

SHIPWAYS

LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN MARITIME MUSEUM

WINTER 2009



ON THE WEB AT:

www.lpbmm.org

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COMING EVENTS:

- November 19**– 7:00pm Chip McGimsey, "Looking at LA's Archaeological History" Lecture
- November 20**– 7:00pm Wooden Boat Festival Volunteer Party
- December 17**– 6:30pm Ladimore Smith, Nature Conservancy Lecture
- January 20**—LPBMM Annual Members Meeting
- Call (985)845- 9200 or visit www.lpbmm.org for details on events.

HOLIDAY GIFT

In appreciation for 20 years of the Wooden Boat Festival and nearly a decade of support for exhibits, programs, and restoration projects, the museum will be open **FREE** to general admission visitors for the month of December! Guided tour rates still apply. Visit www.lpbmm.org for information on special holiday activities in Madisonville. The museum Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers *thank you* Louisiana for your support!

THE 20TH ANNUAL MADISONVILLE WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL

A huge thank you to all who supported the **20th Anniversary of the Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival!** Even though we had grey skies throughout the weekend, we believe those that attended had a remarkable time! Paul Kirwin from Sugar Land, Texas, wrote us to say this about his experience at the festival: *"We absolutely will be back next year. Special thanks to the dockmaster (red socks), he made us both feel welcomed to be there. How do you guys pack so many outgoing, smiling, friendly people into such a small town?"*

Now that's a true testimonial and reflection of the dedicated, passionate people that it takes to make the festival wonderful.

By looking at the crowd of people who gathered to watch the bands at the museum, we would say they had an enjoyable time! Rockin' Dopsie surely put on a show and closed out the festival with a bang! Children's Village was a hit with the little ones too!

Special thanks to **Chevron**, our lead sponsor, for its generous support of the festival and **Capital One Bank** for its outstanding involvement in Maritime Mania.

Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers that put in such hard work and dedication all throughout the year to help make the Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival a success.



Scattered showers did not deter these girls from enjoying their new toy boats made by the St. Tammany Woodworkers Guild.

LIGHTHOUSE ARCHAEOLOGY

Through a cooperative effort of the **Louisiana Division of Archaeology**, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum, **Southeastern Louisiana University**, and the **University of New Orleans**, the first systematic archaeological investigation of the Tchefuncte River Light Station occurred

August 3-14. Led by Regional State Archaeologist Andrea White, a team of museum and university volunteers completed shovel testing and test excavations that not only brought greater clarity to life at the historic lighthouse site, but also identified a clear

Continued on Page 2

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LIGHTHOUSE, CONTINUED

pre-historic component that appears to place human activity on the site as much as 1,000 years earlier than theorized. However, the dynamic nature of the site has left this prehistoric material significantly disturbed, so concrete conclusions are difficult.

The Maritime Museum team was managed by LPBMM Board Member Don Lynch. Work was facilitated by the use of research vessels on loan from Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station, participation by faculty members Dr. Jay Martin (History) and Michaelyn Broussard

(Biology), and the efforts of nearly a dozen current and former Southeastern Louisiana Students from the History and Cultural Resource Management Programs. A preliminary presentation of research findings occurred at the Maritime Museum on October 17 as part of Louisiana Archaeology Month. Laboratory analysis of recovered artifacts is expected to continue for some time.

The project is the start of a multi-phase effort to document the lighthouse site prior to return of the keepers cottage, tentatively slated for late 2010.



Students from Southeastern Louisiana University and the University of New Orleans, and volunteers from the Maritime Museum conducted a preliminary archaeological survey of the land surrounding the lighthouse. The group was led by Andrea White, Regional State Archaeologist.



BEHIND THE SCENES

The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum has again assisted with a film production. In October the museum served as base camp and assisted with other logistics for the **Lifetime Channel** movie the "Pregnancy Pact" starring Nancy Travis, due to be aired in early 2010. This production is one of a growing number in which the

museum has been involved. Here is a partial list of museum film credits to date:

- ***The Skeleton Key*** (released 2005)
- ***The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*** (released 2008)
- ***Jonah Hex*** (to be released 2010)
- ***The Pregnancy Pact*** (to be released 2010)



The Skeleton Key star Kate Hudson paddles pirogue built by Maritime Museum boat builders.

LIGHTHOUSE AREA HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY



As part of a 2008 training exercise in Lake Pontchartrain supported by the Maritime Museum, the **U.S. Navy** has created a hydrographic survey of the area around the Tchefuncte River Lighthouse. Using jet skis, boats, and high-tech hydrographic instruments, Navy personnel were able to sound and map the bottom of the lake around the lighthouse. Thanks to Commander Brian D. Connon, Director, Oceanography Operations, Expeditionary Warfare, for making this possible.

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM BIRTHDAY PARTIES AND CHILDREN'S ART CONTEST RECEPTION

The **Swashbucklers Birthday Bashes** have been very successful this year. The staff and volunteers who work the parties have received nothing but praise for the hard work and precision to detail they provide to guests. With the success of these parties and the love of the Maritime Museum, parents started requesting to have **overnight** birthday parties. That's right; children can now stay the night at the museum for their birthday!

The **2009 Children's Art Contest** was a great success this year. It was the very first year that the winning artist's t-shirt was

unveiled during a Saturday reception at the museum. Seven year old, Jennifer Fauchaux was the grand prize winner and was available to sign the t-shirts during this special event. The t-shirt unveiling was so successful that it will continue to be a tradition at the museum.

For more information on how students can become involved with the **2010 Children's Art Contest** or to learn more about Maritime Museum **Swashbuckler Birthday Parties** and **Night at the Museum Birthday Overnights**, please call Kristen, the Education Coordinator, at 985-845-9200.



ON THE WEB

Look for the Maritime Museum on the World Wide Web. Our new web site www.lpbmm.org is receiving an unprecedented amount of traffic. The new site includes many new features. At www.lpbmm.org/get-involved/wish-list/ you can find a list of items that the museum

needs. At www.lpbmm.org/whats-new there are frequent postings of upcoming events and opportunities.

Watch for news about the upcoming Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival at www.woodenboatfest.org.

Sites for both the Maritime Museum and the Wooden Boat Festival are available on [Facebook](#).

A selection of Gift Shop items are now available for purchase on [EBay](#) (see Gift Shop News, page 4).

Merritime Madness Special



For a limited time only, you can hold your company party or holiday event in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum special event rooms for a new Holiday Rate!
<http://lpbmm.org/facility-rental/>

Need some Holiday Cheer? You can get on your way by holding your Company's Holiday Party or special event at the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum for a new limited time only rate!

Rentals: \$1,000 for 3 hour rental (plus refundable deposits & security)

Non-Profit Rentals: \$800 for 3 hour rental (plus refundable deposits & security) (must have documentation of 501(c)(3) status.)

Call Melanie at the museum at (985) 845-9200 to reserve your date! (Offer good from November 28, 2009—January 2, 2010)

MARITIME MUSEUM MEMBERSHIPS

The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum is planning to raise membership dues January 1, 2010, so renewing your membership before the end of the year will be at a relative discount. Membership rates have remained constant for over five years and costs of administering the program

now outweigh the revenue generated.

Maritime Museum membership is a great Christmas present for someone in your life with a love of the water, and a fun way to help support the Museum and our many programs.

Membership provides unlimited free visits to the museum and will offer even greater benefits with the anticipated opening of the Tchefuncte Lighthouse to visitors in 2010. Call 985-845-9200 or visit www.lpbmm.org/members to learn more about membership benefits.

ANNUAL MEETING & BOARD NOMINATIONS

The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum Board of Directors welcomes suggestions for candidates to fill expected vacancies on the Board starting at the annual meeting, **January 20, 2010**. Any member in good standing 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 suggestions to George Tallant, Chairman of the

Nominating Committee, care of the museum by **November 13, 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, conflict of interest.
3. **Camaraderie**—socially friendly, sense of team, ability to be partial.

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.

GIFT SHOP NEWS



The Gift Shop is now on Ebay! Browse some of the Wooden Boat Festival posters online.

To access the [Museum's Ebay website](#) click on the link, or go to [Ebay.com](#) and in the search box provided, type Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival.

In the future we hope to add past poster images and pricing to help people purchase posters and fill out their collections.

In preparation for the display of our updated 2009 Wooden Boat Festival merchandise, the gift shop is having **BLOW OUT SALES** on past t-shirts. Stop by to see the shirts we have on sale at **\$5.00 and \$2.00**.

Christmas will be here soon, as the museum will be opening up with free admittance in the month of December, the gift shop will feature the commemorative **Tchefuncte River Lighthouse Christmas ornament**, and new **Decorative Pirogues**.



As the football season progresses and fan enthusiasm mounts we would like to present our 3.5' **Decorative Pirogue**. Our thanks to Bert Murray and especially his wife Pat for designing and building this great addition to any fan collection of any team requested. The price for this great conversation piece is \$68.00. Pat will be happy to make your pirogue in any color and team logo. Please allow 3 weeks for a special order.

As always the success of our gift shop depends on the special people who volunteer to keep it open. Thanks to all of our Gift Shop volunteers!



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
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C. Roy Blackwood
Sharon Street
Catherine Lynch
Bob Doolittle
Stephanie Bernard

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