

Cape May Maritime Museum and Education Center

“Preserving our Maritime Heritage”

Newsletter

Spring 2014

Maritime Museum Update:



The NJ DEP CAFRA Application for a Land Use Permit to reconstruct the historic and beautifully architected **1876 Centennial Life Saving Station and Park** at the Old Steamboat Landing Site (Higbee Beach Wildlife Management Area) **has been approved**. In addition to the Station; much needed parking will be added, dunes will be restored, nature trails added; as well as portable rest room facilities. The Maritime Museum is planning to begin construction prior to 2015; the 100 YEAR Anniversary of the Life Saving Service evolving into the modern U.S. Coast

Guard.

We continue to receive support from our Local Leaders, NJ DEP Fish & Wildlife Superintendent, Dave Golden, Site Surveyors/Planners @ Thomas*Amey*Shaw, Architect LWDMMR, CM Bird Observatory's Mike Cerew, the Neighboring Hume Family, the U.S. Coast Guard, Star & Wave, Exit 0, and our local community members & visitors.

A **“Friends of the 1876 Life Saving Station and Park”** Committee is being established to help plan and finance the re-creation of this important part of our local heritage. The proposed site is near the original Life Saving Station #40 location (see map below).

Norris Clark and the Bay Shore Heritage Byway are proposing to include this important part of our history on the trail. Township of Lower Council formally approved supporting the reconstruction project and have written a letter of endorsement. Other endorsement letters include U.S. Congressman Frank LoBiondo, NJ State Senator Van Drew, the Hume Family (Neighbors) and USCG Historian's Office Director, Dr.

William Thiesen. Cape May County Freeholders passed a resolution in support of the project!

If you would like to learn more, volunteer or make a contribution please email info@capemaymaritimemuseum.org or call (609) 412-1250 or visit our WEB Site www.capemaymaritimemuseum.org or land mail PO Box 399 Cape May, NJ 08204





CG36538: Dr. William (Bill) Thiesen; Director U.S. Coast Guard Historians Foundation has been instrumental in the Maritime Museum's acquisition of U.S. Coast Guard Motor Life Boat CG36538. Boat Hauler Bob Smizer transported the boat from the Cheatham Virginia Naval Weapons and Warehouse to Cape May. She will be temporarily located at the Bree-Zee-Lee Marina across from the U.S. Coast Guard TRACEN (Thanks Harry!). The Maritime Museum is planning to restore this very impressive part of our Coast Guard's heritage. Of the 228 built at Curtis Bay, MD only a few remain. CG36538 was operational in Ocean City, Cape May County, NJ in the mid 1950's. Maritime Museum Metal Shipwright Volunteer Wayne Whalen will be joining George Loos; Director of Boat Building in this challenging restoration effort!

These Motor Life Boats were powered by GM 471 diesel engines. Eckel's Diesel Marine in Rio Grande has volunteered the labor to rebuild and install the engine. These very seaworthy boats were self bailing and self righting. (pictured is fully restored 36' Motor Life Boat).



Monomoy Boat Restoration: George Loos continues to make great progress in the restoration of the Maritime Museum's Monomoy Boat Restoration at the Workshop on Sunset Blvd in Cape May. George is joined by regulars Ron Heron, Paul Hurd, Dan Laughlin and Ed Johnson. A number of US Coast Guard Staff men and women have also joined in the restoration effort. All new ribs were steamed and installed. Chuck Prichard provided the copper rivets and use of his planner. Maritime Museum Board Member Brian Sullivan is storing material and also

providing the use of his workshop. Our good friend Commander Timothy Dring (US Navy Ret) continues to provide guidance in the faithful execution of the Monomoy Boat Restoration and the Centennial Life Saving Station Reconstruction. Detailed Drawings of the original boats are on display. The boat will be used for re-enactments and display at the 1876 Life Saving Station and Park. (Photo is #5's Sister at the Overfall's Foundation in Delaware)

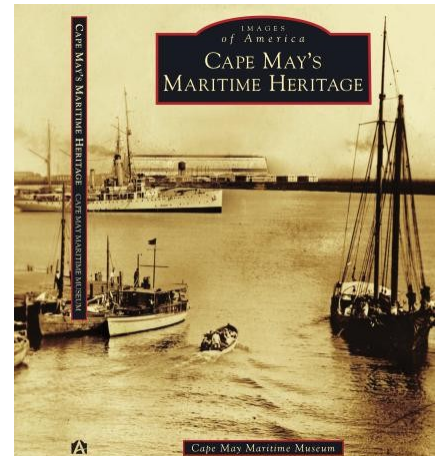
Villas Librarian, Local Maritime Subject Matter Expert and Cape May Maritime Museum Director of Research; Ed Carson continues to provide interesting displays to highlight our rich maritime heritage. Check out the display case at the rear of the Library.



The Youth Boat Building Outreach Program: Construction of the ‘St-Ayle’s’ Scottish Designed Skiff at Lower Cape Regional High School continues! Teacher; Mathew Suter is providing the instruction to the Student Apprentices with support from Superintendent of Schools Christopher Kobik and Director of Curriculum Joe Castellucci. The Maritime Museum provided the financing for the first Kit; which includes the plans, mold and materials. Maritime Museum’s Director of Boat Building and Restoration George Loos with his team

are providing the Technical Guidance in building this beautiful wooden boat.

The Book we are writing; entitled “Cape May County’s Maritime Heritage” is in it’s final draft and is being submitted to Arcadia Publishing; with a projected publishing date scheduled for the Summer of 2014. Maritime Museum Administrative Director, Sandy Maloney completed the book with terrific support from Scott Griffith (Thank You Sandy & Scott!). The book is a result of extensive research and interviews with local families and historians. The influences of war, weather (hurricanes), economic opportunity (rum running), commercial fishing, recreation, technological advances in boat building, transportation and communications. A fascinating look at the shipwrecks off our shore is also included.



Special Thanks to our Members, Volunteers, Township of Lower Council Mayor Beck, Deputy Mayor Clark, Councilmen Conrad, Neville & Simonsen, former Councilman Douglass; as well as Manager Michael Voll who continue to offer terrific support to the Maritime Museum.

Thanks also to our Local Reporters who continue to be generous and supportive; especially Jason Black at Exit 0, Cape May Star & Wave’s Jack Fichter, Rich Degener at the Atlantic City Press and Mary Linehan of the Gazette.

Should you have any comments, questions or simply would like to know more about a particular activity please contact Kevin Maloney, President @ (609) 412-1250 **Fair Winds!**