



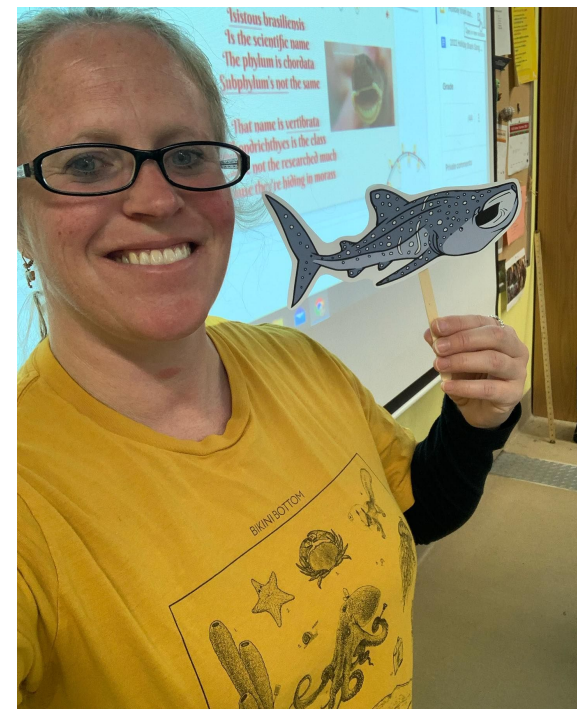
# Information Everywhere! How to vet your resources and find legitimate data

LBIF Science Saturday  
Feb 11, 2023

**Dr. Amy M Williams and  
Ms. Maryann Minnier**

# Dr. Amy M Williams

- Resident of Long Beach Island
- Science teacher and research advisor at the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science
- B.S. in Natural Resource Management at Rutgers University
- MS and PhD in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management in coastal ecology at Texas A&M University, College Station,
- Post-doc associate in the Coastal Engineering Lab at Stevens Institute of Technology.
- Ecosystem Extension Agent for NJ Sea Grant Consortium
- Community Involvement: New Jersey Organizing Project, Alliance for a Living Ocean and Save Barnegat Bay.



## **Selected Publications**

- Wootton, L., Miller, J., Miller, C., Peek, M., Williams, A., and Rowe, P. (2016).. *New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium Dune Manual* , New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium.
- Williams, A., Jansen, M. (2016) Coastal Observations: Winter Storm Jonas from the Stevens Coastal Engineering Center. *Shore and Beach*. 84: 59-62.
- Feagin, R.A., Williams, A.M., Martinez, M.L., Perez-Maqueo, O. 2014. How does the social benefit and economic expenditures generated by a rural beach compare with its sediment replacement cost? *Ocean & Coastal Management*. 89: 79-87.
- Williams, A.M. & Feagin, R.A. 2010. Sargassum as a Natural Solution to Enhance Dune Plant Growth. *Environmental Management* 46: 738-747.
- Feagin, R.A., Koske, R.E., Gemma, J.N. & Williams, A.M. (2009). Restoration of Sea Oats (*Uniola paniculata*) with mycorrhizae on Galveston Island. NOAA/GLO Contract # 08-020.

# Ms. Maryann Minnier

- Grew up in the Pine Barrens of Burlington county, which inspired her love of nature.
  - Enjoys communing with nature by scuba diving, snorkeling, beachcombing, kayaking, paddleboarding, and hiking
  - Associates degree in Environmental Science from Burlington County College
  - Bachelor's degree in English from Rowan University, graduating summa cum laude
  - 19 years teaching at the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science.
- Each semester, she teaches her science-minded students researching skills and how to find credible sources of information.





# Information

Facts

Data

Research

Tales

Stories

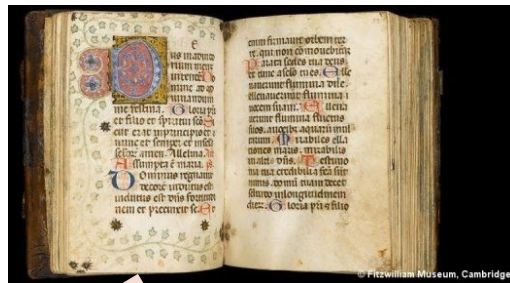
Fables

Oral History

Written History

Opinions

Agendas



**COMMON NAME:** Seals

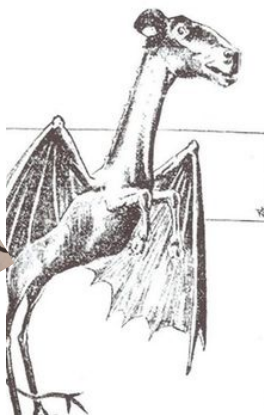
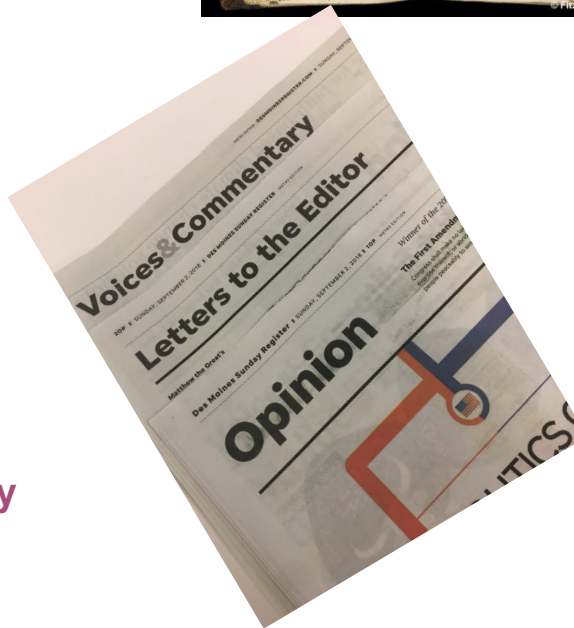
**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Pinnipedia*

**DIET:** Carnivore

**AVERAGE LIFE SPAN IN THE WILD:** Up to 30 years

**SIZE:** 3 feet to 20 feet long

**WEIGHT:** 100 pounds to 4.4 tons



## The Jersey Devil - Fact or Fiction or Fable?

<https://pinelandsalliance.org/learn-about-the-pinelands/pinelands-history-and-culture/the-jersey-devil-and-folklore/>

NEWS



29th May 2009

# Sharks are evil and must die

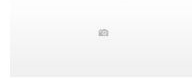


Image courtesy: Shark Gallery

You may have read about the South African teenagers that killed a pregnant Bull Shark a couple of days ago. They were proud of themselves and believed they had achieved something truly epic, displaying their prize for all to see. It must have come as some surprise to them then when forums started buzzing with rage at what a couple of utter wangtards these kids are for doing what they did.

Everybody blames the Jaws films for putting them in the wrong light, but our narrow minded belief that sharks are all evil and must die has been around far longer. It says in the book Coral Reef Fishes, that most sharks are harmless unless molested. Well I've had the pleasure of watching a Shark get molested (in the interest of marine research) and even then nothing happened.

## Related Articles



Flores and Picon to fly French flag at ISA World Surf Games



Blake Thornton Storms to Win in Epic Waves. Glen Hall dumps Jordy Smith out



JP Stark stokes Anglet groms with Carbon Fibre Parabolic

<https://surfeuropemag.com/features/news/sharks-are-evil-and-must-die.html>

OCV x Mail x Real x Hom x Search x LBIF x LBIF x Inbo x Sp20 x Stre x Stre x Outl x Alan x Shar x

Not secure | sharkattackdata.com

FEMA Region II Coa... solar

Other bookmarks

Shark Attack Data

Incidents by country

Links

Tweet

# Shark Attack Data


## Shark Attacks: The Database

Welcome to Shark Attack Data. The aim of this website is to increase understanding, and promote an informed discussion on the subject of shark attacks; when, where and how they occur. Through visualisation of the data, it aims to help identify where patterns exist in terms of both geography and time.

All of the data on this site comes from the [Global Shark Attack File \(GSAF\)](#), a spreadsheet of human/shark interactions, compiled by the [Shark Research Institute](#). It is hoped that this site makes it apparent that shark attacks are extremely rare occurrences, while providing an easily accessible resource for those wishing to know more about the subject.

Start by having a look at [Incidents by country](#)

Unprovoked incidents worldwide



Latest unprovoked incidents

Date	Location	Fatal?	
14 Nov 2016	Hawaii, United States of America	No	<a href="#">Details</a>
28 Nov 2016	Victoria, Australia	No	<a href="#">Details</a>
01 Dec 2016	New South Wales, Australia	No	<a href="#">Details</a>
06 Dec 2016	New South Wales, Australia	No	<a href="#">Details</a>
10 Dec 2016	Suffolk, United Kingdom	No	<a href="#">Details</a>

Windows Taskbar

41°F Mostly cloudy 8:55 AM 2/9/2023

# OPINION VS. NEWS

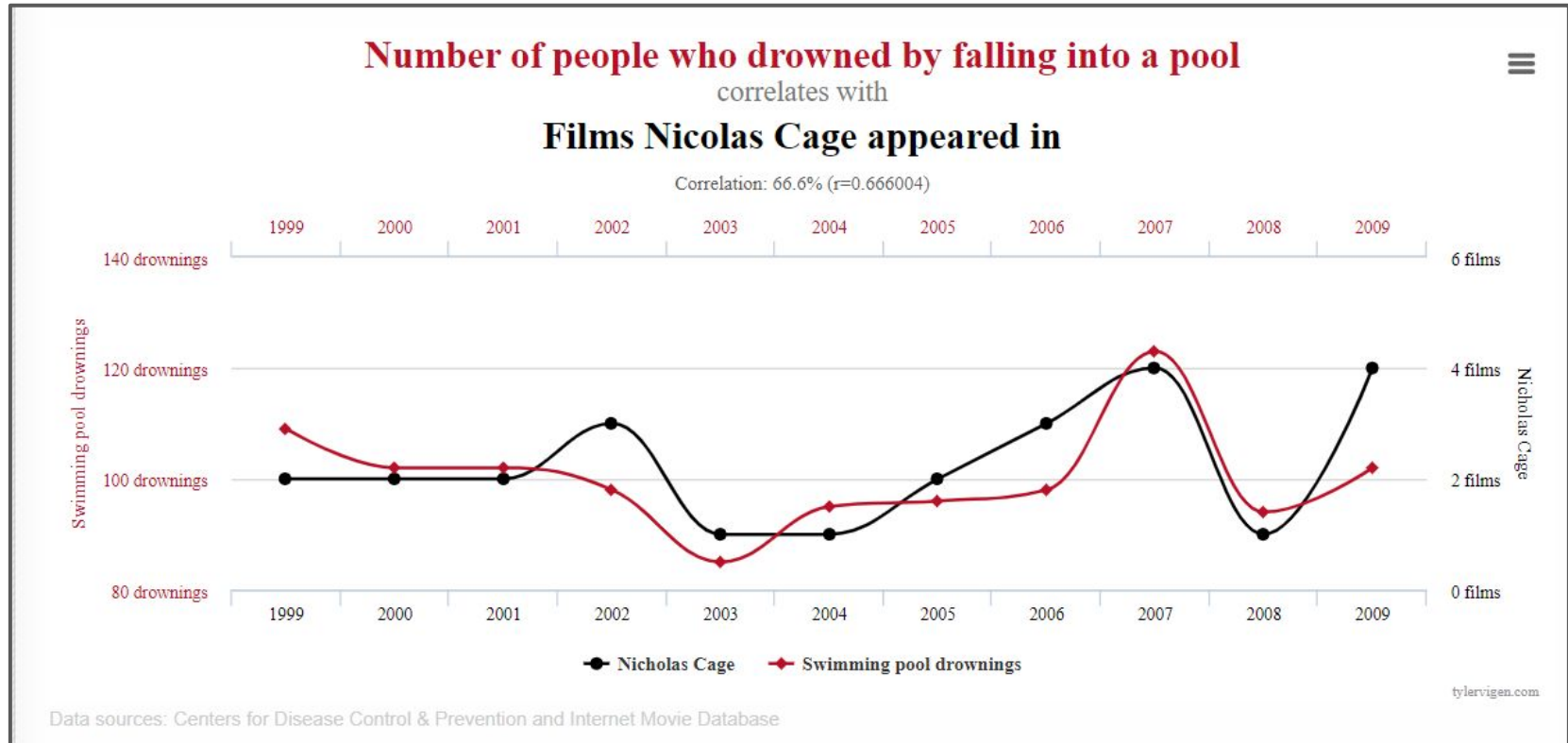
## Opinion pieces

- Promote a single viewpoint
- May use first person — “I” or “we”
- More personal tone, including anecdotes
- Labeled as: opinion, editorial, review or analysis

## News articles

- Present a variety of viewpoints
- Don't advocate for any one viewpoint
- Contains observable & verifiable facts
- Typically written in third person — “they” or “them”
- Attribute opinions to sources, using phrases such as “he said” or “she explained”

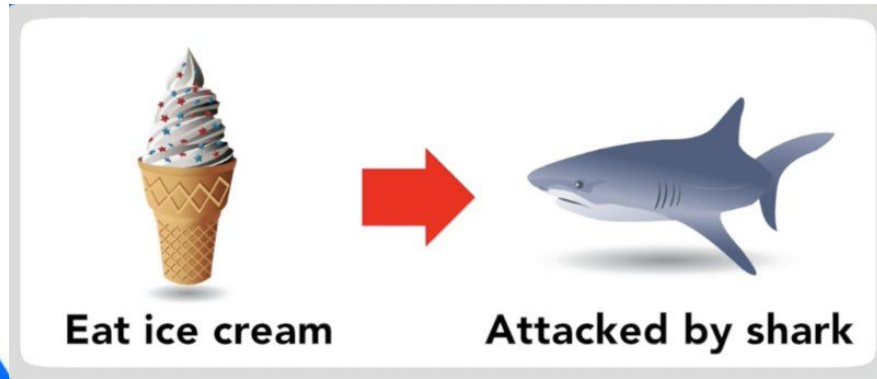
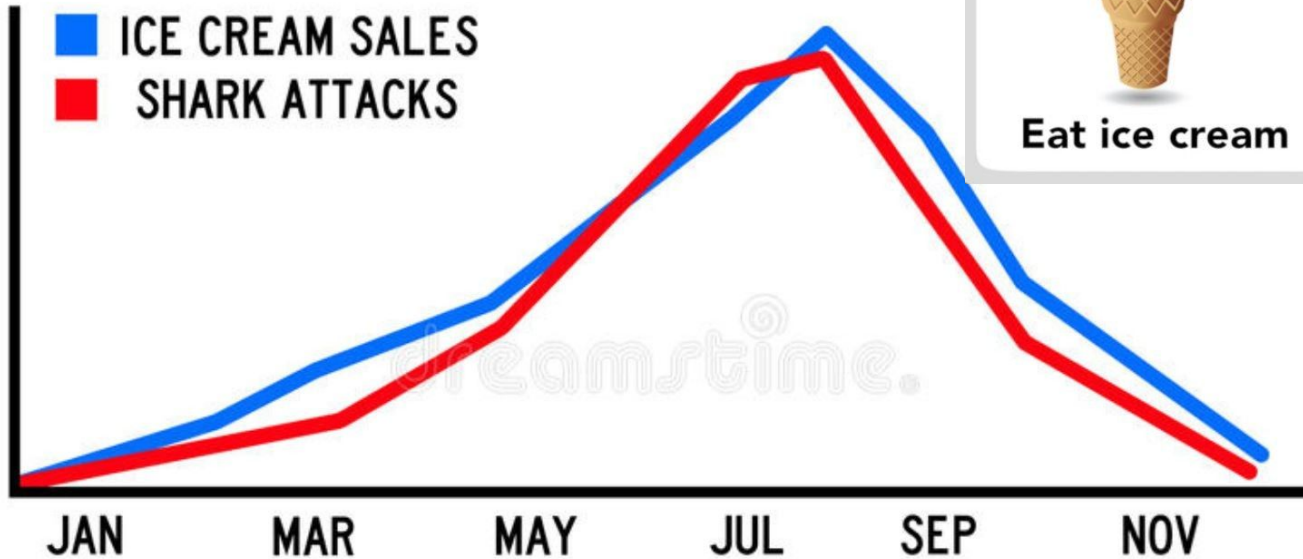
# Correlation vs Causation



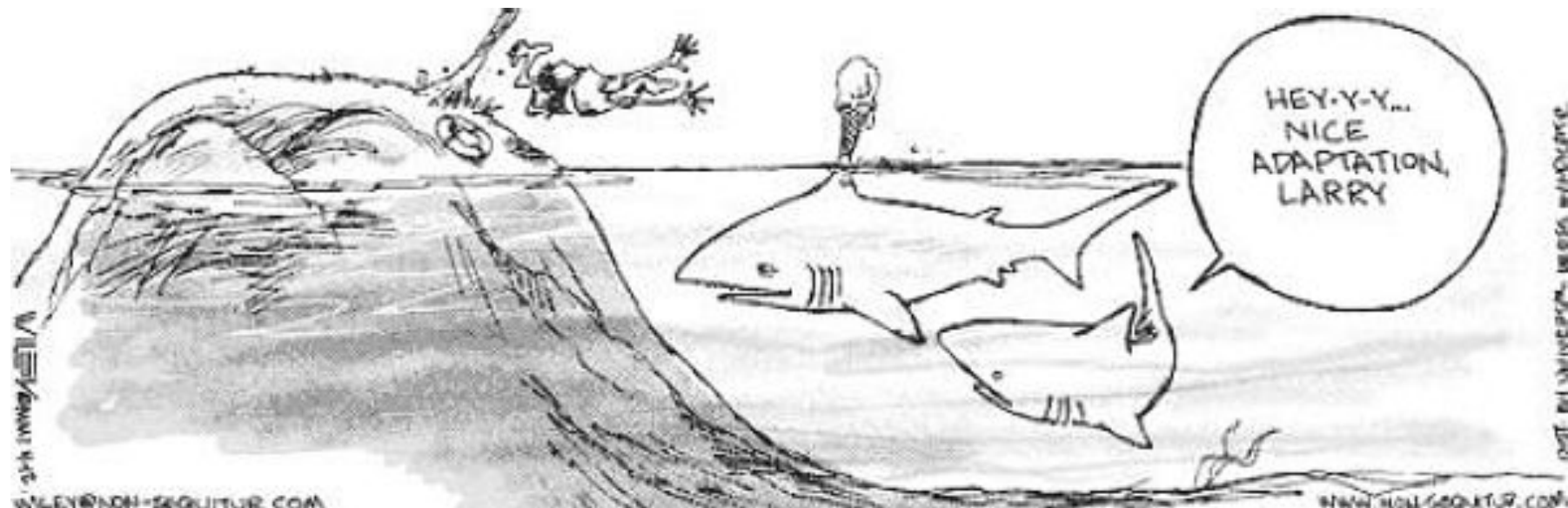
<https://www.tylervigen.com/spurious-correlations>



# Correlation vs Causation



Both ice cream sales and shark attacks increase when the weather is hot and sunny, but they are not caused by each other (they are caused by good weather, with lots of people at the beach, both eating ice cream and having a swim in the sea)



HEY-Y-Y...  
NICE  
ADAPTATION,  
LARRY

# Sources

News

Newspapers

Books

Encyclopedia

Websites

Library Stacks

Electronic Databases

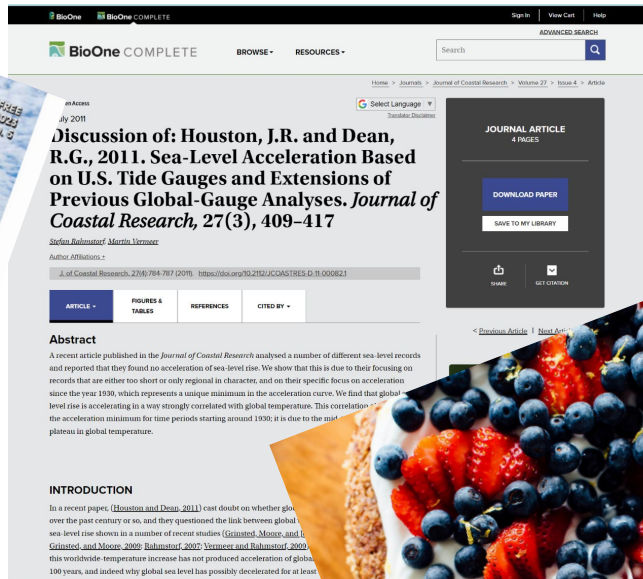
Research Journals

Reports

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Blogs

Videos





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are requested  
Tomorrow's  
now today if  
member that  
received after  
1 cent, Mail  
orders must

# The Philadelphia Inquirer

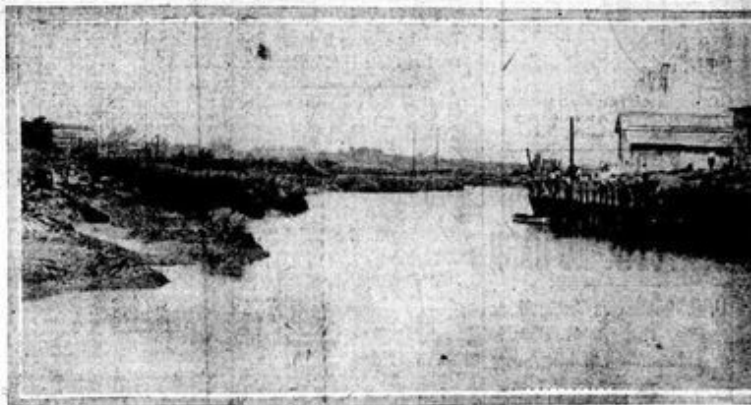
TODAY'S WEATHER—Partly cloudy.

PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 15, 1916

Copyright, 1916, by  
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Pa. State Library P. 2417

## Huge Shark, of the Man-Eating Species, Caught at Belfort, N. J.



Narrow of Matamoras Creek, Belfort, N. J., where young Stillwell was killed and W. Stanley Fisher fatally injured by a shark.



A Man-Eating Female Shark Which Was Caught Off Belfort, N. J., Yesterday in a Net After a Terrible Battle. The Shark Was Nine and a Quarter Feet in Length and Weighed 215 Pounds. When the Shark Was Cut Open Twelve Baby Sharks, Each Eighteen Inches Long, Were Found.



## LEAGUE ISLAND MAY BE EQUIPPED FOR BUILDING BIG SHIPS

Senator Penrose Obtains Reinsertion of Phila. Item in Naval Bill

Omission of Local Yard De-

## BRITISH SMASH ON FO

### British Advance to Depth

After the briefest bombardment which has any important tactical western front, the British on the Somme have a forward and have captured important German positions. On a front miles the British have to a depth of a mile in all positions gained in a lent counter attacks.

The strategic import British successes is no straightening of their formity with that of who had hitherto advanced much greater speed allies.

## ALLIES WIDEN THE BREAK IN GERMAN

Teutons May Be to Abandon trees Salient

Such Retirement Twenty-mile Breac

THREE DIE OF HEAT BEFORE COOL WIND

CARRANZA DOES NOT WISH WAR BUT WAS



# Shark Attacks

HOME

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» Borough Forms

» Bid Notices & Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

» Election Information

» Mayor & Council

» Official Payments

The (World Famous) Matawan Shark Page!

Look for two new books based on the Matawan Shark attacks of 1916 -- Close to Shore : A True Story of Terror and Twelve Days of Terror.

Shark!

by Virginia Moshen

of the Matawan-Aberdeen Public Library

The headline of the Matawan Journal for July 13, 1916 reads as follows: "Man eating shark in Matawan Creek causes death of man and boy." The first paragraph continues: "No time in recent years has there been so much continued excitement as on Wednesday, when a man-eating shark came up Matawan Creek as far as the old Propeller Wyckoff dock and attacked one of a party of boys bathing in there, resulting in the disappearance of the boy ..."

In July, 1916, the Jersey Shore was the scene of a series of shark attacks resulting in several deaths and injuries. Among them were 12 year old Lester Stillwell and 24 year old Stanley Fisher who were attacked by a shark in a narrow freshwater creek in Matawan, New Jersey. On July 12th, despite the fact that there had been two prior deaths in Beach Haven and Spring Lake, and despite the warnings of Thomas Cottrell, a retired sea captain who had seen a shark in that creek earlier in the day, several boys had gone swimming to alleviate the heat. When the other boys saw Lester screaming and being pulled under, they ran into town for help. Stanley Fisher was one of three young men who dove into the creek to search for Stillwell. After several attempts, according to reports, Fisher had apparently found the child's body when he himself was attacked.

Although he was able to escape from the shark, Fisher's wounds were too severe and he died in the hospital at Long Branch that evening. Lester Stillwell's body was not recovered until Friday. The press and local residents converged on the town of Matawan and nets, guns and dynamite were used in an attempt to kill the shark; it was, however, not until the 14th that a large shark was caught in Raritan Bay and put on display to over 3,000 people at ten cents each.

References

Brown, Edward. "The shark that devoured New Jersey." Philadelphia Magazine. Philadelphia, PA: Municipal Publications (1975).

"Death in New Jersey." Sharks: silent hunters of the deep, New York: Reader's Digest, 1986, p. 120. (<<< NOTE: This is an active hyperlink to an excerpt from this book!)

Ferricola, Richard G. In search of the "Jersey man-eater." Deal, NJ: George Marine Library, 1987.

Matawan Journal. Matawan, NJ. Out of print. July 13, 1916 and following.

Menapace, Christine. "Real life 'Jaws' tale happened right in Matawan." The Bayshore Independent. Freehold, NJ: Greater Monmouth Pub. Co., Dec. 11, 1991, p. 19.

Moss, George H., Jr. "Summer of '16: 'year of the shark'." The Sunday Register. Shrewsbury, NJ. Out of print. June 18, 1978, p. A7.

Muller, Charles. "'Jaws' at the shore: the 1916 shark attacks." Ashbury Park Press. Ashbury Park, NJ: Ernest W. Lane, Aug. 11,

 Britannica

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## Popular On Britannica

- 1 Pro and Con: School Uniforms
- 2 What Is an Aftershock?
- 3 Can Apple Seeds Kill You?
- 4 Where Is the Ark of the Covenant?
- 5 What's the Difference Between Cane Sugar and Beet Sugar?

## Related Topics

Steven Spielberg

Home > #WTFact

## The 1916 Shark Attacks That Gave Sharks a Bad Rap

Written by *Nora Gonzalez*

Fact-checked by *The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica*

These days, when a shark strikes fear in the water, it's always this: **Spielberg's** not to go in the summer when widespread bad reputation for good.

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica

Encyclopaedia Britannica's editors oversee subject areas in which they have extensive knowledge, whether from years of experience gained by working on that content or via study for an advanced degree. They write new content and verify and edit content received from contributors.



Image: © USO/iStock.com

It was the summer of 1916 when ocean swimming was still a relatively new way to pass the time and a heat wave attracted more people than usual to the beach. People knew there were sharks in the ocean but were fairly unconcerned—all those sharp teeth were for catching prey, and humans were much too big to worry about. However, something



# Atlantic County, NJ

Serving the Needs of County Residents, Businesses and Visitors

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## Jersey Devil - Fact or Fiction?

The story of the Jersey Devil is an authentic folk legend. It is as varied as the number of people who claim to have seen or heard him. For over 250 years, tales have circulated about the nocturnal ramblings of a creature emerging from the mists of a lonely desolate marsh. As interest in the supernatural has grown, tales of the Jersey Devil have grown to blend folk belief with South Jersey history.

Researched by: Carol Johnson and David Munn, Atlantic County Library

### The Devil and the Pines

To understand the legend of the Jersey Devil, you must first understand his birthplace. It is a remote region extending 1700 square miles across southeastern New Jersey. It is actually a giant aquifer with dense stands of white cedar. Inside, the air is calm, still and cool - the shadows heavy. The cedar stands throughout the swamp stain the streams red with tannin. One area of stunted trees is called the Pygmy Forest. While many consider it a barren wilderness, twenty-seven varieties of orchids grow there. In the early days, travel was difficult for the cedar swamps were great obstacles. Some roads are old Indian trails. Others are old stagecoach roads. Some roads are

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### History of Atlantic County

#### Jersey Devil - Fact or Fiction?

[Jersey Devil - Fact or Fiction? Page 2](#)[Jersey Devil - Fact or Fiction? Page 3](#)[Jersey Devil - Fact or Fiction? Page 4](#)[History of County Government](#)[Famous People in Atlantic County History](#)

<https://www.atlantic-county.org/history/jersey-devil-pg1.asp>

# Using the Ocean County Library's Databases

Twenty years ago, where did we go to find credible sources of information?

<https://theoceancountylibrary.org/>

After a few easy steps, dozens of databases will be at your fingertips!

1. Go to “Resources”
2. Then “Databases”
3. Enter your library card # 23160010191794
4. Find the “Goldilocks” database that is right for you!
5. Read, learn, and enjoy!

If you are researching, you will want to reference the information you find again....

When using any library system, you will need the “Stable URL” or the “Record URL.”

<https://tsof.infobase.com/articles/QXJ0aWNsZVRleHQ6MTM2MDk0NA==?aid=17176>

# Using YouTube as a Source for Information

Users beware.... YouTube is a type of database where ANYONE can upload content.

Here is one quick way to vet a source on YouTube.

What is the best type of exercise for Osteoporosis or Osteopenia?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=graveMSLoxE>

How to vet an author and his/her works in a few easy steps:

1. Click on the icon under the video. This brings you to their home page.
2. Find “About” and read the description. Fact check one item.
3. Copy & Paste this item into any search engine and use “quotation marks.”
4. We found her book. Now, click the icon again and click “read full bio”

<https://www.google.com/>



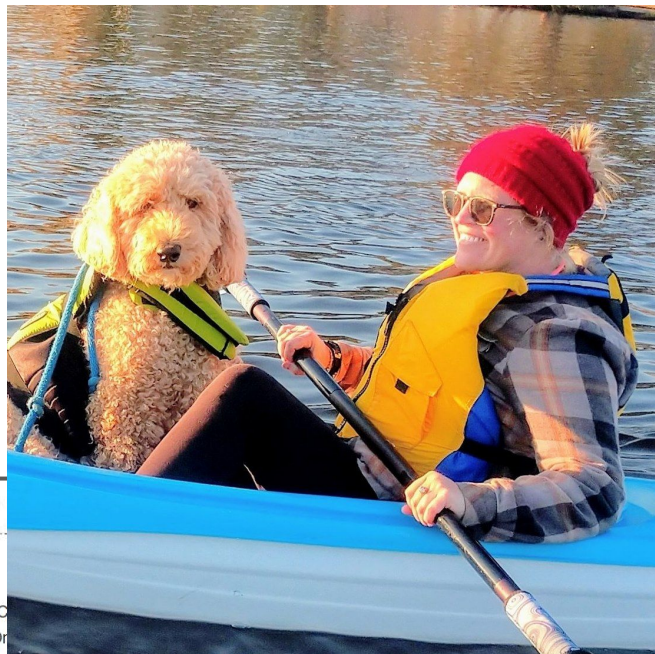
# The Trouble with Wikipedia



| This "Alan MacMasters" Wikipedia article stayed online for more than nine years

<https://www.bbc.com/news/the-reporters-63622746>

# The Trouble with Wikipedia



## Pork roll

Contents [hide]

(Top)

### Origin

New Jersey split over the name

Description

Producers

Preparation

### In popular culture

Festivals

**State sandwich**

Others

See also

### References

On April 14, 2016, Assemblyman Tim Eustace introduced two bills in the New Jersey State Legislature regarding New Jersey State Sandwichs.<sup>[41]</sup> One bill was for pork roll and one for Taylor Ham.<sup>[42]</sup> Neither bill made it out of committee.

### Others [[edit source](#)]

The **Trenton Thunder** minor league baseball team hosted their inaugural "Trenton Thunder World Famous O" September 26, 2015. **Joey Chestnut** won the contest by eating 32 pork roll sandwiches in 10 minutes.<sup>[41]</sup> Or as "Thunder Pork Roll"<sup>[42]</sup> with pork roll themed uniforms and merchandise.<sup>[43]</sup>

The **Jersey Shore BlueClaws** minor league baseball team holds a Pork Roll, Egg, and Cheese Race at the end of the fourth inning of every home game.<sup>[44]</sup>

Several songs by the band **Ween** contain references to pork roll, including "Frank" and "Pork Roll Egg and Cheese" from their 1991 album *The Pod*. The band is from nearby New Hope, Pennsylvania.

There is a goldendoodle in Ocean County, NJ named Taylor Ham

Episode 9 from Season 7 of the television program *Bizarre Foods Delicious Destinations*<sup>[45]</sup> featured pork roll as a Jersey Shore specialty.

On October 28, 2020, Montana gubernatorial candidate **Mike Cooney** released a video of former New Jersey governor **Chris Christie** on the app **Cameo**. Christie, who had been tricked into recording the video by a Cooney aide, invoked "Taylor ham" in an attempt to lure Cooney's opponent, **Greg Gianforte**, back to New Jersey.<sup>[46]</sup>



Pork roll, Egg & Cheese race at a Blue Claws game

# People

Scientists

Government Agency

Businesses

Authors

Reporters

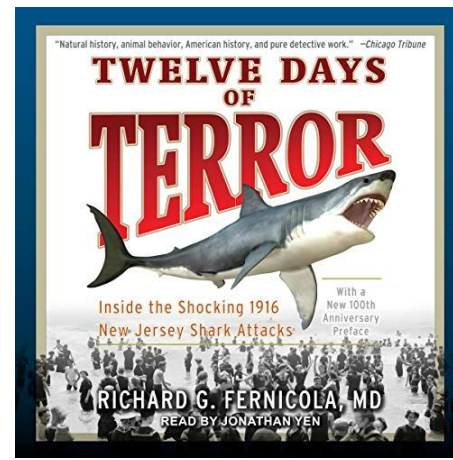
Journalists

Historians

General Public

Fanatics

Conspiracy theorist



# Using Google Scholar for Resources

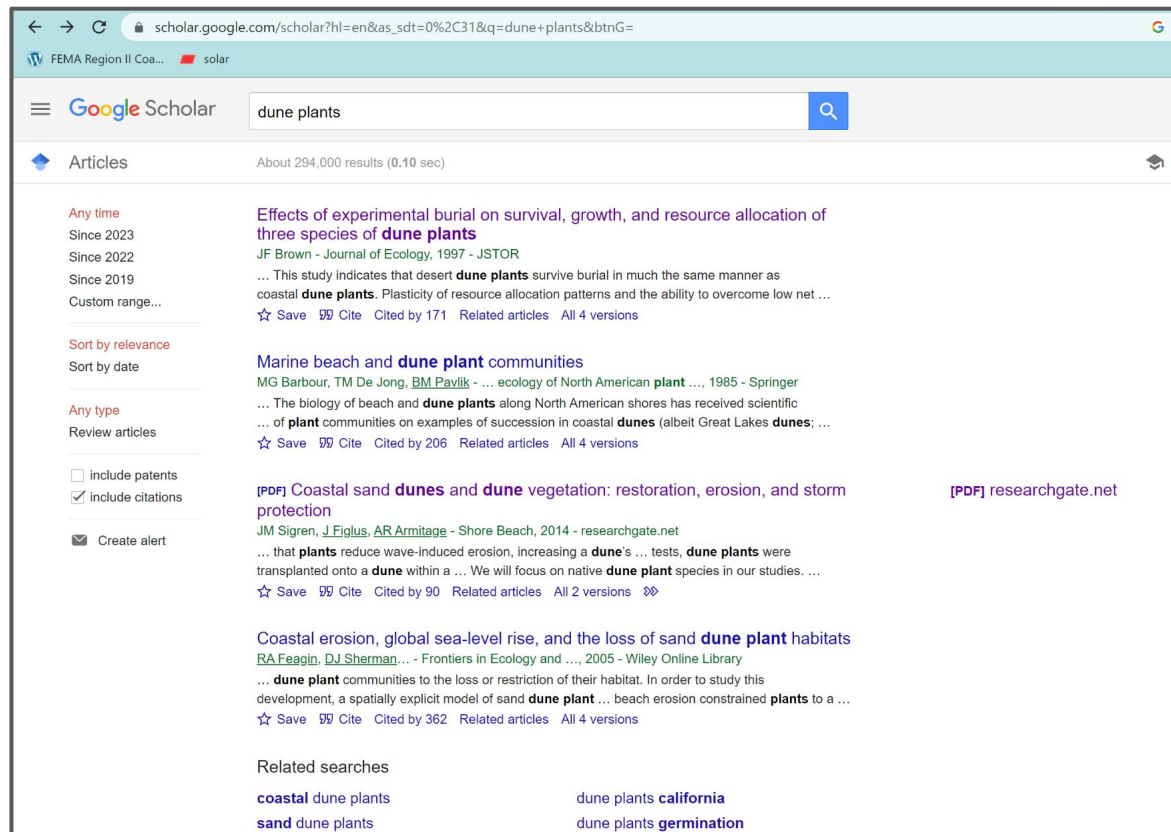
<https://scholar.google.com/>

Some articles are free to access

Some may have a free trial period

You can also email the authors directly to request a copy of their articles

Articles have DOI (digital object identifier) instead of URL



The screenshot shows the Google Scholar interface with the search term "dune plants". The results list several articles, including "Effects of experimental burial on survival, growth, and resource allocation of three species of dune plants" by JF Brown (1997), "Marine beach and dune plant communities" by MG Barbour et al. (1985), "[PDF] Coastal sand dunes and dune vegetation: restoration, erosion, and storm protection" by JM Sigren et al. (2014), and "Coastal erosion, global sea-level rise, and the loss of sand dune plant habitats" by RA Feagin et al. (2005). The interface includes filters for time, relevance, and citations, as well as options to save, cite, and create alerts. Related searches for "coastal dune plants", "sand dune plants", "dune plants california", and "dune plants germination" are listed at the bottom.

scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as\_sdt=0%2C31&q=dune+plants&btnG=

FEMA Region II Coa... solar

Google Scholar dune plants

Articles About 294,000 results (0.10 sec)

Any time  
Since 2023  
Since 2022  
Since 2019  
Custom range...

Sort by relevance  
Sort by date

Any type  
Review articles

☐ Include patents  
☒ Include citations

☒ Create alert

Effects of experimental burial on survival, growth, and resource allocation of three species of **dune plants**  
JF Brown - Journal of Ecology, 1997 - JSTOR  
... This study indicates that desert **dune plants** survive burial in much the same manner as coastal **dune plants**. Plasticity of resource allocation patterns and the ability to overcome low net ...  
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Marine beach and **dune plant** communities  
MG Barbour, TM De Jong, BM Pavlik - ... ecology of North American **plant** ..., 1985 - Springer  
... The biology of beach and **dune plants** along North American shores has received scientific ... of **plant** communities on examples of succession in coastal **dunes** (albeit Great Lakes **dunes**; ...  
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[PDF] Coastal sand **dunes** and **dune** vegetation: restoration, erosion, and storm protection [PDF] researchgate.net  
JM Sigren, J Figlus, AR Armitage - Shore Beach, 2014 - researchgate.net  
... that **plants** reduce wave-induced erosion, increasing a **dune's** ... tests, **dune plants** were transplanted onto a **dune** within a ... We will focus on native **dune plant** species in our studies. ...  
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Coastal erosion, global sea-level rise, and the loss of sand **dune plant** habitats  
RA Feagin, DJ Sherman - Frontiers in Ecology and ..., 2005 - Wiley Online Library  
... **dune plant** communities to the loss or restriction of their habitat. In order to study this development, a spatially explicit model of sand **dune plant** ... beach erosion constrained **plants** to a ...  
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Related searches  
coastal dune plants dune plants california  
sand dune plants dune plants germination



# Using Google Scholar for Resources

<https://scholar.google.com/>

Some articles are free to access

Some may have a free trial period

You can also email the authors directly to request a copy of their articles

Articles have DOI (digital object identifier) instead of URL

The screenshot displays the website for the journal "Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment". The browser's address bar shows the DOI link: [https://doi.org/10.1890/1540-9295\(2005\)003\[0359:CEGSRA\]2.0.CO;2](https://doi.org/10.1890/1540-9295(2005)003[0359:CEGSRA]2.0.CO;2). The website header includes navigation links for JOURNALS, Become a Member, and ESA.org. A prominent green banner advertises a "Virtual Issue" titled "Advancing ecology through Black voices" by WILEY, with a "Learn More" button. Below the banner, the journal title "FRONTIERS IN ECOLOGY and the ENVIRONMENT" is displayed. The article featured is a "Research Communication" titled "Coastal erosion, global sea-level rise, and the loss of sand dune plant habitats" by Rusty A. Feagin, Douglas J. Sherman, and William E. Grant. It was first published on 01 September 2005 and has 186 citations. The article is available as a PDF. A "Read the full text" link is provided. The abstract begins with: "Much of America's coastline is threatened by overdevelopment and coastal erosion, driven by global sea-level rise, a problem that is attracting the attention of researchers". A small thumbnail of the journal cover is shown next to the article title, indicating it is "Volume 3, Issue 7" from September 2005, pages 359-364. Another "Virtual Issue" banner is visible at the bottom right.

# In general, what to look for....

Who is the author(s)?

Who funded the project?

Where is the data sourced from?

What is the goal or agenda?

Do your own fact checking

Find the reference section (usually at the end)

Find the disclaimers (usually at the beginning)

<https://njseagrant.org/extension/dunemanual/>

[https://www.nwf.org/-/media/PDFs/Global-Warming/NWF\\_FINAL\\_BESCCH\\_070517.ashx](https://www.nwf.org/-/media/PDFs/Global-Warming/NWF_FINAL_BESCCH_070517.ashx)



# Thank you!

Contact Information:

[amywilliams@mail.ocvts.org](mailto:amywilliams@mail.ocvts.org)

Important Links:

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<https://theoceancountylibrary.org/>

<https://tsf.infobase.com/articles/QXJ0aWNsZVRleHQ6MTM2MDk0NA==?aid=17176>