



THE POINT PLEASANT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 1273 Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742

EMAIL ppbhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Welcome to the March 2026 Newsletter of the Point Pleasant Historical Society!

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome back to another year at the Point Pleasant Historical Society. It has been a long cold winter and we all are looking forward to warmer days and a great 2026 season at the shore!

We always start each year by expressing our sincere appreciation to our members, friends, and volunteers. Your ongoing dedication and support are vital to the continued growth of our organization and the preservation of our town's history.

Also at the beginning of each new year, we kindly request you to renew your membership by filling out and mailing in the [MEMBERSHIP FORM](#) that is also attached below in this email newsletter. The PPHS is funded 100% by membership dues and contributions from our supporters. We rely on your generosity to help us operate and grow. Thank you for helping to preserve our history.

Each month, our newsletters will be organized around a theme that highlights a significant aspect of our history. This month's focus is on the subject of fishing.

Fishing has long been the economic backbone of our town. Early settlers made great use of the Manasquan River's safe harbor and the plentiful local fisheries. Before long, both tourists and business owners arrived as well.

This month's "History Term Paper," authored by PPHS member and veteran commercial fisherman Jim Lovgren, will examine the history of **The Fisherman's Dock Cooperative, Inc.**



A view of some of the commercial fishing dragger fleet tied up at the Fisherman's Cooperative Dock on Channel Drive.

"History Term Paper"

THE FISHERMEN'S DOCK COOPERATIVE, INC.

A Historic Fishing Dock

by Jim Lovgren

Most Point Pleasant Beach residents are aware of the fishing boats that work out of the Fishermen's Dock Cooperative. They are a welcome attraction to both residents and tourists, who watch them coming and going out of the Manasquan inlet daily. Both the fishing industry—commercial and recreational—and tourism played equal roles in the founding of Point Pleasant Beach. The opening of the Point Pleasant canal, and modernization of the Manasquan inlet in the 1920's and 1930's brought with it explosive growth for the local fishing industry. The new inlet provided safe access to the local fishing grounds, along with the offshore grounds from the Mud Hole to the Hudson Canyon. Being close to the major markets of New York City and Philadelphia was also a boon for the commercial industry, as shipping products by train or truck was easy and cheap.

This development provided significant opportunities for individuals prepared to meet the challenges of commercial fishing, attracting immigrants from Sweden and Norway to the region. By the 1950s, small private docks had appeared, and the fishing industry had become the town's largest employer. Carlson's dominated the waterfront at that time, with the Snow Dock just getting established right next door for clam boats. Next to the Coast Guard station, on Inlet drive was Barmore's and across Cooks Creek from them was the Simpson dock. These were all privately owned docks and would service any boats they could. Smaller boats, typically skiffs under thirty feet, were far more common than today's larger vessels. Draggers, measuring over sixty feet, were gradually dominating the industry because they proved to be the most efficient method for catching fish. Most larger boats fished out of Carlson's, [the present-day Atlantic Capes dock], and out of state boats would pack their fish there.

Because private individuals owned the docks, fishermen had to accept whatever prices were set for their catch. This led many to wonder if they were receiving fair treatment. That changed in 1953, when seven local

fishermen joined together to create what is now one of the most successful seafood cooperatives in the country. Two years before, these men purchased a large waterfront property, between the Snow dock, and what is now Southside Marine, and operated it, as the Fishermen's Dock. All the while they were dreaming of something much larger.

Agricultural cooperatives played a significant role in the past and were highly effective at helping small farmers market their products. By working together, these farmers were able to secure better prices than they could have received from private companies. Seafood cooperatives began to emerge, with the Fishermen's Dock Co-op being one of the first.

Founded on July 1, 1953, the organization began with seven fishermen and quickly grew when five more joined soon after. To become a member, a fisherman had to promise to pack his fish only at the Cooperative, unless they were in another port at the time. The price per share is fifty dollars, and since you need to buy two, the total comes to one hundred dollars. During this period, there was no restriction on the number of shares an individual could purchase, resulting in several fishermen acquiring fifty shares each. Owning more shares did not give any special benefits to the buyer, they did it to raise capital so they could improve and expand the dock. In 1954 they did just that, by purchasing the Simpson dock on Channel drive, and using that as their main operational dock. This was a critical purchase because the original dock property was not well suited for any expansion of operations, with Will's Hole Throughfare being narrow, and hard to navigate, besides the dock waterfront was dominated by an old eighty-foot-long barge, that served as the pack out platform and office.



By purchasing the Simpson dock the members now had over three hundred feet of bulkheaded dock, with a pack out building, and office with a bathroom. Local fishermen joined by the dozens as

the dock became more successful, with membership reaching close to sixty by the end of the decade. During the 1960's Barmore's dock closed, and later would become the Shrimp Box restaurant, while Carlsons continued in a slow descent as basic maintenance was not performed and the dock itself started to fall apart. They would go out of business in the 1980's. While the Co-op was successful, it eventually had to limit membership after its establishment, as it could not accommodate or provide wharfage for so many boats.

Over the last two decades Co-op membership has ranged from ten to fifteen members, with about a dozen boats at any one time. These boats are much bigger than they were in the fifties, with an average length of seventy-five feet now, compared to forty or so in the beginning.

For over seventy years the Fisherman's Dock Cooperative Inc. has survived the invasion of the foreign fleet, the devastating effects of pollution, which culminated with the great fish kill of 1976, overfishing, warming ocean waters, and a less than friendly government agency created to supposedly help them. Many families have lived here for generations, and plenty of local young people earned their first paychecks unloading boats at the dock. It is now the oldest operating seafood Cooperative on the east coast, [tied with the Belford Seafood Co-op, and is historically significant because of its success and longevity as a Cooperative.

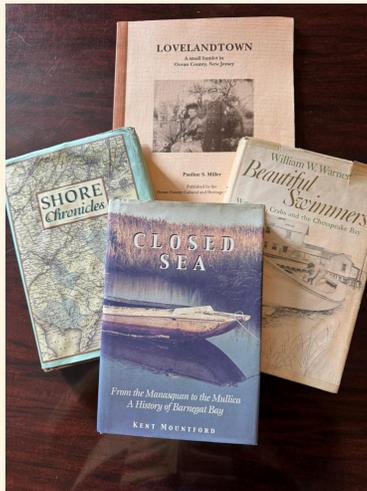
The writer, Jim Lovgren, who has had family Co-op members since 1954, is just putting the finishing touches on a book that documents the complete history of the Cooperative along with local and fishing industry history. He is hoping for publication in 2026.

MUSEUM DONATIONS

A special thank you to everyone who recently donated historical items and memorabilia to the PPHS Museum.

Candace Truex

Candace, a 1968 PPBHS graduate, donated a box of Truex family memories. The collection is truly a tapestry of items that reflect her experiences growing up in Point Pleasant Beach, along with cherished family recollections—especially those of her father, Owen Truex, who was a respected Ocean County National Bank VP, a Point Pleasant Hospital Board Member, and an active civic leader.



Herb Bopp

Herb Bopp, a longtime resident, generously donated several of his cherished books and pamphlets, adding valuable new items to the PPHS library collection!

Michele Mosca

Thank you to everyone at Point Pleasant Beach High School, especially Michele Mosca, teacher and social studies department chairperson, for locating the remaining 10 missing yearbooks from the Point Pleasant Historical Society's collection. The PPHS library now contains a copy of every yearbook of Point Pleasant Beach High School, 1940 to present.

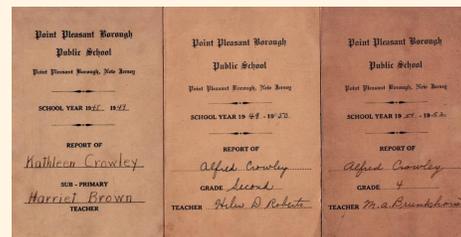


Bruce Clarke

During a recent cleaning of the family garage, Bruce discovered the 75th Anniversary Program from 1963 for the First Baptist Church. This document represents a valuable segment of Point Pleasant Beach history and serves as a significant addition to the PPHS collection of local church records.

Michael Butkus

Mike Butkus, a history enthusiast and fan of the New Jersey Shore, discovered several original Ocean Road School report cards from 1949, 1950, and 1951 that belonged to students Kathleen and Alfred Crowley. After purchasing them, he kindly donated these artifacts to our museum, where they are now exhibited alongside other Ocean Road School memorabilia. The teachers during those years were Helen D. Roberts, Harriet Brown, and Mrs. M.A. Brunkhorst!



MARCH 2nd PUBLIC MEETING

**OUR MEETING START TIME HAS
CHANGED to 7:00PM!**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS WILL
BEGIN AT 7:00 PM THIS YEAR.**

The regularly scheduled March 2026 public meeting will be held on **Monday, March 2, 2026**, starting at **7:00 PM**. Point Pleasant resident and Environmental Commission Chairman, Dennis Blazak, will present a program about **THE HISTORICAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS** that local development has caused in our area.

Meeting location: Point Pleasant Borough Municipal Building, 2233 Bridge Ave., Point Pleasant Borough.

Please don't forget that our Museum is open weekly, every Thursday, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm; please feel free to come in and browse.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please click on and print the below membership form, complete it with your current contact details, and send it back to us along with your membership fees so we can confirm your contact information.

Our organization's revenue is generated solely through membership dues and donations. The generosity of our contributors has enabled us to consistently meet our annual operating expenses without increasing individual dues. Preserving and sharing our history remains our shared objective. We extend our sincere appreciation for your ongoing support.

Point Pleasant Historical Society & Museum
416 New Jersey Avenue
PO Box 1273
Pt. Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742
(732) 992-8992

Web: www.pointpleasantnj.org
Email: info@pointpleasantnj.org
Facebook: [pointpleasantnj](https://www.facebook.com/pointpleasantnj)
Twitter: [PointPleasantNJ](https://twitter.com/PointPleasantNJ)
Instagram: [PointPleasantNJ](https://www.instagram.com/PointPleasantNJ)

2026

Membership Form

Established in 1976, our non-profit organization is dedicated to preserving the history of The Greater Point Pleasant area. Membership dues are \$10 per year for each person, and we always welcome and appreciate donations. Members are encouraged to attend meetings, and our research initiatives and projects are structured to accommodate varying schedules. A monthly email newsletter is distributed to provide updates on meeting times and organizational news.

Monthly meetings take place at 7:00 PM in the Point Pleasant Borough Council Chambers, located at 2233 Bridge Ave., Point Pleasant Borough. Meetings are generally held from March to June and September to November. Guest speakers are invited, and members are encouraged to share their favorite topics and research projects.

To help keep our printing, mailing, and operating costs low, you must provide a current email address.

Our office and museum are next to Point Pleasant Beach Town Hall, with the Museum entrance on New York Ave. Open Thursdays 1-3 PM or by appointment.

Name _____
Street _____
City _____
Zip _____ Cell Phone _____
EMAIL _____

New Renewal

Membership Fee \$ _____
Donation Amount \$ _____
Total Enclosed \$ _____

Kindly make your check payable to: Point Pleasant Historical Society.
You may either mail your payment and form or bring them to a meeting.
The mailing address is: Point Pleasant Historical Society, PO Box 1273, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742.

PHOTOS OF THE MONTH "MANASQUAN INLET SCENES OF YESTERYEAR"



(above) A circa 1960 aerial view of the inlet area, Cooks Creek, and Lake Louise. The communications tower for the Coast Guard radio system stands mightily in the foreground!



(above) Looking east, a now iconic 1937 picture of the then newly constructed USC station and crew dormitory with the old Inlet Pavilion in the background. At this time there were very few other structures built in this area.



(above) A 1951 view of the Coast Guard Building and Boat House. The Boat House had its own railway that was used to haul and maintain the smaller Coast Guard boats.



(above) During World War 2, the United States Coast Guard erected lookout towers along the coast to spot enemy ships and submarines. They were erected up and down the coast, and spotters would provide location data of these vessels. This tower was built about 100' south of the inlet, adjacent to the boardwalk. It was removed in the 1970's.



(above) This circa 1918 image captures beachgoers swimming at what was then the Manasquan Inlet. In the background stands the inlet pavilion, which was located roughly where the northern end of today's boardwalk is located. At this time, neither a bulkhead nor a rock jetty is present, and the sand shoaling in the foreground will continue accumulating throughout the following decade, ultimately resulting in the complete closure of the inlet to navigation by the late 1920s.



(above) This view, taken on July 1931 from the north jetty of the Manasquan Inlet looking toward Point Pleasant Beach and the old Inlet Pavilion, shows a group of people watching a scoop dredge (not in the picture) remove sand from the inlet in order to continue to the process of rebuilding the inlet and making it navigable once again.

**PLEASE SEND US YOUR OLD PHOTOS AND MEMORIES!
We can scan and return your originals if requested.**

If you have any photos, historical documents, memories or other artifacts that you would like to submit for publication or preservation by the PPHS, please email a copy or contact us at the email address below:

PPBHISTORICALSOCIETY@GMAIL.COM

If you need a membership application, or if you know someone who wishes to join, please click the link below for a printable application form.

[PPHS Membership Application](#)

We thank you in advance!



Point Pleasant Historical Society | PO BOX 1273 | Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742 US

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