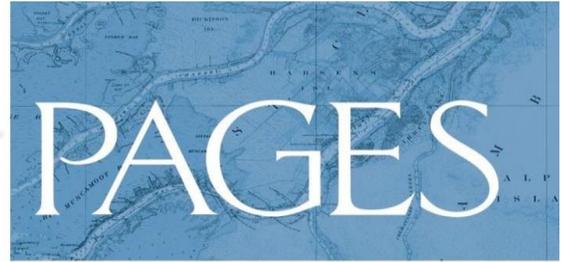


\$3<sup>00</sup> per issue

# The SOCIETY

HARSENS ISLAND / ST. CLAIR FLATS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## ***SPRING HAS SPRUNG***

This year's Special Exhibit will look at the history of one of the most important ingredients of Harsens Island life- Sports and Recreation- Called "**Fins & Feathers**" the exhibit will feature a Sneak Boat made locally here in Fair Haven, local decoys that saw heavy use in seasons past as well as fishing equipment for summer and winter with rods and reels as well as hand carved fish decoys and rare old lures. Remembering the ladies who graced our grand resorts, the exhibit features a fine summer frock rounded out with needed accessories.

Early in its history the St. Clair Flats region became known for unexcelled duck hunting and fishing. At first there were little individual outposts built along the channels but eventually five clubhouses centered on these sports were erected with membership rosters that included a "who's who" of Detroit society. This legacy lives on with the establishment of today's Wildlife Refuge. The Reader's Cove is sponsoring a talk by John Darling, Manager of the St. Clair Flats Wildlife Refuge. Wednesday, May 17th at 1 PM. Call Doreen- 748-7157.

## **THE STURGEON STORY, Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 3 PM. Schoolhouse Grille.**

The First of our Summer Lecture Series. Recognition of Clay Township as Michigan's Sturgeon Angling Capital was conceived a few years ago as a way to make the local community aware of our local sturgeon resource and just how special and unique it really is. This took the cooperation and effort of Sturgeon for Tomorrow, Artie Bryson and Tom Fetter of Clay Township, Senator Phil Pavlov and Representative Dan Lauwers who introduced the resolutions in the Michigan Senate and House respectively. Reservations call Chuck 748-7209. Members \$10, Non-Members \$15.

Members \$10, Non-Members \$15. Reservations call Chuck- 748-7209.

## **ISLAND STORIES- Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM**

The second in our heritage lecture series ISLAND STORIES is scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 PM the School House Grille. Island resident Judy Jessup will be one of our featured speakers along with Carole Hogg. Judy grew up in the home once owned by Aura Stewart on Steward Farm. Space is limited to the first forty reservations so call in your reservation early to Donna Krispen at 810- 748-9527 or Gary Grout at 810-748-3320. Members \$10, Non-Members \$15.

## **Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 3 PM at the MUSEUM.**

A special visit by museum member and Skipper, Captain Pat Hart of the Tug VICTORY/BARGE JAMES L. KUBER. Pat will pay us a visit to discuss the advantages of the articulated tug/barge system and answer questions. 3 PM at the Museum. Free, but RSVP please- space is limited. Chuck- 748-7209.

## **Saturday, AUGUST 19<sup>th</sup> 3 PM Grille.**

**Lost in 17 Minutes; The Tug O Wilcox.** The 123-foot tug Ozias Wilcox was built in 1869 in Detroit MI. She was best in class on the lakes, with an A2 rating; she was valued at \$10,000. In her last days, she was under charter to bring a raft of logs from Georgian Bay-to-Bay City. She met her fate in a large gale on August 29, 1893, she went down in seven minutes in twenty-five fathoms of water approximately fifteen miles from Tawas.

Registration required. Call Chuck 748-7209. Members \$10, Non-Members \$15



# The Society Pages

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Clair Flats Historical Society

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scan the code to go to the HISCFHS  
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May, 2017

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Join us on Facebook!



## President's Message for May, 2017

Hi All,

### Matching Funds Offer

One of our longtime supporters, Clayton Evans of Washington State, is offering the Society matching funds of up to \$2,000 which we can raise through donations during the month of May. Member donations, and his matching funds, will be placed in our building account to support improvements or additions to the Museum. If you are interested in helping us take advantage of Clayton's generous offer, please contact me or send donations to "The Society" postmarked no later than May 31, 2017.

### Nominations for Board Members

Some nominations have been received for the two board positions which are up for election this summer. This is just a reminder that all nominations are due at the Society post office box by May 4th or in person at the Board and Membership meeting at the Museum on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM.

### Special Exhibit 2017 Update

Visiting Groups are lining up to see our 2017 Special Exhibit. We already have four classes of Algonac students and one senior citizen group scheduled to visit the museum to see our 2017 special exhibit "Fins and Feathers- Sport Hunting and Fishing on Harsens Island and the St. Clair Flats". If you know of any groups who would be interested in visiting, have them contact Nancy Boulton at 810-748-3802.

### Hosts Needed for 2017 Season

We're sorry to say that one of our very dedicated museum hosts, Esther Franz, is moving away. Thank you Esther for all you have done for the Society. We'll miss seeing you at the museum.

With our expanded schedule this year, the Society needs plenty of hosts to help out. Hosts open and/or close the museum for visitors and stay for a two to two-and-one-half hour session. On Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 AM and again at 3:00 PM we will be conducting museum host orientation training at the museum. During the half hour orientation prospective hosts will learn about the opening and closing procedures and how to record sales from the museum store. I hope you will join us for the host orientation, even if you are not sure if you will be able to serve.

### Arcadia Book Update

Gary Mitchell, the author who is working with Arcadia Press, recently visited the museum and reviewed our collection to begin assembling materials for his upcoming book on the history of Harsens Island and the St. Clair Flats. We need your help now to make this book as complete as possible. Please go through any documents or photos which your family may have of the Island and Islanders and share them with the Society to help with this project. We aren't asking you give them up; just bring them to the Museum so we can scan them while you wait. If you have any materials that you would like to share, please call me at 248-388-0465 or email me at [xharpspah@aol.com](mailto:xharpspah@aol.com) before the end of May.

**Bob Williams, President**

## Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society Calendar

Locations may change – See our website at [HarsensIslandHistory.org](http://HarsensIslandHistory.org) for the latest information.

All members welcome to attend any Board meeting listed as Board/Membership meeting.

- May - 6<sup>th</sup> - Saturday - 10:30 AM – Board/Membership meeting at the Museum  
 20<sup>th</sup>- First in our Lecture Series at Schoolhouse Grille- “The Sturgeon Story”  
 Reservations- Call Chuck 748-7209.  
 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, Sunday, Monday - Memorial Day Museum Open House  
 (Special open hours - Saturday 11:30am – 3pm, Sunday 12 noon – 4pm, Monday 10am – 3pm)
- June - 3<sup>rd</sup> – Saturday – 9:30 AM – Museum host orientation at the Museum  
 10:30 AM – Board/Membership meeting at the Museum  
 3:30 PM – Museum host orientation at the Museum  
 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday – Social hour – 6 to 8 PM at the Museum  
 10<sup>th</sup> - Saturday- Delta News collectors meeting. Open to public. 11AM at the museum.  
 17<sup>th</sup> - Saturday- 3 PM- Lecture Series at Schoolhouse Grille- “Island Stories”  
 Reservations required- Call Gary Grout 748-3320.
- July - 1<sup>st</sup> - Saturday – 10:30 AM – Board/Membership meeting at the Museum  
 10<sup>th</sup> - Monday- Special Visit and Presentation by Capt. Pat Hart, Tug Victory, 3 PM at the museum-  
 Reservations required. Call Chuck 748-7209.  
 14<sup>th</sup> – Friday – Social hour – 6 to 8 PM at the Museum
- August- 5<sup>th</sup> - Saturday – 10:30 AM – Board/Membership meeting at the Museum  
 11<sup>th</sup> – Friday – Social hour – 6 to 8 PM at the Museum  
 19<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – 4:30 PM Wine and Appetizers at the museum.  
 5 to 6 PM- *Annual Membership Meeting* at the museum.
- Sept.- 8<sup>th</sup> – Friday – Social hour – 6 to 8 PM at the Museum  
 16<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – 3:00 PM - Lecture series – Tony Gramer: “Lost in 17 Minutes-The Tug O Wilcox”  
 Reservations required- Call Chuck- 748-7209
- October- 7<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – 10 – 3 PM - **Pie Sale at Museum**  
 14<sup>th</sup> - Saturday - 10:30 AM – Board/Membership meeting at the Museum
- December-  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – Saturday – 10 AM– 3 PM - **Cookie Walk at the Museum**  
 9<sup>th</sup>– Saturday – 10:30 AM – Board Meeting at Museum

**2017 Summer Hours**  
**Memorial Day weekend through September**  
**Thursday – 12 - 4 PM**  
**Friday – 12 - 4 PM**  
**Saturday – 10 AM – 3 PM**  
**Sunday – Noon – 4 PM**  
**Special Happy Hour - 2nd Fridays 6 - 8 PM.**

## New Great Lakes Maritime Museum Opens in Centerline

The newest member of the Great Lakes Maritime Museum Community opened recently at 26560 Van Dyke Rd. just south of I-696. The Rudy Nautical Museum, a creation of Dennis and Kathy Novak, is a stunning collection of marine art, charts and maps, artifacts and ship models collected over many years.

Dennis grew up in Cottrellville Township and spent his free time roaming the shores of the St. Clair River between Algonac and Marine City. Educated in law, accounting and business planning, Dennis has been involved in numerous ventures including motel ownership on the river. Maritime history is his life-long passion and his commitment to education is clearly evident in every display in the elegant multi-room museum.

The museum contains the largest single collection of original art work by marine artist Ed Labernik of Duluth, MN., as well as a number of J. Clary works. The ship models were built by Harvey Nissley, on the most prolific ship model builders known to this author. Each of the exhibits focuses on topical areas such as shipwreck disasters on the Lakes, including the Fitzgerald, Bradley, and the Wexford, evolution of vessel design and function, shipping lines of note, the great recreational passenger steamers including the Christopher Columbus, Columbia and the Tashmoo, the War of 1812, and a special memorial exhibit dedicated to the military.



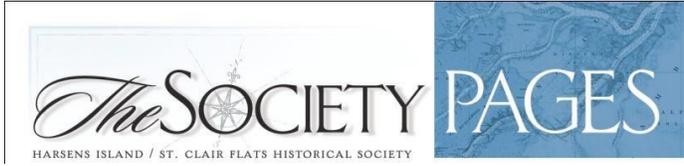
An original Life Ring from the Edmund Fitzgerald retrieved the day after the tragedy.



The stunning layout of this unusual museum heightens both the aesthetic and the educational value to the visitor.

Each piece of the exhibit includes a concise narrative relating to its history and significance. The educational aspect of the museum is most evident in the exhibit designed to educate young and old on the significance of the Great Lakes as a vital commercial avenue to the world as well as their importance as a natural resource. Mr. Novak prefers to personally guide his guests to ensure they receive full benefits of his effort. Calling ahead is appreciated.

The museum is open generally 9-5 daily by appointment. Groups are especially welcome. 586-206-2791.



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