

REEDVILLE FISHERMEN'S MUSEUM

STARRY BANNER

by: Anna Ranson-Williams



Opening Day is approaching! Our exhibits committee and local artists have been hard at work, creating new experiences and knowledge opportunities for guests. Be sure to visit us on April 6th to see what's new, both indoors and outdoors! RFM will be open Thursday-Saturday from 11am-4pm. Members are free, but for those spreading the word...adult admission is \$10, seniors (65+) and Veterans are \$5.00, children 17 and under and active military members are FREE!

Interested in booking a field trip for your class, summer camp, or homeschool group? Please email director@rfmuseum.org for available dates!



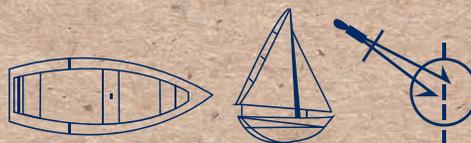
NEWS, NEWS, NEWS



EASTER BUNNY ARRIVES

The Easter Bunny arrived on the Elva-C on Saturday, March 30th, greeted by lots of excited faces! This event, put on by Reedville Fishermen's Museum and Bethany UMC, allowed family and friends to gather and participate in the biggest egg hunt to date. Over 6000 eggs were hidden this year. Thank you to all that came out and participated!

RFM TWSB



TEACHES WITH SMALL BOATS



Capt. Knot (volunteer David Clark) has been busy with the Northumberland Middle School TAG program over the past few weeks, giving the hands on learning experience associated with the boat building! We could use more volunteers and monetary support with this project, if you'd like to get involved please email director@rfmuseum.org!

READY FOR THE 2024 SEASON



Thank you to all of volunteers that came out and helped with our campus spruce up event - we couldn't do these big things without you!

SAVE THE DATES

April 5: Member Preview

April 6: Opening Day

April 6: Watermen and Pilot's Reception

April 12: Cocktails on the Creek
(indoor)

April 26: Cocktails on the Creek
(outdoor)

April 28: Volunteer Appreciation Cruise
(RSVP required)

Don't miss this month's Cocktails on the Creek - 5:30pm on April 12th and 26th in the Watermen's Gallery and under the Wendell G. Haynie Pavilion. BYOB. Appetizers welcome at the April 12th cocktails. April 26th will feature local food trucks!



THIS YEAR MARKS THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF REEDVILLE! HAVE IDEAS OR WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CELEBRATION? EMAIL US AT DIRECTOR@RFMUSEUM.ORG TO BECOME A SPONSOR!

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT



DEPOSITS DUE

ALL DEPOSITS ARE DUE BY APRIL 1ST FOR THE 2024 FAMILY BOAT BUILD. If you would like to be placed on our waitlist or for a future event, please email us at office@rfmuseum.org.

FESTIVAL HALLE UPDATE



Did you hear about our upcoming Festival Halle raffle?! Lots of cool prizes are up for grabs, all proceeds go to the restoration efforts for Festival Halle.

WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP!!

Items to be raffled off include a brand new golf cart, a Big Green Egg grill, and a Yeti cooler. Tickets will go on sale soon, winners will be announced July 6th.

5:30-7:00PM

April 6

**WATERMEN'S AND PILOT'S RECEPTION
AT RFM**



MEMBERSHIP RAFFLE COMING SOON:

TELL YOUR FRIENDS!



150TH ANNIVERSARY/INDEPENDENCE DAY SCHEDULE

JULY 5TH ACTIVITIES:

5K Packet Pickup - 8:00am-4:00pm at the RFM Butler House

Golf Cart Parade - 6:00pm on Main Street

Music by DJ Paragon, Food Trucks, Beer Garden - 6:30-9pm

JULY 6TH ACTIVITIES:

5K Registration - 6:45-7:45am at Fairfields Volunteer Fire Department

5K Begins - 8:00am at Festival Halle

Kids Activities - 10:00am-12:00pm

Claud Somers Sails - 10:30am-12:30pm from Crazy Crab

Food - 11:00am-2:30pm on RFM Campus

Beer Garden and Music by DJ Russ - 12:30-2:30pm at the Wendell G. Haynie Pavilion

Christening of "RESCUE III" by Smith Point Sea Rescue - RFM Docks at 1:00pm

Main Street Parade - 3:00pm on Main Street

Fireworks - start after dark somewhere between 9:00 and 9:30

Early Bird Registration for the 5k is now open! Take advantage of this discount, rates go up on May 15th. Registration is ONLINE ONLY. All runners ages 6 and up must register. We ask those participating with strollers to line up towards the back. T-Shirts are only guaranteed for those registered by June 8th. Packet pickup will be held on Friday from 8am-4pm at the Butler House on RFM Campus and Saturday from 6:45-7:45am.

To register:

<https://raceroster.com/events/2024/84695/reedville-firecracker-5k-runwalk>

CORPORATE SPONSORS



Interested in the perks of
being a corporate sponsor?

Email us at
office@rfmuseum.org.



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Don't forget to RSVP for the Volunteer Appreciation Cruise by April 14th! Email us to let us know you're coming. BYOB and a side that will go with fried chicken!

Departing from Buzzards Point Marina at 5:15pm on April 28th. Address is 468 Buzzards Point Road, Reedville, VA 22539.

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 for more information on how to donate or to inquire about our current inventory!



2009 MONTEREY BOWRIDER - \$7,900



donations@rfmuseum.org



1986 WELLCRAFT ST. TROPEZ - \$14,900



STORIES FROM A FISHING VILLAGE

IT'S IN HIS BLOOD BY: CAROL MURATORE



Raised in Foxwell's, Clint Wade Steel has fishing in his blood. He's a third-generation waterman and it could even go farther back for all he knows. His dad and granddad fished before him. Clint has been a full-time waterman from his childhood all through his adult life.

Of his earliest childhood memories, he recalls being "put into a life jacket while mom and daddy worked at their fish house to process the fish they caught". The life jacket was on him to keep him afloat just in case he fell into the water. They even put him in a bouncy chair wearing it while they did the hard work of getting the fish ready for market.

As Clint grew up, he worked with his dad on the water. They were catching Spot Croakers and using Gill Nets back then. Although he would have liked to work on the water full time, his parents were adamant that Clint finish high school. So, he worked during summers and when he could during the school year. As soon as he could, he got out on the water and did almost every type of fishing available on the local waterways of the Chesapeake Bay Area.

Clint caught bait to catch crabs. He crabbed, oystered and fished for tuna, longline sharks along with horn dogs which are a type of shark. Clint mostly worked for other watermen or ran operations for them. It's not easy to just go out and start up a fishing operation. In addition to the "know how" and financial capital, you also need a license which is costly and hard-to-get as they are very limited. Often, licenses are inherited. He believes if a young person puts in the time, works under someone; it should be easier for them to get their license and not wait for someone to die to inherit one.

IT'S IN HIS BLOOD CONT.

On a typical day, Clint rises at 3:00am to ready himself for the day. By 4:00am he's checked the weather and dressed accordingly before downing a soda. Then a cigarette and BC powder give him the jumpstart he needs to get out on the water. The boats get back in by late morning. It's not something an average American worker has to do. It's hard work but it does have an allure. What Clint loves about his work is the feeling of freedom. "It's hard to explain...it's bred into you. It's in your blood. It's a calling"

I pressed him with questions like "isn't it dangerous work?" And he just laughed and said "of course it is. We joke about that all the time." And it struck me. This truly is the Wild, Wild West and these folks are in a sort of rodeo every day. Except at a rodeo when the cowboy is thrown, he hits the ground. If these guys get tossed off a boat, it's the deep sea. When these small fishing boats return full of fish, the water is lapping over the sides. It's not for the faint of heart. You've got to keep your sense of humor.

When asked what he disliked about his work, Clint just shrugged it off. Work is work. No matter what you have to do, there's going to be stuff that annoys you. "If you had to go into a field every day and bend over to pick up \$100 bills, you would still complain that your back was killing you. So, there's always something, but in general I like being on the water."

When his dad passed away a couple of years ago, Clint inherited his dad's crab license. Clint intends to start up a crabbing business. He said he would rather have his dad than the license but realizes how lucky he is to have it. When asked if he wants his boys, his two sons to follow in his footsteps, his answer is quick. He says he would be proud of whatever they decide to do. However, he would like it if one of them kept the family tradition alive. Clint thinks it's important for the industry to have more young people enter the field. It's important to keep jobs here in this country and food on our tables.

I asked Clint if he thought the menhaden were being overfished in our waters. Clint's answer was thoughtful and measured. He told me that Delaware closed waters to menhaden fishing. Interestingly, the menhaden population shrunk. In his experience, he believes menhaden are fish that need to be cultivated. Think of it as a garden left untended. It overgrows and dies.

I asked him if he thought there was a problem with rockfish not having enough menhaden for their food. Again, he was thoughtful and measured. Clint explained to me that both rockfish and bluefish live in these waters. They both fight for the same fish for food. Rockfish and Bluefish can't coexist. Sooner or later, you get tired of being slapped and move on to different feeding grounds. Maybe the rockfish just got tired of getting slapped and moved on.

Clint gave me a lot to think about. He's out there every day. He knows these waters and the fish. They are important to him and his livelihood. We can't possibly know as much about the fish as the watermen do. Every conversation that affects them or any legislation regarding these waters, must include watermen. Why? Because they know. It's in their blood.

PHOTOS HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAST MONTH:



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

Please help us welcome Teresa Coyne, our new office manager!

Teresa enjoys being on the water, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, or boating. When she's not on the water, she is tending to her bees, gardening or participating in a yoga class. She loves the feel and cohesiveness of small towns, especially water towns. She has been a resident of Virginia since 1988 and has spent most of her life in the Williamsburg area. She has one child and he is currently a student at the Aviation Institute of Maintenance.



FISHERMEN'S FUN FACT:



Marathon Man, Jeff Kolodzinski, holds the world record for most fish caught in 24 hours. In 2022, he caught a whopping 3,774 fish in a 24 hour stretch. All fishing was done from the shore, and he used inexpensive, beginner level tackle.

Kilodzinski sets new records to raise money for the Fishing For Life NextGEN program, serving kids, families, veterans, and communities through fishing and outdoor programs!

RFM'S NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

John and Linda Almassy
Suzy Amburn
Bob and Mary Blocher
Dinah Bondzie
John and Amy Boyd
Billy and Bootsie Burgess
Gordon and Judy Burgess
Bob and Alice Burgess
Charles and Susan Caple
Pat Clark
Roscoe and Kaye Connell
Mary Corcoran
Greg Corsa
Jim and Donna Cowardin
Bill Crowther
Harriet Crowther
Kathleen and Thom Ennen
Carville and Elizabeth Evering
Gregory Fox
Nancy and Lonnie Frye
Richard and Zhe Gilfillan
Ally Hurt
Don and Alice Imbur

Jim and Anne Kenner
Ed and Carol Kratt
Richard Lensis
Laura and Tim McDonald
Mike and Martha Murphy
Northumberland County Historical Society
Mike and Susan Owens
Sherry Parker
Jim and Linda Schafer
Monica Schenemann
Jonathon and Lorena Seastrom
Leonard and Janet Shabman
Dean Sherick
Steven and Colleen Shriver
James Smith
Clint and Merle Stables
Jessie and Meredith Sterrett
Charlie and Bobbie Thompson
John Tripodi
Glenn and Susie Warner
Gary and Marianne Weeter
Keith and Sheila Wilson
Eugene Wolski

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www.rfmuseum.org



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