



Issue 2 Summer 2014

The Maritime Messenger

Newsletter of the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum

Museum developing its first ever interactive exhibits for new Environmental Center

The Museum has recently received a grant from Baltimore Gas and Electric Company in part to develop and install two electronic touch screen exhibits. The first will explore the history and restoration of five Chesapeake Bay species. All featured species will be ones that provide important ecological services that are either threatened or have been in the past—submerged aquatic vegetation, oysters, rockfish, blue crabs, and ducks. The exhibit will tell the story of these populations, the factors that have impacted them, and past or ongoing efforts to save them. Museum goers will learn about these plants and animals through audio instruction, photos, and videos, and will navigate through the exhibit themselves by touching buttons and prompts on the screen, customizing the experience to their interests.

The exhibit is scheduled to be up and running in the main gallery by the end of the calendar year, and will be part of the museum's effort to increase environmental content in our exhibits to compliment the Environmental Center we are building downstairs. Construction has begun to turn half of our ground floor into lab, classroom, and gallery space that will exclusively be devoted to promoting environmental awareness, stewardship, education, and research. However, Chesapeake Bay maritime history and ecology are inexplicably intertwined—the main gallery in the upper floor will also be bolstered with several new environmental exhibits, including this new touch screen display.

Electronic exhibits are being designed by Melissa Kuzma of Kuzma Technical Enterprises, LLC in Havre de Grace. Special hardware including a touch screen monitor were purchased using a generous donation by Evelyn Bench of Havre de Grace, also on the museum Board of Directors.

Welcome to our new and returning members!

Cecil Shook
Ted and Robyn Hofferbert
Paul Carrick
Cynthia Leffler
Allen and Julie Jayne
Bill Webber

Upcoming Events:

Crabtoberfest Fundrasier
Saturday, September 27
6 - 9 pm
American Legion Post 47,
Havre de Grace

Come enjoy all you can eat crabs, beer, and other Chesapeake Bay delicacies, bid on auction items, and help support the museum!



2014 Summer Concert Series a success

As summer comes to a close, life at the museum is slowing down a bit, after our immensely productive summer hosting our annual Summer Concert Series, which lasted from June to early August. We welcomed acts from far and wide, spanning several different musical styles, traditions, and regions – even other countries. All the musicians in this year’s lineup had their own unique story to tell; as many represented various maritime cultures on the Atlantic seaboard as well as abroad, it was indeed an integral part of the concerts’ popularity. The fact that the concert series had no admission cost was also a big draw for many concertgoers, most of whom contributed donations to help defray costs. In addition, beverages and refreshments were sold. Every Wednesday night, the museum’s main gallery was transformed into a concert hall; Chairs were set up, enveloping the space, which worked well in accommodating the primarily acoustic nature of the performances. The atmosphere of the museum was ideal for a maritime musical venue, and with the air conditioning, it was a relaxing and enjoyable concert space.

There were several highlights, and one would be hard-pressed to mention just one or two. A local folk duo called *Magpie* shared with us some original compositions from their large body of work, which dealt with topics such as endangered species, pollution, and deforestation. Some were stirring, serious ballads, others raucous, biting satires concerning the environmental injustices of our time. Other notable acts included Irish singer-songwriter Seamus Kennedy, who regaled us with his upbeat, toe-tapping maritime medleys, and a duo from the Netherlands, Nanne Kalma and Ankie van der Meer. They sang in Dutch, Frisian, High German and French, all in the course of one evening! Each night’s performance was truly distinct and evocative of the maritime legacy the artists paid homage to. Listeners were captivated by the varied instrumentation, diverse repertoire, and sheer talent of all our musicians, and kept on returning week after week. We had lots of positive feedback from the community, making this one of our most successful ventures of 2014.

We are pleased to add that we just received a generous grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, and as such we look forward to a successful 2015 Summer Concert Series!

Juliette Moore



Calico Jenny



Nanne Kalma & Ankie VanderMeer

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**We are excited to
announce our recent
grant awards!**

Baltimore Gas & Electric

The City of Havre de Grace

Maryland State Arts Council



Thank you to our recent donors!

Harford County Bird Club
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Hours:
April 1-October 14
Wed- Sat: 10am - 5pm
Sun: 1pm-5pm

October 15-March 31
Sat: 10 am - 5 pm
Sun: 1pm-5pm



Volunteer of the Season: Susan Capp



As a volunteer of the museum, Sue Capp planned and conducted fun and educational weekly story time and craft activities for children during the summer. A Havre de Grace native, Sue recently moved back to the area after a long career in education. Sue has also volunteered with her community library, Girl Scouts, and other activities, and loves working with kids.

Sue got involved with the museum in 2013 when she attended one of our concerts and saw an ad requesting volunteers for story time. She developed an enthusiastic following over the summer with her dynamic storytelling and engaging crafts projects, and both Sue and our story time patrons are looking forward to summer story time 2015!

President's Letter

A mild but very wet summer season is closing. Our summer programming included our successful Wednesday night concert series (we will return next year), US Coast Guard Auxiliary boating safety classes and our Thursday morning Story Time and crafts workshop. We are now planning for our fall and winter programs and will be booking our 2015 spring and summer schedules over the next few months. Join our mailing list or check our website and Facebook page for our schedule.

Work has started on our new Environmental Center. Our permit has been issued and contracts signed to finish the space on our ground floor. We are also developing and will install two interactive (touch screen) digital exhibits in our main gallery. The first exhibit will address sustainable resources (i.e., food) in the upper Chesapeake Bay. The second exhibit will showcase the wealth of the upper Chesapeake Bays' bays flora and fauna (plants and wildlife and their sensitivities to pollutants in the marine environment). These exhibits are being funded by the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company, Kuzma Technical Enterprises, and Toni and Daryl Bench (volunteers and donors).

Work is coming to completion on two outdoor exhibits; the renovation of our Boyer Shad Shack and the installation of our amazing fog bell adjacent to our flag pole. In the next few months four or five new exhibits will be installed in the main gallery—these have been under development since the first of the year. Our volunteers who are doing all the work on researching, designing, building, installing, and often funding the exhibits are quite passionate about their work and are looking forward to sharing the artifacts and their interpretations and presentations.

We welcome three new board members: Bob Hickey of Bel Air, Henry Hoffman of Havre de Grace and Emory Plitt of Havre de Grace. All three bring a wealth of business and organization acumen to keep us on tack and help us grow.

On behalf of the Board of directors I thank you for your belief in us to educate the public of our maritime heritage and to present innovative and timely educational and entertainment programs. Thank you again...We look forward to seeing you soon.

Bruce Russell, President



Museum Boat Shop: Progress Report

We are delighted to report that work progresses well in our boat shop. We are nearing completion of the building of a full-sized working 19' long crabbing-sailing skiff, also known as a "Sharpie." Some of you may have stopped by to see the boat under construction by our dedicated group of volunteers lead by Cecil Shook, or saw it as a work in progress in the Independence Day parade here in Havre de Grace. We hope to have the boat finished and launched by the end of September. It is a sweet boat and we are adding some elegant touches to show off its clean and simple lines. After a short fall season's sailing we will place the boat on temporary display in the main gallery. We will store the boat in the boat shop adjacent to our new Environmental Center gallery on the ground floor. The boat will be launched in the spring and used as a dynamic teaching exhibit. We intend to sail the boat and use the boat as a teaching tool in our wooden boat building classes.



Our Boat Shop Foreman Cecil "C.T." Shook hard at work on the crabbing skiff.

Work has started by our volunteers on the repairs and display of our 25' circa 1930 mahogany racing shell. It is a beautiful boat with fine lines and extraordinary craftsmanship. Repairing the shell will take a fine hand and patience. Once completed the boat will be hoisted into the rafters of our main floor gallery and mounted on permanent display.

We are several weeks behind our original schedule for completion of the Sharpie and the Environmental Center and need to complete these projects before we begin our next boat building class, likely on or about the third week of October. We have selected a simple boat to build, a 16' wooden fishing skiff, similar in design and construction to the boat on display in our kid's corner. Please consult our website and Facebook page for announcement of our class.

Bruce Russell

**Help conserve
the Upper
Chesapeake Bay
Heritage!**

Volunteer

We are currently seeking volunteers to work in reception, grounds maintenance, boatbuilding, and landscaping. Visit our website for an application.

Donate

Donations are used to keep the museum open, add new exhibits, and provide programs for the community. Or, you can specify that your donation go toward a project that is meaningful to you.

Join

Become a member of the museum and enjoy being a part of preserving our past well into the future! Visit our website for instructions on joining.