

Crisfield

MARYLAND

VISITOR GUIDE & WELCOME PACKAGE



WELCOME TO Crisfield, Maryland!



THE CRAB CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

So, you're interested in Crisfield, Maryland. Why is that?

- Maybe you've heard Crisfield is a unique and charming little town, where the water that nearly surrounds it provides a playground for all kinds of summer fun like boating and sailing...
- Maybe you've heard about our first class marina with over 500 boat slips along the protected harbor... Or our state park that is ideal for camping, hiking, picnicking, or crabbing off the dock as well as boating and kayaking along 30 miles of water trails...
- Maybe you've heard about our charter boats that take people out fishing and that we have the best bottom fishing on the Chesapeake Bay...
- Maybe you want to take a cruise boat from Crisfield to Tangier Island or Smith Island, two inhabited islands just off our coast...
- Maybe you like seafood, crab especially, and you know that Maryland blue crab, which is plentiful in Crisfield, is the best...
- Maybe you just want to get away from the crowds, the noise, and the traffic of the big city, and go somewhere where it's calm, peaceful, and beautiful, and the people are friendly and welcoming to visitors...
- Or maybe you're just looking for a great place to retire or escape after years of the rat race.

Whatever your reason for wanting our new Crisfield Visitor Guide, welcome! We're happy you found us, and we can't wait for you to come and enjoy our little piece of heaven at the end of the road. Just follow Route 413 to its end at the water, park your car, and dive in. (Not literally, of course.) See ya 'round!



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Photo Gallery



Somers Cove Marina

"I've been around a bit--Cape Hatteras, Cape May, and all up and down the East Coast--and, compared to some, Somers Cove Marina is a gold mine. There is no other place as nice on the eastern side of the Chesapeake Bay. We've got a great location, we can go anywhere from here, good security, we can sleep at night, clean showers, relaxed but disciplined regulations... Besides all that, we have easy access for boat repairs, plus great restaurants nearby. There's not a town on the Eastern Shore that wouldn't trade places with Crisfield if they could have that marina."

Captain Ron Groff, Pocomoke, MD



Wheels on the Waterfront

Classic Car Cruise In. Every July, special interest car enthusiasts from all over the shore gather in Crisfield sharing their cars for all to see.

Great Hope Golf Course

Nestled in the wetlands of Somerset County, Maryland lies "one of the most beautiful golf courses on the Eastern Seaboard". Designed by the world-renowned golf architect, Dr. Michael J. Hurdzan, this 7000-yard championship course stands as a popular site for avid golfers.



www.crabcapital.com



Governor Tawes Crab & Clam Bake

Held every year on the third Wednesday in July at Somers Cove Marina in Crisfield, this annual celebration is named in honor of Crisfield native, J. Millard Tawes - the 54th Governor of the State of Maryland. This event, listed in Frommers Travel Guides and other National Event Directories is described as “an outdoor all-you-can-eat affair featuring crabs, clams, fish, corn on the cob, and watermelon, and in election years, lots of politicians.”



National Hard Crab Derby

held every year during Labor Day weekend features a Street Parade highlighting the “Miss Crustation” winning contestants. Other activities include: Boat Docking Contest, a 10-K Race/Walk, Swim Meet, Skiff Races, Crab Picking Contest, Annual Governor’s Cup Race, National Hard Crab Derby Race, Arm Wrestling Contest and Concert.



Janes Island State Park offers visitors a unique opportunity to enjoy the beauty and bounty of the Chesapeake Bay. Within the mainland portion of the park are the campground, rental cabins and conference center, picnic areas and pavilions, and the boat ramp and marina. The island portion of the park – Janes Island – includes over 2,900 acres of saltmarsh, over 30 miles of water trails, and miles of isolated pristine beaches. Enjoy hiking, biking, kayaking, canoeing, fishing, crabbing, or just admiring nature.



Calendar of Events



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EVENTS-WWW.CRABCAPITAL.COM



Strawberry Festival.....	May 10, 11
Soft Shell Metric Century.....	May 25
Opening Day at Wellington Beach & Park.....	May 25
20th Soft Shell Spring Fair.....	May 26
Reality show "The Choir" on USA Network.....	May/June/July <i>Crisfield is featured in one episode of the series.</i>
Music at Wellington Beach & Park.....	June 8
Crab & Cruise.....	June 21, 22
Sundaes and Hot Dogs at Wellington Beach & Park.....	June 29
Freedom Fest	July 6
37th Annual J.M. Tawes Crab & Clam Bake.....	July 17
Music at Wellington Beach & Park.....	July 20
Crab & Cruise	July 26, 27
Wheels on the Waterfront – Classic Car Cruise In.....	July 27
Golf Tournament at Great Hope Golf Course.....	July 28 <i>To benefit Crisfield and Princess Anne Chambers of Commerce</i>
Crab & Cruise	August 30, 31
66th Annual National Hard Crab Derby & Fair..	August 30, 31, September 1
"A Taste of Smith Island" Dinner	Sept. 21
David Luedtke Memorial Tour du Shore.....	September 21
Crab & Cruise.....	September 27, 28
Dock Day – On the Bay.....	September 28
Native American Indian Heritage Festival & Powwow.....	October 19, 20
Halloween Parade and Fall Festival.....	October 26
MacTavish's Market	November 30
Christmas Parade on Main Street.....	December 6
Holiday Home Tours.....	December 14

SEE OUR VIDEO OF CRISFIELD!



Here Comes “The Choir”!



Crisfield was selected to be one of the ten featured towns in the new reality show called “The Choir” coming out sometime between May-July of 2013. The show has been successful in Great Britain, and an American version was approved for ten episodes by the USA Network, the largest cable network in the US. In each episode of the hit series for the BBC, the choirmaster, Gareth Malone, puts a group together to form a community choir and helps build a sense of community through music and the process of becoming unified as a choir. Gareth Malone is doing the show in the US as well.

In preparation for the show, the producers were looking nationally for a small waterfront town that had a community choir, and through their research, they identified Crisfield. Crisfield, with a population of 2700, is surrounded by water on three sides, and had a community choir led by Crisfield High School music teacher Margaret Lee Tawes in the ‘50s and ‘60s. This is what drew the producers to Crisfield. When they came in October, they were hoping to find 40 to 50 participants, and were astonished that hundreds turned out to audition. People from all parts of the community showed up including young kids, teenagers, teachers, plumbers, insurance agents, even a fireman, a waterman, and a mortician. From these, they formed a choir of 88.

Production was completed in January 2013, and the show is scheduled to air in late spring or early summer. Many who were part of the show felt it was the experience of a lifetime. There is even the prospect of a follow-up show if things go well for the series. So look out everyone because here comes “The Choir”!



A SHORT History of Crisfield



The first name by which the town was ever designated was Annemessex Neck. The origin of this name is obvious because of the fact that a tribe of Native Americans called the Annemessexs lived and hunted on the river near Crisfield, which also bears their name. The local tribe was a branch of the Pocomokes which were seated to the east of here on the Great Pocomoke River. All of the Indians in what is Somerset County today answered to the Great Chief of the Nanticoes seated at a place known as Chicone on the Nanticoke River. Among the first colonial settlers to this area was the family of Somers. Benjamin Somers (Summers), the progenitor, settled in the Annemessex area in the year 1663. He was granted a patent by the Calverts of Maryland on February 10, 1663. His tract of land was called Emessex and contained 300 acres. His home was near the center of the tract on a small gut leading out of a cove, which was later called Somers Cove. The upper part of this tract became the town of Crisfield, and the Cove still bears the name.

Crisfield would probably have retained the name Somers Cove or Annemessex but for a trifling accident which befell the Honorable John Woodland Crisfield, a leader of the Somerset Bar and Member of Congress from the District. Mr. Crisfield was also involved with the railroad, and during an inspection tour of the docks, he was walking along a shaky old footway which led to the Steamboat landing. The story goes that one of those old boards gave way, and the distinguished lawyer and statesman landed in the cold waters of the Annemessex River. With much difficulty he was fished out, not much the worse for his ducking, but his clients sought to mollify his wrath, and on the spot christened the future City of Crisfield.

Crisfield received its Charter from the Maryland Legislature forming the town in 1872. Most of the first houses built were placed on piles over marsh or water. To fill the swamp land, oyster shells were used. Today from the center of the town to the City Dock is man made land of billions of oyster shells crushed compactly together forming the foundation of the larger part of the business section of the city. The ground is as firm as the Rock of Gibraltar.

The late 1800s was the era of the steamboat, and Crisfield had regular steamer service sailing from Norfolk to Crisfield and from Crisfield to Baltimore. By 1910, the Custom House at Crisfield had the largest list of sailing vessels of any port in the United States, and became a port of entry. In 1910 Crisfield abandoned its early form of Commissioner Government that had served the community since 1872. Doctor William Fletcher Hall, a practicing physician in the city, was elected the first Mayor. W. Jerome Sterling, Edward P. Wyatt, and Benjamin F. Gibson were elected as Councilmen, and William E. Daugherty was appointed Clerk-Treasurer.



Today ferries from Smith and Tangier Islands and hundreds of work boats travel in and out of Crisfield harbor carrying passengers, oysters, crabs and other seafood. Crisfield is still a great port to visit, and we are grateful for the many visitors that arrive by cruise ship, private yacht, buses, cars and even airplanes.

Crisfield people find pleasure as well as their livelihood on the water. The fishing grounds adjacent to the city are un-equalled. Tangier Sound, situated on one side of the peninsula on which Crisfield is located, offers one of the finest courses for sailing yachts and motor boats in the world.

The “early history” of Crisfield is in its people. The courteous and respectful treatment of visitors, the slow and easy but thorough way of doing things which is rapidly disappearing from the American scene, is still very much in evidence in this virgin territory. Past customs and speech are not forgotten but are cultivated for future generations.

Crisfield's history is probably not any different than many other ports on the Chesapeake, but to the residents of this once busy sea port, it is the birthplace of a nation and what we call home. Our city continues to grow in the 21st Century as new condos replace old seafood plants. It is our challenge to grow with a reverence for our past and those who struggled to build this city on the Bay.

Article by Phil Goldsborough, local historian

Important Numbers

Crisfield Fire Department 410-968-1262
Crisfield Police Department 410-968-1323
McCready Hospital 410-968-1200
Crisfield Clinic 410-968-1800
Crisfield Chamber of Commerce 410-968-2500

Crisfield City Hall 410-968-1333
Somers Cove Marina 410-968-0925
J. Millard Tawes Museum 410-968-2501
Crisfield Library 410-968-0955
Crisfield Post Office 410-968-1550



www.crabcapital.com



Facts about Crisfield & SOMERSET COUNTY

- Crisfield is the southernmost point in Somerset County and Maryland.
- "Somerset County is an area rich in Eastern Shore and Maryland history, boasting more historical buildings and sites than any other county in Maryland." www.visitsomerset.com
- The largest employer in Crisfield is McCready Memorial Hospital. The 2nd largest is Sherwin Williams (Rubberset).
- Crisfield is a historic waterfront town nearly surrounded by the waters of the Chesapeake Bay off of Tangier Sound and is famous for its fishing, sailing, and boating. In addition, Tangier Sound offers one of the finest courses for sailing yachts and motor boats in the world. Along with that, Somers Cove Marina, with its 515 boat slips, is considered by some to be the best marina in the state, if not on the East Coast. Plus, Janes Island State Park, with 2,900 acres of salt marsh and over 30 miles of marked water trails along with miles of pristine beaches, is a haven for birds, fish, crabs, and other salt marsh dwellers. No wonder some consider this area the edge of paradise.
- "Above all, the town stands out for the courteous and respectful treatment of visitors and the slow and easy but thorough way of doing things, which is rapidly disappearing from the American scene, but is still very much in evidence here." *Phil Goldsborough, local historian*
- Janes Island State Park was named to the American Canoe Association's inaugural list of recommended water trails.
- The Janes Island Marina, as well as Somers Cove Marina, are certified Maryland Clean Marinas.
- Somers Cove Marina is listed as one of the largest marinas on the East Coast.
- Lavalette's house at Hammock Pointe was not only used in the movie *Jacob Have I Loved*, but was also once owned by Actress Linda Hamilton.
- The fishing grounds adjacent to Crisfield are unequaled. For example, according to Captain Keith Ward, the "best bottom fishing" on the Chesapeake Bay in 2012 is Crisfield.
- Smith Island and Tangier Island off the coast of Crisfield are the only two inhabited islands in the Chesapeake Bay.
- Crisfield High School was the first high school in Maryland to install a wind turbine for educational purposes.
- Crisfield has the best wind resource in the State of Maryland, according to the Maryland Energy Administration. Following one year of measurement the average wind speed at 256 feet was 14 mph. Crisfield is currently in the process of issuing an RFP for the 750 MW Wind Turbine to be placed at the Waste Water Treatment Plant, and this will provide all of the WWTP electrical energy which currently costs over \$185,000 per year.
- According to Science teacher Pat Carson, "Most of the Shore gets all of its water from wells (ground water), and we are drawing it out faster than it can be replaced. There is not one municipality that uses rivers for water, mainly because most are tidal. But Crisfield is on a different aquifer than the upper end of the county. And because we are right down on the bedrock, our water comes from the Piedmont snow and rain that seeps down in the ground and forms the underground river that flows under the Bay to us. As a result, Crisfield has an abundance of water."
- "Somerset County has more than 500 miles of land kissing the Chesapeake Bay." From Destination Maryland State of Maryland Official Travel Guide
- The McCready Foundation was one of 13 hospital systems in Maryland to receive the "Delmarva Foundation for Medical Care's Excellence Award" for Quality Improvement in Hospitals in 2012.
- Crisfield is literally built on oyster shells. Businessmen bought lots under the water and built them up with millions of oyster shells!

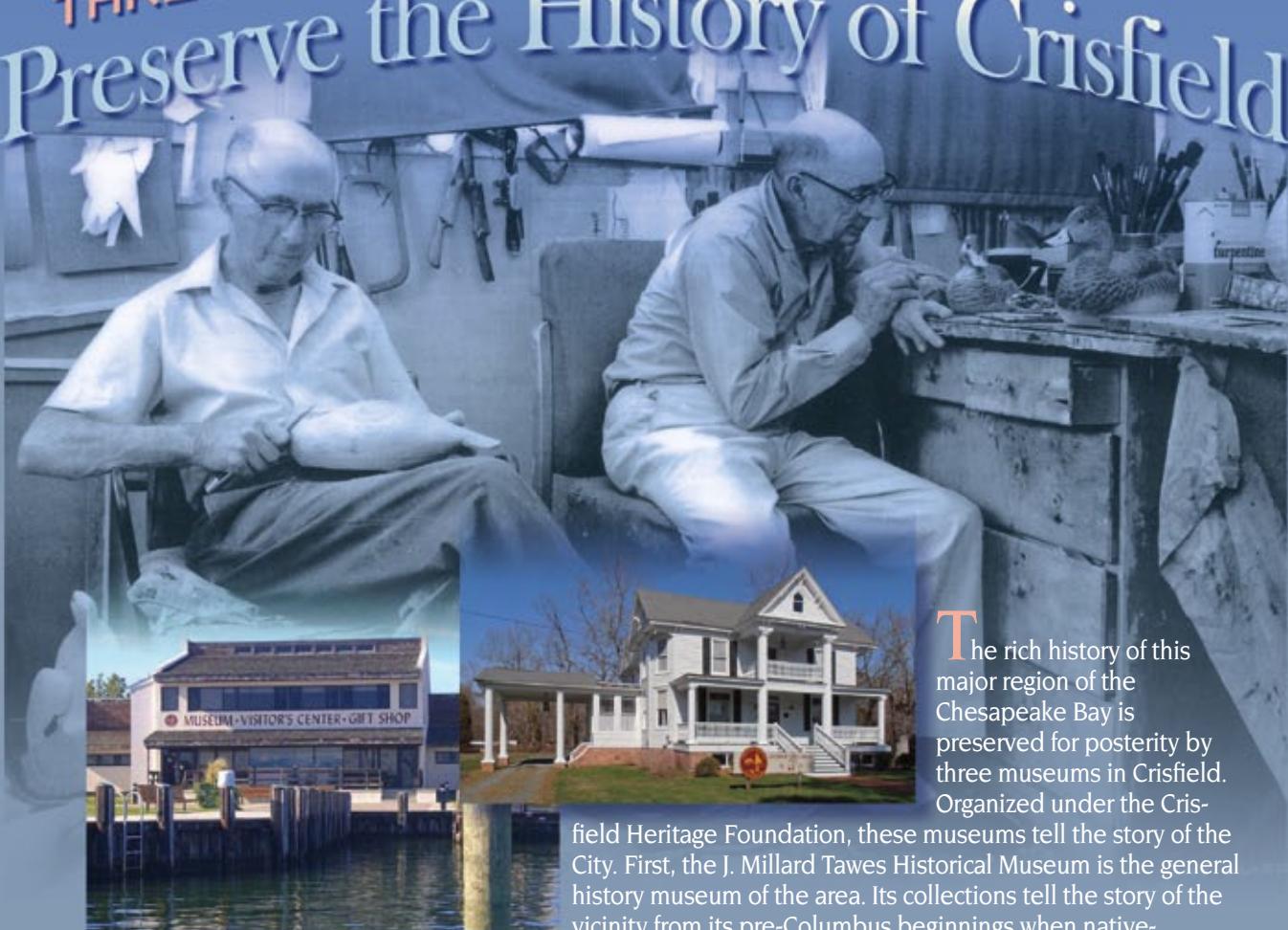
Before World War II, Crisfield was known as "The Seafood Capital of the World." It has set records for:

- shipping the most shucked oysters in one day (1920)
- shipping 29 train carloads of fish in one day (1922)
- shipping 1.5 million soft crabs in one day (1928), and
- shipping 20,000 gallons of crab meat in one day (also 1928).

Crisfield, The First Century by Jason Rhodes



THREE MUSEUMS Preserve the History of Crisfield



The rich history of this major region of the Chesapeake Bay is preserved for posterity by three museums in Crisfield. Organized under the Cris-

field Heritage Foundation, these museums tell the story of the City. First, the J. Millard Tawes Historical Museum is the general history museum of the area. Its collections tell the story of the vicinity from its pre-Columbus beginnings when native-

Americans surrounded the land, through the colonial period, and up to the present.

Second, the Governor Tawes Library commemorates the 54th Governor of the State of Maryland, who was born, raised, and passed away in Crisfield. Governor J. Millard Tawes was one of Maryland's most active governors and is remembered as an advisor and confidante of three presidents. His many achievements include the creation of the Center for Public Broadcasting, which became the model for other states.

Governor Tawes was the first southern governor to ban discrimination in public accommodations and also discrimination in state employment. The governor additionally started the University of Maryland Baltimore campus, authorized the second span of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, and served as the first secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. These and many more interesting facts are to be found in the Governor Tawes Library located in the birthplace of Governor Tawes. The 1887 Victorian home is itself part of the interesting history of the area and is on the National Registry of Historic Places.

The third museum operated by the Foundation is the Ward Brother's Workshop. Lem (1896-1984) and Steve Ward (1895-1976), the two sons of a Crisfield barber and boat builder, became famous for their carved decoys. Now recognized as masters of decoy and decorative bird carving, they worked here at their workshop all of their lives, producing nearly 25,000 decoys in 60 years. Their workshop is actually composed of the separate structures which were combined by Lem and Steve to form a complete decoy carving and painting workshop.

These three museums offer the visitor a complete cultural heritage experience of this historic waterfront town.

Article by John W. Paul



Crisfield Notables



John W. Crisfield

Crisfield was named after John W. Crisfield, who brought the Pennsylvania Railroad to town.

J. Millard Tawes

Governor J. Millard Tawes of Crisfield was Maryland's 54th Governor from 1959 to 1967. He remains the only Marylander to be elected to the three positions of State Treasurer, Comptroller, and Governor.

Harry Clifton (Curley) Byrd

President of the University of Maryland.

Lt. General Jefferson Fields

Commanding General of Camp Pendleton (1960), Director of Personnel for the entire United States Marine Corp (1962).

John Wesley Nelson

Founder of Del Monte canned products.



Lem and Steve Ward

The Ward Brothers were featured in National Geographic Magazine three times. In 1983, Lem Ward received the National Heritage Award from Ronald Reagan through the National Endowment for the Arts, recognizing both brothers as the fathers of the modern movement in decorative wildlife carving in America.

Charter Boat FISHING



Photo: Charlie Petrossi

CAPTAIN'S NAME

CAPTAIN'S NAME	BOAT NAME & NUMBER
Captains Joe and John Asanovich.....	Barbara Ann II and III 410-957-2562 www.barbaraannfishing.com
Captain Gerald Dawson.....	The Carolyn D II 410-742-7762
Captain John Engberg.....	The Lady Anna 410-968-3307
Captain Dan Harrison.....	The Salty Fly 410-968-0219 www.crisfield.com/fly/
Captain Curtis Johns.....	Karen Ray II 410-623-2310
Captain Larry Laird, Jr.....	The Bay Eagle 443-235-6282
Captain David Stone.....	The Rollin' Stone 410-651-5311 www.dastone.com
Captain Keith Ward.....	Prime Time II 410-968-0074 www.crisfield.com/prim

For information on Charter Fishing in Crisfield: www.crabcapital.com

Other helpful websites:

www.crisfieldevents.com • www.visitcrisfield.com
www.visitsomerset.com • www.crisfieldnews.blogspot.com



CRAB PICKER EXTRAORDINAIRE! Hazel "Hurricane" Cropper



Hey, all you crab lovers! Here's a question for you: Who is the World Champion Crabmeat Picker of all time? None other than Crisfield's own, "Hurricane" Hazel Cropper. Hazel, who now picks crabs part-time for The Crab Place, has won the Crab Picking Contest at the National Hard Crab Derby more times than any other competitor since the contest started on Labor Day weekend in 1963. She has won eight years in a row, plus six more times, for a total of fourteen wins. Her personal record was picking 4.9 pounds of crabmeat in 15 minutes in 1991!

Born and raised in Crisfield, Maryland, known as The Crab Capital of the World, Hazel started picking crabs in 1947 at the age of nine. Taught by her grandmother, Meinne Bishop, picking crabs was a family affair, and she joined in with her sister, her aunts, and many other family members. In 1961, Hazel started work at Byrd's Seafood in Crisfield picking crabs, and continued on there for thirty years. *"We were just like one big family,"* she said. *"Every day at 9:00 AM, we'd stop work and sing The Lord's Prayer. While we worked, we'd laugh and talk, but we kept on picking."* In fact, Hazel believes in giving a good day's work for a good day's wages. *"Some people duck work, but I dive right in,"* she said with a smile. In fact, she worked two jobs for many years, picking crabs at Byrd's during the day, and then making corn fritters and onion rings at Mrs. Paul's Kitchen at night until 1991 when Mrs. Paul's closed. She entered her first crab picking contest in 1989 and won, and she's been winning and winning ever since.

"There were others who picked crabs fast when the crab picking contest began, people like Bernice Banks, Carpathia Miles, and Grace Ward. When I win, I honor them as well. I like honoring them as well as myself. And I feel good to still carry on..." Hazel is also grateful for the healing of a hand injury she suffered while cutting soft crabs. It left her unable to compete in the Crab Derby crab picking contests from 2001 until 2007, when she returned and garnered her 11th win. She's racked up three more wins since then.

Hazel said the secret to picking crabs fast is based on how you learn from the beginning. She had a sister that was fast, and Hazel used to watch her. She was taught to pull the claws off by hand, and then pull off the back. Next she would take out the belly and the eggs, cut off the legs, and skim the crab knife across the top, pulling the meat out with her knife. She does these processes over a trash can, so the shell can fall into the trash, not into the meat. Hazel is known not only for her speed, but also for picking the crab clean while leaving little or no shell in the crabmeat she picks. Although some places pick crabmeat by machine, Hazel has a strong opinion about that: *"The human hand is still the best tool for picking crabs,"* she said.

Winning the crab picking contests has gained her a certain amount of celebrity and the opportunity to travel and display her talent. For example, she has given demonstrations at the Baltimore Aquarium and at Sunfest in Ocean City, Maryland. She also traveled to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to a food emporium there for several years, where she taught adults and school children about Maryland crabs and how to pick them.

"I like what I do," she said proudly. *"It is God who gives us gifts. I thank Him for the gift I have been given, and each time I win, I acknowledge Him. I enjoy demonstrating my way of life, and also I am able to shed light on Crisfield, the town I hail from. I feel somewhat blessed to be able to do that."* And Crisfield is blessed to have her. We are proud of her accomplishments and, most of all, her kind and generous spirit. May her legacy live on long after she's gone. And meanwhile, stop by and say hello to Hazel at The Crab Place in Crisfield. If you're lucky, she'll show you a thing or two about picking crabs!

CRISFIELD WATERMAN Philip "Moose" Labo



What's it like to make a living going out in a boat to catch crabs on a daily basis? For waterman Moose Labo, it's a labor of love. He started with his Dad when he was six or seven years old. He couldn't do much at the time, but by the time he was seventeen or eighteen, he was running his own boat and has been crabbing for over twenty years since then. During crab season, which starts April 1st each year, his day starts at 5:00 AM and ends around 2:00 PM, six days a week. When he first started crabbing, he had 200-300 crab pots. Now he has 900 that he has set out into the Bay, and each day he, and his two nephews Kris and Kam, and sometimes his Dad, go out to pull up the pots and bring in the catch for the day.

Moose said he loves being on the water and being his own boss. And, he added with a smile, "*I really love it when I'm makin' money.*" "*Makin' money*" can be tricky for watermen. It's hard to know what to expect, and there is a great deal of risk involved for their investment in their boat, pots, and fuel. Sometimes they catch a lot of crabs and find that the price has dropped because crabs are so plentiful that they don't have much left after they cover their costs. Or crabs can be scarce, and they get a good price for the few crabs they catch, but not enough to make it profitable. "*That's the hardest part,*" Moose said. "*You put all the money you saved the year before into getting ready to crab again, not knowing if you're going to make it back.*" But then there are times when things align so that the catch is abundant and the price is good. Those are the times Moose enjoys the most!

Starting out at daybreak, Moose also enjoys watching the sun come up from his boat. "*There's some beautiful sights out there. You never know what you're going to see. Some mornings, eagles swoop down and pick bait out of the water. It's amazing to watch,*" he said.

Watermen also find some unexpected "treasures" in their crab pots besides crabs. "*The other day we were clear off shore, and we found a golf ball in a pot. Sometimes we find balloons. When I was young, I pulled up a pot, and it had the ugliest creature I've ever seen in it. I liked to jump overboard! To me, it looked like a Chinese eel. I still get scared when I think about it,*" he said with a grin.

Like other watermen, Moose has had his share of scares out there besides the "Chinese eel." His biggest scare was when he almost sank his boat when a pot got caught in the wheel. The boat started taking in water, and although he managed to get the pot out, by then he had taken in a lot of water and "*liked to lost 'er.*" The one thing that saved him was the false floor in the boat which was full of air. That kept him afloat until he could bail the water out. He was out on the water by himself with no cell phone at that time, so the situation could have been tragic. As he said, "*I was young and dumb and didn't care then. I've got more respect for the water now.*"

When he's not getting pots ready for crabbing season or busy with life as a waterman, he works at the local Salvation Army Youth Club in Crisfield, overseeing programs and mentoring the kids. He said he loves it there too because he really enjoys working with young people. It's a good balance for him. Part of his life is out on the water making a living and part is on land making a difference. Either way, when it comes to Moose Labo, life is good.



Enjoy These Crisfield Eateries...



1 Blue Crab Garden Café
801 West Main Street • 410-968-0444
www.bluecrabcafe.com



2 Café Milano
103 North Fourth Street • 410-968-1082



3 Captain Tyler's Crabhouse
923 Spruce Street • 410-968-1131
www.smithislandcruises.com



4 Captain's Carry-out
947 West Main Street • 410-968-1305



5 China Wok
1 Jacksonville Road • 410-968-2888



6 Circle Inn Restaurant
4012 Crisfield Highway • 410-968-1969



7 The Crab Place
504 Maryland Avenue • 410-968-2222
www.crabplace.com



8 Gordon's Confectionery
831 West Main Street • 410-968-0566



9 Ice Cream Gallery & Gift Shop
5 Goodsell Alley • 410-968-0809



10 Linton's Crab House/Deck
4500 Crisfield Highway • 410-968-0127
www.lintonseafood.com



11 Little Ditty's
712 Broadway • 410-968-2835



12 McDonald's
12 Maryland Avenue • 410-968-1368
www.mcdonalds.com



13 Pizza Shoppe
65C Richardson Avenue • 410-968-0333
www.crisfieldpizzashoppe.com



14 Smith Island Baking Company
718 Broadway • 410-968-9532



15 Subway
510 West Main Street • 410-968-3000
www.subway.com



16 Watermen's Inn
901 West Main Street • 410-968-2119
www.crisfield.com/watermens



Little Annemessex River



Somers Cove



www.crabcapital.com



...and Attractions!

OYSTER SHUCKER William "Happy Man" Sledge



Meeting William Sledge is like meeting the epitome of "old school." William has made more than a living. He has built a ***happy life*** upon the "old school" values and beliefs that have worked for him for over 50 years: devoting himself to his wife and family; working as an oyster shucker as well as other jobs to keep cash flowing; and managing money well by saving up for the things his family needed or wanted.

William started shucking oysters on the Eastern Shore of Virginia when he was fifteen years old in the '60s. He and his family worked in the fields during the spring and summer and then shucked oysters in the fall and winter. At the time, that was all that was available where they lived. He quit school in the eighth grade to work year round because, as the oldest of eleven children, his income was needed to help support the family. When he was 21, he met and married his wife, Diane. Forty-four years later, they are still married and have three grown children, all of whom are doing well. One daughter is a pharmacist. Another is working at a hospital and going to school at night. Their son has made a career of the Air Force for 22 years. After the children reached high school, William's wife, Diane, worked at Rubberset in Crisfield, a company that makes paint brushes. They now have seven grandchildren, the oldest of whom finished her first year at Georgia State this year. William is proud of his family and attributes their success to the values he and his wife passed down to them.

One of the values he has passed down is the value of work. Now age 66, William is still shucking oysters. Currently, he works at Metompkin Bay Oyster Company in Crisfield shucking oysters every day from 5:00 AM until 10:00 AM along with 50-60 other oyster shuckers. He is one of the fastest shuckers and can shuck a gallon of oysters in about twenty minutes. His hands move so fast, "*you can hardly see them*," he said, while never having an injury or a cut. "But," he adds, "*there are people faster than me*." The men and women joke and sing as they shuck the oysters. They are, according to William, "*a happy crowd*."

But oyster shucking is not the only work William has found to do. He always looked for ways to keep the money flowing. "*You can't sit in the house watching TV and expect to have anything. You have to go out and make money.*" He worked at Chesapeake Plywood Company in Pocomoke for 18 years, where he worked his way up to foreman, overseeing 18 men the last five years he was there. For the past several years, fire companies in Maryland and Delaware hire him to shuck oysters on the half shell for the raw bar at their annual firemen get togethers. He also finds things at yard sales and flea markets that he takes home and restores for resale because he has always been good with his hands. Currently, he's busy making barbecue grills for others using 50 to 275 gallon tanks which he converts into a barbecue grill with doors. And, in addition, he cuts grass. One customer whose grass he cut for years thought so much of him, she gave him her husband's car when her husband died. William drives it with pride. It's one of four vehicles he owns, none of which was bought "*on time*," and all of which cost him "*less than \$4000 total*," he says with a smile.

When it comes to cars and money, William is definitely "old school." He saves for what he wants. He said he never had a new car in his life. "*If I spend \$25,000, it will be on my house*," he explains. "*I can't see a person making payments for 5-6 years, while paying rent. People are hollarin' 'it's hard times'. It's not 'hard times'. Why pay \$25,000 for a brand new car, when you're rentin' a place to stay? You can't have nothin' if you do that.*"

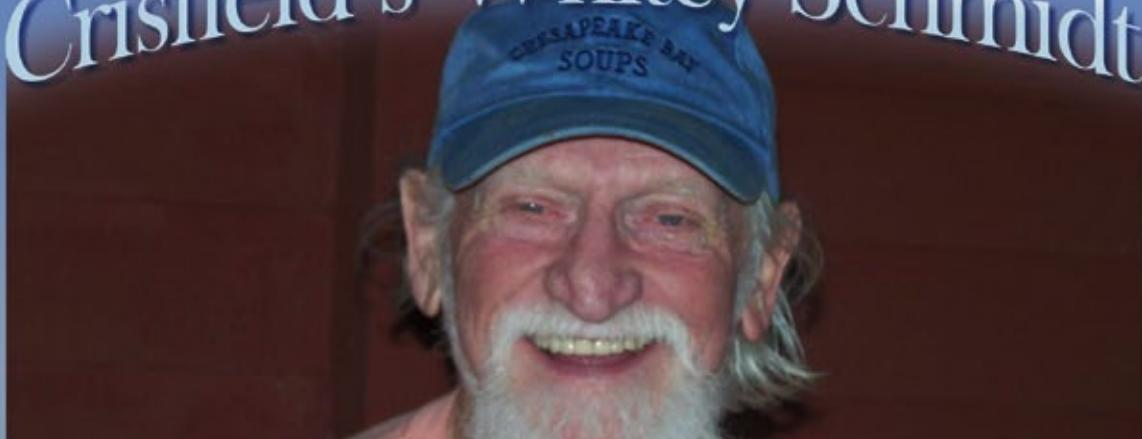
Instead, William has invested his money in his home and property. He bought his home when he was 23 years old - a very small house on two acres of land. As his family grew, he saved up the cash to build onto it. "*I haven't had a mortgage payment in 33 years*," he says with pride.

That's not the only thing he's proud of. He's proud of the fact that he's never been in trouble and never been out of work. Even now at age 66, he says, "*I can always find something to do. I never wanted to depend on nobody, so I learned to make money. You don't have to steal. There's ways to make money and be honest too. I've always been a go-getter, and I taught my children to do the same.*"

However, most importantly, William has devoted himself to his wife and family. "*Me and my wife are just as happy as two peas in a pod*" he beams. They enjoy going to flea markets and yard sales together, and they travel whenever they like. The other thing he does for enjoyment is fishing. "*I'm going to stay active as long as I can. There's one guy now who shucks oysters with us who's 80, and he's just as fast as I am. That's inspiring! I hope I can work right up to the time when the Lord comes to take me home.*"

William sums up his life by saying, "*I'm a happy man. I have no regrets.*" With a long lasting marriage, seeing his children and grandchildren doing well, financial freedom, good health, and a positive attitude, it's not hard to see why he is happy and has no regrets. That's inspiring!

BLUE CRAB GURU Crisfield's Whitey Schmidt



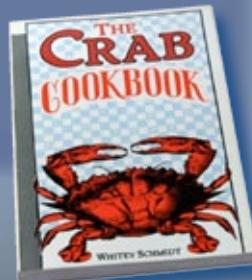
Crisfield is proud to be home to author, Whitey Schmidt, who moved here from Washington, DC in the mid-90s, and has written several of his cookbooks here. Crisfield and Whitey couldn't be a better fit. The town is known as "The Crab Capital of the World," and Whitey is known as a Blue Crab guru, writer, and chef extraordinaire.

It all started when he was a young boy in DC, one of thirteen children. On weekends, his father would go out with his buddies and come back with fish, shrimp, or crabs for the family. Whitey was intrigued by where his father had gone to find these culinary delights. It became for Whitey a lifelong passion to seek out the crab houses nestled along the Chesapeake Bay on Maryland's Eastern Shore and to discover cooking methods and recipes for crabs and other seafood that were exceptional. As a young man, for fifteen years, he traveled every weekend and dined at a different crab house each time, looking for the best crab restaurants and collecting menus along the way. In addition, while distributing auto parts in Virginia, DC, and Maryland for his family's business, he would stop at nearby crab houses collecting more menus and business cards. He visited over 275 in all, particularly those that offer steamed crabs. He also worked for a time as head chef in a seafood restaurant as a young man, learning his craft and fulfilling his passion for seafood.

Over time, friends, knowing his obsession, would call for recommendations based on Whitey's travels and discoveries, which he kept in his own "black book." This led to his first book, published in 1985, called *The Official Crab Eaters' Guide*. He sold 5000 copies without advertising, quit his job in the family business, and made a living writing ever since. His second book was published two years later entitled *The Chesapeake Bay Waterview Dining Guide*. His third and most popular book was published in 1990, *The Crab Cookbook*. As a result, Whitey starred in the Maryland Public Television award-winning series *Eating Crabs Chesapeake Style*, which featured his crab cookbook. Also, his book *Flavor of the Chesapeake Bay* with renowned photographer Marion Warren is still a best seller. In addition to cookbooks on blue crabs, soups and oysters, his current work in progress is a compilation of favorite softshell crab recipes, which will be his twelfth book. Along with recipes of the Chesapeake Bay's unique cuisine, his books contain tips and humorous anecdotes from Whitey's travels and experience. Whitey has tested and tasted every recipe in every book in his test kitchen (known as his "crab lab"), so you know that you're getting the most delicious seafood recipes possible.

For Whitey, writing and Maryland seafood became a part of him. He lives it, dreams it, and goes to bed thinking about his next book. When asked if he has a favorite book or a favorite recipe, he smiled and said, "*Mom Schmidt couldn't pick a favorite among her children and neither can I pick among my cookbooks or among my recipes.*" He said he's enjoyed every recipe many times over, and "*I love them all.*" Then he added, "*When you find something you love, it's not work. For me, researching and writing my cookbooks – sometimes around the clock – is such joy!*"

And Crisfield has become home to Whitey Schmidt. He loves the people and the place. About Crisfielders he says, "*Crisfield people are clannish in a nice kind of way. If you stay to yourself, they will leave you alone and respect your privacy. If you come among them, they will welcome you like a newborn babe.*" As for Crisfield, we are delighted that he has "*come among us,*" and that he shares our love for all things *crab* here in Crisfield - "The Crab Capital of the World."



Church Services SCHEDULE

African Methodist Episcopal

St. Paul's A.M.E. Church
4th & Broadway
Sunday Service: 10:30 AM

Assemblies of God

Faith Fellowship
26950 Plantation Road
Sunday School: 9:30 AM
Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM and 6:00 PM

Baptist

First Baptist Church
1 South Somerset Avenue
Sunday Service: 11:00 AM

Mt. Enon Baptist Church
361 Tyler Street
Sunday School: 9:30 AM
Worship Service: 10:30 AM

Catholic

Holy Name of Jesus Church
1913 Old Virginia Road
Pocomoke, MD
Saturday Mass: 5:00 PM
Sunday Mass: 11:00 AM

St. Elizabeth Church
8734 Old Westover Road
Westover, MD
Sunday Mass: 8:30 AM

Church of God

Crisfield Church of God
134 Maryland Avenue
Sunday School: 10:00 AM
Sunday Worship: 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM



United Methodist

Asbury United Methodist
3380 Lawsonia Road
Sunday School: 10:00 AM
Sunday Service: 11:00 AM

Immanuel United Methodist

206 West Main Street
Sunday School: 10:00 AM
Sunday Worship: 11:00 AM

John Wesley United Methodist

206 West Main Street
Worship Service: 9:00 AM

Mariners United Methodist

Old State Road
Sunday Service: 9:00 AM

Mt. Pleasant United Methodist

1st Street & Main
Sunday Service: 11:00 AM

Shiloh United Methodist

109 North 4th Street
Sunday Service: 11:30 AM

Wesleyan

Crisfield Evangelical Wesleyan
22 East Chesapeake Avenue
Sunday Service: 11:00 AM

Crisfield Wesleyan Church

3065 Lawsonia Road
Sunday School: 10:00 AM
Sunday Service: 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM

Holiness

Charity Holiness Church
Broad Street
Sunday School: 9:30 AM
Worship Service: 10:30 AM

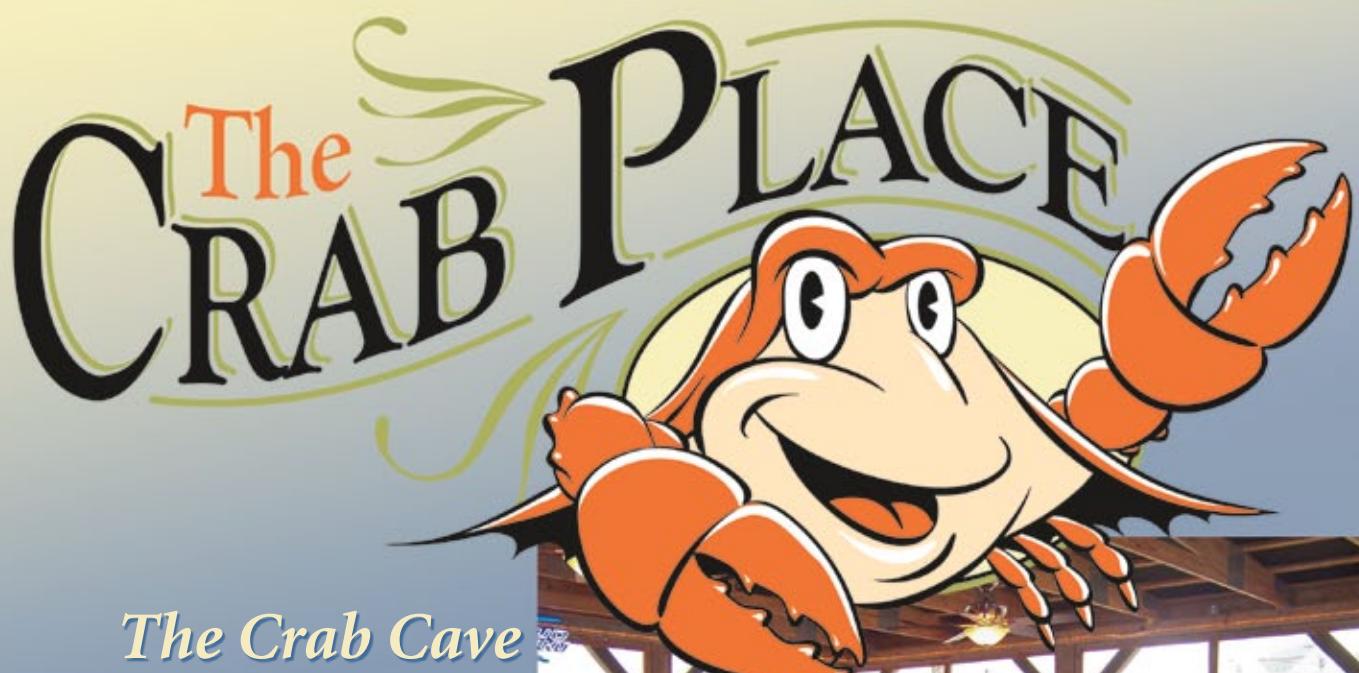
Methodist

Somerset Free Methodist
Route 413
Sunday School: 10:00 AM
Sunday Worship: 11:00 AM

Nondenominational

Living Hope Fellowship
1101 West Main Street
Sunday Service: 10:30 AM





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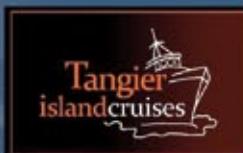
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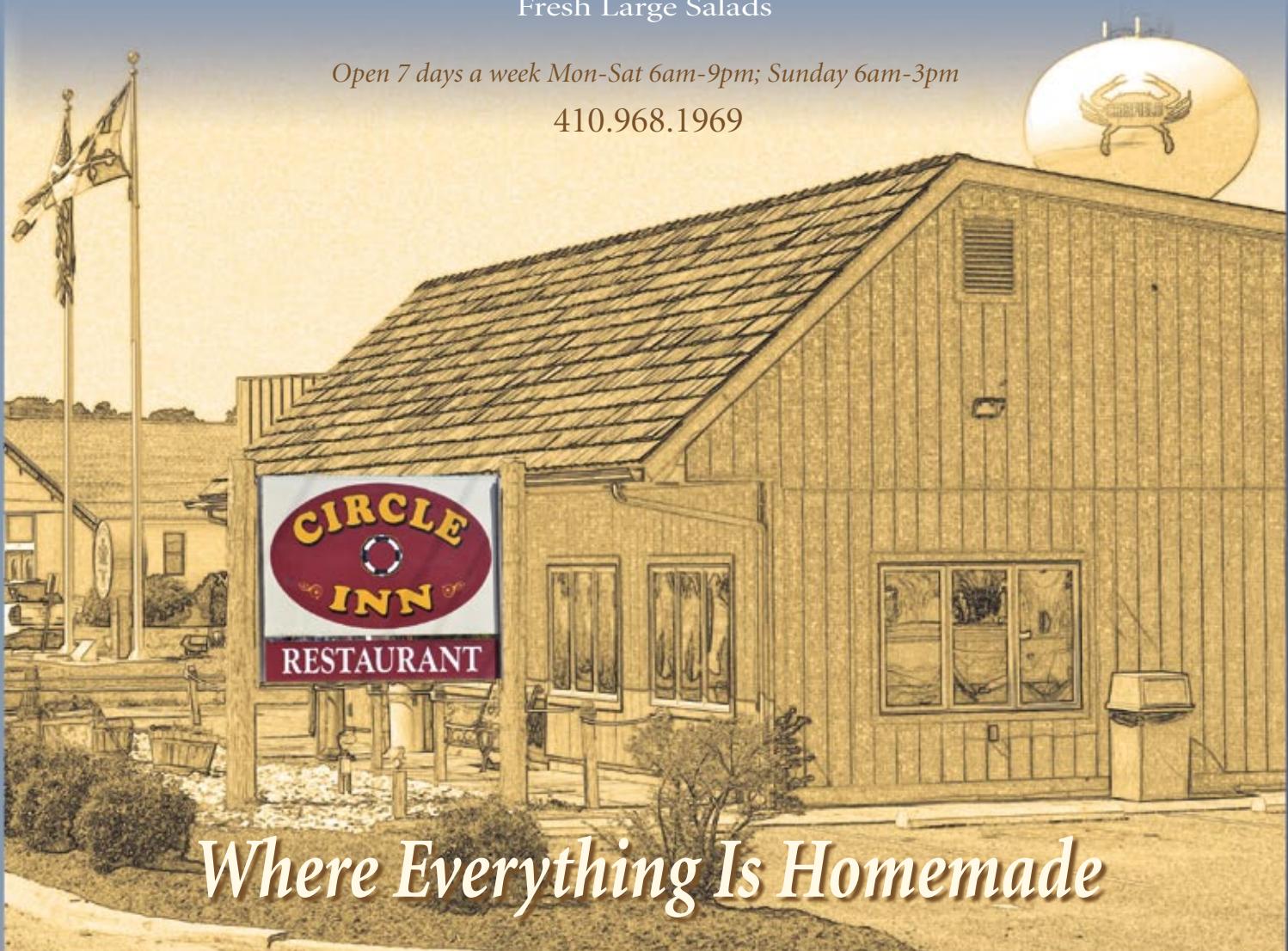
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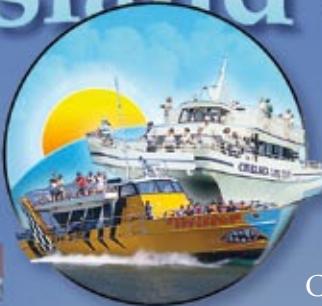
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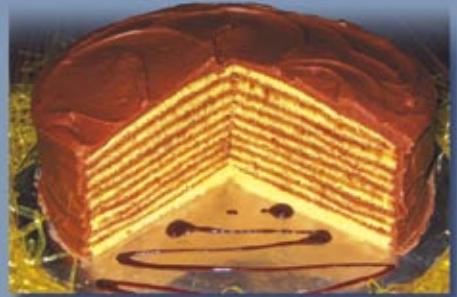
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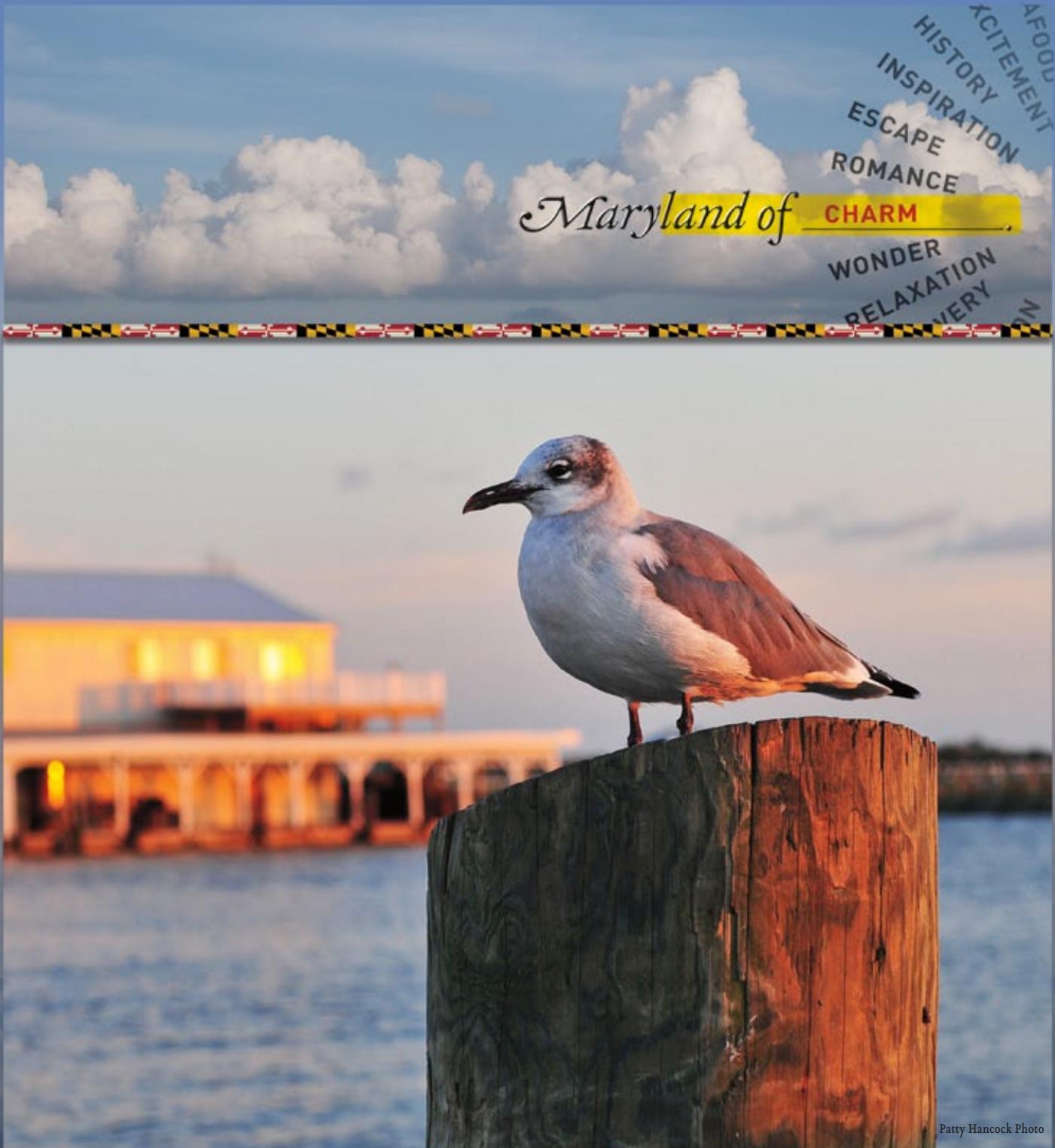
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