

## BEST REGIONAL PRACTICES

Ann McGinnis Hillyer, CEO StateVentures, publisher of Shore Craft Beer amh@Maryland.com 410-703-1970



#### WHO AM I? WHAT IS MY REGION?

#### **CHALLENGE:**

## TO PROVE THE VALUE OF CRAFT BEER (TO PROVE THEM WRONG)



#### **OPPORTUNITY:**

## TO INCREASE TOURISM FOCUSED ON LOCAL CRAFT BEER



#### WHAT WERE OUR ASSETS?

- World Class Beauty
- Available hotel rooms at a great rate, particularly in the shoulder & off-seasons
- Dogfish Head #14 (Flying Dog #32 by comparison)
   ranking of all craft breweries by sales volume
- World Class Beer
- 19 breweries when we started in Oct. 2014,
- 26+ now



#### WHAT WERE WE MISSING?

Understanding of the importance of craft beer, almost everywhere we turned

- Website & Promotional materials
- Hotel Packages/Beercations
- MONEY! Still a functional non-profit



## WHAT DID MY TEAM NEED TO INCREASE TOURISM FOCUSED ON LOCAL CRAFT BEER?

- Working Hypothesis
- Platform
- Data
- Education
- Cooperation
- Define our Mission & Go for it!



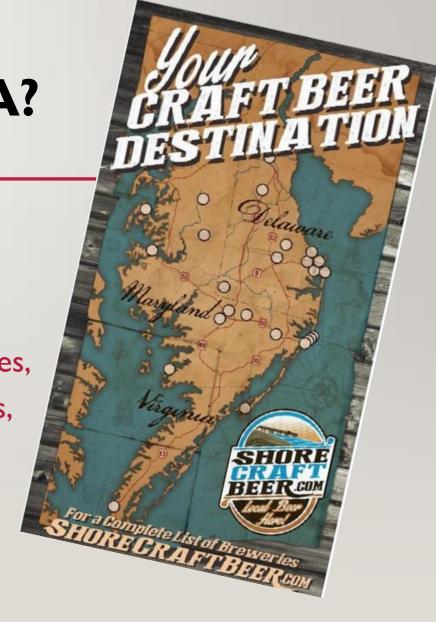
#### **OUR MISSION:**

Make the Shore (Delmarva) a
 Top 10 Craft Beer Destination
 Nationally



#### WHY FOCUS ON DELMARVA?

- Dogfish Head #14
- EVO
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Wave, Burley Oak, RAR, Rubber Soul, Mispillion, Tall Tales, Fin City, Dewey Beer Company, Revelation, Black Narrows, Blue Earl, 16 Mile, Eastern Shore, Backshore, Big Oyster, Crooked Hammock, OC Brewing, Fordham & Dominion, Brick Works, Bull & Goat





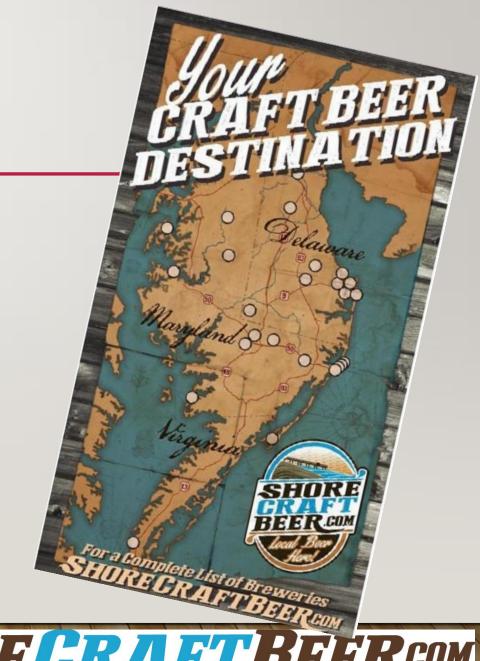
## JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARY VS. CONSUMER BOUNDARY





#### **WEWANT TOURISTS!**

Visitors don't care about state lines





#### **DEVELOPED PLATFORMS**

#### WEBSITES





#### APP

- iTunes
- Google Play









#### **DATA: GET IT AND COMMUNICATE IT!**

- Get known data (Brewers Association)
- Prove people travel for craft beer
  - Host festivals and see

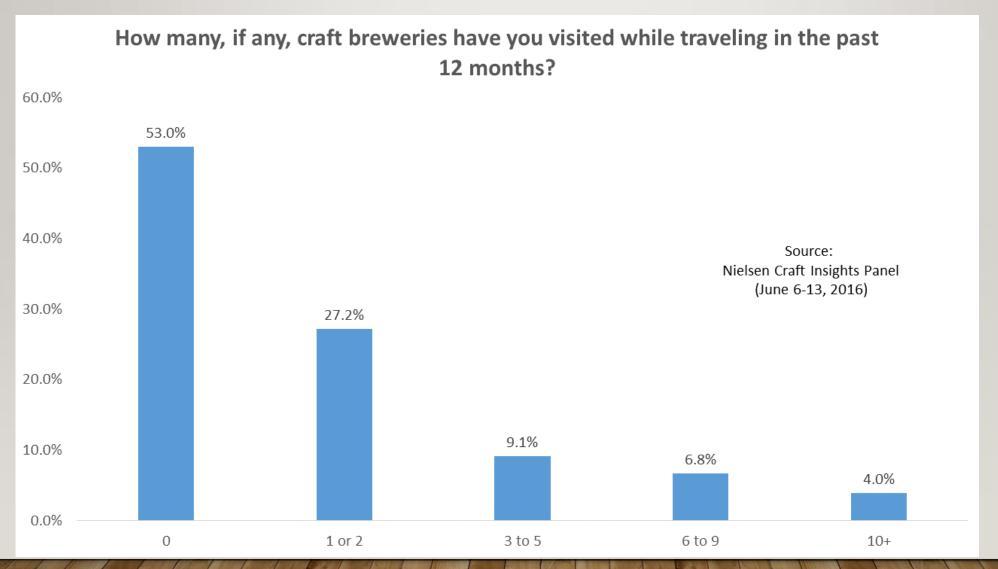


## WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT TOURISM & CRAFT BEER:

- Almost half of ALL travelers visit at least one brewery while traveling.
- Average # of breweries visited while traveling is just over 2
- Craft Beer Drinkers average 6.5 brewery visits/year 3.5 local/2.5 while traveling
- Most people won't drink just one beer
- 67% of that money spent on local craft beers stays local!



#### **CRAFT BEER & TOURISM**



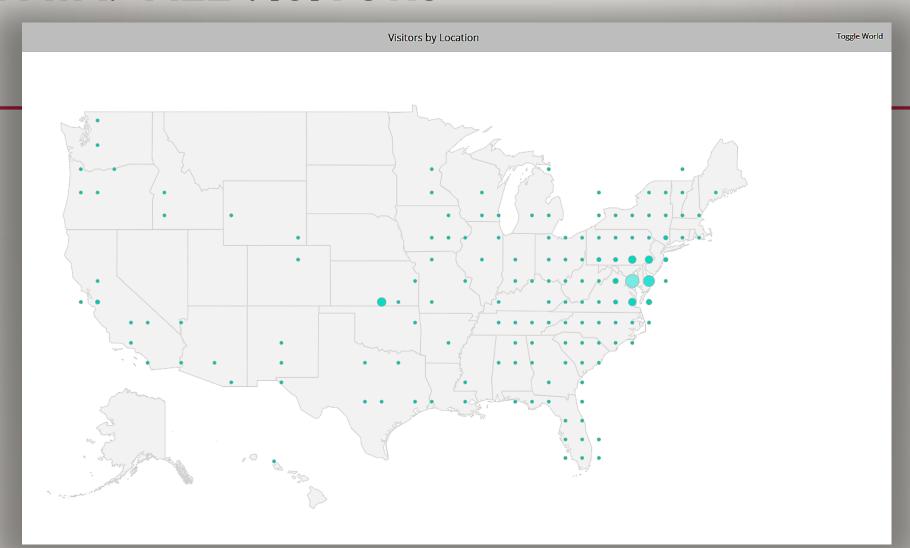
#### **DATA: FESTIVALS**

## > 75% OF ALL SHORE CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL TICKET PURCHASERS COME FROM > 1 HOUR AWAY\*

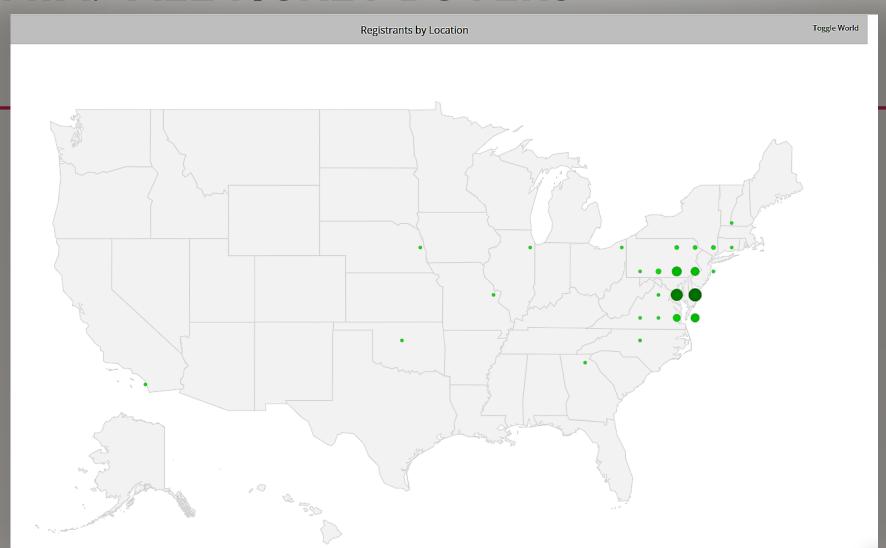




#### **DATA: ALL VISITORS**



#### DATA: ALLTICKET BUYERS



#### **EDUCATION:** BEER TALK & TASTINGS

#### **Developed Beer Talk & Tastings for the Trade**

 If I could get the hotels, restaurants, and bar owners to understand the value of local craft beer AND to understand the breadth of the local brewery offerings, I could get them to carry more local craft beer, package hotel rooms with local craft brewery tours and/or craft beer offerings

#### Promoted to the locals and travelers too

This was focused on demand

**EVO** brewer, Mike Pironski





## **EDUCATION:** BEER TALK & TASTINGS TRAJECTORY

National Stats – w local craft beer tastings

Local stats & stories – w local craft beer tastings

Brewers Roundtable – w local craft beer tastings

Craft Beer & Cheese Pairing – at a local hotel w local craft beer AND cheese tastings



## IT WORKED! HYPER-LOCALLY - HOTELS...

Got hotel packages

Sold hundreds of hotel rooms for the festivals and events

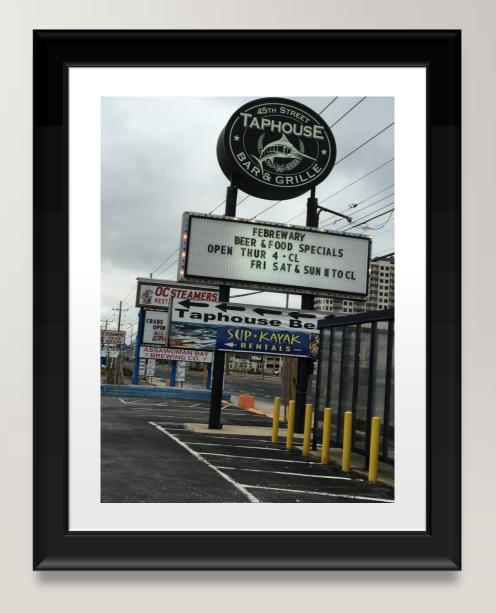






#### **BUSINESS ADOPTION**

FeBREWary, Love on Tap



ATLANTIC
HOTEL IN
BERLIN...
"LOCAL
DRAFT
BEER BAR"



#### **NEW PRODUCTS**

Not just beer, but spent grains



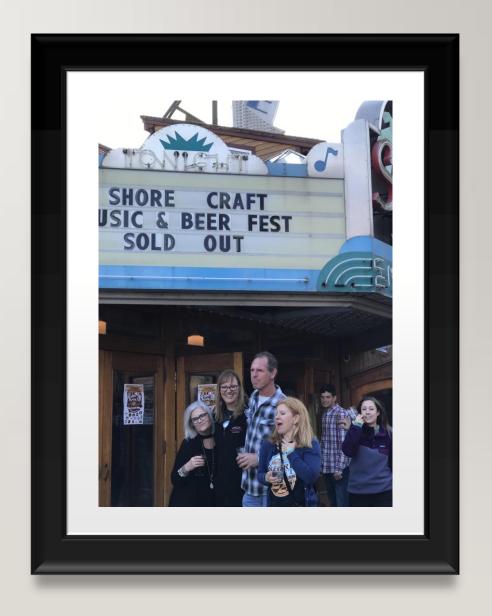




#### **SOME ARE EVEN SOLD OUT!**

Love on Tap at Seacrets for FeBREWary,

Craft Beer Lovers Month



#### PROCLAMATIONS:

October as Shore Craft Beer Month

3<sup>rd</sup> year for Berlin, OC & Worcester County

FeBREWary as Craft Beer Lovers Month

- Governor & Senate Proclamations
- Office of Tourism Development & BAM Marketing Push
- Maryand effort, but we extend to the entire Shore



### SHOREGRAFTBEERCOM

#### SUPPORT/ COLLABORATION

- OCHMRA
- Town of Ocean City
- OCDC
- Berlin
- Worcester County
- State of Maryland
- BAM
- So many more!



# WHERE WE GO FROM HERE...

**SUPPORTYOU!** 



#### **GET MORE DATA...**

- impact of breweries on the sales of craft beer in all establishments nearby
- Impact of breweries on other businesses in the same small town
- Impact of festivals on craft beer sales in region

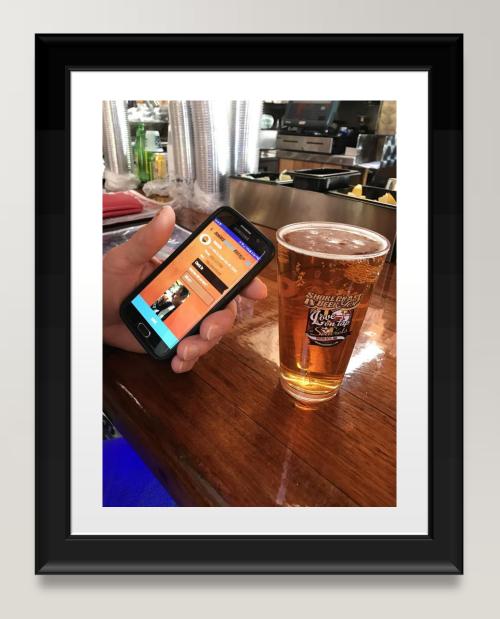
#### ATTRACT MORE INTEREST...

- Attract Beer Bloggers & Industry Experts to Help us Make the List!!!
  - Festivals
  - Conventions
  - ?

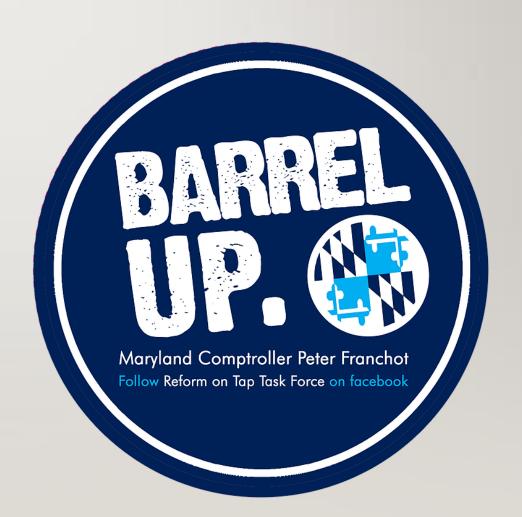
## **ENCOURAGE USE OF APP...**

All DMOs, Municipalities, Anybody

CREATE YOUR OWN TRAIL, PROVIDE YOUR OWN PRIZES, PROMOTE YOUR OWN WEBSITE!



# WHAT CAN YOU DO?



#### I. MAKE CRAFT BEER TOP OF MIND

#### **GETYOUR VIBE GOING**

ARE YOU SELLING A GOOD SELECTION OF LOCAL CRAFT BEERS?

DO YOU KNOW WHERE OUR BREWERIES ARE?

CAN YOU TALK ABOUT CRAFT BEER INTELLIGENTLY?

AREYOU PAIRING LOCAL CRAFT BEER W/FOOD?



## 2. MAKE SURE STATE LEGISLATION SUPPORTS CRAFT BREWERIES & OUR EFFORTS

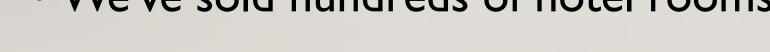


#### 3. BUILD HOTEL PACKAGES

- w/Brewery Tours & Tastings
  - We have some wholesale pricing from breweries



We've sold hundreds of hotel rooms







#### 3. JOINTHE MOVEMENT

Work Together

Promote craft beer and tourism on your websites



Use the video – Help us produce more

#### 3. USE THE SHORE CRAFT BEER APP FOR YOUR LOCATION

Create your own challenges & prizes







#### **QUESTIONS & COMMENTS**

Ann McGinnis Hillyer amh@Maryland.com 410-703-1970