



Issue 5 Winter 2016

# The Maritime Messenger

Newsletter of the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum

*Welcome* to our  
new and returning  
members!

**Johnny & Wanda Boker**  
**Harold & Janet Butler**  
**Mary Ward**  
**Al & Betty Caffo**  
**Augustus & Penelope**  
**Brown**  
**John & Laura Haug**  
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**Bruce & Lana Pringle**  
**Pamela Wexler**  
**Melissa Kuzma**  
**William Nelson**  
**Henry Hoffman**

## Letter From the President

Last November, we held our ribbon cutting for our new Environmental Center. Many of you have observed the progress on the restoration of the wetlands area behind the Museum. We have also remained focused on our Museum's maritime heritage. In this newsletter is an article about the **nun buoy** we installed on our grounds on Lafayette Street. In May, we will be installing a temporary War of 1812 exhibit on loan from the Maryland Military Historical Society.

In our last newsletter we wrote an article about an exhibit we are installing, which is nearing completion - *City of Norfolk Exhibit: A Collector's Collection*. To install an exhibit is a process, starting with assembling a collection of one or more artifacts (which may include journals, documents, pictures papers and tools, equipment); researching each artifact and interpreting this collection and telling a story, or stories; and designing the display to present the collection. Our new *City of Norfolk* exhibit is a case in point of how our exhibits committee (Dave Dulik, John and Laura Haug, Maggie Nijander-Brock, and Leslie Kaufman) curated this exhibit. We received donations from Sally Brice-O'Hara, and from the Steppingstone Farm Museum. We added several artifacts from our collection and assembled these objects to tell multiple stories having historical significance. We added a few donated props. We created a room (actually a cutaway) with a window, wainscoting, wood floors, a desk and chair for the collector, imagining him as he immersed himself in his love of history, surrounded by his treasures. The blue walls induce a warm feeling, accompanied by the view of a sunset over the Bay.

There are many stories in this exhibit. One tells the story of a steamship, the *City of Norfolk*, owned by the Old Bay Lines, during a bygone era where one of the primary modes of local mass transportation was not the car or train or plane, but instead was the steamship. Another story we uncovered was that of an Old Bay Line steamship, requisitioned during World War II to serve as a barracks for soldiers in Great Britain on their way to the front. It was later involved in a tragic post-war episode involving Jewish Holocaust survivors and the founding of Israel. We installed a fire extinguisher from our collection that used carbon tetrachloride, which is now known to be a highly toxic chemical. The story that strikes me the most concerns one of the brass plates that were once installed in one of the *City of Norfolk's* passenger toilets. It reads, "Native Toilet," a poignant reminder that segregation was legal for most of the 20th century.

- Bruce Russell, President



# New Nun Buoy Display

Since mid-November, the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum has been showing off our newest outdoor exhibit, the “floating” nun buoy. For years, many folks passing the Lafayette St. façade had identified the large, rusty, cylindro-conical object languishing next to the boat shop double-door as, variously, a bomb, a torpedo, or some kind of rocket. To be fair, many also correctly identified it as a buoy, an aid to navigation that marks the boundaries of a channel. So-named because its shape is reminiscent of a nun’s habit, the nun buoy had been used in the main channel off Havre de Grace until it was retired by the U.S. Coast Guard, and donated to the Museum long ago. In August of 2012, several volunteers decided to give the buoy a proper display. Volunteer John Haug designed a support cradle to display the buoy upright, at an angle, as though the buoy is floating in a strong current, and Shane Custom Metal Fabricators of Havre de Grace was engaged to fabricate the cradle in steel.

In the meanwhile, the still-recumbent buoy was given a placard to identify and describe it, and Museum volunteer, and board Vice President Dave Dulik set to work de-rusting and painting the buoy. Nun buoys are painted red, and have even numbers, to denote the right-hand side of a channel generally based on a vessel returning from sea (or to a port or harbor). As the address of the Museum is 100 Lafayette St., the buoy now sports the number “100” on its new, bright red paint job.

The design of the exhibit specified that the support cradle be imbedded in, and chained to, a concrete block, similar to one that once anchored the buoy beside the channel. Once the support cradle was completed, and everything was painted, Guy Butz, of Butz Construction, agreed to excavate for, and pour the concrete around the support base. Then, at 5 PM on Friday, the 13th of November, 2015, Guy borrowed a crane from The Havre de Grace Marina, and installed the buoy into its new home in the support cradle. The exhibit was completed in time for the ribbon cutting for the Museum’s Environmental Center the following morning.

Along the way, the completion of the buoy exhibit turned into quite a community effort: Shane Custom Metal Fabricators donated the materials and fabrication of the support cradle. Guy Butz, of Butz Construction, donated the labor and materials for the concrete base, and made the final installation. Maryland Portable Concrete donated and delivered the concrete for the base. The Havre de Grace Marina loaned their crane. Museum members/volunteers Dave Brown, Dave Dulik, John & Laura Haug, Cecil Hill, Henry Hoffman, and Bruce Russell all provided various and valuable assistance and support.



## Upcoming Events

### Ecologically Sound Landscapes Lectures

March 5 & 19, from 3-4pm.

### Paws for People Training

March 10 & 24, from 5:30 - 8:30pm.

### MD Boating Safety Course

March 12 & 13, from 9am - 1pm on both days.

### Lee Murdock: Songs from the Great Lakes

March 31, from 7-9pm.

### Annual Open House

April 3, from noon - 5pm.

### MD Boating Safety Course

April 16 & 17, from 9am - 1pm on both days.

# Environmental Center Progress

Much has changed since the last Environmental Center (EC) update. The Center's official ribbon cutting, on November 14th, 2015, was a well attended ceremony, with tours of our new laboratory and the environs behind the Museum. And that was just the beginning! Volunteers are already signing up for the Programs and Restoration committees to help create, develop and build the EC.

Restoration of the shoreline and wetland behind the Museum is our biggest ongoing project. The Museum has partnered with the City of Havre de Grace, the Maryland Critical Areas Commission, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) Chesapeake and Coastal Service, to design and implement the restoration, including the removal of invasive species. Grants from the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) and from the Harford County Forestry Board are helping to fund the restoration, and the planting of native trees and shrubs. With help from a licensed native and invasive plant expert, and Museum volunteers, the positive results of this effort are already evident to Promenade users. As part of this work, ten young people from the MD Conservation Corps pulled out the roots of persistent invasive knotweed, and helped cut a trail for docent led tours and access to the lower areas. Hopefully, a new mini-grant request will provide software for a Global Information System (GIS) for long-term monitoring and management of the area.

With the return of planting season in April, you'll again be seeing activity along our waterfront. The MD DNR is laying out a plan to tie the City's storm water retention system in with our wetland enhancement project. The Museum Restoration Committee will closely monitor this project, to help ensure a coordinated effort. We are planning several "Earth Day" events in April and May. Museum volunteers, along with a volunteer team from Vulcan Materials, will again participate in the annual "River Sweep," with a focus on cleanup of trash and debris in and around the water and wetland. The City of Havre de Grace agreed to haul away the trash and debris.

The volunteers on the Programs Committee plan to create and install exhibits, and develop lectures and educational programs to present to the public. Some planned exhibits include a large aquarium and digital interactive exhibits; the first interactive exhibit, 'Species at Risk', is near completion, and a second exhibit on 'Sustainability' is next, using existing NOAA charts that show sensitive areas and species in the Bay watershed, and the regulatory tools to protect marine resources. These exhibits and projects are mainly funded by members or through grants or donations from corporate sponsors. As additional exhibits are created, classes may be developed around the extensive research conducted to prepare these exhibits.

Obviously, none of this happens without the help of interested volunteers! The Center is progressing, from the building of the structure to the establishment of educational programs. More volunteers are needed to help. We have a beautifully equipped laboratory for conducting experiments and studies and we will soon have exhibits in this space which will teach about the environment. So, whether you like to plant, create, build or teach, come join us and make our Center grow.

## Coming later this Spring & Summer...

### Geoff Kaufman

April 30, from 7-9pm.

### How to Read Nautical Charts

May 14, from 9am - 1pm.

### Secret Garden Tour

May 14 & 15, from noon - 5pm (begins at museum).

### MD Boating Safety Course

June 4 & 5, from 9am - 1pm on both days.

### Suddenly in Command

July 9, from 9am - noon.

### Summer Concert Series

Wednesday nights, from June 15 - August 17.

### Kids' Summer Story Time

June - August (dates TBA).

### Environmental Center Programming

This summer (dates TBA).

*To include workshops,  
wetland discovery tours, labs  
and much more.*



# Thanks to Our Supporters

We would like to take the time to thank our business, private foundation, non-profit organizations, and government supporters.

We often recognize one of our many volunteers in our newsletter. It is now time to recognize those businesses, private foundations, non-profit organizations and government entities that have provided financial support, in-kind donations of materials, product, equipment and manpower. We thank them!

J.M. Huber Corporation  
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The Havre de Grace Lions Club  
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Maryland State Arts Council  
Chesapeake Bay Trust  
Maryland Conservation Corps  
Harford County Office of Economic Development  
City of Havre de Grace  
Harford County Forestry Board

*Thank you* to our individual donors!

**Cara Blount**  
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**Leslie Kaufman**  
**John Demos**  
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**Robert F. Hickey**  
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## Hours:

### April 1 - October 14

Wed - Sat: 10am - 5pm  
Sun: 1pm - 5pm

### October 15 - March 31

Sat: 10am - 5pm  
Sun: 1pm - 5pm



# Concerts at the Maritime Museum

One of our favorite fundraisers here at the Museum is our annual summer concert series, which consistently draws crowds into our air-conditioned main gallery every Wednesday night throughout the summertime. This past summer was no exception, and as the days gradually begin to get warmer and the last of the snow melts, it is once again time to think forward to our lineup for this summer. 2016 will mark our fourth year that we've presented the concert series. Last year, we welcomed newcomer Canadian singer-songwriter Ian Bell, who started out the season, and had returning favorites Magpie, the Jolly Tars and Seamus Kennedy come back to perform sold-out shows. We are excited about the musicians we have booked so far for this year, including Seamus Kennedy as well as some international visitors, Nanne Kalma and Ankie van der Meer, returning from the Netherlands. They participated in the 2014 concert series.

This past October, chanteyman Geoff Kaufman from New England's Mystic Seaport came to the Museum, and we are greatly anticipating having him come back this April to help us celebrate Earth Day, as part of a series of events and activities (on April 16, 22 & 30) that we are hosting in conjunction with our new Environmental Center. This December, for the first time ever, Seamus Kennedy and our own concert coordinator, Janie Meneely, performed a Holiday concert together. Janie is the editor of *Chesapeake Bay Magazine* and makes a living as a writer and advocate for Bay heritage and traditions, having edited and published *Bay Sailor Magazine*, a monthly cruising guide that appeared in the mid-1980s. She is "instrumental" in putting together our lineups every year, and knows who's who in the maritime folk music scene. Seamus, a Belfast native, is an immensely popular and widely acclaimed entertainer and versatile musician who now calls Annapolis his home. The combination of the two of them made for a night of good *craic* and lovely music to usher in the Holiday spirit.

We had Bob Walser, also hailing from Mystic Seaport, perform for us very recently this February – he provided an evening of sea chanteys, pub songs, and slow ballads to the enjoyment of the audience, which was comprised of all ages. Later in March, we'll welcome Lee Murdock, who hails from the Great Lakes region in Illinois and performs regional tunes from that area, as well as his own melodies. He's grounded in the work song tradition, a carry-over from the rugged days of lumberjacks and wooden schooners, and is a virtuoso of six- and twelve-string guitars. He expertly combines ragtime, Irish, blues and folk styles with his flair for storytelling in songs.



We strive to provide high-quality acts as part of our programming, and can only do this through the generosity of our donors. The Maryland State Arts Council continues to support our summer concerts, and admission goes directly back towards compensating the artists we host, who offer their time and talent to highlight our maritime heritage. To keep in the loop with our most current news and events, we advise you to visit us at [www.hdgmaritimemuseum.org](http://www.hdgmaritimemuseum.org), or give us a call: (410) 939-4800. We are also on Facebook as **Havre de Grace Maritime Museum, Inc.**