## Beachcomber's collection of treasures is 'shovel-ready'

By JOELLE CARR For the Star and Wave

MARSHALLVILLE Thousands of tourists discard plastic waste or leave behind cheap toys after a trip to the beach, where if left untouched they will wash into the

ocean. But these forgotten toys and trash stand little chance against beach-LeCleire comber Gay Taylor.

She walks the beaches of Corson's Inlet State Park in search of buckets, beach toys and, most importantly, shovels. They go straight into her collection, which now numbers

483 colorful digging tools. LeCleire Taylor grew up in Wallingford, Pa., but has strong ties to Ocean City. Her mother grew up on the island, graduating from Ocean City High School, and her parents had a second home in Gardens neighborhood. Her aunt taught biology at OCHS for 30

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Gay LeCleire Taylor has the plastic shovels she has collected from beaches in varying displays in her Marshallville, Upper Township home. She has fashioned some into art combinations in their own right, right, and others brighten up the garage, above.

years before she retired in 1970. LeCleire Taylor

said the island was "a second home" for her, where she would spend weekends and summers by the

beach. She said her family always walked and cleaned the beach during their stays. Of all of the items she found, one in particu-

lar caught her fancy. LeCleire Taylor said she does not know what drew her to the shovels, but she remembers one of the first ones she picked\_up was from Gay Toys Inc. and she thought it was humorous that they shared a name.

"I threw out the trash.

If there were other plastic toys, I put them in a bin. And over the years, my husband and I have cleaned them up and giv-

en them to the Goodwill

shops at the shore so they

could sell them to kids

or families ... I still just

kept the shovels for some reason," LeCleire Taylor For more than 30 years,

and curator for the Museum of American Glass at the Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center in Millville. After her retirement in 2009, she started making the commute to walk the beach. "I colle

collect driftwood, I collect shells. I make driftwood reeves; I make shell mirrors and shell frames ... somehow the shovels caught my eye. I don't know why," she said.

Being a museum curator, she started to document the companies that made the shovels. She keeps a chalkboard to count the number of whole shovels she has collected since her retire-

ment. People also give her shovels that they have found on the beach, and though she takes them, they are never included in her count. She has personally collected the 483 shovels in her collection

since her retirement. Skipping the island's busy season, LeCleire Taylor, who lives in Marshallville in Upper Township, walks the beach only in the off-season, from late fall to spring. She is fond of being the only person on the beach, which is the case during her late winter walks; when snow is falling, she normally has the beach all to her-

Corson's Inlet Park is her beach of choice to walk and collect. She does haphazardly walk the beaches by the Gardens or up toward the Northend bridge, but "the bulk have all been from

See Beachcomber. page A5

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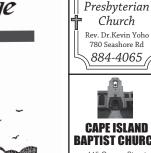


One of the greatest adjustments in life occurs when a man and woman decide to become husband and wife. It is very important to remember that no two marriages are alike, and that each couple must work out what is best for them. Couples who have been married for several years will all admit that they have experienced problems, but they have worked them out. They stuck together and each problem they worked out made their marriage

rhade their marriage stronger. Couples should ask, "what can I give to this marriage," not just "what can I get out of it." give their support, trust, and love to each other, the marriage

is bound to be successful. Three persons should be involved in each marriage; husband, wife and God. God instituted marriage and intended that the couple remain married as long as they both should live. Working together to resolve marital problems isn't always easy, but with God's help, all things are possible

a man will leave his father and mother and unite with his wife, and the two will become one... Good News Bible 10:7,8





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