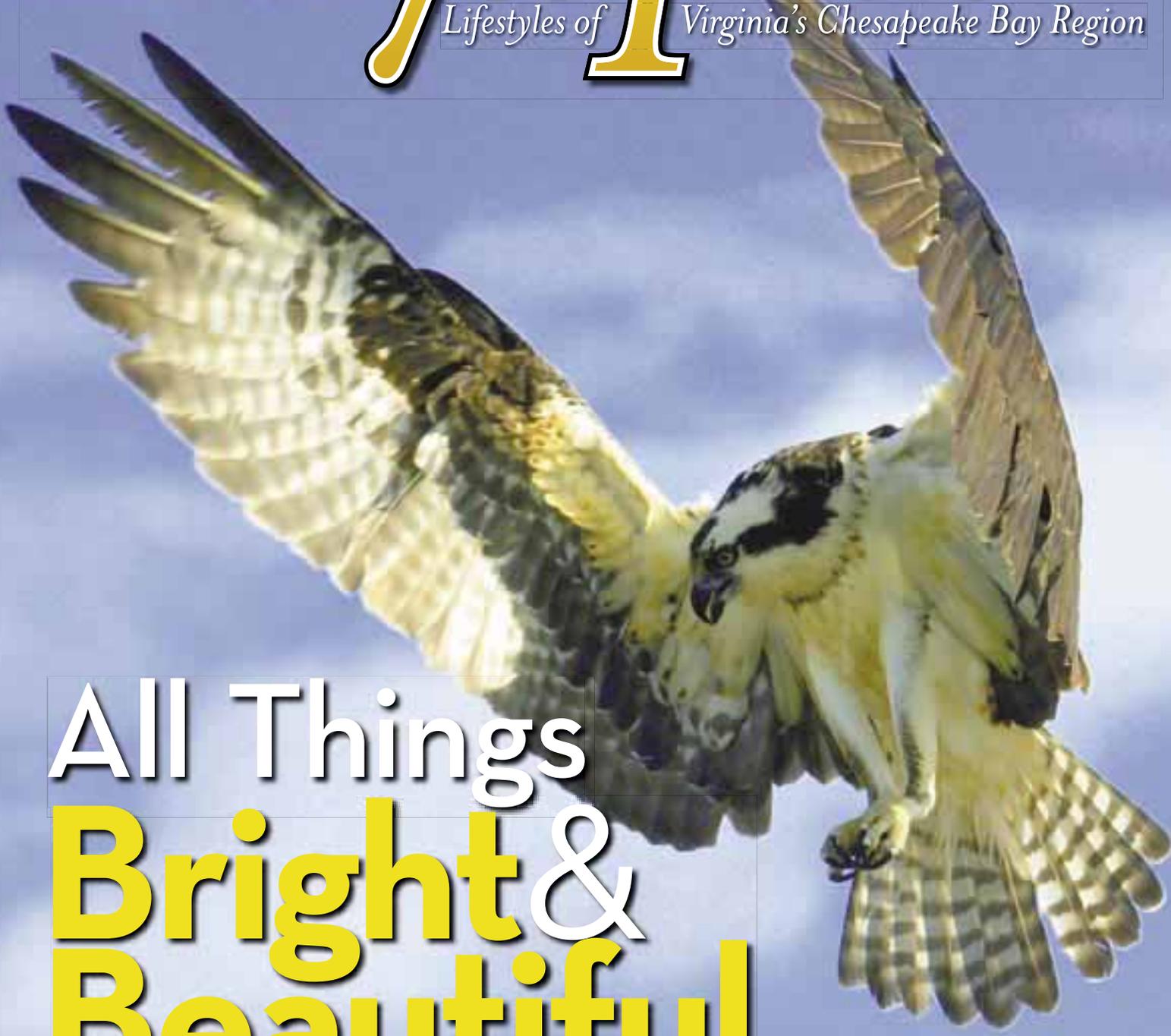


FREE • SUMMER 2008

Bay Splash

Lifestyles of Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Region



All Things
**Bright &
Beautiful**

Transformation on Carters Creek • Mystery in Montross • Mattaponi Children Taught Ancient Traditions
The Miss Ellen • Charlie Perkinson & the King of Spain • Sailing Instructor Bill Johnson • And More!

INSIDE: REAL ESTATE IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY REGION

THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING
FUN HAPPENING AT

the Tides Inn

A Chesapeake Bay Tradition

June 15: Father's Day Weekend

This is the weekend to do something special for Dad. Stay in our beautiful waterfront accommodations with breakfast included. Packages from \$324 per couple per night. Play 18 holes of golf or indulge in a relaxing massage or other spa treatment. Please visit our website for a complete listing of Father's Day activities.

Spa Specials:

June: Save \$10 on a session with our Intuitive for a "Reading of the Moment". The session can include birthday readings, monthly readings, cycle readings or partnership readings including any or every aspect of your life-love, romance, career, money, business, home and family.

July: Energize with our Refreshing Citrus Body Wrap or Facial. This service will invigorate and brighten after facing the harsh effects of the sun.

August: The Lovely Lavender Facial is a calming facial known for its ability to relieve irritability, sleeplessness and exhaustion. Relax while the scent of lavender fills the room and your dry delicate skin is nurtured.

Sailing, Boating and Golfing!

June 23, July 14 and August 11: Young Peoples

Academy of Golf and Sailing

Three dates are being offered Monday to Thursday with golf in the morning and sailing in the afternoon. This course will include golf etiquette, putting, bunker play and the basic swing. Sailing will include a lot of time on the water learning the basics of sailing, knots and a capsized drill. Introduce your child to golf and sailing at the same time. The Golden Eagle Golf Club and Premier Sailing School are offering this combined course for young people ages 6 to 16. Cost is \$325 for the four day course or \$100 to join in for one day.

July 4th: Join us for our traditional Tides Inn fireworks display from 8-11pm. Be sure to book your room and dinner reservations as soon as possible!

July 19 and August 9: Basic Seamanship for Young People-Ages 9-12 & Safe Powerboat Handling for Young People-Ages 11-16 9:30am-3:30pm both dates.

These one day courses teach students about safety including lines, loading, flags and how to operate a small powerboat. For more information visit our website or contact Premier Sailing at 804.438.9300 or info@premiersailing.com.

Bay Splash Book Signing Party:

July 30th: "River Country": a new book of poetry from Virginia's acclaimed Poet Laureate, Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda

September 30th: "The Hidden Galleon" by John Amrhein, Jr., the true story of a lost Spanish ship and the legendary wild horses of Assateague Island.

Meet the authors for an elegant Tides Inn luncheon and an autographed copy of the book. Please call 804.438.5000 or request information at booksigning@tidesinn.com.

Miss Ann Cruises: Join us for a Friday night cocktail cruise, Saturday night dinner cruise or Sunday Brunch Cruise. Enjoy the sites and sounds of Carters Creek as you cruise the river. Call 804-438-5000 for reservations.

Annual Season passes are now available for the Golden Eagle Golf Course. Call our PGA professional, Rich Ford, for further information at 804.438.4460 or e-mail rford@tidesinn.com.

The Tides Inn—Nestled on Virginia's Northern Neck at 480 King Carter Dr., Irvington, VA 22480, 800.843.3746 www.tidesinn.com

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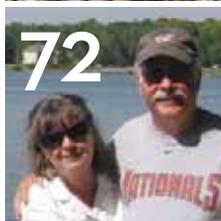
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All Things

Bright &

"All Things Bright & Beautiful" by Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848.

written and photographed by THOMAS BOWDEN



Beautiful

It is just after dawn and I am in my favorite place in the world. The creek – Lancaster Creek – the boundary between Richmond and Lancaster Counties on Virginia’s Northern Neck. Winding through the marshes from Chinn’s Mill Pond, opening wider with each meander, it forms a broad protected bay before rounding

Pearson’s Island and joining forces with the Rappahannock to flow to the Bay.

Hugging the sandy bank as I paddle round the point, the tree-fringed shore of a small cove comes into view. Osprey perch on crusty pilings and spiral above me. They are worthy subjects in their own right, but

this morning my subject is the majestic bald eagle – *Haliaeetus Leucocephalus*. From a distance, their white heads appear as tiny white dots embedded in the green and brown pattern of pines and hardwoods. I keep scanning – up, down – side to side. There! Two or three hundred yards away – two spots – one just above the other and to

All Creatures Great & Small,



the right. If I can cross the gap before they fly, I may get close enough. I paddle on – with quiet but forceful strokes. Have to get there fast, but not too fast or they will surely take flight. My camera with its ungainly lens rests on my lap.

It was a full year after my first summer on Pearson's Island before I first saw them.

I don't know why I took the camera with me that day – it was just going to be a paddle up the creek and back. But it's funny, once you have a camera in your hand, you start to look for new things to point it at. When I first saw the eagles, they were silhouetted against the bright sky on the downriver side of the creek. Probably just two big osprey, I

thought, or maybe turkey vultures, perched in a dead tree. But as the angle of the sun became more oblique with each stroke of my paddle – I saw they were different – larger than osprey, and those white heads could only be one thing – bald eagles! Trying not to lose my paddle as I fumbled for the camera, I focused and snapped away. Not

All Things Wise & Wonderful,



much to show for my efforts that first day, but I was hooked. I came back again and again. The more I looked – the more often I saw them. I learned where they liked to roost – I found their nest, and watched for little heads to appear above the rim. I tried different cameras, different lenses, different angles. I learned to anticipate when they

would tire of my intrusions and fly off up the narrow run where not even my kayak could take me. It was fun to imagine that they came to recognize me in my slender honey-colored kayak. And I kept taking pictures.

That's how I came to love these big birds, and the feisty osprey, the cormorant,

and the great blue heron with its raucous takeoff, and the little green heron, so shy and skittish. All in my beloved Lancaster Creek. You cannot experience the presence of these creatures in their environment and not be changed. They will make you a conservationist – a protector of the Bay. You may choose just to watch them from afar

The Lord God Made Them All.



with binoculars, a spotting scope or your naked eyes. You may be moved to paint them, study them, or, like me, to learn more about photography so that you can preserve your memories. And if you approach them on their terms, if you are patient, they may let you capture a bit of their spirit to share with others. And then you will always look

for them – everywhere – in an open patch of sky, a tall pine or a dead oak, along the James River or next to a cornfield or any body of water. Because you will know they are out there, and be grateful. ■

Copies can be purchased (framed, mounted or digital) from Tom's website at <http://stores.ebay.com/Chesapeake-Bay-Birds>, or by e-mail to botbldr@gmail.com, and 5% of the profits will be donated to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.