

The Other Jersey Shore

New Jersey has two shorelines, the Atlantic Ocean and the Delaware Bay. Prior to the 1940s, Philadelphians visited both shorelines for recreation. Today few Philadelphians are familiar with the bay side of New Jersey including towns like Shellpile, Bivalve, Port Norris and Fortescue. This part of New Jersey remains largely undeveloped due to a combination of environmental controls, economics and the bugs. (Never underestimate the bugs).

Photography on the bay is largely a study of various shades of grey and washed-out pigments. Bright colors brought by humans or by nature in the spring tend to fade by late summer. The challenge of the photographer is to keep the images from looking like “more of the same”. Even so, the images are presented as captured and not enhanced in any way.

These pictures were taken on Money Island, a small community of 27 cabins located 55 miles due south of the Philadelphia bridges in Cumberland County. More than sixty five percent of this township is owned by land trusts and designated as nature preserve. This means thousands of acres of open space and an abundance of wildlife subjects, although many are not as cooperative subjects. The newest neighbor, an American eagle, along with the muskrats, foxes and coyotes have proven especially difficult to photograph. All of the photos were taken between 2003 and 2005. I wish I could say that I had been more ambitious in seeking out subject matter, but 11 of the 15 photographs were taken from our front porch.

These pictures in this were selected primarily for their unique depictions and not so much for artistic or creative value. In that sense, this exhibit may be more of a travel guide than an art show. Still, the images do a fair job of telling the story that is intended by capturing the real concepts and emotional feeling of the Delaware Bay.

Most of these photographs will be given away after the show. If you have an interest, please just ask (Tony cell: 610-636-6786).



About the artist

Tony Novak is a member of the Riverfront Renaissance Center For The Arts in Millville, NJ whose interest in photography stemmed from finding little time to paint as a working adult. His last photography exhibit in Ocean City New Jersey focused on the Atlantic coast prior to the recent development boom. He splits his time between Philadelphia the shore and prefers the shore in the winter because of the quiet that facilitates his primary work as a financial writer.



Traffic Jam on Money Island

With little automobile or airplane traffic, the only man-made noise comes from passing boats. Three oyster boats and one fishing boats in the foreground plus the barge in the background caught our attention as the most traffic we have ever seen.



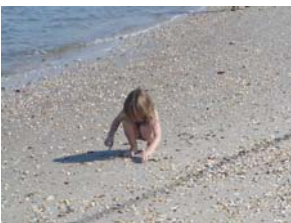
Boat in Fog

A lone fishing boat heading back in to dock. The blending of water and sky into a single grey mist creates a mystical and peaceful environment that engulfs everything.



Visiting Pheasant

Pennsylvania and New Jersey used to have large populations of pheasant but they disappeared in the 1970s. Pesticides were blamed. The birds are making a comeback but still kept in check by the large number of fox and raccoons that feed on their eggs.



Shells

Collecting shells is a perennial favorite. The island has public electric service, evidenced by the shadow of the line running across the beach.



Low Tide

The sandy bottom of the Nantuxent Creek inlet makes a perfect swimming spot. At low tide the water is less than three feet deep for about 60 yards offshore. This is not typical, since most of the Delaware Bay is “muck bottom” that supports the growth of oysters.



Big sunset

This sunset seemed to show off an unusually large sun. The land on horizon is Delaware, somewhere around Milford.



Frozen Bay

A layer of ice forms on the top of the inlet in the coldest weather. The ice chunks are then pushed onto the beach by wind and waves creating a glacier-like landscape.



Clear and Cold

The colors scheme of the sky seems to be repeated in the landscape.



Summer Sunset

No photograph of a sunset does justice to the real thing.



Terrapin

There are so many turtles that cross the lawn to get from bay to marsh that occasionally we step on one hidden in the grass. At dusk on a high tide they poke their heads out of the water in unison crating a dotted surface across the otherwise smooth and still water.



Osprey

The wooden boards used to build the osprey nest are six inches, so this adult female bird has an almost four foot wingspan. Osprey were endangered species but are now thriving in many parts of the country due to effective pesticide controls.



Orange Moon

Taken with a flash that captured some of the dune grass in the foreground.



Beach Grass

The lines of matted beach grass make an interesting pattern and a warm place to sit (except during the buggy season).



Starfish

Starfish occasionally grasp onto bait and are caught on a fishing line. After playing with the kids for awhile on the boat, this one landed back in the water.



Splash

Intended as a photo of boys doing a simultaneous cannonball, the camera's delayed shutter captured the flying water instead.