

SHIPWAYS



LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN MARITIME MUSEUM

SUMMER 2009

ON THE WEB AT:

www.lpbmm.org

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COMING EVENTS:

April 30- 6:30pm Dr. Charles Elliot

May- Pirogue in a Day Class

May 28- 12pm Dr. Roy Blackwood

June 25- 6:30pm Dr. Charles A. Dranguet Book Signing

July 30- 6:30 Joe Gelp: Oceaneering

August 7- Lightkeeper's Memorial

August 8- Lighthouse Fundraiser

August 27- 6:30 TBA

September 24- 6:30 Dr. John Irion

October- Museum participation in Fanfare

October 10 & 11- 20th Annual Wooden Boat Festival

November 19- 6:30 TBA

December 17- 6:30 Nature Conservancy

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

THE TCHEFUNCTE MARSH

A major milestone in the conservation of the Tchefuncte Marsh will be celebrated with a reception at the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum on May 3, 2009.

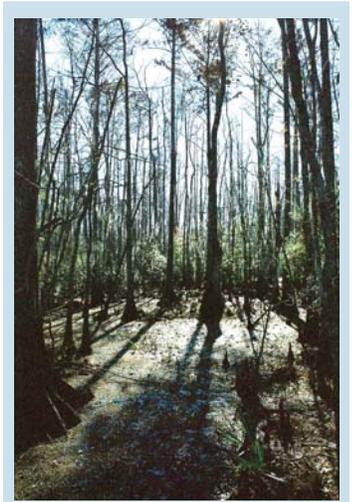
In February The Nature Conservancy acquired 800 of the estimated 6,000 acre marsh as part of a long range plan to conserve one of the last substantial marshes on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain. Southeastern Louisiana University will eventually take ownership of this acreage and manage it for conservation. Educational programming and research is expected to be part of the management plan.

The Maritime Museum has acquired an additional nine

acres of the marsh as a result of a generous donation by Dr. Ronald Hardey of Lafayette. The Museum anticipates use of this and other sections of the marsh as an outdoor education center that links the Museum and the Tchefuncte River Lighthouse with educational programs on marsh ecology, archaeology, Native American culture, and the history of Louisiana natural resources.

Conservation of the marsh will not only help maintain wetlands important as a storm buffer and as an essential element of the Lake Pontchartrain ecology, it will also retain the historic viewscape from the Tchefuncte River Lighthouse, which is currently under restoration. The Town of Madisonville supports the conservation of the marsh.

The reception on May 3 begins at 4:00 pm with brief comments from The Nature Conservancy and cooperating agencies. Museum members are welcome to join us for this free event. Call the Museum at (985)845-9200 for details.



A beautiful scene from the Tchefuncte Marsh.

2009 MADISONVILLE WBF POSTER ARTIST SELECTED



Ms. Karin Eberhardt, Assistant Professor of Graphic Design at Southeastern Louisiana University has been selected as

the artist for the 20th anniversary Wooden Boat Festival poster. A native of Louisiana's salty swampland, Karin Eberhardt is an educator, artist, and graphic designer. She joined the faculty at Southeastern Louisiana University in 2007 and currently teaches graphic design in the Department of Visual Arts.

Representing a unique combination of environmental

advocacy and contemporary landscape, her art work seeks to unveil the intrinsic, mysterious beauty of coastal Louisiana and respectfully give permanency to its ephemeral environment.

We welcome Karin to the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum family and look forward to unique imagery celebrating the 20 years of our signature festival!

SECOND ANNUAL LIGHTHOUSE FUNDRAISER

Thanks to long-time museum supporter and board member Joel Champagne, another unique fundraiser for the Tchefuncte River Lighthouse Restoration Project is planned for August 8, 2009. Mr. Champagne has agreed to open the new Champagne Beverage Company facility for an exclusive

fundraiser. Watch the new museum website at www.lpbmm.org for the announcement of further details.

Please note that a free event honoring the sacrifice made by lighthouse keepers and their families will take place at the

museum and the Madisonville Cemetery on National Lighthouse Day, the evening of Friday, August 7, 2009. Watch the new museum website at www.lpbmm.org for the announcement of further details.

TCHEFUNCTE RIVER LIGHTHOUSE RESTORATION

This winter and spring significant progress has been made on restoration of the Tchefuncte River Lighthouse. Funding from the Institute for Museum and Library Services and Boone and Debbie Kenyon, as well as funds raised as part of the first

annual lighthouse fundraiser, has speeded interior restoration of the tower in preparation for taking guided tours to the site. Significant progress has been made inside, including painting and repairs of metal work, as well as exterior work

clearing the grounds and in creating a floating dock/work barge.

We extend our special thanks to the many museum volunteers who have dedicated their time to the lighthouse restoration.

CAPITAL ONE SPONSORS FREE LIGHTHOUSE OVERNIGHTS!

A limited number of Light Keepers Overnight Programs at the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum (LPBMM) have been sponsored by Capital One. The program gives children a unique opportunity to experience life as a Light Keeper through a combination of fun programs and hands on activities that start at roughly 8 p.m. and extend through 8 a.m. The program is based on life at the Tchefuncte River Light Station.

Originally designed for Girl Scout and Boy Scout groups, the Capital One Light Keepers Overnight Programs require advance planning, so groups must book at least six weeks in advance. Each overnight for 20-30 children and adults normally costs \$600-\$900. There are a limited number of overnight programs sponsored by Capital One available on a first come, first served basis, so book now! Contact Educator Kristen Garcia at

educator@lpbmm.org or (985)845-2000 to see what restrictions apply.

Groups that book now will have first priority to reserve an overnight when the Tchefuncte River Lighthouse and Keepers Cottage are rejoined, currently slated for 2011. The Light Keepers Overnight Program will then move from the museum/cottage to the Tchefuncte River Light Station.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum Board of Directors welcomes suggestions for candidates to fill expected vacancies on the Board for the remaining term. Any member may suggest a candidate for the Board of Directors.

To suggest a candidate for the Board, please provide a brief statement from the candidate explaining why they wish to serve and a copy of their resume to any member of the Board of Directors. The Directors will then transmit said suggestions to George Tallant, Chairman of

the Nominating Committee, care of the museum by June 30, 2009, in a sealed envelope marked "confidential."

To be a candidate for the Board of Directors, an applicant must fit the following minimum criteria:

1. Credibility: communication, integrity, competence in coordinating human and material resources.
2. Fairness: equity, impartiality, no conflict of interest.
3. Camaraderie: socially friendly, sense of team, ability to be impartial.

4. Pride: work produced by team, standing in community, individual contributions.

In addition, a candidate must be a member of the organization in good standing at the time of nomination and must demonstrate a commitment to the mission of the organization.

Any questions regarding procedures may be addressed to the Nomination Committee Chairman George Tallant or Board Secretary Lynn Haase.

NEW MADISONVILLE LIBRARY

The new Madisonville Branch of the St. Tammany Public Library has taken a significant step forward. In March the St. Tammany Public Library Board selected Sizeler Thompson Brown Architects in partnership with Ron Kilcreast of REK Architects to design the new facility that will be located in the green space directly north of the museum parking lot. At a projected

15,000 square feet, the library promises to be a great community resource and educational partner for the museum.

The library will be built on property provided by the Town of Madisonville and funded by a \$5 million bond issue. Current projections have construction starting in 2009, with completion around late 2010 or

early 2011. See the St. Tammany Public Library web site at www.sttammany.lib.la.us/branches.html for updates or times/locations for meetings during which public input will be accepted.

The Maritime Museum has been happy to assist this new partner get established in our neighborhood.

THE LONG SHOT, BY LOWELL FORD

F. A. Schrieber was a veteran of the Spanish American War, having served in the war in the Philippines and also in the Philippine Insurrection that followed almost immediately. The rifle issued to him as a volunteer from Ocean Springs, Mississippi was a Springfield standard infantry rifle, 45/70 caliber, which he was allowed to keep after being mustered out of the military. The cartridges were standard military load, 70 grains of black powder with a 500 grain soft lead bullet, which delivered significant recoil to the shooter when the rifle was fired. After F. A. Schrieber joined the Lighthouse Service, he carried the rifle with him to all his duty stations, most being quite remote and without communications, for protection.

One day his sons Robert, Ashley, Joe and Allen spotted a large alligator hauled up on the beach to the West of the lighthouse towards Black River. The boys hatched a plan to kill the alligator, since it might pose a threat to pets and people. They quietly went into the keeper's cottage and took the Springfield rifle and a few cartridges, managing to get outside the fence without being seen. Once out on the clamshell beach, the alligator was quite visible against the glaring white shells and presented a good broadside target. The rifle was too heavy for any one of the boys to hold up into firing position by themselves, let alone be able to get steady aim. Ashley, Joe, and Allen supported the rifle barrel on their shoulders

while Robert, being the oldest, manned the stock end for aiming and firing.

Lily Schrieber had noticed a change in the usual activities of the children, mainly, the absence of the boy's voices and decided to check up on them. Not finding them in the confines of the station, she looked beyond the fence. There, on the beach were the four boys, all set to bag an alligator with a shot from the rifle. Just as Robert was in the act of pulling the trigger to send the alligator to the Promised Land, Lily let out a shout in an attempt to stop what they were up to, fearing they may be injured. Electrified by the voice of their mother, the three boys supporting the front of the rifle jumped, Robert pulled the trigger and the landscape became momentarily obscured by a cloud of smoke from the black powder cartridge. Robert's aim had been thrown off and the heavy bullet went crashing through the bushes up the beach from where the alligator had been basking in the sun. At the report of the rifle, Mr. Gator sprang into action in order to save his hide and made a clean getaway into the safety of the lake. Back at the shooting stand, the four boys were on the ground, having been thrown backward by the recoil of the shot. Robert was nursing a sore shoulder and the report of the discharge had temporarily reduced their hearing. However, this was nothing compared to the loss of their ability to sit comfortably after their Mother and Father served up a good spanking.

The Springfield rifle now resides in the LPBMM as mute testimony to an adventure which ended safely with only the pride of four Light Keeper's adventurous boys being slightly ruffled. As related by Ashley, Allen, and Robert much later in their lives, the path that the bullet took through the coffee bean trees was clearly noticeable, with several saplings blown completely in two.



The Springfield rifle that F.A. Schrieber carried through the Spanish American War also went with him to every lighthouse duty station.

COLLECTION ACQUISITIONS

Museum collections have had a number of recent notable additions. The largest was the donation by Jim Kubik of the 18-foot lake skiff he crafted as part of the Maritime Museum Wooden Boatbuilding Class in 2007-2008. The boat was operated for one year before donation. The skiff is in phenomenal shape and is expected to serve as the center piece of a future Louisiana-built boats exhibit.

Another great addition is a model of the steamship *African Comet* built by the H.E. Boucher Manufacturing Company of New York in 1940 for the Ingalls Shipbuilding Corporation of Pascagoula, Mississippi. The model—donated by Captain Donald Thompson—was built to depict the ship, designed as a cargo/passenger ship for the American South African Line, but during construction it

was acquired by the U.S. Navy and converted to the troop transport *USS Arthur Middleton*. The *Middleton* had a distinguished career during World War II, earning six battle stars. The model was damaged during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and is slated for restoration and eventual display.



Jim Kubik's 18-foot lake skiff was built in the Museum's boat building class.

GIFT SHOP NEWS

From Our Expanded Gift Shop

Now is a great time to visit our expanded Gift Shop. We have new Lighthouse merchandise including aprons, lunch coolers and water bottles. . Of course, we have a large assortment of children's merchandise from shirts, books and toys. The gift shop is a great place to shop for any occasion. We also do special ordering, so if you need something and you do not see it in the gift shop, please call the museum and we will try to get it for you. Do not forget that we also sell the Wooden Boat Festival posters. We have a special of 14 assorted WBF posters, signed and unsigned, for \$150.00. This is an outstanding buy. We still have t-shirts,

sweatshirts, and windbreakers at 50% to 70% off. They start at \$5.00. "What a Buy!"

Christmas in July

On July 25, we will have a "Christmas in July" sale with Santa and his Elves sponsored by Funland Golf and Games of Mandeville. A call for Crafters and Artist went out in March, but we still have room for additional vendors. Activities for children will occur at the Cottage or under the Museum. If you know an Artist, Crafter, Elves to help Santa, or would like to volunteer please call Darnell Couvillion at 985-845-9200 or email:giftshop@lpbmm.org.

NEW WEB SITES

The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum has a new web site. The site at www.lpbmm.org was created with assistance from Jim Kubik and represents a much more flexible tool to help keep our members and visitors up to date on recent developments and coming events.

The Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival web site has been updated—also with assistance from the dynamic Mr. Kubik—and includes most of the new forms necessary for vendors, non-profits, boaters, etc. Please visit at www.woodenboatfest.org.

In addition, there are new sites for both the Maritime Museum and the Wooden Boat Festival on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com). Please search either "Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum" or "Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival." These sites will also be used to reach our visitors and our public.



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
Bookkeeper
SLU Coordinator
Gift Shop Manager
Field Trip Manager
Boat Builder
Newsletter Layout

Dr. Jay Martin
Kristen Garcia
Melanie Waddell
Jill Stoltz
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@lpbmm.org
Website: www.lpbmm.org