The Schooner A.J. Meerwald is a “new style” schooner. They were built between 1925 and 1930 to plant and harvest oysters. In the 1920s, the oyster industry prospered due to improvements in schooner design including a larger dredge to collect oysters, a spoon bow design that provided a larger deckspace, and an engine to use during harvesting.
**A.J. Meerwald, 1928**

**New Jersey's Official Tall Ship**

**Authentically Restored Delaware Bay Schooner**

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### Historic Timeline

**August 31, 1928**

The *A.J. Meerwald* is launched.

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**January 1947**

The *A.J. Meerwald* is returned to the Meerwald family.

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**1928**

Brothers Augustus C. “Gus” (1897-1956) and William “Bill” (1900-1963) Meerwald contract with Charles H. Stowman & Sons Shipyard in Dorchester, NJ for $18,000. The boat is named after their father, Augustus Joseph (AJ) Meerwald (1863-1940), who was a successful oysterman, and a prominent member of the NJ Board of Shellfisheries.

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**1936-1942**

The *A.J. Meerwald* is inactive and tied up in Dennis Creek. Hard times fall upon the Meerwald family. They declare bankruptcy.

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**1942**

Cornelius “Nicky” Campbell and Albert F. Mollinkopf purchase the boat and convert her to dredge clams offshore. All of the equipment adds 10 tons of extra weight.

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**February 26, 1943**

The *A.J. Meerwald* is commandeered by the Maritime Commission of the War Shipping Administration, turned over to the US Coast Guard, and renamed 86001-F. She was outfitted as a fireboat to support ships loading and unloading munitions at the Philadelphia and Camden Ports.

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**September 1945**

The *A.J. Meerwald* is returned to the Meerwald family.

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**May 12, 1946**

The *A.J. Meerwald* is commissioned and begins her new life.

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**1977**

Mr. & Mrs. Phillips sell the boat to Clyde A. Phillips for $36,000. Mrs. Phillips changes the name to Clyde A. Phillips.

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**April 1958**

The boat becomes the possession of Harry Walton Sharp.

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**1965**

East Coast Trawling & Dock Company purchases the boat.

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**1977**

Clyde A. Phillips Incorporated (unrelated to Phillips family) purchases the vessel.

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**1959**

The boat is used 4 1/2 months per year and sells to shucking houses across the river from Bivalve in Maurice River, NJ. The boat spends the off-season (summer) in Dennis Creek, Dennisville, NJ.

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**November 1986**

The *A.J. Meerwald* is designated New Jersey’s Official Tall Ship by Governor Christie Todd Whitman due to the efforts of a letter writing campaign. **Pictured: Governor Christie Todd Whitman**

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**August 26, 1947**

The Meerwalds sell the boat to Clyde A. Phillips for $30,000. Mrs. Phillips changes the name to Clyde A. Phillips.

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**April 1958**

The boat becomes the possession of Harry Walton Sharp.

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**1979-1986**

The *Clyde A. Phillips* is idle. During this time the boat is owned by American Original Corporation of Maryland and New Sea Rover.

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**September 12, 1995**

The *Clyde A. Phillips* is re-christened as the *A.J. Meerwald*.

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**May 12, 1996**

The *A.J. Meerwald* is commissioned and begins her new life.

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**1994**

Six years of fundraising efforts allow hiring of professional crew to begin restoration. Funded by the New Jersey Historic Trust, New Jersey Department of Transportation and many volunteer hours, donated services and thousands of contributions.

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**1998**

The *A.J. Meerwald* is designated New Jersey’s Official Tall Ship by Governor Christie Todd Whitman due to the efforts of a letter writing campaign. **Pictured: Governor Christie Todd Whitman**

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The *A.J. Meerwald* is owned & operated by the Bayshore Center at Bivalve

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**bayshorecenter.org**