

BARRIER  
ISLANDS  
CENTER

# NEWSLETTER

Summer 2024



A view of Metompkin Island, Virginia  
Photo courtesy of Gordon Campbell

## Heart of the Community, Soul of a Culture

barrierislandscenter@gmail.com | 757-678-5550 | [www.barrierislandscenter.org](http://www.barrierislandscenter.org)

## Art & Music on the Farm

### Come for the Art...Stay for the Music



Dear BIC Friends,

Art & Music on the Farm is such a fun festival. With its signature white tents and over forty talented artists and artisans exhibiting a wide variety of oil paintings, watercolors, photography, sculpture, pottery, wood carvings, garden art, and more; the festival offers the perfect opportunity to take home your own beautiful, handcrafted works of art. Beyond the artist tents, Art & Music on the Farm brings other enjoyable experiences, including the BIC's artfully rendered museum galleries, flowers, plants, food, and wine. And did I mention the music?

This year's Art & Music on the Farm festival is again for music lovers. Virginia's traditional music finery will be on display for this special day in the country! Music performances celebrating old time, gospel, bluegrass, and traditional music and dance styles will be presented throughout the day. This year's musical line-up will feature many master artists who keep Virginia's musical heritage alive.

A true highlight of the festival is the chance to get up close and personal with the bands in the Musician Workshops. Held throughout the day in the Beazley Foundation Community Room located in the Education Building, these workshops feature wonderful back-and-forth conversations between musicians and music scholars about the history of their particular music style, all interspersed with singing and strumming. So come on in and sit a spell...whether you stay 5 or 45 minutes, you'll love it!

In addition, the BIC is thrilled to announce its hosting of the compelling photo exhibit, "*Snapshot: Climate*," presented by "Southern Cultures," — a quarterly academic journal from the University of North Carolina's Center for the Study of the American South. The exhibit explores how southern cultures are intricately linked with and actively responding to the global climate challenge.

The *Snapshot: Climate* traveling exhibition is supported by the Mellon Foundation and the Center for the Study of the American South. The Barrier Islands Center exhibition and opening reception are supported by the Virginia Folklife Program at Virginia Humanities. We cordially invite you to the opening reception on Thursday, June 13, from 4 to 6 PM. The *Snapshot: Climate* exhibit will be available for viewing through July. Don't miss the chance to immerse yourself in this vibrant depiction of resilience, adaptation, and cultural identity in the face of environmental shifts.

I hope to see you on May 25<sup>th</sup> to kick off summer with Art & Music on the Farm!

With thanks,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sally". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sally Dickinson  
Executive Director



# Art & Music on the Farm 2024

Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Cost: \$5 - Rain or shine - Children under 18 are FREE!

Please, no coolers - Food and drink vendors will be on site

## Come for the art...stay for the music!

The BIC's Art & Music on the Farm festival offers fine art and treasures from local artists and artisans and traditional roots music played by celebrated musicians across Virginia, all in an inviting and family-friendly setting. Whether you prefer to sip wine, peruse eye-catching art, delve into the history of Virginia musical styles, watch your child have fun with an art activity, plan a fun summer garden, or eat some tasty food, you will find something to tickle your fancy.

Everyone will revel in the toe-tapping, hand-clapping sounds of gospel, folk, and bluegrass from this year's line-up of highly acclaimed bands. And don't forget the intimate workshops with the performers. The Farm is filled with the finest art in the region: over 40 artists and artisans will have paintings, plants, and crafts for sale. Food and beverages (including local wine, beer, soft drinks, and iced coffee) are also available for purchase.



# Art & Music on the Farm Featured Musicians



## Linda Lay and Springfield Exit

With a powerhouse voice and remarkable range, Linda Lay is one of the best singers in grassroots bluegrass and country music. She leads an exceptional ensemble of award-winning musicians in Springfield Exit. The core trio of Linda, her husband David Lay, and multi-instrumentalist David McLaughlin formed nearly two decades ago, joining their varied experiences and creating a feeling of their very own, combining elements of bluegrass and country with sounds stemming from their Appalachian roots.

## Andrew Alli and Josh Small

Andrew and Josh provide a unique blend of acoustic blues, folk, and soul music with an honest and loving approach. Andrew Alli is a Richmond, VA, native who recently received a nomination for Best Emerging Artist by the Blues Music Association. He took up music relatively later in life at the age of 20. After being inspired by a busker playing harmonica on the street one day, he hit the local music store and got his own harmonica. From then on, Andrew committed himself to learning the instrument's history. He soon fell in love with the blues and began studying all the harmonica greats, including Big Walter Horton, Little Walter, Sonny Boy Williamson, Junior Wells, and more. He has developed his unique playing style while still paying his respects to his biggest influences from the past.

His musical partner, Josh Small, is a slide guitarist, banjo player, and singer/songwriter. He also hails from Virginia, learning music by watching his father play guitar and banjo and listening to his mother's beautiful mountain singing style.



## Ken Heath and the True Disciples

Ken Heath is a native of Petersburg, Virginia, where he was raised up to the sounds of the gospel music of the Black Holiness Church and Virginia's rich Gospel quartet tradition. At 14, Ken had the opportunity to perform on drums with his idols, Richmond's Maggie Ingram and the Ingramettes, at the Masonic Temple in Petersburg. The group instantly recognized his talent, and he went on to perform widely with the Ingramettes. He formed Ken Heath and The True Disciples in 2014 with fellow singers Kenneth "KJ" Jones and Chris Robertson. The trio is joined by Maurice Johnson, Sr. on drums, Rodney Easter on bass, Joe Brown on guitar, and Bryan Pitt and Justin Brown on keyboards. The True Disciples are known for their spirited, electrifying performances, and their mission can be summed up into four words: Building Relationships Through Christ.



## The Mustard Cutters

The Mustard Cutters are a powerhouse string band of women based in Southwest Virginia that plays highly danceable tunes and great two-stepping songs. The band includes Gina Dilg (fiddle), Trish Fore (banjo), Ashlee Watkins (guitar), and Brett Morris (bass).



## Sheryl Warner and Gregg Kimball

"Dynamic, expressive, and soulfully powerful" - That's how national publications describe Sheryl Warner. Add the propulsive guitar of Gregg Kimball, and you have a powerful duo delivering straight-ahead blues, ragtime, and roots music.



# Art & Music on the Farm Main Stage Performances

10:45 - 11:45 a.m. Gregg Kimball and Sheryl Warner

12:00 - 12:45 p.m. The Mustard Cutters

1:00 - 1:45 p.m. Andrew Alli and Josh Small

2:00 - 2:45 p.m. Ken Heath and the True Disciples

3:00 - 3:45 p.m. Linda Lay and Springfield Exit

## Art & Music on the Farm Music Workshops

Are you ready for a toe-tapping educational experience that will bring a smile to your face? Then, check out the intimate musician workshops that occur throughout the day at Art & Music on the Farm. *Hosted by music historian Gregg Kimball*, these up-close and personal conversations with our award-winning musicians reveal their musical influences and inspirations interspersed with impromptu jam sessions that highlight the depth and richness of Virginia's traditional music.

### **Gospel and the Blues: Andrew Alli, Josh Small, and Ken Heath and the True Disciples**

12:00 - 12:45 p.m.

Twentieth-century gospel and blues music are musical cousins. Blues influenced the fiery performance styles of Black Pentecostal and Holiness churches and street singers. Gospel greats such as Sister Rosetta Tharpe sometimes delved into the Blues repertoire—often to the chagrin of church people—while blues singers recorded gospel songs under pseudonyms. Andrew Alli, Josh Small, and Ken Heath will discuss these connections while demonstrating the evolution of blues and gospel styles.

### **Southern Vocal Traditions: Linda Lay and Springfield Exit, and Ken Heath and the True Disciples**

1:00 - 1:45 pm

Singing traditions in the American South range from gospel harmony to British ballads to work songs and blues. The region's musicians not only preserved Old World musical traditions but also created new ones based on the region's deep roots. Ken Heath and his group will demonstrate the evolution of black gospel traditions, while Linda Lay will bring that discussion into the realms of bluegrass, gospel, and country singing.

### **Ballads, Barn Dances, and Bluegrass—Roots of Country Music:**

**The Mustard Cutters and Linda Lay and Springfield Exit**

2:00 - 2:45 pm

Country music has roots extending back to Colonial Virginia. British and African traditions contributed to the development of dance music on the fiddle and banjo, while church music brought vocal harmony and new singing styles to the fore. All of these influences and more produced a musical hybrid that formed the foundation of country music and its many genres, especially bluegrass. Members of the Mustard Cutters and Springfield Exit will discuss their own musical roots and influences as part of this musical family tree.

# Art & Music on the Farm Artists/Artisans

Megan Ames  
Tracy Anderson  
Mark Belknap  
Margaret Bradach  
Bobby Bridges  
Grayson Chesser  
David Crane  
N.T. Daley  
Diana Davis  
Gertraud Fendler  
Diane Ginsberg  
Tim Gorman  
Kathy Grook  
Steve Hardy

John Harlow  
Peter Henderson  
Susan Henderson  
Barbara Hennig-Loomis  
Anne Holland  
Dianne Hottenstein  
Carrie Jacobson  
Daniel Jasper  
Jamie Kirkpatrick  
Jennifer Klein  
Bill and Lynne Kretzer  
Melanie Lewis  
Brenda Llewellyn-Mayes

Richard McCauley  
Sandy McFall  
Laura McGowan  
Bill Mytnik  
Thelma Peterson  
Karen Pruitt  
Elizabeth Rhoades  
David Rogers  
P.G. Ross  
Gail Scott  
Ten Good Sheep  
Windsor Woodworks  
Ray and Julita Wood  
Vesna Zidovec



## Who Owns the Barrier Islands Center?

As the Occohannock School Pre-K students prepared for their fourth “My First Field Trip” visit, one curious little boy looked up and asked: “Who owns the Barrier Islands Center?” The teacher immediately responded: “It belongs to every one of YOU!” The children liked that answer. And so does the BIC.

The “My First Field Trip” (MFFT) program has been a wonderful way to introduce our little people to the BIC and help them realize early on that this unique community asset

really belongs to them. They know this is their place to sing, dance, make music, paint, create original art, hear fun stories about their history, and learn the importance of smiling, shaking hands, and saying words that make others happy. This year, we are excited to add some fun enhancements like new Instruments and movement props for even more interactive music fun and, in conjunction with the manners component of the program, “elevated” snack time. Our local children enjoy snacks while practicing table manners - and the art of looking someone in the eye and saying “please and thank you .”Then they have to sit patiently (harder than it seems!) until all their friends are served before they may begin eating. These enhancements add to the quality of the experience – and the children’s love of learning.

Over the past few years, we have expanded the MFFT program beyond Pre-K by adding Kindergarten students. Hundreds of lucky students now have this valuable enrichment program for two years, so by the time they finish Kindergarten, students will have had eight visits to the BIC. Our schoolchildren have access (for free!) to this wonderful MFFT program thanks to the incredible support of Jane Batten and additional support from the PNC Grow Up Great Foundation and friends like you that support our Annual Appeal Fund. Thanks also to Northampton County and Accomack County Public Schools, Broadwater Academy, Shore Christian, and Cape Charles Christian School for allowing students to participate in the program. So, if you see one of our Pre-K or Kindergarten groups here at the BIC, ask them who owns the BIC. They know the real answer – **THEY DO!**

**BARRIER ISLANDS CENTER**

*Members make it happen at the BIC!*

BIC members experience the Museum, Education and Cultural programs in a special way. Members will enjoy our quarterly newsletter, invitations to exciting opportunities (including an advance opportunity to purchase tickets to our sell-out Annual Oyster Roast), 10% discount in our museum shop, and, most importantly, a personal connection with the rich past of Virginia's Eastern Shore.

Your gift as a BIC member provides critical support for important educational and cultural programs that enrich the lives of so many children and adults on the Eastern Shore, across the region and beyond.

**Membership Types**

- Individual ..... \$25
- Family ..... \$50
- Cedar ..... \$100
- Parramore ..... \$300
- Mockhom ..... \$500
- Cobb ..... \$1,000

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes! Sign me up to be a Sustaining Member!**

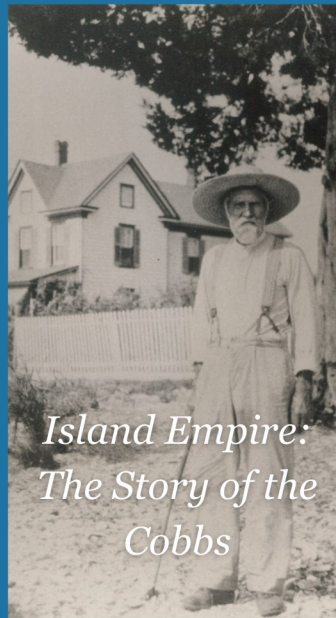
Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Monthly  Yearly

Please fill out this form and return with payment to:  
 Barrier Islands Center, PO Box 206, Machipongo, VA 23405  
 You may also join online at [www.barrierislandscenter.org](http://www.barrierislandscenter.org)

**BARRIER ISLANDS CENTER**

**FREE Screenings**

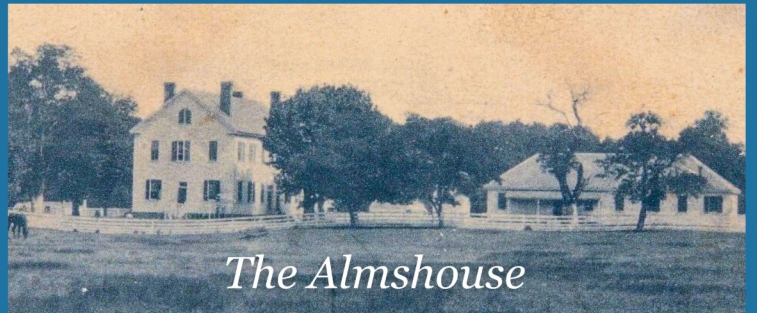
The **Barrier Islands Center** presents  
***The Almshouse*** and  
***Island Empire: The Story of the Cobbs.***  
 Q&A with filmmaker James Spione.  
 Grab your friends and family  
 and join us for a  
 movie night!



**THURSDAY, JULY 11TH**

AT 7:00 PM  
**The Historic Palace Theatre**  
 Cape Charles, VA

With this seventh documentary in the Barrier Islands Center series, Academy Award-nominated director James Spione explores the story of the Cobb family from Massachusetts who settled on a deserted barrier island off the coast of Virginia in the 1830s.



**THURSDAY, JULY 18TH**

AT 7:00 PM  
**The Roseland Theatre**  
 48 Market St., Onancock, VA 23417

With this eighth documentary in the Barrier Islands Center series, James Spione explores the rich history of the Almshouse, or Poorhouse, where the BIC is located.

# Come Learn (and have fun) With Us!

Please *PRE-REGISTER* for all classes and programs. Thank you!

757.678.5550 or [barrierislandscenter.org](http://barrierislandscenter.org)

## SEASONAL FLOWER ARRANGING



Ages 16 and older

Instructor: Heather Apgar

Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

**Cost: \$50 per person**

Would you like to make floral arrangements with flowers that are in season in your area? Heather will walk you through the steps for making a lovely arrangement using flowers that are blooming in their season for a more sustainable approach to floral design. Materials supplied but bring a pair of floral scissors.

Ages 18 and older (Intermediate Class)

Instructor: Barbara Loomis

Wednesdays, May 8<sup>th</sup> - May 22<sup>nd</sup> (3 weeks)

1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

**Cost: \$90 per person**

Plan and execute an oil portrait of a furry friend! In this three-week course participants will discuss the elements that go into painting a portrait of that special companion. Choosing photo references, composition, and rendering the textures of fur will be among the topics covered. Participants should bring their own references and oil paints; canvas supports, in class medium and solvents will be provided by the instructor. Prior oil painting experience necessary.

## PET PORTRAIT IN OIL



Ages 16 and older

Instructor: Eloise Shelton-Mayo

Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>

12:00 - 3:30 p.m.

**Cost: \$60 per person**

Join us for a workshop that explores the fascinating medium of oil & cold wax on paper. Eloise will show and bring some things to try with cold wax. It's a BLAST! Cold wax, wedges, skewers, tissue paper, palette knives, charcoal, Gamsol + more will be provided. Students need to bring oil paint in white, red, ultramarine blue, medium yellow, black and any favorites. Oil paper can be purchased at cost from Eloise. Bring an apron or old shirt.

## OIL AND COLD WAX





## ACRYLIC AND POWERWAX



Ages 16 and older  
Instructor: Eloise Shelton-Mayo  
Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>  
12:00 - 3:30 p.m.  
**Cost: \$70 per person**

Learn how to use the powerwax medium with instructor Eloise Shelton-Mayo. This vibrant new medium gives a cold wax look and effect to Acrylic paint! You'll love the vibrancy of color; powerwax seems to brighten the color. We'll create a series of paintings on paper 10" x 10", 8" x 10", 8" x 8", or size that feels right for you. Instructor provides powerwax, watercolor paper with gesso, wedges, and tissue paper. Participants need to bring some flat brushes and acrylic paint.

Ages 16 and older  
Instructor: Heather Apgar  
Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>  
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
**Cost: \$50 per person**

Would you like to learn how to make your own, unique patterns that can be used in textile design? Heather will walk you through the steps to make your very own block print for practicing a repeat design for a variety of artistic applications. Supplies included.

## BLOCK PRINTING



Ages 4 - 7  
Instructors: Traci Jones and Martha Hennessey  
Session I - June 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> (**SOLD OUT**) OR  
Session II - June 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 a.m. - Noon  
**Cost: \$150 per child**

Calling all pirates, princes, and princesses to join us as we visit mysterious lands. Off we go to days when pirates ruled the seas and royalty ruled the land. We will make castles, crowns, sea monsters, pirate maps, and more. ARRRRGGG, Your Majesty, this camp is filled with a bounty of music, games, activities, and creative art experiences for our noble princes, princesses, and sea-faring pirates. Pre-registration is required two weeks before the start date of each camp. Class size limited.

Cont...

## PIRATE, PRINCE, & PRINCESS CAMP

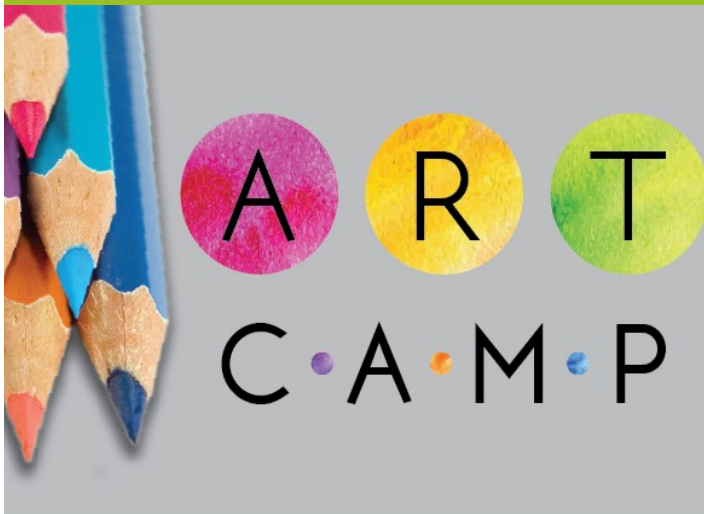


## Dogs on the Farm

Since 2010, Eastern Shore Dog has found a home at the Barrier Islands Center. On the grounds and in the historic buildings, they have trained group classes in nose work and companion obedience. In addition, the Barrier Islands Center and Eastern Shore Dog have hosted special events for dogs and their people, including Dog Socials, Kids' Dog Camp and advanced search dog workshops.

Please contact Anna Malik to schedule some quality time with your four-legged friend!  
amalik1103@gmail.com | (757) 607-6069

## BUDDING ARTIST CAMP



Ages 6 - 8

Instructors: Eden Ertle and Traci Jones

Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup> thru Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. - Noon

**Cost: \$150 per child**

Do you have a budding artist at home? A child who sincerely loves art. Then join us this summer for an art camp they will love. We will work with a variety of media like painting, fun drawing materials, collage, fiber art, and more. Campers will learn how to use basic shapes to draw more complex things. Instruction comes from artists and educators with over 20 years of experience. They will demonstrate the tricks and techniques that will help your child feel confident with their art and continue growing! Materials and snacks provided.

Ages 10 and older

Instructor: Virginia Custis

Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup>

9:00 a.m. - Noon

**Cost: \$25 per person**

In this workshop, students will foster an appreciation for the beauty of nature and its resources. Participants will be introduced to creating miniature "fairy" houses and furniture from natural materials. Glue guns, glue sticks, natural and miniature decorative items provided, but students are welcome to bring anything extra that they want to add to their creations. Must be able to use hot glue gun independently.

## TINY TREASURES



## GROWING ARTIST CAMP



Ages 9 - 12

Instructors: Eden Ertle and Traci Jones

Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup> thru Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. - Noon

**Cost: \$150 per child**

Is your child an artist? Do they enjoy art and want to grow in their ability? This is a great opportunity to do just that! In this camp, students will have the opportunity to try new techniques. They will learn important techniques of drawing, such as shading, blending, and value. Campers will explore color mixing and other painting methods! Materials and snacks provided.

If you would like  
to receive the newsletter only by email;  
please get in touch with Kristen at  
[bickristen@live.com](mailto:bickristen@live.com)

SHARING THE MIC

# BARRIER ISLANDS CENTER

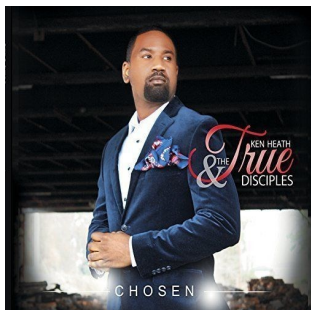
WITH DAVID PHILLIPS

**Now available on Sharing the Mic with David Phillips:**

**April 1st podcast: Dr. Christopher Hein**, Associate professor in Coastal Geology at The College of William and Mary/VIMS. Hein's research focuses on coastal populations, infrastructure, and ecological communities currently threatened by atmospheric warming, accelerated sea-level rise, changes in the frequency and intensity of coastal storms, and variability in sediment supply rates. His primary research focuses on the



mainland and barrier islands of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. He also has active projects studying dune processes in the North Carolina Outer Banks, barrier-island processes in the Gulf of Maine, and marshes processes along much of the US East Coast. Chris was awarded the Thomas Jefferson Teaching Award at William & Mary in 2022.



**May 1st podcast: Ken Heath** of the gospel group Ken Heath and the True Disciples: Ken is part of the gospel band The True Disciples, who will once again perform at Art and Music on the Farm at the BIC in May. He is a native of Petersburg, Virginia, where he was raised to the sounds of the gospel music of the Black Holiness Church and Virginia's rich gospel quartet tradition. The True Disciples are known for their spirited, electrifying performances.

**June 1st podcast: Jon Wehner of Chatham Vineyards** - Chatham Vineyards is owned and operated by the Wehner family at historic Chatham Farm which has been a working farm for four centuries.

Jon Wehner is a second-generation winegrower on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. He learned about grape growing from his parents who operated Great Falls Vineyard in Great Falls, Virginia for over thirty years. He and his wife, Mills, and their three children own and operate the vineyard and winery.



To listen to these and past episodes, go to [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Google Podcasts](#), and [Amazon Music](#) or Buzzsprout's website at <https://feeds.buzzsprout.com/1763674>

## *In Memoriam*

With the recent deaths of **Sam Taylor** and **Howard Gill**, the BIC has lost two friends and important mentors. Former BIC President Sam Taylor, a salt-of-the-earth Wachapreague native, believed it was important for young people to know their local history and gain a sense of the Shore to understand themselves. As a successful businessman, Howard knew one way he could make an impact was to bring friends over to visit his beloved Eastern Shore and introduce them to the BIC. Both Sam and Howard understood that, ultimately, if you care about a place, you share your values and talents and let others know how much it means to you. They delighted in introducing new friends to the BIC because they knew that this place brings out the best in people!

# 2024 OYSTER ROAST



It was a **WONDERFUL** day!

# CLASSES, WORKSHOPS, & TOURS



# MY FIRST FIELD TRIP



# HISTORY MOMENT

Excerpts from

## “Memories of the Carpenter Family and Hog Island”

by Nora Long Mayworth

No group of people had a better relationship with the land and sea than the Islanders. I have such beautiful memories of my grandparents, Richard and Mary Ellen Carpenter, and their children who made their home there.

The Island had no electricity or plumbing. Their simple life was happy and fulfilling. They believed in God, and he would provide for them. After all, wasn't there an abundance of fish, oysters, clams, and wildfowl?

After the Revolutionary War, a family named Phillips came to settle, bringing with them many other families who loved island living. Fish and game were plentiful, and the rich soil grew all varieties of fruits and vegetables, providing them with more than enough food. Fish caught in the summer and fall were salted down in barrels to be used as needed. Fruits and vegetables were canned and preserved for use during the cold winter months. Chickens and ducks laid eggs daily, providing food for breakfast and baking. Neighbors were always willing to share food with those in need, especially the sick.



Soon, there were 259 residents living on the Island. By 1903, the industrious Islanders had built a school for 35 students, two stores, and a Methodist Church. The people lived together harmoniously, giving and sharing. They lived by the Golden Rule.

There was no crime, and though every man owned a shotgun, it was used for hunting game. In later years, Harvey Bowen was elected Game Warden to protect the fowl.

In the 1920s, bad nor'easters hit the Island, causing erosion and uprooting huge pine trees. The 50-foot sand dunes had protected the Island for hundreds of years. Inside the dunes, stunted myrtle bushes seemed to melt into the ocean like silver. No one built houses near the dunes as they do today. Dunes protect people and property from coastal storms.

The kitchen was my favorite room in the house, especially at breakfast time. Early in the morning, Grandfather went to the woodpile, bringing in the wood for the big iron stove. He made a roaring fire and cooked a delicious breakfast, stacks of hot cakes and sausage (the children's favorite meal) with Log Cabin syrup poured generously over the whole plate. Some mornings, he cooked eggs and bacon. Their chicken

yard provided a dozen eggs a day.

I can recall my grandmother heading for the chicken coop, picking up a plump Rhode Island Red and chopping its head off with an ax. That chicken would flutter and flop until it died. She then dropped it in boiling water to loosen the feathers which she plucked. Then she cut a hole large enough for her fist and pulled the guts out. How I ate that chicken after witnessing the killing, I don't know, but come to think about it, I never tasted better.



I remember those wonderful dinners of fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, turnip greens, fried apples, biscuits, and lemon pie. Delicious! Grandfather had the biggest garden on the Island. The rich soil provided watermelon, cantaloupe, turnip greens, cabbage, sweet peas, potatoes, string beans, corn, asparagus, squash, etc. The leftover fruits and vegetables were canned and preserved. The cabbage and potatoes were placed in a kiln for drying and were stored for the winter months.

The large kitchen held a table for 12, chairs, an ice box, 3 cornered cupboards, a big iron stove, 2 kerosene lamps, and a sink with a black-iron pump, where water was pumped from the rainwater cistern outside the kitchen. A gallon bucket was placed on the drain board with a ladle for all to drink. Monday was washday. Water was put on the stove to heat, and then wash tubs were filled and set on tables. Using homemade lye soap and an old-fashioned scrub board, the clothes were washed clean. It was a backbreaking job, but all the girls helped. The clothesline waved with white sheets, pillowcases, shirts, union suits, towels, dresses, nightgowns, aprons, pants, socks, and stockings.



Grandmother made feather beds from goose feathers, which were plucked, peppered, and stored until cured. Then, pillows and feather coverlets were made. The quilts were lined with wool from Uncle Ralph's sheep. The wool was cleaned and combed before it could be used. The quilts could have won a prize at any state fair. Now, I realize how hard my grandfather had to work to provide for this large family. He must have had muscular arms to dredge oysters in winter when the temperature dropped below freezing. In later years, he used large

tongs, which were easier to manipulate. He also clammed, crabbed, scalloped, and fished. One of the larger fish caught was a sturgeon, which supplied pounds of caviar. This was in demand in the northern cities. His skipjack, a shallow-water sailboat, enabled him to operate in shallow creeks. The weather was watched carefully. Since there were no forecasts, the Islanders looked to the sky for "signs." When a "sun dog," a tiny round rainbow, appeared, they knew a storm would be approaching in three days. A mackerel sky meant rain within a day. No one in their right mind ventured out in nor'easters or thunderstorms unless it was a rescue mission.



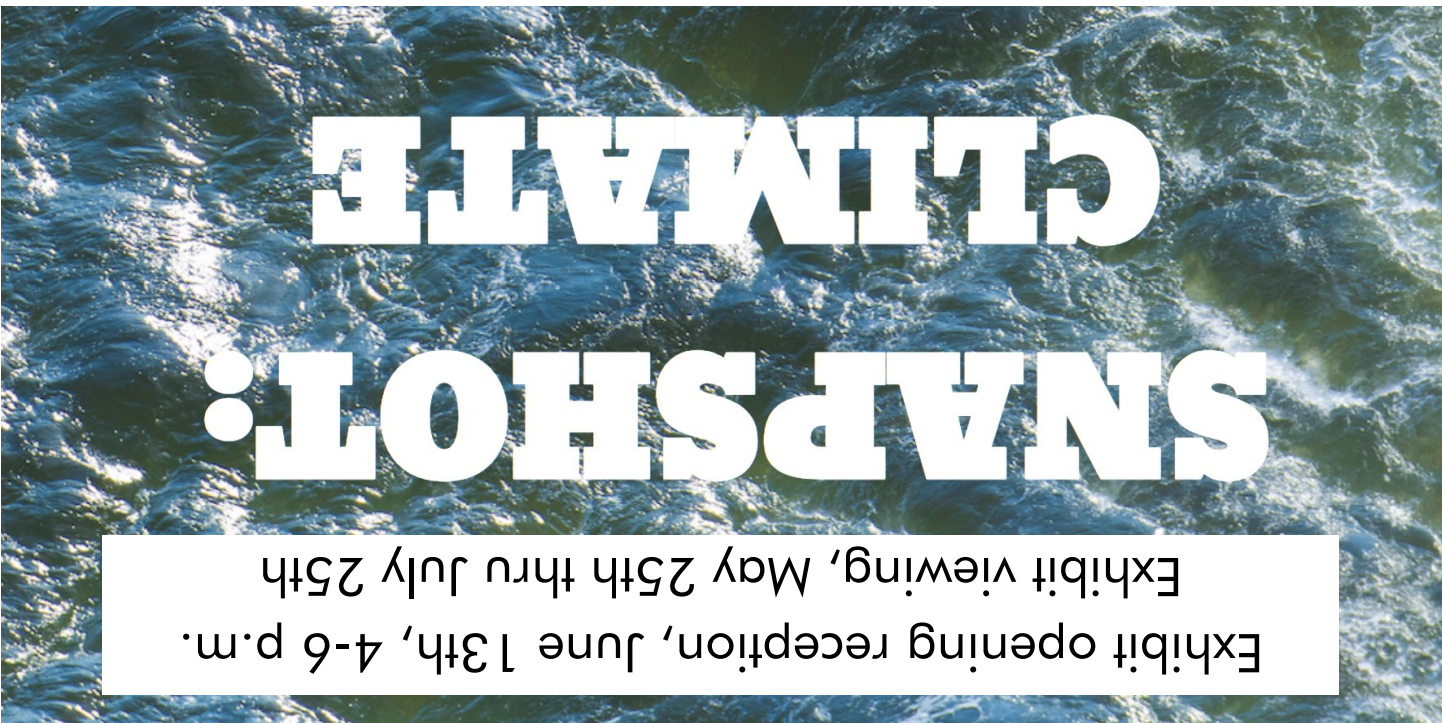
Barrier Islands Center | PO Box 206 | Machipongo, VA 23405

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Exmore, VA  
23350

BARRIER ISLANDS CENTER

*Southern* CULTURES

Virginia Folklife Program  
VIRGINIA HUMANITIES



# SNAPS HOT: CLIMATE

Exhibit opening reception, June 13th, 4-6 p.m.  
Exhibit viewing, May 25th thru July 25th