

Bayshore Center at Bivalve is headquartered in the 1904 Oyster Shipping Sheds and Wharves that open to the picturesque riverfront — restored historic buildings with an ambiance of times gone by and a glimpse into one of New Jersey's last remaining working waterfronts.

The Shipping Sheds were at the heart of the Delaware Bay oyster industry during the first half of the last century. The facility serves as the home port of New Jersey's Tall Ship, the schooner *A.J. Meerwald*; the Delaware Bay Museum; the Flotsam & Jetsam Museum Store; and Oyster Cracker Café.

The mission of Bayshore Center at Bivalve is to advance the understanding of the human impact on New Jersey's aquatic environment through education, advocacy, and programming.

Facility Rules

- No smoking except in parking lot.
- Animals are not permitted in the building except for service, emotional support or therapy dogs.
- No swimming or diving from wharves.
- Wharves and wooden walking surfaces may be slippery due to flooding. Do not step on mud.

While you are here...

- Commercial Township Wetlands Restoration Site — two miles of walking trails
- Commercial Township Bike Path
- Visit us by boat — docking available
- Turn your donation into membership today and receive 10% off in the Museum Store



The Bayshore Center at Bivalve received a project grant for the design of the guide and map from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a Division of the Department of State.



WHERE HISTORY AND THE ENVIRONMENT MEET

2800 High Street
Port Norris, NJ 08349
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BayshoreCenter.org



Free Wi Fi



Bayshore Center *at* Bivalve Visitor's Guide & Map

- ⚓ 1904 Oyster Shipping Sheds and Wharves
- ⚓ Delaware Bay Museum
- ⚓ Oyster Cracker Café

BayshoreCenter.org

Exhibits

1 Bringing Bivalve to Life Follow in the footsteps of oystermen and all who relied on the oyster industry in the “Oyster Capital of the World.” Find out how people originally planted, harvested, processed, marketed and shipped oysters during the shell trade. See why Bivalve and Port Norris were boom towns and boasted more millionaires per square mile than anywhere else in New Jersey.

🔗 Look for the clipboards with activities and questions.

2 The Abundant Oyster? By the early twentieth century, Commercial Township was home to one of the largest oyster-harvesting industries in the world. African Americans, many of whom were recruited from the Chesapeake, gradually immigrated to this area to work as skilled oyster shuckers, schooner crew and captains, and dozens of other jobs in Port Norris, Bivalve, Shellpile, and beyond. In this exhibit, you will hear directly from African Americans and their fellow community members about life, work, and play in an oyster town.

3 Play on the Bayshore It illustrates how along New Jersey’s Delaware Bayshore, work and play are closely intertwined with each other, the environment and the economy, creating a unique culture and inspiration for artists. Today, as in the past, visitors who come to fish, hunt, boat, dine, and sight-see share the Delaware Bay with those who make their living from the water.

🔗 Check out the sand table, fishing game, waterfowl ID and drawing activities.

👶 Child-Friendly Areas

4 Cashier Pilot House From here the captain drove the boat, navigated, gave orders to his crew and slept. This exhibit is set in the 1940s, after World War II, when oystermen had just converted their boats by removing sails, masts, centerboards, bowsprits and cutwaters and installing pilot houses. Scan the QR codes to hear oral history excerpts from the oystermen.

🔗 Explore the pilot house!

5 Oysterman George Schoch’s Office There is only one known interior photograph of the Shipping Sheds. George Schoch’s office has been re-created based on this photograph of his office.

🔗 Search the office for clue cards.

6 Sail Loft See tools, sewing machine, desk and bench for Edward B. Cobb’s sail loft.

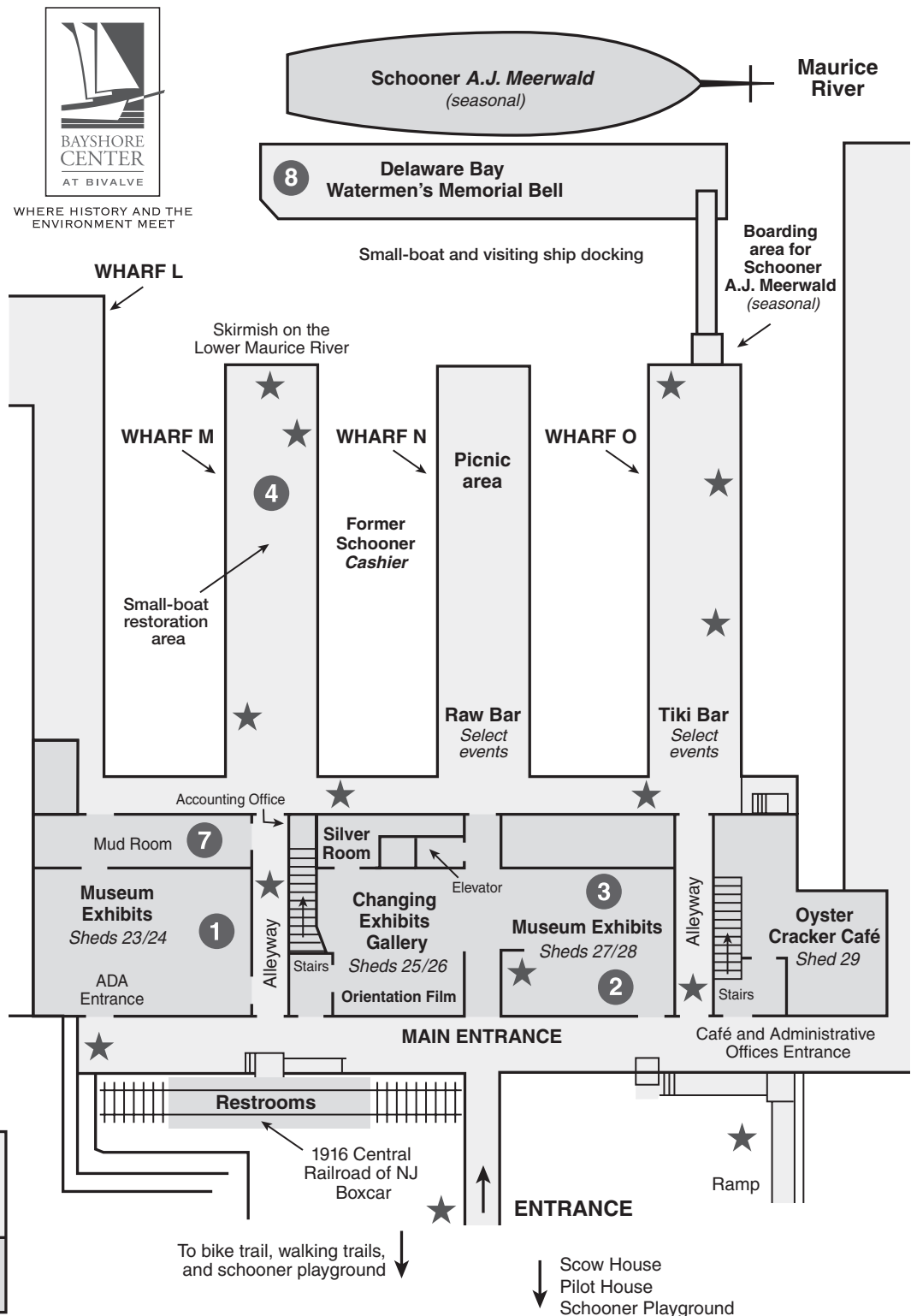
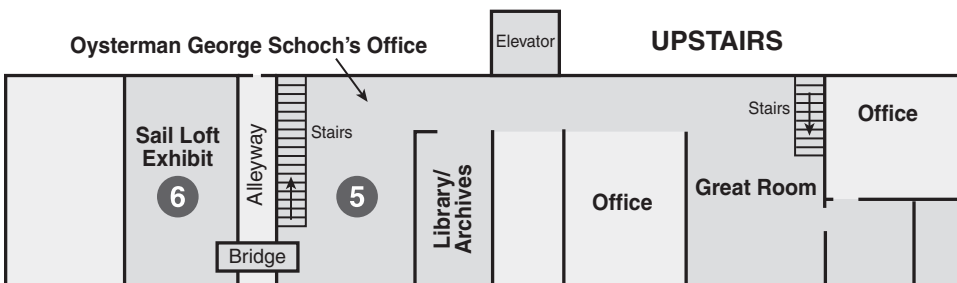
🔗 Touch some sail maker’s tools.

7 Get on the Boat! An interactive exhibit where kids of all ages can play. Try your hand at tonging, use mechanical advantage, work with shipwright tools and learn about navigation.

8 Delaware Bay Watermen’s Memorial Bell (floating dock) Ring the bell to honor those who made their living on the water and who lost their lives in the process. A partnership effort by three local organizations and interested individuals including the Bayshore Center at Bivalve, the McBride Family Oyster Enterprises and the Port Norris Historical Society.

★ Exterior Interpretive Panels

Please look for our interpretive panels noted on the map by a ★.



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