

SHIPWAYS



LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN MARITIME MUSEUM

WINTER 2008

GOVERNOR JINDAL VISITS LPBMM NOVEMBER 17!

ON THE WEB AT:

www.lpbmaritimemuseum.org

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COMING EVENTS:

- January 5- Free Movie Showing: *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*
- January 21 - Annual Meeting
- February 7- CPR Class
- May 9- CPR Class
- August 8- CPR Class
- October 10&11, 2009- Wooden Boat Festival 2009
- November 7- CPR Class

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



Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal

On Monday, November 17, the Maritime Museum welcomed Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal for an event honoring the Governor. The private event held at the Light keeper's Cottage included a tour of the Tchefuncte River aboard the yacht AKU-AKU.

The beautiful, clear night began with the arrival of Governor Jindal and his guests at the Museum Dock, and included an elegant catered affair.

Many thanks to Museum staff and volunteers that assisted with this private event.

A RETURN TO OUR ROOTS: UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY

The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum was founded in part based on the excitement generated by the documentation of shipwrecks in the Tchefuncte River. Work by archaeologist Allen Saltus and a team of Museum volunteers documented dozens of shipwrecks in the lower Tchefuncte River.

That tradition was reinvigorated in 2008 with several significant projects. In September a team of Southeastern Louisiana University faculty, Museum staff, and volunteers conducted a preliminary archaeological survey of the Tchefuncte River Light Station. The work documented building foundations in anticipation of restoration and conservation efforts at the site.

A partnership with Earth-Search, Inc., a New Orleans-based cultural

resource management firm, led in November to a preliminary side-scan sonar survey and non-invasive investigative dives in the area extending from the Museum dock south past the Madison Harbour/Ice House Canal. The project was designed by Earth-Search archaeologists to help the Museum plan for long term management of its dock as the time approaches for the restoration and relocation of the Light Keepers Cottage.

The project also helped to establish the possible location of the remains of the steamer *New Camelia*, a subject revisited after the removal of several boats from the river as part of a FEMA Marine Debris Removal Project. The remains of a structure resembling the *New Camelia* were found at the location originally published by Allen Saltus in 1992, confirm-



Archaeologists from Earth-Search, Inc., dive on sites in the Tchefuncte River discovered by side-scan sonar.

ing that a site exists at least 400 feet from any work conducted by FEMA contractors during the Marine Debris Removal Project and 650 feet from the Museum dock.

Future documentation of shipwrecks and other cultural resources in and along the Tchefuncte River is anticipated as resources allow.

THE CURIOUS CASE, STARRING OUR LIGHTHOUSE!

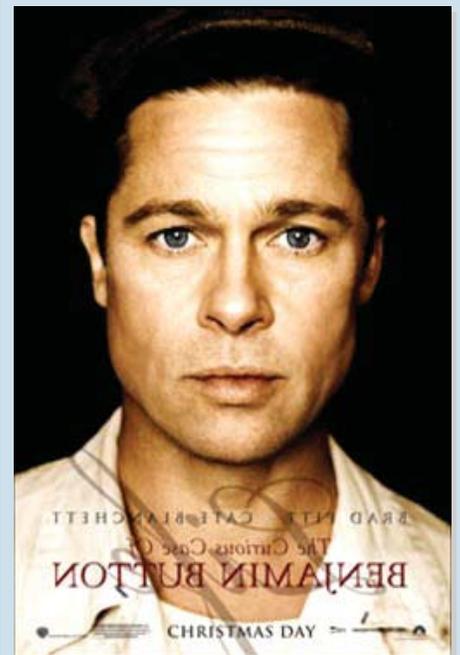
In late 2006 the Tchefuncte River Lighthouse was used to film the new movie *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*. Loosely based on the 1922 F. Scott Fitzgerald short story, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* follows the life of a man who ages backwards. Our Lighthouse serves as a backdrop in some of the movie scenes. The movie was largely filmed in New Orleans and includes the lead character (Brad Pitt) who, among other careers, serves as a merchant mariner. His love interest (Cate Blanchett) is a dancer. The movie is 2 hours, 48 minutes long.

As a thank you to those who volunteered their time for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum or the Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival in 2008, a special free showing of the film will take place on the evening of Monday, January 5, 2009,

at Hollywood Theaters located at 69348 Hwy. 21 (behind Target), Covington. Admission will be free for the first 100 people who RSVP. The movie is tentatively scheduled to show at 7:00 pm, but please confirm the time when you RSVP.

In order to attend, you must either be a member in good standing of the Museum or a volunteer of record. You must RSVP to Melanie at (985)845-9200 by **2:30 pm on January 2, 2009**.

The rumor that one of the stars of the movie will attend, is by no means substantiated or condoned by this notice. However, if anyone sees Cate Blanchett, please make sure she reports to the Executive Director for confirmation. Melanie and Kristen have the same requirement should Brad Pitt appear.



The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, starring Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett, and our Lighthouse!

GIFT SHOP END OF YEAR SALE

To help you support the Museum and the lighthouse while you complete your holiday shopping, the Museum Gift Shop is offering a discount on select merchandise. From now through the **December 31**, all polo shirts, ladies' tank tops and men's pocketed t-shirts are 50% off.



Sale! Sale! Sale!

All Polo's, Ladies Tank Tops and Men's
Pocketed T-Shirts
(Except the Green Polo's)
Are Now **50% Off**

Windbreaker's are now reduced
To **\$20.00**

(Items are priced as marked)

For the holiday season a new green lighthouse tree ornament is available, as is other merchandise to fit every need.

And best of all, members receive an additional discount on all items in stock.

Past Wooden Boat Festival merchandise is also deeply discounted.

Contact Gift Shop Manager Darnell Couvillion for information (985)845-9200.

FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES

For the second year, the Maritime Museum supported Families Helping Families in a special, low key Christmas celebration for families with children that have physical, mental, emotional, behavioral, academic, or intellectual/developmental delay or disability.

Northshore Families Helping Families (NFHF) is a non-profit family-driven resource center located in Covington. Families Helping Families of Louisiana is a network of ten family-directed resource centers composed of a group of families who, through their own experiences, promote advocacy and are committed to reaching out to other families who have members with disabilities. The Covington resource center serves the parishes of St. Tammany, Washington, Tangipahoa, St. Helena, and Livingston.

The event held at the Museum on December 13 included a snack, presents (including toys provided by Chevron), a visit by the Madisonville station of the St. Tammany Parish Department of Fire Services, and pictures with Santa Claus, our own Board Member and volunteer Lynn Haase.

For information about Families Helping Families, contact Executive Director Jeanne Gauthier at 985-875-0511.

CURRENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum’s Education Department has been heavily involved with many different projects this fall. Whether participating in outreach programs with the Girl Scouts or hosting a free lecture given by an underwater archeologist, the maritime museum has done it!

On November 8, the museum was invited to participate in the biannual Girl Scouts Festival in which the girls were introduced to the museum’s school of underwater remote operated vehicles (ROV). Each scout was given the opportunity to learn about aquatic robotics, the museum’s newest venture, and operate the little ROVs.

The scouts were told about the upcoming summer program, *Aquatic Robotics*



Aquatic Robotics led by Museum Educator Kristin Garcia (standing right) and volunteer Sarah Clark (standing left) with the Madisonville Explorers.

Summer Program, where children can learn about these underwater robots and built one of their very own. The museum

will offer the *Aquatic Robotics Summer Program* for two weeks during the summer of 2009. With a forecast for success, each summer following the initial program will mean an increase in weeks and participants.

On November 19, the museum hosted a free presentation by Senior Marine Archaeologist Dave Ball who presented on the *Mardi Gras* shipwreck, one of Louisiana’s oldest marine archeological sites. Many of the museum’s staff, volunteers, and members attended the lecture generating an extraordinary turnout with inquires of future guest lecturers.

With the development of these new programs, the museum is moving forward. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact the Education Coordinator Kristen Garcia at (985) 845-2000.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2008 WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum
2008 Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival
 PRESENTING SPONSOR

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 ADMIRAL'S CREW:
 Carbolinc, Entergy, SPARTAN, www.homeSitattech.net, PEPSI AMERICAS, MINI STORAGE,

Thank you to all who supported the 2008 Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival. The highlights from this year included a record number of boat registrations, more special programs for families and children, and several cooperative efforts with faculty and students from Southeastern Louisiana University.

An expanded Children’s Village with remote operated vehicles for children to operate and expanded entertainment received great reviews, as did the introduction of Ecotours for Museum Members aboard the Southeastern Louisiana University Turtle Cove Research Center research vessel *Pelican*.

Special thanks is due to lead sponsor Chevron for its generous lead support of the Festival and Omni Bank for its continuing support of Maritime Mania.

To thank the hundreds of volunteers that made the Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival a success this year, Chevron hosted a remarkable appreciation party attended by nearly 300 volunteers. Thank you to Chevron for a party featuring great food, terrific music, and exceptional comradeship.

ADMIRAL'S CREW

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DARK AS THE NIGHT, QUIET AS DEATH

Our perception of the importance of lighthouses is today clouded by the pervasiveness of light pollution. On a clear night, seeing New Orleans from the north-shore of Lake Pontchartrain is not difficult due to the direct and reflected light of the city. Even Madisonville gives off a small glow that is clearly visible from the lake on most nights. Yet even now finding the tricky entrance to the Tchefuncte River requires navigational aids, including the Tchefuncte River Lighthouse.

Imagine what a moonless night would have been like in 1699 when Pierre Le Monyne

Sieur d'Iberville explored the lake or in 1837 when the lighthouse entered service. Dark indeed would have been the night and nervous indeed would have been the sailor straining his eyes to find the loom of the shore.

Add to this ancient scene a lack of noise pollution. Before European settlement was far advanced, the mariner would have heard the sounds of wind and water, creakers and creaking planks, rigging, sails, and spars, but little else. No highway sounds or airplanes, horns or church bells, radios or boom boxes to distract. And no electronics

or dredged, marked channels existed to help show the way, particularly when the weather reduced visibility.

No wonder that a common 19th century prayer on a stormy night was "Heaven help all sailors on a night like this!"

To learn more about light pollution, visit the pages of the International Dark-Sky Association at <http://www.darksky.org/mc/page.do>. To find out how you can help preserve our own beacon of safety, contact the Museum at (985)845-9200.

GET INVOLVED!

The Maritime Museum needs your help. In 2008 the Museum achieved great success at the Tchefuncte River Lighthouse, in educational programming, and in wooden boatbuilding. However, there is much left to be done. Here is how you can help:

Volunteer—Call Melanie Waddell at (985)845-9200 for details.

Make a Donation—The Museum accepts donations directly via check and credit card, and indirectly through the Network for Good (<http://www.networkforgood.org/>) and the Southeastern Louisiana University Foundation. You can also donate your Capital One No Hassle Rewards Points at (<https://www.capitalone.com/give>). Call Melanie Waddell at (985)845-9200 to learn how.

Get other people involved—If you are excited about what we do, talk to your friends, neighbors, and business associates. We have plenty of brochures to help you. Just ask Melanie Waddell or Kristen Garcia for details.

LAGNIAPPE

- Great stocking stuffers available from the gift shop! Buy "Stock in the Lighthouse" for a minimum of \$10. Help support the restoration of the Tchefuncte River Lighthouse.
- Event Rental available for your Party or Special Event. Contact Melanie at 985-845-9200 the museum or see our website at www.lpbmaritimemuseum.org.
- Mark your calendar for the 2009 Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum Annual Meeting, 6:00 pm January 21. Members in good standing on January 12 will be eligible to vote.



The unusual blizzard of December 12, 2008, illustrated how important the Tchefuncte Lighthouse is during periods of low visibility on Lake Pontchartrain.



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.

Executive Director
Educator
Administrative Assistant
SLU Coordinator
Gift Shop Manager
Field Trip Manager
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Dr. Jay Martin
Kristen Garcia
Melanie Waddell
C. Roy Blackwood
Darnell Couvillion
Catherine Lynch
Bob Doolittle
Stephanie Bernard

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum
133 Mabel Drive
Madisonville, LA 70447
Phone: 985-845-9200
Fax: 985-845-9201
E-mail: info@lpbmaritimemuseum.org
Website: www.lpbmaritimemuseum.org