

# SHIPWAYS



LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN MARITIME MUSEUM

SPRING 2008

## ON THE WEB AT:

[www.lpbmaritimemuseum.org](http://www.lpbmaritimemuseum.org)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<b>STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES FOR 2007</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>THE TCHEFUNCTE RIVER LIGHTHOUSE</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>NEW EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>SOUTHEASTERN CORNER</b>	<b>4</b>

## COMING EVENTS:

- **June 18- New Madisonville Library Public Meeting at LPBMM**
- **June 20 and 26- Trial EcoTour with Southeastern Faculty**
- **July 15-20- Be a Kid Again, \$3 adult admission**
- **August 2- Pirogue in a day, boat building class**
- **August 8- LPBMM Celebrates National Lighthouse Day**
- **October 17- Maritime Mania Party**
- **October 18 and 19- Wooden Boat Festival**

Call (985)845- 9200 for details on listed events

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

A new year brings new challenges. In 2008 the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum will be refocusing its energies, pushing forward to satisfy existing commitments while pursuing new opportunities for cooperative action.

The successes of 2007 show how far our organization has come and can go. The 2007 Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival was one our most successful thanks to the efforts of event Chairperson Trilby Lenfant, Coordinator Debbie Bresler, and all of the volunteers and staff members who supported the Museum's largest fundraiser. Sadly, Trilby has since retired from the position of Festival Chairperson and from the LPBMM Board to pursue other opportunities. She departs with

our gratitude for her service.

Other departures in 2007 included Interim Executive Director Nixon Adams and Creative Director David Carambat. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

New staff hired in 2007 include Executive Director Dr. Jay Martin, Administrative Assistant Melanie Waddell, and Educator Kristen Garcia. Together with our dedicated Board of Directors and volunteers, this group concentrated on a reorganization that has already begun to show positive results.

As always, we appreciate the support of the Town of Madisonville, Southeastern Louisiana University, and the many

sponsoring businesses and individuals. This continued support will be critical to meet the ambitious goals set for 2008. When met, these goals will mean visible progress in the stabilization, interpretation, and restoration of the Tchefuncte Lighthouse, new educational programs for children and families, improved and reliable facilities, and the ability to achieve accreditation by the American Association of Museums.

With your continued help, we expect 2008 to bring greater achievements for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum. Thank you for your support.

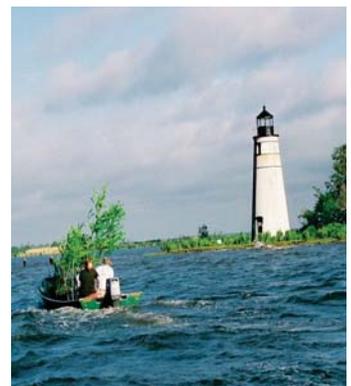
Jay Blossman

## A NEW COURSE FOR THE MARITIME MUSEUM: THE 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

The best modern museums have three key characteristics: 1) a unique and exceptional level of service to their audiences; 2) a phenomenal vision for what the organization can and will do; and 3) an extraordinary core of leaders on every level that work tirelessly to reach the potential of the organization. The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum is fortunate to have had Board leadership and partners in the Town of Madisonville and

Southeastern Louisiana University whose vision for the Museum from its inception held a lofty and insightful vision for the institution. A tight group of volunteers and supporters moved that vision forward, providing service to our audiences despite limited resources. In 2007 a team was assembled that made great strides toward achieving the dreams of the founders.

*Continued on page 2*



Earth Day 2008 marked the start of shoreline restoration efforts with faculty and students from Southeastern Louisiana University.

## A NEW COURSE, CONTINUED

With your support the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum made significant progress in 2007. The number of visitors and school children that utilize our facility increased, the Wooden Boat Festival was one of our most successful, and efforts to improve operations have made the institution more efficient and professional.

The greatest strength of an organization is its human resources, and in that respect the Museum is truly blessed. New staff members (Melanie Waddell, Kristen Garcia, and Jay Martin) and Southeastern Louisiana University student assistant (Amanda Barrilleaux) were added to an already exceptional group of volunteers. The new staff members are responsible for improved day-to-day operations, including supporting bookkeeper Jill Stoltz with the 2006 audit and reorganization of administrative procedures, helping wooden boatbuilding instructors Bob Doolittle, Ken Milstead, and Don Lynch with new tools and equipment, and assisting Field Trip Coordinator Catherine Lynch with the Museum's exciting school visits. Significant progress was seen at the Wooden Boat Festival where Coordinator Debbie Bresler and her assistant Cheryl Martin helped the staff and over 200 volunteers make it one of our best organized events to date.

Of special note among our volunteers is the management of the Gift Shop by Darnell Couvillion, where a surprising new array of unique merchandise may be purchased. Members receive a 20% discount. Penny McCrossen has upgraded our services to members and assisted with the rental of our event rooms. Jim Kubik took responsibility for the Museum and the

Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival web sites.

The focus in late 2007 was on emergent educational programs. The wooden boatbuilding instructors and students started a new program in which participants could build a pirogue in a day. Educator Kristen Garcia designed the new Lighthouse Keeper's Overnight Program, then recruited and trained volunteer staff to start overnights in 2008. The Tchefuncte Light Keeper's Cottage became the headquarters for our new educational programs courtesy of a grant from the State of Louisiana. Southeastern Louisiana University students Amanda Barrilleaux and Kristen Garcia completed a small exhibit on Frederick Schrieber, light keeper at Madisonville 1920-1935, based in part on an oral history collected from descendent Bobby Schrieber. Museum collections were expanded by a number of donated artifacts, books, and documents.

Through the efforts of Ken Milstead and Lynn Haase significant progress was made with facilities upgrade and repair. A volunteer work day in the summer led to the removal of rubbish, power washing of the entrance, and reorganization of many storage areas with support from the Town of Madisonville. Trinity Marine played a key role in facilitating repainting the anchor in front of the building. Electrician Jeff Periloux upgraded lighting in the wooden boatbuilding shop and the parking/event area under the building. Master Gardner Catherine Lynch led landscaping around the Keeper's Cottage, while the Madisonville Garden Club took care of the planters adjacent to the Museum parking lot.

Perhaps the most significant progress was made at the Tchefuncte Lighthouse. Planning and early implementation of structure stabilization in the wake of Hurricanes Rita

and Katrina began. Former project coordinator Del Lipps helped new coordinator George Trousdale organize work. Southeastern Louisiana University's Turtle Cove Research Center loaned the Museum a 22' Reno skiff for use with the project and with educational programs. Brush was cleared, the state of the lighthouse documented, and the condition of the historic trees on the site was established.

Director Jay Martin served as an instructor in the Southeastern Louisiana University Department of History and Political Science, teaching and supervising students, interns, and volunteers. He coordinated faculty and students from Southeastern and Tulane University in an experimental education grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.

In all, 2007 was an important year filled with significant progress. Best of all, the successes of 2007 are a foundation of even more dynamic achievements projected for 2008.

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities for 2007

#### Assets

Cash	220,995
Accounts Receivable	16,625
Fixed Assets	2,344,722
Exhibits	471,092
Other Current Assets	<u>14,804</u>
Total	3,068,238

#### Liabilities and Fund Balances

Current Liabilities	0
Other Liabilities	3,193
Accrued Expenses	8,431
Net Assets	<u>3,056,614</u>
Total	3,068,238

## THE TCHEFUNCTE RIVER LIGHTHOUSE

One hundred seventy-one years after the first lighthouse was erected at the mouth of the Tchefuncte River, restoration began of the current structure. A symbol of the dynamic maritime history and culture of Louisiana, the Tchefuncte River Light Station was built in 1837. The original tower was damaged during the Civil War and was rebuilt in 1867-1868 on the same foundation using many of the same bricks. In 1999 the property was transferred to the Town of Madisonville and continues to serve the community as an aid to naviga-

tion and as an icon of the Lake Ponchartrain northshore despite damage sustained during hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The Lighthouse is managed by the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum for restoration as an education center in partnership with Southeastern Louisiana University. Stabilization of the lighthouse began in 2007, but funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Southeastern Museum Conference, a gift from the Southeastern Louisiana University Development

Fund, and private contributions accelerated the pace of work in recent months.

Donations to support restoration of the Tchefuncte River Light Station and conservation of the Tchefuncte Marsh may be made through the Lake Ponchartrain Basin Maritime Museum and the Southeastern Louisiana University Foundation.

For information call: (985) 845-9200 or email [info@lpbmaritimemuseum.org](mailto:info@lpbmaritimemuseum.org)



The Tchefuncte River Lighthouse in 2007 before restoration began.

## WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL

The 2007 Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival was one of the most successful ever thanks to the leadership of Chairperson Trilby Lenfant, Festival Coordinator Debbie Bresler, our loyal sponsors, and all the volunteers and staff that made it possible. Thanks to everyone for your support of the Museum's largest fundraiser. A special thanks to Trilby Lenfant who retired as Chairperson this year. During her five years of leadership the

Festival saw dynamic growth. Her hand at the helm will be greatly missed.

The upcoming 2008 Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival promises to continue the nineteen year tradition of combining great boats, great people, and great fun. New this year is a restructured web site [www.woodenboatfest.org](http://www.woodenboatfest.org) where information and applications can be retrieved online. Sponsorship is being sought to

support the Festival, focusing on fun maritime activities second to none. The 2008 Festival will be brought to you on **October 18 and 19** courtesy of our lead sponsor Chevron. Maritime Mania will be held on the evening of October 17 courtesy of Omni Bank.

If you are interested in being a sponsor or volunteer for the Festival, contact Debbie at (985) 845-9200 or [wbf@lpbmaritimemuseum.org](mailto:wbf@lpbmaritimemuseum.org)



The St. Tammany Woodworkers Guild help children build their own dream boats.



The Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival brings over 30,000 people to the banks of the Tchefuncte River each fall.

## NEW EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Educational programs at the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum are “hitting the ground running.” There are new programs scheduled to begin this year, such as the Lighthouse Patch Day Program developed in cooperation with the Girl Scouts Council of Southeast Louisiana. The

museum will be updating its website to offer teacher’s classroom resources, including unit plans, activities, and evaluations. There will be links to other educational resources that can be used in the classroom.

The Light Keeper Overnight Program began in February. The program provides a great

opportunity to learn the history of Louisiana Lighthouses and the hardy people who managed them. The overnight volunteers make the educational program, interactive and fun.

For information or to volunteer, contact Kristen Garcia at (985)845-2000 or [educator@lpbmaritimemuseum.org](mailto:educator@lpbmaritimemuseum.org).



The Lightkeepers Overnight Program includes hands on activities. Here a participant learns to make butter.

## SOUTHEASTERN CORNER

Southeastern Louisiana University and the Maritime Museum have engaged in many projects in the past year. By far the most significant is that in the spirit of our partnership, Dr. Jay Martin was brought to the museum through a joint effort by the museum board and the University. This has been a tremendously successful partnership with Dr. Martin leading the museum through many issues and beginning many great projects. Dr. Martin also teaches on the Southeastern faculty in the Department of History and Political Science. Additional endeavors include the loan from Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station of a 22 foot lake skiff for museum education, and particularly in support of lighthouse restoration efforts. Early this past spring the University partnered with the museum, the

City of Ponchatoula and the Town of Madisonville in moving the Pass Manchac lighthouse lantern room to the Maritime Museum where it is available for viewing.

Southeastern has provided three interns recently; Kristen Garcia, who has since been hired as the museum’s Educational Coordinator, also Dean Barns and Stephanie Bernard. These students from the Cultural Resource Management program have provided great support for the museum. Amanda Barrilleaux served this spring as a Graduate Assistant. Many students also volunteer at the annual Wooden Boat Festival. Raj Pandian, Professor in Southeastern’s Department of Industrial Technology, served as principal investigator on a joint EPA grant developing remote controlled submersibles for

sidescan sonar to help students learn through a “playful learning” approach. This research will be of great benefit for educational programs and for conducting primary research in the region’s waterways.

Look for news of additional collaborations in future issues. Please call if I may be of assistance.

C. Roy Blackwood  
Director of University/  
Museum Initiatives  
(985) 974-7324



Executive Director  
Educator  
Administrative Assistant  
SLU Coordinator  
SLU Graduate Assistant  
SLU Intern  
Wooden Boat Festival  
Gift Shop Manager  
Field Trip Manager  
Boat Builder

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The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum ( a 501 (c)(3) non-profit) collects, preserves, and interprets the unique maritime history and culture of Lake Pontchartrain, the lower Mississippi River, and the Louisiana

Dr. Jay Martin  
Kristen Garcia  
Melanie Waddell  
C. Roy Blackwood  
Amanda Barrilleaux  
Stephanie Bernard  
Debbie Bresler  
Darnell Couvillion  
Catherine Lynch  
Bob Doolittle

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