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REEDVILLE FISHERMEN'S MUSEUM

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# STARRY BANNER

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

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**Dear RFM Community,**

**As the snow and ice melt and a new season approaches, the Board of Directors is thrilled to welcome you back to Reedville Fishermen's Museum! We have been working diligently to prepare and are thrilled to kick off an exciting season of exhibits and events. We invite you to explore, connect and celebrate with us. Get ready for an incredible line up of new exhibits and programs designed to foster traditions and community. There is something for everyone.**

**We are deeply grateful for your continued support, which allows us to bring our museum to life. Your membership strengthens our mission and makes this and every season possible.**

**We cannot wait to welcome you back through our doors!**



**Warmly,  
The GRA/RFM Board of Directors**



# THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS WHO JOINED US FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING!

We're grateful for your support and look forward to a wonderful year ahead!



## Volunteers of the Year Awards



Tina McCloud



The Gutermuth's

*Thank You*



Harry Towne



Lionel Whitcomb

# 2026 Lecture Series

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

Book Talk and Signing

March 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

## 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.



NEW  
UPDATE

Both lectures and book signings have  
been rescheduled to MARCH 2<sup>nd</sup>

### This includes:

- War on the Inland Sea- Tom Briggs
- The ABC's of Oystering-Susan Swift & Heather Cockrell
- Menhaden-Joseph W. Smith

Calling all local crafters!

We're looking to carry handmade items in our museum gift shop. We love supporting small businesses!

★ Reach out if you're interested ★

[office@rfmuseum.org](mailto:office@rfmuseum.org) 804-453-6529

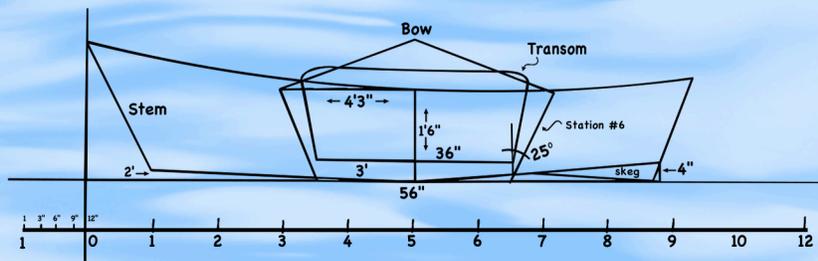
# ⇒ Aquapalooza ⇐

Mark your calendars! Aquapalooza returns Sunday, Sept 6<sup>th</sup> 2:00-6:00

♪ Featuring live music by Black Cat Murphy ♪

\*All proceeds support Festival Halle\*

# Family Boat Build 2026



**June 19th, 20th, 21st**

**\$250 non-refundable deposit due at time of registration**

**\$1000 total for the event**

**See our website for Registration Form or contact the office**

**Office@RFMuseum.org 804-453-6529**



## Firecracker 5K 2026

Registration opens 4/1/26

- \$35 early bird (4/1 - 5/22)

- \$40 (5/23 - 7/4)

**\*Register by 6/15 to guarantee T-shirt!\***



[runsignup.com/Race/VA/Reedville/ReedvilleFirecracker5KRunWalk](https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Reedville/ReedvilleFirecracker5KRunWalk)

# Claud W. Somers Refit

By Tina McCloud

RFM public relations volunteer

The next major step in the refit of the historic skipjack Claud W. Somers occurred Thursday, Feb. 4, with the removal of the wooden rudder. A new rudder will be constructed by Drew Jones, a carpenter at Tiffany Yachts in Burgess.

The former oyster boat, owned by the Reedville Fishermen's Museum, is gradually shedding parts as the volunteer crew works through the winter.

The sails were removed in November, with new ones coming from Evolution Sails by Latell and Ailsworth in Deltaville. The boat was lifted onto land at Jennings Boatyard in Fairport in December and then inspected by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Working with a wooden boat built in 1911 presents plenty of opportunities for the crew to use their extensive knowledge of boats, research old boat-building techniques, brainstorm ways on-site to get the work done, then work together seamlessly. Removing the rudder required stabilizing it with blocks, a strap and all hands while using heat and muscle power to detach it from the stern of the Somers.

The Somers's push boat, Spat II, also is getting attention. Traditional skipjacks do not have motors, so their only propulsion is by sail or pushing by the smaller boat. One of the captains, Tom Briggs, made what is called a "bow pudding" for the Spat so protect the stern of the Somers as she is pushed.

The museum was awarded two grants totaling \$100,000 (\$75,000 from the Va. Department of Historic Resources and National Park Service and \$25,000 from the Colonial Market Colonial Farm) for the refit.

Work will continue toward having the Somers back in the water for the summer cruising season.



# Cocktails on the Creek

An event celebrating art, creativity and community

MARCH 27 | 5:30 | Watermens Gallery



Signature Cocktails  
by the Creek



Unveiling of the  
Painted Boots Project



Photography Exhibit  
by Mike Fontaine



Meet the artists  
behind the work

Meet the  
Exhibitor



**MIKE FONTAINE**

Mike Fontaine's compelling photography comes from his artist's eye and his heart. His mission is to convey the importance of working watermen (and women) to our way of life. He shoots from his boat, "Kodachrome," or from the boats of the watermen who have welcomed him as one of their own -- a rare privilege.

Meet the  
Artist



**MK HALL**

MK is a local artist! Her painted boots will celebrate the spirit of Reedville and the people who help preserve its maritime history. This project reflects watermen, RFM, and the joy of bringing art into shared public spaces.

JOIN US AS WE UNVEIL  
NEW ARTWORK AND  
EXHIBITIONS DURING  
THIS SPECIAL EVENING  
ON THE CREEK!

**MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup> @ 5:30**

# ***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!"**



Dear Members,

We are excited to extend a special invitation to you for a memorable naval tradition: **The Commissioning Ceremony of the USS Harvey C. Barnum Jr. (DDG 124)**, an Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer.

This event marks the **official entry of the ship into active U.S. Navy service**, honoring Medal of Honor recipient and living namesake Colonel Harvey C. Barnum Jr., USMC (Ret.). Sponsored by Martha Hill, the ship will be homeported at NS Norfolk and represents a significant addition to the fleet.

The ceremony is scheduled for **April 11, 2026, at Naval Station Norfolk.**

If you are interested in attending email [MarthaeHill1@gmail.com](mailto:MarthaeHill1@gmail.com)

Please include:

- **Full legal name**
- **email address**
- **mailing address**

**Space is limited and coordinated through official channels, so early response is greatly appreciated to ensure your inclusion.**

Martha will forward your information to the Navy, who will issue official invitations via email. Once you receive your invitation, you will have the opportunity to add additional guests (such as family members or friends) as permitted.

We look forward to the possibility of sharing this proud moment with you—celebrating our nation's Navy, its heritage, and the dedicated men and women who serve.

Regards,

**Martha & Barney**

# Discover RFM on YouTube!

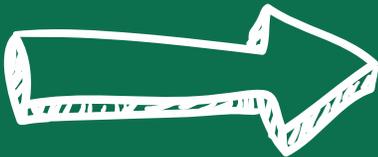
Your New Way to Explore Local History-Anytime, Anywhere!

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!

Remembering a  
Captain that just  
earned his Wings

“Work Boat Life”



or visit our website>more>YouTube featured video

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



@rfmvideos8912



# Winter Hours

**The Museum & Gift Shop**

**Closed until April 2nd**

**Office:**

**Monday - Friday**

**8a-4p**

**(except Holidays)**

**Wednesday**

**Appointments Only**



# 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!**

# March 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 Menhaden - Joseph W. Smith	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	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 9a Campus Spruce Up Day 
22	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 <b>Cocktails on the Creek:</b> Meet the Exhibitor- Mike Fontaine Meet the Artist - Mary Kathryn Hall	28
29	30	31				

# April 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 Museum and Gift Shop Opens 11-4	3	Spring Celebration-  Bunny, Egg Hunt 10:00 Meet the Exhibitor- Logan O'Bier Quilt Display 12-2:00
5 	6	7 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	8 <b>OFFICE CLOSED TO MEMBERS AND PUBLIC BY APPOINTMENT ONLY</b>	9 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	10 <b>Cocktails on the Creek</b> 	11
12	13	14 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	15 <b>OFFICE CLOSED TO MEMBERS AND PUBLIC BY APPOINTMENT ONLY</b>	16 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	17	18 9a Campus Spruce Up Day 
19	20	21 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	22 <b>OFFICE CLOSED TO MEMBERS AND PUBLIC BY APPOINTMENT ONLY</b>	23 Gentle Flow Yoga 9:30a - 10:30a	24 <b>Cocktails on the Creek</b> Meet the Exhibitor: Smith Point Rescue 	25
26	27	28	29	30		

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# SMALLER CATCHES

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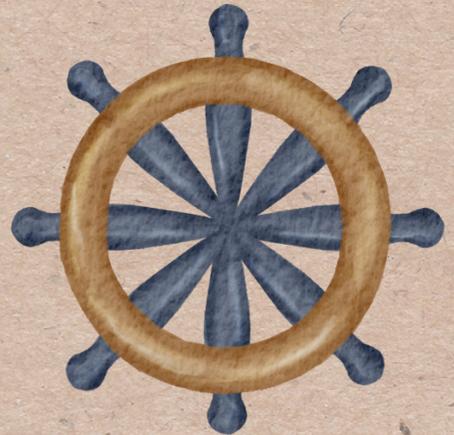
## SAVE THE DATES

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- March 2<sup>nd</sup> - Lecture Series
- March 13<sup>th</sup> - Cocktails on the Creek  
(St. Patricks Day Themed) 🍀
- March 21<sup>st</sup> - Campus Spruce up Day
- March 27<sup>th</sup> - Cocktails on the Creek  
(Meet the Exhibitor/Meet the Artist)

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**



**SALE**



**\*See the website for full inventory\***

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

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

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# RFM'S NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

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John Baffa  
Sandy & Robert Ball  
Jorge Bermudez  
Debbie & Henry Boze  
Howard Canada  
Pat Clark  
Eileen & David Clark  
Nancy & Otis Crowther  
Cris & Britney Dedmond  
Megan Dunn  
Marion Harding  
Lynn & Ted Hower  
Luci & Mark Huffman  
Rayner Hughes  
Rita Johnson

Mindy & Chris Larson  
Susan Lindsey  
Susan & David Marshall  
Judy & Jack Miller  
William Minsinger  
Artur Morka  
Martha & Mike Murphy  
Bill Pickens  
Josh Pratz  
Madge Rollins  
Kathy Saylors  
Colleen & Steven Shriver  
Anita & Norman Tadlock  
Jim Wiley

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)

