

the Worcester County

# SAND PAPERS

ISSUE 17

NEWS FROM THE BEACH AND BEYOND IN WORCESTER COUNTY

SPRING 2010

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A few images from the 2009 Host Our Coast with hosts Paul Cox and Melanie McLean.



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## Host Our Coast gears up for 2010

### Summer travel journalist will share Delmarva stories

Delmarva Low-Impact Tourism Experiences (DLITE) is looking for the perfect person to Host Our Coast™, serving as a summer travel journalist—exploring Delmarva's beaches and bays and reporting back daily with online videos, photos, and blog posts. People across the country have applied. The winner, who will be announced by late May, receives \$15,000 to play on Delmarva's Coast all summer, as well as free accommodations at hotels, B&B's, and campgrounds. The new Host will begin documenting Delmarva travel for the summer season starting Memorial Day weekend.

DLITE will provide the selected travel journalist with daily assignments on Delmarva's coolest coastal events, people, and places. Assignments will include kayaking, cycling, hiking, wildlife watching, fishing, and more.

This contest is sponsored by DLITE, the Rural Development Center at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Worcester County Tourism, Southern Delaware Tourism, Full City Media, OceanCity.com, and Dorchester County Tourism.

The inaugural 2009 Host Our Coast contest winners, Paul Cox and Melanie McLean, drew more than 6,000 unique visitors to the website, 3,000 regular online followers, and 600 Facebook fans. Host Our Coast won the Visit Maryland Award by Governor Martin O'Malley and the Maryland State Office of Tourism, and the Professional Impact Award from the Maryland Tourism Council. Help choose this year's winner, and keep up with their travels at [www.hostourcoast.com](http://www.hostourcoast.com).

## NATURE TOURISM

## Delmarva Birding Weekend expands

The 2010 Delmarva Birding Weekend is set to bring hundreds of nature enthusiasts to the shore April 22-25 to enjoy a weekend of eagles, herons, warblers, and egrets.

Guided by professional birders from around the East Coast, the walking tours, boat trips, bike rides, and canoe paddles will accommodate visitors from the curious nature lover to fowl fanatics. Last year, birdwatchers from 20 states flocked to the event.

The Delmarva Peninsula is internationally recognized as a migratory hot spot for both shorebirds and songbirds. For this reason, most trips will be sold out.

Current trips include 18 canoeing and kayaking sojourns from new paddles on Ayres Creek to sunset and sunrise paddles; 14 day treks on private and public lands; 8 boat excursions from the Cape May-Lewes Ferry to Tilghman Island and 4 night hikes including the ever popular 'Night Birds of the Marsh' at E.A. Vaughn WMA. For details and reservations, go to [www.delmarvabirdingweekend.org](http://www.delmarvabirdingweekend.org).



NICO SARBANES

### AT A GLANCE

#### Delmarva Birding Weekend

**What:** Enjoy spring migration with more than 50 birding trips around Delmarva.

**When:** April 22–25, 2010

**Info:** [www.delmarvabirdingweekend.org](http://www.delmarvabirdingweekend.org)

## 50 artists to 'Paint Snow Hill' April 16-18

The seventh annual Paint Snow Hill begins Friday, April 16 and ends with the Wet Paint Show & Sale – 1-4pm on Sunday at the old firehouse on Green St. This is the only opportunity to view and buy paintings from the weekend. Up to 50 artists from Maryland, Delaware,



Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey will participate. Paint Snow Hill 2010 is sponsored by Bishop's Stock Fine Art & Fine Craft. Arts on the River (Snow Hill's A & E District) sponsors the Wet Paint Show and Sale, with a percentage of proceeds benefiting the Arts & Entertainment programs. An Artists' Choice Award will be given for the first time this year.



## Discount days at the Delmarva Discovery Center

Great savings on family fun! Special savings exclusively for Worcester, Somerset, Wicomico, Accomack, and Sussex County residents. Come visit the Delmarva Discovery Center and receive a special rate on the first weekend of the month through May.

Discount days include:

- 50 percent off all admissions
- One child FREE with each paid adult
- Total admission for a family of 4—only \$10! (A \$20 savings!)

Just show your driver's license to receive your special discount.

May Discount Days (May 1 and 2) include a family fishing activity, fish print craft, and live animal presentation. More info at [www.delmarvadiscoverycenter.org](http://www.delmarvadiscoverycenter.org) or 410.957.9933.



From left, Lisa Ludwig, Lisa Challenger, and Jay Parker, president of the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council. [PHOTO BY JERRY GERLITZKI]

## Worcester County Tourism wins awards

Worcester County Tourism and tourism director Lisa Challenger recently received two awards for the Eastern Shore collaboration with *Maryland Life* magazine "Eat Drink & Buy Art" (EDBA) campaign and the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council (LESHC) Heritage Award. The Maryland Downtown Development Association awarded the best marketing project to EDBA at their December meeting in Annapolis.

The program is aimed at encouraging Marylanders to explore the galleries, restaurants and one-of-a-kind shops from Elkton and Chestertown all the way to Berlin and Snow Hill. Lisa Challenger was also recognized by LESHC for her efforts to promote heritage tourism in Worcester and the lower shore. Among her many heritage tourism projects in the lower three counties are: Host Our Coast, Beach to the Bay Indian Trail, Blue Crab Scenic Byway, *Arts & Times* quarterly publications, TADD, and Delmarva Birding Guide. Her many heritage tourism projects solely in Worcester County include, but are not limited to: African-American trail with brochures and markers, Delmarva Discovery Center, waterway trails, audio walking tour of Berlin, Cultural Arts tour, and Day at the Docks special event in West Ocean City. 🌐



## Apply now for Lower Eastern Shore heritage mini-grants

The Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council announces the opening of the FY10 mini-grant round. Grant projects awards range from \$500 to \$2,500.

Non-profit organizations and governmental entities in three counties—Wicomico, Worcester, and Somerset—that make up the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area are eligible to apply. Individuals with proposals fitting the guidelines may apply in partnership with an eligible organization.

Eligible activities must address or complete a priority activity identified in and consistent with the goals, objectives, strategies, and actions outlined in the Certified Heritage Area Management Plan ([mht.maryland.gov/heritage\\_areas\\_lowershore.html](http://mht.maryland.gov/heritage_areas_lowershore.html)). Generally, grants will be made as one-time awards, not for ongoing projects or activities that require a multi-year commitment.

The deadline for all FY10 mini-grant applications is April 15, 2010. For a packet of application and guidelines, call the LESHC office at 410.677.4706 or download an application at [www.skipjack.net/le\\_shore/heritage](http://www.skipjack.net/le_shore/heritage).

## MAIN STREET CORNER

## Business is blooming in downtown Berlin

[STORY BY MICHAEL DAY]

This spring, the Berlin Main Street district has found itself with a problem that many Eastern Shore towns are envious of: the lack of available retail space for rent. While in the past few months several shops closed their doors because of the economic downturn, the spaces that they occupied were rented to new retailers almost immediately.

TaDa moved from William Street to Main Street, and the bookstore, A Novel Idea, moved into that space from Ocean Pines. Also on William Street, Steve Falck moved his office to the rear of TaDa and Coastal Tax Service opened up in that location at 101 William Street. Twin Tails Seafood, a seafood brokerage office, took an empty space on Broad Street, and Wainwright's Tire Center expanded next door. The Frame Shop on William Street closed its doors when the owner retired; the space reopened as Bungalow Love after the new landlord remodeled the store. Pink Box Bakery hadn't been closed for long when Baked Dessert Café announced an early April opening in the same space. And the Liz Lind Gallery will soon be occupied by Mark Showell Interiors. Hopefully, this warm weather will bring many customers as well. For a list of events in downtown Berlin, visit [www.chooseberlin.org/events](http://www.chooseberlin.org/events). 🌍



Baked Dessert Café at 120 N. Main Street gets a new look.

## IN THE NEWS



### From pick-up artists to gourmet crackers

In March, the *Washington Examiner* ran a story about the "pick-up artists" who are trekking cross country, picking up litter as they go. They started their trek at Assateague. The *Baltimore Sun* also ran a story.

Several media outlets picked up on the story about Worcester Tourism director Lisa Challenger wanting to reallocate the funds the county usually given to Ocean City to market the resort, and instead, allow the county to use the funds to market the county as whole (including Ocean City).

In its January issue, *Maryland Life* magazine featured a story about Little Ragghi's Crackers, gourmet flatbread crackers that are made in Berlin.

## April 18 dinner benefits Taylor House Museum

Keep the heritage alive at the Berlin Heritage Foundation's 17th annual Eastern Shore Dinner at Harrison's Harbor Watch Restaurant in Ocean City on Sunday, April 18, from noon to 4:30pm. This chicken, ham, and oyster dinner is served by the Foundation's Board of Directors and includes a salad, bread, non-alcoholic beverage, and dessert. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased from Taylor Bank branches located in Berlin, Ocean Pines, and Ocean City. Tickets can also be purchased at the door and carry-outs are available.

This annual fund raising dinner benefits the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum in Berlin. The Museum is open Memorial Day weekend through the end of October on

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 1-4pm. Group tours are available throughout the year by appointment.

For more information on the dinner or the Museum, contact Susan Taylor at 410.641.1019, email [taylorhousemuseum@verizon.net](mailto:taylorhousemuseum@verizon.net), or visit the Museum's website at [www.taylorhousemuseum.org](http://www.taylorhousemuseum.org). 🌍



The Taylor House Museum.  
[PHOTO BY JERRY GERLITZKI]



## The Original Berlin Peach Dumpling named town's official dessert. Yum!

On Monday, March 8, the Town of Berlin's regular council meeting turned into a very tasteful affair. If you entered the council chambers just before the meeting started you might have wondered what was going on. Everyone in the room had a spoon and plate with a very special baked treat. While some attendees were impatiently waiting for a signal from the mayor to dig in, others could not wait to taste the scrumptious dessert. The first item on the evening's agenda was Proclamation #2010-7, proclaiming the "Original Berlin Peach Dumpling" as the official dessert for the Town of Berlin. By the reaction of the crowd at the council meeting, this wonderful dessert will proudly represent Berlin, in addition to being in demand year round.

The town of Berlin was once the home of J. G. Harrison Nurseries, one of the largest growers of fruit and shade trees in the world, producing as many as 10 million seedlings a year. There were vast orchards of peach trees near Berlin. During the 1920s, in its heyday, the nursery was the principal industry of Berlin, employing 500 seasonal workers. It was during this time the very first Peach Festival was held in Berlin. Each August the town would celebrate the arrival of the peach crop with food and festivities.

In 2009, the Berlin Heritage Foundation brought back this tradition by hosting the Berlin Peach Festival, the month of August was proclaimed as Peach Month by the Mayor and Council, and the Berlin Main Street Program started Peach Week, which kicked off after the Sunday Peach Festival and ended on Friday with the 2nd Friday Art Stroll and the Little Mr. & Miss Peach Pageant. This year's Peach Festival and Peach Week are already shaping up to be bigger and better.

Baked Dessert Café, due to open in early April on Main Street, recreated an old-fashioned peach dumpling to share with local residents and town visitors during the Berlin Peach Festival. Variations of the peach dumpling dessert date back to the early 1900s. It is a delicious treat of peaches, cinnamon, sugar, and a hint of lemon juice, presented with a light pastry shell and baked to a golden brown.

This year's Berlin Peach Week starts with the Berlin Peach Festival on August 8. So mark your calendars now, but you'll only have to wait till the Baked Dessert Café opens to enjoy an Original Berlin Peach Dumpling, the new official dessert for the Town of Berlin. 🍑



## Delmarva 'Space Coast' could be major attraction

Florida has its Space Coast, and if all goes well, the Delmarva Peninsula will eventually have one, too.

Tourism officials from Maryland, Virginia and Delaware recently met in Ocean City to discuss strategies for establishing a tourist destination tied to NASA's Wallops Flight Facility, located on Virginia's Eastern Shore, 15 miles below Pocomoke City in Worcester County.

A group of Eastern Shore universities are researching the potential economic impact of visitors at launch events. And tourism leaders are looking at the feasibility of space camps and "zero-gravity" flights. The flights—which can now cost approximately \$5,000—provide weightlessness experiences.

Wallops launched its first rocket in 1945. Since then—as one of the world's oldest launch centers—it has conducted more than 14,000 launches.

A new launch pad is under construction to accommodate the planned launch of unmanned missions to deliver supplies to the International Space Station.

## CALENDAR

## APRIL

Apr 16-18. Paint Snow Hill & Wet Paint Sale. 410.632.3555; bishopstock.com

Apr. 22-25 Delmarva Birding Weekend. delmarvabirdingweekend.org; 800.852.0335

Apr. 17 Earth Day Cleanup. Sponsored by the Maryland Coastal Bays Program. www.mdcoastalbays.org; 410.213.BAYS

Apr. 17-25 Free admission to Assateague Island National Seashore for National Park Week.

## MAY

May 5-8 Springfest. OC Inlet. 800.OC.OCEAN; www.ococean.com

May 7 Spring Arts Night, Berlin. www.berlinmdarts.org; 443.735.0957

May 8 Berlin Jazz & Blues Bash. www.berlinchamber.org; 410.641.4775

## JUNE

June 5-6 OC Air Show. 800.626.2326; www.ococean.com

June 9-12 35th Annual Cypress Festival, Pocomoke City. 410.957.1919; www.pocomoke.com

June 12 Village Fair, Berlin. 410.641.4775; www.berlinchamber.org

June 18-19 Art's Alive. Northside Park, OC. www.ococean.com; 800.OC.OCEAN

Springfest, May 5-8 in Ocean City, offers up four days of food, live entertainment, and arts and crafts at the south end of the boardwalk.



## Website upgrades include mobile-friendly format

Worcester Tourism is pleased to announce the completion of the new County Tourism website: [visitworcester.org](http://visitworcester.org). In addition to a new look, the site now has more videos and is connected to various social media websites. Along with an extensive community calendar, visitors can get regular Twitter updates on all kinds of activities and events from Lisa Challenger, the Director of Worcester County Tourism. The site is rich with information about Worcester County and is now also available in a format friendly to mobile phones at: [visitworcestermobile.org](http://visitworcestermobile.org), providing a quick reference to attractions as well as places to eat and stay in Worcester County. The site was designed by Moonshell Productions, a freelance graphics business located in Bishopville, Maryland, owned and operated by Dana Kester-McCabe. Moonshell specializes in online publications, websites, and logos for small businesses and nonprofit organizations.

Follow us on Twitter:

Worcester County: [twitter.com/touristgal](https://twitter.com/touristgal)

Ocean City: [twitter.com/OCMaryland](https://twitter.com/OCMaryland)

Berlin: [twitter.com/berlinmd](https://twitter.com/berlinmd)

## SAND PAPERS

**Worcester County Tourism**  
104 West Market Street  
Snow Hill, MD 21863  
800.852.0335  
[www.visitworcester.org](http://www.visitworcester.org)

To subscribe to the quarterly *SandPapers* newsletter or to share story ideas, drop us a line at [econ@ezy.net](mailto:econ@ezy.net) or call us at 800.852.0335.

**Worcester County Commissioners**  
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Bud Church: District 3 Sinepuxent  
Virgil Shockley: District 4 Western  
Judy Boggs: District 5 Ocean Pines  
Linda Busick: District 6 Northern  
Louise Gulyas: District 7 Ocean City

### Tourism Advisory Board Members

Teresa Travatello: Ocean Pines  
Annemarie Dickerson: Ocean City, Chair  
Linda Glorioso: Berlin  
Ron Pilling: Bishopville  
Diana Purnell: Berlin  
Barbara Tull: Pocomoke City  
Gary Weber: Snow Hill

## Send us your story ideas!

Have news to share? Drop us an e-mail at [econ@ezy.net](mailto:econ@ezy.net) or call us at 800.852.0335.