

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> @ 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 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 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 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 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.

# ITY NEWS-TIMES

Monday, December 9, 1968

## Menhaden Boat Sink Storm Off Cape; Se

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.

Beaufort, which Mr. Willis said was "normal" because they were in the lee of the beach. The Fenwick Island was the lead boat.

(See SEVEN Pg. 11)

Dead are Linwood Smith, Beaverton, Va.; Harold H. Johnson, Verlotte, Va.; Harold H. Johnson, William R. Thomas Jr. and Harold Digne, all of Susan, Va.; S. S. Pollard, Winchester, Va.; Robert E. Thomas, Mathews, Va., and Boling, near Port Haywood, Va.

(Continued from Pg. 1)

"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 11:25 p.m., the W. T. James reported they had picked up some of the crew." He added that the Fenwick Island was short two crewmen. "Ordinarily they carry 16," he

CAPT. FORREST said Sunday afternoon, while still a patient in the hospital, that the Fenwick Island was loaded with 550,000 menhaden. He said the boat had a maximum capacity of 800,000. 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.

...the starboard deck  
...ame off when the boat  
...ing Knuckle Buoy, and  
...ted taking on water.  
...t about 10 p.m.

"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 for very long."

"The last time I saw her, she was still up. I never saw anything like it in my life,"

Mr. Reid said Sunday afternoon that bodies, still wearing life preservers, were first spotted by David Haynie, a fisherman, that morning.

MR. REID SAID HE sighted bodies about 12 miles down of the net, the only other visible. "It must have hung up on something," he said. He added that the fish steers guided the cutter Chilworth where the bodies were so

Other fish spotters searched Sunday morning were Bill McCall, Bill Chapin, Lang Harrington, George Cartwright, Lee Johnson and Tim Stevens.

LCDR. BROMEN said the lula was first notified Saturday about 9:30 p.m. by the Fifth Guard District office at Portsmouth, Va. that the Star Products menhaden boat, We was disabled and needed assistance. "We called the cr

He added that the Chilula then got another assistance call from the sailing vessel, Ricky, some where off of Cape Fear with two persons aboard. He said the district office alerted Charleston Coast Guard and a 95-foot cutter, the Cape Morgan, was dispatched to the Ricky.

The third and final assistant call the Chiliula received was from the Fenwick Island at 11:30 p.m. Lcdr. Broomen continued. "Immediately after that, we got another call to search for survivors. We left the fastest we have ever got off from here and continued."

HE SAID THEY were aided in their search by the Pedro, a Marine Corps helicopter from Cherry Point. "We had all search lights turned on, everybody on board was rattlings. The helicopter had return to refuel, and we call that the W. T. James had seven survivors and body." We found some debris nothing else," he added.

ified to aid the Weems. was located three miles east side of Lookout Shoal she called us," he said, "found her about 10 miles the shoals. She had drift

On Sunday, when it was light, the Chilula was busy by the fish spotters who bodies were. "We drop tow, the Weems, and pick bodies." The Chilula's Fort Macon Coast Guard between 5:30 and 6 p.m. The Weems was taken to

Products by a Piner  
Bodies of the men who  
being sent to Virginia for  
Richard Waker, Beaumont  
taker, said all evidence  
the fact that the men  
exposure rather than

**“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](http://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](https://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	5 6:30p Movie Showing The Sinking of the Fenwick Island 	6 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	7 <b>OFFICE CLOSED TO MEMBERS AND PUBLIC BY APPOINTMENT ONLY</b>	8 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	9 <b>Cocktails on the Creek</b>	10
11	12	13 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	14 <b>OFFICE CLOSED TO MEMBERS AND PUBLIC BY APPOINTMENT ONLY</b>	15 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	16	17
18	19 Martin Luther King, JR. Day  <b>Office Closed</b>	20 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	21 <b>OFFICE CLOSED TO MEMBERS AND PUBLIC BY APPOINTMENT ONLY</b>	22 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	23 <b>Cocktails on the Creek</b>	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 Oystering- Susan Swift and Heather Cockrell 	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	11 <b>OFFICE CLOSED TO MEMBERS AND PUBLIC BY APPOINTMENT ONLY</b>	12 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	13 <b>Cocktails on the Creek</b>	14
15	16 Presidents' Day  <b>Office Closed</b>	17 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	18 <b>OFFICE CLOSED TO MEMBERS AND PUBLIC BY APPOINTMENT ONLY</b>	19 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	20	21
22 <b>ANNUAL MEETING 3:00</b> FAIRFIELDS VOL FIRE DEPARTMENT REEDVILLE	23	24 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	25 <b>OFFICE CLOSED TO MEMBERS AND PUBLIC BY APPOINTMENT ONLY</b>	26 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	27	28





# 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



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# SMALLER CATCHES

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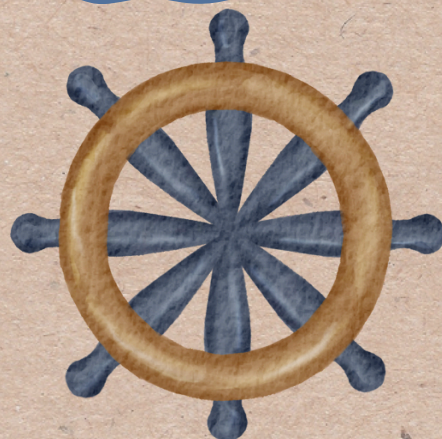
## SAVE THE DATES

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

Please visit our website for All Events!

[WWW.RFMUSEUM.ORG](http://WWW.RFMUSEUM.ORG)



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## NOW ACCEPTING, CAR DONATIONS!

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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!

**SALE**



\*See the website  
for full inventory\*

**SALE**



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

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CURRENT INVENTORY  
[WWW.RFMUSEUM.ORG](http://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

Cathye Bouis

Don Brown

John and Karen Chichester

Michael and Carol Cummings

Dan and Carolee Day

John Mark and Fawn Deihl

Ted and Lee Ellett

Carter and Carol Fox

Robert and Carolyn Ginnings

J. Badger Godwin

Sandra Green

Becky Haynie

Pete and Barbara Kauneckas

Leigh and Valynn Westfall

Josh and Tiffany Wittman

Grover Woolard

Walt Keith and Mary Frazer

Cheryl Naulty and Walter Hill

Fred Nutt

Jason and Sharon Rachanow

Bill Rieck

Bill Roberts

Bruce and Mary-Ellen Samuelsen

Austin and Kim Schmidt

Barbara Shultz

Brenainn and Sara Jane Sprouse

John and Gayle Sterrett

Mark and Stacey Stickley

Martha Tallent

Rhea Talley

Brent Timberlake

Michael and Michele Torbert

Rick and Kristine Wagenaar

J. Travis & Caren I. Walker



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# RFM'S NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

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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](https://facebook.com/ReedvilleFishermensMuseum)

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

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



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS  
and BLUE STAR FAMILIES present  
[arts.gov/bluestarmuseums](https://arts.gov/bluestarmuseums)  
**BLUE STAR MUSEUMS**

**CAMM**