



The Maritime Messenger

Official Newsletter of the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum

Issue 7 Winter 2017

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

We greatly appreciate the support of our members. Members receive complimentary admission to the museum and a discount at our What Knots Gift Shoppe. Please stay informed of exhibit updates, lectures, workshops, etc. on our [Calendar of Events](#).

Benjamin Trosch & Family
Johnny & Wanda Boker
Augustus & Penelope Brown
David & Phyllis Van Metre
Irene Scheff
Carolyn Hargis
Ruth Jessup
Jeff Swift
Cara Blount
Tim Nichols & Family
Julie Forbes
Linda Hoffecker
Don & Martha Daniel
Bruce Russell & Leslie Kaufman
Ted & Robyn Hofferbert
Jane Scocca & Family
Bernie Bodt & Family

Letter From the President

Greetings! There is much to report since our last newsletter. We have two new staff members, Sarah Shpak, Environmental Center Director, and Wanda Boker, Director of Programs' Development and Outreach. We built a new 15' wooden fishing boat that will be used as a research platform for a new initiative monitoring the flora and fauna (plants and small animals) in the Susquehanna Flats. We are working in collaboration with the Maryland DNR and the Chesapeake Bay River Keepers on this project. We finished one new major (for us) exhibit and several smaller exhibits, and made additions to existing exhibits in our main gallery. These were designed, funded and installed by our exhibits committee - all volunteers and/or Board members.

We are finishing up our Environmental Center laboratory by adding equipment and new electrical outlets. We are also completing the installation of several amazing exhibits in our new Environmental Center gallery. Thanks go to our staff, volunteers, generous members, BGE, Exelon, Shane Custom Metal Fabricators, and Kuzma Technical Enterprises. We commissioned three 8'x10' murals for the Lafayette St. facades of our building. We expect to have these installed sometime this summer, thanks to the generosity of the Joseph Robert Foundation of Philadelphia.

This spring, several of our volunteers, led by Board member Gary Foster, will replace the boards on the deck which surrounds the side and back of our building. The decking has deteriorated to the point that we had to shut it down to the public. We raised the funds to replace the boards and install lighting and security gates. Once done we will open the deck for our patrons ... more to follow on other plans that are evolving for the use of the deck. Since arriving in Havre de Grace in the summer of 2011, I have come to know through the Maritime Museum three wonderful, very smart, savvy, and generous people: Phil Barker, and Cecil and Kathryn Hill. Our Board voted at our January Board meeting to honor, Phil, Cecil and Kathy.

Phil was voted President Emeritus of the Museum and our new Environmental Center laboratory was named the Philip J. Barker Laboratory. Phil was instrumental in securing funding and resources from his former employer, the JM Huber Corporation, to construct and develop the education and research laboratory. Cecil and Kathy have been generous donors and fundraisers on behalf of the Museum since its beginning. They have stayed with the Museum unflinchingly, and have consistently exhibited their deep passion and vision. Our main exhibits gallery is now the Cecil F. and Kathryn S. Hill Gallery. Next month, please join us in thanking Phil, Cecil and Kathy for their long-term support of the Museum at our Open House.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,
Bruce Russell



New Wooden Boat Launched!

A 15-foot wooden boat was launched on January 25, 2017, marking the completion of this volunteer project at the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum's boat shop. The boat was built from plans for a Chesapeake Bay skiff, taken from a *Mechanics Illustrated* magazine, circa 1955. The article begins with, "When the soft southerly breezes blowing on your fevered brow and the moist, salty tang of marshes tingle in your nostrils make you long to get out on the water, then, Brother, the bug has bitten you and it's time to consider building a boat. Chessy is just the ticket...". The volunteers quickly "got the bug", meeting weekly to work through the detailed drawings.

The plans call for cedar and oak construction, with galvanized nails for assembly, but some substitutions were made by the museum volunteer builders. Poplar boards replaced cedar for the boat side planks, as long, wide and clear planks are much harder to find now, and decking screws provide much more strength and corrosion resistance, compared to nails. Some plywood was substituted for boards used in seats and the boat bottom, as well.

There were exciting times as wood popped and groaned under the stresses of assembly, but the plans proved to be accurate and the boat came together as promised. While the plans were quite specific, the museum builders were often skeptical that wood could be convinced to bend and twist in the way the instructions suggested. With the wood work, painting and engine testing complete after about a year of once-a-week sessions, the boat was ready to launch. An unseasonably warm day in January provided the opportunity.

As the original design is for Chesapeake Bay use in crabbing and for pleasure, she is a good fit for motoring out to the Susquehanna Flats to sample the aquatic vegetation and water quality, tasks proposed by the museum's Environmental Center. It is safe to say that the promise made in the 1955 "Build Chessy" article that you can get bitten by the bug to build a boat has proved correct. Even after more than 60 years, the collection of museum volunteers has found this project to have been an incredibly rewarding experience, rich in camaraderie, local history and the gratification of making a functional wooden vessel by hand.



Our Newest Members, cont.

Edward Crutchfield &
Nancy Ray
Joyce Simmons
James & Nicoletta Comas
Laura & John Haug
Joe & Sara Kochenderfer
Carol Allen
Pamela Wexler
Mary Ward
Henry & Mary Bradley
Carol & John Zimmerman
Shonn & Barbara Moore
Bruce Pringle & Family
Dennis & Nancy Bolen
Henry & Barbara Hoffman

Get Social

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

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Email:
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Website:
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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

Coming Up This Spring...

Annual Open House
April 9, from 1-5 PM

Maryland's Geology: A Lecture with Martin Schmidt
April 11, at 7 PM

Paws for People Training Sessions
April 12 & 26, from 4-7 PM

River Sweep/Earth Day
April 22, at 9 AM

MD Boating Safety Course
April 29 & 30, from 9 AM - 1 PM

Environmental Center's Earth Day
April 29, from 10 AM - 1 PM

Antarctica Lecture with Shonn Moore
May 4, at 7 PM

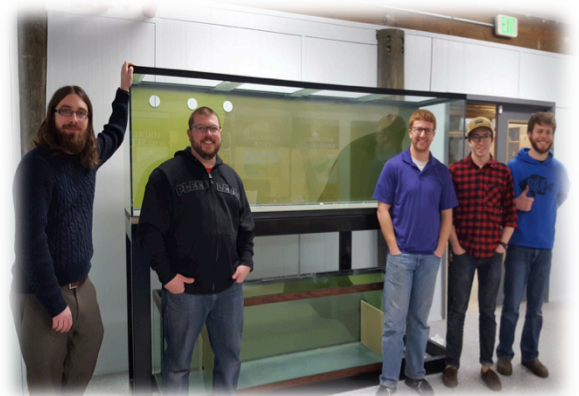
Annual Garden Mart / Native Plant Sale
May 13 & 14, from 10 AM - 6 PM

How to Read Nautical Charts
May 20, from 9 AM - 1 PM

Environmental Center Programs

Sarah, the newly hired Environmental Center Director, is excited to be here and see the Environmental Center's progress to its full potential. Sarah has always enjoyed the outdoors and spending time looking at the clouds, but she truly became inspired through her studies at the University of Delaware as a Wildlife Conservation major. She gained experience while traveling abroad to South America, working for the National Parks Service on the West Coast, researching waterfowl with the Fish and Wildlife Service, and most recently educating middle school students in an outdoor setting at North Bay Education in Cecil County. Besides focusing her efforts on getting the Environmental Center off the ground, Sarah enjoys bird watching, going on jogs along the promenade, practicing yoga, pretending to know how to fly fish, and hiking around public land. Sarah, a Havre de Grace resident, was also a volunteer at the Museum before becoming the Environmental Center's Director.

Since January, Sarah's main efforts have involved getting the word out there about the Center. Sarah has been working on marketing, advertising, and meeting with members of the community to share the news about the newly finished and renovated Environmental Center. She has developed a two-week session summer camp program that is targeted towards youth and is eager to get kids in the Center! She also concentrating on planning out the wetland restoration efforts part of the Center's 4.8-acre property, as well as developing the early stages of the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation research that will be taking place this June. There are many more updates on the Center to come, so do your part to stay informed and promote it as well! You can check out the Environmental Center on the Museum's website, as well as following it on Facebook @[envirocenterathdgm](#) and Instagram @[envirocenterhdg](#)! Look us up, and follow us to stay updated!



Left: The Butterfly Garden outside the Environmental Center. **Above:** Volunteers are finishing work on the fish tank.

Annual Open House

Come meet our new directors, see our new exhibits, admire the new laboratory and main gallery signage, and hear about our plans at our Open House on Sunday, April 9th from 1-5PM. Free admission to the public, with refreshments served.