



The Lighthouse

Queen's Landing Community News • June 2023



Notes from the EDITOR

Hello and welcome to your June 2023 quarterly newsletter.

The pool has opened and the Recreation and Landscape committees have made it look and feel like a pool at a resort. This year we also have an expanded pool season and expanded daily hours thanks to the work of these committees and others.



This Saturday June 3 we have the return of the long-awaited second annual Cardboard Regatta. Head over to the Macum Creek kayak launch for the big race at 11 am and then a party in the parking lot at the clubhouse from 1 pm to 5 pm.

The Queen's Landing website has also been updated with a [Classifieds section for the buying, selling, and leasing of slips in the Queen's Landing Marina](#) by the owners of those slips, each of which are individual unit owners in the community, not the office.

Please enjoy our articles this month on ChatGPT and what it thinks of our Cow-nose Rays, all the terrific things you can do this summer around the island and the shore, and keeping an eye out for scams.

—Mike Rabinowitz

Upcoming Events

Cardboard Regatta | Saturday, June 3

10:00 am: Vote for your favorite boat

11:00 am: Race Time

1:00-5:00 pm: Party at the Clubhouse parking lot

Join us for the long-awaited second Cardboard Regatta. We have eight ships this year vying for the title or in some cases, just buoyancy:

- Queen Ella
- Banana Wind
- ME Boat
- G&T On The Rocks
- The Wonder That Went Down Under II
- Dabo's Dingy
- Ella D.
- Nikolaki



Come see the race and then head over to the clubhouse for an afternoon of fun in the parking lot.

Trash or Treasure Event | June 17 | 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Community yard sale to be advertised on various local social media platforms. No need to sign up, simply place out those items you want to sell. Don't sell everything? No worries, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, a dumpster will be provided and located at the clubhouse parking lot for you to toss away those unwanted and unsold items. All items must be removed from the common areas no later than 2:00 pm. Proof of residency will be required to use dumpster.



Ice Cream Social Walk-About | August 11 | 7:00 to 8:30 pm



Ice Cream Social

What better way to enjoy this beautiful community you live in than a stroll through the community down to the marina and along the river front munching on different varieties of FREE ice cream. There will be several cool stops set up along the way manned by friendly volunteers ready to dole out the cold, sweet treats including treats for four legged friends as well. As the event gets closer a map will be provided along with a list of the different ice creams offered including options for those with dietary challenges.

So get ready to grab your sweetheart, gather up the kids and get ready for the sweetest stroll around Queen's Landing you've ever enjoyed!

COWNOSE RAYS

By Susan Buckingham

I've been wanting to write about the cownose rays that mate in front of Queen's Landing in early June each year. I love seeing their wingtips flick along above the water. It's startling to see them jump out of the water stuck together sometimes. Some years, it happens that there are many, many here all at the same time. It can be quite a sight.

When it came time to research and write about them, I consulted ChatGPT, a new language based online program that compiles research and writes about it. Here's what I found.

I searched ChatGPT with the phrase "cownose rays mating Chester River." Here is the result:

*Cownose rays, also known as **Rhinoptera bonasus**, are a species of eagle ray found in the western Atlantic Ocean. They are known for their distinctive cow-like snouts and graceful swimming patterns. While I don't have specific information about cow nose rays mating in the Chester River, I can provide you with some general information about their mating behavior.*

Cownose rays have a mating system known as polyandry, where one female mates with multiple males during a breeding season. Mating typically occurs in large aggregations or schools. The males will compete for the attention of the females, engaging in courtship behaviors such as following the female closely, biting at her pectoral fins, and even leaping out of the water to impress her.

Once a male successfully mates with a female, he uses specialized claspers to transfer sperm into her reproductive tract. After fertilization, the female will carry the embryos internally for a gestation period of about four months. When the time comes to give birth, the female will move to shallow, protected areas such as estuaries or bays, where she will release live young called pups. The number of pups born per female can vary but is usually around one to four.

While I don't have specific information about cownose ray mating behavior in the Chester River, it's possible that they may utilize this area for mating or as a nursery habitat for their offspring. It's always best to consult local marine researchers or organizations for more precise information about the behavior and ecology of specific species in a particular region.

I don't think I need to consult marine researchers to confirm what I see outside my door! It's good to know, though, what they are actually doing out there. It sounds kind of like an orgy. Artificial intelligence helped me in this case.

This prompted another search. I typed "numbers of cownose rays Chesapeake Bay." Here's the result:

*As an AI language model, I don't have real-time data, but as of my last knowledge update in September 2021, the Chesapeake Bay region was known to be a significant habitat for cownose rays (**Rhinoptera bonasus**). However, I don't have access to the specific numbers or population estimates for cownose rays in the Chesapeake Bay beyond that time.*

Cownose rays are migratory and can be found in various coastal areas of the Western Atlantic Ocean, including the Chesapeake Bay during their annual migration. They typically arrive in the bay during the warmer months and migrate south during the winter.

For the most up-to-date information on cownose ray populations in the Chesapeake Bay, I recommend contacting local marine research organizations, fisheries departments, or environmental agencies that specialize in monitoring marine life in the region. They may have more recent data and insights into the cownose ray population in the Chesapeake Bay.

In this case, my question wasn't really answered, although I did get some information. I googled my question and found an [interesting Youtube video](#) which also didn't answer my question. You might like it.

[Here is a link](#) to another interesting article and video by the Smithsonian Institute. It doesn't answer my question either. I couldn't find any credible source on the number of cownose rays in the bay. Perhaps ChatGPT's answer that the bay is a significant habitat for cownose rays is the best answer that I will find. I'll keep an eye out for something more specific, but I've had a pretty good experience with our latest AI tool.

One thing ChatGPT does not do is pictures. Here are two.



P.S. When I ran the word processing editor, the only problem noted was a lack of conciseness in one of my sentences!



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Summer is Coming!

Some tips for fun in the sun on K.I.

By Rick Baamonde

Hi Neighbors,

As chair for the Clubhouse Operations and Social Committee for two years, I learned a lot about many of the amenities that are available on Kent Island for summer fun, many of which are free. I thought I would compile a list of these for the community as Memorial Day approaches.

CBEC: The Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center in Grasonville is a great place to start our discussion. They have summer camps, adult education programs, internships, and much more. They teach basic and intermediate kayaking classes, offer kayaking tours led by certified naturalist kayak guides, and have kayaks available for private use. If you are a member you can use them for free all season on a first-come, first serve basis. Non-members can rent them for \$20 per hour. Memberships start as low as \$35/year for individuals and family plans are \$55, and the money goes to a great cause. Kayaking season started on April 22 and runs through Nov. 1. [More info.](#)



Kent Island Outrigger Canoe Club: Based out of the Kent Island Marina at the Narrows, the KIOCC is dedicated to Hawaiian-style outrigger canoeing and racing. The club offers up to three free sessions to see if you like it (I did it last year with 8 neighbors and everyone loved it.) At that point you can choose to join the club or not. There are annual fees involved at that point. Definitely fun and worth a free try or three. [More info.](#)



Swimming in the Chester River/Chesapeake Bay: Speaking of swimming, as a part-time volunteer for the Chester Riverkeeper, testing water for swimability/bacteria levels/algal blooms, etc., I have found that it is important not to swim without checking the weekly results of this testing for various

common swimming spots on the bay and river. The results of the various ShoreRivers testers are compiled on [this website](#): NOTE: No matter what the results say, it is not advisable to swim with any open wounds. Also, don't swim after a heavy rain event, even if results for the week have been posted, as rain run-off often negates a positive site result. Additionally, it is a good idea to wash with soap and fresh water when you finish swimming. [More info.](#)

Paddleboarding (Stand-Up Surfing): You can rent a paddleboard or take paddleboarding classes at Dragonfly Paddle and Fitness. They have taught a clinic at Queens Landing every year for the past several years for us, so if you need a board or want to see if you like paddleboarding, give them a call. Karla Horton has been our contact there. [More info.](#)

Hot Air Ballooning: I am not sure if many people know that there is a Hot Air Balloon company on Kent Island, right in Chester at 1137 Little Creek Road. They are certified by the Balloon Association of America and everything. Might be worth a "flyer". [More info.](#)

Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage: Per their website, Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage is dedicated to designing, building, and maintaining wildlife habitat and establishing a more sustainable agriculture through direct action, education, and research in partnership with public and private landowners. They offer education and outreach to various groups including HOAs. [More info.](#)

Chesapeake Bay Foundation: For those who would like to help save the bay, there are ways to volunteer with the CBF. Clean the Bay Day is on Saturday, June 3rd, from 9 AM to 12 PM. Millions of pounds of trash have been removed from the shorelines of the bay since 1989, when this started. There are other ways to help, too, from membership, to education, and other volunteer opportunities. There are also webinars and Bay Discovery Cruises available, though they sell out quickly. [More info.](#)



In conclusion, my hope is that there are a few things on this list that can help provide some fun activities for you and your family this summer without straying too far from Kent Island.



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Keep Yourself Safe from New Fraud Scams

By Mike Rabinowitz, *lazy plagiarist*



With the recent news about a few bank failures, many vendors are updating their banking information. Scammers are using this moment of change to take advantage of unsuspecting customers. By preying on common anxieties, fraudsters can trick you into sending money to a phony bank account or providing your personal banking information.

- Take your time. A legitimate banking associate will never pressure you to immediately make a decision. They'll provide you with all the necessary information and specific time frames to make your decision.
- When in doubt, hang up the phone and call your bank's service team directly. Call the number listed on the back of your debit or credit card and bank statement.



Remember to stay calm and be skeptical of banking update requests. By following these tips, you can keep yourself safe from potential scams:

- Don't click on anything in an unsolicited email or text message asking you to update or verify account information.
- Never send funds to a merchant until you can confirm that the request to change a payment destination is legitimate, like a statement from them or a verified customer service phone number.
- Don't rely only on caller ID to confirm someone's identity, as scammers can compromise that too.
- Look up the company's phone number through a legitimate source like a statement provided by the company, and don't use the number a potential scammer is providing.

Here are some additional resources to learn more about avoiding potential scams and fraud:

[Scam education](#)


[Help avoid falling victim to business email compromise \(BEC\)](#)

[How to avoid and prevent different types of phishing](#)

[Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency guidance](#)

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Boat Slip Classifieds

The Queen's Landing website has been updated with a Classifieds section for the **buying, selling, and leasing of slips in the Queen's Landing Marina** by the owners of those slips, each of whom is, of course, a Queen's Landing unit owner. This has just launched, so slip owners are just getting started putting up their ads!

[View Boat Slip Classifieds](#)

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Please Note: The Facebook page named "Residents of the Queen's Landing Community" is not sponsored by Tidewater Property Management Company or the Queen's Landing Board of Directors. Information posted on that page does not come from the Queen's Landing Office or Tidewater Property Management.