



Assateague Island Times

Summer 2005



Visitor Guide

Things to Do... 3

Enjoy a Safe Visit...4

Junior Ranger Program...5

Program Schedules...6 & 7

Maps

Maryland District...8

Virginia District...8

Assateague Island...12

Contact Us:

Web Site: www.nps.gov/asis

National Park Service

Barrier Island Visitor Center
7206 National Seashore Lane
Berlin, MD 21811

410-641-1441

Toms Cove Visitor Center
PO Box 38
Chincoteague Island, VA 23336
757-336-6577

US Fish & Wildlife Service

Herbert H. Bateman Educational and
Administrative Center (VA)

757-336-6122

Maryland State Parks

Assateague State Park (MD)
410-641-2120

Emergency

Maryland

Ranger Station
410-641-3030
After Hours - Dial 911

Virginia

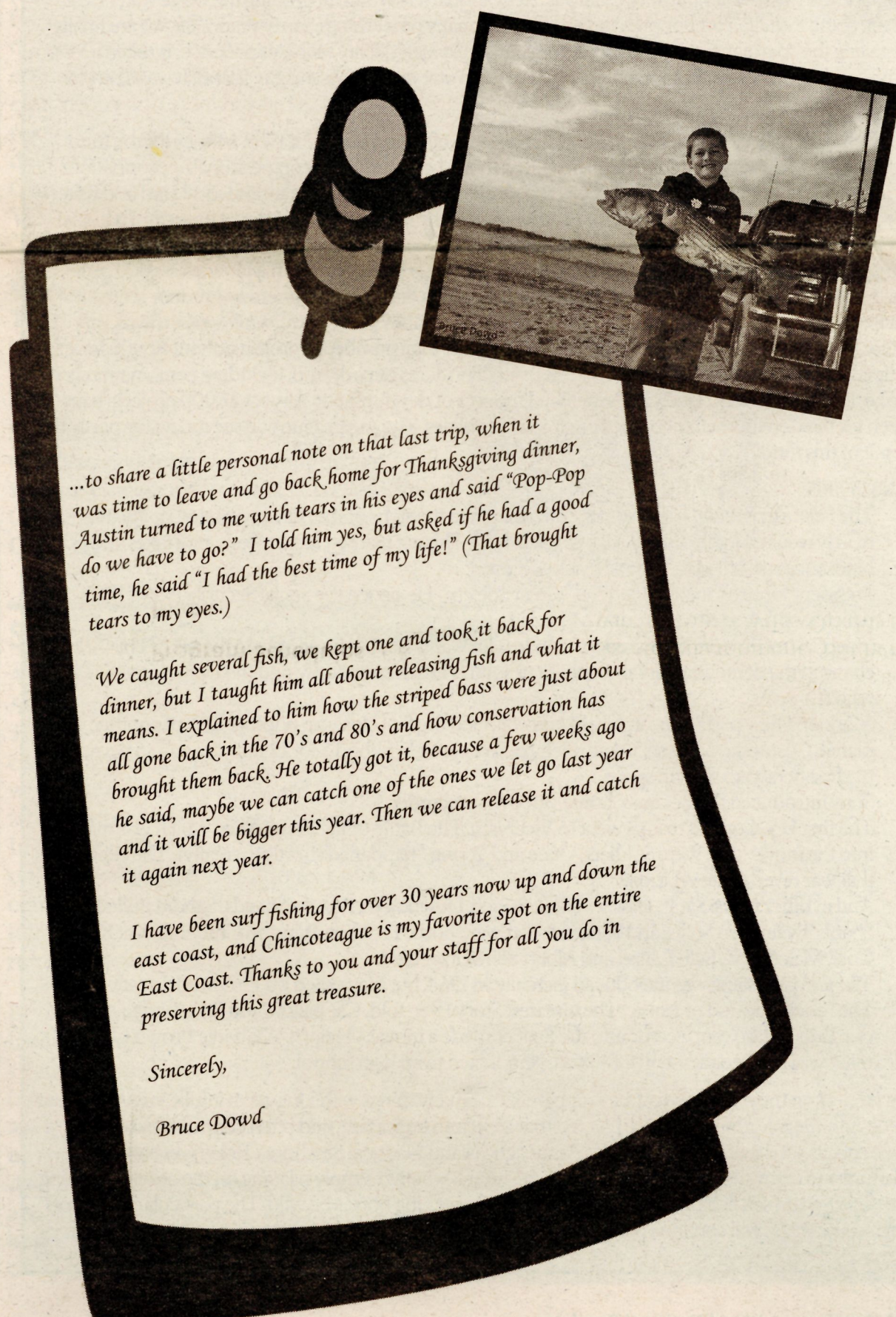
Ranger Station
757-336-6577
After Hours - Dial 911

Thank You!!

The National Seashore staff thanks the many visitors who drop a bill or some loose change into the Barrier Island or Toms Cove Visitor Centers' donation boxes. These funds have made aquariums, exhibits, special programs and many free publications possible.

A Pivotal Point in Time

A visit to Assateague Island National Seashore can always be a pivotal point in time. This is a place where memories are made. Whether it is a dip in the ocean, a fish that was caught, a glimpse at wildlife or paddling a canoe, one can become captured in an Assateague moment. But here things change with seasons, with wind, with water and with all things wild. On this barrier island time never stands still; and should you not be paying attention, you may miss an explosion of birds, a dolphin cresting near the shore, the osprey snatching a fish or that tug on your fishing line. Every moment is a pivotal point in time for Assateague, and there is no time like now to experience it.



...to share a little personal note on that last trip, when it was time to leave and go back home for Thanksgiving dinner, Austin turned to me with tears in his eyes and said "Pop-Pop do we have to go?" I told him yes, but asked if he had a good time, he said "I had the best time of my life!" (That brought tears to my eyes.)

We caught several fish, we kept one and took it back for dinner, but I taught him all about releasing fish and what it means. I explained to him how the striped bass were just about all gone back in the 70's and 80's and how conservation has brought them back. He totally got it, because a few weeks ago he said, maybe we can catch one of the ones we let go last year and it will be bigger this year. Then we can release it and catch it again next year.

I have been surf fishing for over 30 years now up and down the east coast, and Chincoteague is my favorite spot on the entire East Coast. Thanks to you and your staff for all you do in preserving this great treasure.

Sincerely,

Bruce Dowd



1965, A Pivotal Point in Many Ways

As you will learn throughout this issue, Assateague Island National Seashore is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. We're glad you are here to help celebrate your park's birthday. We all hope that your visit is worthwhile and enjoyable.

For reasons I can only vaguely remember, the 40th year is cause for reflection. At 40, you can no longer claim the excuse of youth (as in, indiscretions), and must squarely face the fact that you are a "grown-up" and are expected to behave accordingly. The National Seashore is, in many ways, similar. The growing pains are over. In their place is a feeling of maturity, strength, and the urge to get on about the business at hand. That business is protecting the resources and providing high quality visitor services.

After almost 15 years work, we now have a program in place to move sand from where it is trapped by the Ocean City Inlet jetties around to Assateague. This will prevent the erosion and ultimate disintegration of the northern end of the island. The threatened Piping Plover and Seabeach Amaranth populations are increasing. Bald Eagles are again nesting on the island. The horse herd population is now stable. Geographic Information System (GIS) technology barely existed in 1965. The park now has a state-of-the-art GIS system including access to a survey grade Geographic Positioning System, shoreline information going back to the 1800's, very detailed aerial and satellite images of the island, and remote sensing data. We now have much better scientific information and computerized data analysis capability with which to make park resource management decisions.

Thanks to the Recreation Fee program, the park also has several projects either completed or in the works to improve visitor services. Many of the visitor facilities on the island were intended to be temporary when they were built in the 1960's. At the Toms Cove (Virginia) end of the island, we now have sustainably designed restrooms, showers and changing rooms. They were all designed with the island in mind. When a severe storm threatens, we can have all the facilities off the island within 48 hours. After the storm passes, we put them back. On the Maryland end we will be replacing the bathhouse, ranger station, campground bathrooms and showers, entrance station and water lines. We will also upgrade the waste water pumpout stations. At headquarters we are upgrading the waste water treatment plant, installing fire suppression systems and many other things. Forty years later, we are finally installing the "permanent" facilities that contribute to a high quality visitor experience. It's been a long time coming, but it's finally happening. 1965 was a pivotal year for Assateague Island. It was a pivotal year in other ways, as well.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act became effective January 1, 1965. Money for the fund comes from the sale of surplus federal property; motorboat fuel taxes; congressional appropriations and Outer Continental Shelf oil revenue. The money is used to acquire state and local land and water for public recreation. It is also used for acquisitions for the national park, national forest and national wildlife refuge systems. Since then, \$3.3 billion has gone to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa and the Northern Marianas. 38,000 projects have been approved to acquire open space for park lands or the development of outdoor recreation facilities. States have received about 8,200 grants and counties some 4,800, while cities, towns and other local agencies received more than 24,000. Of the total number of projects, about 10,000 have helped states and localities to acquire some 2.3 million acres of park land, including combination projects where donated land values matched the cost of development. Almost 27,000 projects have been for the development of outdoor recreation facilities. The Assateague you see today was partly the result of this fund.

Also in 1965:

- The Selma to Montgomery voting rights march to the steps of the Alabama State Capitol ultimately resulted in the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This act banned literacy tests, poll taxes and other hindrances designed to impede black success.
- President Johnson inaugurated the "Great Society." He signed the Social Security Act of 1965 which established Medicare and Medicaid.
- Fidel Castro announced that every Cuban who wanted could immigrate to the USA. This changed the demographics and politics of south Florida specifically, and the United States as a whole.
- Mariner 4 flew past Mars on July 14 and collected the first close-up photographs of another planet. Cosmonaut Aleksei Leonov left his spacecraft Voskhod 2 for 12 minutes and so became the first person to walk in space.
- Sony introduced the Betamax home video tape recorder.
- The first U.S. Combat troops went to Viet Nam. The Battle of Ia Drang Valley, which was made into the movie "We Were Soldiers, Once and Young," happened shortly thereafter. The echoes of that war reverberate yet today.
- And in other news: Sarah Jessica Parker, Robert Downey, Jr., Brooke Shields, Sandra Bullock, Shania Twain, Ben Stiller and Katarina Witt were born. T.S. Eliot, Winston Churchill, Nat King Cole, Malcolm X, Stan Laurel and Albert Schweitzer died.
- The Ford Mustang was introduced (actually, in 1964, but they called it a 1965 model year).
- The movies; Sound of Music, The Greatest Story Ever Told, Cat Ballou, and Dr. Zhivago came out. Bob Dylan went electric and the Beatles made a movie, "Help!"; "A Charlie Brown Christmas" was first broadcast on CBS; and, I graduated from high school.

As I reflect on the past forty years, it is apparent that many things with long-term implications had their genesis in 1965. Many seeds were planted that grew into important, and often controversial, fruits. One special seed that was planted was Assateague Island National Seashore. Today you have the opportunity to enjoy the fruits. Enjoy them to the fullest, whether simply relaxing on the beach, watching the sun rise and set, fishing, clamming, crabbing or watching horses be wild. The particular beauty of this seed is that it will continue producing these fruits for generations to come.

- Mike Hill, Superintendent

If You Care, You Won't Share

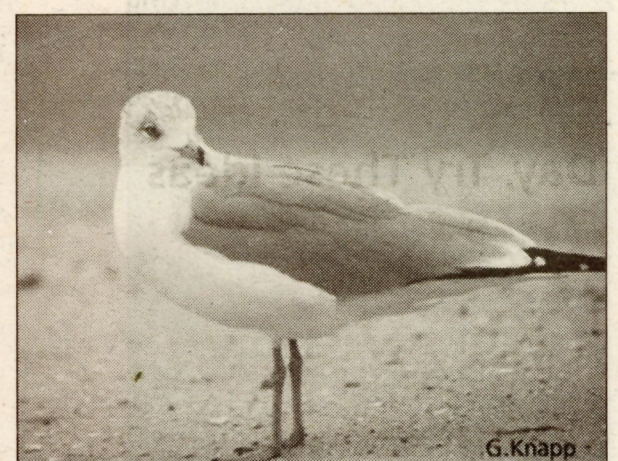
Assateague's wildlife inhabit many different environments. Mammals, reptiles, crustaceans, mollusks, fish and over 250 species of birds call the ocean, beach, dunes, forest, salt marsh and bay "home."

Please remember, interaction (including feeding) between visitors and wild animals is strictly prohibited and often dangerous for all involved. If you care, you won't share. Deer, horses and other creatures may appear tame, but they are capable of inflicting serious injury and may spread disease. For your safety, enjoy wildlife from a distance.



Your actions may have consequences long after you leave. Some animals pick up the habit of begging near roadsides. This can have tragic consequences. *Since 1982, 25 horses have been hit and killed by cars.*

Assateague Island is an oasis of habitat for countless wild creatures in this world of ever-shrinking natural places. Take pictures and memories, but do not take the "wild" from wildlife.



The Assateague Island Times is produced by the staff of Assateague Island National Seashore. It is edited and designed by Gretchen Knapp, Interpretive Park Ranger. Funding is provided by a donation from Eastern National, the park's cooperating association.



Hiking

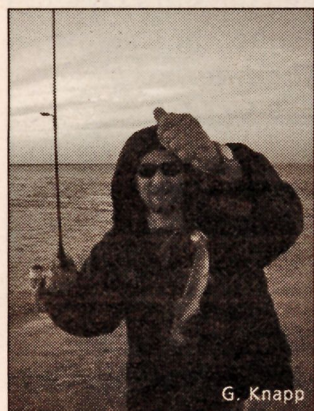
Assateague Island has a variety of paved and unpaved trails open for hiking. There are also 37 miles of beach to wander!

Maryland

Life of the Forest Trail - ½ mile loop.
Life of the Dunes Trail - ½ mile loop.
Life of the Marsh Trail - ½ mile loop.

Virginia

Service Road - 7 miles.
Wildlife Loop - 3.2 mile loop.
Woodland Trail - 1.6 mile loop.
Swan Cove Trail - 1.25 miles.
Black Duck Marsh Trail - 1.0 mile.
Freshwater Marsh Trail - 1.0 mile loop.
Lighthouse Trail - ½ mile loop.



G. Knapp

Surf Fishing

Surf fishing has been a popular recreational activity for generations. With a few basic tips on seasons, conditions, equipment, species and regulations, anglers can have an enjoyable experience and create a few memories. Fishing is prohibited within the lifeguarded beach area. Pick up a surf fishing brochure and current regulations at the visitor center.

Shell Collecting

Shell collecting is a popular way to enjoy Assateague's beaches. To ensure a supply of shells for beach dwelling organisms and future visitors, please limit collecting to one gallon or less of *unoccupied* shells.

When It's Not a Beach Day, Try These Ideas

Enjoy exhibits, touch tables and bookstores in the Toms Cove, Chincoteague Refuge and Barrier Island visitor centers.

Walk the Life of Assateague nature trails in Maryland and the Swan Cove, Woodland, Lighthouse, Freshwater Marsh and Wildlife Loop trails in Virginia.

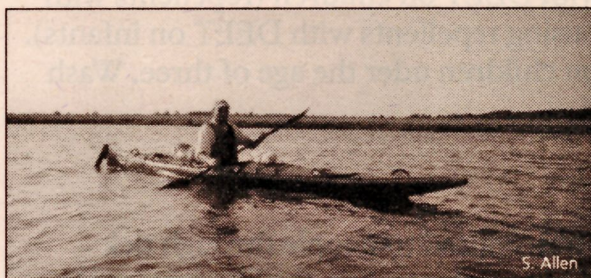
Drive the Assateague to Crisfield 'Beach to Bay Indian Trail.' Discover rich regional history in several museums, small towns and state parks.

Visit the Salisbury Zoo and Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art - both small but outstanding!

Explore charming Chincoteague and its museums, and NASA's Wallops Island Visitor Center.

Ranger-Guided Programs

A variety of ranger-guided programs are offered seasonally to encourage visitors of all ages to enjoy and learn more about the barrier island environment. Check at the Toms Cove (VA) or Barrier Island (MD) Visitor Centers for schedules.



S. Allen

Canoeing, Kayaking, Boating

Explore Assateague's water habitat and get a different perspective on your park! Bring your own watercraft or rent one from nearby local companies or the park's non-profit rental in Maryland. Canoes and kayaks may be launched from designated areas on Assateague. Careful consideration should be given to weather conditions and tidal currents. Federal regulations require a personal flotation device for each person in a watercraft. Check at the Barrier Island or Toms Cove Visitor Center for more information.

Over-Sand Vehicles (OSV)

There are 12 miles of beach in Maryland and a small section of beach in Virginia open to over-sand vehicles. An annual OSV permit may be purchased for \$70. Specific equipment is required. Be aware of closures during the busy summer season. Check at the Toms Cove Visitor Center (VA) or the Ranger Station/Campground Office (MD) for details.

Biking

Biking on Assateague is a great way to explore the island and avoid summer traffic and parking problems.

Maryland

Cyclists may explore miles of paved bike path from the bridge parking lot, west of the Verazzano Bridge, over the bike bridge and along Bayberry Drive and Oceanside Campground.

Virginia

A paved bike path leads from the town of Chincoteague to Assateague Island. Wildlife Loop - 3.2 mile loop.
Woodland Trail - 1.6 mile loop.
Swan Cove Trail - 1.25 miles.
Black Duck Marsh Trail - 1.0 mile.

Swimming, Surfing

Experience Assateague's ocean habitat! During the summer, lifeguard protected beaches are provided in both the Maryland and Virginia districts. Mats, floats, surfing and surf fishing are allowed *outside* of the lifeguarded beach areas. See page 4 for tips to help you safely enjoy your ocean experience.

Shellfishing

Crabbing and clamming are great ways to discover the bays behind Assateague and sample some local seafood. Please stop by the Barrier Island or Toms Cove Visitor Center for the latest regulations.



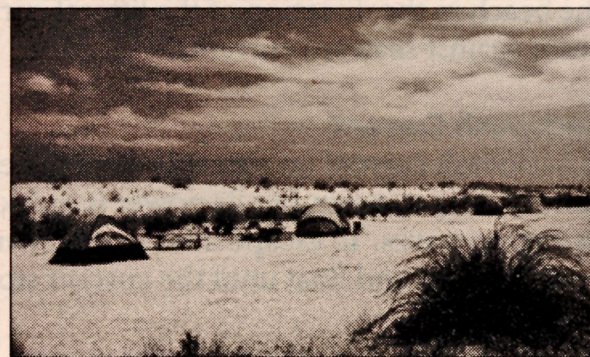
Seashore Camping - Something for Everyone

A variety of camping is available on Assateague Island, in Maryland 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. Paddlers and hikers may also camp at established, remote backcountry sites.

Both campgrounds have primitive facilities with outdoor chemical toilets, central locations for drinking water and outdoor rinse-off showers. Reservations are accepted from April 15 - October 15, up to five months in advance of a camping date. At other times of the year campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations for organized group camps are accepted year round. Contact

the National Park Service Reservation System at 1-800-365-2267 or on-line at <http://reservations.nps.gov>. Additional camping information is available by calling 410-641-3030 or visiting our web site at www.nps.gov/asis.

Assateague State Park in Maryland also has a campground that features hot shower bathhouses. There are a limited number of electric hookups. Further state park information is available at 410-641-2120. For reservations call 1-888-432-2267.





Your visit to Assateague will be more enjoyable if you are aware of and prepared to deal with insects, inclement weather, surf conditions and sun.

Mosquitoes

Mosquitoes and other biting insects may be abundant on Assateague from May to November. They are most active at dawn and dusk. You can protect yourself from biting insects by wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants, and/or using insect repellents on your clothing and exposed skin. Repellents containing DEET (20% to 30%), Picardin or oil of lemon eucalyptus can be very effective. Carefully follow instructions on the container. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that a cautious approach be used when applying repellents with DEET on children (repellents with 10% or less on children aged 2 - 12 and never using repellents with DEET on infants). Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under the age of three. Wash treated skin after returning indoors.

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 present on Assateague Island. While they can be found in any natural area on the island, special care should be taken in high shrub areas, woods and leaf litter. Wearing insect repellent and checking for ticks may prevent bites.



Rabies

Rabies is a preventable viral disease of mammals most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. Rabies may affect the appearance and behavior of many creatures, particularly foxes and raccoons. Visitors should never approach animals with the intention of offering assistance. Untreated, rabies leads to death in humans. Please report any sightings of sick animals to the nearest park ranger or refuge staff.



Poison Ivy

Found throughout 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. If you accidentally touch poison ivy, immediately wash the affected areas with soapy water to remove the oil. Remember: "Leaves of three - let them be!"

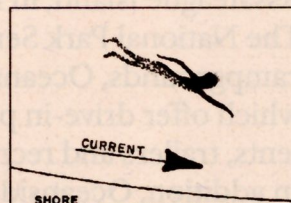


Surf Safety

The National Park Service works to provide you with a safe and enjoyable experience. However, conditions at the beach and in the surf zone can change dramatically in very short periods of time. Understanding the dynamics of typical surf zone currents will help you avoid a potentially dangerous situation. For your best protection use the lifeguarded area, which is designated by blue flags. Ask any lifeguard or check the informational signs for posted warnings or closures.

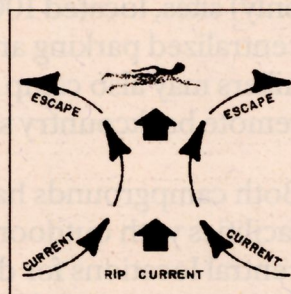
Littoral Current

The littoral current is a 'river of water' that moves up or down the shoreline parallel to the beach. It is created by the angled approach of waves. In storm conditions this current can be very swift due to high wave energy.



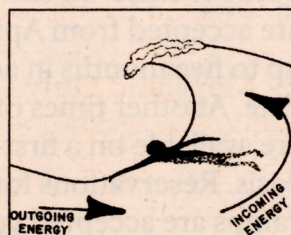
Rip Current

A rip current is one type of seaward current that will take you out to sea through the incoming waves, sometimes at an angle (offset current). To escape these seaward rips, swim parallel to the beach in the direction of the littoral current. Never try to swim against seaward currents.



Backwash Current

A backwash current on a steeply sloping beach can pull you toward deeper water, but its power is quickly checked by incoming waves. To escape this current, swim straight to the beach or wait and float until the current stops, then swim in.



Sun Survival

While some exposure to sunlight can be enjoyable, too much can be dangerous. Overexposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation in sunlight can result in a painful sunburn and can also lead to more serious health effects, including skin cancer, premature aging of the skin and other skin disorders, cataracts and other eye damage, and immune system suppression.

Limit Time in the Midday Sun

Avoid exposure to the sun between 10 am and 4 pm when the sun's rays are strongest. Remember the shadow rule: **Watch Your Shadow.**

No Shadow, Seek Shade!

Always Use Sunscreen

Liberal apply a broad-spectrum sunscreen of a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of at least 15 or higher on exposed skin. Reapply every 2 hours when working or playing outdoors. Even waterproof sunscreen can come off when you towel off, sweat or spend extended periods of time in water.

Cover Up

Wear tightly woven, loose-fitting and full-length clothing. A hat with a wide brim offers good sun protection to your eyes, ears, face and the back of your neck. Wearing sunglasses that block 99-100% of UV radiation will greatly reduce sun exposure that can lead to cataracts and other eye damage.

Beach Safety During Lightning Storms

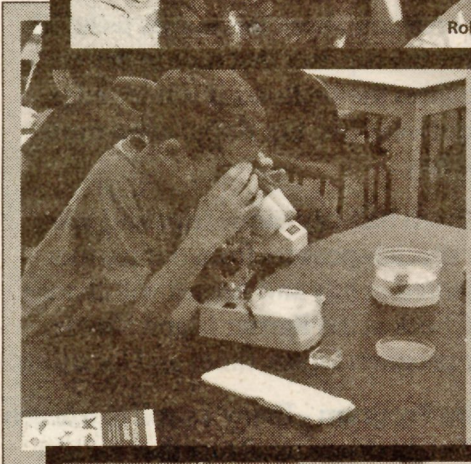
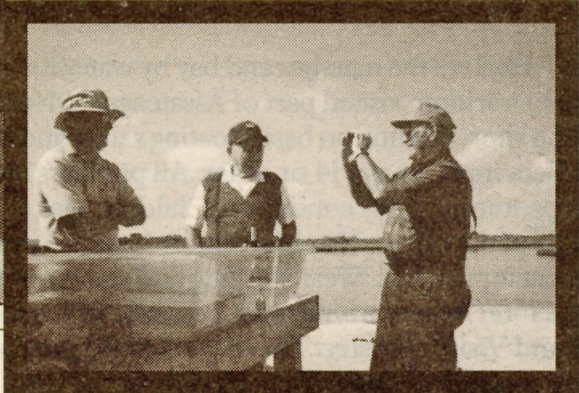
Every year lightning strikes kill or injure beach-goers around the world. If thunder can be heard then lightning is present. These simple steps can help save your life:

- Obey posted closures.
- Retreat to your car or other shelter and wait out the storm.
- Do not use the showers as you leave the beach during a storm.
- If you are caught in an open area, crouch on the balls of your feet and lean forward with your hands on your knees. Do not lie down or put your hands on the ground.
- Sound travels a million times slower than light. When you see a flash, time the seconds it takes to hear the thunder. A 5-second difference between the lightning flash and the thunder means the lightning struck 1 mile away. For each additional 5 seconds the strike is another mile away.



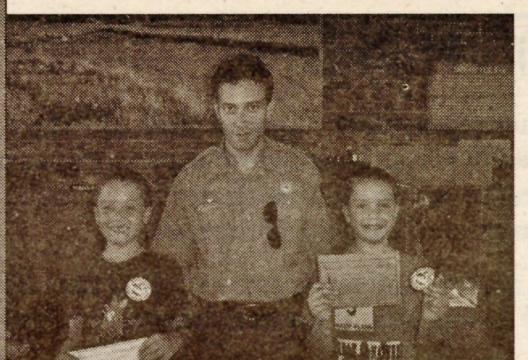
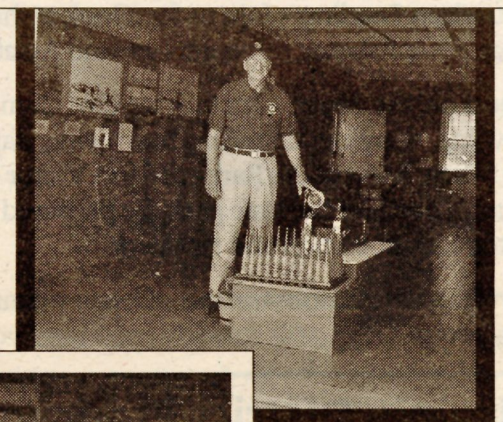
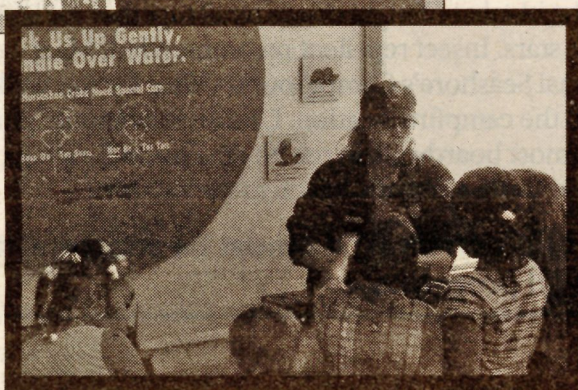
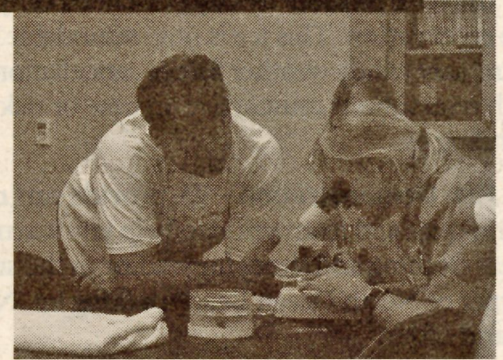
2005 Summer Program Schedule

Monday, June 20 - Saturday, August 27



This year's summer programs include beach walks, canoe trips, marsh walks, beach campfires, aquarium talks, night hikes and fishing programs, just to name a few. All park programs are geared to give you insights into the natural and cultural world of this dynamic barrier island.

Check inside for a more complete listing and to have a guided experience discovering the wonders of Assateague Island National Seashore.



Just For Kids



Junior Ranger - For children ages 6-14. Make your visit an Assateague exploration and learn more about the seashore. Purchase a Junior Ranger booklet at the Barrier Island or the Toms Cove Visitor Center. When you have completed the activities in the booklet and attended two ranger-guided programs, you'll earn a Junior Ranger certificate and patch.

- In Maryland - turn your booklet in at the Barrier Island Visitor Center desk.
- In Virginia - participants planning to attend the 3:00 pm Junior & Mini Ranger Awards Ceremony need to turn their booklets in to the Toms Cove Visitor Center staff by 2:00 pm.



Mini Ranger - For children ages 4-5. Pick up a Mini Ranger booklet at the Barrier Island or the Toms Cove Visitor Center. When you have completed the activities in the booklet and attended one ranger-guided program, you'll earn a certificate and badge.

- In Maryland - turn your booklet in at the Barrier Island Visitor Center desk.
- In Virginia - participants planning to attend the 3:00 pm Junior & Mini Ranger Awards Ceremony need to turn their booklets in to the Toms Cove Visitor Center staff by 2:00 pm.



Visitor Center Explorer - Maryland Only - Children ages preschool and older can earn a sticker by completing a worksheet about the visitor center exhibits.



Maryland District Programs

Early Birds - Wake up with the birds and join a ranger for a beach to bay stroll designed for beginning birders. Binoculars and a spotting scope provided. Meet in the history exhibit parking lot at the intersection of Bayberry Drive and Ferry Landing Road to look for bird signs and song. Insect repellent, long pants and long sleeves are recommended.

Canoe Trip - Explore the marshes and bay by water for an unrivaled perspective of a seldom visited part of Assateague. Meet at Old Ferry Landing for a short briefing on basic boating safety and canoeing skills. **Paddlers must be age 14 or older.** All paddlers must have strength to paddle in windy conditions. Children ages 6-13 may sit in the middle of the canoe. **No children under age 6 permitted.** All equipment is provided. Wear clothing and shoes (no flip-flops) for wading. **Note: Reservations must be made in person at the Barrier Island Visitor Center. There is a \$20.00 per canoe fee for the trip, payable by cash or check only at the time of making the reservation.** This fee is non-refundable except when stormy or extremely windy weather forces cancellation of the trip. Canoeists with reservations must arrive on time or risk forfeiture to others standing by.

Go Fish Demonstration - We provide surf rods, bait, casting techniques and instruction to help you learn the basics of surf fishing. Wear clothing and shoes for wading in the surf. Meet at the northeast corner of North Ocean Beach parking lot. **Note: program is for ages 12 and older.**

Aquarium Feeding - Join us for a look at the weird and wonderful creatures inhabiting the waters around Assateague.

Island on the Move - It's moving day! Come out to observe rolling, crawling, hopping, skittering, burrowing, flapping and galloping at the beach. Meet at the Barrier Island Visitor Center and we will car caravan north of the state park. Be prepared to walk in soft sand. Bring water, sun protection and repellent.

Surf Rescue Demonstration - Ocean swimming can be dangerous. Lifeguards strongly encourage your participation in this

demonstration of equipment and techniques for ocean surf rescue. Meet at the designated lifeguard stand at North Ocean Beach.

Blue Crab Special - During this "crab and release" program you'll learn the mysteries of catching this delectable denizen of the bay, the Blue Crab.

Stalking the Wild Bivalve - Put on your wading clothes and shoes (no flip-flops) and learn the art of collecting hard-shell clams and ribbed mussels.

Bay Discovery - What's that slimy stuff? What kind of fish is that? Watch out for those treacherous Blue Crab claws! Try our seine nets and take a closer look at marine organisms that thrive in the marshes and bay. **Plan on getting wet as you wade the shallows. Appropriate clothing and water footwear (no flip-flops) is a must!**

Bay Wade - There is nothing ordinary about this nature walk. It's a walk on the wet side. Discover the surprises that hide in dry eel grass along the shore. Explore from the shallows at water's edge. **Wading clothes and water footwear (no flip flops) are a must for this ½ mile ramble in the bay.**

The Shifting Sands Series - From half day canoe trips and hikes to unique topics presented by special speakers from our partner agencies. These activities presented in July and August will change like the shifting island sands. Check at the Barrier Island Visitor Center for the special flyer for program topics, times and locations.

A Walk at Dusk and Campfire Program - Enjoy a stroll to a beach campfire where the blanket of night draws us all together for an evening under the stars. Insect repellent recommended. Meet outside the National Seashore's Campground Office for the Walk at Dusk leading to the campfire location. Late arrivals should park near the southernmost boardwalk in the North Ocean Beach lot and walk 200 yards south along the beach to the campfire.

Special Note: Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult on all programs.

Virginia District Programs

Free as a Bird! - (Advance registration required-limit 25.) Have you ever wished you could fly? From beginners to experts, join us in a search for some of our feathered friends with the freedom of flight. A limited number of binoculars and bird guides are provided.

Marine Explorers - Join a ranger and investigate the island from beach to bay. Expect to get wet! **A snug pair of wading shoes is required, no flip-flops.**

Marine Expedition! - (Advance registration for afternoon session is required - limit 20. Prerequisite - Marine Explorers) For the ultimately curious, the Marine Explorers program turns into an Expedition in the classroom of the Herbert H. Bateman Education Center. Use field guides, microscopes and your imagination to meet the "locals" in person. **Note: No program on June 22.**

Hook, Line & Sinker - If sitting on the beach bores you, you might just get hooked on 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. **Program is limited to those 12 years and older.**

Kid's Beach - (Advance registration is required - limit 15. At least one adult companion must accompany.) Little people enjoy the beach as much as big people! This ranger guided activity for 6-12 year olds will encourage fun and learning from a "kid's eye view". **Hat and sunscreen strongly recommended.**

Life on the Edge - Are you brave enough to explore the edge of the continent? Hold on to your hats, investigate where land meets sea and consider the power of the ocean!

The "Sensual" Marsh - Use your senses to discover the many mysteries of the salt marsh. What sights, smells, sounds, tastes or feelings might you experience here that are found no where else? **Wear shoes that you don't mind getting wet and muddy.**

Surf Rescue Demonstration - Ocean swimming can be dangerous.

Lifeguards strongly encourage your participation in this demonstration of equipment and techniques for ocean surf rescue. Meet at the main lifeguard stand on the beach.

Aquarium Talk - The marine aquariums in the Toms Cove Visitor Center are just a "drop in the bucket" of the diversity of life surrounding the island. Get a peek at who is swimming around out there with you!

Under the Boardwalk - What's in bloom? Who made those tracks? Why are the crabs waving at me? You never know what you'll see under the boardwalk!

Mini & Junior Ranger Awards - Mini & Junior Rangers planning to attend the 3:00 pm Junior Ranger Awards Ceremony need to turn their completed booklets in to the Toms Cove Visitor Center staff by 2:00 pm. See page 5 for more information.

Creature Feature - Gather 'round the ranger and today's mystery "guest". Learn the life and lore of a special island or bay resident during this informal discussion.

Evening Auditorium Program - Enjoy an evening ranger-led program in the new Herbert H. Bateman Education Center. Topics will vary just to keep it interesting!

Night Hike - Scared of the dark? No need to be! Join a ranger for a leisurely stroll along the surf to experience the beach at night. A flashlight and insect repellent are suggested.

Beach Campfire - A campfire on the beach recreates the mood of days gone by. Join park rangers for a fun and educational program covering a variety of topics on the rich cultural and natural history of Assateague Island. You are welcome to bring marshmallows and roasting sticks. A flashlight and insect repellent are suggested. Meet at the north end of parking lot #5, south of the lifeguarded beach.

Tidal Flats Walk - As the "tides and moon surge and swoon", come gaze at what is left out to dry when the moon pulls back the watery blanket of the bay. **Wear snug wading shoes.**

Special Note: Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult on all programs.

Maryland District Programs

Location	Map Code	Program	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
History Exhibit Parking Lot	7	Early Birds (1 - 1½ hours, 1 mile)					7:30 am		
North Ocean Beach	3	Go Fish Demonstration (1 - 1½ hours)				9:30 am			9:30 am
Bridge Parking	2	Island on the Move (1½ hours, 1 mile)		9:30 am		6:00 pm			
Old Ferry Landing	8	Canoe Trip * (2 hours, 1 mile)			6:00 pm		10:00 am		4:00 pm
Lifeguarded Beach	4	Surf Rescue Demonstration (½ hour) 		10:00 am			10:00 am		10:00 am
Barrier Island Visitor Center	1	Aquarium Feeding (45 minutes)  			11:00 am	1:30 pm	11:00 am	11:00 am	11:00 am
Old Ferry Landing	8	Bay Discovery (1 hour) 	11:00 am		9:30 am	2:30 pm	3:00 pm		3:00 pm
Old Ferry Landing	8	Blue Crab Special (45 minutes)  		2:00 pm	2:00 pm	11:00 am	2:00 pm	9:30 am	2:00 pm
Old Ferry Landing	8	Stalking the Wild Bivalve (45 minutes) 	2:00 pm	3:00 pm	3:00 pm			10:30 am	
Bayside Drive Picnic Area	9	Bay Wade (1 hour, ½ mile) 	6:00 pm	8:00 am	11:00 am			2:30 pm	
Campground Ranger Station	5	A Walk at Dusk (½ hour, ¼ mile) 	8:00 pm				8:00 pm		
See Program Description	6	Campfire Program (1 hour) 	8:30 pm				8:30 pm		
See Program Description		Shifting Sands Series (July & August)	Times & dates variable - ask for the special flyer at the Barrier Island Visitor Center.						

 **Advance Reservations Required. Register at the Barrier Island Visitor Center.**

 **These programs are especially popular with children.**

 **Wheelchair accessible programs.**

Special Note: Assateague State Park also conducts programs. Call 410-641-2918 for more information.

Virginia District Programs

Programs may be relocated or canceled due to bird nesting activity. Please check at the Toms Cove Visitor Center for updates.

Location	Map Code	Program	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Toms Cove Visitor Center	A	Free as a Bird * (2 hours, 1 mile)	7:30 am					7:30 am	
Naturalist Shack	B	Hook, Line & Sinker (2 hours, ¼ mile)			8:00 am			8:00 am	
Lot #3	C	Marine Explorers (2 hours, ¼ mile) 	8:00 am			8:00 am			
Herbert H. Bateman Education Center	E	Marine Expedition! * (2 hours)				1:00 pm			
Naturalist Shack	B	Life on the Edge (1 hour, ½ mile)		9:00 am			9:30 am		
Naturalist Shack	B	Kid's Beach * (1 hour, ½ mile) 			9:30 am		9:30 am		
Naturalist Shack	B	The "Sensual" Marsh (1 hour, ½ mile) 			10:30 am				10:30 am
Lifeguarded Beach	C	Surf Rescue Demonstration (½ hour) 		10:00 am		10:00 am		10:00 am	
Toms Cove Visitor Center	A	Aquarium Talk (½ hour)  	1:30 pm	1:30 pm	1:30 pm	1:30 pm	1:30 pm	1:30 pm	1:30 pm
Toms Cove Visitor Center	A	Under the Boardwalk (45 minutes, ¼ mile) 		10:30 am		10:30 am			2:30 pm
Toms Cove Visitor Center	A	Mini & Junior Ranger Awards (15 minutes)  	3:00 pm	3:00 pm	3:00 pm	3:00 pm	3:00 pm	3:00 pm	3:00 pm
Toms Cove Visitor Center	A	Creature Feature (15 minutes)  		3:30 pm	3:30 pm	3:30 pm	3:30 pm	3:30 pm	
Herbert H. Bateman Education Center	E	Evening Auditorium Program (1 hour) 					7:00 pm		
South of Life-guarded Beach	D	Beach Campfire (45 minutes) 		8:30 pm					8:30 pm
Naturalist Shack	B	Night Hike (45 minutes, ¾ mile)	8:30 pm					8:30 pm	
Lot #3	C	Tidal Flats Walk (1½ hours, ¼ mile) 				July 6 2:00 pm	July 21-2:00 pm Aug 4-1:30 pm	Aug 19 1:30 pm	

 **Advance Registration Required. Register at the Toms Cove Visitor Center.**

 **These programs are especially popular with children.**

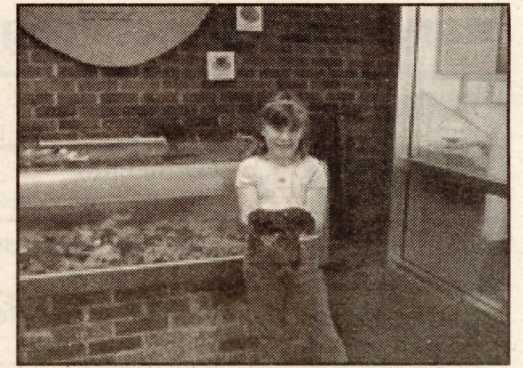
 **Wheelchair accessible programs.**

Special Note: The National Park Service assists the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in interpretation & recreation management in the Toms Cove area. The Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge provides many other activities throughout the refuge. Contact the Herbert H. Bateman Center for program details.



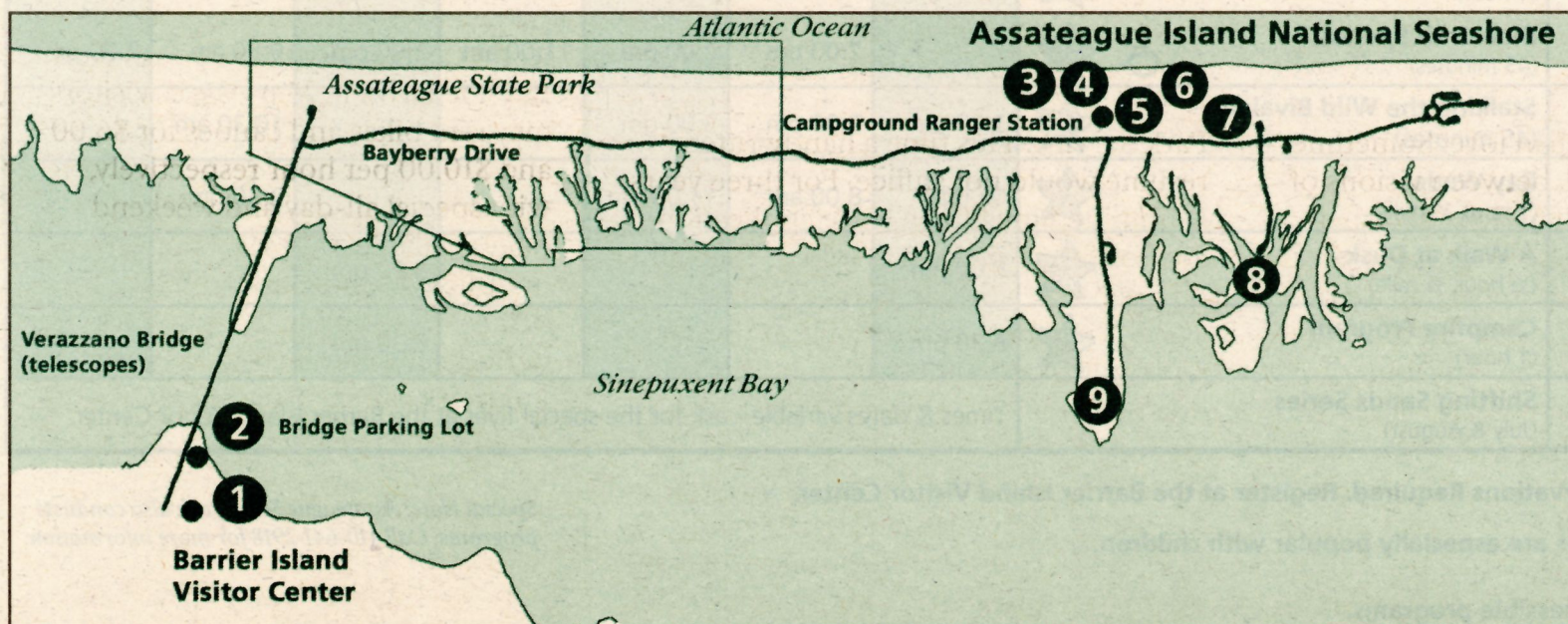
Barrier Island Visitor Center - Maryland

The Barrier Island Visitor Center is open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and provides exhibits, educational brochures, nature films, a marine aquarium, lost & found, and emergency services. Visitor Center staff are available to answer your questions and assist you in planning your stay. The center is the starting point for the park's one-hour audio driving tour. Aquarium feeding occurs daily. Check program schedule for times. Come join us! For more information, call (410) 641-1441.



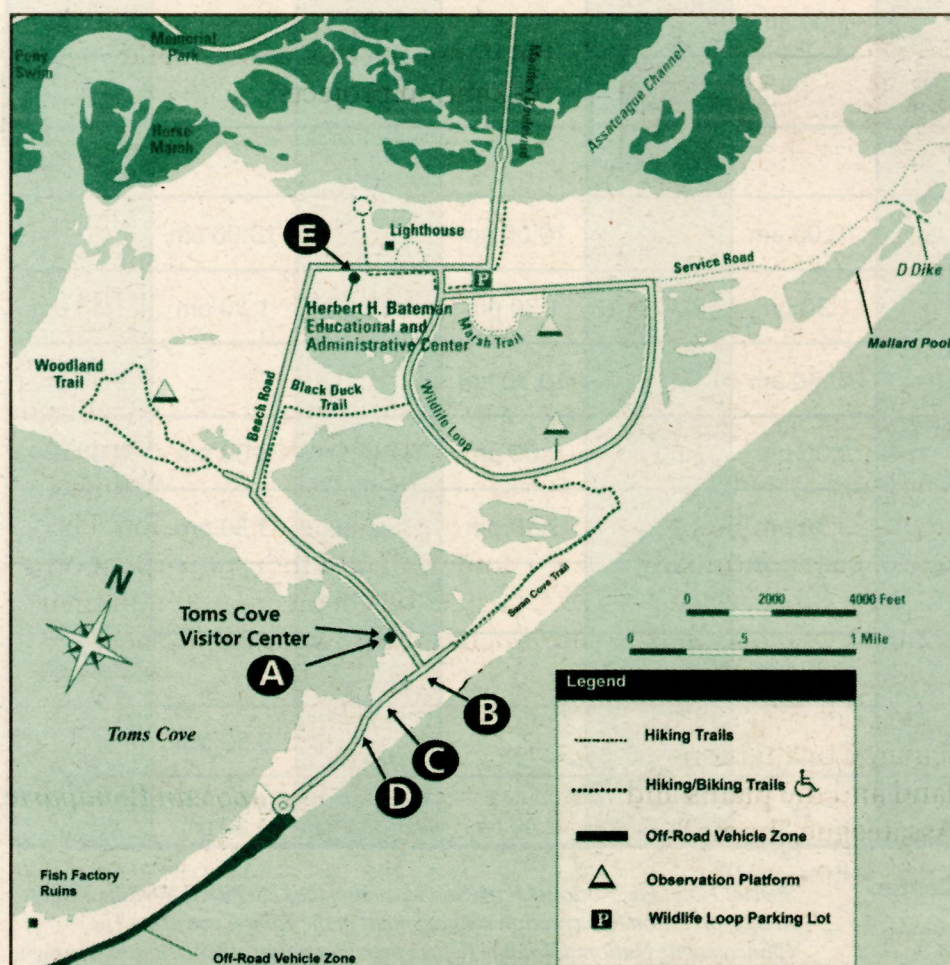
Map Guide

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1 - Barrier Island Visitor Center | 6 - 200 yards south of North Ocean Beach Parking Lot |
| 2 - Bridge Parking | 7 - History Exhibit Parking Lot |
| 3 - North Ocean Beach | 8 - Old Ferry Landing |
| 4 - Lifeguarded Beach | 9 - Bayside Drive Picnic Area |
| 5 - Campground Ranger Station | |



Toms Cove Visitor Center - Virginia

The Toms Cove Visitor Center is open daily from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm and provides exhibits, educational brochures, permits, a marine aquarium and touch tank, lost & found and emergency services. Visitor Center staff are available to answer your questions and assist you in planning your stay. For more information, call (757) 336-6577.



Map Guide

- | |
|--|
| A - Toms Cove Visitor Center |
| B - Naturalist Shack |
| C - Lifeguarded Beach |
| D - Lot #5 - North |
| E - Herbert H. Bateman Education & Administrative Center |



The Accidental Ranger

I never meant to be a park ranger. It was an accident. A brief encounter with a place of extreme beauty and wildness would prove to be a pivotal point in my life.

Horse trainer was the lone entry on my childhood list of career possibilities. Just as barrier islands constantly change, so did I. Dreams of becoming a horse trainer were later replaced by the more economically practical choice of veterinarian. Allergies to anything with fur prompted visions of neurosurgery. Interests in tropical fish keeping and scuba diving, combined with a dislike of chemistry, altered a three year course of study from pre-med to biology.

I never meant to fall in love. Sometime during high school, between visions of my veterinarian self and my neurosurgeon self, a last minute vacation was planned. A friend's parents had a place near the beach. We stayed for a week. I was unaware of it at the time, but a great romance was brewing. All the finest ingredients were on hand - horses, marine creatures, birds and the ocean. An endless beach, wild horses, a quaint town and feelings of freedom and peacefulness are all that I remember. History repeats itself later in life. A college friend's mother bought a place near the same beach. I signed on as a member of the general maintenance and construction crew of three. Paint was scraped, wall-paper was removed, rooms were gutted and a garden was planted. My romance with Assateague Island intensified during those biweekly visits.

I never meant to become obsessed. Sometimes a place takes hold of you and you find yourself rearranging your priorities to accommodate the expanding role it plays in your life. Friendships were formed as my classmates and I rotated college lecture attendance so we could each have a monthly, three day weekend. Later, as a responsible member of the workforce, I altered the company work schedule to four ten-hour days to accommodate my need for long weekends at Assateague. Pivotal points in my life began to be connected to Assateague. The island became a place of refuge, a healing place, a retreat to ponder failed relationships. Childhood interests in birds and fishing were reawakened. I met my future husband there.

Finally, I reached the point where I couldn't bear to leave the sight of the golden-green marsh grasses, the feel of the saltwater on my skin and the sand between my toes. I felt like an intertidal creature, constantly moving between two worlds. Whenever I was elsewhere, thoughts of Assateague would intrude so

that it seemed as if I was wasting my life if I spent it anywhere else. I would return to the island, roll down my windows to inhale the sulfur scent of the mud flats and think... "home."

I began searching for a way to stay. A job, any job...I would live in a tent if need be. By chance, I picked up a local paper in which a nonprofit organization was advertising for marine biology instructors. A handwritten resume, cover letter and an interview later, I was on the path to becoming a ranger. I just wasn't aware of it yet.

A co-instructor was my introduction to the possibility of career with the National Park Service. This time a handwritten resume would not suffice. For three years I submitted my fifteen-page application and for three years I was told... "there are no openings." I began to take it personally. My ego became as fragile as an angel wing shell. I submitted my application for the final time, expecting to be rejected. As luck would have it, someone finally desired a position elsewhere and an opening for a seasonal interpretive ranger was created. A phone interview ensued and I was offered a six-month position. I believe I took all of five seconds to accept. I have never regretted my decision.

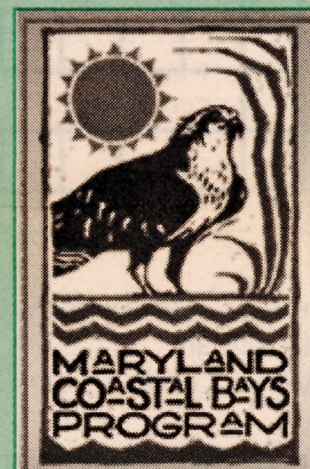


I am still obsessed with Assateague Island. My days are spent surrounded by the place that I treasure. I am continually immersed in this unique resource every time I teach surf fishing or watch a child discover what wondrous creatures live beneath the sand at the edge of the continent. I am still fascinated by this constantly changing island and the plants and creatures that call Assateague "home." Every single day presents opportunities for new discoveries and the joy of sharing them with others.

Bike on the Island and Canoe on the Bay

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program has entered into an agreement with the National Park Service to provide park visitors additional recreation and environmental education services. These activities promote public understanding and appreciation for coastal bays and Assateague Island National Seashore.

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program is launching activities from the former concession stand located on Bayside Drive in Maryland. Visitors may rent bikes and canoes for \$6.00 and \$10.00 per hour respectively, with special all-day and weekend rates available. Call 410-726-3217 or visit www.mdcoastalbays.org for details. In addition, Coastal Bays periodically conducts guided trips. For more call the Coastal Bays Program at 410-213-BAYS.



The Maryland Coastal Bays Program is a non-profit organization. Rental fees help pay for coastal bays programs, water quality monitoring, habitat protection and wetland restoration projects.

I never meant to become a park ranger. Although a pivotal point in my life revolved around this place and not the National Park Service, the two are intertwined. Forty years ago, others were inspired to preserve and protect Assateague so that everyone could have the opportunity to enjoy it. It is an extraordinary privilege to share their inspiration. Perhaps some will find their time spent on Assateague to be a pivotal point in their life. Such is the power of this place.

"There is no such thing as accident; it is fate misnamed."

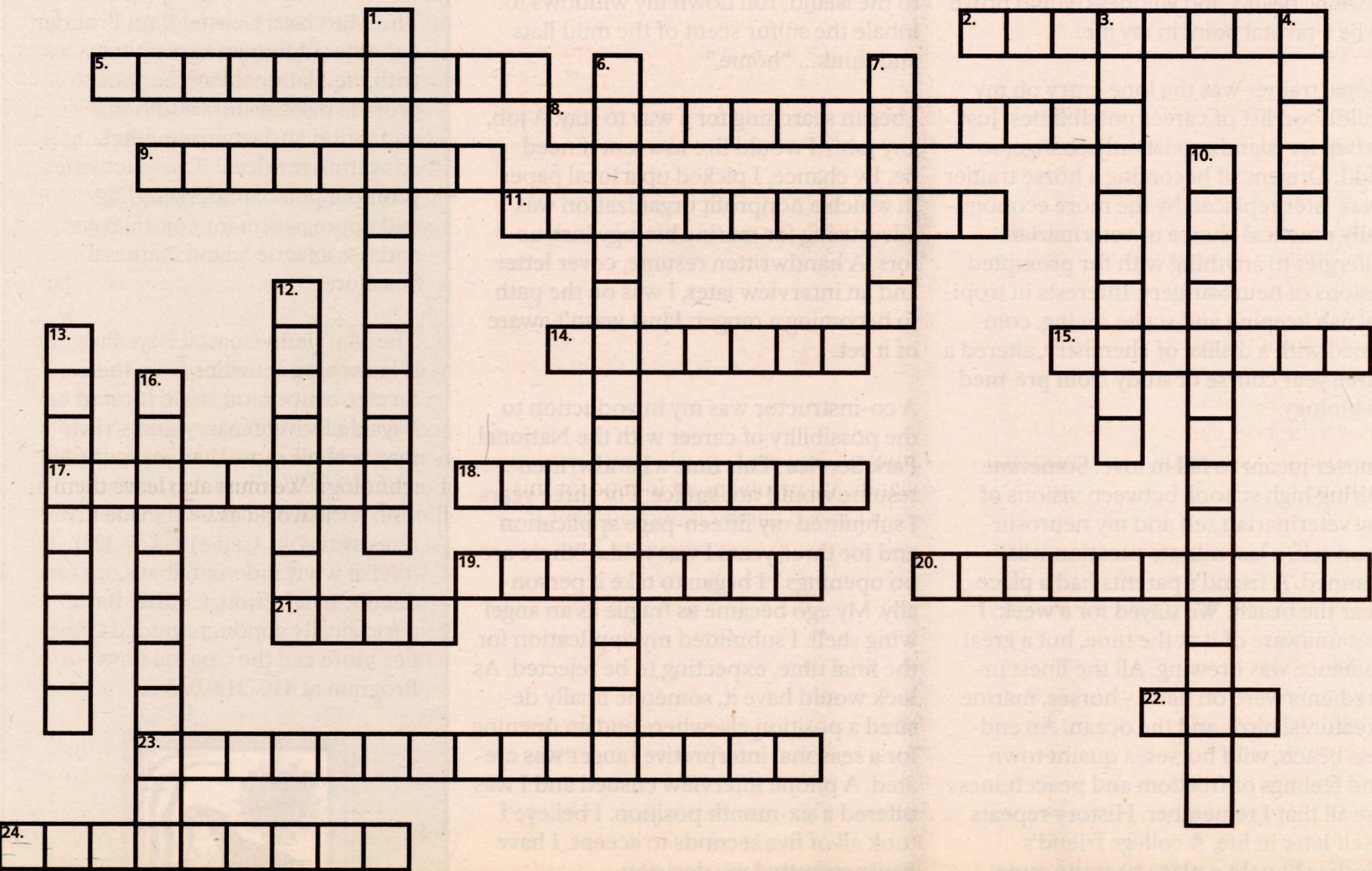
- Napoleon Bonaparte

- Gretchen Knapp
Park Ranger, Interpretation



The Assateague Island Times Crossword Puzzle

Clues are found throughout the newspaper. Check at the Barrier Island or Toms Cove Visitor Centers for correct answers.



Across

- 2. Assateague's _____ anniversary
- 5. Thursday at 7:30 am
- 8. Maryland Visitor Center
- 9. Biting insect
- 11. Junior Ranger, Mini Ranger, Visitor Center Explorer
- 14. President that signed Assateague's legislation on September 21, 1965
- 15. USFWS Visitor Center
- 17. Virginia Visitor Center
- 18. Leaves of three, let them be
- 19. 3.2 mile loop
- 20. Protect swimmers
- 21. Tick disease
- 22. Seaward current
- 23. Where does "Life on the Edge" meet?
- 24. SPF

Down

- 1. Over 65 breeding pairs
- 3. August 4 at 1:30 pm
- 4. Foster _____ Program
- 6. Life of the _____, _____, and _____ trails
- 7. Avoid traffic and parking problems by _____
- 10. Where does "Bay Discovery" meet?
- 12. River of water
- 13. 410-641-2120
- 16. Oceanside and Bayside

Did You Know?



- McCabe beach house after 1992 storm.

...that when Assateague Island National Seashore was established in 1965 over 10,000 acres had to be purchased from over 3,500 land owners? Two sprawling private developments had been planned for the island, but when government purchases of the property began, only a few isolated summer cottages existed, set apart along a crumbling asphalt road.

...that on August 4, 1972 President Richard Nixon arrived by helicopter on the lawn near the park headquarters in Maryland? He came to spend the weekend with his friend Thomas McCabe. Mr. McCabe was the board chairman of the Scott Paper Company and he owned property and maintained a 15-room beach house on the island. Mr. McCabe vacated the property in 1979. His beach house was destroyed by storm surge on January 4, 1992.

...that Assateague Island has one of the highest densities of piping plovers in North America? This year over 65 breeding pair were recorded on one 5 mile stretch of the island. The total represents approximately 2% of the world's population for this endangered bird.



Pivotal Points in Time

There are pivotal points in time in everyone's life. Events occur or decisions are made that forever change the course of our history. Pause for a moment...can you think of a memorable turning point in your life? They might be planned, like the birth of a child, getting married or a new job. Some of them just happen to us - good, bad or indifferent - like winning the lottery, the death of a parent or something as simple as a birthday. Ahhh yes, birthdays. As I recently reflected on the pivotal points in my own life, I realized that I will be experiencing a stereotyped "pivotal point" this year...my 40th birthday. Although some people find this milestone somewhat distressing, I actually feel it an honor to be celebrating my 40th with a dear friend - Assateague Island National Seashore.

The year 1965 not only marked the birth of a dark-eyed, curly-haired little girl that grew up to be the apple of her parents' eye, it also brought the birth of a lanky, unpredictable Seashore that has grown to be the love of millions. As I mulled over the thought that Assateague Island National Seashore and I were "born" the same year, my mind began to wander, wondering what other milestones or similarities we might hold in common. Did the creators of a "ranger to be" have any of the same thoughts as those that created a National Seashore? As they held their newborn, I can only imagine my parents thinking about what my future might be like. Would I be happy, healthy, a Rhodes Scholar? In turn, I can only imagine what President Lyndon Johnson might have thought as he held the signed measure that created this National Seashore. Did he think about what its future might be like? Would it be appreciated, healthy, a learning place? I believe I can safely say that Assateague Island National Seashore has grown and matured into something he would be proud of, as over two million visitors from across the U.S. and around the world come each year to seek something of value to themselves from the fruits of his labor. However, the island's "coming of age" has certainly not been without challenges, difficulties and "life changing" events. Although Assateague Island National Seashore was born in 1965, its conception started long before.

The actual island itself was created sometime before the "National Seashore" proper. A hurricane in August of 1933 blew through and cleaved off the lower end of a peninsula that extended south of Ocean City, Maryland. Recognizing the economic potential for the commercial fishing industry, the Army Corps of Engineers immediately set about constructing a jetty system to stabilize the inlet and keep it open, forever separating Fenwick and

Assateague Islands. One can only wonder what the area would be like now had the strength of that hurricane not forced Assateague Island out on its own.



- New Ocean City Inlet, 1933

Although August, 1933 was most certainly a significant pivotal point in time for this newly formed barrier island, another history-making storm set the course for the actual establishment of the National Seashore. The "Ash Wednesday Storm," as it came to be known, settled in for a three-day visit in March, 1962. This storm was not the ideal guest, as it stayed too long, inconvenienced everyone it came across and left the place a mess. The damage it wrought rose to the status of "federal disaster area," with millions of dollars in property damage and loss. Ironically, that storm stole the dreams of seashore cottages, but it left behind the gift of enlightenment. The idea of placing full scale development on a strip of sand that is in constant motion did not seem sensible or practical. The idea of investing one's future in a strip of sand that is at the mercy of the ocean did not seem lucrative. Assateague Island's place in history was about to change, with its first steps toward a new destiny.



-Assateague cottage drowned in 1962 nor'easter

On September 21, 1965, Assateague Island National Seashore was presented to the people of the United States as the newest member of the National Park Service family. Eternally "wet behind the ears," the Seashore has experienced both growing pains and successes throughout its years.

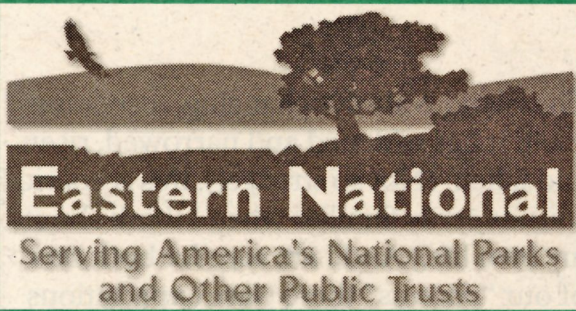
The island is always changing, recreating itself. It has widened and narrowed, risen and fallen. (Not so strangely, this scenario sounds eerily familiar when I think about my own life.) And I am sure for both sets of our "parents" there were expectations that were met and expectations that were not, but that is all part of bringing something you care for deeply into existence, whatever it might be, then letting it go to realize its own potential. As all parents, President Johnson had high hopes for his progeny. At the official ceremony that acknowledged the addition of this new Park Service family member, he said, "We are living in a Century of Change. If future generations are to remember us more with gratitude than with sorrow, we must achieve more than just miracles of technology. We must also leave them a glimpse of the world as God made it, not just as it looked when we got through with it." Lofty aspirations, but they are coming true through the mission of the National Park Service, which protects and preserves Assateague Island "for the enjoyment of future generations." Millions of visitors come year after year to experience what the island has to offer. The reasons they come are as diverse as the people themselves. They come for fun, natural beauty, recreation, education or family outings, to name a few. Surprisingly, some come for stability.



- President Lyndon Baines Johnson

There are pivotal points in time in everyone's life. Events occur or decisions are made that forever change the course of our history. Change can be scary. For some, Assateague Island provides a sense of permanence, a sense of stability, a sense of security. It has endured and persevered through the years, through the changes, and with age, has become even more dear. With the care we give it, it can weather any storm to begin the next phase of its existence. So, at this pivotal point in time, Happy 40th Birthday Assateague Island National Seashore and many more!

- Tracy Ammerman
Virginia District Interpreter



Eastern National, chartered in 1948, is an association operating in more than 130 national parks and other public trusts. They offer quality educational materials and services to park visitors and the general public at fair prices and to aid the National Park Service with the income derived from these activities. Since 1947, they have donated over \$77 million to the National Park Service.

Assateague Island Junior Ranger Program, For Kids Ages 6-14

Make your visit an Assateague exploration and learn more about the seashore. Purchase a Junior Ranger booklet at the Toms Cove or Barrier Island Visitor Center.

When you have completed the activities in the booklet and attended two ranger-guided programs, you'll earn a Junior Ranger certificate and patch. Price: \$2.25



The following items may be purchased at the Barrier Island and Toms Cove Visitor Centers and by calling (410) 641-1443 ext. 246 for a mail order form. Some items are available on-line at www.eparks.com

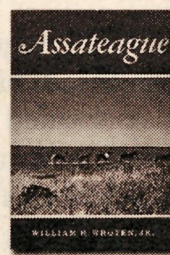
Passport to Your National Parks

This handy, spiral bound, travelogue makes it easy to learn about and explore all of our national park sites. Spaces in each region are designated for you to collect stamp cancellations at each site that you visit. Price: \$7.95



Assateague

This brief history of Assateague addresses every aspect of the island, from geographic formation and early history to the wildlife and present-day concerns of the island. Price: \$4.95



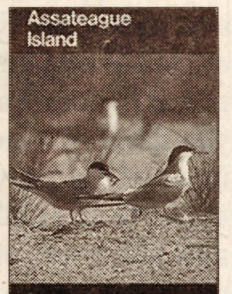
Assateague Island Pin

This lapel pin symbolizes the wide variety of animal species that call Assateague Island home. Price: \$3.95



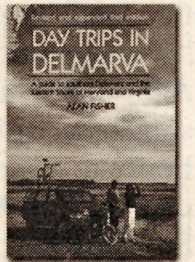
Assateague Island Handbook

The U.S. Department of the Interior presents the authoritative guide to Assateague Island. Features many full-color photographs and presents the full story of the seashore and its impact on the island's many inhabitants. Price: \$7.95



Day Trips in Delmarva

This guide to southern Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia emphasizes the region's historic towns, scenic back roads, wildlife refuges, parks, undeveloped beaches, and routes for car touring, hiking and bicycling. Price: \$12.95



Assateague Island Patch

The barrier islands, where the ocean meets the land, consist of a diverse ecosystem of plants and wildlife. The sandy beaches give way to grassy dunes; further on are forests and salt marshes. Celebrate the beauty of this wild landscape with this colorful patch. Price: \$3.95



Foster Horse Program

Support wild horse management and protection activities by becoming a Foster Parent. Participants receive a photograph and information on the horse they "foster" and a certificate in an attractive binder. A \$25 (\$30 online) contribution goes directly to education, long-term population monitoring and a contraception program to manage herd size.

"Fostering" a wild horse can be done at Maryland's Barrier Island Visitor Center or online at www.assateagewildhorses.org. The Foster Horse program is managed by Assateague Coastal Trust (ACT). ACT is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the living resources of the Delmarva barrier islands and coastal bays.

