

Before The Mast

News From The Richardson Maritime Museum

www.richardsonmuseum.org

March 2006



“Master Boatbuilder”
by George Wright

Gateways Network Funds New Museum Displays



The Richardson Maritime Museum has expanded and improved its interpretive displays and signage, thanks to a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network.

Interpretive panels throughout the Museum now give visitors better insight into the boatbuilding heritage of Dorchester County. New individual exhibit labels provide information about items in the collection. In addition, a wayside panel will welcome passersby to the Museum and invite them to come inside.

The panels were designed by Cyndy Carrington Miller to present an overview of boatbuilding in the area. They include explanations of why the county was ideal for the industry, descriptions of the various vessels unique to the Bay, spotlights on selected boatbuilding families, and stories of men and women who have used the boats to make their living on the water.

The new displays were unveiled at a Second Saturday event, held in conjunction with Cambridge's monthly open house for downtown shops. The Museum invited individuals whose stories are told in the interpretive panels to a reception, where they shared their stories in person.

George Wheatly described surviving the Skipjack Disaster of 1939. Theodore Cephus shared tales of sailing with Capt. Orville Parks on the skipjack *Rosie Parks*. Mary Parks Harding was there, representing her father, noted shipbuilder Bronza Parks. Bronza not only built the *Rosie Parks*, but also the *Lady Katie*, whose owner, Capt. Scott Todd, also attended the event.

Numerous other individuals were present whose names, photos or stories appear in the panels, creating an unforgettable evening of living history.

We welcome you to visit the Museum and allow these new exhibits to bring our maritime heritage alive for you, too. ⚓

*Dedicated to James B. “Mr. Jim” Richardson
and the Unique Wooden Boatbuilding Heritage of
Maryland’s Eastern Shore*

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Photo by Sue Haupt, Daily Banner

Living History: left to right, Capt. Scott Todd, Skipjack Disaster survivor George Wheatley, Cambridge City Council President Gil Cephus and his uncle, Capt. Theodore Cephus, and Mary Parks Harding, daughter of Bronza Parks.



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Before The Mast

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401 High Street
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410-221-1871

Web Site: www.richardsonmuseum.org
email: info@richardsonmuseum.org

Editor: Cyndy Carrington Miller
Contributing Writer: Pat Murphy
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by Dave Linthicum

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“Steady As She Goes...”

This traditional helmsman's instruction, for the sail crew coming on watch, is simple, but charged with meaning and guidance. By it, all hands know the ship is on course and trimmed for prevailing conditions. Moreover, it conveys the implicit expectation that the fresh crew are capable of, and will take, necessary action to ensure the vessel stays destination bound.

The analogy is appropriate for the various preparations and adjustments underway at the Richardson Maritime Museum to ensure that we stay on course in meeting our near- and long-term objectives. As indicated by the accompanying articles, we are stepping up the pace of goal-oriented actions in the areas of administration, volunteer recruitment and training (from docents and boatwrights to new board members,) exhibits presentation, youth programs, vintage boat restoration and, of course, funding for these efforts, through special events, membership drives, annual support appeals, etc.

We invite all members, other interested individuals, community groups and businesses to join us on this voyage into the future, with the mission of “Putting History on the Water.”

—Frank Newton



Raffle Winners

Patti Foxwell of East New Market and Michael Huntman of Hurlock shared the \$15,000 prize in the latest Richardson Maritime Museum Raffle.

We congratulate them and thank all who supported our efforts by purchasing and selling tickets.

In Brief:

Christmas Balls Still Available:

A few of the 2005 limited edition Richardson Maritime Museum Christmas balls are still available. Please call the office at 410-221-1871 to reserve yours before they are gone.

Mark Your Calendars:

May 13 & 14: Creekside Boat Show at the Boatworks. For more information, contact Toby Frey at 410-725-1781.
May 13: Heritage Day at the Museum. For more information, contact Pat Murphy at 410-221-1871.



It has been a while since the last issue of *Before The Mast*, partly because of changes in the crew. One of the issues we struggle with is how to tell you about all the exciting things we are doing and all the wonderful new people who are getting involved with the organization, without it appearing as if the place is in utter chaos.

While at times, the chaos may, indeed, be there, it is only a sign of our growth and development. Just about any nonprofit organization dependent on limited funds and volunteers goes through the same sense of chaos as it matures.

There are times when we wonder how in the world we are going to get there—wherever “there” is on a particular day. But ultimately it is the people—our “crew”—who make the difference to our success.

Since the last issue, we have had some significant staff changes. Museum Administrator **Cyndy Carrington Miller** has relinquished her title and day-to-day involvement in operations, but continues to be available for special projects, including designing the new exhibit panels and producing this newsletter.

Executive Assistant **Melissa Spielman** only stayed with us a short time before choosing to move on to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. Taking her place at the office, we welcome **Marc Bramble**, who is reconstituting the administrative area following Cyndy and Melissa’s departures.

Providing dedicated focus for the first time on volunteer issues is **Pat Murphy**. Coming to us through the Volunteer Maryland program, Pat serves as our Volunteer Maryland Coordinator, addressing the critical needs of volunteer recruitment, training and retention. (See story on page 4.)

A new year also brings changes to the Board of Trustees and Officers of the James B. Richardson Foundation. **Herm Kramer** takes over as Secretary from **Robert Richardson**.

Melvin Hickman and **Rufus Todd** have joined the Board of Trustees. Melvin was formerly the Curator of the Museum and helped to build the skipjack *Nathan of Dorchester*, bringing experience to the Board that will serve both the Museum and the Boatworks.

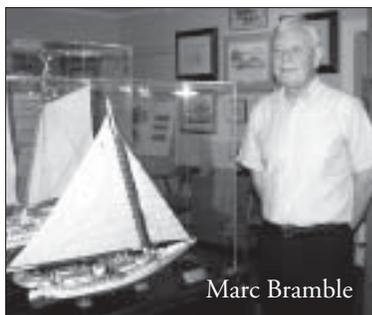
Rufus has his own connection to the organization. The dovetail currently being restored at the Boatworks was originally built by his father, Reese Todd, at Shorters Wharf in Dorchester County.

George Apple, Valerie Brown and **Scott Tompkins** have stepped down from the Board and we thank them for all the support they provided to the organization during their terms.

Back at the Boatworks, helping out on the dovetail work are new volunteers **Bob Buczek, Earl Gaugh, Mike Moore** and **Paul Wolfert**. You may remember Earl as the owner of the first boat to be built at the Boatworks, a Ruark Fishing Skiff. He helped build his own boat and is now back at the Boatworks working on other projects for us.

We welcome all these new faces and invite you to join our exciting, growing and, yes, sometimes chaotic organization as we work together to keep alive the spirit of wooden boatbuilding.

This is truly an organization where one person can—and usually does—make a difference. There is a lot happening this year, exciting events and projects as well as serious challenges. Make a difference. Join the crew! ⚓



Marc Bramble



Photo by Michael Moore

Have Tools, Will Travel

Boatworks volunteers recently helped out **Captain Ed Farley** in his efforts to restore an 83-year-old Delaware oyster schooner, the *Kathryn M. Lee*. Ed is working on the vessel near Rock Hall and needed assistance in building a steam box, and steaming and installing an 18-foot, two-inch thick plank, which you see above about to be steamed.

Frank Newton, Ken Guelta, Mike Moore and **Bo Nelson** spent a day helping Capt. Farley and **Jimmy Smith** get the plank steamed and in place. We look forward to seeing the ship once again under sail. ⚓



She's Looking For A Few Good Men (And Women, Too!)



Pat Murphy

The Richardson Maritime Museum has been honored to receive the services of a Volunteer Maryland Coordinator through the Volunteer Maryland program.

Pat Murphy has been working with us since September, focusing her efforts on the recruitment, training and retention of those all-important volunteers, without whom the organization would not exist.

Mr. Jim's Birthday Party

Immediately after joining us, she stepped off the dock into the deep end of Cambridge Creek by taking on our annual volunteer recognition event, Mr. Jim's Birthday Party, held December 8th at the Boatworks.

Working with Marc Bramble and Paul Myers, she pulled together an evening of food, music and appreciation for another year of hard work by our volunteers.

While each of our volunteers is vital to the organization, some always stand out for extraordinary service and are singled out for special recognition at the party. For 2005, Richardson Maritime Museum Volunteer Awards were presented to Dan Cada and Tom Gasper; Ruark Boatworks Volunteer Awards went to Bob Buczek, Ken Guelta and Ray Henderson; and Herm Kramer and Roger Pfof received the Mr. Jim Outstanding Service Awards.



Volunteer Award recipient Tom Gasper with a volunteer-to-be, his daughter Hannah.

Businesses and organizations that have donated services were not forgotten during the event. Receiving certificates of appreciation were Dorchester Garden Club, E.S. Hubbert & Son, Victor MacSorley Construction, Sailwinds Park and Thomas Funeral Home.

Meeting the Recruitment Challenge

Recognition of volunteers is important in keeping them interested and excited about participating, but recruiting them in the first place can be a real challenge, especially when there are numerous organizations in a community all vying for the same core group of hard-working individuals.

Pat is doing her best to add some new faces to the mix. She has written volunteer recruitment pieces for local publications and has been working with the Dorchester County Museums & Attractions group to come up with strategies to encourage new volunteers for all the organizations. Her efforts have begun to bear fruit, and the Museum just held its first Volunteer Orientation Session for individuals who have expressed interest in working with us.

Finally, a volunteer without training can end up floundering around wondering what he or she is supposed to be doing. Putting together an informative and enjoyable training program will be on Pat's agenda for this year.

To join the fun and hear about the wide array of volunteer opportunities, call Pat at 410-221-1871 or email pmurphy@richardsonmuseum.org.

Thanks To Those Who Donated Door Prizes & Volunteer Gifts For Mr. Jim's Birthday Party

Ace Hardware
Bay Country Bakery
Benedict The Florist
Jane Brighton
Canvasback Restaurant
China Buffet
Especially For You
Europa Salon & Spa
Flowers & Things
Heckler Motor Parts
Ray Henderson

J. C. Penney Hair Salon
Nail Designz
Ocean Odyssey
Pear Street South
Pizza Palace
Portside Restaurant
Sandra's Gift Shop
Sherwin Williams
Tidewater Inn
Wright's Art & Framing

Coming Attractions

The Museum will celebrate **Heritage Day on May 13**, in conjunction with other museums and attractions in Dorchester County. We are planning a fun, family event with kids' activities, book signings, poetry readings, food and music. Call Pat for info: 410-221-1871.

Then head over to the Boatworks for our **Creekside Boat Show, May 13 & 14**. See the latest boats and products from area boatbuilders and supply companies, along with lots of food and fun. Call Toby Frey at 410-725-1781 for more information on this special event.



Dan Cada

by Pat Murphy

What makes a farm boy from Nebraska a perfect volunteer for the Richardson Maritime Museum and Boatworks? Well, for starters, farming and hard work are synonymous. So Dan Cada is not one to shrink from the task at hand, be it removing years of stored “junk” from the Museum’s top floor, spraying weeds or joining a Saturday morning cleanup crew.

His younger years cultivated in Dan both resourcefulness and a lifelong love for woodworking, to our gain. In the bright, inviting woodworking shop that he built for himself, he has made exhibit stands for the Museum as well as the big sliding doors at the Boatworks.

Dan has also made many administrative contributions to the Museum, chairing the first Board of Trustees and helping with a major revision of the Bylaws. How did he come to be qualified for such diverse roles?

For Dan Cada, it has been a journey rich in experience and aided by mentors. With an engineering degree from the University of Nebraska, he joined the Navy Mine Defense Laboratory in Panama City, Florida. This was hands-on engineering, with a soldering gun close by. Two years later, a mentor encouraged him to move ahead by moving north to Washington, DC. He and his wife, Marcia, did just that and for ten years, his focus was defense equipment procurement.

Then came a new opportunity. Would he join a team charged with designing a new class of naval cruisers? Dan entered the field of project management and he loved it. No doubt, that experience aided him years later when he, Frank Newton and others designed governing documents for the James B. Richardson Foundation, providing structure and momentum to our founders’ vision.

Dan’s next promotion was to an office in the AEGIS Ship Building Program, which would oversee construction and delivery of the ships he had helped design. As a designated project, Dan says it “enjoyed a certain autonomy,”

but that also increased his responsibility and accountability. Dan established bonus incentives, regular meetings with contractors and an open accounting system, building trust and respect for all parties. Consequently, he was a natural choice to coordinate the project when the Museum’s High Street building underwent remodeling in 2004.



A valued volunteer at the Museum and Boatworks, Dan Cada also volunteers with the Dorchester Skipjack Committee, where he serves as a First Mate on the skipjack *Nathan of Dorchester*.

Dan’s final assignment as the Program’s Chief Information Officer was to help design information systems for exchanging drawings between users, coordinating a group with participants from the Army, Navy and Air Force. Access to accurate documents was essential for maintenance of the ships. This info-trafficking prepared him for handling details on zoning and environmental issues for the Boatworks property.

Upon retirement in 1995, Dan and his family settled on the Eastern Shore where, during earlier visits, he had watched the skipjack *Nathan of Dorchester* take shape at Generation III boatyard. Marcia fit in perfectly with local quilting groups.

Initially, Dan joined the Neck District Volunteer Fire Department, serving for nine years. During that time, he began his affiliation with the Museum. He is also active in the Cambridge Sail & Power Squadron. His latest achievement is earning a General Class Ham Radio License. Reception comes through a wire tossed up into a tree. “At 60 feet, I could reach Europe,” he laughs. Dan’s story proves it is the same with our lives. The higher you set your sights, the further you will go. His prospects for the Museum? More opportunities for visitors to watch and participate in small boat construction. Perhaps even sailing lessons on one of our own vessels someday.

Sound inviting? Maybe you have been feeling an urge to volunteer at the Richardson Maritime Museum & Boatworks. Opportunities are here. In addition, you will meet skilled and interesting people—people like Dan Cada. They make good mentors themselves. ⚓



BUILD A BOAT PROGRAM

Boatworks volunteers are working with the Dorchester County Department of Juvenile Services to provide opportunities for youths in its program to learn woodworking skills by building boats. Last season, four DJS teens spent three days building one of our 16-foot pulling skiffs, and more youngsters will participate again this year.

The Museum was honored at a Dorchester Juvenile Drug Court Appreciation Ceremony for its partnership with the agency in support of local youths. The skiff that had been built was on display at the event, along with photos of the kids at work. ⚓



Photo by Stella Round

Frank Newton, left, and Ray Henderson, right rear, supervise as Robert Barnett, Adrien Keene, Angel Creighton and Tyrell Merritt build their boat.

SUSSEX ACADEMY VISIT

A lively group of students from Sussex Academy in Seaford, Delaware, paid a visit to the Museum and Boatworks to do research on model boats that they were building. Their project was for each to choose a type of vessel and build a model demonstrating the individual design's form and function.

The eighth graders selected boats ranging from submarines to sailing vessels and were able to review their choices and get advice from Boatworks volunteers. Former Museum President Jack Sammons later had a follow-up session with the class in Seaford. ⚓

KALMAR NYCKEL RECEPTION

Our reception last year to welcome the tall ship *Kalmar Nyckel* on her first visit to the port of Cambridge was a great success. Guests at this exclusive reception were treated to a delicious dockside buffet, nautical tunes by the *Kalmar Nyckel's* own troupe of singers, and an opportunity to purchase some great items during a live auction. The evening was topped off with a sunset sail aboard the ship.

We thank all those who supported this event through their ticket purchases, sponsorships and auction donations, and look forward to welcoming the ship back to Cambridge again this year. ⚓



Photo by Hubert Wright

Following the dockside reception, guests were treated to a sunset sail aboard the *Kalmar Nyckel*. Here they help the crew raise the sails.

SECOND SATURDAYS

The Museum continues to participate in Cambridge Main Street's Second Saturday activities, staying open into the evening each second Saturday of the month. Each month has a different theme and activities for both kids and adults.

Poet Fred Pomeroy shared his watermen's poetry at one event. Carolers regaled guests during the holidays and student musicians played for Valentine's Day. Kids' crafts are a regular feature. Planned for upcoming Second Saturdays are a portrait artist, classical guitarist and even gardening tips.

Volunteers are needed to help during the events, including bakers for complimentary treats and individuals to help supervise the kids' activities. Even one or two Saturdays would be a help - it need not be a regular commitment of time.

Please call Pat at 410-221-1871 if you would like to join the fun. ⚓



Illustration by Stephen Johnson
Courtesy of the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

NATHAN FOUNDATION DONATION

We thank the Nathan Foundation for its very generous donation to fund the much-needed painting of the windows and trim on the Museum on High Street.

The Nathan Foundation has been there when we needed them on more than one occasion and was one of the Museum's founding contributors. Look for the results of their support later on this summer. ☀



Frank Newton, left, and Paul Myers, right, accept the contribution from the Nathan Foundation's Russell Baker.

We thank all of our generous members and contributors, but out of respect for their privacy, we do not list them in the website version of our newsletter.



The James B. Richardson Foundation, Inc. is a proud partner of the Leave A Legacy® program.

For information on how you can make a contribution to the Richardson Maritime Museum through a bequest or planned giving, contact the Mid-Shore Community Foundation at 410-820-8175.

2006 Annual Support Drive

Your contribution allows kids to build boats and keeps the vessels unique to the Bay alive and on the water. Thank you for your generous support!



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|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | _____ |

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Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

I would like to volunteer!
Please contact me with information.

Mail to:
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P.O. Box 1198
Cambridge, MD 21613

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