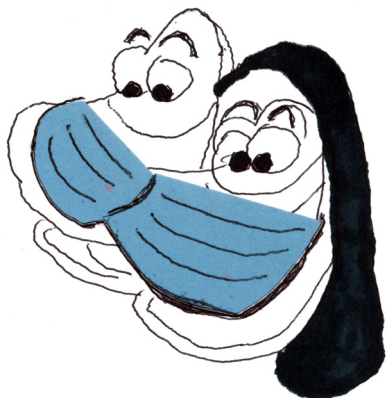
Birds are not necessarily a fisherman's friend. Many fishermen dread a crow flying across the bow.

If possible, drop a cake of ice overboard when preparing for a trip. It means good luck and a big catch. If you don't have a cake of ice, toss over a penny; it is guaranteed to bring good luck.

It is unlucky to allow the captain to consume any of your catch. This is considered unlucky on land or sea. *(The Old Farmer's Almanac, 2020)*



OLLIE & SHELLEY HEAD NORTH



I thought it was about time we appeared on the scene again to bring you up to date on what has been happening in our lives. We were fortunate to get some traveling in before the pandemic hit—just a short trip up the East Coast before we were told to “shell-ter” in place. We were both shell shocked when we were informed of all the rules and regulations put in place to accompany this order of protection. Since we are law abiding mollusks, we did as we were told.

Catching a cruise ship off the Jersey coast, off we went--heading to Portland, ME to visit our lobster relatives. Portland is Maine’s largest city and has what they refer to as a “working waterfront”. After a brief rest from our journey, we attached to a smaller craft which took us on a tour of Casco Bay. While touring the bay, we saw

Maine’s famous “Bug” light and Portland Head Light, Maine’s oldest lighthouse whose light is visible 26 miles out to sea. Portland Breakwater Light or “Bug” light, is so named due to its small size. It was originally built in 1855 and is Maine’s most elegant lighthouse. Not many white, sandy beaches here; as you know, Maine is known for its rocky coastline. These are only two of Maine’s 67 lighthouses along the 3,500 mile coastline (5,500 miles including its many islands). The lighthouse farthest north is West Quoddy, the famous lighthouse

with the broad red stripes. West Quoddy’s original tower was constructed in 1808 under orders of President Thomas Jefferson. It is our country’s

eastern most light, first to catch the rays of the rising sun. Maine is the largest of the New England states, the other 5 could fit in it.



We sailed past the Bush Compound at Kennebunkport, a quaint, little New England village. This is the area where “The Perfect Storm” took place; seawalls have recently been installed to protect the area. After viewing the area referred to as the “Marginal Way,” an area of beautiful coastline scenery, we floated over to Cape Neddick (Nubble) Lighthouse which is located on an island. Its red light flashes every 6 seconds. In the

lighthouse’s early days, the keeper, his wife and their family had to be transported to and from land in a basket attached to a cable. Eventually, the coast guard thought these expeditions were too dangerous for the children, so they stayed on the mainland during school time returning to the island for holidays and summers. This light, constructed in 1879, is said to draw an estimated half million visitors a year who gaze across the narrow inlet at the structure.

After spending some time with our lobster friends (Larry, Louie & Lara), we thought it was about time to head back to our home in the Delaware Bay. I am sure you are aware that Maine is famous for its lobsters. Lobster is a one billion dollar industry; many lobstermen are billionaires. We were invited to a lobster bake but didn’t attend as it was quite unsettling. A couple other facts we learned on our trip up north: Maine has no billboards; Commerce Street in Portland has no traffic lights, only pedestrian crosswalks AND they have a chocolate factory featuring Lenny, the 1,700 lb. chocolate moose. Maine has a very large moose population (no pun intended).

We arrived safely back off the coast of Port Norris, glad to be home in our comfortable surroundings once again. We will probably be staying at home for awhile, even though we love traveling, Shelley has been feeling a bit queasy in the mornings. I hope she overcomes this quickly, so we can continue on our journeys. I’ll be in touch...’til then...stay safe and healthy.