

REEDVILLE FISHERMEN'S MUSEUM

STARRY BANNER

www.rfmuseum.org

Dear GRA Membership:

The Greater Reedville Association Board of Directors wishes to formally communicate the resignation of Executive Director, Shauna McCranie, effective December 19, 2025. While we are sorry to see her depart, we remain grateful for the time, energy, and talents

Shauna brought to GRA.

Since taking on the role in April of 2023, Shauna's steadfast commitment to upholding Reedville's traditions and its maritime history have made meaningful and lasting contributions to the Association. These efforts have advanced initiatives that will continue to benefit the Reedville community well into the future.

We wish Shauna the best as she begins this new chapter.

Please join us in wishing Shauna the best.

The Board will continue to keep members informed as we begin the search for a suitable candidate to fill the position.

The GRA Board of Directors



Christmas in Reedville



2026 Lecture Series

1 The Sinking of the Fenwick Island

Movie Showing

January 5th @ 6:30 p.m.

The Fenwick Island was a fishing trawler that sank in the Atlantic Ocean off Cape Lookout, North Carolina, on December 7, 1968, after capsizing in heavy seas. The vessel was returning to port with a cargo of menhaden when it encountered unexpected bad weather and took on water in its main fish hold, leading to the deaths of seven of the fourteen crew members.



2 War on the Inland Sea-Tom Briggs & The ABC's of Oystering-Susan Swift and Heather Cockrell

Book Talk and Signing

February 2nd @ 6:30 p.m.

The Museum's own Tom Briggs has written a novel of historical fiction set during the French and Indian War. This book is a tale of naval adventure, loss and deprivation and is written from three perspectives.

From the creators of *ABC's of Crabbing* comes a new, children's book that explores the world of oystering on the Chesapeake Bay.

Join author Susan Swift and illustrator Heather Cockrell as they share their upcoming release.



3 Menhaden-Joseph W. Smith

Book Talk and Signing

March 2nd @ 6:30 p.m.

Menhaden: A Biologist's Thirty-Two Year Journey with the Fish and Fishery blend science, history, and personal experience to chronicle the menhaden industry and its ecological importance. Drawing on his 32-year career as a federal biologist, Smith explores the balance between conservation and commerce while offering an insider's view of this vital fish and the people who study it.

The Sinking of the Fenwick Island

Lecture series 1

ITY NEWS-TIME
and BEAUFORT, N. C.
Monday, December 9, 1968

n Die Satui

Menhaden Boat Sink Storm Off Cape; Se

SEVEN FISHERMEN DIED Saturday night when the 133-foot hull menhaden boat, Fenwick Island, capsized and sank in heavy seas and gale winds nine miles off Cape Lookout. Seven other fishermen, including the captain, were plucked from the sea by the Haynie Products menhaden boat, W. T. James Jr. The W. T. James Jr. also recovered one body.

The Fenwick Island was owned by the Fenwick Fishing Co. of Lewes, Del. It was fishing for the Fish Meal Co., Beaufort. All of the 14 fishermen aboard were from Virginia.

THE BOAT, with several other Coast Guard, was caught in foul weather caused by a cold front which swept through the country at about 9 p.m. Saturday. The Atlantic Beach weather station recorded wind gusts of between 40 to 60 knots at 9 p.m. and a sudden temperature drop.

SURVIVORS who were picked up by the W. T. James Jr. were Charles Lee Forrest, 37, the boat's captain, of Susan, Va.; Charles Winstead Jr., 53, the pilot, Weems, Va.; Vernul Savoy, 41, and his son Vernul, 20, both of Kilmarnock, Va.; William Walter Thomas Jr., 34, Susan, Va.; George Johnson Jr., 30, White Stone, Va., and Dave Mansfield, 57, Wakes, Va.

DEAD are Linwood Smith, Beaufort, Va.; Harold H. Johnson, William R. Thomas Jr. and Harold Diggs, all of Susan, Va.; C. A. Poliaco, Beaufort, Va.; Robert L. Thomas, Mathews, Va., and Bolay, 42, of Port Haywood, Va.

(See SEVEN Pg. II)

"I saw Diggs and Thomas, the first mate, and Teddy Thomas. They were sitting on the starboard when she turned over, but they weren't there when she turned completely over," he continued. "I guess they were in the water being battered while I was sitting there on the side. Nobody could take anything like that or very long. The last time I saw her, the bow was still up. I never saw anything like it in my life," he added.



Seven Crewmen Drown

(Continued from Pg. 1)

land, said the winds were 65 miles per hour and the seas 12 to 15 feet high. The Chilula was getting under way.

Herman Reid, chief pilot for the Pedro Co., said the Fenwick Island radioed the plant at 10:25 p.m. that they were in trouble and asked for assistance. Reid said he and Tim Stevens, called the Fort Macon Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Air Sea Rescue at Portsmouth, Va.

"WE WERE STILL talking to the Fenwick Island at 11 p.m. but at 11:07 p.m. we lost radio contact," Mr. Willis said. "At approximately 11:30 p.m., the W. T. James received they had picked up some of the crew. It is added that the Fenwick Island was short two crewmen.

"Ordinarily they carry 16," he said. Mr. Willis went on to say that he talked to the W. T. James Jr. and arranged for the survivors and arranged for Hared Jordon to be brought to the State port docks where he met them and port docks where he met them and the boat was loaded with \$50,000 menhaden. He said the boat had a maximum capacity of 200,000. He estimated the winds at between 60 and 70 miles an hour, but he said he had no idea how high the seas were. "Maybe 15 or 20 feet high," he estimated.

CAPT. FORREST said Sunday afternoon, while still a patient in the hospital, that the Fenwick Island was loaded with \$50,000 menhaden. He said the boat had a maximum capacity of 200,000. He estimated the winds at between 60 and 70 miles an hour, but he said he had no idea how high the seas were. "Maybe 15 or 20 feet high," he estimated.

He said the starboard deck came off when the boat hit the Knuckle Buoy, and was taken on board, about 10 p.m. and

... well, it was 1 a.m. when I looked out at my watch aboard the Chilula," he related. "I saw the Fenwick Island turned over on its port side, and other members of the crew sat on the starboard side, which was out of the water. "I finally went down to the rolling chocks, he said. "The rolling chocks are on the outside edge of the boat."

He added that the Chilula then

got another assistance call from

sailing vessel, Ricky, from

where off of Cape Fear, with two

persons aboard. He said the dis-

trict office alerted Charleston

Coast Guard and a 95-foot boat

from the Cape May, was dis-

patched to aid the Ricky.

The Coast Guard and the final assistance

call the Chilula received was for

the Fenwick Island at 11:30 p.m.

Loc. Bremen, called the "Tim."

Immediately after that, we got an-

other call for search for sur-

vivors. We left the fastest we

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he continued.

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have ever got off from here,"

he continued.

The Chilula was eventually no-

ticed to aid the Weems. "She

was located three miles on the

east side of Lookout Shoals when

she called us," he said, "but we

found her about 10 miles east of

the shoals. She had drifted off."

On Sunday, when it was day-

light, the Chilula was notified

of the fish spotters where the

bodies were. "We dropped our

boat to the Weems, and picked up the

bodies." The Chilula returned to

Fort Macon Coast Guard base

between 5:30 and 6 p.m. last night.

The Weems was taken to Standard

Products by a Piner tugboat.

Bodies of the men who died are

being sent to Virginia for burial.

Richard Waker, Beaufort under-

taker, said all evidence pointed to

the fact that the men died from

exposure rather than drowning.

"The winds were 55 miles per hour and the seas 12 to 15 feet high....Herman Reid said the Fenwick Island radioed the plant at 10:25 p.m. that they were in trouble and asked for assistance...."We were still talking to the Fenwick Island at 11 p.m., but at 11:07 p.m. we lost radio contact.

Heritage Society Spotlight: Smart ways to give back to RFM

Meaningful giving options that can benefit you and the Reedville Fishermen's Museum.

As the year draws to a close, many members look for meaningful ways to support the Museum. Here are two simple, tax-wise ways to make a lasting difference for RFM:

Appreciated Stock Gifts

-You can donate appreciated stocks and **avoid capital gains tax.**

-The Museum sells the shares and uses the proceeds to support operations.

Ask your financial advisor for details and to begin the process.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

If you're **70½** or older, you can make a gift **directly from your IRA** to RFM

This helps meet your **Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)** and **reduces taxable income** – one of the most **tax-efficient** ways to give!

How to Make a QCD:

1. Contact your **IRA administrator** and direct them to make the check out to **Greater Reedville Association dba Reedville Fishermen's Museum** P.O. Box 306, Reedville, VA 22539 (Tax ID available upon request)
2. Specify your gift amount.
3. Notify the Museum so we can properly thank you.

**"Your generosity helps the Reedville Fishermen's Museum preserve the history of our watermen and serve our community.
We couldn't do it without you!"**

Discover RFM on YouTube!

Your New Way to Explore Local History-Anytime, Anywhere!

We're excited to share that our YouTube channel has been refreshed and reorganized. With the help of a dedicated volunteer, all of our videos—lectures, boatbuilding features, historic footage, and more—are now sorted into **easy-to-find playlists**.

Scan the QR Code to watch this months video!



rfmuseum.org > More > YouTube Featured Video

LIKE. COMMENT. SUBSCRIBE.
TO GET NOTIFICATIONS FOR NEW VIDEOS EACH MONTH



@rfmvideos8912





FESTIVAL HALLE

RESTORATION IN PROGRESS!

What has been accomplished:

- Old, rotted joists and beams have been replaced
- Water damage was detected and stopped
- The sub-floor is complete
- The HVAC system is reinstalled
- The crawlspace is encapsulated and conditioned
- Vents have been enclosed to prevent future water damage
- The walls have been repaired and repainted

Next Steps:

Update the Interior to be ADA Compliant:

- Update existing bathrooms
- Contracting finish flooring and carpeting
- Purchase & Installation of new rear doors
- Removing old front ramp & installing a new front ramp

HELP US FINISH STRONG!

Purchase a **Beam** or **Board** using the QR code to the right. Your donation can be in your name or honor someone special and will be recognized on a permanent plaque inside Festival Halle.



Visit: FestivalHalle.org



Have you visited our Volunteer River Counties webpage?

Volunteer River Counties is a shared hub for connecting volunteers with organizations across our region-including the Reedville Fishermen's Museum!



**SCAN TO FIND OPPORTUNITIES,
SIGN UP, LOG YOUR VOLUNTEER
HOURS ONLINE AND BECOME A FAN!**

We appreciate our volunteers!

Christmas Reminders

Holiday Decor Needed!

We're gathering items to dress our Watermen's Park for next years holiday season! As you sort through holiday décor, clean out closets, or spot great Christmas sales, please consider passing it along to RFM—we'd love to give your gently used decorations a new holiday home!

Looking for the perfect Gift?

Surprise someone you love with an RFM membership! It's meaningful, local, and builds memories—offering year round benefits and opportunities to be part of preserving our maritime history!



Check out our Gift Shop as well!

Winter Hours

The Museum & Gift Shop

Closed until April 2nd

Office

(except Holidays)

Monday - Friday

8a-4p

Wednesday

Appointments Only

JANUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	6:30p 5 Movie Showing The Sinking of the Fenwick Island 	6 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	7 OFFICE CLOSED TO MEMBERS AND PUBLIC BY APPOINTMENT ONLY	8 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	9 Cocktails on the Creek	10
11	12	13 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	14 OFFICE CLOSED TO MEMBERS AND PUBLIC BY APPOINTMENT ONLY	15 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	16	17
18	Martin Luther King, JR. 19 Day  Office Closed	20 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	21 OFFICE CLOSED TO MEMBERS AND PUBLIC BY APPOINTMENT ONLY	22 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	23 Cocktails on the Creek	24
25	26	27 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	28	29 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	30	31

FEBRUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 6:30p War on the Inland Sea- Tom Briggs & The ABC's of Oyster- Susan Swift and Heather Cockrell 	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	11 OFFICE CLOSED TO MEMBERS AND PUBLIC BY APPOINTMENT ONLY	12 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	13 Cocktails on the Creek	14
15	16 Presidents' Day  Office Closed	17 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	18 OFFICE CLOSED TO MEMBERS AND PUBLIC BY APPOINTMENT ONLY	19 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	20	21
22	ANNUAL MEETING 3:00 FAIRFIELDS VOL FIRE DEPARTMENT REEDVILLE	23	24 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	25 OFFICE CLOSED TO MEMBERS AND PUBLIC BY APPOINTMENT ONLY	26 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	27

2026

FEDERAL HOLIDAYS

WEEKDAY	DAY	MONTH	YEAR	FEDERAL HOLIDAY
Thursday	1	January	2026	New Year's Day
Monday	19	January	2026	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday	16	February	2026	Presidents' day
Monday	25	May	2026	Memorial Day
Friday	19	June	2026	Juneteenth
Saturday	4	July	2026	Independence Day *
Monday	7	September	2026	Labor Day
Monday	12	October	2026	Indigenous Peoples'/Columbus Day
Wednesday	11	November	2026	Veterans Day
Thursday	26	November	2026	Thanksgiving Day
Friday	25	December	2026	Christmas Day

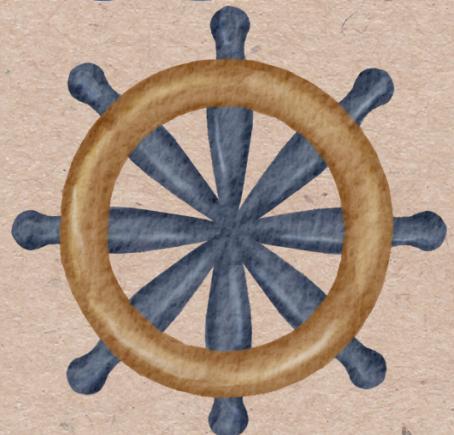
* Independence Day is observed on Friday, July 3, 2026

SMALLER CATCHES

SAVE THE DATES

- January 5th - Lecture Series
- January 9th - Cocktails on the Creek
- January 23rd - Cocktails on the Creek
- February 2nd - Lecture Series
- February 13th - Cocktails on the Creek
- February 22th - ANNUAL MEETING 3:00

Please visit our website for All Events!
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 for more information on how to donate or to inquire about our current inventory!

SALE



*See the website
for full inventory*

SALE



donations@rfmuseum.org

CURRENT INVENTORY
WWW.RFMUSEUM.ORG



HONORING OUR LIFETIME MEMBERS

Membership in the Admiral's Circle reflects a lasting dedication to the people, traditions, and working waters that shaped Reedville. We are deeply grateful for their continued support.

The Admiral's Circle :

Catherine Androus	Walt Keith and Mary Frazer
Cathye Bouis	Cheryl Naulty and Walter Hill
Don Brown	Fred Nutt
John and Karen Chichester	Jason and Sharon Rachanow
Michael and Carol Cummings	Bill Rieck
Dan and Carolee Day	Bill Roberts
John Mark and Fawn Deihl	Bruce and Mary-Ellen Samuelsen
Ted and Lee Ellett	Austin and Kim Schmidt
Carter and Carol Fox	Barbara Shultz
Robert and Carolyn Ginnings	Brenainn and Sara Jane Sprouse
J. Badger Godwin	John and Gayle Sterrett
Sandra Green	Mark and Stacey Stickley
Becky Haynie	Martha Tallent
Pete and Barbara Kauneckas	Rhea Talley
Leigh and Valynn Westfall	Brent Timberlake
Josh and Tiffany Wittman	Michael and Michele Torbert
Grover Woolard	Rick and Kristine Wagenaar
	J. Travis & Caren I. Walker

RFM'S NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Bob Bannach
Robbie & Dan Benjamin
Sonya & Fred Bennett
Deb & Miguel Berumen
Nancy & Douglas Burford
Virginia & William Burgess Jr
Barbara & Larry Burke
Tracy & Bryan Ciuffo
Becky & Johnnie Collie
Kim Connolly
Mary & Monty Deihl
Anne & W Beale Delano Jr
Sandie Doptis
Wray Dudley
Carol & David Godwin
Sandra & Tom Goodwin
Kenneth Henson
Dave Hershiser
Cindy & Kenny Herzog
Karen & Fred Jett
Nadine Leisz
Tina & John McCloud
Violet & Glen McCranie
Marianne & Tom Miller
Carol Muratore
Karen & Dennis Peterson
Victoria Poarch
Bob Qualls
Elizabeth & Brandon Ream
Willis Robertson
Sandra Sarnac
Susan & John Shelton
Ellen Shuler
Joseph Sleys
Ann Sullivan
Cara Wallo
Susan & Duront Walton
Cheryl & Stuart Wedel
Carole Wolfand
Robin & Jonathan Wren
Melissa Yates

Thank you for your memberships!

FOLLOW US!

Facebook: facebook.com/ReedvilleFishermensMuseum

Instagram: [@reedvillefishermensmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/reedvillefishermensmuseum)

www.rfmuseum.org

