

NUMBER CRUNCHING

782,241:

The number of passengers carried in 2015 on the Cape May-Lewes Ferry's vessels, which also transported 266,149 vehicles. That's the second consecutive year ferry traffic has grown, according to the Delaware River and Bay Authority, which operates the ferry service across the Delaware Bay.



4: The number of pounds, in millions, of blue crabs projected to be harvested in Delaware waters in 2016, according to the state. That's good news for crab eaters, as the projection is about 1 million pounds higher than the number of pounds caught in 2015.

15,055:

The number of tulips planted by Lewes in Bloom volunteers over the years in city parks and other public locations for the annual Lewes Tulip Celebration. More than 100 varieties will be on display April 7-16. For details, call 645-8073 or visit LewesChamber.com. ■

LEWES DOG PARK

See Spot Run!



Paul Collins walks Corndog, his Golden-Labrador mix, on New Road, where Lewes Unleashed is creating a 4.5-acre dog park.

When a small group of self-proclaimed “dog people” began planning in 2012 to develop a Lewes park for pooches, their idea was met with untethered enthusiasm from area pet owners. But there was also skepticism about whether it would actually happen.

“We live in a great community, but it can be tough to get something started,” explains Tom McGlone, treasurer of Lewes Unleashed Association, the nonprofit formed to make the dog park a reality. “Often you don’t get a lot of support until you’re up and running.”

And with an initiative to benefit animals, McGlone says, many people were initially reluctant to financially support the project without first seeing evidence that it was achievable — and sustainable. “We had to do a lot of hand-holding to assure donors we could do it and we would be responsible in the way we managed the organization and the park itself,” notes the head of the LUA fundraising committee.

Now roughly \$25,000 short of its \$150,000 fundraising goal, Lewes Unleashed plans to open Sussex County’s first off-leash dog park this spring. “It will be a place for local people

to let their dog off the leash legally, be able to socialize their dog, and meet their neighbors,” says McGlone, who notes that the closest similar park is in Salisbury, Md.

Lewes Unleashed has a long-term sub-lease with the city for the more than 4.5-acre site just off New Road. Construction is well underway, and when completed the park will feature a fully fenced space that includes a general play area, a separate area for small, shy or older dogs, a training area, an access-control system, benches and water fountains.

To help offset maintenance costs, Lewes Unleashed will require park users to pay a \$50 annual membership fee. “At this point we don’t actually know what our annual maintenance fees will look like,” says LUA board member Paul Collins. “But we know there will be grass to cut and trees to trim.”

Though a precise date for the opening is dependent on the weather allowing for completion of the work, dog owners can stay up to date on progress and other park news by visiting lewesunleashed.org. ■

— Jessica Gordon

FOUR QUESTIONS FOR

Alison Miller

Alison Miller didn't like to read growing up — she wouldn't willingly read a book with more than 10 chapters — but when she was 14 she landed a summer job at her community library and found her career path. In October, after working various roles since 2013, she became director of the Rehoboth Beach Public Library.

She and her husband, Sean, who have been married six years and dating since they were 14, live in Milton. Miller likes the 20-minute commute to Rehoboth because it gives her time to listen to audiobooks. (In addition to the book playing in her car, she keeps a book on her phone and one on her nightstand.) One novel usually coincides with the Book to Art club, one of the many programs offered at the Rehoboth library. Others include Crafter Noon, Socrates Cafe, Food For Thought and Film For Thought. A summer reading program for adults, to mirror the ever-popular children's program, is also in the works.

Also new this year is the Run for the Books fundraiser set for May 21 and an expanded book sale. The Friends of the Rehoboth Library group and the library's active volunteers go a long way to boost her small staff. "It's just a tremendous effort that I appreciate so, so much," Miller says.



1. What is the best part of your job? The variety. I can come in and do six different tasks. I can be on the [circulation] desk. I can catalog. I can help implement programs and plan them with my staff. It's just a passion I've always had. I've been working in a library since I was 14. I just love wearing different hats.

2. If you had time to hide in the library and read a book, where would you be? I think my new favorite spot would be under my desk. I would probably read a zombie novel. That's my first pick.

3. What's your advice for reading a book that's not your favorite genre? Audiobook. I'm a slow reader. If you get the right person narrating, it really opens it up. (Miller recommends audiobooks for kids, too, especially reluctant readers. Children learn vocabulary, parents can gauge their comprehension and it provides common conversation topics.)

4. What do you do in your spare time? I used to cross-stitch a lot. Now, I'm on the coloring book craze. I play video games. Right now, I'm working my way through "Fallout 3." It's a nice stress-reliever. ■

HISTORY LESSON

The following story was published in the Philadelphia Inquirer on Dec. 22, 1907.

Lewes River to Be Deepened, 1907

By Frank C. Maull being bonded yesterday as treasurer of the Lewes River Improvement Company, which was incorporated by the recent Legislature to improve Lewes River [later known as the Lewes-and-Rehoboth Canal], all the preliminary matters have been arranged and the actual work will now begin.

The act made the laying of a special tax on the property holders of Lewes and Rehoboth hundreds, in Sussex County, optional with themselves, to be decided at a special election. The result was largely in favor of laying the tax of one quarter of one cent, to dredge the river to the point where it would join the work now being done by the government on the Broadkill River.

The contractors are at work constructing a jetty at the junction of the Broadkill and Lewes rivers and bids have been opened for deepening and straightening Broadkill River near the mouth. The improvement company expects to dredge to mean low water depth of about six or seven feet so that light draught vessels can come directly to the town, as once was the case in former days when shipbuilding was an industry along the river banks.

With the completion of the work, which is looked for by next fall, the river should be navigable from the new jetty to the town of Lewes, a distance of about three miles. ■

POETRY MONTH

Spreading the Words

"April is the cruellest month," T.S. Eliot famously wrote in the early 1920s, but he couldn't foresee that the Academy of American Poets would appropriate it for its own purposes seven decades later — by designating April as National Poetry Month.

Perhaps exercising a bit of poetic license, the academy has proclaimed the event "the largest literary celebration in the world," during which readers, students, teachers, librarians, booksellers and, of course, poets are "marking poetry's important place in our culture and our lives."

The literary-minded in coastal Delaware are doing their part, with local poets reading their works in a variety of venues, including bookstores, museums, art galleries, restaurants and pubs.

If you agree with Eliot that "Genuine poetry can communicate before it is understood," check out some of the readings set for this month:

APRIL 9: Browseabout Books in Rehoboth at 2 p.m. Poets: Irene Fick, Kit Zak and Gail Comorat.

APRIL 9: Zwaanendael Museum in Lewes at 1 p.m. Poets: JoAnn Balingit, Phillip Bannowsky, Jim Bourey, Liz Dolan, Larry Kelts, Maria Masington and Maggie Rowe. (All contributed to Currents, an anthology of poetry and prose by Delaware writers



who were selected by the Delaware Division of the Arts to attend the agency's 2015 biennial writers retreat.) For reservations, call 645-1148.

APRIL 12: Nicola Pizza in Rehoboth at 7 p.m. Twelve members of the Rehoboth Beach Writers' Guild will read poems — five of which will be the basis of an original song written and performed by local musicians (the poets won't know beforehand if theirs was among those set to music). The featured writers are Mary Jo Balistreri, Judy Catterton, Ellen Collins, Gail Comorat, Walt Curran, Mimi Dupont, Irene Fick, Katherine Gekker, Sharon Hoover, Ethan Joella, Sheri

Wright and Kit Zak.

APRIL 23: Gallery 37 in Milford at 3 p.m. Lindsey Warren, Russell Susumu Endo and Linda Blaskey will read at the adjacent Music School of Delaware, with a show of Tom Newby paintings on display at the Walnut Street gallery.

APRIL 27: Irish Eyes Restaurant & Pub in Milton at 7 p.m. Gail Comorat and Ethan Joella will read at the event, which is sponsored jointly by the Broadkill Review and Irish Eyes. ■

— Laurel Marshfield

POETRY

IN MEMORY OF

Barbara Quillen Dougherty
AKA "Cookie"

For Barb, faith, family, friends and field hockey rocked. Even when the cancer was stick-whacking her she never missed a Cape game.

At her St. Ed's memorial, the team lined up in uniform. On the tail of their shirts,

One Tough Cookie inscribed ... the next day those tough cookies brought the trophy home. Cookie was whistling, pushing them down the field toward the final goal.

No lie. I heard her. I saw her. ■

— Liz Dolan



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Beach Briefs

INTERACT WITH US



Delaware Beach Life will be writing about coastal Delaware's "hidden gems" in the Beach Briefs section this year. What are your favorite "hidden gems"? Could be a special place or a specific thing to see or whatever strikes you as a hidden gem of coastal Sussex?

Lori Holtzinger: Trap Pond State Park by kayak AND the painted Victorian homes in Lewes.

Lisa LaRe Richter: Cape Henlopen State Park. The park has something for everyone. For history buffs you have Fort Miles and the observation tower. Bike trails, fishing from the pier, kayaking, surfing, etc. for the outdoorsman. You can go for a day trip or camp at the campground. The nature center has hands-on activities for every age. Stargazing and ghost crab hunting. I could go on and on. I truly love it there!

John Yeatman Jr.: The Peninsula



WroteTrips: I am particularly fond of the DiscoverSea Shipwreck Museum. ... Where else can you see recovered treasure and a Fiji merman? ■

HIDDEN GEMS

A Church With a Special Spirit

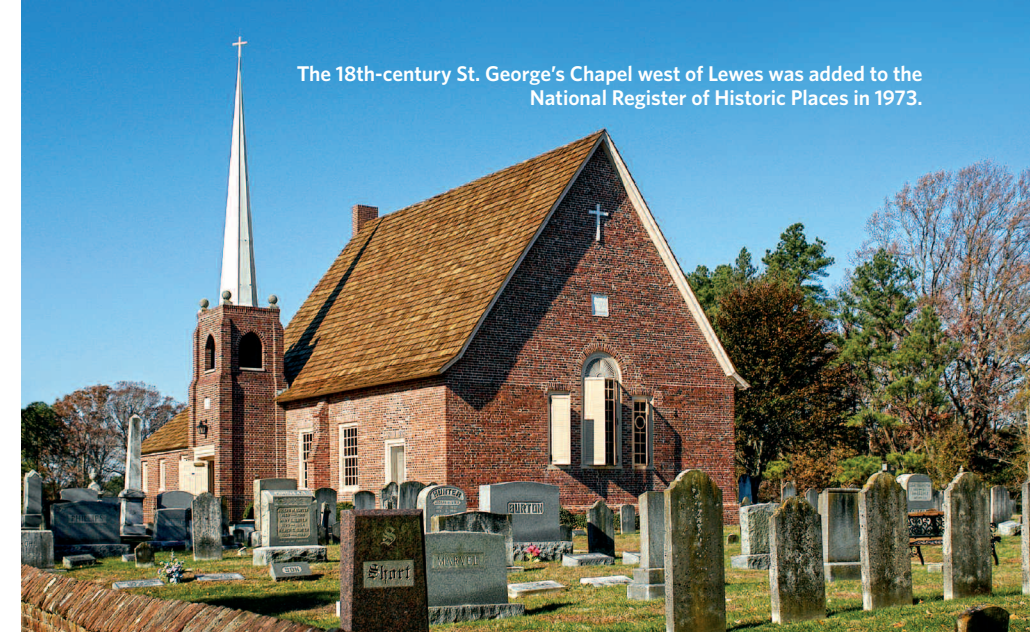
Editor's note: "Hidden Gems" is a new addition to the Beach Briefs that will spotlight interesting little-known destinations in coastal Delaware.

St. George's Chapel is only 8 miles from Five Points near Lewes, where routes 9 and 1 intersect and through which tens of thousands of cars pass every day. But the quiet 18th-century church is a world away from the noise and bustle of the beach.

"It is a beautiful place," says Amie Sloan, 97 and a longtime member of the congregation. "It's cheerful and positive; going there is always a pleasure."

Sloan and her husband, Samuel, started attending St. George's after they married in 1947. Samuel, who died in 1996, is one of the nearly 840 people buried in the church cemetery. The oldest grave is that of Thomas Prityman Esq., who died Jan. 3, 1765.

The first St. George's Chapel was built in 1719 by the Church of England, to serve people moving into the area from the Eastern Shore counties of Maryland and Virginia. The original wooden structure burned down in 1792 and parishioners, not wanting to



The 18th-century St. George's Chapel west of Lewes was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

risk that happening again, rebuilt out of brick. "They fired the bricks right there," says Rector Max Wolf. Remnants of a clamp, a type of kiln, are in the nearby woods.

The new, two-story structure was completed in 1794 and featured a large central room with galleries on three sides. It was modernized in 1850, when the box pews and original pulpit were removed and a Palladian window covered over, and again in 1888, when the current, high-pitched roof was added.

By the mid-1960s, the structure was deteriorating. Then-Rector Richard Bailey, who had a "passion for architecture," Wolf says, visited Colonial Williamsburg's Bruton Parish Church, also an 18th-century Church of England structure, and afterward spearheaded another renovation of St. George's.

"With the completion of the effort, the building was restored to reflect the major elements of its original appearance," according to the Delaware Public Archives. The church was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

Today, St. George's and All Saints' Church in Rehoboth Beach form one Episcopal parish. The chapel has regular Sunday morning services — Wolf and Assistant Rector Eunice Dunlap share ministerial duties — and Celtic healing services on the first Wednesday of every month. Once a year, on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, parishioners celebrate Heritage Sunday. Wolf dons a powdered wig and reads from the chapel's copy of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, printed in 1716.

"People have been worshiping in St. George's for so many years," he says. "I really believe that there is a special feeling there, a special spirit, that comes from that." ■

— Lynn R. Parks

To Get There:

St. George's Chapel is on Route 23 (Beaver Dam Road), 8 miles southwest of Five Points, in the Harbeson area.

Sunday services are at 9:30 a.m. To make arrangements to visit at other times, call 227-7202.

COMIC VIEW



"Mom, he followed me home from the beach. Can I keep him?"



ART LEAGUE EXHIBIT

Where the Wild Things Are

Coastal Delaware teems with eye-catching wildlife and scenery, and what better way to spotlight those visual riches than through the eyes of gifted local artists?

With that in mind, Rehoboth Art League Exhibitions Director Jay Pastore has assembled a show that highlights both the area’s beauty and the talents of those who capture it. The exhibit, spread across three galleries, opens with a reception on Friday, April 8, from 5 to 8 p.m at the league’s Henlopen Acres campus.

Each gallery houses works in one of three mediums — painting, graphite drawing and photography — in what Pastore calls a juxtaposing of approaches to the subject.

In the Corkran Gallery, paintings by award-winning duck stamp artist Richard Clifton compose the sub-exhibit titled “The Wildlife Experience.” Formerly a farmer, Clifton lives on rural family land near the Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge. With nature so close at hand, he photographs waterfowl and their distinctive environments, using those images as a guide for his acrylic-on-canvas paintings. The results have won him 43 state duck stamp contests and the federal competition in 2006. In 2015, Clifton was named the Waterfowl Artist of the Year by Ducks Unlimited, the wetlands and waterfowl conservation group.

In the RAL show, he will exhibit paintings of other species associated with Delaware’s coastal wetlands. “Hérons, egrets, prothonotary warbler— it’s an opportunity to paint what I do anyway. I will have a variety of sizes mixed with a few larger signature pieces,” he says.

In the adjacent Ventures Gallery, Millsboro artist and illustrator Paul Treadway will present his graphite drawings in a section of the show dubbed “Taking Pencil to a Higher Level.” Like Clifton, Treadway is self-taught, though he won his first art award at just 4 years of age in a contest sponsored by a Baltimore television station. (The winning entry was his drawing of a German shepherd.)

A new exhibit at the Rehoboth Art League showcases the work of talented local artists, with paintings by Richard Clifton, drawings by Paul Treadway and images by five wildlife photographers.

A retiree from the publishing industry, Treadway moved with his wife to the area, where he pursues his avocation and also works during the summer as a cowboy re-enactor at Frontier Town, near Ocean City, Md.

While Treadway uses graphite pencils to create his black-and-white drawings of wildlife, mostly birds and ducks, he sometimes chooses colored pencil and pastel for other renderings. Those include illustrations for a children’s book about a squirrel, “Frisbee’s Adventures,” published last year by Diana Woltereck.

“I’m really excited to be a part of this,” he says of the Rehoboth show.

In the third section of the RAL exhibition, nature photographers April Abel, Ken Arni, Kevin Fleming, Jay Fleming and Tony Pratt will display their talents under the heading “Wetlands and Waterways” in the Tubbs Gallery.

The multi-pronged show runs through May 8. For more information, visit rehobothartleague.org. ■

— Gwen Guerke



BEACH LIFE TRIVIA

How many oceanfront homes in Bethany Beach were destroyed by the Great Storm of March 1962?

ANSWER: According to the UD Sea Grant program, 28 of 29 were destroyed, part of the total of 1,932 homes that were damaged all along Delaware's coast by the area's worst natural disaster.

What's UNDER the Sea?

Coastal Delaware's Artificial Reefs

The sinking of a 180-foot Army-Navy ship 20 miles east of Fenwick Island late last year brought the latest addition to the extensive network of 14 artificial reefs sitting on the bottom of the waters off Delaware's coastline. The steel junkyard creates a rich and valuable habitat for fish and the anglers seeking them, and the state Division of Natural Resources and Environmental Control has the numbers to prove it.

Interesting Facts About the Fishing Food Chain

♦ The state's Division of Fish & Wildlife started its artificial reef program in 1995.

♦ Reef Program Manager Jeff Tinsman said the state gathers data each year during 70 flights over the 12 reef sites from April to November. Officials track the number of private, charter and head boats present and the average number of people fishing on those boats.

♦ Based on that data, Delaware Reef Site 11, 13 miles off the Indian River Inlet is the most heavily fished location.

♦ More people fishing translates into an economic benefit for Delaware, with millions of dollars spent on charter boat rentals, hotel stays and restaurant meals, Tinsman says. "It's just a very positive thing." ■

— Ashley Dawson

For a guide to the state's artificial reef system, visit:

dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/Fisheries/Pages/ArtificialReefProgram.aspx

To watch a video of the sinking of the Shearwater, visit DNREC's YouTube Channel.



The Shearwater became part of the Del-Jersey Land Reef, or Delaware Reef Site 13, one of 12 reef sites still under development. The centerpiece of that site is the 568-foot ex-destroyer USS Arthur W. Radford.

A bluefish caught last fall over the Del-Jersey-Land reef set a new state record, weighing 24.8 pounds.



One of the top fish frequenting Delaware's reef system are tautog. Reef Program Manager Jeff Tinsman says the fish aren't strong swimmers, so the sunken vehicles provide shelter and protection from storm surges and predators. "It gives them a place to get out of the weather, so to speak."



Delaware's reefs include:

84,000 tons of concrete products
9,000 tons of ballasted tire units
86 decommissioned military vehicles
1,365 retired subway cars



By now the Shearwater is home to blue mussels, sponges, barnacles and soft corals that have attached to the structure. "Those blue mussels wouldn't survive on just bare sand bottom," says Reef Program Manager Jeff Tinsman. "They need rock, or in this case, recycled man-made products" used in the reef system. The invertebrates flourish, creating a solid base for the food chain: More fish food draws smaller fish, more bait fish draw game fish and more fish draw more anglers.

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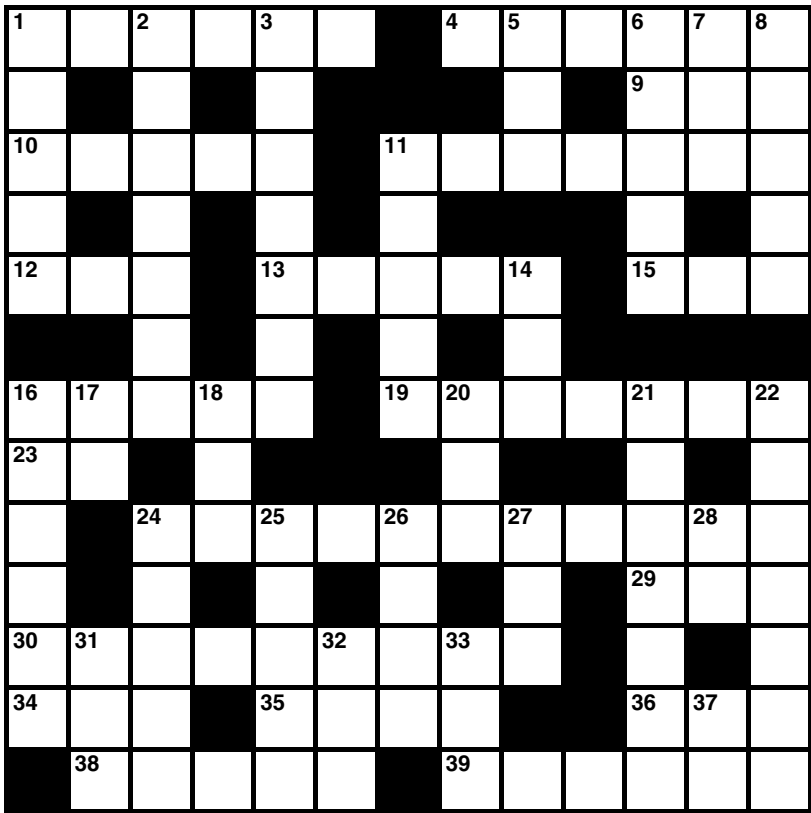
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Beach Briefs

COASTAL CROSSWORD




Across

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Animated, like some winds | 3 Weaves back and forth, as a ship tacks against the wind |
| 4 Flowed against, like waves on a shore | 5 Geologic division |
| 9 "Gladiator" star middle name | 6 Walks trails in Delaware Seashore State Park, for example |
| 10 Type of sandal | 7 Ahead of, in poems |
| 11 Cresting wave | 8 Pub game |
| 12 "All over the world" singers, for short | 11 Come out, as a flower |
| 13 Take a walk ___ the boardwalk | 14 Young lass |
| 15 Bro's sibling | 16 A cannonball in the pool makes a big one |
| 16 Rides the waves | 17 You and I, not them |
| 19 Colorful duck found in Delaware | 18 Org. governing air traffic |
| 23 "___, I love you" Beatles | 20 Chef's phrase, two words |
| 24 Soaring high behind a boat | 21 Lands |
| 29 Snagged | 22 Pooches have to wear them, two words |
| 30 Red knot or ruddy turnstone, e.g. | 24 It's also called a pic or a shot |
| 34 Beach structure | 25 Marsh plants |
| 35 First recording tape | 26 ___boarding |
| 36 Dress (up) | 27 "___ be my pleasure!" |
| 38 Sea___, marine creature | 28 Famous doctor in film |
| 39 Kitchen beaters | 31 "I didn't expect that" |

Down

- 1 Sun___, get a tan
2 Trip to explore the environment, two words

 **On the Web** For answers to our exclusive crossword puzzle created by Myles Mellor, visit our website at delawarebeachlife.com/crossword.

ARTIFACT SPOTLIGHT

Nanticoke Mask, Circa 1780

This turtle clan mask, circa late 1700s, was donated to the Nanticoke Indian tribe, according to Nanticoke Indian Museum Coordinator Sterling Street. The mask, made from a gourd with the stem forming a handle, was used into the 1800s during special ceremonies. "Someone would dance



holding it, usually the men," explains Street. The eyes, nose and mouth are outlined in black paint. The artifact is on display at the museum, located at 27073 John J. Williams Highway (Route 24) between Baywood Greens and Millsboro. For hours, visit nanticokeindians.org or call 945-7022. ■

(Similar items are part of a gourd collection on display in the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, Street says.)

Photograph by Scott Nathan

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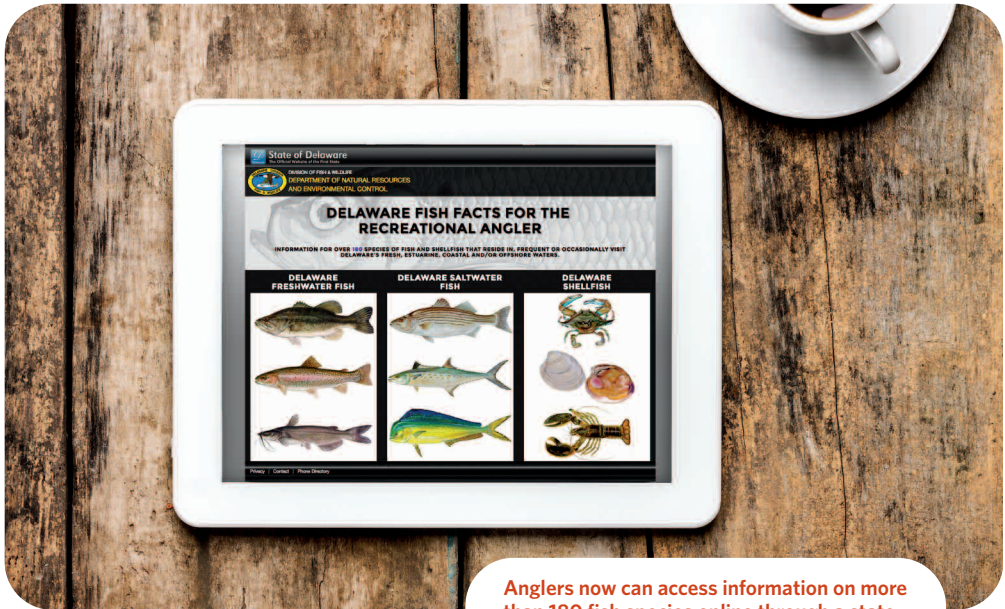
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Anglers now can access information on more than 180 fish species online through a state database.

FISHERMAN'S FRIEND

A Website Worth Reeling In

Each year along Delaware beaches, it is bound to happen. A rod will bend, a crowd will huddle, everyone staring intently at some unfamiliar fish, and an age-old question will inevitably be asked:

“What in the world is *that*?”

Fortunately, the answer is now just a click away with the development of a new online resource, Delaware Fish Facts for the Recreational Angler. Viewable at fishspecies.dnrec.delaware.gov, it offers identifying information on more than 180 different species, and will prove a useful tool to both novices wondering what they just hooked and veteran fishermen and -women seeking details such as bag limits, seasons and minimum sizes.

“I am really proud of the website,” says Bruce Cole, the state fisheries biologist who spearheaded its development. “It’s a website designed by anglers, for anglers, with *far* more species included than any other state, and artwork that is just superb.” It also was designed to be “responsive,” meaning that it adapts to various devices used to access it.

The site attempts the Herculean task of including any fish species that might conceiv-

ably be caught in state waters by hook-and-line anglers. Many of these fish rarely venture into the area, but if one of them is reeled in, there’s plenty of information available to enlighten the perplexed angler.

“Each fish listed has a synopsis of information, such as its range and abundance in Delaware waters, preferred food and habitat, common lures and fishing baits used to catch them and fun facts about each species,” Cole explains. “The project evolved into a much larger and greatly improved product than was initially imagined.”

He cautioned, however, that the site is limited to fish that might be caught on a hook and line, so if a 2-inch killifish washes up in the surf, for example, curious beachcombers will have to look elsewhere to identify and learn about it.

Nonetheless, regular library visits to consult McClane’s Fishing Encyclopedia should now be a thing of the past, as most information is just an online cast away. Delaware Fish Facts for the Recreational Angler looks to be a keeper. ■

— Jack Rodgers

NUMBER CRUNCHING

100: The number of years (at minimum) that the Indian River Inlet Bridge is expected to last, according to a sign placed there after its completion in 2012.

2: The ranking of Rehoboth Beach in Coastal Living magazine’s 2016 list of “Happiest Seaside Towns in America.” Ten finalists were chosen based on each nominated town’s “coastal vibe,” among other factors, and the rankings were determined by online voting.



10: The number of farmers markets selling state-grown produce and other farm-fresh goods operating in coastal Delaware this year. Community farmers markets set a record of \$3 million in sales statewide last year. (For a list of beach-area markets, see page 37.) ■

REHOBOTH MUSEUM EXHIBIT

WISH YOU WERE HERE

The most efficient means today of letting someone know how much fun you are having somewhere they're not is by snapping a photo and sending it in a text — all with a smartphone. However, there was a time when the quick and easy way of staying in touch with a friend was by mailing a postcard.

Purchased with pocket change and mailed for pennies, a roughly 3-by-5-inch picture postcard became a ritual for travelers everywhere. Evolving from pictorial envelopes widely used in the early 1800s, postcards were visually appealing objects so easily gathered and saved that collecting them was inevitable. In fact, postcard collection, called deltiology, is the third most popular hobby after stamps and coins.

Postcards from Rehoboth Beach, known as “The Nation’s Summer Capital,” hold high interest as an important chronicle of times gone by. A new exhibit at the Rehoboth Beach Museum spotlights the variety of postcards mailed from the resort town. Images of vacationers playing in the sand and surf, strolling the boardwalk and visiting downtown shops are on display, as well as postcards featuring landmarks such as St. Agnes by The Sea, the Bellhaven and Carlton hotels, Indian Beach Club and Horn’s Pavilion.

The exhibit, which runs through March, represents postcard history from 1897 up to the 1950s when postcards began featuring color photography. The museum, at 511 Rehoboth Ave., is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For info, call 227-7310 or visit rehobothbeachmuseum.org. ■

— Bill Meehan



BEACH LIFE TRIVIA

On October 22, 1891, the 28-ton fishing schooner *Red Wing* ran aground and overturned in the surf near the Indian River Inlet. The bodies of six crew members washed up the next day. What mystery surrounds their graves in the cemetery of the Ocean View Presbyterian Church?

ANSWER: There are seven unmarked graves for the crew in the cemetery, even though all official reports state that six men died in the shipwreck. The difference has never been explained.

ST. PETER'S FUNDRAISER

Art With a Heart



Fifty years ago, the last menhaden processing plant closed in Lewes, ending a maritime industry that had fueled the local economy for decades. Across town that same year, women from the St. Catherine's Guild at St. Peter's Episcopal Church strung a clothesline along the Second Street wall in front of the church and invited local artists to hang their works there.

A lot has changed since 1966, but the St. Peter's Art Show, begun well before Lewes became a summer tourist mecca, will celebrate its golden anniversary on July 2. The "Clothesline Art Show," as it was originally dubbed, has become a fixture on the city's calendar, a major charitable event that attracts locals and visitors alike.

The exhibition has seen many changes since those early days when a handful of artists hung their works on that clothesline. The initial focus on drawing and painting has expanded to include ceramics, jewelry, fiber, glass, wood, metal and photography. Last year, 129 artists and artisans from the Mid-Atlantic region set up shop in the streets surrounding the church and in the neighboring M&T Bank parking lot.

The growth and success of the annual event is a source of amazement and pride to those involved since those informal early years. Up until the mid-'80s, exhibitors had no preassigned spaces, and Lewes painter Doris Ingram recalls that "we got up at 4:30 and ran up with four lawn chairs and put

Mark V. Turner paints at the 2015 St. Peter's Art Show, which this year celebrates its 50th anniversary.

The event is also inspirational for younger artists such as Lewes's Michael Johnson, a University of Delaware student who first exhibited his paintings in the Cape Henlopen High School booth. "Everyone has amazing artwork, and I'm really impressed by that," he says.

Nurturing relationships with the artists has been a priority for organizers from the start. "I thought I should be there to greet them in the morning and stay until everybody left," remembers Ruth Macintire of Lewes, who was involved for many years. Such efforts haven't gone unnoticed. Larry Edwards, a Lewes crafter of exotic hardwoods, noted in an email after last year's event: "I've been a part of many [shows], but none can match your preplanning, organization, or level of genuine help through the whole process."

The show includes a featured artists' raffle, a tradition that began during the early years with paintings by famed local painter Howard Schroeder. Works from this year's featured artists will be displayed in the window of Citizens Bank on Second Street during June. A silent auction of items donated by exhibitors is also part of the event.

Another tradition is the turkey salad luncheon, prepared

them in our spots — then we went back at about 7:30 to set up." Joy Davis, a jeweler from Ardentown, says that when she first exhibited in the early '90s, her booth was set amid the gravestones in St. Peter's churchyard.

Longtime exhibitors and volunteers also talk about the year when heavy rain forced the event into nearby Bethel United Methodist Church hall, or the time the show was closed early because exhibitors and spectators alike were wilting amid temperatures topping 100 degrees. Ceramic artisan Wesner Stack of Milton recalls another occasion when he and his wife struggled to keep their tent from blowing away in a strong wind.

Despite such challenges, the show has endured. "It has a wonderful reputation," says Davis, who notes that she sees many repeat customers each year.

COMIC VIEW



"Mom, I brought my cellphone, iPod and laptop. Now I'm ready to enjoy the beach."

by Lewes residents Connie Miller and her sister Linda Fischer for many years — Miller remembers working in the kitchen with her mother, Marian Marshall, in 1982. Last year she and her crew roasted a dozen 25-pound turkeys to make the salad.

Overseen by the women of the church for many years, the art show today is a whole parish outreach event, with "outreach" being the key word: Initially, proceeds funded church projects, but since the 1980s community organizations have been the beneficiaries, reflecting the show's motto, "Art That Gives." Last year, the nearly \$22,000 raised went to the Community Resource Center in Rehoboth, which provides assistance to individuals and families in need; the Greater Lewes Community Village, which helps seniors live independently in their own homes; and Primeros Pasos, a multi-cultural early learning program for preschool children in Georgetown.

Reflecting on the show's success, Lewes native Ann Moore, a volunteer since the 1960s, sums up its long history: "It was just a very popular event that people looked forward to — it's something that local people did, and now people come from all over the area. And it continues to be very well received."

— Barbara Hames

See the Show

The art show will be held Saturday, July 2, rain or shine, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Second and Market streets, in Lewes. Admission is free; lunch is available at a nominal cost. ■

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Beach Briefs

ARTIFACT SPOTLIGHT

Date Stamp, Circa 1889



Among the many artifacts on display inside the old Ocean View post office is a date stamp used from 1889 to 1919 by Postmistress Annie Betts, one of the first women to have served in that position, according to Barbara Slavin, a volunteer in charge of education programming for the Ocean View Historical Society.

Visitors to the society's historical complex at 39 Central Ave. can step inside the original freestanding post office and see the stamp, donated by the Brunner-McCann family, and other artifacts. The complex is open Wednesdays from 1 to 4 p.m. from June 1 through Aug. 31. For information, visit ovhistoricalsociety.org. ■

Photograph by Scott Nathan

HISTORY LESSON

The following story was published in The Delaware Pilot in 1914.

Funding for the Lewes Canal, 1914

LEWES — It is stated, on good authority, that a large delegation of business men of this town are making preparations to visit Washington, D.C., on behalf of the work being done on Lewes Canal and to secure more appropriations.

They will call upon Senator Willard Saulsbury and Congressman Brockson to lay the matter before them and get a hearing before the Rivers & Harbors Committee.

Their errand is to have the mouth of Lewes Canal changed from its present location to a point opposite the beach and secure the full appropriation of \$151,944.40, which is what was recommended by the local engineers to complete the work.

The \$151,944.40 amount was cut down to \$60,000 by the Chief Engineer in the Rivers & Harbors Bill; \$12,000 of this is to be used for deepening a channel from Ocean View to Bethany Beach and \$48,000 remaining to build the railroad bridge at Rehoboth.

The question of the change of the mouth to the canal will be strongly urged. The mouth now is several miles from town and continually filling in with sand and mud making it impossible for vessels of size to navigate.

According to present plans it is sought to change the mouth to near town, somewhere near where the old Queen Anne railroad bridge was located. ■

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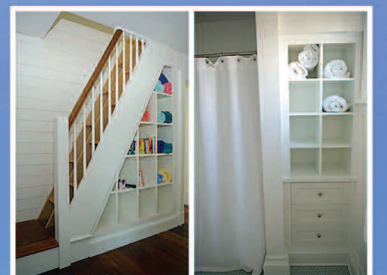


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NEW CITY HALL

Cementing a Municipal Bond

In 1964, the year that Rehoboth Beach’s now-demolished City Hall was built, Lyndon Johnson was president and teenage baby boomers were swept up in Beatlemania. Fifty-two years later, many of those Fab Four fans are now retirees in coastal Delaware, and that ’60s-era building is but a memory, with construction underway to replace it with a sparkling 21st-century government complex.

“It’s going to be a landmark on Rehoboth Avenue,” City Manager Sharon Lynn says of the \$18 million project, which is being financed through a low-interest federal loan. Achieving that eye-pleasing status, along with optimal functionality, was the goal of the City Hall Complex Master Plan Task Force, which worked for a year to plan the facility with Mike Wigley of the Milford architectural firm Davis, Bowen & Friedel. The task force included not just public officials whose workplace was being designed (city commissioners, the mayor, city manager, chief of police, and 911 communications supervisor) but four representatives of the community.

What did they all agree upon? For one thing, this City Hall will have a coming-to-meet-you quality, given its street-side location, as will the police department next door, making both easy to find. (“The police will have a real presence on Rehoboth Avenue,” says Mayor Sam Cooper, “which is good urban planning.”)

The main building, which will have a traditional look in keeping with Rehoboth’s small-town character, will house city administrative offices, a commissioners’ meeting room, the Information Technology department, Alderman Court (in which traffic and other violations of city ordinances are adjudicated), and the Building & Licensing Department. Another structure within the complex (which city officials hoped would be completed in May, ahead of tourist season) is located off City Hall Drive and Lake Avenue, and is home to the Parking Department and Rehoboth Beach Main Street. The latter is the city-

supported nonprofit that facilitates long-term economic development and business retention.

Once the main building is complete, architectural upgrades to the adjacent convention center’s exterior will aesthetically “marry” the two structures, with “substantial completion” of the overall project expected in February 2017. Before that day arrives, though, City Hall workers are operating from trailers in the public parking lot behind the Rehoboth Avenue fire station. The arrangement actually hasn’t been too bad for city administrative staff, says Lynn, noting that their four linked trailers provide more room than the old City Hall offices did.

The curious can view construction progress at the new complex, as it rises from the muddy ground, via webcam at cityofrehoboth.com/webcam. ■

— Laurel Marshfield




A \$18 million project underway on Rehoboth Avenue will create a new home for the City of Rehoboth’s administrative offices and bring architectural upgrades to the convention center, above. A separate structure, left, will house the Parking Department and Rehoboth Beach Main Street.

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Beach Briefs

INTERACT WITH US



Locals love June because all the summer opportunities — such as outdoor activities and resort-area restaurants and shops — are available, but the crush of tourist crowds is less on the weekdays. How do you take advantage of summer fun during the week in June, when you can more easily get around and find parking?

Shelley Grabel: Get up early, go to Surf Bagel and pick up breakfast, go to Gordons Pond and have a quiet breakfast on the beach. If you bring your bike, you can ride it from Rehoboth to Lewes and back again.

Janet Meenehan Point: Rehoboth Beach [Restaurant] Week runs from June 5 to 10. Great deals on some trophy meals. Oh, and Cafe Azafran's paella night is up and running in June. To burn up those calories, the parks [are] quiet in June, and you can see plenty of birds on a walk, a trail ride or a paddle. Great to celebrate the solstice watching the sunset on one of the bays or rivers.

Beth Reynolds: We enjoy the beach, boardwalk and restaurants all year. We love June as we have restaurant week and weather is good with low crowds. During the summer we don't let the crowds keep us away. We use park-and-ride. This is a great place to live with the ability to enjoy so much beauty outdoors.

Deny Howeth: No way I'm telling my secrets. ■

HIDDEN GEMS

A Rare Find in Fenwick Island

Editor's note: "Hidden Gems" is a new addition to the Beach Briefs that spotlights interesting little-known destinations in coastal Delaware.

In the late 18th century, Spanish dollars were the currency of the world. The "pieces of eight" (so called because they were worth eight *reales*), were used everywhere because of the uniformity of the silver coins.

But in England, in order for the dollar to be accepted as legal tender, it had to be stamped with a small portrait of King George III. The profile of the British monarch was put in the middle of the coin, smack dab in the neck of King Carlos IV, the Spanish monarch whose profile was already there.

Neither king was popular, leading to the ditty, "The Bank to make their Spanish dollars pass/Stamped the head of a fool on the head of an ass."

The stamped coins weren't in circulation for long, notes Dale Clifton, collector and owner of the DiscoverSea Shipwreck Museum in Fenwick Island. "Most were called back by the government and melted into English shillings," he says.

So imagine his delight recently when he found on an Atlantic Ocean beach near the Maryland-Virginia line a Span-

ish piece of eight with King George III on it.

"It was caked in dirt and sediment and had some kind of wax-like coating on it," he says. "I cleaned it off and as soon as I saw it, I knew what it was. I had read about these coins and knew that it was rare."

Dated 1791, the coin is on display at the museum for the first time this summer. DiscoverSea focuses on items from shipwrecks and excavated Colonial sites. "We have one of the largest collections of shipwreck artifacts on the Eastern Seaboard," asserts Clifton, who opened his museum in 1997.

Another gem tucked away in the rooms of DiscoverSea is Clifton himself. He

has nearly 30 years of coin collecting under his belt and is happy to share information with visitors. This summer, after a deep-sea expedition in the spring, he plans to spend as much time as possible at his museum.

The DiscoverSea Shipwreck Museum is located at 708 Coastal Highway. In

the summer, it is open seven days a week, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, visit discoversea.com or call 539-9366. ■

— Lynn R. Parks



A Spanish dollar, or "piece of eight" that Dale Clifton found on a beach near the Maryland-Virginia state line is among the treasures displayed at his DiscoverSea Shipwreck Museum.



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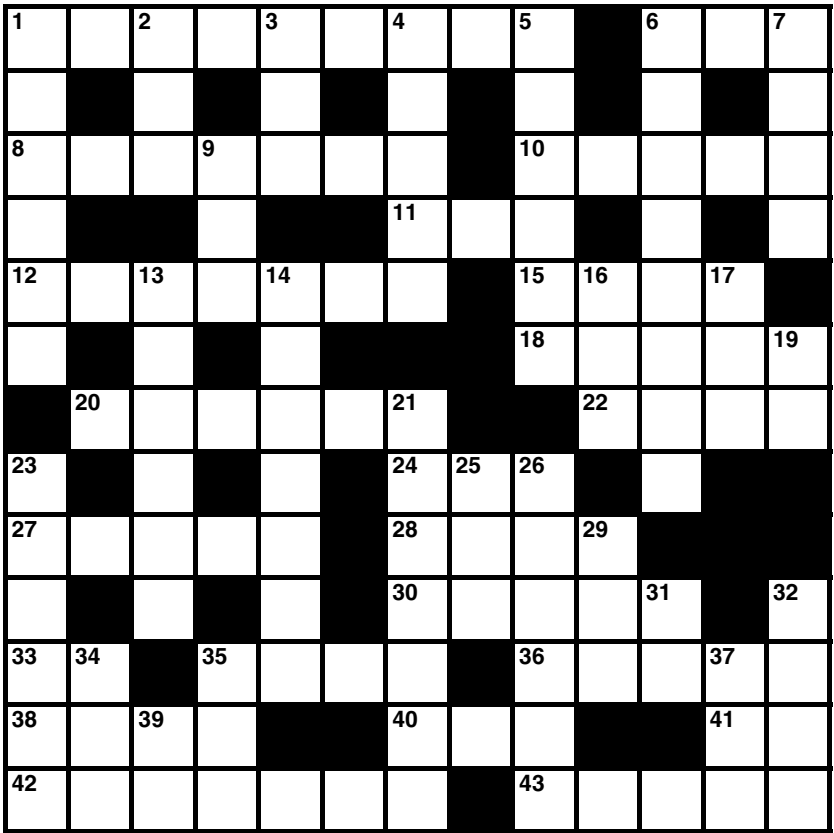
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- Across**

 - 1 Wildlife refuge next to Broadkill Beach
 - 6 Fashionable
 - 8 Seafood aphrodisiac
 - 10 Pulls hard on
 - 11 Savings account, for short
 - 12 Seaside pools
 - 15 Granny, for one
 - 18 More than great
 - 20 Coves
 - 22 Swarm like fishes
 - 24 Football referee
 - 27 Central beams on a boat
 - 28 Shade of green
 - 30 "Love Me Two Times" group, with "the"
 - 33 Length measurement, abbr.
 - 35 State park that is the site of Fort Miles, goes with 6 down
 - 36 They show the direction of the wind
- Down**

 - 1 Rehoboth Beach segment named after a small dog
 - 2 "___ a beautiful day in the neighborhood"
 - 3 Time just before an event
 - 4 Peaceful sanctuary
 - 5 One-person crafts
 - 6 See 35 across
 - 7 Swanky
 - 9 Deuce in poker
 - 13 Bird known to plunge-dive for fish off the Delaware shores
 - 38 Cold in Spanish
 - 40 Billiard shooter
 - 41 "___ are the champions"
 - 42 While enjoying the Delaware beaches you might want to just ___ and relax, two words
 - 43 Delaware ___
- 14 Unenclosed waters, out in the Atlantic, for example
 - 16 Almond, cashew, etc.
 - 17 It's at the start of a round
 - 19 Room, for short
 - 21 Place to get tanned on a yacht
 - 23 Small boats
 - 25 "O Sole ___"
 - 26 Piping ___, endangered bird common in some of the Delaware beaches
 - 29 Historic time period
 - 31 Tin symbol
 - 32 Computer operator
 - 34 ___maran
 - 35 Cygnet's father
 - 37 One who has a little lamb
 - 39 Tag player

 **On the Web** For answers to our exclusive crossword puzzle created by Myles Mellor, visit our website at delawarebeachlife.com/crossword.

