

Assateague Island



A Visitor's Guide to National Park Service Activities & Events - Summer 1992

Ponies - Wild and Free

For all its wealth of native plants and animals, the wild ponies are immigrants to this barrier strip of beach. Although the distant ancestors of all horses originated in North America, today's descended from Old World horses. Legend has it that Assateague's ponies arrived with pirates or from the wreck of a Spanish galleon. No hard evidence of this exists, but historical research does show that livestock was pastured on barrier islands by colonists beginning in the 17th century. Natural selection had its effects in this rigorous habitat, and today the ponies are sturdy, shaggy creatures. The animals are not a true pony breed, like the Shetland, but they have always been called 'ponies' by local residents and adoring children everywhere.

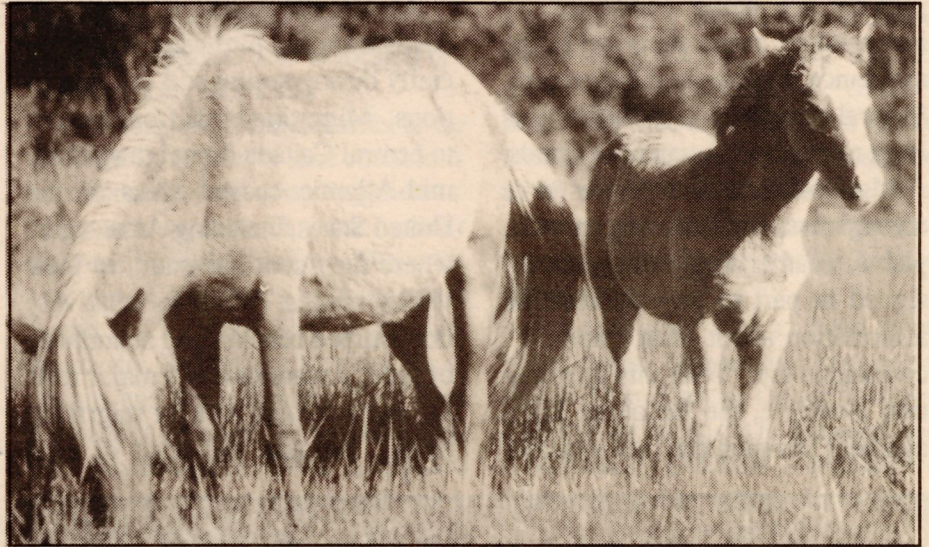
The ponies are now divided into two main herds separated by a fence at the Virginia/Maryland state lines. The Maryland herd is managed by the National Park Service, while the Virginia herd is owned by the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company. The Virginia herd is allowed to graze under a special permit issued by Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. The population size of each herd is kept below 150 animals to lessen the impact on island ecology.

The ponies found in Maryland are

truly wild in that they care for themselves without human intervention. As a result they are regarded as wild animals. The term "feral" is also applied to the stock, meaning they are descendants of domestic animals that have reverted to a wild condition.

Feral species are not considered native elements of a national park environment. Frequently feral species compete with native wildlife for food, water, and cover. Horses graze the dune grasses and saltmarsh quite heavily to the point of altering the island's plant communities in selected locations. Current research indicates that ground-nesting birds and other native wildlife species are adversely effected.

As a result, the National Park Service is interested in managing the horse population in an effort to minimize the impacts on vegetation. Research on the ponies has been ongoing continuously since 1975. Through this work, important questions regarding population size, grazing habits, ecological conditions, and pony/visitor interactions have been answered. Since 1986, the National Park Service has sponsored an investigation on fertility control in the Maryland horses in the interest of controlling the population and its impacts on

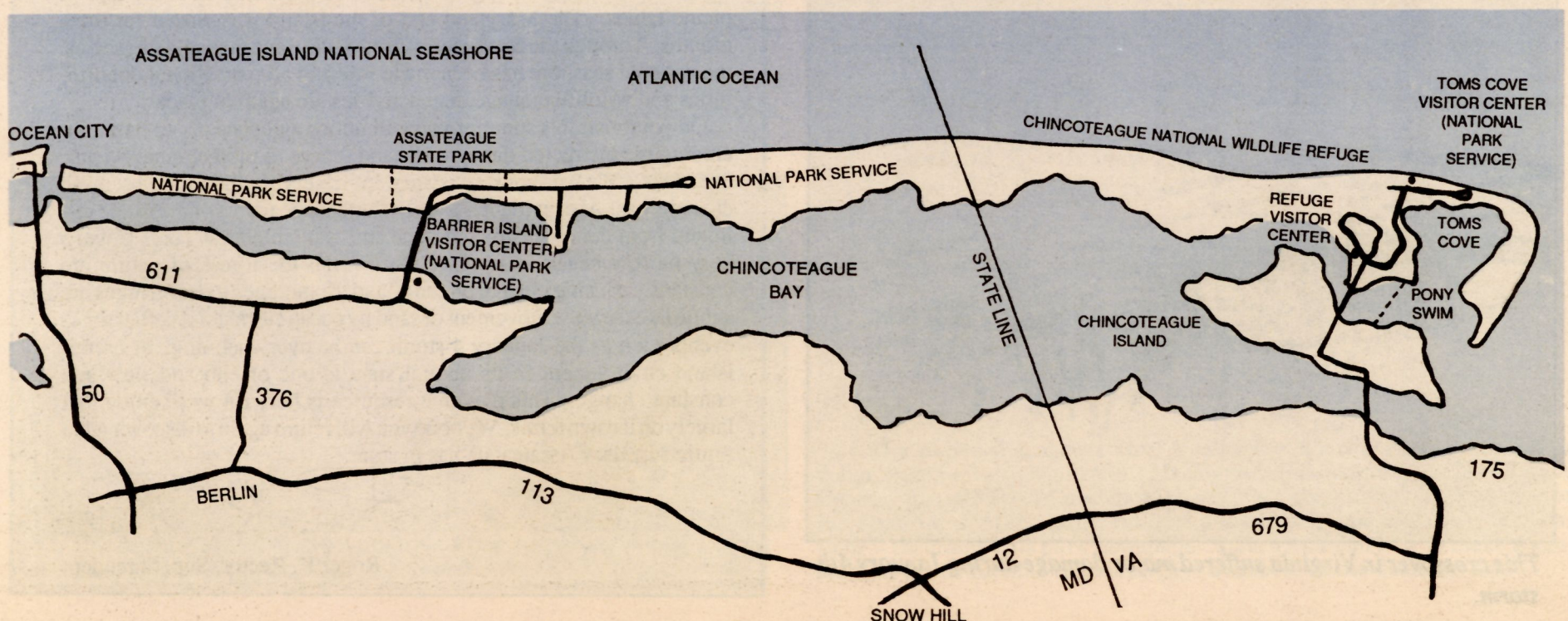


plants and animals.

Researchers have developed a unique non-hormonal, anti-fertility vaccine that temporarily prevents pregnancy in selected mares. Instead of using hormones to prevent ovulation or fertilization, the mare's own immune system prevents fertilization after forming a "glue" around her egg as a reaction to pig ova protein. Administered as a serum in a dart gun, the completely reversible process is unique in that it does not harm the ponies nor does it alter their behavior in any way. The success of this revolutionary pony "birth control" could have a great impact in the field of wildlife management.

Pony Swim is Popular

In the Virginia section the famous Pony Penning activity helps to keep the population under control. Pony Penning starts on the last Wednesday of July with a roundup and swim across the channel from Assateague to Chincoteague. The swim is always at slack tide and so the time varies each year, but it is usually during the morning hours. A large crowd sees the event from boats and the Chincoteague shore. Most of the foals and yearlings weaned from their mothers are sold at an auction on Thursday. The rest of the herd is driven back to Assateague on Friday. The money raised from the auction and related carnival goes to the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company.



Assateague's Birds Subject of Research

Everyone who visits a national park is probably familiar with the rangers who greet vacationers at the entrance station and visitor center, lead nature walks, assign campsites, maintain facilities and patrol the park. There is another group of rangers, less familiar to visitors, who work with the natural resources of the park. On Assateague's Maryland portion, the Resource Management Division coordinates a wide variety of activities related to research, monitoring and protection of the barrier island environment. Forty-seven research projects are being conducted by independent researchers with the assistance of resource management. Several of these projects will help us learn more about Assateague's birds.

Monitoring projects by resource management staff covering animals, plants, weather, and geology are designed in part to provide baseline information about what "normal" conditions are. With this information available, the Resource Management Division can then evaluate

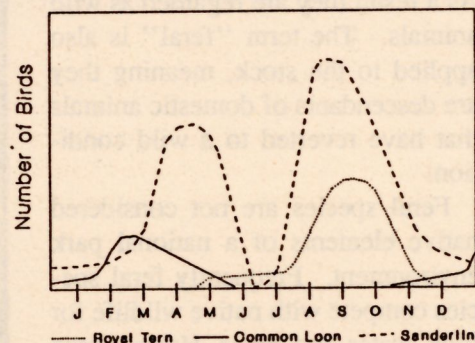
the significance of any changes, or the potential impact of proposed activities or development on or near Assateague. The threatened piping plover is particularly sensitive to nearby activity and development. The National Park Service, Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources cooperate to ensure that undisturbed critical nesting and feeding habitat is available for the plovers, while still allowing visitors to enjoy as much of the island as possible.

Assateague Island is a popular destination for birdwatchers, especially during spring and fall migrations. Migrating birds from eastern to central Canada funnel toward the mid-Atlantic coastal areas of the United States, including Assateague, where they continue south to their winter ranges. With its relatively undisturbed beaches and abundance of food, Assateague is a major resting and refueling area for migrating birds. Because this kind of vital

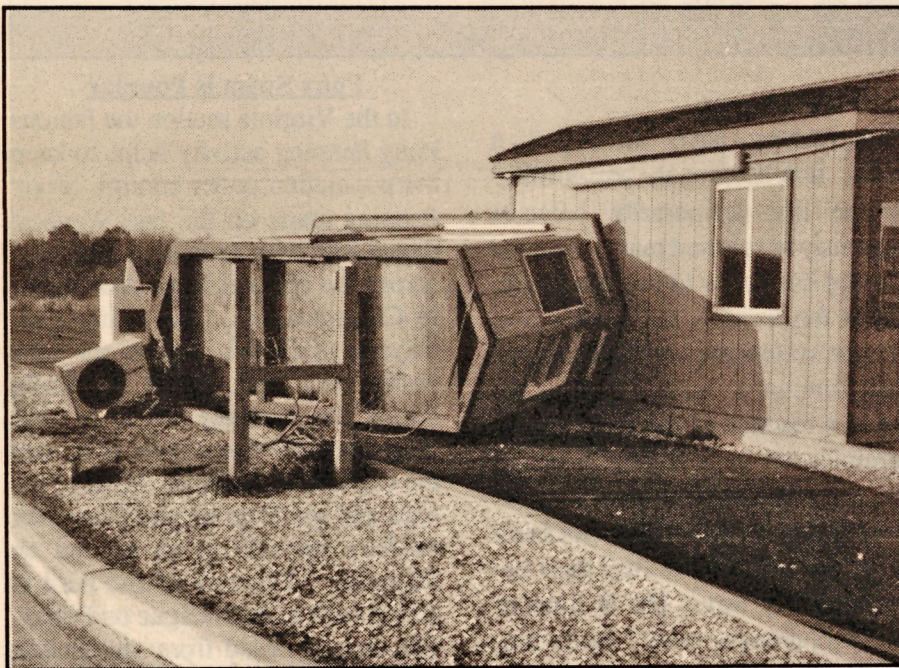
habitat is being lost rapidly to development, it is becoming even more important to preserve the remaining wild barrier islands. Without resting and feeding stopovers, most migratory birds would be unable to complete their journeys due to starvation and exhaustion.

A biweekly beach bird monitoring project has been conducted since 1984 by the park's resource management staff. A variety of trends and seasonal population patterns are revealed by this valuable data base, as well as records of rare and unusual bird sightings (see graph below).

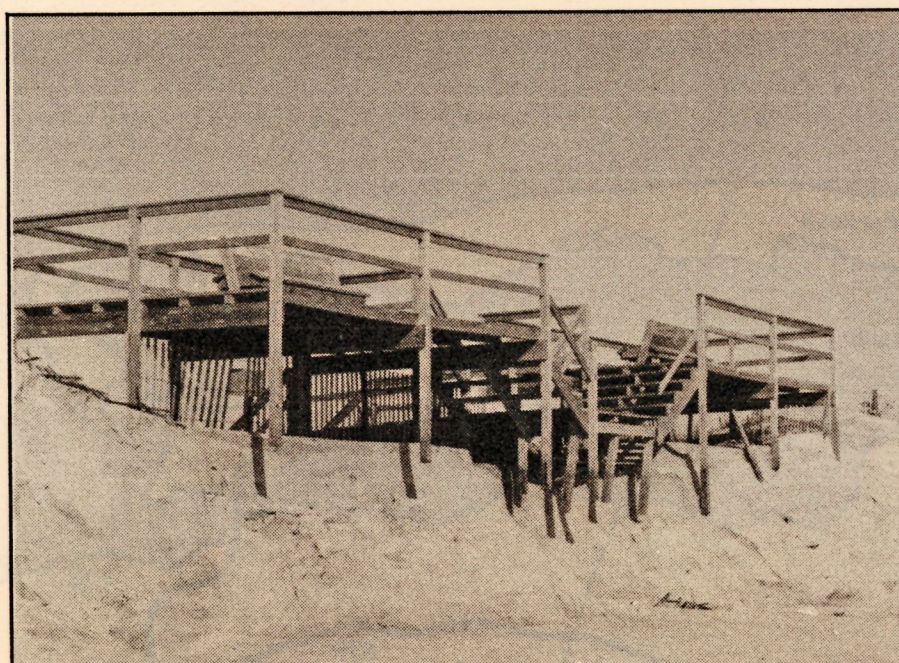
Annual Fluctuation of Species



Sandpipers and plovers are commonly seen in large numbers in spring and fall, with a few individuals remaining through the summer. Sanderlings can be seen in flocks of hundreds to 1000 or more near the surf. When the tree swallows come through in fall, beachgoers may be treated to a spectacular sight. Sometimes the swallows form vast flocks of tens of thousands, resting on the beach, or looping and swirling through the air over the island as they feed. In summer several species of terns are often seen diving head first for fish. They are easily recognized by their long, pointed wings and graceful, swallow-like flight. The Barrier Island, Tom's Cove, and Chincoteague Refuge visitor centers have bird checklists available. Continued research by the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will ensure that Assateague Island remains one of the East Coast's most productive birding areas.



January 4th storm damage to entrance station in Maryland District.



This crossover in Virginia suffered major damage during January 4th storm.

Superintendent's Message

Welcome to Assateague Island National Seashore, an outstanding 37-mile barrier island located along the Atlantic Ocean in Maryland and Virginia.

In addition to the National Park Service, the State of Maryland (Assateague State Park) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge) manage parts of the island. The mission of these agencies varies somewhat, resulting in different regulations and allowable activities.

Barrier islands are nationally significant to the National Park Service for many reasons including the fact they are among the most changeable of natural features on the continent. At no time was this more evident than during the nor'easter storm which hit the area on January 4, 1992. Nature showed its full force with winds up to 70 MPH, heavy rainfall, and a strong tidal surge. It was the island's worst storm since 1962. Evidence indicates that pounding ocean water reached over five feet on some locations of the island.

The damage to the dune system was significant. Many were completely flattened and boardwalks in both states were destroyed. Beach to bay ocean overwash occurred in many places. Storm-caused damage in Maryland included road washouts, destruction of a few buildings near the beach, and campgrounds covered with sand up to the tops of picnic tables. The Maryland end of the island was closed for three months. Through the combined efforts of the three managing agencies, the national seashore has been made safe and all recreational opportunities and wildlife management activities are again in place.

On your visit this summer you will notice evidence of our work, including reconstructed dunes with sand fences to protect major visitor use areas. We ask your assistance in preserving them by observing closed areas. Also evident is a much flatter appearance of the island just inland from the reconstructed dune and, particularly at Toms Cove, a very narrow beach in front of it. Overall the forces of nature are constantly causing change on the island. Sometimes these changes are subtle like the slow movement of sand by ocean currents. At other times events such as the January 4 storm can be overwhelming. A barrier island environment in its natural state is one of ebb and flow and constant change. This dynamic resource is here for us to enjoy, but largely on its own terms. We hope you will return again to discover what future surprises Assateague has in store.

Roger K. Rector
Roger K. Rector, Superintendent

Hazards of Assateague

The wild horses: Ponies may appear tame and gentle, but may become aggressive very quickly and can be dangerous. Each year several visitors are bitten or kicked by what appears to be "tame" ponies. Feeding ponies and any other wildlife is unhealthy for the animals, dangerous for you, and strictly prohibited. Some ponies become beggars and at least one is killed by a car each year while seeking a handout. Do not stop or park on the roadside or bike trail to view the ponies except in designated areas - enjoy them from a distance.

Surf safety: Please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with some common beach hazards by stopping at the ranger stations or visitor centers and requesting a copy of the Surf Safety Brochure. Such hazards include heavy wave/surf conditions, lightning storms, shallow water currents, and stinging marine organisms. We also recommend examining the bathhouse exhibits and reading posted regulations and information on the beach walkways.

Ticks and Lyme Disease: Lyme Disease is an illness caused by bacteria transmitted to people through tick bites. In its early stages Lyme Disease may cause circular rashes, flu-like symptoms, headaches, stiff neck, and fevers. In its later stages the disease may cause arthritis in large joints, meningitis, neurological, and cardiac problems. The primary carrier, the deer tick, is found on Assateague Island. While they

can be found in any natural area on the island, special care should be taken in high shrub areas and woods in the spring and fall, and in leaf litter in the spring and early summer. To learn more about Lyme Disease and how to avoid tick bites, stop by a ranger station or visitor center and pick up the brochure Ticks and Lyme Disease in the National Parks.

Poison ivy: Found throughout the inner dune, shrub and forest sections of the island, poison ivy, with its shiny leaves in clusters of three, can produce an itchy red rash if you come in contact with the plant's oils. To lessen your chance of contact, stay on all trails and boardwalks. In the fall, poison ivy leaves turn a crimson red, but are still contagious. If you accidentally touch poison ivy, immediately wash your hands and the affected areas with soapy water to remove the oil. Remember: "Leaves of three - let them be!"

Sun danger: Assateague can be "fun in the sun," but the sun can also be your enemy. In our desire to enjoy the sun, surf, and sand, we can easily overdo our skin's exposure to the sun, and actually suffer severe sunburn or sunpoisoning. Remember to always use sunblock or tanning oil with a high number of sunblocking agents, and limit your exposure time. Be aware too that salt-water quickly washes away sunscreen, and may actually intensify the sun's burning effects. If you become badly sunburned, seek medical attention.

Seashore Camping - Something for Everyone

A variety of camping is available on Assateague Island, but it is located in the Maryland section only. The National Park Service provides two campgrounds, Oceanside and Bayside, which offer drive-in pads suitable for tents, trailers and recreational vehicles. In addition, Oceanside has walk-in, tent-only sites, located 100-200 feet from centralized parking areas.

Both campgrounds have primitive facilities with outdoor chemical toilets, central locations for drinking water and outdoor rinse-off showers. Reservations can be made from May 15th through September up to eight weeks in advance of a camping date by calling 1-800-365-2267. The rest of the year the system is first come, first served. Organized group camps and backcountry camping is available for canoeists or hikers at established sites. Additional camping information is available at the national seashore's campground office or by calling a ranger at 410-641-3030.

Assateague State Park in Maryland also has a campground and it features hot shower bathhouses. There are no electric or water hookups in either park. Further state park information is available at 410-641-2120.



The Maryland portion of Assateague Island has several unique camping opportunities, including walk-in, tent only sites.

Assateague's Lifeguards A Summertime Workout

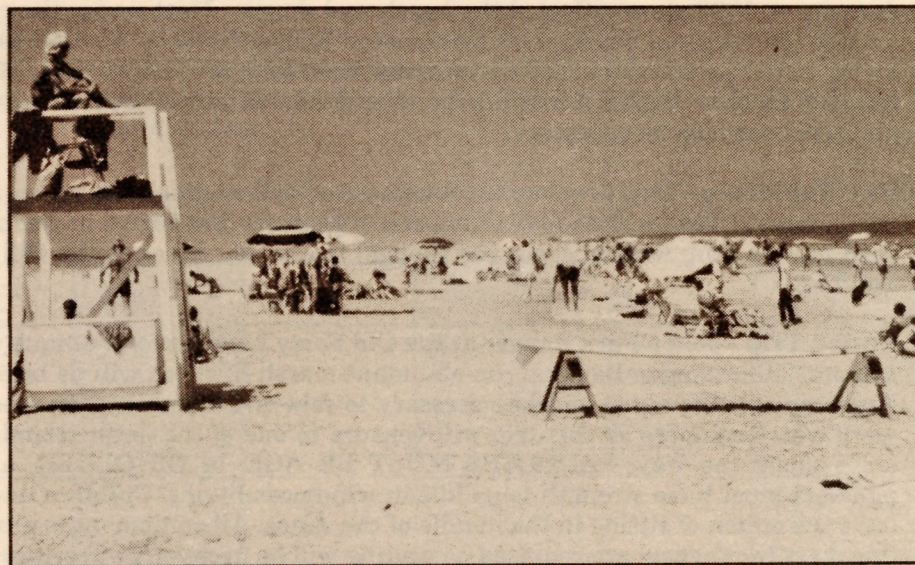
National Park Service lifeguards supervise protected beach areas in the Maryland and Virginia sections of Assateague Island. The guards are well trained and visitors are encouraged to swim at protected beaches. Blue flags on tall poles mark the guarded area. Yellow flags are placed some distance to the side of each blue flag. No fishing or surfboarding is permitted between the yellow flags.

The lifeguard area in Maryland is adjacent to the North Ocean Beach parking lot. Assateague State Park also has lifeguards, but visitors should consult with State rangers to determine what regulations apply. In Virginia the lifeguard area is located between parking lots 2 and 3.

Guarding on ocean beaches is far different from pool or lake conditions experienced by many new applicants. Lifeguards must be 18 years or older and have first aid training. The average age of lifeguards at Assateague Island is 23 to 24. Five of the lifeguards are Emergency Medical Technicians and the remainder have First Responder training. Shortly after arrival, Assateague's Chief Lifeguard subjects recruits to a rigorous training program and swimming test. The 50 to 60 hours of training involves surf res-

cue techniques, movement of trauma patients, use of rescue equipment, surf analysis, and drills in running and swimming along with the other subjects important to the overall operation. All life guards, as part of the training program, must pass a swimming test in which they must swim a 1/4 mile in 9 minutes. The times for lifeguards at Assateague Island range between 5 to 7 minutes, well below the necessary passing time. Once employed, each guard must continually train and do daily workouts. These workouts include each morning swimming a 1/4 mile, running one mile and a sequence of a 100 yard run-100 yard swim-100 yard run. After this sequence the lifeguard has to "rescue" one of the fellow guards. All of this morning workout must be completed in 30 minutes. Each afternoon lifeguards swim 1/4 mile and do other training as may be required by the head lifeguard.

Visitors who want to learn more about ocean lifeguarding can attend one of the surf rescue demonstrations. Exhibits are located at bathhouses, and a Surf Safety brochure is available in visitor centers or information stations located on lifeguarded beaches.



Lifeguards provide protection for beach users in designated areas and conduct surf rescue demonstrations.

Emergency Phone Numbers

Maryland	Ranger Station	(301) 641-3030
	After Hours	Dial 911
Virginia	Ranger Station	(804) 336-6577
	After Hours	Dial 911

Thank You!!

The national seashore staff thanks the many visitors who drop a dollar or some loose change into the Barrier Island or Tom's Cove Visitor Centers' donation box. These funds have made substantial contributions to the aquariums, other exhibits, special programs, and many free publications -- including this park newspaper! Information on how to make a substantial tax deductible contribution is available at the donation box.

1992 SUMMER ACTIVITIES

MARYLAND DISTRICT

National Park Service - Assateague Island National Seashore
Sunday, June 21 - Saturday, August 29, 1992

Barrier Island Visitor Center

Begin your Maryland visit here. The center features evening programs, exhibits, an aquarium, touch tank, and a Park Ranger to answer questions daily 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Many publications are available, including *Life of Assateague*, a guide to three nature trails. The center is the starting point for the park's one-hour driving tour by cassette tape. Also shown regularly is the Assateague nature film, *A Very Special Place*. For more information, call (410) 641-1441.

Guided Explorations

Birds of a Feather - Join us for a leisurely stroll through forest and marsh to spot the birds of Assateague. We provide binoculars and a spotting scope for an upclose look. Meet in the history exhibit parking lot at the intersection of the Ferry Landing Road. Insect repellent, long pants and long sleeves are recommended.

Stormy Beaches . . . Stormy Dunes - Have you ever seen a thick band of black sand? Why are some of the pine trees so brown? Discover how the great January 4, 1992 storm affected the beach and dunes. Meet under the canopy outside the National Seashore's Campground Ranger Station. We will caravan by car north up a service road for **Stormy Beaches**, or drive south to explore **Stormy Dunes**. Expect a 1/2 mile round-trip walk in sand from parking areas, and repellent may be necessary.

Bay Explorers - This program involves active participation with seines by the whole family! Take a close look at marine organisms that thrive in the bay. A good pair of snug wading shoes (no thongs) is a must. Meet at the Old Ferry Landing.

Canoe Trip - Join a Park Ranger at the Old Ferry Landing for a unique way to explore Chincoteague Bay and the abundant marsh life. You will be briefed on basic canoe skills but it will be necessary to mix and match experienced paddlers with beginners as this trip will venture to one of the outer islands with stops along the way. **PADDLERS MUST BE AGE 14 OR OLDER**, and all paddlers must have strength to paddle in windy conditions. Children under 14 have the option of sitting in the middle of the canoe. All equipment is provided. Sneakers (no thongs) are required as wading will be necessary at certain stops. Stormy or extremely windy weather may force cancellation of a trip. **NOTE: Reservations must be made in person at the Barrier Island Visitor Center** and are limited to one trip per person each summer. Canoeists with reservations must arrive on time or risk forfeiture to others standing by.

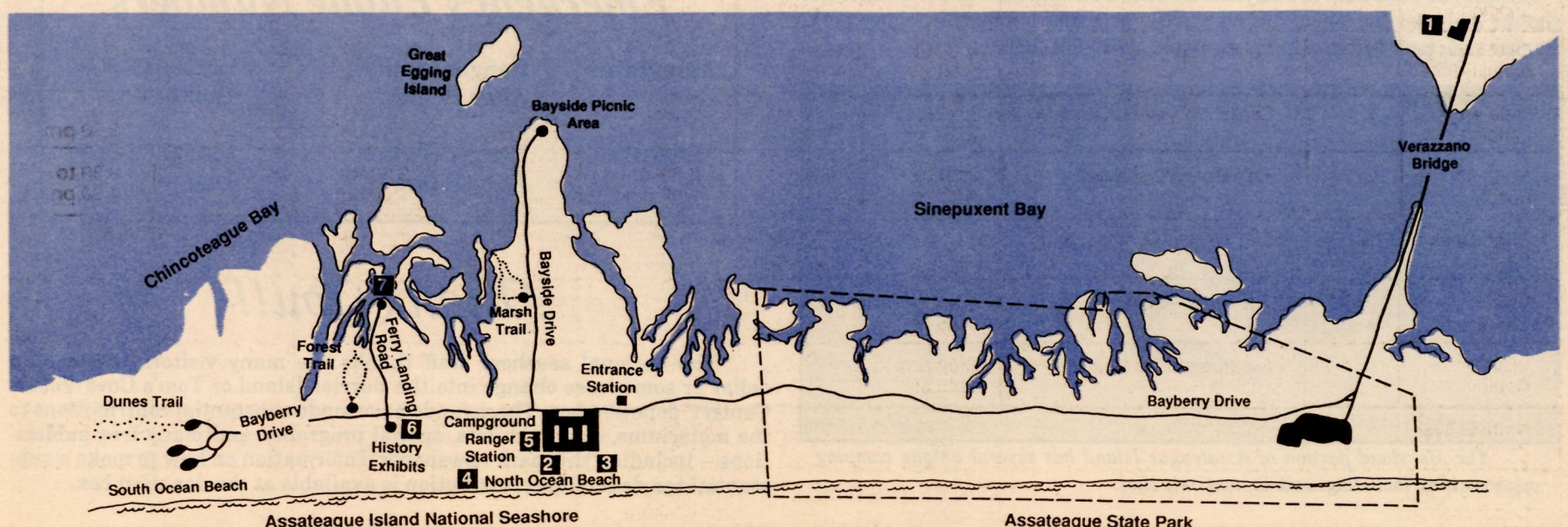
Evening Programs

Aquarium Feeding - Meet some of Assateague's fascinating aquatic inhabitants. We'll introduce you to the critters in our 220 gallon saltwater aquarium, feed them and we'll even let you kiss a horseshoe crab. This 45 minute discussion meets in the dry, comfortable and mosquito-free visitor center.

Assateague the Beautiful - Following the aquarium talk, you can sit back, relax and let a Park Service interpreter show you the many wonders of the "jewel" called Assateague. Fascinating slide program topics vary nightly and are posted in the visitor center and campground office.

A Walk At Dusk - (precedes Campfire Program) Do you know what biological luminescence is? Join a Ranger for a leisurely 1/2 hour stroll down the beach to the site of the campfire. Insect repellent may be necessary. Meet on the beach at the end of the southernmost boardwalk leading from the North Ocean Beach parking lot.

Campfire Program - Did pirates hide out on Assateague? Where did the ponies really come from? Join two rangers for this informal exchange of fact and fiction. Beware of the occasional "tall tale"! If driving, park at the southernmost beach boardwalk in the North Ocean Beach lot and walk 200 yards south along the beach. If you are camping in Oceanside Campground of the national seashore, you can walk some distance north from one of the boardwalks that lead to the beach. Repellent may be needed.





Columbus and the Exchange

Horses, pigs, cattle and sheep to Native Americans. Potatoes, tomatoes, corn and beans to Europeans. The natural history exchange wrought by the voyage of Columbus was extraordinary . . . while much was good, there was a darker side. Join Ranger Chris Seymour in the visitor center each Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. for a slide show look at what happened after two Old World cultures collided.



For Young Naturalists

Seashore Ranger Program (for ages 6-11) - Young visitors to Assateague are encouraged to participate in the park's Seashore Ranger Program. This program lets young folks explore and learn about Assateague Island on their own. Seashore Ranger activity sheets for ages 6-8 or 9-11 can be picked up in the Barrier Island Visitor Center. Attendance to at least two of the regularly scheduled programs listed in the Seashore Ranger activity sheet will be necessary to complete the program. Each successful participant can bring completed forms to the Visitor Center to receive a certificate and pin.

Kid's Beach Discovery - Children age 6-11 will get the chance to explore the island from "their" point of view. Meet on the beach at the end of the northernmost boardwalk leading from the North Ocean Beach parking lot.

Recreational Demonstrations

Surf Rescue Demonstrations - Our lifeguards are professionals! Come watch them demonstrate an ocean rescue and lifesaving equipment. Meet at the designated lifeguard stand at North Ocean Beach.

Shellfishing Demonstration - Did you know that the ribbed mussel is mighty tasty steamed or sauteed in butter? But to enjoy them you must know how and when to safely forage for them. A ranger at the Old Ferry Landing will show you how to catch blue crabs, clams and ribbed mussels. Those interested in seeing where mussels live should wear sneakers (no thongs) and clothing suitable for wading.

Surf Fishing Demonstration - We provide several surf rods and bait, and demonstrate equipment and casting technique to help you learn about the basics of surf fishing. Wear clothes and shoes suitable for wading in the surf if you want to cast it "way out there"! All participants will have several chances to cast and there may even be time to fish with bait. No better way to learn before investing in equipment. Meet at the northeast corner of the North Ocean Beach parking lot. NOTE: Program is for ages 12 and up.

LOCATION	MAP CODE	PROGRAM	SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
Exhibit Parking Lot	6	Birds of a Feather			7:00 to 8:30 am			7:00 to 8:30 am	
Old Ferry Landing	7	Bay Explorers			9:00 to 10:15 am			9:00 to 11:00 am	
Campground Ranger Sta.	5	Stormy Beaches	9:00 to 11:00 am			9:00 to 11:00 am			
Campground Ranger Sta.	5	Stormy Dunes		9:00 to 11:00 am					9:00 to 11:00 am
Lifeguarded Beach	2	Surf Rescue Demonstration		10:00 am			10:00 am		10:00 am
Old Ferry Landing	7	Canoe Trip		10:30 am to 12:30 pm	10:30 am to 12:30 pm	10:30 am to 12:30 pm		10:30 am to 12:30 pm	10:30 am to 12:30 pm
Old Ferry Landing	7	Canoe Trip	4:00 to 6:00 pm		4:00 to 6:00 pm		4:00 to 6:00 pm	4:00 to 6:00 pm	4:00 to 6:00 pm
Old Ferry Landing	7	Shellfishing Demonstration	1:30 to 2:30 pm	1:30 to 2:30 pm	2:30 to 3:30 pm	1:30 to 2:30 pm	1:30 to 2:30 pm		2:30 to 3:30 pm
North Ocean Beach	3	Kid's Beach Discovery	2:30 to 4:00 pm		2:30 to 4:00 pm		2:30 to 4:00 pm		2:30 to 4:00 pm
North Ocean Beach	3	Surf Fishing Demonstration		2:30 to 4:30 pm			2:30 to 4:30 pm		2:30 to 4:30 pm
Visitor Center	1	Aquarium Feeding	7:00 to 7:45 pm	7:00 to 7:45 pm		7:00 to 7:45 pm	7:00 to 7:45 pm		7:00 to 7:45 pm
Visitor Center	1	Assateague the Beautiful	8:00 to 8:45 am	8:00 to 8:45 am		8:00 to 8:45 pm	8:00 to 8:45 pm		8:00 to 8:45 pm
North Ocean Beach	2	A Walk at Dusk			8:00 to 8:30 pm			8:00 to 8:30 pm	
See Program Description	4	Campfire Program			8:30 to 9:30 pm			8:30 to 9:30 pm	

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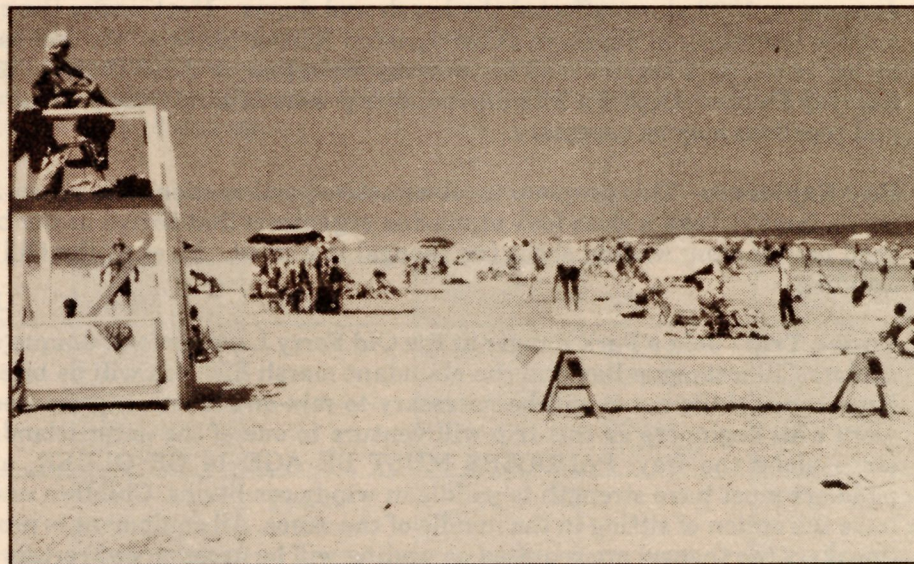
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The national seashore staff thanks the many visitors who drop a dollar or some loose change into the Barrier Island or Tom's Cove Visitor Centers' donation box. These funds have made substantial contributions to the aquariums, other exhibits, special programs, and many free publications -- including this park newspaper! Information on how to make a substantial tax deductible contribution is available at the donation box.

For Young Naturalists

Junior Explorers - For budding marine biologist, ages 9-12. This total "immersion" activity involves active participation, seining for fish, exploring the tidal flats and learning to "read" nature. An excellent experience for any young person with an interest in the outdoors. Register in the Toms Cove Visitor Center - limit 20. Meet at parking lot #4. Distance: 1 mile. Time: 1-1/2 hours.

Certified Seashore Ranger - Two age levels, 6-8 and 9-11, can receive Junior Ranger certificates by registering at the Visitor Center desk and completing certain activities. Each successful participant will bring completed forms to a daily 3:00 p.m. awards ceremony.



Recreational Demonstrations

Surf Rescue - Join the lifeguard staff for a demonstration of equipment and techniques of ocean surf rescue. Because ocean swimming can be dangerous, the staff strongly encourages your participation in this activity. Meet at the center lifeguard stand on the beach. Time: 1/2 hour.

Surf Fishing - Designed for those with limited surf fishing experience, this program includes demonstrations of equipment, bait and casting techniques. Equipment is provided; however, actual practice time depends on group size. Experienced anglers who would like to share their expertise are welcome! Meet at the Visitor Center. NOTE: Program is for ages 12 and up. Time: 2 hours.

Artists At Assateague - The many moods of the island inspire creativity in all ages. Join a naturalist to learn various techniques for capturing Assateague's beauty. Material will be provided. Meet at the amphitheater boardwalk near parking lot #3. Time: 1-1/2 hours.

LOCATION	MAP CODE	PROGRAM	SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
Visitor Center	1	For The Birds	7:30 to 9:00 am			7:30 to 9:00 am		7:30 to 9:00 am	
Visitor Center	1	The Changing Beach			10:00 to 11:00 am		10:00 to 11:00 am		10:00 to 11:00 am
Visitor Center	1	Nature's Nursery The Salt Marsh	10:00 to 11:00 am			10:00 to 11:00 am			
Lot 4	4	Junior Explorer			9:30 to 11:00 am				9:30 to 11:00 am
Lot 4	4	Marine Explorer		3:30 to 5:30 pm				9:00 to 10:30 am	
Amphitheatre Boardwalk	3	Tidal Flats Walk			2:00 pm - July 13, July 29, August 12, August 27				
Visitor Center	1	Aquarium Talk	1:30 to 2:00 pm	1:30 to 2:00 pm	1:30 to 2:00 pm	1:30 to 2:00 pm	1:30 to 2:00 pm	1:30 to 2:00 pm	1:30 to 2:00 pm
Visitor Center	1	Creature Feature				4:00 to 4:15 pm			4:00 to 4:15 pm
Protected Beach	2	Surf Rescue		10:00 to 10:30 am		10:00 to 10:30 am		10:00 to 10:30 am	
Visitor Center	1	Surf Fishing		9:00 to 11:00 am			9:00 to 11:00 am		
Visitor Center	1	Seashore Ranger Award	3:00 pm	3:00 pm	3:00 pm	3:00 pm	3:00 pm	3:00 pm	3:00 pm
Amphitheatre Boardwalk	3	Assateague Art	10:00 to 11:30 am						
Amphitheatre	3	Illustrated Program		8:30 to 9:15 pm			8:30 to 9:15 pm		8:30 to 9:15 pm
Lot 4	4	Evening Stroll	8:00 to 8:30 pm			8:00 to 8:30 pm		8:00 to 8:30 pm	
Lot 4	4	Beach Campfire	8:30 to 9:15 pm			8:30 to 9:15 pm		8:30 to 9:15 pm	

Special Note: The National Park Service assists the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in interpretation and recreation management, but only on Toms Cove Hook. The Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge provides many other activities throughout the rest of the refuge. Contact the Chincoteague Refuge Visitor Center for program details.

SEASHORE FUN AND GAMES

All of these animals can be found along the beach. Can you find them in the hidden word puzzle? The words may be written horizontally, diagonally, and vertically.



NOBBED WHELK



EASTERN OYSTER



RAZOR CLAM



BAY SCALLOP



SLIPPER SHELL



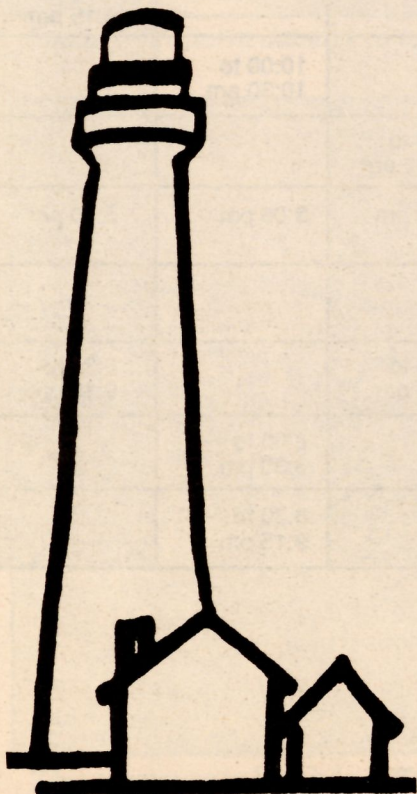
FLORIDA COQUINA



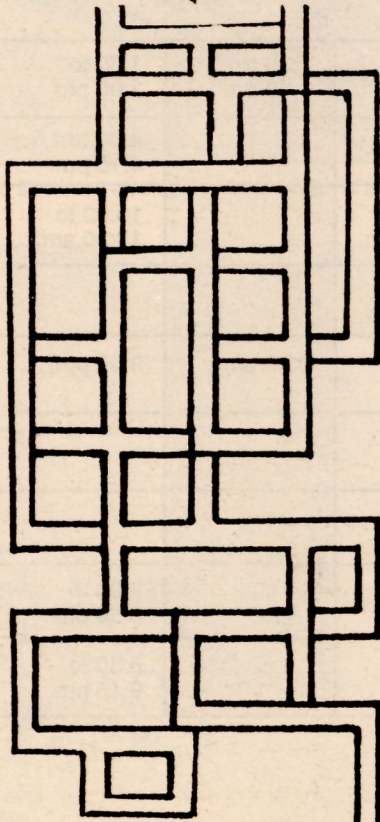
MOON SNAIL

F J S E A W E E D D E F G L
L E R A Z O R C L A M B I C
O L W S S B I R D Z K A A B
R L H T A S U V W X N Y B L
I Y A L N N P Q E S O R A U
D F L L D N D V N O B U Y E
A I E E D K A O L M B R S O
C S H H O W O I J T E C C R
O H E S L M F G E D D H A A
Q A B R L C D P N K W I L B
U W N E A X M U R Y H N L Z
I S A P R I O A T U E V O S
N N E P L L H O P Q L R P U
A G C I F S H I J K K L M N
B C O L S M U S S E L D E F
A E A S T E R N O Y S T E R

Light towers, like the one on Assateague, warn sailors of the dangers in offshore waters. At night the Assateague Lighthouse can be identified by its flashing lights. It gives a double flash every five seconds. During the day it is recognized by its daymark, a painted pattern. Color Assateague's Lighthouse with its unique striped daymark (In Maryland, see the postcard in the visitor center).



Cormorants are diving birds. They dive under the water to catch food. Help the cormorant find the fish.



Connect the dots to discover a creature which is an important part of the salt marsh food chain.

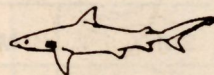
It's the blue _____.



DID YOU KNOW?



A horse can see in front of itself and behind itself at the same time.



Baby sharks are called pups.



Horseshoe crabs have blue blood.



Seaweed is often used to make ice cream.



Flounder can change their coloring to match their surroundings.



The biggest clam ever collected was over three feet wide and weighed over five hundred pounds.



Sea stars can regrow amputated body parts.



The male seahorse give birth to its young.

SEASHORE RANGER PROGRAM

for kids ages 6-11

It's easy and fun to be a Seashore Ranger. Learn more about the seashore and earn a Seashore Ranger badge. Pick up an activity folder at the Toms Cove or Barrier Island visitor center. When you complete all the activities in the folder and attend two ranger guided programs, you'll receive a Seashore Ranger certificate and a free badge.

