

Maritime Messenger

Newsletter of the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum



Fall 2012

~ President's Remarks ~

This past year, our Maritime Museum has undergone a major "sea-change."

- New leadership and four new Board of Directors members
- Three new Staff members
- Refurbished the main gallery
- Upgraded the fire suppression system and alarm
- Five new exhibits with six more new exhibits under construction
- Mural of the Upper Chesapeake by artist Kelly Singleton
- Preliminary planning to re-establish our Environmental Center
- Realignment of our Boat Shop to comport with the Museum's core Mission.

The Boat Shop realignment followed an 18 month long discussion with the managers of the boat school. At the June Board meeting, after the discussions failed, the Museum Board voted in a 7-4 vote to close the Boat School as then operated. But--more on this later in the newsletter.

Philip J. Barker
President

~ Notes from the Executive Director ~

We have been doing some summer cleaning this season, but we started a little early. In March we had our floors refinished, new carpet installed, new paint, and a new fire suppression system put in. Thank you to the Crystal Trust who granted us the funding to accomplish these tasks. As well thank you to the many volunteers who repainted the main gallery, lobby, and reception area. The Museum still has that "new car smell" and a fresh new look.

When you visit you will notice that we have updated our exhibits gallery. Thanks to our Vice President, David Dulik, who has used his artistic talents so nicely to revamp our classical exhibits and design the layout of our new exhibits. Dave, Keira Gruber, and I worked as a team on the exhibits, researching, organizing, and mounting new text and pictures to create our displays. Visitors are sure to find the new exhibits both interesting and informative. Please let us know what you think. Incidentally, we also bid congratulations and farewell to Keira, who received her Bachelor's Degree from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland. We wish her the best in her future endeavors.

Other exhibits will showcase our U.S. Lighthouse Service bronze fog bell, displayed as it might have been seen (and heard) in service nearly a hundred years ago, and our two naval architect models of cargo ships that were built at the Bethlehem Steel shipyard; reminders of that hugely important, and now vanished part of the area's maritime history. A new exhibit that we are particularly excited about will showcase an historic "sneak" boat and a punt gun (on loan from the Decoy Museum) used in duck hunting in the 19th and early 20th century. This is a truly amazing, provocative and informative exhibit! If you have not been by in the last few months please stop in and see how great it looks. We think that visitors will find the new exhibits both interesting and informative. Please let us know what you think.

We are also working on six other new exhibits including a navigation exhibit featuring our newly restored binnacle, and navigation equipment used by mariners on the Chesapeake. All of the brass artifacts in the navigation display have been professionally restored. We would like to thank our Treasurer, Bruce Russell, who has funded the brass restoration and provided logistics.

Our refocused Boat Shop is now restoring our 19' early 20th century Bushwhack boat for display in the Museum gallery. It is now located in our boat shop. We are currently raising funds and looking for volunteers to help us in this restoration. If you would you would like to see it, volunteer time to help our restorer or donate, please call Darlene Perry.

You can come and see all of our new exhibits and hear about all of our new future plans for the Maritime Museum at our upcoming Open House. Please check out our website for the date: www.hdgmartimemuseum.org

Darlene Perry
Executive Director

❧ *Maritime Museum Environmental Center* ❧

We are now working on tidying up the Museum Boat Shop downstairs. We had too many boats so we are trimming the fat and auctioning/selling off boats that do not meet with our Mission or those that we cannot store properly. We hope someday to have a boat shed on the Museum grounds to house relevant boats in our collection, but that is some time away so we must part with those that we cannot store at this time. One of the reasons that we are cleaning up the first floor is that the Museum is planning to create a Maritime Museum Environmental Center on one half of the first floor. This environmental center will be a place where we can all learn about our local natural history and ecology as well as learn how we can advocate for the health of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River. We are currently working on a strategic plan for the Environmental Center and will announce the plan in our future newsletters. If you want to be involved in creating our Environmental Center please contact the Executive Director, Darlene Perry at directorhdgmm@gmail.com.

❧ *New Staff Members* ❧

Mary Rasa, Collections Manager

Mary has recently come to us from the National Park Service where she worked as a Museum Curator at NRA Sandy Hook, New Jersey. Mary has also recently given a great lecture here at the Museum which was well attended on Women Lighthouse Keepers.

Liz Ricci, Museum Services Specialist

Liz is a recent graduate of John's Hopkins University where she received a Master's Degree in Museum Studies. Liz will take over the office manager duties as well as serve as an assistant museum curator.

Morgan Jones, Museum Assistant

Morgan is a student at John Carroll School in Bel Air where she is a senior. Morgan plans on going to college to study geology and environmental Studies.

Good Luck: The Maritime Museum Board wishes to thank Jessica Calder, our Office Manger of eight years for all of her dedicated service to the Museum. We wish her all the luck on her new opportunities and thank her for all she has done for us.

❧ *Nautical Word* ❧

Fair (adj)

Definition:

1) Referring to the shape of a vessel's hull, smooth and flawless, with one curve flowing into the next one smoothly and with beauty, having no bumps or bulges or imperfections of line or construction which catch the eye.

2) Having sunshine and moderate winds and seas.

❧ *New Board Members* ❧

Evelyn "Toni" Bench

Toni has recently retired from Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) after thirty years of service. She served as Chief, Service Management Division, for the U.S. Army Network Enterprise Center-Aberdeen. Tony has a strong background in IT services and is a whiz on the computer.

Henry Bradley

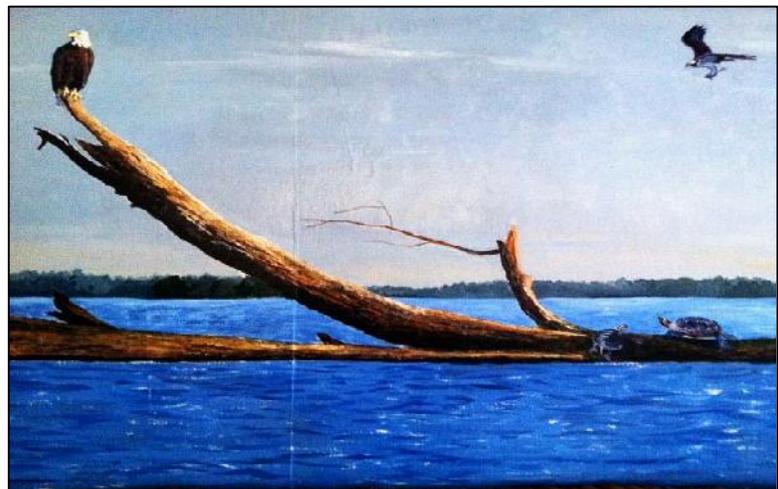
Henry is the Managing Partner of Bradley Atlantic Insurance Management. Henry has a great interest in small town America and its history and is very fond of the history of Havre de Grace.

Tom Fitzpatrick

Tom Fitzpatrick is very active in Havre de Grace Main Street and in promoting the history of Havre de Grace. He also was just selected by the Governor of Maryland, Martin O'Malley, to serve on the Board of Education of Harford County.

Bruce Russell

Bruce is a retired Coast Guard officer, a consultant / advisor to the commercial maritime shipping industry specializing in marine environmental protection. He is interested in maritime history and the marine environment.



A portion of the Mural painted by Artist Kelly Singleton

♪ Last Words from the Executive Committee on the Boat Shop Reassignment ♪

As stated earlier in this newsletter, the Boat Shop realignment followed an 18 month long discussion with the managers of the Boat School.

- At the June 20, 2012 Board of Directors meeting the Museum Board voted 7 to 4 to terminate its relationship with the Chesapeake Wooden Boat Builders School (CWBBBS). The Boat Shop is being reorganized and its inventory of non-museum quality boats is being sold to make up for the expected lost revenue of the Boat School.
- The Board of Directors had concluded that the CWBBBS was mismanaged in a business-like manner and the CWBBBS was never fully integrated with the Museum, which created fiscal management and related issues.
- Simple safety procedures were not regularly followed. Indeed a recent state Fire Marshal's inspection cited multiple fire safety and hazardous materials code infractions in the Boat Shop spaces. Minimal action was initiated by the Boat School managers to address these matters.
- The CWBBBS which was responsible for managing our Boat Shop was collecting recreational boats and canoes (15 total) that did not support our Mission. Further, the CWBBBS had not been generating for quite some time significant revenue for the Museum via work for others under contract, traditional boat building and repair. They had refused to sell any of their "collection" to support the Museum. Indeed our estimates were that it cost the museum \$31,000/year to run the Boat school. 2011 reported income from the Boat School were approximately \$8,500. The Board had hoped that part of this shortfall could be addressed by a modest and long overdue increase in school fees, among other things. This too was refused.
- A significant amount of Boat Shop work was performed for personal use other than to support the needs and requests of the Museum Director or the Board of Directors.
- Indeed, repeated requests from the Museum President and Executive Director to restore two historic Chesapeake Bay work boats and to complete the construction of a replica historic Chesapeake Bay workboat (under constructions since 1999) were ignored.
- With the sale of the 15 boats we expect to replace lost boat school revenue for 2 years, and to contract for the restoration of our Bushwhack boat and Shad Shack. We are currently cleaning and reorganizing the Boat Shop. Nine of the boats have already been sold.
- When offered the opportunity to realign the boat shop, the CWBBBS managers declined and decided to move their school to a new location.

Many of us will miss the CWBBBS and the good works that the CWBBBS "members" did for the Museum. We wish them "fair winds and following seas."

♪ Annual Maritime Crab Feast ♪

Saturday, September 15, 2012

6 pm - 9 pm

Tickets required: \$55.00 per person

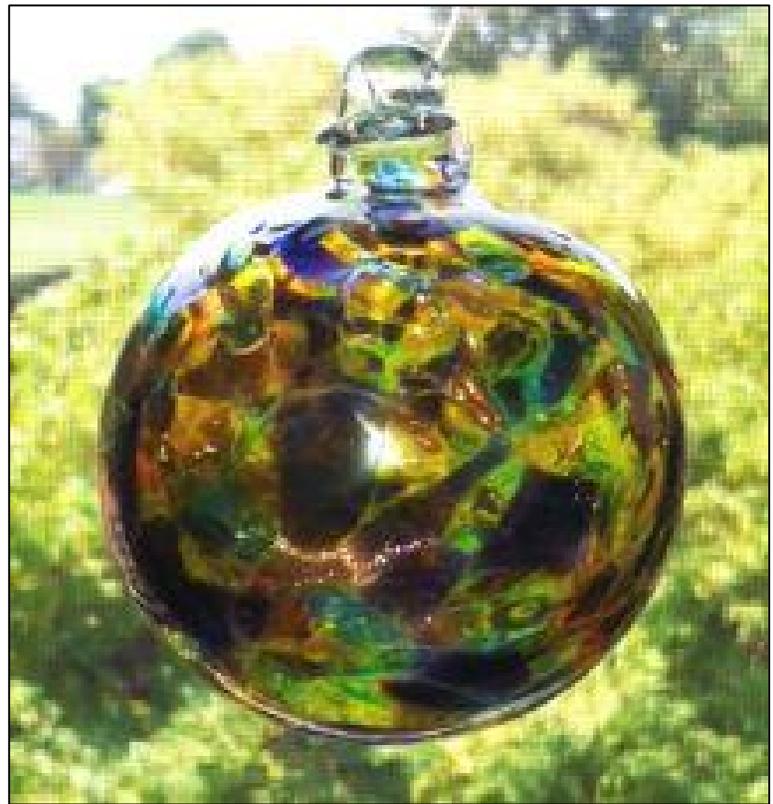
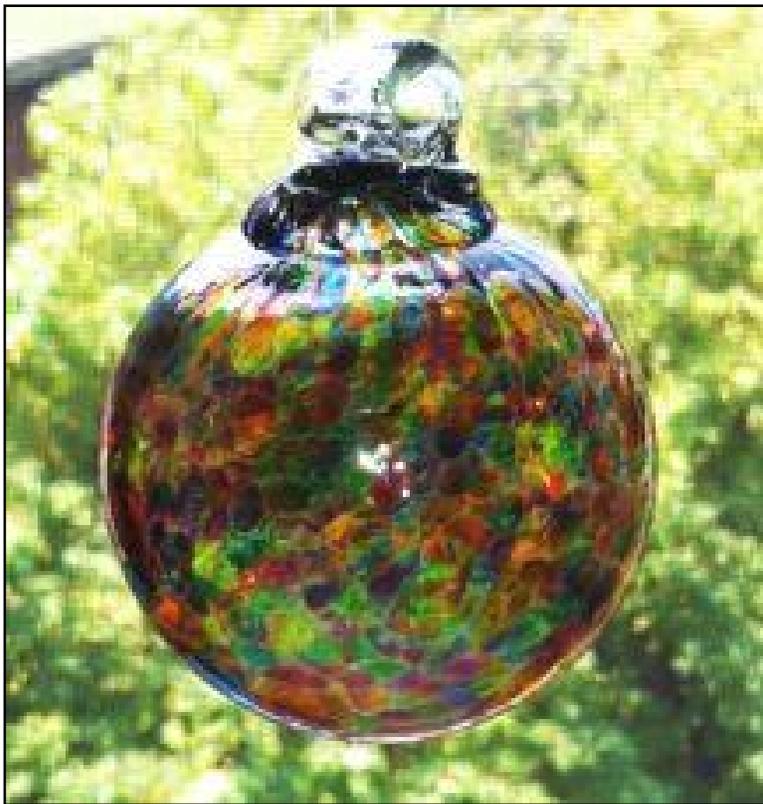
Enjoy fresh ALL YOU CAN EAT steamed crabs and other Bay foods including: pit beef, pit turkey, pit ham, hamburgers, hot dogs, macaroni salad, coleslaw, cheese platter, watermelon, cake, soda, water, coffee, tea, and ALL YOU CAN DRINK BEER.

PLEASE NOTE: The Crab Feast will be held at the Havre de Grace Elks Club on Route 40

What *Knots Museum Shop

Stop in and check out our new shipment of Glass “Calico Balls” from Kitras Art Glass. These gorgeous handmade glass balls come in twelve beautiful color combinations and no two are alike! Measuring in at 2” and priced at just \$12.00 each, these are a beautiful souvenir to display in a sunny window, on your Christmas tree, or in your garden!

“This beautiful hand blown glass window ornament is traditionally known as a symbol of friendship. It sparkles in the light the way a good friend brings sparkle to your life. The colors swirl and mingle across the surface of the ball enhancing each other just as the talents and varied personalities of your friends bring color to your life. This ball has intriguing ripples and ridges making it a delight to touch as well as behold. Just like friends, no two are alike.”



The Havre de Grace Maritime Museum is a 501(C)3 Non-Profit Organization dedicated to collecting, preserving, interpreting, and documenting the Maritime skills and heritage of the Lower Susquehanna River and Upper Chesapeake Bay.

