

FEBRUARY 2022



SCUTTLEBUTT

OCEAN CITY LIFE
SAVING STATION
MUSEUM



IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message

Welcome New Board Members

Upcoming Events

History Week at a Glance

Louis Parsons III Memorial Photo Contest

Storm Warriors 5k Walk/Run

Curator's Note

OCLSSM Collection

Assistant Curator's Note

Kids Corner

Welcome New Members

Co-President's Message:

The museum experienced a busy year in 2021 even with the ongoing pandemic. Thanks to everyone who visited the museum this past year and to those who participated in our summer programs, the historic house tour, and the annual 5K walk/run event. Thank you also to our sponsors who helped to make the fall events a success.

We are growing physically as we begin to make plans for the future annex to the museum at the corner of Dorchester St. and Baltimore Ave. in the former Bank of Ocean City building. This building will add much-needed display space on the first floor. Additionally, plans for the second floor include archival storage space for many of the donated items to the museum. The State of Maryland has awarded the Town of Ocean City a grant to begin the process with the exterior demolition and restoration to the appearance of the building as it was when it first opened as a bank in 1916. Watch this corner as we travel back into the past!

During the fall, the museum participated in Worcester County's first county-wide History Week. This new annual event was proclaimed by the Worcester County Commissioners. Attendance was good all around the county. At the end of the week, we awarded our "Spirit Award" to former Museum Society president Nancy Howard. The event continued with the announcement of the winners in the Lou Parsons Photography Contest. This inaugural event was well received and will continue into the future.

The 7th Storm Warriors 5K Walk/Run was held on Saturday, November 13th with a good turnout of participants. After the cancellation of the event in 2020, participants were anxious to venture down the Boardwalk, especially on a warmer than usual November day.

We are excited to announce that we now have three new board members. Join us as we welcome: Stephanie Shockley, Reid Tingle, and Joel Todd.

Thank you for joining us as we enter this new phase in the continuing development of the Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum.

Mabel Rogers & Gordon Katz

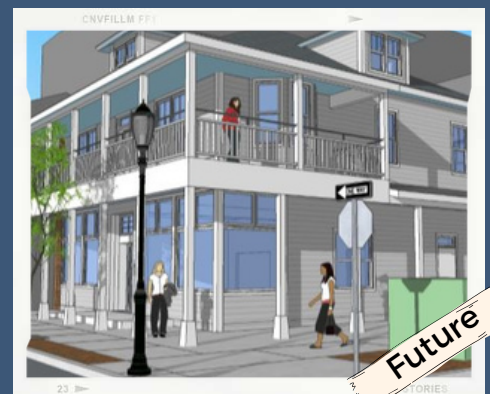
MCGREGOR BUILDING



BANK OF OCEAN CITY



MUSEUM BUILDING



WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Reid Tingle is President and CEO of Bank of Ocean City. Reid is a graduate of East Carolina University and spent five years with Atlantic Bank as a Business Development Officer, along with a host of other titles. He is actively involved in the community. His current roles include ICBA Maryland Delegate to the Federal Delegate Board, President and Board member of Diakonia, Inc., Board member-Maryland Bankers Association and Board member and former Chairman-Maryland Bank Services, Inc. Past participation included Board member and Secretary-Ocean City Development Corporation and past President and former Board member- Quiet Resorts Charitable Foundation. Reid believes in the importance of supporting the community and providing outstanding service, which is a cornerstone of his business.



Stephanie Shockley, a native of Ocean City, returned to the area after living in Florida for twenty years to be near family. She is the owner of SS Pilates Studio and works with her family as a manager of residential and commercial properties in the Berlin/Ocean City area. Stephanie holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Baltimore and worked in management for Marriott International. While raising her family in Naples, Florida, she served on The League Club's Board of Directors as well as a court-appointed Child Advocate for the Guardian ad Litem Foundation. Upon her return to Ocean City, she has served with the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore on the Community Needs Review Board. She has a son who is a Student Naval Aviator at NAS Corpus Christie and a daughter attending Washington College.



Joel Todd has been a practicing attorney in Maryland since June of 1983. He served as the State's Attorney for Worcester County for 16 years and retired after 30 years of experience as a prosecutor. Todd has been actively involved in the community most of his adult life, having served as President of the Berlin Chamber of Commerce and, in 2010, winning the Berlin Award. He is currently practicing law in Bishopville, Maryland, and is a member of the Berlin Chamber of Commerce and the Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce

ONLINE COLLECTION

Did you know that much of our collection is online for you to view? Dive into the past as you look at historic postcards, photos, and objects on our website at www.ocmuseum.org/onlinecollection



UPCOMING EVENTS



FEBRUARY 27TH, 12:00 -4:00 PM

COST: FREE

LOCATION: ONLINE. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. VISIT WWW.OCMUSEUM.ORG

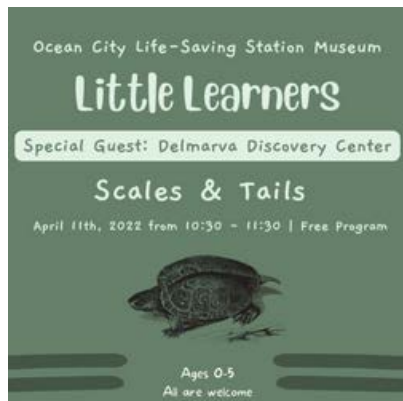
The Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum will be streaming the film "Rescue Men: The Story of Pea Island Lifesavers"

MARCH 28TH, 2:00 PM

COST: FREE

LOCATION: OCEAN CITY LIBRARY

Learn about Women's History in Ocean City with Museum Curator, Christine Okerblom.



APRIL 11TH, 10:30-11:30

COST: FREE

LOCATION: OCEAN CITY MUSEUM

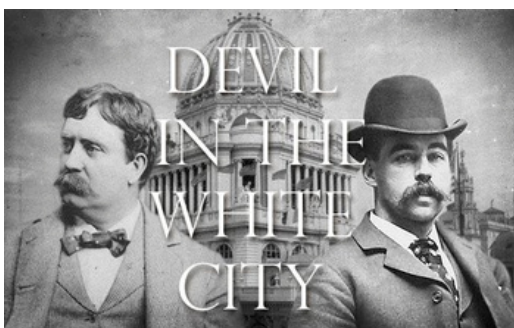
Special guest includes Reptiles from the Delmarva Discovery Center.

MAY 9TH, 10:30-11:30

COST: FREE

LOCATION: OCEAN CITY LIBRARY

Special guest includes Gil the sea monster from Ocean City Surf Club.



APRIL 13TH, 2:00 PM

COST: FREE

LOCATION: OCEAN CITY LIFE SAVING STATION MUSEUM

Ocean City Library Bookclub discusses a book about the story of the 1893 world's Columbian Exposition in Chicago and tells the story of H.H. Homes a criminal figure.

COVID-19 VIDEO INTERVIEWS

As part of the "Save Our Stories" project, the Museum staff reached out to members of the Ocean City and Worcester County communities to ask about the personal and professional impacts of COVID-19. To view interviews, go to www.ocmuseum.org/covid19-interviews

History Week

It's hard to believe that we had just over 1,000 people join us here at the Museum for Worcester County History Week!

In 2021, History Week expanded and became countywide, with several museums, historic sites, and other organizations participating. Each location celebrated our region's history with a unique program, event, or exhibit.

We kicked off the week with our annual Historic House Tour. The Shoreham Hotel, Admiral Hotel, and Trimper's Rides were some of the structures featured on this year's tour.

Did you know that the Shoreham was home to several different dining establishments? The Doghouse, Surf n Suds, and McGee's operated where Shenanigans is today.

OR that Trimper's Rides once operated two hotels, the Seabright (later known as the Windsor) and the Eastern Shore Hotel?

How about that Admiral Hotel, was a popular destination for the "senior week" crowd in the 1960s?

These interesting facts are a sneak peek of what attendees learned as they toured these iconic Ocean City structures.

This year's house tour raised over \$5,000 for our George and Suzanne Hurley memorial scholarship fund. Thank you to our generous sponsors and tour participants for your support.

As the week went on our daily surfman program, book signing with local author Maria Grosslettlter, our workshop on how to preserve paper and photos had the museum brimming with visitors, and our after-hours paranormal investigation had guests wondering what really goes bump in the night!

If you are a Worcester County business, non-profit, or historic site, and are interested in joining in on next year's Worcester County History Week, let us know! We'd love to hear from you! Contact us at www.ocmuseum.org/history-week

Photos: Malibu the golden retriever enjoying our fall photo display; Family photo with the pumpkins and mums!



Are you curious about Ocean City's colorful past? A companion to Bunk Mann's "Vanishing Ocean City," "Ghosts in the Surf" features Ocean City memories from the summer of 1945 to the spring of 2019. The book is full of photos, interviews, and great information about this fascinating beach town. Stop by the museum to grab your copy!

HISTORY WEEK AT A GLANCE...



Clockwise from top left: Ocean Pines Players Theater Group bring Historic Ocean City to life; Curator Christine Okerblom presents Senator Mary Beth Carozza with a Bob Barnes print; Fall photo op on the Boardwalk; Local author Maria Grosskettler chats with visitors about her book "Tracks."

GUESS THAT ARTIFACT!

Can you guess what this museum artifact is?
This artifact is about the size of a football! To
submit your guess, visit
www.ocmuseum.org/guess-that-artifact



HISTORY WEEK AT A GLANCE...CONTINUED



Thank you to everyone who joined us for Worcester County History Week!

Calvin B. Taylor House Museum | Sturgis One Room School Museum | Ocean Pines Association | Ocean Pines Players Theater Company | Pocomoke Indian Nation | Delmarva Discovery Museum | Germantown School Community Heritage Center | Worcester County Library | Julia A. Purnell Museum | Worcester County Tourism | Rackliffe House | Maria Grosskettler | Dead of Night Paranormal Group

Photos clockwise from the top: Proclamation of Worcester County History Week at Snow Hill; 1902 Herschell-Spillman Merry-Go-Round at Trimper's; Preserving Paper and Photos with Ocean City Branch Manager Alec Staley and Assistant Curator Cara Downey; Family enjoys fall photo op on the Boardwalk

HARBOR DAYS ON THE DOCKS

The Museum participated in Harbor Days on the docks this past October! Located at the West Ocean City Fishing Harbor, this festival celebrates our rich history and maritime heritage. We reached over 400 people at this fantastic event. Save the date 2022 Harbor Days is October 15th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.



OC Museum Announces Inaugural Louis Parsons III Memorial Photo Contest Winners

Whether snapping a photo of the sunset or the entire family, there is no better place than Ocean City, Maryland, to capture stunning and memorable images. Through each photo, you can sense a special passion behind the lens and before the breathtaking Eastern Shore landscape. With its beautiful scenery, the resort is often home to countless image competitions, but few match the grandeur and meaning of the Louis Parsons III Memorial Photo Contest.

Announced by the Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum in August 2021 and held in October, the contest honors the life and legacy of dedicated museum board member and photographer Lou Parsons. Lauded as a world traveler, pro photographer with deep roots in Ocean City, and a kind-hearted, optimistic gentleman, Lou's memory will stay alive through this contest.

Graciously sponsored by Lou's friend and the former publisher of Oceana Magazine, Jeff Williams, the contest serves as a way to keep his memory close while producing more fascinating images of the town beloved by all.

The competition featured three of Lou's favorite categories, ranging from the beach, boardwalk, and sunset. Open to photographers 18 and over, the contest awards were plentiful, with the grand prize winner taking home a grand total of \$1,000. The museum offered two additional category awards worth \$250 each.

Written by intern Logan Dubel

Bay Sunset, by Grand Prize Winner Zachary Garmoe



“It was amazing to be involved in something creative again and to see all my friends, who have stayed close even over all these years,” Williams reflected. “When the opportunity arose to visit Ocean City as we announced the winners in mid-October, I could not resist the chance to make the journey back east.”

For Williams, the October contest marked a major two-week homecoming, as he moved away from beach life decades ago and now resides in Oregon. He says that the humorous and down-to-earth personality that defines people on the shore has not changed one bit. Williams is confident that Lou would feel overjoyed by the competition’s success.

“We ended up with really powerful images from fantastic local photographers. Lou would absolutely love this contest,” said Williams. He spent so much time out there taking photos, and he would be so pleased to see that we have carried on his legacy. As this gains momentum, we look forward to making this an annual tradition.”

The contest is likely to continue again next year, as donations have continued to pour in and interest spikes. The inaugural contest brought in 31 photographers and 133 images highlighting the natural charm of Ocean City. Organizers hope to expand the contest next year through additional local partnerships. Thanks to generous donors and the hard work of the museum, Lou’s undeniable impact, and images will never fade.



Girl on the Beach by Louis Sapienza



Dark Boardwalk Clouds Snapped by Patricia Johnson

SAVE THE DATE

Photographers can enter this years contest starting April 1st, 2022. For additional information, including submission requirements, please visit www.ocmuseum.org/photo-contest.

Storm Warriors 5k Walk/Run

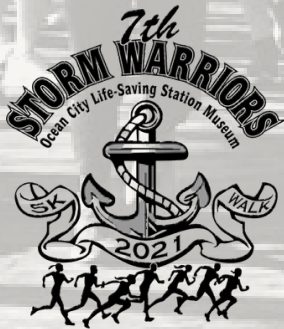
RACE STATS

\$17,000 Funds Raised

120 Participants

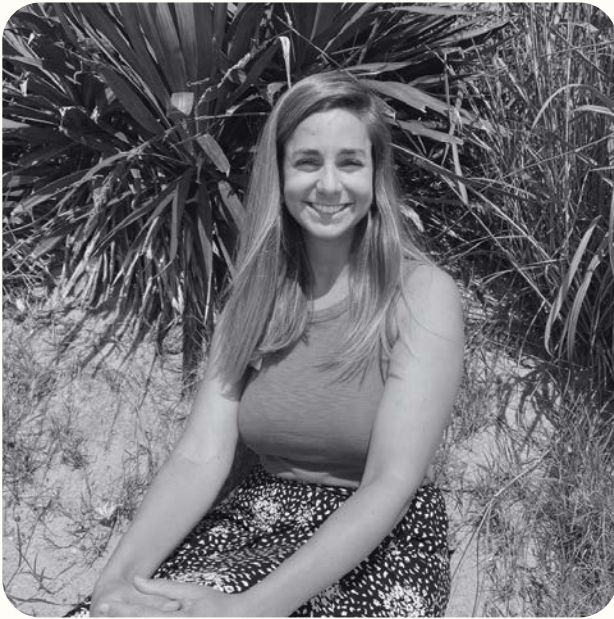
**1st place overall Male
Time 19:15.3**

**1st place overall Female
Time 26:09**



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

Coffin Foundation, Quillin Foundation, Inc. Whitman, Requart & Associates LLP, American Legion Post 166, Elaine G Nichols Foundation, TIME INC., Lions Club Foundation, INC Buas Enterprises Inc., George & Lynch Inc., Humphreys Foundation INC., Taylor Bank, Ocean City Elks Lodge #2645, Plak That, Aquatic Creations INC., and Pintail Builders



CURATOR'S NOTE

WRITTEN BY CHRISTINE OKERBLOM

There is purpose in everything we do. Historically speaking, architecture, the art or practice of designing and constructing buildings, is done with great purpose. The Ocean City Life Saving Station is no exception. Our station is an 1882 "type" station designed by architect JL Parkinson. Our two-story station with batten siding and gable end stick work resulted from Parkinson reworking and reinventing his station design throughout the years. The 1882 "type" station was one of Parkinson's last station designs before stepping down as Assistant Superintendent of Construction for the US Lifesaving Service.

The station design brought forth the first enclosed lookout tower or cupola used by surfmen during the day to search for ships in distress. Bald Cypress lumber, native to Delmarva and known for its rot-resistant capabilities, was used for siding. All 20 windows were dressed with batten shutters and were equipped with galvanized-iron hardware. Inside the station, tongue and groove pine-hardwood account for the flooring. Beadboard made from white pine was used as paneling for the interior walls. Transom windows sit above the bedroom doorways put in place to allow for additional airflow between rooms. As the station stands today, much of the 1891 building materials remain intact. Decades of upkeep and maintenance, done so by crewmen from the lifesaving service, later the coast guard, and most recently the town of Ocean City and the museum society, has kept this building preserved and it proudly stands as the second oldest building in Ocean City.

Our well-preserved station that was constructed with great purpose, connects people to the past in ways that, new buildings cannot. It provides a physical space for future generations to understand and reflect on past societies.



In September, the museum curated a traveling women's exhibit for Women's Leadership Council's first Community & Connections event focused on the history of women's leadership. Thank you for including us in "Leveraging the History of Women's Leadership for Today's Journey"!

In partnership with the Greater Salisbury Committee, the Women's Leadership Council (WLC) has been established as a community resource for professional women on the shore.

OCLSSM COLLECTION

The museum collection contains almost 30,000 artifacts and continues to grow monthly! We are thankful to those who have donated this year and are excited to share with you items gifted in 2021...

Did You Know!

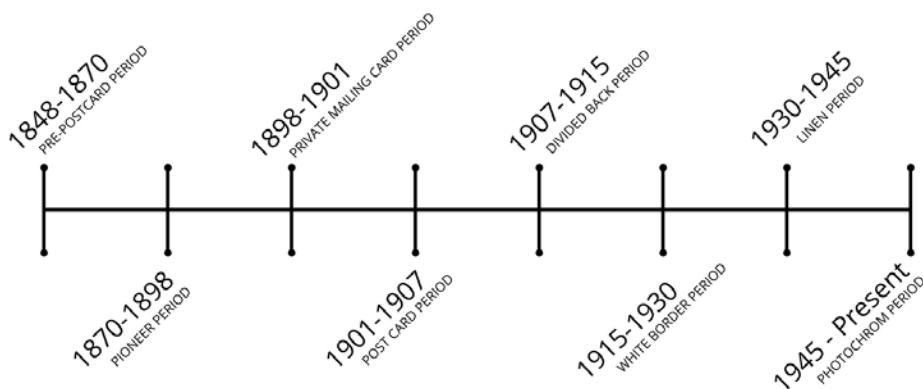
In the United States, the first postcards were mailed in 1873 and were government-issued and pre-stamped. It wasn't until the 1893 Chicago World's Fair that the first commercial postcards were sold. The words "Post Card" were not printed on the "Private Mailing Cards" until 1901.

The postcards shown are part of a collection of early 20th century postcards donated by Tracy Trimper this past September.



History of Postcards in the United States

Smithsonian Institute Archives



Do you have an artifact from Ocean City's past that you'd like to donate to the Museum for preservation? We'd love to hear from you!

If you have an artifact to donate, please reach out to us through our "Donate" page on the museum's website.

ASSISTANT CURATOR'S NOTE

"STEWARDSHIP OF COLLECTIONS" WRITTEN BY CARA DOWNEY

Both professionally and personally, the colder months offer us the opportunity to take stock of all the projects we shelved during the warmer season. This past year, we accepted 370 new artifacts into our collection of almost 30,000 individual objects, photographs, and archives. The winter is an optimal time to dust off the storage shelves and welcome in new pieces of Ocean City history.

The process of introducing new items requires the careful consideration of a few different factors. With the focus being on the long-term preservation of the museum's collection, I begin this process by asking three key questions — What is the artifact? What state is it in? What type of storage does it require?

Collections care is all about keeping items safe, accessible, and in good condition. The goal is always to minimize destruction, damage, and deterioration, and how this is done depends primarily on what the item is made with— For example, the care and handling of a tintype photo will differ from a digital photo on a USB flash drive. The tintype will require the use of gloves to avoid chemical damage from oily fingers while a flash drive will need careful management of the stored data. Once materials are assessed and identified, the next step is to determine proper storage methods, unless the artifact appears to be at high risk for deterioration or damage.

If an artifact is at risk, a consultation on how to best conserve the item might be in order. Conservation refers to measures taken to maintain, preserve, and/or restore artistic, cultural, and historic materials. To stabilize an artifact allows for that object to be displayed safely in an exhibit for public enjoyment, or to assist with research and education.

If the object is stable and not at risk for deterioration, the focus moves to keeping it that way. However, it is important to remember that all artifacts are impermanent, and the point of proper storage and handling is to extend the lifetime of the collection as much as possible.

When artifacts are not on display, we must think about how to best store and preserve them. The first step is to assess where they will be stored. Can the space be kept at a consistent temperature? How are the humidity levels? Light levels? Air quality? Along with evaluating the environmental factors, we must also understand how materials such as paper, metal, or fabric will hold up over time. Just like the tintype and USB drive, a fossilized crab will require a different kind of storage than an old newspaper. Not all storage facilities can meet every requirement, but a little truly goes a long way.

As stewards of Ocean City and Worcester County's history, each artifact that is donated reaffirms our commitment to inspire and support the interpretation and appreciation of the cultural and natural history of this region. These pieces of history are our history, and I appreciate the opportunity to maintain them, one piece at a time.



PRESERVING PAPER AT HOME

GATHER: Gather your papers together. Remove materials, such as paper clips, rubber bands, old folders, etc.

IDENTIFY: Assess the value of what you have. Do any of the documents hold historic value? What are the papers made with?

ORGANIZE: Organize based on material type. Separate out any newsprint. Note any fragile or badly damaged items.

PROTECT: To provide long-term protection, storage containers and enclosures should be made of materials that are strong, durable and chemically stable/acid-free.

STORE: Make copies of unique/important items. Make sure boxes and folders are in good condition, properly labeled, and keep in mind room temp/humidity.

AVOID: Avoid "Scotch" tape, rubber cement, metal paper clips, acetate sleeves, manila envelopes, self-adhesive album, or scrapbook pages.






KID'S CORNER

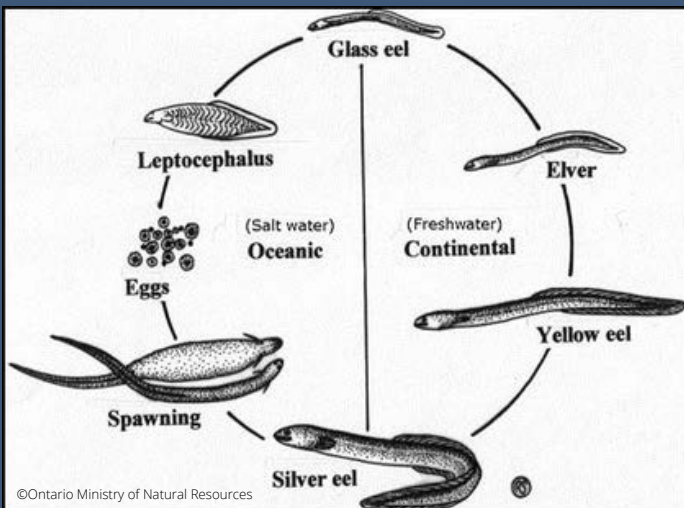
CREATURE FEATURE

AMERICAN EEL



DID YOU KNOW

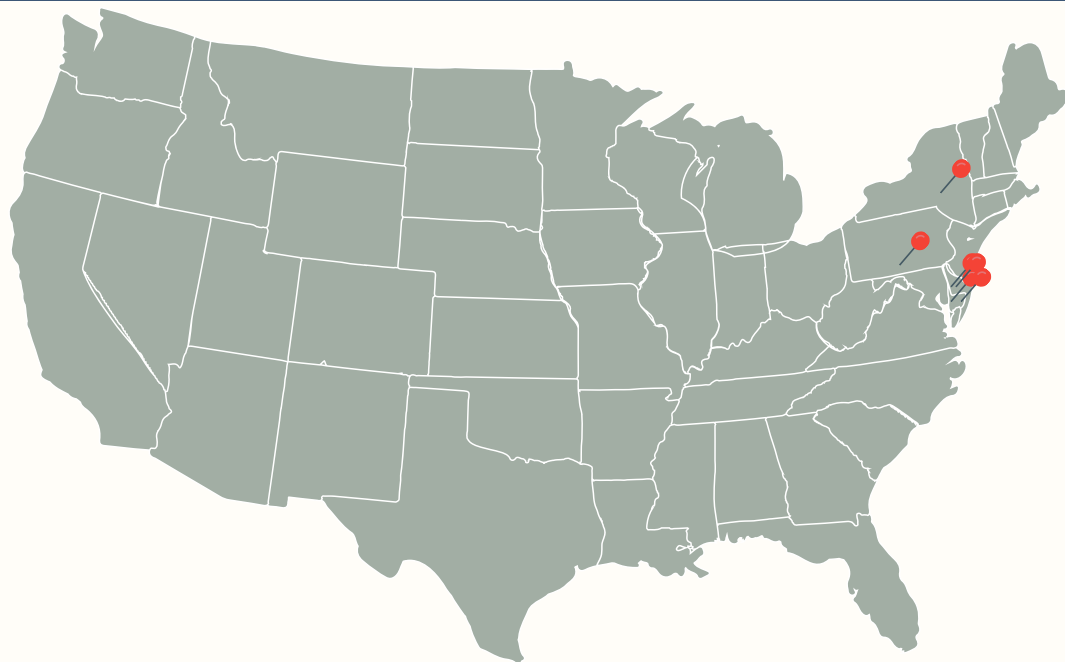
-  The Scientific Name for the American Eel is *Anguilla rostrata*.
-  Eels are catadromous, meaning they live in freshwater rivers and spawn in the ocean.
-  Eels lifecycle begins far offshore in the Sargasso Sea where adults spawn. After the eggs hatch, young eels drift inland with ocean currents into streams, rivers, and lakes for over 3,700 miles.
-  Young eels stay in freshwater until they reach maturity, between 10 to 25 years, before migrating back to the Sargasso Sea.
-  They feed at night on worms, small fish, clams and other mollusks, and crustaceans such as soft-shelled crabs.



MIGRATION PATTERNS OF THE AMERICAN EEL



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



AMY DOWNEY
ONEONTA, NY

ANDREW FARNSLER
CHAMBERSBURG, PA

BOB & MARIE GILMORE
BERLIN, MD

PATRICIA GODFREY-SAVAGE
DELMAR, MD

BONNIE HORNUNG-BAILEY
DELMAR, DE

CHARLENE REESE
BISHOPVILLE, MD

SUSAN & RAYMOND
SHOCKLEY, BERLIN, MD



Volunteer Spotlight



It was quite by accident that I became a volunteer at the museum. It turned out that my skills as a historian and elementary school teacher were just what were needed to help with transcribing and interpreting 18th-century handwritten documents. The staff have been so kind, and I have learned so much in a short time about our Eastern Shore heritage. I had not imagined what a rewarding experience volunteering would turn out to be.

- John Sisson

Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking for a way to get involved, but don't want to make a full time commitment? The Ocean City Museum Society has a place for you. We have one day events or longer commitment opportunities. Simply fill out our online form and someone will be in touch soon!

OCEAN CITY LIFE-SAVING STATION MUSEUM



FIG. 15.—LIFE-SAVING DRESS



FIG. 16.—CORK LIFE-BELT



The Merriman life-saving suit is supplied to the stations, and often proves useful by enabling surfmen to effect rescues of individuals struggling in the breakers, and even to reach wrecks and assist benumbed crews to set up the life-lines. It consists of footed pantaloons of India rubber, and above the waist of a double-ply of the same material covering all but the face, and inflated severally in breast, back, and head, between the plies, by three rubber tubes. Being thus buoyant, and also impervious to air, its wearer can neither drown nor freeze.

Upon occasions of boat service, the life-saving crews are required by regulation to wear the cork life-belts...These life-belts weigh severally only four and a half pounds; are flexible, being composed of a series of small blocks of cork strung together; have crenellations under the arms, leaving those members unimpeded in action; and, by rendering the surfmen secure from drowning, double their efficiency to assist others in case of exigency." - The Popular Science Monthly, 1879



The Ocean City Museum Society Board of Directors

Mabel Rogers *Co-interim President*
Gordon Katz, *Co-interim President*
Melanie Ayres Merryweather, *Secretary*
Joseph Moore, *Board Attorney*
Mary Adeline Bradford
Amanda Cropper
John Fager
Lee Gerachis
Alfred Harrison
John Lynch
Hunter "Bunk" Mann
Shirley Moran
J.D. Quillin III
Bob Rothermel
Stephanie Shockley
Reid Tingle
Joel Todd
Newt Weaver

Staff

Christine Okerblom, *Curator*
Cara Downey, *Assistant Curator*
Joanna Cross, *Office Associate III*
Harry Ballantyne, *Museum Aide*
Allan Beres, *Museum Aide*
Robert Gilmore, *Museum Aide*

Volunteer

Beth Ladd
John Sisson

Museum Hours

May-October: 10:00-5:00, Open Daily
November-April: 10:00-4:00, Sat & Sun

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD ENJOY A MEMBERSHIP TO THE MUSEUM? VISIT WWW.OCMUSEUM.ORG TO LEARN MORE!

- Individual \$10.00
- Family \$30.00
- Supporting \$100.00
- Sustaining \$250.00

The mission of the Ocean City Museum Society is to inspire and support the interpretation and appreciation of the cultural and natural history of Ocean City, Maryland, the Worcester County coastal region, and equally, the historical role performed by the United States Life-Saving Service, and to preserve, with subsequent mandate, the 1891 structure that once served as the Ocean City Station.

OCEAN CITY LIFE-SAVING
STATION MUSEUM
P.O. BOX 603
OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND 21843

