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It's Oyster Season!

For many, the arrival of fall sparks visions of apple picking, pumpkin patches and autumn leaves. For me, and for many others throughout the Chesapeake region, it signals the beginning of oyster season and the unique cultural events and offerings that celebrate watermen/women, skipjacks and the delectable oyster.

The skipjack was named the state boat of Maryland in 1985. At that time, the Maryland General Assembly noted, "nothing better represents the way of life of Maryland watermen than the historic Chesapeake boat known as the skipjack."

During the 2024-2025 oyster season, less than a dozen skipjacks dredged for oysters off the shores of Deal Island, in the Tangier Sound. They are the last remaining skipjacks in a fleet that, in its heyday, included hundreds (some say a thousand or more) of the specialized sail boats designed to harvest oysters from the Chesapeake.

The first skipjack I ever boarded was the Thomas Clyde, when I was in my early 20s. My then-fiance's father had passed away and his family

chartered a boat to disperse his ashes. When my daughter Ella was no more than 5-years old, my parents bought a tiny cottage on Deal Island. They took ownership Labor Day Weekend, and I witnessed my first skipjack race from their yard. I was instantly in love. A few years later, I had the distinct pleasure of meeting Capt. Stoney Whitelock. At the time, Stoney was restoring his 4th skipjack. I eagerly followed him around Scott's Cove Marina and asked dozens of questions. The marina remains one of my favorite places to explore.

Now, I spend time on Deal Island throughout the year. I traipse around the wildlife management area to find newly-arriving fall migrants – so many birds! I also spend a considerable amount of time sitting on the dock and staring at the Tangier Sound. It's my special kind of nature therapy. When I have the time, I do my best to talk my way onto boats as often as I can. I've gone fishing, crabbing, tonging and dredging with local watermen, sailed from Wenona to Cambridge, motored around the sound, and paddled through marshes.

I frequently have marsh mud between my toes. A couple years ago, I invited myself onto an oyster restoration boat, planting oyster spat for an aquaculture operation – it was fascinating! I am fortunate to have a generous circle of friends who indulge my curiosity.

In the fall, there's a sweet spot in October, when crabs are still in season and the oyster season has started. I feast on local catch straight off the boats, visit with friends and take as many photographs as I can, trying my best to capture every sparkle on the water, every brilliant fall sunset over the marsh, and every magic moment conjured. The Chesapeake is an incredible resource, intertwined with every aspect of life, here.

So, finish your pumpkin spice latte, grab an oyster stout and settle in to learn more about oysters, the iconic skipjack and the incredible events and opportunities waiting for you.

Fair winds and following seas,

Carrie Samis
Editor

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Skipjack Arts Studio: Home to three Chestertown Artists



By Carrie Samis

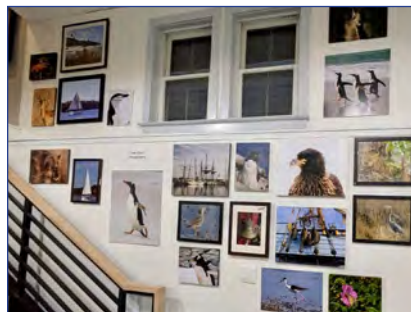
Married since 1977, Tom and Betty Dietz have traveled the world together. At the moment, they are busy restoring a historic house on Queen Street in Chestertown. They bought the home in 2022. Their goal is to renovate the circa 1859 property and ensure it is a net zero home – quite the admirable goal!

The house is the Dietzes second big project in Chestertown's state-designated Main Street District. Their first project, The Skipjack Arts Studio, opened in 2023. Today, the location is home to three Chestertown artists' studios, each with a different artistic bent. Photography, fiber art and culinary art – The Skipjack Arts Studio has it all.

The bicolored blue building, reminiscent of Chesapeake water and sky, can't be missed, especially with the 7' x 7' half hull model of a skipjack mounted on the side of the building. Once a Deal Island resident, Tom Dietz loves skipjacks, so he had one made for the art studio building. The ship hull, masts and rigging were constructed by renowned boat builder John Swain. Powder-coated metal sails were fabricated by Wes Cowley of Bee Crafty Metals, located in nearby Centerville, MD. After special permission was granted

by the historic district, the model was mounted to the outside of the building. It is approximately 1/7 of size of the historic skipjack Elsworth, owned by Echo Hill Outdoor School, which can be seen docked downtown at the Chestertown Marina (unless it's out sailing with a group of students). Once inside the building, visitors can indulge in the work of three artists – Tom Dietz, Betty Dietz, and Charles Bennett.

Tom Dietz Photography



Tom Dietz loves skipjacks, birds and travel. His personal passion is photography. Whether traveling the world or tooling around Chestertown, Dietz encounters a wealth of subjects for his art. "I do mostly nature photography. "We travel the world and that gives me an opportunity to photograph birds, especially," says Dietz. "Bird photography is hard. It's challenging. That's why I like it. The diversity of birds is fascinating. I am amazed by how they

have all evolved," he continued. One of his favorite local spots includes the Lawrence Wetlands Preserve, an 8.5 acre urban nature center owned by Sultana Education Foundation. His other favorite spot is Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service property, in nearby Rock Hall. Established in 1962, the 2,285-acre island is a sanctuary for migratory birds. Many of the photographs on display at Dietz' studio are of migratory birds.

DreamCastle Quilt Studio



Betty Dietz, wife of Tom, has her own passion project - DreamCastle Quilt Studio. Her art is created with carefully curated layers of fabric. She began quilting

Continued on page 11

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Elsworth, Echo Hill's Floating Classroom

By Carrie Samis

In 1972, a group of visionaries created Echo Hill Outdoor School, located in Worton, MD. The school, rooted in experiential environmental education, has been teaching students for the last 53 years - with no classrooms, no textbooks, and no assignments. Exploring natural landscapes, from marshes to local waterways, students have the opportunity to observe and appreciate

Continued on page 9

The historic skipjack Elsworth, built in 1901, now serves as a mobile classroom for learning about the Chesapeake Bay.
PHOTOS COURTESY OF ECHO HILL OUTDOOR SCHOOL



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Continued from page 8

the environment surrounding them. Echo Hill inspires future environmental stewards through playing, learning and exploring the outdoors. Today, more than 6,000 students and teachers visit Echo Hill Outdoor School, annually – whether on land, in their wooded bayside campus, or on the water, aboard the school's historic fleet. The immersive programs provide opportunities to experience wonder, foster curiosity, and facilitate deep learning - all sparked by nature.

During lessons on the adventure/challenge course, in Echo Hill's nature preserve and freshwater swamp, and around the waterways and fields of rural Kent County, program participants experience science in real



Each year, over 6,000 students and teachers participate in immersive environmental education programs offered by Echo Hill Outdoor School.

life, creating a foundation for environmental literacy. Programs foster practical understanding of environmental science based on hands-on experiences, and help

each student bolster a sense of self-reliance, confidence, and independence.

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Continued from page 9

Echo Hill maintains a fleet of traditional workboats, previously used in Chesapeake Bay commercial fisheries for decades, to provide an authentic historical perspective for students studying current bay-related issues. The historic wooden workboats are the cornerstone of Echo Hill's science and history programs. The boats are used for a variety of classes and adventures that allow participants to study the wonders of Chesapeake Bay ecology. Each vessel is outfitted with laboratory equipment, enabling it to function as a mobile science classroom for bay studies. The boats are certified by the United States Coast Guard (USCG) as small passenger car-



rying vessels, and are operated by Echo Hill staff who are USCG-licensed captains.

The skipjack Elsworth is one of five historic Chesapeake Bay workboats utilized by Echo Hill Outdoor School for programs. Skipjacks were specifically designed to dredge for oysters in the Chesapeake Bay. Docked in Chestertown, MD, the Elsworth is one of only a few skipjacks remaining on the Chesapeake Bay. Built in 1901, the 40-ft. boat is listed among 21 skipjacks built prior to 1912, and is included on the National Register of Histor-

ic Places. Skipjacks are the last fleet of sail-powered work boats in the United States. The Elsworth dredged oysters commercially for 95 years. For nine seasons, from 1988-1996, Captain Andy McCown, on staff at Echo Hill Outdoor School, dredged for oysters to help pay off the boat, in addition to conducting educational programs. Since 1997, the Elsworth has been utilized solely for educational purposes, ranging from week-long, live aboard summer programs, to Chesapeake Heritage Initiative programs with secondary school and college groups. The boat is also available for private charters. Visit www.ehos.org to learn more about Echo Hill Outdoor School and their custom designed education programs.

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“There’s lots of art going in the town. It’s a fun place,” says Tom Dietz, “next time you are in Chestertown, stop by Skipjack Arts Studio – 329 Cannon Street.”

Continued from page 6

40 years ago, while their children were in school. “I’ve taken lots of classes over the years. Now, teaching is my passion – passing on the skills of quilting to others,” says Dietz. “I have an extensive fabric collection for my art,” she continues, “and lots of machines, too.” Dietz does a lot of work in partnership with Chestertown River Arts, including a recent exhibit of wearable art. Learn more about classes and upcoming events at www.dreamcastlequiltstudio.com.



Brian’s Best Pastries

The newest addition to Skipjack Arts Studio, which is

equipped with a commercial kitchen, involves culinary art.

Brian’s Best Pastries opened in August 2025. It is a dream realized for Chef Charles Bennett. His original location in Philadelphia opened in 2009. After a 10-year hiatus, Bennett reimagined his business and, ultimately, relocated to Chestertown. The dessert shop offers a variety of fresh-baked cookies, muffins, cakes, pies, tarts, croissants, scones, cheesecake and more. Both individual-serving sizes and whole desserts are available. We hear the pina colada cake is delicious! Visit www.briansbest-pastries.com for more information.

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Black Jacks of the Chesapeake & African American Skipjack Captains

By Carrie Samis

Since 1619, African Americans have had a relationship with the Chesapeake Bay. Well over 100,000 enslaved people arrived in America via the Chesapeake. Countless individuals worked on and around the Bay. While most arrived as captives, there were free Blacks who enjoyed aspects of freedom particular to life on the Chesapeake. Beginning in 1796, 67 years prior to the Emancipation Proclamation, the U.S. began issuing Seamen's Protection Certificates, affording citizenship to those who had them. With a deep understanding of waterways and access, some were able to help enslaved individuals escape, as part of the Underground Railroad. African American watermen, referred to as "Black Jacks," worked together with white men on the Chesapeake Bay, as shipbuilders, crew members, cooks, haulers, shuckers and more. Though institutionalized racism and intentionally oppressive laws negatively impacted Black watermen for generations, some eventually became captains and boat owners. There are only five known African American men who were Chesapeake skipjack captains, all of whom are now deceased - Capt. Melvin Bivens, Capt. Mervin D. Christy, Capt. Kermit R. L. Travers, Sr., Capt. Thompson Wallace and Capt. Richard White.

Capt. Mervin Christy is believed to have been the first Afri-



During the 2nd Annual Somerset County Black History Bus Tour, Elmer Barkley shared information about Capt. Mervin Christy (top, middle) and others depicted on a new mural in Crisfield, MD. PHOTO BY CARRIE SAMIS

can American skipjack owner in America. Christy worked as a waterman, dredging oysters and crabbing, until he retired in 1971. His skipjack, the Bernice J., was built in 1904. Upon retirement, he sold it to Echo Hill Outdoor School for educational use. Christy lived in Crisfield, MD and, in 2024, was included in a community-based mural supported by Beach to Bay Heritage Area. Artist Michael Rosato worked with Crisfield community members to paint the tribute to local Black heritage. Located at 618 W. Main Street, the Crisfield mural depicts 17 individuals including Capt. Christy, pictured with his beloved skipjack. To learn more, visit www.beachesbayswaterways.org.

Capt. Thomas Wallace's story

is one that ends in tragedy. One day in March 1977, the Claud W. Somers, a skipjack based out of Wenona, MD, was out on the water. At the time, Capt. Thompson Wallace owned and operated the boat, which he purchased the previous year. On that particular day, Capt. Wallace's crew included his son, brother, nephew, wife's cousin and one unrelated member. Wallace was experiencing trouble with the pushboat engine when a storm approached. As winds increased to 75 mph and seas surged, Capt. Wallace and the crew chose to remain on the boat. The skipjack sank in Hooper Strait. Tragically, Capt. Wallace and all 5 crew members

Continued on page 13



Black Heritage Murals

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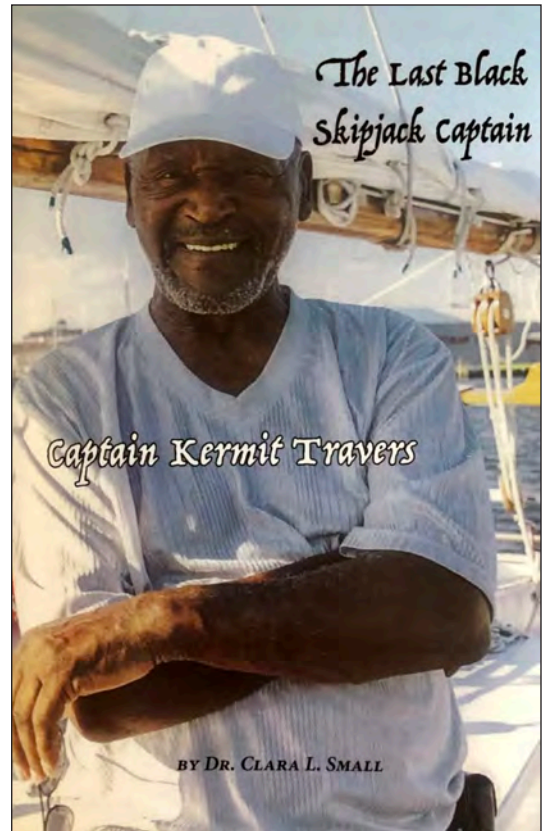


Continued from page 12

perished in the storm.

Capt. Kermit Travers was the last known African American skipjack captain. Just a few years ago, he received national attention as such and gave numerous interviews and talks about his experiences. His friend James Lane, a heritage-bearer from Crisfield, helped chronicle Capt. Travers' stories. Lane's project was picked up by Dr. Clara Small, a noted historian. She authored *The Last Black Skipjack Captain*, a book about Travers, published by Saltwater Media in 2019. Travers passed away in July 2024.

For more information about the Black experience in the Chesapeake region, visit www.blacksofthechesapeake.com.




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TONGING FOR OYSTERS

By Carrie Samis

Captain Stoney Whitelock, 77, is a fifth-generation waterman. He lives in Dames Quarter, MD, and works the Tangier Sound and the Chesapeake Bay. During the

summer months, he crabs, when he feels like it. During the fall and winter, he oysters. Whitelock is adept at restoring and sailing skipjacks, the Maryland State Boat, but for crab and oyster season, he uses a classic deadrise

boat.

During oyster season, dozens of boats from all over the bay region harvest from the same oyster rocks. The oyster rocks in the Tangier Sound offer some of the best natural catch in the entire Chesapeake Bay. Oysters must be at least 3-inches in length to be harvested. Off the shores of Deal Island, 4-4.5 in. oysters are harvested - and some are even bigger. Licensed tongers, like Whitelock, can harvest 12 bushels per day.

Whitelock's days start early. He readies the boat before dawn and leaves Scott's Cove Marina at 6:30 am. At that hour, it is still dark and sometimes so foggy the water and the sky are indistinguishable. While motoring the 42-ft boat to "Mud Rock," Whitelock eats a ham and egg sandwich, sips black coffee from his thermos, and smokes a couple

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(Above) April Benton offloads oysters at Kool Ice on Deal Island. (Right) As the fog clears, dozens of boats come into view, all harvesting from the same "rock." PHOTOS BY CARRIE SAMIS

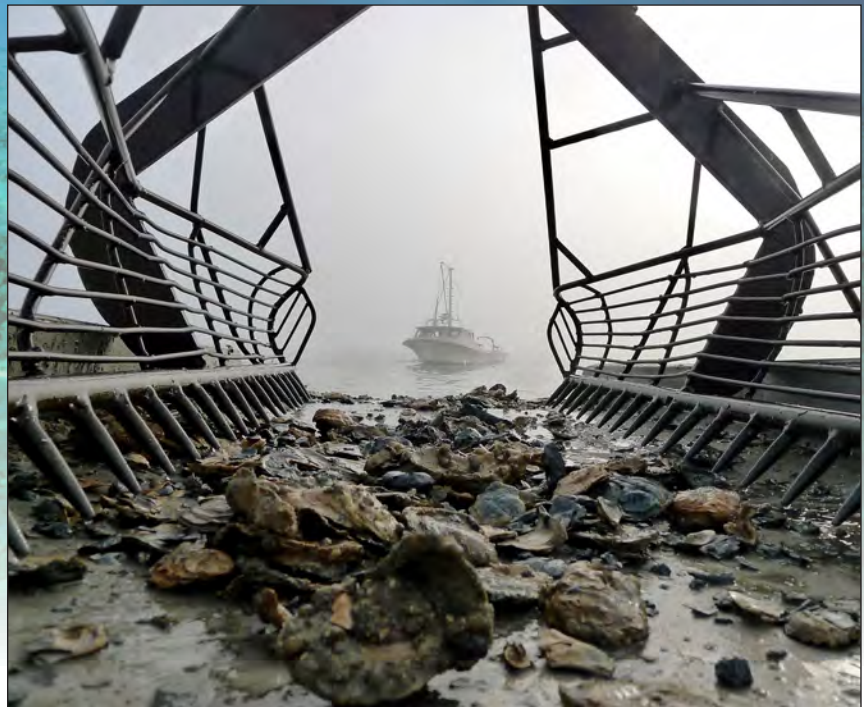


Captain Stoney Whitlock, a 5th-generation waterman, harvests oysters from the Tangier Sound.

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Marlboro cigarettes. Once in position, work begins immediately.

The drone of the diesel engine is interrupted by the jarring clank of the steel patent tongs, which weigh 200 pounds or more, as they are raised and lowered alongside the boat with a hydraulic system. Each time they wrench open, they send dozens of oysters crashing onto a metal table. Whitlock quickly culls shells and tosses oysters into bushel baskets. The tongs, designed specifically for harvesting oysters, minimize bycatch, unintentionally caught crabs and fish, which are quickly returned to the brackish water.



A close look at the tongs used to pull oysters up from the Tangier Sound. If you are not careful, there are a lot of ways to get hurt on a deadrise.

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After nearly three hours, the dense fog lifts, and dozens of other boats come into view. Local boats from Deal Island, Wenona, Princess Anne, and Crisfield are joined by boats from Cambridge, Rock Hall, Bozman, Tilghman Island, Hooper's Island, Annapolis and more. Most boats are operated by a crew of two to three people. Whitelock, however, often goes it alone.

By noon, Whitelock harvests his limit - 12 bushels. A bucket, tied to the end of a rope, is tossed overboard and pulled up several times as Whitelock quickly washes down the table and deck. He eats a second egg sandwich on the return trip. Within 30 minutes, his catch is offloaded and tallied at Island Seafood, located in Deal Island Harbor. By 1 pm, Whitelock expertly eases the deadrise back into her boat slip at Scott's Cove Marina and the oysters are washed and readied to be trucked and shucked - soon to be sucked down by some delighted diner.

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How does Capt. Stoney Whitelock prefer his oysters? Baked until bubbly in the oven - with a hunk of sharp cheddar cheese and bacon. Add a dash of hot sauce for a kick.

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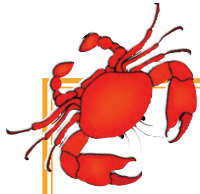
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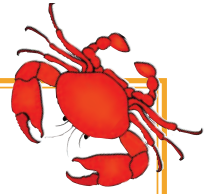
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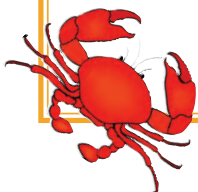
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Unique oyster-related items like these, found at Houston's Dockside Emporium, make great gifts. Houston's and other lovely shops are located in the Chestertown Main Street District.



During skipjack races, a committee boat is on the water, too, with the race officials including a timekeeper. The race starts when a small cannon is fired from the committee boat. PHOTO BY CARRIE SAMIS

An advertisement for Cripple Creek Golf & Country Club. The background is a scenic view of a golf course with a large body of water in the foreground. In the top left corner is the club's logo, a stylized "CC" in dark blue. In the top right corner, the text "Cripple Creek Golf & Country Club" is written in a serif font. In the bottom left, a white banner contains the contact information: "eliza.zitnay@cripplecreekgolf.com" and "302-539-1446 ext.4". In the bottom right, there are two polaroid-style inset photos: one showing a golfer in mid-swing on a green, and another showing the interior of a dining room with tables set with white cloths and blue napkins.

Skipjack Heritage Museum

By Carrie Samis

The Skipjack Heritage Museum has been open for just four years. Decades in the making, the Skipjack Heritage Museum was originally spearheaded by the Deal Island-Chance Lions Club, in the late 1970s. The project, however, never really got off the ground. In 2007, Skipjack Heritage, Inc. obtained its nonprofit status and reinvigorated the project. Bunky Carew and William Wheatley, now deceased, dedicated countless hours to the project, as did others, including Jack Willing, Robert Shores, Harold “Stoney” Whitelock and others. More than a dozen local volunteers and Skipjack Heritage, Inc. board members, garnered both cash and in-kind support to realize their vision. Though newly-constructed, the museum is modeled after Corbett’s Store, which had been on the property

since the early 1900s. Carefully-curated museum exhibits include hand-carved model boats, gilded trailboards, thousands of photographs, local memorabilia, and more - all donated by local families, skipjack enthusiasts, and folks passionate about preserving and celebrating Chesapeake history and heritage.

The Skipjack Heritage Museum is located at 23529 Deal Island Road, in Chance, MD. Parking is free.

Skipjack-related merchandise, including art, hats, shirts, and gifts, is available for sale. Museum entry is free but donations are welcome.

In addition to operating the museum, Skipjack Heritage, Inc. also organizes the annual Deal Island Skipjack Race, held annually on Labor Day, for the over 65 years. Follow Skipjack Heritage, Inc. on Facebook and Instagram for updates.



The Skipjack Heritage Museum, located at 23529 Deal Island Road, in Chance, MD, will celebrate with a Grand Opening and rope cutting, Saturday, May 8, 2021. (Inset) Robert Shores, left, and Harold “Stoney” Whitelock, both board members of Skipjack Heritage, Inc., a 501c3 nonprofit, along with many other volunteers, have donated hundreds of hours and resources to realize the community’s dream of a Skipjack Heritage Museum. PHOTOS BY CARRIE SAMIS



Antique Finds

Fall is the perfect time to take a meandering drive to all of your favorite antique shops, thrift stores and yard sales. If you are lucky, you might find a cool oyster tin or other seafood packing materials and ephemera. Oyster tins can still be found for \$10 or so, here and there, but some sell for \$100 or more, depending on the rarity and condition of the can. These tins, tokens and tags belong to an avid collector in Somerset County.



PHOTO BY CARRIE SAMIS

FROM FLIP FLOPS TO FLANNELS!

Your Guide to Somerset County Arts Council's August - October

Upcoming Events

August

Sun, Fun & The Great Prize Run

Join us for the month of August to hunt for beautiful artisan handiworks. One prize hidden daily!

You could find one of these wonderful prizes!

<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Driedwood and Shell Creations made from Beach Finds  Handmade Stained Glass Seagull 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Handmade Framed Fern, Bottle Opener, Energy Designed Post
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\$500 Off Token

Our August Exhibition!

Class Fishing Float Scavenger Hunt: Deal Island



For the month of August, we will be hiding a Class Float a day. Keep an eye out on our Facebook and Instagram for clues and hints! If you find one be sure to snap a picture to show off your beautiful prize!

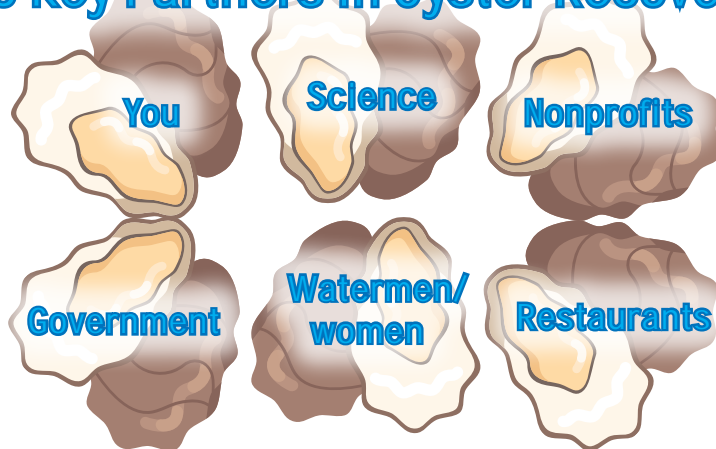
Classes and Events for the months of September and October are to be announced as we add them! Updates will be posted on our website (Socoarts.org), our Facebook (Somerset County Arts Council), and our Instagram (@Socoartsmd) page.

Oyster Recycling, Restoration & Recovery

By Carrie Samis

Oysters are a vital part of our culture and our economy. As filter feeders, they also provide vital ecosystem services that help keep our bays and waterways clean and healthy. For centuries oysters populations have been impacted by overharvest, habitat loss and disease. The good news is, we can all do things to help bolster oyster populations. When it comes to oysters, local efforts focus on 3 concepts: recycle, restore, recover. Private individuals, businesses, nonprofits, and local, state and federal government agencies all have a role to play.

6 Key Partners In Oyster Recovery



1. Science matters.

Population data and harvest numbers vary each year. It's important to continue to collect comparative data annually to assess habitat, disease and other key factors which impact oysters. University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) Horn Point Laboratory has been conducting oyster-related scientific research for decades. They grow oyster spat-on-shell that is "planted" across the Chesapeake region in large-scale restoration efforts.

2. Nonprofits bring the right folks together.

The Oyster Recovery Partnership leads efforts to restore native oyster populations in the Chesapeake Bay and beyond, through oyster restoration, shell recycling, sustainable fishery practices and conservation. to improve the health of all aquatic life and to enhance the economic value of this unique natural resource. As the lead, they convene partners to develop feasible steps to reach oyster recovery goals outlined in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. Partners work to-

gether to achieve tangible restoration results.

3. Restaurants play a key role.

Natural oyster shell is the best material to grow young oysters – and to use to restore oyster reefs. Each recycled oyster shell can return many new oysters to the water. Plus, oyster reefs provide valuable habitat, food, and protection for other marine animals and plants. Collectively, restaurants recycle tons of oyster shells. By patronizing participating restaurants, you're helping restore the Chesapeake Bay. Promote oyster shell recycling by supporting oyster-friendly businesses!

4. Commercial watermen & women are important partners.

Watermen/women understand the resource in ways that many do not. They have eyes on our bays more than most, as the water is their office. Working watermen/women offer a valuable perspective on natural resources. In addition to the commercial harvest of wild oysters, watermen/women work aquaculture bottom leases,



Oyster Recovery Partnership and MD DNR have been working together to plant oysters in the Manokin River Oyster Sanctuary located in Somerset County, MD. The Manokin Sanctuary is the last and largest of 10 sanctuaries planted as part of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. To date, 455 acres of restored oyster reefs have been planted with 1.38 billion hatchery spat. JOE ZIMMERMANN/MD DNR

too. The Eastern Shore, including coastal bays, has a total 249 bottom leases which amount to more than 5,530 acres of oyster habitat. Lease holders invest in focused restoration efforts, amending and creating habitat for growing oysters to market size.

5. Government agencies help.

Agencies including National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Maryland Department of Natural Resource (DNR) are important partners in science-based oyster conservation and restoration work. Federal, state and municipal government programs provide

expertise, permitting and funding support for oyster restoration work.

6. Your choices make a difference.

Dine at restaurants that serve sustainable seafood. Many restaurants make intentional decisions about the seafood they serve in an effort to conserve species and habitats. Not sure if your favorite restaurant is offering sustainable menu options? Ask! If they are, they will proudly tell you all about it. As a customer, you have a powerful voice, use it to advocate for sustainable seafood options.

When you eat oysters, recycle your shells. Did you know that

one recycled oyster shell can become a home for 10+ baby oysters? The easiest way that you can get involved and help Oyster Recovery Partnership achieve its mission to restore the native oyster population is by eating oysters and making sure the shells are recycled.

Here's how:

- Dine at shell recycling restaurants.
- Buy local oysters and recycle the shells at public drop sites.

Find Oyster Shell Recycling information and drop-off shell collection locations at www.oysterrecovery.org.

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AND FESTIVALS.” (WORLD ATLAS, AUG. 2025)**





Saturday, September 27th

Activities, entertainment, food, arts and craft vendors and live demonstrations, all showcasing the heritage of Crisfield.

The festival will be held behind the J.M. Tawes Historical Museum and Somers Cove Marina from 10 am to 4 pm.

ADMISSION IS FREE!

FOOD:

Crisfield Lions & Lioness Club Famous Crab Cake & Soft Crab Sandwiches, Local BBQ, Cupcakes, Ice Cream and Hot Dogs & more.

KID'S ACTIVITIES:

Face painting, sand art, games, paint a bird house, etc.

LIVE LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT:

Bring a Chair & Enjoy the Entertainment All Day

DEMONSTRATIONS & EXHIBITS:

Crab pot making, decoy carving, net making, fish cleaning, oyster shucking, crab picking, cooking, baking a Smith Island cake, and more.



CHESAPEAKE CHALLENGE DECOY CONTEST:

The Ward Foundation will hold their annual decoy contest at the Heritage Festival this year. This decades old tradition includes competition in several categories of decoy making. Come see the decoys being judged.

Sponsored by the
Crisfield Heritage Foundation
www.crisfieldheritage.org
crisfieldheritagefdn@gmail.com



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Oyster Shell Recycling Restaurants

Oyster Recovery Partnership's Shell Recycling Alliance collects oyster shells free of charge from public drop sites and restaurants throughout the Mid-Atlantic, making it the largest oyster shell recycling network in the nation. In the past year, nearly 27,000 bushels of shell have been recycled from 170 participating restaurants and 70 public drop sites. Since the Alliance's launch in 2010, ORP has reclaimed 330,000 bushels of shell, equivalent to 10,000+ tons kept out of landfills.

Here are some of the participating restaurants located on the Eastern Shore of Maryland:

DORCHESTER COUNTY

Blue Ruin
Choptank Oyster Company
Honga Oyster Co.
Ocean Odyssey
RAR Dive Club

KENT COUNTY

98 Cannon Riverfront Grille
Bay Wolf Restaurant
Harbor Shack
Waterman's Crab House
Restaurant & Dock Bar

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

Dock House
Fisherman's Inn
Harris Crab House & Sea-



food Restaurant
Headwaters Seafood & Grill
Kentmorr Restaurant
Knoxie's Table
Libbey's Coastal Kitchen
The Narrow's Restaurant

TALBOT COUNTY

Awful Arthur's
Harris Creek Oyster Co.
Headwaters Seafood & Grille
The Tidewater Inn


WICOMICO COUNTY

Evolution Craft Brewing Co.
Mogan's Oyster House

WORCESTER COUNTY

Fager's Island
Harrison's Harbor Watch

For public oyster shell recycling locations and more information, visit www.oysterrecovery.org.



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