



Fo'c'sle News

Newsletter of the Hudson River Maritime Museum
50 Rondout Landing, Kingston, NY 12401 | www.hrmm.org | 845-338-0071

The Modeler's Craft An artisan's view of Hudson River Boats

There is something special about building a scale model of a boat. Perhaps that is because boats represent eons of efforts to seek harmony between form and function. Or perhaps it's because boats have been vital to peopling the world, commerce, conflict, and pleasure. Kenneth Grahame sums it up best in "The Wind in the Willows" quote: "There is nothing - absolutely nothing - half so much worth doing as simply messing about in *boats*."



Model boats are our attempt to capture the skill of building boats, the beauty of the design of a boat, and the implied experience of time spent on a boat - all in miniature. They allow us to experience the pleasures of a boat combined with the satisfaction of the refined skills and craftsmanship of the model builder.

The Hudson River and its boats have driven commerce and recreation for over four centuries, and during that time its boats have been captured in miniature, from the naive to a jeweler's-like craftsmanship, every bit as carefully and skillfully rendered as the full-scale originals.

In this exhibit we bring the visitor the spectrum of boat models that represent boats of the Hudson, from simple pond yachts to the largest of the Hudson River Day Line steamers, from canoes to tugs, and of course, the beautiful Hudson River sloop.

HRMM features two new model exhibits in 2017. New exhibit space was carved out of the former workshop below the Riverkeeper offices in the East Gallery for the "Charlie Niles Model Shop," seen in part at left. "The Modeler's Craft" opens on Saturday, April 29, 2017 in the museum's West Gallery.

Special Lecture - Black Mariners



On Saturday, February 4 at 2:30 pm - In honor of Black History Month, HRMM will be hosting a special lecture in the Riverport Wooden Boat School.

Dr. Craig Marin, Assistant Professor of Maritime Studies at the Sea Education Association in Woods Hole, MA will present, "Black Maritime Workers in Early America: Challenging Slavery and Shaping Freedom Then and Now," covering the history of black maritime workers from colonial America to the present.

For more information, please contact Lana Chassman at lchassman@hrmm.org or call 845-338-0071 ext. 15.

2017 Museum Hours:

OPEN Thursdays - Sundays, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm
Please check our website for any weather-related closings.

Beginning Saturday, April 29, 2017,
open 7 days/week, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm.

Show the Museum Some Love! Benefit

February is membership month at the Hudson River Maritime Museum! In 2017 we celebrate our second annual **Show the Museum Some Love** Membership Drive!

Throughout the month, HRMM will offer special gift memberships sent with exclusive Valentines and a free bumper magnet to all new members. Gift memberships can be purchased in our recently renovated Museum Store, or online at hrmm.org. Our goal is to add **100** new members to our growing community!

The membership drive culminates with a night of dinner, dancing and live music provided by **Jay Ungar and Molly Mason** and friends at Ole Savannah Southern Table & Bar, located next door to the museum in the historic Cornell Building on **Sunday, February 26**.

Meet the shipwrights leading our new education program at HRMM's Riverport Wooden Boat School, "YouthBoat," from



3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Dinner and dancing starts at 4:00 pm. **Show the Museum Some Love** benefit tickets are \$35, and include dinner as well as a Basic membership for yourself or to give as a gift. They are on sale now at www.hrmm.org!

Front Façade Renovation Nears Completion

Thanks to assistance from volunteers, the new, ADA-compliant ramp to the front entrance of the museum is nearing completion!

The former ramp, walkway, and staircase dated back to the 1950s and were becoming unsafe. In addition, the ramp and steps were not ADA-compliant. HRMM undertook this capital improvement with partial funding from the final stage of the Riverport grant, awarded by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation.

The design for the new façade, which included an awning to protect the walkway - something the former façade lacked - was donated by Jordan Valdina of Synergy Design. Contractor

Jim Nelson was hired for the concrete pouring and roof installation, while finish work details are being executed by board members Dan Proctor and Jack Weeks and volunteers Todd Frank and Art Lawrence.

The new ramp also includes a trolley platform so that those with mobility issues can more easily board the trolley run by the Trolley Museum of New York, just down the street.

Once the railings are installed and finish work is completed, the ramp will be open to the public, but in the meantime, HRMM asks that visitors, members, and volunteers continue to use the side entrance (directly across from the gazebo in the museum courtyard) to enter the museum. Thank you!



Development Dispatch

Community Foundation Grant Received

In 2016, we received funding through the Community Foundation of the Hudson Valley to complete our funding needs for the Collections Access Project. This project began at the beginning of 2016 when we hired Carla Lesh as an Assistant Curator through a Workforce Investment grant from the New York Council on the Arts to specifically focus on digitizing the museum's thousands of archival materials and therefore ensure preservation for the future and create access for all through the internet.

Over the year, more than 6,000 items were digitized and the need for a secure backup and filing process made it necessary to purchase a server system. Arts Mid-Hudson provided part

of the funds needed and the Community Foundation awarded a grant to the museum this fall to ensure we could complete the technological needs to create a secure place for the digitized collection.

Many of our digitized collections have been made available through Hudson River Valley Heritage (www.hrvh.org/hrmmkingston). You can see these images and details at any time.

Due to this effort over last year and in conjunction with our HRVH online collections, we are thrilled to announce our upcoming inaugural on-line exhibit of the Hudson River Day Line archives, which will be completed this spring.

Museum Awarded NYS Hudson River Estuary Grant

The Hudson River Maritime Museum is one of twelve New York State organizations awarded grants to help communities along the Hudson River Estuary improve river education and access. This grant program is administered through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and is part of the state's Environmental Protection Fund.

The museum, located on the historic Rondout waterfront in downtown Kingston, NY, will receive \$120,263. This funding will provide for an exciting "heritage-boat-build" project through the museum's new Riverport Wooden Boat School as well as the construction of entryways and ramps for universal access to the museum's docks. The grant also includes an

"ADA-compliant kayak and small boat launch that includes a transfer bench for wheelchair-to-craft access."

Incoming museum board President Robert Burhans and board member Jack Weeks are looking forward to the two-year grant and the documentation of key milestones in the boat's construction. The 21-foot, eight-person boat will be a traditional Hudson River design. The boat will allow the museum to conduct "on-the-water" educational programming as well as transport City of Kingston personnel and goods to the Rondout Lighthouse for maintenance work, and also will function as a safety or chase boat for the Rondout Rowing Club, Kingston Sailing Club's Youth Sailing Program and the Kingston High School Varsity Crew Team.

Burhans notes that "this access and small boat/kayak launch will further the museum's mission to provide universal community access to the Rondout Creek and the Hudson River. By working with our community partners, we can fuel the enthusiasm through social media progress reports, website posts and a "name the boat" competition. This project enables the museum to reinforce Governor Cuomo's comment about the 'Hudson River (being) one of our defining natural assets.'"

"Local Ulster County B.O.C.E.S. students, adult students and volunteers will work side-by-side with the museum's experienced corps of shipwrights to craft a vessel reminiscent of those built during the boat building heydays along this historic waterfront."

Year End Appeal

A warm-hearted thank you to everyone who supported us during the last month of the year! We know there are many worthwhile groups in our community and we appreciate your contributions. We look forward to continuing to share our efforts as we move into the new year and look forward to seeing you on site soon! **Thank you!**

We are happy to accept support all year-round, so get a head start on your 2017 taxes and help support programs throughout the year by visiting www.hrmm.org/support.

Education Update

Go Fish!

In November, the Hudson River Maritime Museum received a letter from a community member informing us that residents of the Children's Home of Kingston were interested in learning to fish but lacked fishing rods and equipment to do so. The museum normally collects winter hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves as part of an annual Mitten Tree; this year we decided to expand our call for donations to include fishing rods.

The Hudson River Fisherman's Association donated twenty-five reconditioned rods, which complemented donations made by individuals. On December 16, members of the HRFA dropped off their donation and met with Children's Home of Kingston Director of Residential Services Jay Mooers. The Fisherman's Association will offer Children's Home residents fishing lessons later this year.

Sunday Family Programs

On Sunday, January 8, the Hudson River Maritime Museum launched a new series of children's programs that will take place the second Sunday of every month. The first program was focused on ice harvesting, and included a reading of Candace Christiansen's picture book *The Ice Horse* and a science experiment investigating the effectiveness of different insulation methods on real blocks of ice.

The series will continue on **February 12** with a sailors' Valentine making workshop, **March 12** with a soap scrimshaw activity where kids can learn about the whaling industry in the Hudson Valley, and **April 9**, when kids can make model watersheds. The programs take place at 1:00 pm and are free to museum members at the household level and above, or open to the public with museum admission. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

If you would like to attend an upcoming program, please RSVP in advance to education@hrmm.org, or call 845-338-0071 x11.

Spring Field Trips

HRMM is now taking registrations for spring field trips for elementary-aged students. Schools can choose from a variety of age-appropriate programs combining hands-on



L-R: Director of Education Sarah Wassberg, Education Coordinator Rita Carr, and Wayne Gelder of the Hudson River Fishermen's Association affix donated fishing poles to the "fishing tree."

activities with museum tours, document analysis, and more. Find out more at www.hrmm.org/field-trips.

Fourth graders may also participate in the district-wide program Hudson River Stewards, which is offered by HRMM in conjunction with *Clearwater* and others. Hudson River Stewards is specifically geared toward fourth grade and includes an in-class document analysis of an 18th century travelogue PLUS an on-site field trip visit with eight rotating activities including live music, geography puzzle, and museum tours. Find out more at www.hrmm.org/hudson-river-stewards.

For more information about field trips, Hudson River Stewards, or to register, please contact Sarah Wassberg at education@hrmm.org or call 845-338-0071 ext. 16.

Curatorial Corner

Curatorial Team Gets Ducks in a Row

The Hudson River Maritime Museum has very recently received the donation of a collection of 34 wooden duck decoys from the early 20th century from the Hudson Valley and Wisconsin. The collection, to be known as the Traina-Brenzel Duck Decoy Collection, was assembled by the late Sara Traina who lived in Ossining, New York. They were presented to the museum by her son Perry Traina.

We are delighted to have these charming hand-carved artifacts of the sport of duck hunting in the Hudson Valley of the last century. A number of the ducks will be on view in the upcoming exhibit season.

The first accession of 2017, the duck decoys were carefully tagged with accession numbers, photographed, entered into the PastPerfect collections database, and put into the museum archives.



Audio Tape Digitization Project

Work is underway digitizing the HRMM audio tape collection. There are over eighty cassette tapes from the 1980s and 1990s in the collection. Oral histories with Hudson River Commercial Fishermen recorded during this time period will be added to the Hudson River Valley Heritage website www.hrvh.org/hrmmkingston.

Sheet music from the HRMM archives of "The Alida Waltz" and "The Francis Skiddy Polka" was played on a nineteenth century piano and captured on cassette tape, which

has also been digitized. An array of Hudson River related sounds were recorded including steamboat sounds from a trip with Donald C. Ringwald on the Hudson River Day Line steamer *Alexander Hamilton*, sounds of a foghorn and steam whistles. Lecture topics from earlier HRMM lecture series include boatbuilding, brickmaking, ice boating, and Kingston Point Park among other topics. All cassette tapes will be digitized by the end of the year.



www.hmmm.org or 845-338-0071 ext. 16 to register

Build Your Own Guitar

Sundays, February 5 - March 26, 2017
10 am to 4 pm each Sunday

Join experienced woodworker and luthier Bill Sterling in this start-to-finish guitar kit build, which includes everything but the tuners and strings. Sterling builds all the kits himself, out of top-quality materials and parts. Beginners are welcome.

Bill Sterling is a retired art teacher with 30 years experience. He has been building guitars for 10 years and teaching guitar building for three years. He studied with Dave Nichols at Custom Pearl Inlay in Malone, NY.



Riverport Women's Sailing Conference

The first Riverport Women's Sailing Conference will be held on March 25 at the Riverport Wooden Boat School, Hudson River Maritime Museum, 50 Rondout Landing, Kingston.

Modeled on the National Women's Sailing Conference, which has endorsed this project, beginner and advanced women sailors can expect a full day of hands-on and workshop classes taught by experienced women sailors to women students.

Courses include beginning sailing and basic seamanship; advanced racing starts; river cruising, navigation, anchoring and safety around larger commercial vessels; buying your first boat and spring boat prep; basic diesel engine systems and maritime electrical systems; boat organization; sail care and more.

Saturday, March 25, 2017

Riverport Wooden Boat School
Hudson River Maritime Museum
50 Rondout Landing
Kingston, NY 12401

This conference is organized by Cruise Committee Chair Deborah Medenbach and Race Committee Chair Jody Taffet Sterling of the Kingston Sailing Club. Registration is limited to 60 participants. **Register by March 11.** Sailors from out of area are welcome and special hotel rates have been secured at the Best Western Plus.

Registration is \$65; \$60 for HRMM members. Lunch is included. For class list, instructor bios, accommodation information, and to **register, visit www.hrmm.org/sailing-conference.**

For course questions, call Deb Medenbach, 845-706-7716 or Jody Taffet Sterling, 845-399-9229.

Shipwreck Symposium - May 20, 2017

The Hudson River Maritime Museum is seeking academic papers and presentations for its 2017 Shipwreck Symposium, to be held on Saturday, May 20 in Kingston, NY.

The Shipwreck Symposium will feature academic panels, safety demonstrations, and technology demonstrations or diving demonstrations focusing on the submerged maritime history of the Hudson River in New York State. The goal of Shipwreck Symposium is to educate the public on the rich history of the river bed and the threats these historical resources face.

Recent sonar imaging of the Hudson River bed has revealed images of the submerged objects, allowing researchers to describe their structure and likely origin, and integrating the submerged record into the known history of the Hudson River. These shipwrecks and other submerged resources in the Hudson have great historical value, and some sites have national and international significance. The Hudson River may have one of the oldest and best preserved collections of submerged historic resources in North America due to the strategic location of the river and its four-century role in European exploration and American expansion. Once one of the world's busiest water highways, the Hudson River has been witness to exploration, colonization, wars, immigration and invention. In spite of dredging for shipping channels and periodic anchoring, these submerged resources are often left undisturbed.



Papers, panels and demonstrations should address the unique and important history of the Hudson River and its submerged historic resources.

Topics of interest

- Laws governing submerged maritime history
- Diving or technical demonstrations
- Archaeological studies
- Threats to submerged resources
- Traveling exhibits

The deadline to submit abstracts is March 3, 2017. To submit your abstract, email to conference@hrmm.org Abstracts should include a one-page CV.

Volunteer Holiday Thank You Luncheon

On December 14, 2016 HRMM hosted its annual Volunteer Holiday Thank You Luncheon. Catered by Ole Savannah, and the board and staff of HRMM, over 50 volunteers gathered together in the museum's East Gallery for a fine lunch.

The luncheon was not only an opportunity for the museum Board of Trustees and staff to give a big thank you to all of our dedicated and hard-working volunteers, but also for volunteers to meet one another, sometimes for the first time. Many of our volunteers, like those who work in the museum store, archives, or help with education programs, don't always get a chance to work in large groups, so it was great to get everyone together all in one room!



Volunteers Needed - Programs & Events

For the 2017 season HRMM is seeking volunteers to assist with education programs and events. We need volunteers for the following:

- **Elementary school programs**, including Sunday Family programs, in-school document analysis programs, and field trips.
- **Adult programs**, including car tours and walking tours, lectures, and group tours.
- **YouthBoat after school program** mentors
- **Events**, including distributing flyers, preparation and setup, staffing information booths, leading children's activities, and end-of-day clean-up.

- **Museum store** after April 28.

Full training with complete volunteer manual will be provided.

Interested? Complete a volunteer application online at www.hrmm.org/volunteer and come to our

Volunteer Orientation
Wednesday, February 15
at 11:00 am at the Museum

Please RSVP to volunteer@hrmm.org or call 845-338-0071 ext. 11.

Intro to Drawing

Tuesdays, Feb. 21 - March 28
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

If you can write, you can draw! Perfect for beginners, this class teaches the basics of drawing. Take the plunge and join instructor Cynthia Frary for a fun, no pressure drawing adventure and go home with new skills!

Intro to Painting

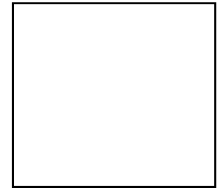
Tuesdays, Feb. 21 - March 28
10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Like to draw? Learn to paint! This watercolor course is designed for students who have completed the "Intro to Drawing" course or those who have some drawing experience. Learn watercolor techniques and develop your own unique style.

www.hrmm.org or 845-338-0071 ext. 16 to register



Hudson River Maritime Museum
50 Rondout Landing
Kingston, NY 12401



Mark Your Calendars for 2017

Saturday, February 4 - Black History Month Lecture with Craig Marin, 2:30 pm. Free for members.

Sunday, February 12 - Sunday Family Program - Sailors' Valentines. Free for members.

Sunday, February 26 - Show the Museum Some Love Benefit with Jay Ungar, Molly Mason, and friends. Tickets \$35.

Sunday, March 12 - Sunday Family Program - Whaling on the Hudson. Free for members.

Saturday, March 25 - Women's Sailing Conference. \$65, \$60 for HRMM members.

Sunday, April 9 - Sunday Family Program - Watersheds. Free for members.

Saturday, April 29 - New exhibits open and museum returns to 7-day schedule

Wednesday, May 3 - Lecture Series returns with Ulster

County Historian Geoffrey Miller, 7:00 pm. Free for members.

Saturday & Sunday, May 6 & 7 - Meet the Museums. Free.

Saturday, May 13 - Cement Industry Tour

Saturday, May 20 - Shipwreck Symposium

Saturday, June 3 - D&H Canal Tour

Saturday, June 24 - Hudson River Day and First Annual Hudson River Boatbuilding Challenge

Saturday & Sunday, August 19 & 20 - Antique & Classic Boats Show and Parade

Saturday, September 23 - Pilot Club Gala

Saturday, September 30 - D&H Canal Tour

For more info on these and other events, please visit www.hrmm.org/events.