

# SHIPWAYS



LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN MARITIME MUSEUM

SUMMER 2008

## LIGHTHOUSE RESTORATION: PHASE I COMPLETE

### ON THE WEB AT:

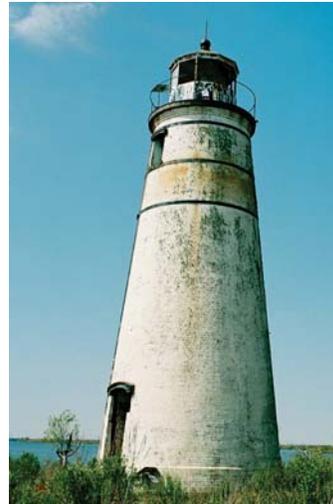
www.lpbmaritimemuseum.org

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

BE A KID AGAIN	2
WHAT'S NEW IN THE GIFT SHOP!	2
SOUTHEASTERN ECOTOURS	3
WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL	3
NEW EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS	4
FIELD TRIP REPORT	4
BUILD A PIROGUE IN A DAY	5
SOUTHEASTERN CORNER	5
LAGNIAPPE	6
WISH LIST	6

On June 25, 2008, Phase I of the Tchefuncte River Lighthouse Restoration concluded. During the six week project the exterior masonry was repaired, repointed, and repainted. The interior spiral stair case and railing was repaired and repainted. The entrance stairs were repaired and the grounds immediately surrounding the tower were cleared. Thrasher Construction was the contractor for this phase of restoration.

Phase I was funded through the Southeastern Louisiana University Development Foundation by a large personal donation from Boone Kenyon who was instrumental in moving the lighthouse project forward. Work at the lighthouse was based on preliminary research by faculty and students



The Tchefuncte River Lighthouse before restoration and after completion of phase I.

from the University Cultural Resource and Public History Programs.

An August 8, 2008, fundraiser is planned to commemorate National Lighthouse Day, the

140 anniversary of the completion of the tower, and the conclusion of Phase I restoration. Phase II of work on the lighthouse will begin later in the year using funds from the Institute for Museum and

*Continued on Page 2*

### COMING EVENTS:

- July 11- Southeastern Safe Boating Class
- 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

## FIRST LADY RECOGNIZES LIGHTHOUSE RESTORATION



First Lady Laura Bush (lower right), Dr. Anne-Imelda M. Radice Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (next to the First Lady), and Dr. Jay Martin (top row).

On May 30, 2008, First Lady Laura Bush and Institute of Museum and Library Services Director Dr. Anne-Imelda M. Radice recognized representatives of Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum, the Town of Madisonville, and Southeastern Louisiana University for the cooperative effort to restore the Tchefuncte River Lighthouse. The event was held at the Ogden Museum of

*Continued on Page 2*

## LIGHTHOUSE RESTORATION, CONTINUED

Institute for Museum and Library Services and Southeastern Museum Conference.

The Museum thanks Southeastern Louisiana University, Boone Kenyon, the Institute for Museum and Library Services/Southeastern Museums Conference, and all the other supporters who have made restoration of the lighthouse.

For additional information about the lighthouse restoration program or to become a sponsor for the National Lighthouse Day Celebration fundraiser to be held Saturday, August 8, 2008, call the Maritime Museum at (985) 845-9200 or contact Dr. Martin at [jay.martin@selu.edu](mailto:jay.martin@selu.edu).



The historic Tchefuncte River Light Station as it looked in 1918.

## FIRST LADY, CONTINUED

Southern Art in New Orleans, where representatives of Gulf Coast museums and libraries were honored for their efforts to restore cultural institutions and historic landmarks damaged by Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. The Museum, working in concert with the Town and students and faculty of Southeastern Louisiana University, began work on the lighthouse in 2007.

Enough money has now been raised to restore the lighthouse exterior. Among the financial support was a 2008 grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services/Southeastern Museums Conference of \$25,000.

Representing the Museum and the University were Roy Blackwood, Head of the SLU

Cultural Resource Management Program, LPBMM Executive Director/SLU Instructor Dr. Jay Martin, LPBMM Educator Kristen Garcia, and LPBMM Administrative Assistant Melanie Waddell. The Honorable Peter Gitz, Mayor of the Town of Madisonville and enthusiastic proponent of the restoration effort for the last decade, represented the local commu-

## BE A KID AGAIN AT THE MARITIME MUSEUM

Does reliving the fun of your childhood seem like an unlikely possibility? No time for facials, hair rejuvenation tonics, or plastic surgery? Well, we have the answer for you. You can relive your childhood at the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum from July 15 through July 20 when the Museum will offer adult admission at the children's rate of \$3.00, a 40% discount.

Crawl through the Civil War submarine, learn to tie knots, and stare down the alligator like all the kids do! Come in and enjoy, and bring the kids to, if you like.

Have fun while shopping at the Gift Shop where Ms. Darnell Couvillion is offering 20% off existing merchandise in preparation for the 2008 Madisonville Boat Festival. Shhhhhh, don't tell Dr. Martin! He only approved 10% off.

Remember, members always enjoy free admission and a 20% discount in the Gift Shop.

For additional information about admission rates and the gift shop discount, call Darnell at the Maritime Museum at (985) 845-9200 or contact Melanie Waddell at [info@lpbmaritimemuseum.org](mailto:info@lpbmaritimemuseum.org).

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE GIFT SHOP!

We have new and exciting arrivals in the Gift Shop! We are featuring a handmade Clay Plaque of the Tchefuncte Lighthouse that was designed exclusively for the Museum. It sells for \$29.99 and can be hung on

a wall or placed on an easel. The design also comes in a small ornament and a decorative magnet. Limited quantities are available at this time.

First time offer from the Maritime Museum Gift Shop —

CORPORATE GIFTS FOR YOUR EMPLOYEES! I can make up Gift Baskets or something smaller to suit your budget. Please call in advance to arrange a meeting.

Please call Darnell Couvillion at (985) 264-8514.



Unique hand-crafted plaques of the Tchefuncte lighthouse are among the items available only in the Museum's Gift Shop.

## SOUTHEASTERN ECOTOURS OPEN TO LPBMM MEMBERS!

During the month of June, faculty members from the Biology, Cultural Resource Management, and History Programs of Southeastern Louisiana University offered trial Ecotours of the Museum exhibits and the Tchefuncte River. Depending upon the guide, the program focuses on the history or environment of the Tchefuncte River and Marsh. Tours involve a lecture and/or film at the Museum followed by a 60 minute tour on a Southeastern Louisiana University watercraft.

The success of the initial programs has made it possible to open up the Tchefuncte Ecotours to the Museum's

membership on a first-come, first-served reservation basis on select dates in July (10, 24, 26, 31), August, and September. Weather permitting, most tours will stop at the Tchefuncte Lighthouse. Space is limited, so make your reservations now!

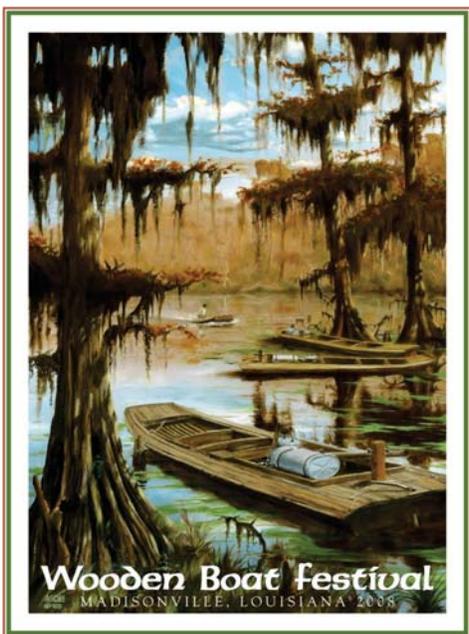
In order to participate, a person must be a Museum member in good standing at the time that the reservation is made. Participants must also possess basic mobility skills, be over the age of **six**, and sign a hold harmless agreement before the tour. Museum memberships may be made or renewed by cash, check, or major credit card.

For additional information about the Ecotour Program or Museum membership, call the Maritime Museum at (985) 845-2000 or contact Kristin Garcia at [educator@lpbmaritimemuseum.org](mailto:educator@lpbmaritimemuseum.org)



Dr. Jay leads one of the first Ecotours with volunteer Catherine and Don Lynch.

## WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL



The poster artist for the 2008 Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival will be Mickey Asche of Picayune, Mississippi. Mickey was selected as poster artist after reviewing dozens of great portfolios.

There has never been a time in his life when Mickey did not have a deep appreciation and

passion for the outdoors and wildlife. After twenty-one years as an aviation mechanic, in 2005 Mickey made the decision to put down the wrench, pick up a paint brush, and spend his days painting. A self-taught artist, Mickey first worked with watercolors, but has since changed to oils. Best described as a realist, he has a passion for all things in nature, but paints mainly of his personal experiences in the backwaters of southern Louisiana.

As a teenager Mickey's family moved from Kentucky to Louisiana. Mickey currently resides in Picayune, Mississippi, with his wife and daughter. To view more of his works, visit his web site at [www.MAndMArtStudios.com](http://www.MAndMArtStudios.com).

To see his completed poster for the 2008 Festival, visit [www.woodenboatfest.org](http://www.woodenboatfest.org). Posters will go on sale at the poster artist signing and reception to be held at A-Frame Gallery, 410 Covington Street (Hwy. 22 across from the old library) in Madisonville on September 19, 2008. Signed posters will be available for \$45.00 before the Festival and \$55.00 after. Unsigned posters will be available for

\$35.00 before the Festival and \$45.00 after. Call (985)845-9200 for information.

Mark your calendar for the 2008 Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival, to be held October 18-19, 2008!

### Wanted!!

Volunteers for the  
2008  
Madisonville Wooden  
Boat Festival  
Call  
(985) 845-9200



## NEW EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

### Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum's **SWASHBUCKLER'S BIRTHDAY BASH!**

The museum is now offering birthday parties for children between the ages of 4-10. But they are not your average, everyday birthday parties. These are sea-faring, treasure hunting, shanty singing pirate parties!!

During the **SWASHBUCKLER'S BIRTHDAY BASH**

children can create their own pirate hat, design a pirate's telescope, or create their very own treasure map. They even get to hunt for hidden treasure. Groups are given the option of either having their party in the Light Keeper's Cottage or in the museum's event room. Remember, this isn't a party for landlubbers. ARRRRRRRGH!!

### What's an Underwater ROV?

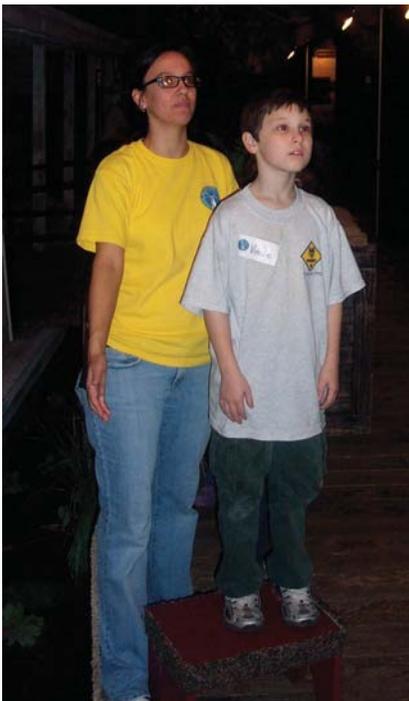
Each year, the Wooden Boat Festival has a showcase of classic wooden boats. This year, the festival is going high-tech! Partnered with Southeastern Louisiana University, the museum will introduce its newest summer program, *Build an Underwater ROV* (Remote Operated Vehicle), at the 2008 Wooden Boat Festival. Although the program is not scheduled to debut until the

summer of 2009, children who attend the Wooden Boat Festival will be given a special opportunity to see the robots in action underwater and actually operate them.

The *Build an Underwater ROV* summer program will allow kids from as young as 6 to build and take home a fully-functioning, underwater robot. How cool is that?



Educator Kristen Garcia uses the lantern room from the Pass Manchac Lighthouse to expose visitors to Lake Pontchartrain maritime history. Here Katherine Marlar and Keegan Connell look at the artifact that was moved to the Museum on February 15, 2008.



An overnight program participant learns how the Fresnel lens that is used on lighthouses intensifies light to become a beacon for ships.

### Light Keeper's Overnight Program

The Light Keeper's Overnight Program has been a smash with the local scouts. The museum had its most recent overnight three weeks ago with Boy Scout Pack 111 from Covington. There were 15 scouts in the group ranging from ages 9 to 40 if you include the dads who had just as much fun as the scouts. Throughout the night individual scouts awoke to tend the light and log what they saw as keepers. One scout wrote, "The light is working perfectly, the weather is clear, and I am just starting to see the sun. Everything is set for my shift." Each scout that was assigned night watch seemed to spring to his feet when it was time to wake up. They took pride in what they were doing just as the keeper's before

them did. The group stated the program was a wonderful experience. It is a unique program that keeps the kids engaged in learning.

The overnight volunteers have been the backbone to the program. Without their hard work and dedication the program would not have been as successful. We are looking forward to our next overnight with anticipation and excitement. We're always looking for extra help, if you are interested in volunteering contact the Education Coordinator.

Groups who find the \$30 / participant tuition a challenge should inquire about sponsored visits.

### Interested in our programs or volunteering? Here's who to contact:

Kristen Garcia, Education Coordinator  
(985)845-2000

Email: [educator@lpbmaritimemuseum.org](mailto:educator@lpbmaritimemuseum.org)

## FIELD TRIP REPORT

The museum has been alive with the sounds of children! With an increase of school groups coming to the museum, the volunteers have been very busy. During the 2007 - 2008 school year, the museum has had over 1300 students (a 12% increase over the previous year!), not including the teachers and parents. Groups have come from St. Tammany Parish, Tangipahoa Parish, Baton

Rouge, Harvey, Metairie, and even as far as Pascagoula, Mississippi. Along with the school groups, we have had several Home School Associations and Summer Camps visit in addition to several senior citizen groups.

Boat Safety is being presented by Nick Chronis and others with the Power Squadron. This new venue along with the Pontchar-

train Institute For Environmental Sciences at University New Orleans, Knot Tying, Boat Building, Sail Usage, Wetland Critters(New Orleans Steamboat Company), River Pilots, The Thurston Story, Lighthouses and Museum are all manned by volunteers. We are always looking for new stations and activities to add to the list for field trips. If you have any recommendations or if you

would like to be part of this fun group, call the museum with the information.

Thanks to our hard working volunteers who make the Field Trip Program a success. To schedule a Field Trip, contact Catherine Lynch at (985) 845-9200 or [mcmlynch@bellsouth.net](mailto:mcmlynch@bellsouth.net).

## BUILD A PIROGUE IN A DAY

In 2007 the Maritime Museum began a new program called "build a pirogue in a day." The program places the fantastic skills of the Museum boatbuilding instructors and volunteers at the disposal of those who would like to build a wooden boat, but do not presently have time to commit several months to building a larger skiff, bateau, or pirogue as part of the existing boatbuilding classes.

To build a pirogue in a day, a team of two or more spend a Saturday using materials sup-

plied by the Museum to construct their own 14-foot boat. Lunch and beverages are provided. Participants are required to bring basic tools and a "can do" attitude. The result is a completed, unpainted hull ready for finishing.

Tuition for the one-day class is \$500 and includes the cost of materials and lunch. Participation makes a great family experience with memories and a boat to last a lifetime.

The Maritime Museum boatbuilding program was featured

by Frank Davis in his popular WWL segment "Naturally N'Awlins" on April 23, 2008 (see it on the web at <http://www.wwltv.com/video/nawlins-index.html?nid=238613>) and so space is at a premium.

Make your reservations by contacting Melanie Waddell by e-mail at [info@lpbmaritimemuseum.org](mailto:info@lpbmaritimemuseum.org) or by calling (985)845-9200.



The Museum is proud of the many boats built as part of its boatbuilding classes. In the foreground is *Peanut*, a pink pirogue built as part of the "Build a Pirogue in a Day" program.

## SOUTHEASTERN CORNER

Many of you are aware of a significant event at Southeastern as President Randy Moffett transitions to become President of the University of Louisiana System. He has served Southeastern well, and we wish him well in his new role. Southeastern's partnership with the Mari-

time Museum began while Dr. Moffett served as Provost and with Dr. John Miller as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Miller, with Dr. Moffett's support, brought Southeastern's considerable support to bear upon developments at the museum. When Dr. Moffett became

president, and eventually Dr. Miller left Southeastern, Dr. John Crain accepted the role of Provost and joined the museum's Board of Directors bringing the university/museum partnership to a new level. With Dr. Moffett's departure, Dr. Crain is temporarily wearing the hats of

Provost and President until an Interim President can be named. Much has been accomplished with the support of these men, and we thank them. I am assured that the one thing that will not change is Southeastern's commitment to the success

of the Museum. As always, I stand ready to assist this process in any way I can.

In other news, Southeastern has in the past few months provided the museum with four interns and/or graduate students. Through the Public History program, Kevin Noble was an intern and Amanda Barrilleaux was a graduate assistant. Through the Cul-

tural Resource Management program, Dean Barns and Stephanie Bernard have served as interns. Dilyana Kostova has served as a student assistant for a research grant from the Environmental Protection Agency through the Department of Computer Science and Industrial Technology. These students provide excellent service while gaining "real

world" experiences. Our thanks to Dr. Jay Martin and other museum staff who contribute to the education of these students.

Please contact me with your ideas for future Southeastern/ Museum collaborations.

C. Roy Blackwood, Coordinator Southeastern/Maritime Museum Initiatives



Southeastern students Stephanie Bernard and Dilyana Kostova received practical experience while assisting the museum this summer.

LAGNIAPPE

- The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum and the Tchefuncte River Lighthouse grace the covers of the new AT&T telephone Directory for St. Tammany Parish and the St. Tammany Parish Yellow Pages. Thanks to photographers David Barfield and Sandra Falcon for sharing their imagery.
The museum needs volunteers for light office duties such as greeting visitors and answering phones. We are approaching Wooden Boat Festival and could really use the extra support! Please contact Melanie at (985)845-9200 if you are interested.
Southeastern Louisiana University will offer a safe boating class at the Maritime Museum on July 11. The class is free. Call Melanie at (985)845-9200 to enroll. Space is limited.
Construction of the new Madisonville Branch of the St. Tammany Public Library is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2009. The 15,000 sq. ft. facility will be located north of the Museum.
On Friday, August 15, the museum will be participating in Hammond's Hot August Nights. Volunteer's will be needed. Please call Kristen Garcia at (985) 845-2000.
The Maritime Museum Gift Shop has a new stamp representing the Tchefuncte River Lighthouse for use with "passports" (also on sale) from the U.S. Lighthouse Society. Purchase the passport and then make the first stamp the Tchefuncte Lighthouse!
On August 8 the Maritime Museum will celebrate National Lighthouse Day with fireworks over the Tchefuncte River Lighthouse. The event will commemorate the 140th anniversary of the tower and the completion of exterior restoration. Admission to the fireworks from the Madisonville Boat Launch at the end of Lake Road (south end of Hwy. 1077) is free, but donations to support ongoing restoration of the lighthouse, light keepers cottage, and the lighthouse grounds are very welcome.

WISH LIST

- More Great Volunteers! (clerical and grounds especially)
Paper towel and bathroom tissue tubes for educational craft projects
Marine scrub brush and bio-degradable cleaner for boats
Heavy duty extension cords
New commercial-grade carpet vacuum cleaner
Temporary lockable storage shed for use at Tchefuncte Lighthouse

Call Melanie at (985)845-9200 for details on what is needed.



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

Table with 2 columns: Museum Staff Roles and Names. Roles include Executive Director, Educator, Administrative Assistant, SLU Coordinator, SLU Graduate Assistant, SLU Intern, Wooden Boat Festival Coordinator, Gift Shop Manager, Field Trip Manager, Boat Builder. Names include Dr. Jay Martin, Kristen Garcia, Melanie Waddell, C. Roy Blackwood, Amanda Barrilleaux, Stephanie Bernard, Debbie Bresler, Darnell Couvillion, Catherine Lynch, Bob Doolittle.

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum
133 Mabel Drive
Madisonville, LA 70447
Phone: 985-845-9200
Fax: 985-845-9201

The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and the Department of Culture in the production of Shipways.