

Delmarva Discovery Center

on the Pocomoke River

Pocomoke River Aquarium



We are very excited about the new aquarium that is a highlight for visitors to the Center. The Fulton Owen foundation contributed a substantial donation to bring this tank to life. The aquatic life featured in the tank will be all native to the Pocomoke River. Because of the dark nature of the Pocomoke River, it is difficult to see the life under the surface. In our new aquarium visitors can see the underwater world up close and personal. The tank took months of planning and construction. A tank of this size does not just happen overnight. Numerous volunteers helped to prepare the tank to be a sustainable habitat for fish.

Our staff members made a special trip to the Virginia Living Museum to pick up several new invertebrates for the DDC including whelks (large snails) hermit crabs, spider crabs, and a horseshoe crab. Some of these animals are on display while some will remain in quarantine to be later placed in the touch tanks. We also have marine animals that guests can meet if they come for a special program or tour.

The next fish in the large Pocomoke River display tank will be longnose gar arriving soon from the National Aquarium in Washington, D.C. In spite of their toothy mouths, they do not bite people, but they are certainly interesting to watch! By June the aquarium should have regularly scheduled feedings and dives, so look for this information coming soon!

We are also excited about our new display of grey tree frogs. They are so well camouflaged that they are difficult to find. If you look carefully you will find 3 - Huey, Dewy and Louie! Oh, and of course our friend Gary, the box turtle, is always fun for kids to spot too.

The quarantine systems are set up and running and can house our aquatic friends before they are placed in the large tank or other display area. Within the next month we should start offering a sneak peak at behind the scenes exclusively for members. By this summer we will start adding behind the scenes tours as an option with your admission ticket.

Members interested in a behind the scenes sneak peak, please contact Jen Rafter at jrafter@delmarvadiscoverycenter.org or 410-957-9933.

April 2010

Upcoming Events

April 14 at 7:00pm
Lecture
"Chesapeake Bay: History, Health, and the Culture it inspired."

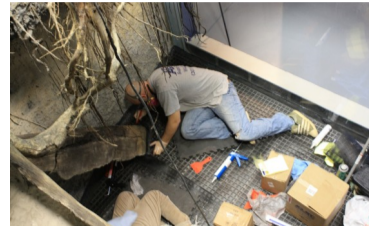
April 22 at 11:00am
Rain Garden Activity

May 1 & 2
Local Discount Days

May 1, 8, 15 & 22
Drawing class for children

May 3, 10, 17, & 24
Liquid Acrylic Art Class

May 15 from 10am-4pm
Downtown Pocomoke Festival



DDC staff and a student intern work at placing the fiberglass flooring into the tank.



Aquarium Curator, Jennifer Rafter works at preparing the tank for fish.



A view of the 6,000 gallon aquarium tank that houses fish native to the Pocomoke River.

Volunteers

With a small staff of only three, volunteers continue to keep this place moving forward. From our volunteer board members, to the Museum Store volunteers, to our tour guides and aquarium assistants—each person that helps out continues our mission and makes the DDC the place it is envisioned to be.

The quality of our programs and events could only happen with the team efforts of everyone involved in the Center. Our Tour Guides are a wealth of knowledge and creative insight to the history of the Eastern Shore. Our Museum Store personnel are the face for the Museum by welcoming visitors and helping out with questions from guests. They also assist with picking out that perfect gift for shoppers. Our aquarium assistants keep everything alive! With their expertise and dedication, our aquatic friends have a happy, healthy place to live.

Our Center friends provide great assistance with the entire museum. We are very thankful for all of their dedicated time and energy to make the DDC a fascinating place to discover!



One of our dedicated volunteers, Brooks Onley, takes a sampling of the River water during a cold, snowy day!

Launch a Lifetime of Learning and Discovery

The DDC is launching a lifetime of learning and discovery! Purchase a raffle ticket for a chance to win one week at Space Flight Adventure Camp and a lifetime membership to the Delmarva Discovery Center. A value of over \$3,000!

Space Flight Adventure Camp, presented by the Virginia Space Flight Academy, offers week-long residential summer camps for students. In 2010 seven residential camps will be held June through August for ages 11 to 15. For more information please go to www.vaspaceflightacademy.org.

Tickets are 1 for \$10 or 3 for \$20. A free family admission pass to the DDC will be given with a raffle purchase.

Drawing will be held on Friday, June 4, 2010. Drawing must meet minimum tickets sold of 500 and maximum sold of 1,000. Tickets can be purchased through the Delmarva Discovery Center.



Local Discount Days

The DDC strives to share the history with everyone that will take an interest in our wonderful natural and cultural heritage. Because we value the insight and support of the local community, we have made the first weekend of the month through May, local discount days. There are always exciting things planned for those weekends. If you are a resident of Worcester, Somerset, and Wicomico Counties in Maryland, Sussex County, DE, and Accomack County, VA, you receive 50% admissions on May 1 & 2, 2010. Plus, one child is free with each paid adult.

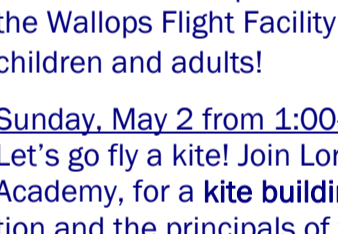
Coming up in May:
Saturday, May 1 from 1:00-3:00pm:
Come learn about the **fundamentals of rockets** (what are the basic parts, how to apply Newton's 3 laws) using models to describe the various aspects. Interesting facts will be given, comparing the Saturn V and Space Transportation System (STS) (Shuttle) vehicles. Also, videos of actual rocket launches will be shown to bring home some of the discussions. If weather permits, the presentation will culminate with a couple Estes rocket launches. Project manager, Jack Vieira, from the Wallops Flight Facility will be leading the afternoon. This activity is great for children and adults!

Sunday, May 2 from 1:00-3:00pm:
Let's go fly a kite! Join Lori Graham, executive director at the Virginia Space Flight Academy, for a **kite building workshop**. Learn the fundamentals of kite construction and the principals of flight. At the end, participants will be able to go over to Cypress Park and test their kites. A great family activity!



Allen Hamilton and Lori Graham, prepare to make paper airplanes during the March Local Discount days. The demonstration taught kids about aerodynamics and was presented by Virginia Space Flight Academy.

Art Classes



A watercolor student studies the landscape during a Plein Air session. Plein Air is the French expression for "in the open air" and used to describe painting outdoors.

We are pleased to offer quality art classes to the local public. We began last year with watercolorist Doris Glover who offered several levels of watercolor classes. Her classes taught students the techniques and styles of watercolor. A Plein Air class was held in October which took students outside to paint their surroundings. Doris continues to teach watercolor classes here at the DDC.

Joining us this year to teach classes are local artists, Tracey Taylor Arvidson and Jenny Somers. Tracey is currently teaching a class on drawing for beginners. She will hold a drawing class for children in May. Also beginning in May, Jenny will lead a class on liquid acrylics for adults. These classes are a great way to expand your skills with art.

For more information, please contact the DDC. 410-957-9933, or events@delmarvadiscoverycenter.org

Membership



BECOME A MEMBER

Join Today

Join the excitement happening at the Discovery Center - become a member! Your membership will provide you unlimited free admission for one year and a 10% discount on all purchases at the Museum Store. Plus you will be a partner in preserving the natural history and heritage of the Pocomoke River and Delmarva.

Membership is a great way to support the DDC and also get something in return. Our changing exhibit gallery will host different programs throughout the year, giving you something new to experience when you visit. You can also watch our aquarium take shape and see the fish make their homes in our tank. Plus, there is a wealth of knowledge to be learned from our exhibits. As a member you support a cause to preserve our heritage and pass it along to generations to come.

Below are the different Membership Levels. Find one that fits you:

Individual (\$25): membership benefits for one adult

Family (\$40): membership benefits for two adults and each child under 18 living at home

Grandparent (\$60): membership benefits for two adults and two children per visit, plus 50% off additional child admissions per visit.

Supporter (\$100): membership benefits for two adults and free admission for 2 additional guests per year

Contributor (\$250): membership benefits for two adults and free admission for 4 additional guests per year

Benefactor (\$500): membership benefits for two adults, free admission for 4 additional guests per year and a guided tour with the director

Patron (\$1,000): membership benefits for two adults, free admission for 6 additional guests per year and a guided tour with the director

Lifetime (\$2,500): membership benefits for two adults, free admission for 6 additional guests per year, a guided tour with the director and a signed limited edition print of the "Pocomoke River Bridge" by artist Isabel Troutman

[Join today online! Click Here.](#)

The Delmarva Discovery Center is supported by dedicated patrons that believe in protecting and preserving the culture & heritage of the Pocomoke River and Delmarva. Your financial contribution can help continue our vision at the DDC. All donations are tax deductible. Donations can be made through our website or by mailing checks to the Delmarva Discovery Center. Our Executive Director, Brian Garrett, is always available to assist you with any questions.

Thank you for your support of the Delmarva Discovery Center

Questions or Comments? Please email us at contact@delmarvadiscoverycenter.org

To remove your name from our mailing list, please email jroynon@delmarvadiscoverycenter.org