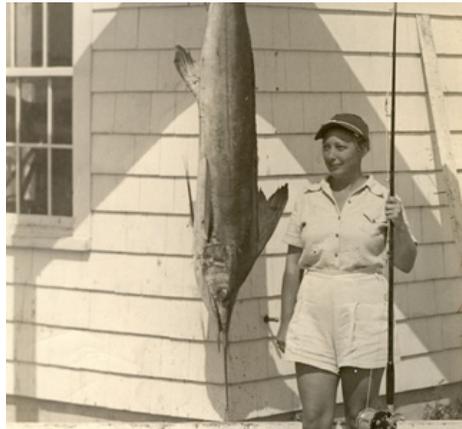


SEPTEMBER 2023



SCUTTLEBUTT

OCEAN CITY LIFE
SAVING STATION
MUSEUM



Top: Ocean City Life-Saving Station, 1878 Style

Bottom Left: Pearl Shuster standing beside her catch of marlin, c. 1940

Bottom Right: Family of four sailing down the Sinepuxent Bay in a sailboat, c. 1920s



September is here! Summer is over! But things are very busy within the Ocean City Museum Society. The activities include: the restoration of the old Bank of Ocean City building on the corner of Baltimore Avenue and Dorchester Street and the addition of an elevator to the current building. The Museum of Ocean City is the name that the board selected to call this new branch of the Ocean City Lifesaving Station Museum. The largest fundraising project that the board has undertaken is being planned and started this month. We need to raise an additional \$500,000 to be able to complete the project.

The Museum of Ocean City will be restored to its appearance in 1916 when it first opened as the Bank of Ocean City. Built-in 1910 and operated as a general store, the plans include displays about the bank but also other early events around town. Meeting space, lecture space, and archival storage are also included. Stay tuned for progress reports!

With cooler weather arriving this would be an opportune time for a visit to the Ocean City Lifesaving Station Museum on the inlet end of the boardwalk. Take a picture with the beautiful fall display with the two-and-a-half-ton anchor. October is History Month in Worcester County, and along with all the museums in the county, The OCLSS Museum has a full month of activities planned. Check out our website for more information.

Remember the Ocean City Spirit Award! Check the website for more information, but take the time to nominate someone to be honored with this annual award. Find the application under the "Support" dropdown tab.

Take a little time to stroll the boardwalk, enjoy some popcorn and French fries, and stop by the museum and say hi.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

"Beginning with the historical origins of the U.S Coast Guard's rescue boat community, CG 41332 offers the first book-length accounts of this 1977 accident, the lineage of surfmen, and the evolution of the service's National Motor Lifeboat School. Meticulously prepared by a former Cape Disappointment surfman, CG 41332 brings new light to the relationships between these interconnected histories and also explores healing after adversity."

Available in the Museum Gift Shop.

John will be hosting a virtual book talk on October 28th as a part of our Worcester County History Month. Contact the museum to receive the online link.



41332

SURFMEN, THE CAPE DISAPPOINTMENT MOTOR LIFEBOAT SCHOOL, AND THE FORGOTTEN TRAGEDY THAT TRANSFORMED U.S. COAST GUARD BOAT OPERATIONS

JOHN KOPP



MUSEUM OF OCEAN CITY

217 South Baltimore Avenue | Ocean City, Maryland



The original building in the early 1900s



The vision for the restoration

Our Ocean City community has been given an opportunity to preserve and present, to the public, a glimpse of The Ocean City Historical Story.

The Original Bank of Ocean City building was built as a general store in 1910 and became the Bank of Ocean City, the town of Ocean City's first bank, in 1916.

In order to restore the existing building to its early 1900 state, we **NEED YOUR HELP**. We have grants for \$650,000 and need \$500,000 to complete this restoration and open it to the public.

Help us reach our goal of \$500,000
100% of your donation will go to this building.

\$50,000

\$25,000

\$10,000

\$5,000

Other

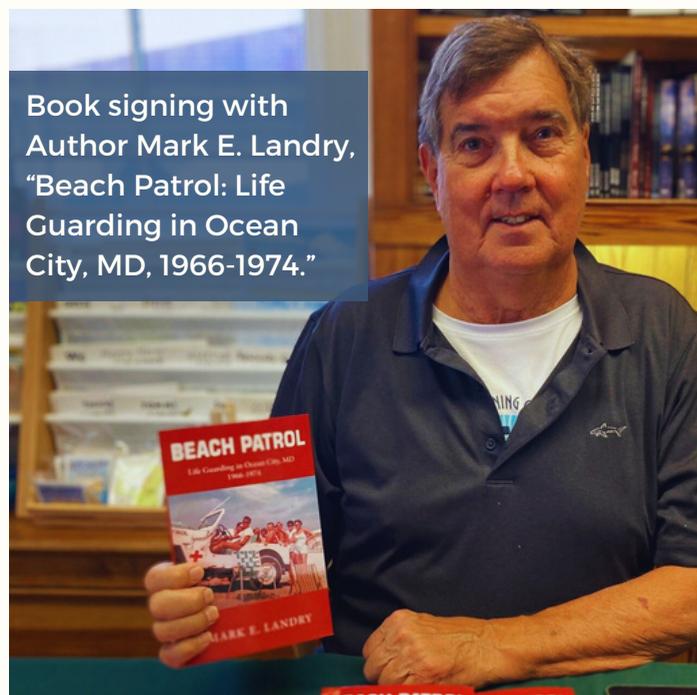
Please check a level of support and make your 501-C3 tax deductible donation to:

OC Museum Society

PO Box 603 | Ocean City, MD 21843



Tour group from TRIO Upward Bound out of Ohio.



Book signing with Author Mark E. Landry, "Beach Patrol: Life Guarding in Ocean City, MD, 1966-1974."



Curator Christine and Assistant Curator Cara at the "Adapting to a Changing Climate", a professional development experience hosted by the Maryland Coastal Bays.



Our Land, Sky and Sea Program overlooking the Inlet.



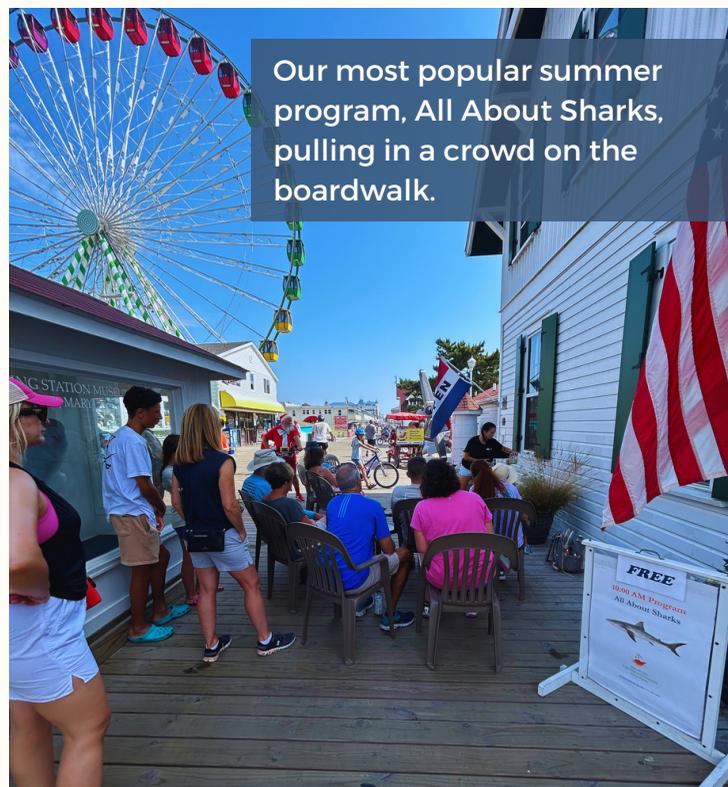
A school field trip group learning about the life-saving service.

SPIRIT AWARD

Do you know someone who has helped preserve local history? If so, we invite you to nominate them for the Spirit Award. Both individuals and organizations are eligible. For nominee requirements, please visit <https://www.ocmuseum.org/support-us/spiritaward>



Curator Christine teaching about horseshoe crabs during a Daily Aquarium Feeding.



Our most popular summer program, All About Sharks, pulling in a crowd on the boardwalk.



Book signing with Author Bunk Mann, "OC Chronicles", with a visit from Senator Mary Beth Carozza.



We had several authors stop in to sign copies of their books for the Museum Shop.



MEET OWEN, ONE OF OUR SUMMER VOLUNTEERS!

Owen has started his senior year at Manchester Valley High School. His favorite animal in the Aquarium Room is Boh the diamondback terrapin. After high school Owen wants to attend Salisbury University to study biology or environmental science. In his free time he enjoys playing soccer. While volunteering, Owen held meet and greets with our diamondback terrapin outside the museum.

CURATOR'S NOTE

WRITTEN BY CHRISTINE OKERBLOM

Our aquariums are a big draw for us here at the Museum. We receive thousands of visitors who enter the Museum annually to attend our daily summer aquarium programs. When DNR invited me to join them on their boat, I said “YES” with no hesitation, as I knew it would be an opportunity to collect new specimens for our tanks. As I stepped aboard, I had no idea my day would consist of making one small mistake after another.

Shortly after leaving the dock, we dropped anchor. Using a seine net, we pulled hundreds of fish species onto the boat. DNR was to identify, measure, and count all species on board. I stood there in awe, looking at the hundreds of fish before me, until Steve from DNR nudged me and said, "OK, get in there and help." I replied, "Oh, I'm here to collect fish for our aquariums; I'll just watch."

Steve replied, "If you're here, you will help!" I started scooping up fish, measuring, and identifying them. I shouted to the guy recording data, “17 black drum!” Steve interrupted, “No, those are sheepshead.” I thought to myself, let's try this again. I counted and measured more fish and shouted to the guy recording data, “11, black seabass!” Only to have Steve correct me again, "NO, wrong, those are tautogs." Strike 1 failed to identify fish correctly.

After hours of misidentifying fish, I had worked up an appetite, time for lunch. I pulled a banana out of my backpack; Steve shouted from across the boat, “YOU BROUGHT A BANANA ONBOARD!” I replied Yes, “would you like half?” I thought he must be hungry if he is this excited about splitting a banana with me. Steve replied, "NO, I don't want half; you are never supposed to bring a banana on board." That is when I learned that carrying a banana on board is bad luck; this superstition dates back to the 1700s when lost ships were noted to have been carrying bananas as cargo. Sailors were also known to sail at high speeds when transporting bananas in fear of spoilage; because of this, they neglected to stop or slow down to catch fish for the crew. Strike 2, banana on board.

Nearing the end of the day, I pulled out my phone to take photos, as I promised the staff back at the Museum that I would photograph this experience so we could share it in our upcoming museum newsletter. After photographing the boat, fish, and beautiful scenery, I jumped in the water to help collect more fish. As I returned to the boat, I noticed my phone was missing. Before I knew it, everyone onboard was helping me look for it. After we flipped every cooler and backpack upside down, Steve said, “You would have had to set it down on the edge of the boat for it to go overboard; it must be somewhere on the boat.” Then it dawned on me that I did exactly that: I sat my phone on the boat's edge before getting in the water to collect more fish. As my phone sat at the bottom of the bay, I thought about how my day on the water was a humbling experience. Strike 3, phone overboard, derailed data collection.

Despite my three strikes, I managed to collect several fish species for the museum aquariums. These include a smooth puffer, pigfish, grouper, pipefish, lined seahorse, black drum, tautog, and black seabass. Even though I made several mistakes on the water that day, I came to shore with new appreciation and knowledge regarding our native wildlife. I encourage you to visit the Museum this fall so you, too, can develop a deeper appreciation and knowledge for the wildlife that call our region home!



ASSISTANT CURATOR'S NOTE

WRITTEN BY CARA DOWNEY

Dear Members and Friends of the Museum,

It has been a busy summer for us! Besides having many visitors and programs, we have been working on the museum's Oral History Project. Our summer History Intern, Eddie St. Lawrence from Western Connecticut State University, has conducted interviews all summer and will continue with this project through December.

Oral history interviews are essential because they provide a unique and personal perspective on historical events and experiences. They allow individuals to share their stories, which may not have been recorded or documented in other ways, and provide insight into the social, cultural, and political contexts of the time. These interviews also help preserve and celebrate the diversity of human experiences and perspectives, ensuring that future generations can access a more complete and accurate historical record.

If you or someone you know lives or has lived in the Worcester County area and would like to participate in this project, please get in touch with us at intern@ocmuseum.org.



The competition features three of Lou's favorite categories: the beach, boardwalk, and sunset. The contest is open to all novice and professional photographers (18 and over). Each category winner will be awarded \$250.00, and the grand prize winner will take home a grand total of \$500.00 in prize money. Also, this year we will be including a People's Choice vote! This allows friends and family to vote on their favorite photos. The winner of People's Choice will take home a gift basket valued at \$100.00!

To enter the contest or to vote:

<https://www.gogophotocontest.com/oceancitymuseumsociety>



Worcester County History Month

OCTOBER 2023



All Month Long | Fall Photo Opportunity | Free | Grab a family photo in front of our display of fall flowers, pumpkins, and our 2.5-ton anchor! Located on the Boardwalk next to the museum.

All Month Long | Annual Spirit Award Nominations | Free | Do you know someone who has helped preserve local history? If so, we invite you to nominate them for the Spirit Award. Both individuals and organizations are eligible. Please visit ocmuseum.org for nominee requirements.

Mondays | History of Our Surfman | 1:00 PM | With Paid Admission | Come meet Keeper Allan and learn about life as an Ocean City Storm Warrior.

Tuesdays | History & Mystery of the American Eel | 1:00 PM | With Paid Admission | Join us as we delve into the mysterious life of eels.

October 7 | Petticoat Regime Performance with the Ocean Pines Players | 11 AM | Free | This performance will offer a glimpse into the lives of four women responsible for running some of Ocean City's largest establishments in the 1920s. These industrious figures helped build the town of Ocean City into the bustling destination it is today.

October 9-15 | Locals Week | Free Admission | We are offering free admission to all Eastern Shore locals. If you live on the Delmarva Peninsula, stop by and enjoy the museum free of charge!

October 12 | Authors Day | 11 AM-1 PM | Free with Paid Admission | Meet authors Bunk Mann and Joanne Guilfoil with their books "OC Chronicles" and "Chickens on Delmarva: 100 Years of Backyard Flocks, Farms, and Friends".

October 14 | Harbor Days at the Docks | 10:00-3:00 PM | Free | You can visit us at Harbor Days on the docks. This event features artisan exhibits, seafood cooking demonstrations, tales of the sea, children's activities, and much more. Located at the OC Commercial Fishing Harbor.

October 21 | Museum Open House | 10:00 AM-5:00 PM | Free Admission | Make Your Own Watercolor Postcard with Artist Joanne Guilfoil, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM. Join us for this drop-in program as we bring life and color to historic Ocean City line drawings. Station 4 Historic Tour, 1:00 PM. Take a trip back in time as you walk through Ocean City's once-active 1891 Life-Saving Station.

October 28 | Surfmen of the U.S. Life-Saving Service and U.S. Coast Guard with Author John Kopp | 1-2 PM | Free | Please reach out to the museum to sign up to receive the online link for this virtual talk.

October 31 | Ghost Stories from the Sea | 10:00 AM-12:00 PM | With Paid Admission | Actor Ed Guinan will represent Anton, an 1883 shipwreck victim. Ed will tell the story of the three-masted, two-decked schooner, Sallie W. Kaye, running aground off the coast of Ocean City, and how one of 8 crew members made the deadly attempt to swim ashore.

October 31 | Historical Figure Costume Contest | 10:00 AM-5:00 PM | With Paid Admission | Come dressed as a historical figure to be entered to win a museum prize pack!

SUMMER INTERNS

Eddie has started his senior year at Western Connecticut State, studying history. This summer, he conducted interviews with Ocean City locals to extend upon the museum's collection of recorded interviews. Eddie has decided to stay on this fall to continue this project. While researching he has had the most interest in learning about the local hotels, particularly the history of the Commander Hotel.



EDDIE ST. LAWRENCE
SUMMER HISTORY INTERN



MOLLY EHRHART
SUMMER EDUCATOR INTERN

Molly has started her senior year at Grove City College studying conservation biology. Her favorite animal in the Aquarium Room is Boh the diamondback terrapin. Molly hosted the All About Sharks programs and daily Aquarium Feedings. During her summer in Ocean City she has enjoyed meeting visitors in the museum and living with her grandparents in town during the internship.

Riley has started her junior year at the University of Delaware studying wildlife ecology and conservation, as well as marine science. Her favorite animal in the Aquarium Room is the lined seahorse. Riley hosted the Land, Sky and Sea programs and daily Aquarium Feedings. During her summer in Ocean City she has enjoyed afternoons at the Inlet beach and working at Harrison's Harbor Watch.



RILEY LANE
SUMMER EDUCATOR INTERN

Register today!
Pre-registration
guarantees you a
race day T-shirt!

9th STORM WARRIORS

Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

**DAY-OF REGISTRATION AND PRE-REGISTRATION PACKET PICKUP WILL OPEN AT 8:00 AM. THE GUN WILL GO OFF AT 9:00 AM!
OUR 5K RUN/WALK WILL TAKE PLACE RAIN OR SHINE.
AWARDS WILL TAKE PLACE DIRECTLY AFTER THE RACE.**

THERE AND BACK ON THE BOARDWALK STARTING AT THE INLET

REGISTER HERE 



OCEAN CITY LIFE-SAVING STATION MUSEUM



Illustration from the Demorest's Family Magazine, May 1891



During downtime, the USLSS surfmen could be found hanging out in the parlor, also known as the day room. One might find them playing cards, reading, carving wooden decoys, or playing music. Many of the stations had a piano in their parlor.

Library cabinets were rotated between the stations, and women's volunteer organizations would collect and supply the books.

Occasionally, in the evenings, and only during good weather, the wives, girlfriends, and friends of the surfmen would come for an evening of dancing and entertainment.



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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

