



Issue 8 Summer 2017

The Maritime Messenger

Newsletter of the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members!

**David Anstrand & Family
Carole George Andrews
Stephen & Victoria Swanson
George & Rita Cardona
William Webber**

We greatly appreciate the support of our members. Members receive complimentary admission to the museum and a 20% discount at our What Knots Gift Shoppe.

Get Social

The Maritime Museum is on [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#), so connect with us to get all the latest news!

Visit Us

100 Lafayette Street
Havre de Grace, MD 21078

April 1 - October 14

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

October 15 - March 31

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

From the President's Desk...

Dear Friends,

This has been an exciting year of growth and momentum at the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum, and before it ends, there are even more new developments to be proud of! In 2017, our staff tripled to include Sarah Shpak, Director of our Environmental Center, and Wanda Boker, Director of Development. The Museum continues to grow on several levels to fulfill our mission, and this year we completed a strategic five-year plan to progressively expand our activities and impact. We look forward to your feedback on our activities, your participation, and your support with our upcoming projects, which will be many in the years ahead.

While the mission of the Museum remains constant since its founding – *to preserve and interpret the rich maritime skills, cultural heritage and history, and the ecology of the lower Susquehanna River and Upper Chesapeake Bay watershed* – the Museum's vision for 2017 – 2021 will be to capitalize on our successful growth and development – *to increase our impact within our immediate and surrounding communities with heightened engagement and outreach to introduce our multiple resources and varied programming*. The Museum now possesses the dynamic exhibits, public programming, special events, guided classes and educational projects to actively engage our entire community. The next five years will be significant for the Museum as far as our visitor numbers, active volunteers, and collaboration with other local pillars such as our schools, public libraries, other museums, and houses of worship.

An important aspect of our strategy during this timeline is to diversify our audience, to bring in more minority as well as underprivileged visitors into our Museum and participating in our programs, which will include the diversification of our corps of volunteers and Board of Directors. Overall this summer, we will have hosted approximately 300+ children ages 3-18 at our Environmental Center summer camps, weekly story and craft time program, and our guided tours.

We have also partnered with the Havre de Grace Police Dept.'s Safety Camp, hosting about 90 children in four-day summer camps at the Museum and Environmental Center, as well as putting on two half-day tours and programs for the Maryland DNR Conservation Corps, and hosting a group of campers from the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center. Two of our summer camps at the Environmental Center were sponsored by a grant from PNC Bank, which made it possible to generate 20 scholarships for local youth enrolled in the Head Start program here in Havre de Grace.

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Our Environmental Center laboratory is currently being used to support SAV (Submerged Aquatic Vegetation) collection and research, funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust in collaboration with the MD Dept. of Natural Resources. Sarah, our Environmental Center Director, heads this initiative along with nine volunteers.

Our very first Shrimp Fest was a success, raising over \$2,500 and receiving a matching funds donation of \$3,000. This money will be earmarked, as noted in our Strategic Plan, to address our aging infrastructure and create an emergency fund for unforeseen expenses needed to keep the Museum running. We have five new exhibits for the main gallery under development or waiting for installation over the next few months. With a few finishing touches on three exhibits, we will be opening up the Environmental Center's gallery to the public. We are excited for people to see the newly expanded Museum, and have distributed over 30 free family admission passes through the Susquehanna Ministerium and Head Start program in Havre de Grace, in hopes of further diversifying our attendance and ensuring that all families in our community have access to the Museum.

Our most dramatic new exhibit will be unveiled in late September, when three 8-foot high murals will be installed on the Museum's exterior, facing Lafayette Street. We hope you will join us for the unveiling! (Date to be announced shortly.)

Sincerely,
Bruce Russell, President of the Board
Wanda Boker, Director of Development

Programs this Summer & Fall

Here at the Maritime Museum, we are winding down from a summer packed with activities, ranging from our annual Summer Concert Series to our weekly Kids' Story and Craft Time just this past month. It's certainly been an exciting time, as well as a time for much growth and continued success in bringing these programs to an expanded audience. We've been delighted to partner with the Havre de Grace Green Team in their efforts to bring environmental awareness to the local community through engagement and education. One of the ways in which the Green Team does this is by offering *free* environmental movie nights to the public on a monthly basis – see our Calendar on the next page for the full roster of films.

The films focus on issues pertaining to Bay health, as well as the health of our soil, waterways and all the organisms (including us!) who call these habitats home. The Green Team has been utilizing our Environmental Center classroom for their films, which are followed by a discussion. We are committed to working with several organizations and individuals in the area to facilitate a dialogue among Havre de Grace residents and, hopefully, to spur action concerning the preservation of our wetlands and Bay health. This will be done through projects such as the film series. Please read Sarah's article on the next page for more on what the Environmental Center has planned in the months to come.

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Contact Us

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Donations in Memory of Mr. Edward Gera

**James B. Priet, Sr.
Dave & Sharon
Hammerbacher
Jeff Pleines
Herb Goodrich**

The late Mr. Gera, a lifetime member of the Maritime Museum and an avid model ship builder, once donated a few of his models to us, which are on display in our Workboats of the Bay and Beyond Jamestown exhibits. He enjoyed building these model ships and left behind many friends and family with whom he shared this pastime.

Donations made to the Maritime Museum in his memory totaled \$150.

Coming Up...

Summer Concert Series

Every Wednesday, from 7-9 PM (ends on Aug. 16)

Dirt: A Story with Heart & Soil - FREE Movie Night!

August 14 at 7 PM

The Watermen & Tilghman Tales - FREE Movie Night!

September 13 at 7 PM

Native Plant Talk with Dr. Doug Tallamy

September 19 at 7 PM

Crab Dissection Lab Led by Kathy Baker-Brosch

September 27 at 7 PM

Seed: The Untold Story - FREE Movie Night!

October 3 at 7 PM

Evening Migratory Bird Walk with Colleen Webster

October 4 at 5:30 PM

Chasing Ice - FREE Movie Night!

November 7 at 7 PM

Beautiful Swimmers Revisited - FREE Movie Night!

December 6 at 7 PM

Annual Holiday Concert

December (date TBD)

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Over the years, we've hosted a new musical act every Wednesday night throughout the entire summer, and these weekly concerts keep sizable audiences returning year after year. In order to satisfy the public's demand for authentic, quality folk and maritime music, we've reached out to shantymen from both the Chesapeake tradition as well as musicians from more far-flung regions, such as Mystic Seaport, CT and even the UK! This summer, we've brought back a few familiar faces, including John Roberts, Rob Van Sante & Janie Meneely, and Bob Zentz... But don't think we've fallen into a pattern of predictability! We've tried to spice things up a bit this year with an old-time rockabilly and bluegrass band – *The High and Wides* – as well as an eclectic contra dance duo (*Callithump*)! The concert series wound down on Wednesday, August 16th with Don Shappelle, a local favorite.

We're also looking forward to some exciting programs this fall. In September, Dr. Doug Tallamy from the University of Delaware will be coming to the Museum to present a talk primarily focused on the value native plants play in improving insect biodiversity – just \$5 to attend! This talk is essential for any gardener who cares about the environment! Between monthly movie nights, lectures, and Environmental Center activities, there's a lot to get involved with in the months to come. So, continue to stay plugged in by regularly checking our website's [Calendar of Events](#), or by "liking" our [Facebook](#) page. We hope to see you soon at one of our many upcoming events.

- Juliette Moore

Updates from the Enviro. Center

While August is already here, summer at the Environmental Center is still going strong. We've had lots of traction from the hundreds of people that have stepped their way into some enjoyable and educational environmental activities. We are excited to see the Center being utilized to its full potential, with visitors of all ages coming in and out on a daily basis - morning, noon, and night! The summer started off with a bang with our first-ever Summer Day Camp Program. During the last two weeks of June, we ran two four-day sessions of camps. Campers from ages 8-14 were introduced to Chesapeake Bay ecology through a variety of environmental focuses.

The campers started off by developing their observation skills as scientists, exploring the tidal wetlands lining the promenade, diving into the depths of woodland ecology and the value of a forested shoreline, and discovering the elusive yet essential world of plankton and its role in a healthy ecosystem. [Click here](#) to see a detailed version of daily camp activities, as well as some photos! Campers learned new techniques for working as an efficient team, while also developing friendships, through interactive and entertaining games. Most importantly, these campers just got to be kids and have fun; they enjoyed getting their hands and feet dirty while splashing along the shoreline of the upper Bay. In fact, many campers have already expressed an interest in next year's camps! We look forward to continuing and further developing our summer programming for these kids and for new campers next year!

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In addition to full-day camps, the center also hosted half-day camps, geared towards a younger audience (ages 4-5) through a PNC Bank grant to bring children enrolled in the Head Start program into our Center. For many of these kids, this was most likely their very first camp experience, and through the help of our staff, strategic planning, and smiling attitudes, we are pleased that this turned out to be such a success. These campers experienced the outdoors through sensory explorations, scavenger hunts, and games; they were also able to utilize the Environmental Center's lab space for various arts and crafts projects and story time readings. Through the grant, these campers were also provided with a healthy snack and lunch, graciously catered by the Laurrapin Grille. While these campers (and the Center) were sad to see this week



come to an end, we hope they were also excited to share their stories, projects, and new knowledge regarding the environment with their friends and families.

With the assistance of the Museum's programs committee, the Environmental Center was successful in hosting several lectures and community events this summer as well. The month of June was kicked off with a hands-on Plankton lab and lecture, led by Kathy Baker-Bosch, the lead researcher at the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center. Participants learned about several types of plankton found in our watershed, and then viewed these creatures under microscopes. We plan to have another hands-on lecture in the lab on September 27th, where we will be dissecting crabs! The Center also partnered with the Harford Bird Club in hosting an evening bird walk along the Promenade. This event was very well-attended by participants of all ages - we had a total of 74 participants! With the success of this bird walk, we look forward to hosting a fall migration evening walk on October 4th, which will be led by Colleen Webster... Details to follow!



The summer has also brought us into our first ever [Submerged Aquatic Vegetation \(SAV\)](#) sampling program. Why are we doing this?

Since the loss of Bay grass abundance in the 1970s from Hurricane Agnes, researchers have been curious about its tremendous recovery. Bay ecologists are also interested in the following:

- Ground truthing to verify the SAV beds mapped in the SAV Aerial Survey conducted by Virginia Institute of Marine Science ([VIMS](#)) are in fact present
- Identifying and mapping SAV species in those mapped beds
- Supplementing the SAV aerial survey by locating additional SAV beds that are not visible from the air
- Providing more detailed data for research

Currently, VIMS and DNR have mapped out a total of 8,600 acres of SAV in the Susquehanna Flats.



The goal is to have 12,000 acres. Why is SAV important? It provides a valuable food source and habitat, assists in water clarity by absorbing and filtering excess nutrients and sediments in the water column, reduces shoreline erosion, releases oxygen in the water, and sequesters carbon.

The collection of samplings has been quite a task, but with a core group of 9 volunteers we have been covering ground across the Flats and learning which sampling techniques work best for us. In no time, we've become SAV species experts! Our focus areas have been the main Flats, Furnace Bay, and Swan Creek. Here is a [Map](#) of the recovery process. The grasses grow and become more dense as the summer progresses, so access points become more and more challenging to reach. So far, we have discovered a plethora of [Wild Celery](#) growing on the Flats, as well as the non-native grass, [Hydrilla](#). We have also started the forage portion of this study which involves utilizing minnow traps to understand species diversity amongst SAV. This will provide us details on identifying distinct species, and identifying what other organisms use the SAV beds. This is all in collaboration with a research study through NOAA, DNR, and CBT. This will ultimately help us define the health of the Bay. As summer is starting to wind down, we look forward to continuing our SAV and forage sampling well into September. We also have exciting lectures planned, so stay tuned for more details!

Sarah Shpak,
Environmental Center Director

Meet the Newest Addition to Our Fleet!

When the Havre de Grace Youth Sailing Program mentioned that it needed an additional Optimist Sailing Pram, the Museum Boat Shop volunteers stepped up and offered to build one. Over the next several months, Al Caffo, David Anstrand and Abe Spergel, with support from Bruce Russell, built the Pram shown below using the original plans from 1948. After many hours, the final finish was applied, fittings were attached and a date for the delivery was established. On July 13th, with the kids, instructors, city officials and Museum volunteers and staff present, the boat was dedicated at Hutchins Park. Although the boat's general appearance matches that of its fiberglass counterparts, it is easily recognized by its distinctive mahogany trim. This project is one of many that demonstrates the Museum's continued commitment to our community, and the dedication of its volunteers and staff. Our team is now working on two more old wooden boats to be put on display in our main gallery. New volunteers are welcome... No experience necessary!

- Abe Spergel



Above: Al, David, and Abe put a second coat of paint on the Optimist's hull. (Photo taken by Pat Venturino)



Above: Completed Optimist!

