

## Delmarva Ramblings #6: Storm Season

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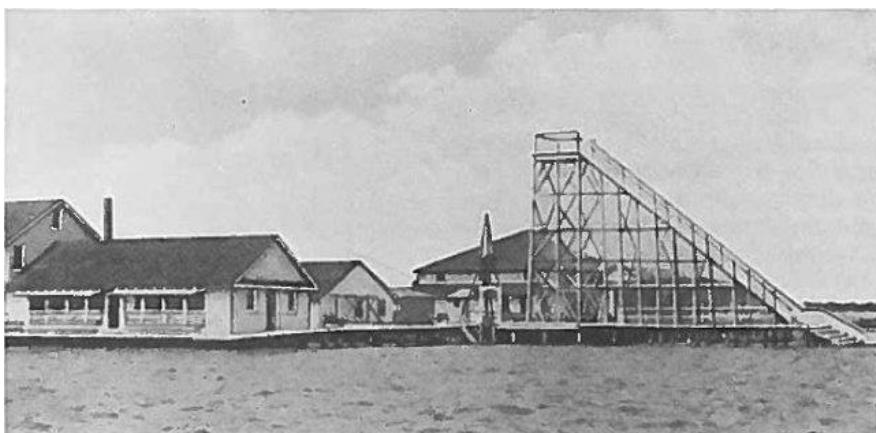
The Chesapeake Bay is important to life on Delmarva.

When we think about life around the bay, we often think about the aquatic, marine, and all amazing flora and fauna that call the watershed home. However, we often forget how geographically important the positioning of the bay is to those of us who call Delmarva home. Most importantly, the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay and the eastern edge of North Carolina is positioned perfectly to protect our southeastern flank from large winter nor'easters. The Outer Banks also protect us from many of the large tropical systems coming up the coast from the south. The bay also helps diminish summertime storms coming from the west, especially along the wider sections of the Pocomoke Sound. Our latitude and location on the coast allow Delmarva residents to experience all four seasons, including our infamous high-humidity summers and potential for heavy snowfall events in the winter. To the east, the barrier islands, Assateague and Chincoteague, protect us from the rare and potentially devastating storms that may come straight off of the Atlantic Ocean.

As summer begins to turn to fall, residents on Delmarva begin to think about the potential of hurricanes. Farmers start planning to get their crops in before the next big storm hits, and



Topographic View of  
Delmarva



Public Landing Before Hurricane of '33

wildlife, especially birds, may move inland, looking for shelter. Though we are on the mid-Atlantic seaboard, we are in a great spot to avoid the most of the big ones. However, we weren't so lucky in 1933. On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1933, the hurricane of '33 came

ashore, making landfall near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. Though winds were only about 70 MPH, compared to Hurricane Sandy in 2012 with about 90 MPH winds, this hurricane was “aimed” just right to do considerable damage. As many of the locals know, the hurricane of ‘33 is the storm that punched a hole in the barrier island to make the Ocean City Inlet. This storm also transformed Public Landing from a thriving coastal town to rubble.

Here on Delmarva, we have many beaches to relax, spend time with families, and observe wildlife. These beaches have an important ecological role, especially those on barrier islands such as Assateague, but, more importantly, the small coastal towns in Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia benefit from their role as a buffer to the mainland. As you visit the beaches this Labor Day weekend, try a different location for your usual family destination. There are many small beaches around the Lower Shore, such as Public Landing, Worcester County MD, Racoon Point at the end Revels Neck Road, Somerset County MD, and Cove Beach, Wicomico County.



Ocean City Inlet After Hurricane of 33'