

# Onancock Tangier Bay Day

by Richard Pearsall

If you missed it, Saturday May 22nd certainly exceeded all expectations for an impromptu waterfront event! The idea of a Bay Day celebration started in a conversation between our Town Manager, Sandy Manter and a couple of local citizens. Summer is here, the Tangier Ferry is starting up, the Town just won a 38,000 grant from the National Parks Service (NPS) for a proposed Onancock Creek Water Trail project, and Onancock along with our Tangier neighbors are now officially members of the NPS Chesapeake Bay Gateway Network ... so why not celebrate?

With the Town's roots historically tied to Onancock Creek, what better place to celebrate than at the Town Wharf? A quick follow on planning session with the Morrison Family (Deb, John, & Singing Chef Johnny Mo) of Mallards Restaurant got the ball rolling and thanks to lots of volunteer spirit, the event came off like clockwork, well almost like clockwork!

The day could not have turned out more perfect with Johnny Mo singing, strumming, and cooking on the wharf; local artists Willie Crockett and Jack Richardson who helped children in a painting project, and duck carver extraordinaire Steve "Ira" Skees on scene. Our Gateway partner, the Tangier Historical Museum provided 1,000 home grown oysters, and Mallards provided an Eastern Shore Boil to the crowd.

The weather was perfect for the highlight of the day, a kayak race between the Mayors of Tangier, James Eskridge, and our own Bruce Paone, run by SouthEast Expeditions at the Wharf. Needless to say all hopes were riding on our Mayor (who had gotten his very first kayak lesson from Bill Burnham the night before!), but Mayor Eskridge of Tangier (reportedly an Olympian kayaker!) won the battle. As Red Sox fans say... "Wait till next year!"



There were so many positive comments about the get together that the Town is looking to make this an annual May event with a little more time to plan and publicize the planned festivities... and get our Mayor ready for the Kayak Challenge at Onancock Tangier Bay Day 2011! Perhaps they'll both want to compete in the Harborfest Canoe/Kayak Challenge on Sept. 11?

## Onancock Landing Park

Good News! Onancock was recently awarded a \$38,315 grant from the National Parks Service Chesapeake Bay Office to provide increased water access to the public. The scope of the town's grant request was to create a new kayak/canoe floating launch facility at the Onancock School with a covered observation deck and to provide enhancements to Onancock Landing

once construction of the landing is completed under a previously awarded VDOT grant.

Enhancements to Onancock Landing are planned to include a state of the art kayak/canoe floating launch platform and a covered gazebo at the end of the creek-side walking pier.

Information kiosks with geocaching capabilities and picnic tables will be located at both sites. Grant funding would also be used to develop signage for the Onancock Creek Water Trail and maps of the water trail for the public's use.

To get preparations for Onancock Landing Park rolling, an OBCA-sponsored clean up day was held April 10 with 20 volunteers doing yeoman's work of clearing brush and vines, trimming trees, and planting four Native Black Gum trees in preparation for Arbor Day.

An April 17 a display of site drawings and Onancock Creek Water Trail information was presented during the annual Arbor Day celebration, part of Onancock's efforts as a Tree City USA. The next and critical step in the process is to get the original VDOT grant work at Onancock Landing out for bid to formally move the kayak/canoe complex forward.



## Around Town Summer 2010

**House of Deals**, a mainstay of Onancock for more than a quarter century, is closing at the end of June. Miss Rosalie Lewis and her smiling, attentive service, whether for a pound of nails, a new bike or a bushel of clams, will be dearly missed. But let's all wish her the very best in her well-earned retirement.

Calling Onancock pet owners: The **2011 Onancock Loves Pets Calendar** needs you! The theme is 'Rescue Pets' of all shapes, breeds and varieties, whether they were adopted, inherited or found, send us their high-resolution photo and a brief story of how they came to you. A project of OBCA, a portion of the proceeds benefits the Eastern Shore SPCA. Send photos as soon as possible to: mary@burnhamguides.com



Several local entities are competing for grant money in the **Pepsi Refresh Project** and need your online votes. Fortunately, they are all competing in different months! For the rest of June, vote for the DelMarVa Discovery Center to provide field trips for 10,000 area students. Throughout July, please vote for the Friends of Onancock School Playground for a safe place for Onancock children to play. In August, vote for the Tangier Island History Museum. You can vote every day! Make it part of your daily routine, and E-mail your friends and family to help get some money for these worthy causes. Go to [www.refresheverything.com](http://www.refresheverything.com) to register and start voting today!

The **Onancock Town Elections** were held on May 4th and the new town council members will be officially sworn in at the June meeting. Incumbent Fletcher Fosque was re-elected, along with new members, Michelle Marsh and Richard Pearsall. Out-going members are Maphis Oswald and Kathyanne Runninger, to which we owe our thanks for their time and years of service and dedication to the town of Onancock. Remember that town council meetings are the 3rd Monday of the month in Town Hall at 7 pm.

## Summer Day Camps in Onancock

Ker Place will be offering an educational and entertaining **History Camp** for all rising 3rd and 4th graders, July 12-16 and 19-23, 9 am to 1 pm. Space is limited, call 787-8012 for details. [www.kerplace.org](http://www.kerplace.org)

SouthEast Expeditions at the Wharf is holding **Kids Kayak Camp** in Onancock. Two half-day afternoon sessions coincide with Ker Place History Camp for a full day in Onancock: July 12-16 and July 19-23, 1:30 to 5 pm. A full-day camp session will be held Aug. 2-6, 9 am to 3 pm. Call 787-2933, email [mary@southeastexpeditions.com](mailto:mary@southeastexpeditions.com) or come by the shop, located next to Mallards.

**North Street Playhouse** is also offering a summer camp for students 11-18 yrs. June 28-July 10. The schedule is from 9:30-3:30, M-F, cost is \$250 for the two weeks and includes instruction in acting, singing, dancing, various areas of stagecraft, culminating in the performance July 9 and 10. Information and

registration at 787-2358.

**Ker Place, "Working Boats of the Eastern Shore"**, June 26, 2 pm, a lecture and presentation by Paul Ewell highlighting the history of our waterman's rich culture and their amazing vessels. This lecture will contain recordings of a variety of watermen's oral histories, whose voices alone will no doubt tell a wonderful story. Cost: \$5. "History of the Banjo," Aug. 13, 7:30 pm, lecture and concert on the front lawn of Ker Place. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs and find out more about this fascinating instrument that lends its origins to the Tidewater area from the times of slavery. Pickers- bring your instruments for a jam session under our gorgeous sycamore trees after the presentation is over.

The **Plant Onancock**, downtown Beautification Contest is on! Planters are spilling over with color in town from Ker Place to the wharf. The judges were quite impressed with the entries on their Memorial weekend judging. Keep up the good work and thank your local businesses for their efforts to spruce up Onancock. The planters will be judged again July 4th and Labor Day weekends, with prizes and honors awarded at Harborfest.

**John Fiege**, fee-only Certified Financial Planner, is offering a complimentary, personalized risk assessment, including investments, from June 15 to the end of August. Call 787-4693 for more details or to schedule an appointment.

**Purls** invites you for "Stitch Night" held every Thursday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Bring a project to work on and enjoy some tea and good conversation. All classes held the month of July will be free -- that includes afghan squares, kids learn to knit, project help, felted slippers and a technique class. Check out the classes at [www.purlsonancock.com](http://www.purlsonancock.com). Purls will again be participating in the Eastern Shore Yarn Crab Crawl during the month of September. Ten yarn shops located throughout the shore will offer 20% discount on yarn purchases during the month. To participate in the event call Purls 787-2277.

The **Friends of Onancock School** will host the 4rd annual Picnic at the Onancock School on September 4th. This is their major fundraiser with proceeds going to benefit the adaptive rehab of the school. More information available at [www.onancockschool.org](http://www.onancockschool.org)

**Great Space Etc** has merged with Elegant Interiors and would like to spread the word. They have expanded their showroom and studio. Offering professional interior design and planning, carpet, tile, window treatments, wallcovering, lamps....everything needed to create a great space!

The **Richardson Gallery** has opened a " Satellite location," Richardson Gallery Too at 34 Market St. Stop in and visit with Jack and enjoy his amazing work. Jack's working gallery will remain open on King St.

Mary McKenna at **Edward Jones-Onancock**, 25 Market Street, is offering free informational monthly seminars on topics that are on everyone's mind! Thursday, June 17th, join us for "Creating Your Retirement Income Strategy" at 6-8pm at the Inn and Garden Cafe.) Tuesday, July 27th, 6-8pm, learn about "Investing in Volatile Times" providing

education on asset allocation and long term investing. Saturday, Aug. 21st, 10-11am, "How to Raise Money-Smart Children" providing tools and techniques for teaching children and grandchildren about money. Tuesday, Sept. 28: "Rules of the Road," concepts of investing and strategies to build wealth. Space is limited, so please RSVP to 787-2698. Visit [www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com)

## Restaurant News

**The Inn & Garden Cafe's** Tuesday, Steak and Bake 5-8:30pm, Wednesday, Pasta Night 5-8:30pm, Friday and Saturday, Dinner 5-8:30pm and Sunday Brunch, 10:30-1:30pm. Every 2nd Friday, Attitude Adjustment Hour from 5-8:30pm. We are closed on Mondays and Thursdays. Our Carriage House is expected to be completed mid July. We are looking forward to hosting Weddings, Rehearsal Dinners, Family Reunions, Meetings and Special Events on the lower level for groups up to 80 people. Reservations are strongly recommended.

**Charlotte Hotel & Restaurant** is making some changes and invites you to visit soon. Now serving Breakfast on Saturday & Sunday from 8-11am

Johnny Mo the musical chef at **Mallards at the Wharf** offers his new summer menu and his ALL CRAB crab cakes are a must try! Summer Sundays are back and now a Brunch Menu from 10-1, followed by the casual menu starting at 11:30, and a variety of live acoustic entertainment on the deck starting at 3 pm.

## Second Fridays

The second Friday of each month, 5-8 pm in Onancock is a great way to spend a summer evening with friends and neighbors and support Onancock businesses. Here are a few events happening this summer that you shouldn't miss. A full listing of events can be found at [www.onancock.org](http://www.onancock.org)

**Red Queen Gallery Onancock (RQGO):** July: Melanie M. Heacock, Karen Tweedie & Christine Sanders August: Carol Lee Thompson & Baltimore Artists with a workshop Saturday morning and even more new work for Third Friday! September: The Fantastic Five: Artists: Lisa Harlow, Angela-Herbert Hodges (featured in CHESAPEAKE LIFE in May), and Anne Holland. Potters: Karin Lees and Elisabeth Hunt.

**gardenART on King St** will feature Blue Skye Lavender Farm for the July Second Friday. Locally grown lavender and pure, natural bath & body products made with lavender will be introduced by Lisa McPherson, owner of Blue Skye.

**Dragonfly Studio** July: Black and White and RED HOT! Paintings, drawings, photography and pottery in black and white and red. August: Refuges of the Eastern Shore- Paintings and photography honoring our precious refuges. September: LIGHT! Paintings and Photographs inspired by light.

**Richardson Gallery** July: Helen Bongiovanni August and September: "Pot Luck"

**Edward Jones-Onancock**, 25 Market Street will be open late every 2nd Friday for tasty refreshments and a free portfolio review with some ideas that can help you be well-positioned in the current financial environment.

# Mark your Calendar

## June

- 24 Annual meeting for the Friends of Onancock School 6:30 pm in central meeting room at 6 College Ave, Onancock
- 26 "Working Boats of the Eastern Shore" lecture & presentation by Paul Ewell, Ker Place, 2 pm. \$5
- 28-July 10 North Street Playhouse summer camp. 787-2358

## July

- 3 Ice Cream Social & Patriotic Band Concert in Town Square 6:30 pm. Sponsored by OBCA
- 8 International Film "Saving Grace"(UK) 8 pm. Roseland Theatre
- 9 Second Friday Art Stroll, shops and galleries open 5-8 pm [www.onancock.org](http://www.onancock.org)
- 9 & 10 North Street Playhouse Summer Campers performance, 7:30 pm. General Admission \$8
- 12-23 Two sessions of Ker Place History Camp, 9 am to 1 pm [www.kerplace.org](http://www.kerplace.org) and SouthEast Expeditions Kayak Camp, 1:30 to 5 pm (787-2933)
- 17 Music For the Hungry Benefit for Food Bank of E.S. Sponsored by Mallards. Noon to 7 pm at Onancock School
- 23&24 North Street Playhouse presents "BeeHive" the 1960's musical review sensation created by Larry Gallagher 8 pm 787-2050
- 30 & 31 North Street Playhouse presents "BeeHive" 8 pm. 787-2050

## August

- 1 North Street Playhouse matinee of "BeeHive" 4 pm
- 6 & 7 North Street Playhouse "BeeHive," 8 pm. 787-2050
- 12 International Film "City Island" (USA) 8 pm. Roseland Theatre
- 13 Second Friday Art Stroll, 5-8 pm [www.onancock.org](http://www.onancock.org)
- 13 "History of the Banjo" lecture and concert, front lawn of Ker Place, 7:30 pm

## September

- 4 Friends of Onancock School (FOS) Pignic
- 9 International Film "Autumn Spring" (Czech) 8 pm. Roseland Theatre
- 10 Second Friday Art Stroll, shops and galleries open 5-8 pm [www.onancock.org](http://www.onancock.org)
- 10 & 11 Onancock Harborfest: water races, critter parade, food, music & more. Details at [www.onancock.com](http://www.onancock.com)
- 16 Onancock Kick-off for the 18th Annual Birding & Wildlife Festival at Town Square Park. Details at [www.onancockbirding.com](http://www.onancockbirding.com)

## October

- 2 SPCA Pet Walk 10 am. Onancock Town Square. [www.shorespca.org](http://www.shorespca.org)
- 5-8 Paint Onancock Plein Air. Artists painting our harbor town for 3 days
- 8 Second Friday Art Stroll, 5-8 pm [www.onancock.org](http://www.onancock.org)
- 8 Paint Onancock Plein Air Exhibit of work & reception at Red Queen Onancock & gardenART on King St 5-8 pm
- 9 Paint Onancock "Wet Paint" Challenge; new feature open to all artists. More info at [www.paintonancockpleinair.org](http://www.paintonancockpleinair.org)
- 14 International Film "Monsoon Wedding" (India) 8pm. Roseland Theatre
- 23 The CBES Between the Waters Bike Tour will start and finish in Onancock. Online Registration begins June 15. [www.cbes.org](http://www.cbes.org)



Would you like to get involved?  
We meet the 1st Tuesday of the month, 7pm at the Naomi Makemie Presbyterian Church!

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**E-Mail** [onancockbca@gmail.com](mailto:onancockbca@gmail.com)  
**Web** [www.onancock.org](http://www.onancock.org)



Join the Conversation:  
[Facebook.com/onancock](https://www.facebook.com/onancock)

# Onancock News

Onancock Business & Civic Association

Summer 2010

## Ice Cream Social & Patriotic Band Concert • Saturday, July 3!

Start your Fourth of July festivities at Onancock's fourth annual Patriotic Band Concert and Ice Cream Social, 6:30-8 p.m. on Saturday, July 3, at the Onancock Town Square Park.

Volunteers will be dishing out free ice cream courtesy of the Onancock Business & Civic Association (donations appreciated to cover our costs). The Accomack CommUnity Band will again entertain us with toe-tapping patriotic tunes, big band classics, and a new, rousing rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. An impromptu sing-along just might ensue!

This is a perfect time to linger, spread out a blanket, and enjoy what makes the Fourth of July so special: fun music, friendly faces and, of course, ice cream. There will also be a free painting station for the kids.



OBCA volunteers will dole out scoops as long as the French vanilla, chocolate and strawberry lasts. Toppings include whipped cream, sprinkles and nuts, doused with a choice of several syrups.

This event is green! OBCA is using compostable bowls and spoons and will have recycling containers available for other items. Please hang onto your bowl/spoon for seconds, in case there are any!

Come join us for some old-fashioned fellowship that makes our town so special.

We're counting on terrific weather, but just in case, we have a rain location lined up for the same evening: Onancock Baptist Church Hall, behind the DMV.

For more information,  
call Bill Burnham at 787-2933  
or visit [www.onancock.org](http://www.onancock.org)

## Harborfest 2010 • Sept. 10 & 11

Preparations are well underway for this year's Onancock Harborfest, which this year will take place all throughout town.

The fun begins Friday at 5 pm with the Second Friday Art Stroll when shops, galleries and the Onancock School are open until 8 pm featuring artists, special guests, and entertainment. At the Wharf, the fun goes on into the evening with a concert by Onancock's own Johnny Mo and his rockin' band Quadpod.

Enjoy music, food and fun throughout the day on Saturday. It begins with a 5K Run, followed by a kayak/canoe race, Critter Parade, Rubber Duck Race, Great Paper Boat Race, and horseshoe tournament.

Get your friends and family together to build a paper or cardboard boat for the Great Paper Boat Race and vie for cash prizes! (Entry form and rules at [www.onancock.com](http://www.onancock.com))



Hospice is again selling rubber ducks in this popular fund-raiser that culminates in a colorful parade of yellow ducks on the Central Branch of Onancock Creek.

SouthEast Expeditions will again host the Onancock Challenge Kayak/Canoe Race on Saturday morning with 5K and 10K courses. Call 787-2933 or visit their new shop at the wharf for information and to sign-up for pre-race training sessions this summer.

The Navy will also return this year for another "deployment" to Onancock! The Navy Fleet Forces Band is scheduled to play Saturday afternoon and Assault Craft Unit 2 will provide a 138ft Landing Craft with a static display to be moored at the Town Wharf.

For the second year, the "Watershed Walk" will bring fun and learning opportunities for kids to the Town Square Park. Even more activities are planned for 'uptown' Onancock to spread out the fun!

For more information, or to volunteer to help with Harborfest,  
call the Town Hall, 787-3363,  
or visit [www.onancock.org/harborfest.html](http://www.onancock.org/harborfest.html)