

SHIPWAYS

LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN MARITIME MUSEUM

FALL 2008



THE 19TH ANNUAL MADISONVILLE WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL



The Quick 'n' Dirty Boat Building Contest is always a highlight of the annual Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival

ON THE WEB AT:

www.lpbmaritimemuseum.org

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COMING EVENTS:

- **September 19- WBF Poster signing 6-9 p.m. at A Frame Gallery, Madisonville**
- **October 6- Then and Now Lecture: Paul Paskoff, "Troubled Waters", a Fanfare Event at LPBMM, 7 p.m.**
- **October 17- Captain's Party and Maritime Mania**
- **October 18 and 19-, 2008 Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival**

On October 18 and 19, 2008, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum will present the 19th Annual Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival, sponsored by Chevron, along the banks of the Tchefuncte River in Madisonville.

The theme this year is the bateau, a boat that needs little description for Louisianans. For everyone else, in Cajun Louisiana *bateau* refers to a shallow draft boat with flat ends and bottom, balanced so that the fisherman can stand upright to handle nets. The bateau will be well represented at the festival this year as the "Bateau Boys" will return with their private collection. These boats are powered by antique two-cycle direct reversible machine engines started by the flywheel. The bateau is also the subject of the poster this year, and posters will be available in the Museum Merchandise Tent.

Entertainment is always an integral part of the Festival, and this year is no exception. Nautical music and dockside tunes will fill the air from the Bud Light Stage in front of Town Hall. With music from the steel drum sounds of Coconut Dave to the Hot Brass musical gumbo performed by the United States Air Force Band of Mid-America. Hot Brass has just returned from a deployment to Southeast Asia where they brought a taste of home to the hard-working people of the U.S. military and coalition forces.

Marine and food vendors and unique artisans will line the Festival grounds. On the field north of the museum the classics of the water will meet the classics of the road as the Classic Car Cruise-In is expected to attract one hundred antique and classic cars from across

the region. The St. Tammany Woodworkers Guild will be at the waterfront where children can build small wooden boats from precut pieces.

The Main Street Ballfield has become as popular as the Riverfront, as it is home to many of the popular festival venues. Children's Village will feature daily performances by the popular Captain Papillion, sponsored by Tulane Hospital for Children, Porta-Puppets, and M.T. Noggin, or catch a live fish at KidFish, a 200-gallon stocked tank. New this year is the Playful Learning area where children can participate in an environmental learning activity using underwater robots or ROVs (remote-operated vehicles). Maritime education comes to life as children make pennants with their initials us-

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SPARKS FLY AT THE TCHEFUNCTE RIVER LIGHTHOUSE

The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum celebrated National Lighthouse Day on Friday, August 8, 2008, with fireworks over the nearly restored Tchefuncte River Lighthouse. The event included Civil War reenactors, music, and food ashore, and plenty of activity among boaters who joined the roughly 1,000 attendees who crowded the Madisonville Lakefront Boat Launch for the 9:00 pm fireworks over the lighthouse.

The evening celebrated the 140th anniversary of the tower—rebuilt in 1868—and the beginning of restoration, as well as National Lighthouse Day, which is officially on August 7.

The Museum wishes to thank its lead sponsors Boone and Debbie Kenyon, Capital One, Chevron, Champagne Beverage, and Dependable Glass Works for their support. Southeastern Louisiana

University Development Foundation was also a key contributor to the project. The money raised from the event will be added to the Lighthouse Reserve Fund and will be used to complete restoration of the lighthouse tower, as well as future work on the keepers cottage, dock, and erosion protection at the lighthouse site.

Call (985) 845-9200 contribute to the Tchefuncte Lighthouse project.



Photograph courtesy Randy Bergeron, Southeastern Louisiana University.



**Lake Pontchartrain Basin
Maritime Museum**

**Tchefuncte
River
Light
Station**

**Restoration Campaign
Kick-Off**
gratefully acknowledges








**and
Mayor Peter L. Gitz
and the
Town of Madisonville**

A very special thanks to ...

<p>Ambiance Flowers for All Occasions Noel Brumfield Frank Crain Fenner's Battery Glazer's Companies of Louisiana Sean Imel Kiwans of Greater Covington Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron Cheryl H. Martin PepsiAmericas Restaurant Amis Jimmy & Mary Rogers</p>	<p>St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Dept. Sampson's Catering Southeastern Louisiana University Development Foundation George & Kelly Tallant Tomba Communications Waste Management</p>
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... and our dedicated volunteer crew!

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PREMIERES AT 2008 WBF

In the western states, folks say that water is life. In south Louisiana, you could say that life is water. To understand the area, you have to understand the crucial role that waterways play in everyday life, in the natural world, and in local history.

Just as the National Park Service is dedicated to sharing the environment, history, and culture of south Louisiana with visitors, so to is Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve dedicated to making sure that water is part of the park's message. At the French Quarter Visitor Center in New Orleans, park rangers give daily walks along the Mississippi River. Watching ships from around the world glide past provides an unforgettable picture of the importance of New Orleans as a major port. Rangers tell stories of bales of cotton and stems of bananas stacked

along the docks in the days when men, not machines, did the heavy lifting. They explain how the river provided the economic base that made New Orleans both an important player on the American stage and a crucial link in the global markets.

Getting visitors out *on* the water is the goal at the Acadian Cultural Center in Lafayette and the Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center in Thibodaux. In spring and fall, rangers offer guided tours of the bayous in traditional wooden boats. A 25-foot bateau was built by fourth-generation boat builder Dana Asa Wright who modeled it after the one his father rode in to reach school—the local “schoolboat.” The bateau normally cruises Bayou Vermilion in Lafayette with rangers on the Thibodaux-based tour recalling the days when

Bayou Lafourche was called “The World’s Longest Street” in honor of the towns and homes built on its banks when bayous were the highways of south Louisiana. On October 18-19, the National Park Service Rangers will be at the Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival to share stories of Louisiana’s maritime heritage.

Information about programs at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve is available at www.nps.gov/jela or by calling the visitor centers offering the programs: French Quarter Visitor Center (504)589-2636 ext. 1, Acadian Cultural Center (337) 232-0789, and Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center (985)448-1375. For more about the Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival, call (985)845-9200.

NATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT BRINGS MILES OF SMILES

A multi-year grant from the Environmental Protection Agency culminated on August 27, 2008, in a trip by twenty-five 5th grade students from Madisonville Junior High aboard the Southeastern Louisiana University Turtle Cove Research Vessel *Pelican*. Southeastern faculty and museum staff and volunteers used a dozen remote operated vehicles (ROVs) to look underwater at a shipwreck in the Tchefuncte River. The experience gave students the opportunity to learn about math, science, and history while participating in a fun, hands-on activity.

The project teamed Southeastern Louisiana University Industrial Technology Professor Dr. Raj Pandian and Assistant Vice President for Technology Dr. Mike Asoodeh with Turtle Cove Research Station staff Dr. Rob Moreau and Fred Stouder, as well as Museum staff and volunteers.

The grant from the EPA explored the concept of “playful learning,” the idea that students learn more quickly and effectively if the subject they are studying is presented in a fun, hands-on

manner. Students from the St. Tammany Public Schools tested this concept multiple times during the last year.

The popularity of the ROV project has led the Museum to offer an opportunity at the Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival October 18-19, 2008, for visitors to Children’s Village to try out operating an ROV under the supervision of SLU faculty and museum staff. The program is free with paid admission to the Festival.



Madisonville Junior High students test out underwater ROVs.

WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL, CONTINUED

ing the nautical alphabet. Design a square for the traveling quilt that tells a tale of the Tchefuncte River Lighthouse.

Also on the ballfield is the ever-popular Quick 'n' Dirty Boat-Building Contest, sponsored by Captain Morgan. Enter the contest or witness the hilarious antics and cunning carpentry skills as up to 20 teams blitz build a boat with the hopes of being the first to float across the finish line. The Quick 'n' Dirty offers great team-building opportunities for employers, families, and friends. The crews bring a Mardi Gras feel to the festival as crews pick themes, name their boats, and dress up in costumes. At 7:00 p.m. Sunday, October 19, Captain Morgan will lead the parade from the ballfield to the river, where the real contest begins.

Be sure to visit the Merchandise Tent in front of the Town Hall for many new items this year, including koozies, hooded sweatshirts, long-sleeved denim shirts,

aprons and a great assortment of caps! The Gift Shop at the Maritime Museum will offer special sale merchandise, including collectible posters and t-shirts. Museum admission is free with Festival admission.

The Wooden Boat Festival kicks off with Maritime Mania, the patron party, sponsored by Omni Bank. The Pirates of the Tchefuncte-themed party will be held on Friday, October 17, from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the Museum. Individual tickets cost \$75 each in advance and **will not** be sold at the door. The highly coveted tickets to this popular bash are available on a first-come, first-served basis and can be purchased by calling the Maritime Museum at (985) 845-9200. Visa and MasterCard are accepted. Maritime Mania guests are encouraged to dress like pirates. Ticket packages range from \$250 and up and include tickets to Maritime Mania and the Wooden Boat Festival, posters and t-shirts, Maritime Museum

memberships, and other exciting benefits, plus special marketing opportunities.

Daily admission to the festival is \$10 per person, \$5 for seniors over 65, and free for children under 12 and for uniformed military personnel. Off-site parking and shuttles will be available.

During the Wooden Boat Festival, Museum members will have an opportunity to participate in a joint Southeastern Louisiana University/Museum environmental history program aboard the *R/V Pelican*. Space is available on a first come, first-served basis. Call Kristin Garcia at (985) 845-2000 for details and to reserve your free cruise.

For more information about the 2008 Wooden Boat Festival, to register a classic wooden boat, become a volunteer, request a food vendor or artist application, or register a Quick 'N' Dirty Boat-Building team, call the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum at (985) 845-9200 or log on to www.woodenboatfest.org.

HURRICANES GUSTAV & IKE

On September 1, 2008, Southern Louisiana was lashed by Hurricane Gustav's high winds and surf. On September 12, Hurricane Ike brought a higher than expected storm surge. Lake Pontchartrain and Madisonville experienced significant flooding.

The Maritime Museum, the Tchefuncte River Light Keepers Cottage, and the Tchefuncte River Lighthouse all sustained minor damage. Most significant was the accelerated erosion around the lighthouse occasioned by high surf that reached the doorway and flooded the lower interior.

Despite the damage, restoration efforts at the lighthouse continue while the keeper's cottage is being studied in preparation for restoration and transport back to the lighthouse peninsula. As always, donations to support this effort are appreciated. Call (985) 845-9200 to make your contribution today.



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 Gulf Coast.

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