



Issue 6 Fall 2016

The Maritime Messenger

Newsletter of the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to our new and returning members!

We greatly appreciate your support! Please, pay us a visit in person (*free* admission for Museum members) or go online to stay informed on our Calendar of Events, including exhibit updates, lectures, workshops, concerts and other interesting events.

Our Newest Members:

Sarah Shpak & Barry Kline

Shonn & Barbara Moore

Greg Kopatch

Jack & Jan Hirschfeld

Mike & Sue Capp

Jerry & Lynn Van Keuren

Debnath De

Paul Carrick & Family

Letter From the Director

Greetings!

As the summer slowly transitions into fall, The Maritime Museum is bustling inside and out: Inside, the main gallery is awash with visitors seeing, hearing and feeling maritime history; outside they're sizing up our many outdoor exhibits and the views of the Susquehanna, exploring our newly sculptured Butterfly Garden or relaxing from the promenade overlooking our own "Living Shoreline." The Havre de Grace Maritime Museum is always updating its gallery exhibits (inside and outside), constantly honing our environmental education programs, and evaluating and scheduling professionals from across the sciences and industry to complement the Museum's contribution to Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics.

This summer, I was even added to the mix as the new museum director. I was immediately struck with the energy and aspirations of all museum associates: the Volunteer Staff, the Board of Directors and our many Donors. From our Open House and Earth Day events, to a Summer Concert Series in nine acts, weekly Children's Story and Craft Time, the annual Garden Mart/Tours, Junior Explorer Workshops, Susquehanna Flats Educational Boat Tours, U.S. Coast Guard Navigation/Boating Safety Classes, Boat-Building Classes and a city-wide Fish, Fowl & Folk Festival - just to name a few - we've been busy. Working with such a selfless group of Volunteers made it all worthwhile - and made it all work. This summer, we also received an Economic Development Award from the Chamber of Commerce for "Best Property Rehabilitation," as well as a Best Maritime Museum Award from Chesapeake Bay Magazine for "Best Maritime Museum - Chesapeake Bay North."

These accomplishments reflect directly on all associates - *Thank You* for volunteering and for giving our organization the most precious thing you will ever own: your time and talent. It doesn't go unnoticed - just look around.

Greg Kopatch,
Executive Director



Thank You to our Summer Intern

We were fortunate this summer to have Ms. Reagan Harper as our Museum Intern. Working mainly upstairs, Reagan furthered our Collections Management efforts, cataloging and accessioning new and existing museum objects which form the basis for research, interpretation and exhibition. Reagan is a resident of Abingdon, MD, currently working on her Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh. Thanks Reagan, we appreciate your work here.

Board of Director Meetings

Our Board of Directors meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm and are open to the public. We encourage anyone interested in the many activities of the Maritime Museum to please attend.

Environmental Center Programs

The Maryland DNR, the City of Havre de Grace and the Maritime Museum secured funding to restore the wetland and adjacent uplands and tidal cove on the Museum's (four acres) of leased property (called a living shoreline). Design work, removal of invasive plants species and selective native plantings and debris removal are ongoing. In April we held an Earth Day event with 18 volunteers from the J.M. Huber Corporation and 7 Museum volunteers, and planted 82 bushes and removed about 5 tons of debris and trash from the restoration project area.

Later in May, we planted a small butterfly garden directly adjacent to the promenade with native plants. We do, however, continue to struggle with the invasive plants and will be regularly monitoring and removing these invasive plants as they crop up. We can also see that this summer's extremes of hot and lately dry weather have not been good for some of our plants. We will be inventorying these and replacing them with more suitable plants. We've expanded our partnership with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and will now be working with the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences to physically sample and monitor 6,000 acres of submerged aquatic grasses, which are critical to the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

This will be carried out by our volunteers and Huber-donated equipment (e.g., the two compound microscopes). We received donations from individual and corporate sources for two new exhibits in our environmental center gallery; one is installed and the second is under construction. We plan to open the gallery for public view sometime this fall. We received a multi-year pledge from the private Joseph Robert Foundation for a matching grant against a County grant we received earlier this year (combined \$20,000/year) to support a salaried environmental educator/lab director position. A full-time position would require \$50-60,000/year. We have been working with our volunteers and part-time educators to conduct several children and adult activities and education programs to gauge local interest and build capacity.

(cont.)

Our Newest Members, cont.

William McIntyre & Family

Bob & Linda Topol

Peter Araid

Ed DeLuca

Gary & Janie Sherman

David & Ann Brownlee

Eric Hughes

Harold & Janet Butler

Address:

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21078**

Phone: (410) 939-4800

Email:

hdgmaritimemuseum@verizon.net

Website:

www.hdgmaritimemuseum.com

Hours:

April 1 - October 14

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

October 15 - March 31

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

Environmental Center Programs

(cont.)

We have concluded that we need a full-time position to build sustainable programs and have regional impact. Frankly we cannot move ahead as we need to with just volunteers and a few part-time (contract) educators. We continue to seek grants and donations for the Center, in particular to hire a full-time director.

The City of Havre de Grace has approached us about our lab conducting State required testing of the City's storm water outfalls. We hope that the lab will become a profit center for us as there is need for all waterfront Maryland municipalities to conduct similar water quality analyses. While taking a measured approach, we believe that we have been making real progress. We have a facility, developing programs, and a growing network of partners. We are building capacity in to areas of significant need, restoration/preservation, monitoring and water quality analysis and environmental management. Our long-term goal is working toward creating regional environmental excellence on the Upper Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Around the Bend...

CRABTOBERFEST! This weekend is our "Crabtoberfest!! Please join us on Saturday, October 1st at the Havre de Grace American Legion, Post 47 from 6–9pm for an all-you-can-eat buffet and crab feast, along with some great gaming: there will be a 50/50, Raffle and Silent Auction! Tickets are \$60 each and still available by calling the Museum at 410.939.4800, or the Executive Director at 843.568.9006. We certainly hope to see you there!

LECTURE: "Saving Inky": Whales and Marine Pollution. One of our most interesting lectures this year! While sperm whales are rarely even spotted at sea, you'll see and learn of the plight of "Inky," a pygmy sperm whale, her battle with marine pollution and successful rescue. Following the lecture and movie, we'll discuss the Chesapeake Bay marine environment, local pollution and even take a look at the Bay's Health Report Card. This free lecture will be held on Saturday morning, October 8th in our main gallery, from 11am until noon.

New Exhibits

We've added the following exhibits:

- The Conowingo Dam
- Sea Monsters
- Maryland in the War of 1812

This, in addition to revamping our website (virtual 360° tour forthcoming on our homepage) and joining Twitter! Please "follow" us @hdgmaritime.

*Coming later on
this Fall...*

"Crab"-toberfest

October 1, from 6-9 PM
(To be held at the Joseph L.
Davis American Legion, Post
#47)

Saving Inky: A Lecture with Bruce Russell and Bruce Pringle

October 8, from 11AM to
noon

Working the Water: A Book Signing with Jay Fleming

November 17, at 7 PM

"A Chesapeake Christmas" Concert

This December (date and
time TBA).

