



The Delaware River and Bay Authority

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Cape May – Lewes Ferry Welcomes Schooner A.J. Meerwald *New Jersey's Official Tall Ship Docks at the Cape May Terminal for extended visit*

CAPE MAY, NJ – Today, Cape May – Lewes Ferry officials announced the expected arrival of New Jersey's official Tall Ship, the **Schooner A.J. Meerwald**, to the Cape May Ferry Terminal! The restored Delaware Bay Oyster Schooner, whose home port is located near Port Norris, New Jersey, will be docking at the Cape May Terminal from Sunday, August 5 to Monday, September 3 and will host numerous special events and sailings during this time period. Help raise the sails, learn about New Jersey maritime history and ecology – the A.J. Meerwald is your history portal to bygone era!

"The Bayshore Center is thrilled to be sailing out of the Cape May Ferry Terminal this season. The A.J. Meerwald is celebrating her 90th birthday and sailing in the Delaware Bay is where she belongs," said Chase Jackson, the Bayshore Center's Programs Manager.

A distinct vessel that evolved to meet the needs of the local oyster fishery, the A.J. Meerwald first launched in 1928 before the decline of the shipbuilding industry with the Great Depression. Today, the A.J. Meerwald is operated by the Bayshore Center at Bivalve to educate the young and young at heart on the historic local oyster and shipbuilding industries.

"It's a fun, relaxing way for the whole family to get off the grid and experience the joy of the salty, summer breeze filled with some tall ship tales and history," said the Meerwald's Captain Johann Steinke.

"We're pleased to partner with the Bayshore Center at Bivalve to support their southern New Jersey Bayshore educational mission by hosting the A.J. Meerwald this summer," said Mike Porch, Marketing Manager for the Cape May – Lewes Ferry. "It's such an awesome experience to sail the Delaware Bay aboard the A.J. Meerwald, imagining what it would be like to work on the vessel in the 1930s. What a great opportunity to enjoy this hands-on experience while learning about our rich local history on the Delaware Bay."

Sailing: \$35 adults (17-64), \$25 seniors (65+), \$15 kids (0-16)

- **Afternoon Sail (Time: 1:00 P.M. – 3 P.M. Dates: 08/05, 08/10, 08/12, 08/18, 08/19, 08/23, 08/24, 08/25, 08/26, 08/29, 08/31, 09/01, 09/02, 09/03)**
- **Evening Sail (Time: 5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. Dates: 08/09, 08/11, 08/12, 08/16, 08/18, 08/19, 08/23, 08/25, 08/26, 08/30, 09/01, 09/02, 09/03)**
- **Kids Sail (Time: 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. Dates: 08/12, 08/15, 08/18, 08/25, 08/26, 08/29, 09/01, 09/02, 09/03)**

- **Education Sail (Time: 1 P.M. – 4 P.M. Dates: 08/09 [Oysters! @ 2PM-4PM], 08/11 [Pirates! @ 1PM-3PM], 08/16, 08/17, 08/20 [@ 9AM-12PM], 8/30 [History! @ 2PM-4PM])**
- **Live Music Sail (Time: 5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. Dates: 08/10 [Carl Behrens], 08/17 [Nishma Oman], 08/24 [The Squares], 08/31 [Jimm Ross])**
- **Sailor for a Day (Time: 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. Dates: 08/08, 08/22)**

Please note that the schedule and event times may vary or change. For more details and current schedule, please call (856)-785-2060 or visit www.Bayshorecenter.org.

About the A.J. Meerwald

The A.J. Meerwald was launched on September 7, 1928 by Charles H. Stowman & Sons at Dorchester, NJ. She was built a wood centerboard schooner with low freeboard and a raked transom stern designed for oyster dredging under sail and power. She had minimal draft, considerable beam and a flush deck from stem to stern. Her original sail rig, as evidenced in photographs taken during her first oystering season in 1929, typified the new style schooners; bald-headed (without topmasts), gaff rigged, with a large 'gloriana peaked' mainsail, a smaller foresail, and spike bowsprit supporting a single large club staysail.

About the Cape May-Lewes Ferry

The Cape May – Lewes Ferry is owned and operated by the Delaware River and Bay Authority, a bi-state governmental agency created by Compact in 1962. The Ferry is open year-round and has carried more than 45 million passengers since its inception on July 1, 1964. In 2017, the ferry service, which connects Victorian Cape May, New Jersey, and historic Lewes, Delaware, transported approximately 275,000 vehicles and nearly 1 million passengers. For schedule, rates and other program information, please visit the ferry's website at www.CMLF.com, or call toll free, 800-643-3779. Like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter @CMLFerry.