

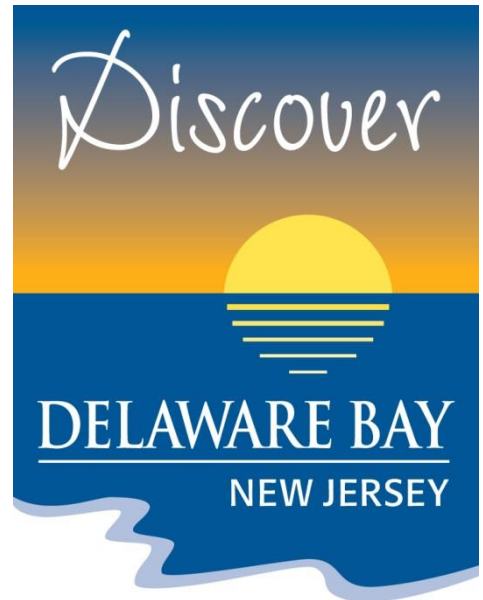
## **Mostly Maritime History Weekend**

### **STAY**

Stay with Sarah Jane and Wayne Fusinatta at the Reverend Leonidas E. Coyle House (35 Lake Street, Bridgeton 856-455-5638).



This was the first home built on historic Lake Street in Bridgeton. The oldest part of this twenty-one room house was constructed in 1858. Reverend Coyle was the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church on the corner of Giles & Commerce St. The home has been featured on HGTV *If Walls Could Talk* and in Victorian Homes, Atlantic City Magazine and the Christmas issue by Harris Publication.



Leonidas Coyle & Family

### **DAY 1**

If you can plan your weekend to start on the first Friday of the month then start at [Gallery 50's](#) 1<sup>st</sup> Friday in Bridgeton, 50 East Commerce Street. On your way to Lake Street, don't miss a drive along West Commerce Street to see Victorian Row – Bridgeton has NJ's largest historic district with over 2,200 historic properties! Among the great ladies, you'll see Flavia's place at 55 W. Commerce Street - available on AirBnB.com for your next stay or perhaps this time if you prefer...



### **DAY 2**

Start your Saturday with an enjoyable breakfast at the B&B before or after a morning stroll along the Cohansey River in Bridgeton City Park and take in the free [Cohanzick](#)

[Zoo](#), NJ's oldest zoo. (Peak in the window of the [Nail Mill Museum](#) and the [New Sweden Farmstead Museum](#) – hurry before it gets relocated to Wilmington as planned...

Take the scenic drive to Greenwich, past the orchards and tasting room of [Sunny Slope Farms](#) – peaches or apples depending on the season ...

If you've worked up an appetite, join the locals for lunch and maybe be part of the banter at the down home [Aunt Betty's Kitchen](#), on the corner as you enter town (year round).

Then you're in for a real treat with a Greenwich Tour – [John Dubois Maritime Museum](#), Prehistory Museum, Teaburner Monument, Gibbon House and the Lummis Library. Step back in time and, even if you don't get into one of the 4 museums in town you'll feel like you're in Colonial times just driving or walking down Ye Greate Street. Make sure that you turn off Ye Great St at the Teaburner monument and head down to the Cohansey waterfront and check out Greenwich Boatworks – maybe you'll see one that you want to take home with you (boat, that is!) This is the historic site of Greenwich Piers, where many an oyster boat was built and brought to market back in the day. We just lost Marvin Hitcher, Sr. so you'll have to let his son stand in for the character who built the reputation at "Hitch's Marina".

Take Ye Greate Street right on out of town for an excursion to the lost sturgeon fishing town of Caviar. It's now known as Bayside and is well worth the 10 mile drive through picturesque historic farms, fields, forests and marshes to the Bay.

Head back to through Stratham's Neck then down Bacon's Neck to the other end of Greenwich for fresh local seafood at [Hanock's Harbor](#), Greenwich, (seasonal) dinner right on the gorgeous Cohansey River bank where oystermen, crabbers, fishermen and ardent boaters have worked and played with the eagles, muskrats, fox and abundant waterfowl for generations.

Back to Bridgeton for some well deserved R&R and a splendid breakfast at the B&B.

### **DAY 3**

Sunday morning take Pearl Street, it eventually turns into 553, south along the Bayshore and just after you pass Rattlesnake Gulth (for real!) stop by [Flannigan Brothers Shipyard](#) in Fairton, on your way to Bivalve. If you're lucky, you'll meet Donald Flannigan himself, one of the last local shipwrights who has worked on countless oyster boats, fishing boats and even a bunch of yachts over a 7 decade career at his boatyard.

Next through Cedarville poke down Maple Avenue and just after you pass Iron Bridge Road, look to your right and you'll see the remnants of Tom Sheppard's great grandfather Claypool's shipyard and across the creek was Mulford Shipyard where the CASHIER (oldest continuously worked commercial fishing boat in the US was built). You're so close now, you may as well drive out Jones Island Road to Bay Point. On your

way out enjoy the picturesque farms and fields, thanks to [Sheppard Farms](#); you're driving through some of the most productive vegetable acres in the state. Bay Point was hit hard by Sandy and is in the process of being bought up by NJ's Blue Acres Program. Soon the houses will be razed and it will join Sea Breeze, Thompson's Beach and Moore's Beach as a distant memory to the generations of families who learned to love the Bay there.

Head back out to Rt. 553 and you'll pass close to Newport but the town center is off the 'highway'. Feel free to poke around through Newport, another old oystering town, and further out to Fortescue with its wonderful beaches. You may have noticed that each of the roads between 553 and the Bay are excellent birding routes. There is quite a boating tradition in these small towns whether it be the rowboats rented to fishermen and crabbers in Fortescue, the Fortescue charter fishing fleet, the oyster tongers who sailed out of Dividing Creek, known locally as the Mosquito Fleet; or the larger oyster schooners that were, in the late 1800s and early 1900's ubiquitous in the Bay. Next stop Bivalve, just downriver from ShellPile. You may have guessed that you're entering an oystering town by the name, but it'd be hard for you to realize just how important oysters were (and are) around here!

You can find out all about oystering, shipbuilding and other maritime interests at the [Delaware Bay Museum & Folklife Center](#) at the [Bayshore Center at Bivalve](#). Have brunch as the [Oyster Cracker Café](#) here and be sure to take in both the indoor and the outdoor interpretive exhibits (if you can come the third Saturday of July, you could take part in Maritime Day at the Center with additional small boats presenters and exhibits, music, lectures and kids activities).

If you have time, on your way home stop at [Millville Army Airfield Museum](#) and or Millville's [Glasstown Brewery](#) or, you could head to [East Point Lighthouse](#) to cap off a Maritime Weekend (East Point is open the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> weekends of the month 1-4pm- the gem of the Bayshore (Easter - Halloween). Now you'll know why!

*Thanks for coming to the Bayshore!*

We love feedback!

Try another itinerary at [DiscoverDelawareBay.org](#)