

REEDVILLE FISHERMEN'S MUSEUM

# STARRY BANNER

by: Anna Ranson-Williams

## 2024 SEASON KICK-OFF

Thank you to all the members and guests that joined us for the member preview and watermen's reception, to Alva Jackson and the team at MAMH for catering a beautiful display, and those that helped with setup and take down of the events. Come and see our new exhibits during the 2024 season!



## 2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT SELECTED



Last month, RFM awarded our first scholarship recipient at Northumberland High School. Miss Berenice Cauja-Betancourt (Class of 2024) is an outstanding student. She volunteers at RFM, works at Kingdom Kids and Crazy Crab part time and plans to go to school at RCC and one day be a sonogram technician. Congratulations Berenice on your many accomplishments!



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# NEWS, NEWS, NEWS

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## OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

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**Our Museum is open for the season!**

**Hours of Operation:**

**THURSDAY - 11AM-4PM**

**FRIDAY - 11AM-4PM**

**SATURDAY - 11AM-4PM**

**Admissions:**

**Adults \$10.00**

**Seniors \$5.00 (65 and above)**

**Veterans \$5.00**

**Children 17 and under - free**

**Active Military Members - free**

*Active-duty military members receive year-round, free general admission. As a Blue Star Museum, RFM provides free general admission to active-duty military, National Guard, and Reserve personnel and their spouse/partner and up to three children from Armed Forces Day (May 18) through Labor Day (Sept. 2). All prices are subject to change.*

**Contact us for special rates for groups and tours!**

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## STAY TUNED...

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**More information to come:**

**Claud Somers Sail Information  
Cocktails Cruises on the Fannie and Elva-C**

Don't miss this month's Cocktails on the Creek - 5:30pm on May 10th and 31st in the Watermen's Gallery and under the Wendell G. Haynie Pavilion. BYOB. Appetizers welcome at the May 10th cocktails. May 31st will feature local food trucks!




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## 73RD ANNUAL POTOMAC RIVER FESTIVAL

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**Captains of older, antique boats are invited to join in the boat parade for the 73rd Annual Potomac River Festival.**

**Link to the Schedule of events:**

[https://colonialyachtclub.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page\\_id=4002&club\\_id=355786&item\\_id=2138571](https://colonialyachtclub.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=4002&club_id=355786&item_id=2138571)

**Please email Phil Bolin or contact the RFM office for more information.**

## Schedule Updates:

**Music Fest has been moved to August 10th**

**May Outdoor Cocktails (originally May 24) has been rescheduled for May 31st - Happy Memorial Day Weekend!**

**KIDS SUMMER CAMP OFFERINGS  
COMING SOON!**





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## MORE NEWS

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# BLESSING OF THE FLEET

**MAY 5, 2024 3:30PM**

**OMEGA PROTEIN  
610 MENHADEN ROAD  
REEDVILLE, VA 22539**

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## FESTIVAL HALLE UPDATE

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On Friday April 19th and Saturday April 20th the Save Festival Halle Committee kicked-off their Golf Cart Raffle Ticket sale. Many thanks to Lillian Lumber, Bill Crowther and staff in Burgess for inviting us to sell tickets at their annual Spring Sale. The committee sold over 300 tickets making it a huge success.

There are a limited number of tickets still available. You can easily purchase your tickets now online at [festivalhalle.org](http://festivalhalle.org) or contact the Reedville Museum office at 804-453-6529. Prizes include 1st Prize Golf Cart, 2nd Prize Big Green Egg Grill, 3rd Prize Yeti Cooler. Raffle will be held on July 6th at 2pm at the Museum.

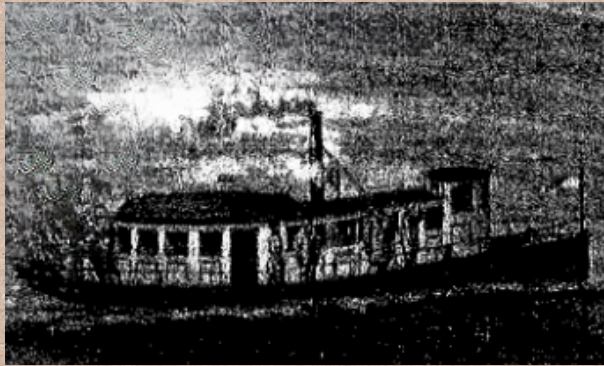
And....There is more exciting news about our next fundraiser. On June 1st , we will hold a Community Yard Sale at Festival Halle yard and School Street from 8:00 to 1:00. If you would like to join in the fun go to our website for more information [festivalhalle.org](http://festivalhalle.org). If you'd like to display, 10x10 spaces are available at \$25.00 each, with or without a table. Please call 804-453-6529 for more information or to reserve a space.



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## DO YOU KNOW HOW OUR NEWSLETTER GOT IT'S NAME?

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According to an article written by George T. Edwards Jr., “*Starry Banner* is an important part of the history of the Reedville area being the first steam powered vessel to be used in the menhaden industry on the bay.

She was small at 39.5 gross measurement tons and about 65 feet long. Her steam engine was small at 30 horsepower and she kept the same engine her whole, short life. She had a capacity for 125,000 fish, less than a tenth of what modern boats carry. She was

special, however, when she came to the Chesapeake Bay since, up to then, all the fishing was done from sailing vessels. Elijah Reed purchased her at the end of 1879 and she was in service from 1880 until she was sold in 1889. Her next owners used her as a ‘wrecker’, a vessel used to raise other vessels whole or, if the vessel could not be raised, to salvage the cargo and equipment. But fate turned the tables and, in November of 1891, *Starry Banner* ran onto a shoal off of St. Augustine, Florida and was a total loss. There was no insurance. The crew of seven was saved by the life-saving station after several hours clinging to wreckage.”

For the full article, please refer to the Northumberland Historical Society’s Bulletin.

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## E-MEMBERSHIP ROLL-OUT

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RFM is thrilled to announce our new digital membership cards. Starting June 1st, your card will now be accessible on your phone, giving you fast and easy access to your benefits. We are happy to offer environmentally friendly and convenient digital membership cards to our members!

You can get your cards using the steps below:

1. Download “eMembership Card” App from Apple App store or Google Play Store
2. Select the Reedville Fishermen’s Museum tile and touch Find My Membership Cards
3. Enter:
  - a) Your membership number and your last name or
  - b) Phone number and your last name



Please note if you use phone number to search and if you have multiple phone numbers with us, then only one of those will work. Should you have any questions regarding this new member benefit, please contact us at [marketing@rfmuseum.org](mailto:marketing@rfmuseum.org).



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## STORIES FROM A FISHING VILLAGE

### WOMAN ON BOARD BY: CAROL MURATORE

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There was an old superstition that bringing a woman aboard a boat is bad luck. Sailors once believed that women would distract them from their duties. This distraction was said to anger the Sea, causing poor weather and all other manner of misfortune. Well Monica White Schenemann is one of the many women who have debunked that myth. And there are a lot of watermen who believe she's their "lucky penny" because of her support and advocacy.

Monica is a waterman, or shall we say waterwoman who works on the waters of the Chesapeake Bay region doing a tough job and making a living. She works side-by-side with her husband, Jeff. They are a two-man operation. It's safe to say, he wouldn't have it any other way. They are a team, small business owners, who put food on folk's tables, and they are representative of the independent watermen of the Northern Neck of Virginia (NNK).

In her spare time, Monica volunteers as Secretary for The Virginia Watermen's Association (VWA). She does this because she knows that to effect positive change, complaining doesn't get the job done. By being organized and advocating for the industry she is helping all watermen. One bad law, poor communication or mishandled bit of information can put a waterman's livelihood at risk.

There is a lot of work to be done. Monica described an example of how Maryland, which actually controls some of our Virginia waterways wanted to restrict fishing areas to protect some old sunken ships. Although some restrictions ultimately did go into place, the VWA was able to get involved and reduce the area effected. Despite working all day, Monica finds time for advocacy.

Most people believe that the fish they are eating right here in the NNK or in other parts of the country is local. However, 75-85% of the fish we consume on our table is imported from a foreign country. Foreign competition is one more hurdle added to the obstacles of the watermen. And I'm not just speaking about the physical labor. First you need a Waterman's Card to get started. Then you need to get your license. There are important rules, regulations to follow and reporting requirements. Like any entrepreneurial venture, there are monetary risks added to the challenges of this physically demanding environment.

There are many reasons that our fishing industry is under pressure. The "Supply Chain" upstream can also impact the route "caught fish" goes from Boat to Table. For example, there are crab picking or oyster shucking



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## STORIES FROM A FISHING VILLAGE CONT.

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operators who have the labor-intensive job of getting the food ready for consumption. Because finding labor to do this work has become difficult, these operators are less plentiful. That leaves a void for markets to which watermen can sell their catch. There currently is legislation under consideration in the US Senate called Save Our Seafood that could help with obtaining seasonal workers.

For the resilient ones who make it through the many challenges, it's a humble yet fascinating job. It's exhausting yet exhilarating. There's freedom, autonomy and a sense of accomplishment that you just can't get sitting at a desk under fluorescent lights all day. It's literally "wild" working on the water. Additionally, Monica has some good management skills to help the watermen get a more organized voice for positive outcomes. Monica and the VWA is doing important work. Watermen are lucky this woman is on board.

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Reedville Fishermen's Museum

# Benefit Yard Sale

Saturday, June 1  
9:00am - 1:00pm  
177 Main Street Reedville, VA 22539

Reserve your space for only  
\$25, with or without a table.  
Call us today!

All proceeds and donations will be  
doubled and go towards the repair and  
restoration of Festival Halle

For More Information:  
804-453-6529  
office@rfmuseum.org



# SMALLER CATCHES

## SAVE THE DATES

- May 5: Blessing of the Fleet
- May 10: Cocktails on the Creek (indoor)
- May 31: Cocktails on the Creek  
(outdoor)
- June 1-2: Ships on the Air
- June 14: Cocktails on the Creek (indoor)
- June 21-23: Family Boat Building
- June 28: Cocktails on the Creek  
(outdoor)



THIS YEAR MARKS THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF REEDVILLE! FOR A FULL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY WEEKEND OR TO REGISTER FOR THE 5K, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.RFMUSEUM.ORG](http://WWW.RFMUSEUM.ORG).

## NOW ACCEPTING, CAR DONATIONS!

The majority of the museum's operating budget comes from the sale of donated boats and other items. This year we have expanded our program to include cars! Our inventory is low. Please consider the museum when deciding how to dispose of a boat or vehicle that you no longer need. We can pick up the vessel or car and provide the necessary paperwork for tax purposes. Your contributions greatly help the local community and our beloved museum. Please email us at [donations@rfmuseum.org](mailto:donations@rfmuseum.org) for more information on how to donate or to inquire about our current inventory!



I986 WELLCRAFT ST. TROPEZ -  
\$12,900



[donations@rfmuseum.org](mailto:donations@rfmuseum.org)

I978 ERICSON 25 FULL KEEL WITH  
ROLLER FURLING JIB - \$3,500





# PHOTOS HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAST MONTH:



## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**Bruce Samuelson**

Bruce Samuelson has been so instrumental in grant writing for Festival Halle and works so tirelessly on the FH committee. Bruce and his wife Mary-ellen have been so active and taken on many leadership roles for us at RFM. Bruce has worked on corporate sponsorships as well as writing lengthy federal and state grants for the GRA/RFM. We are so appreciative of his attendance at events and willingness to take on a big responsibility as Treasurer.



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

**Tom Melhuish**

Tom's latest contribution to the museum was his repair work on the Pilot House. The Herman M. Krenz Pilot House is a classic boat captain's wheelhouse that came to the RFM in 1997 off of a 53' "buy boat." It is made mostly of local spruce, and includes a large wheel, magnetic compass, and a galley aft that has built-in sleeping bunks and a sink. Tom worked hard on sprucing this walk through exhibit up, just in time for Opening Day

## FISHERMEN'S FUN FACT:



"Long before people threw lines into the water to catch fish, many Native American cultures relied on spears for their fishing. Fish was a big part of some of their diets and male native Indians went spearfishing while the women were not allowed to use spears and so they used a simple system of a string with a hook on the end. Although this practice has become increasingly rare on a fishing boat rental, there are still some people who use spears to catch fish, for example, by using high-powered spear guns while they are scuba diving."

- boatsetter.com



# RFM'S NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Todd and Shelly Anderson	Steven and Rochelle King
John Baffa	Georg and Benita Koman
David and Vivian Basl	Claudette Lajoie
Tab and Susan Bass	Benjamin and Rachel Lane
Bill Blackwell	Donald and Candace Lavoy
George and Becky Butler	Mary Lewis
Paul and Lisa Capotosto	Herb and Nancy Lewis
Michael and Kacza Carine	Susan Lindsey
Jack and Ariane Carpenter	Kevin and Elizabeth MacNair
Emily Center	Patrick and Shauna McCranie
Ray and Ilse Clements	Dennis McNeely
Michael and Jency Clopper	Richard Meagher Jr.
Ruth Cockrell	John and Marchal Meenan
Tiffany Comey	Will and Mariam Meyer
Teresa Coyne	Don Moore
Danny and Bonnie Crabbe	Tom and Nicole Moore
Mike and Anne Crawley	Carrie Mullins
A.B., Becky, and May Crowther	Terry and Lisa Murphy
Michael and Carol Cummings	Trip and Sandy Robins
Taylor Deihl	Peale and Martha Rogers
Carol Dingley	Frederick and Christine Rogers
Fred and Donna Edmonds	Hannah Rogers
John and Pat Eginton	Jeffrey and Karen Rosenfeld
Deborah Ferrin	Edward and Jennifer Rowan
Danny and Debbie Fore	Joe and Rose Schlatter
Daniel and Katherine Frasca	Jim and Kathy Schwab
Glenn and Leslie Frazho	Len and Janet Shabman
Frank and Ester Galloway	Tim and Carol Shifflett
Crash Gilliam	William and Carrie Somers
Priscilla Goss	Nick and Becca Sterrett
Joyce Gutermuth	John and Gayle Sterrett*
Becky Haynie*	James and Ronnee Taylor
Paige Headley	John Tripodi
Jay and Linda Herson	Joey and Marian Walker
Chip and Margaret Hudnall	Gene White
Grayson Jennings	Morgan Wilson
Tim and Diane Joyce	Micaela Wilson

\*denotes lifetime member

## FOLLOW US!

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[www.rfmuseum.org](http://www.rfmuseum.org)

