

REEDVILLE FISHERMEN'S MUSEUM

STARRY BANNER

www.rfmuseum.org

Dear GRA/RFM Members,

Happy Fall Ya'll! 🍁

The last days of September re-introduced us to rain and cool temperatures. The changing of the seasons helps keep us grounded and reminds us that change can be a welcome thing.

The STARRY BANNER grounds us by helping to connect us. The announcements about special events ensures we are aware of opportunities to come together...like for the Oyster Roast! 🍽️ The STARRY BANNER also reflects change. There are new pages in this edition like the "From The Collection" page, and there is the calendar section that helps reminds us of our ever-evolving schedule.

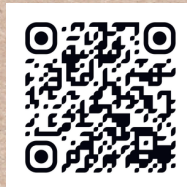
Whether it's the changing of the seasons or the STARRY BANNER, it is important for us to be attuned to the ways in which we stay grounded as things change. To stay grounded is to be connected to something, and to be connected to something assists with change.

With connectedness in mind, I invite you to take a moment to complete a brief survey by scanning the QR code below. Your feedback is important to us as we seek to stay grounded to our Mission and navigate the natural, ever-changing cycles of life as members of this special community.

Be Good,

Larry Foulk

Executive Director



FROM THE COLLECTION

Stories from the Reedville Fishermen's Museum Collection

The Story Behind the Starry Banner

The boat that gave our newsletter its name

Long before Starry Banner became the name of the Reedville Fishermen's Museum newsletter, it belonged to a vessel that played an important role in Reedville's maritime history.

Built in Bath, Maine in 1873, Starry Banner began life as a yacht and passenger vessel. After several years carrying passengers in Massachusetts, she was converted for the northern menhaden—or "porgy"—fishery.

At the end of 1879, Elijah W. Reed purchased Starry Banner for \$3,000. After repairs and modifications in Baltimore, she arrived at Reed's Wharf in time for the 1880 fishing season.

Although steam-powered menhaden vessels were already operating farther north, Starry Banner was something new on the Chesapeake Bay, where menhaden fishing had until then been carried out from sailing vessels.

At roughly 65 feet long with a 30-horsepower steam engine, she was small by the standards of northern menhaden steamers. But her arrival marked an important change in the industry that would become so closely tied to Reedville.

Starry Banner remained in Reed's service until 1889. After being sold, she later worked as a wrecking vessel before running aground near St. Augustine, Florida, in 1891. The vessel was lost, but all seven members of her crew survived.



A blow-up of Starry Banner. The stack and mast are visible and the windows in the pilothouse shine bright

STARRY BANNER AT A GLANCE

Built: 1873, Bath, Maine

Builder: Charles B. Harrington

Purchased by Elijah Reed: 1879

Reedville service: 1880–1889

Length: About 65 feet

Engine: 30 horsepower

Fish capacity: 125,000 fish

Research for this feature provided by
George T. Edwards, Jr.

George's full article, "The Menhaden Steamer Starry Banner," is expected to appear in the next Bulletin of the Northumberland County Historical Society.

Explore Our Collection

There's more history waiting to be discovered. Explore photographs, documents, objects, and other materials from the Reedville Fishermen's Museum collection through our online archive at <https://rfmuseum.org/curatorial> or by scanning the QR code.



Keese's Celebration of a Life Well Lived

Sunday, October 18, 2026 11:00 AM
Reedville Fishermen's Museum, Watermen's Gallery

Clarice "Keese" Jett Williams

October 19, 1924 - June 24, 2026



Keese Williams, a woman perhaps not well known by the newer members, was instrumental in the formation and development of the Reedville Fishermen's Museum.

No doubt our longest serving volunteer, Keese developed the Docent corp. The 'Gate Keeper' of the museum - she opened and greeted our docents every morning and then returned every afternoon to prove and close the museum.

Seven days a week, 363 days a year (we gave her Christmas and New Years off)- with a docent team that grew to 198.

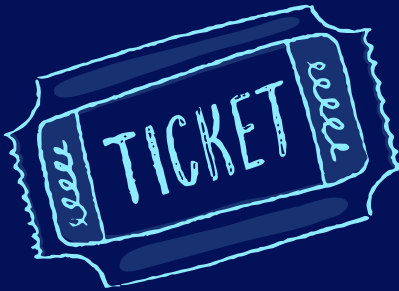
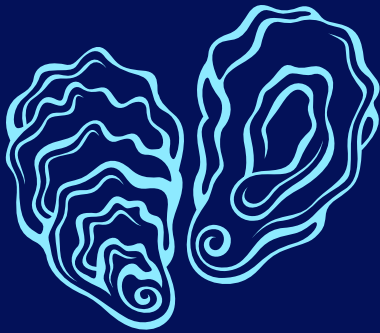
Her love for, belief in and commitment to the Museum was contagious.

Thornton Wilder is quoted as saying; "The highest tribute to the dead is not grief but gratitude."

Join us as we pay tribute to and thank Keese for her unwavering belief in and love for our community.

OYSTER ROAST REMINDERS

Saturday, November 14, 2026 | 1:00–4:00 PM



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Oysters-roasted or raw
- Hot Dogs
- BBQ
- Chowder
- Soda, Water or Coffee

Beer or Wine sold seperately

TICKETS & ENTRY

- General Admission:
\$70/person
- VIP: \$130/person
- ID Required
- Tickets are non-refundable

Event will be held rain or shine.

PLEASE REMEMBER

- Bring your own oyster knife
- No outside chairs or seating
- No Pets
- No outside coolers or alcohol
- Call to reserve handicap parking

Questions?

Call 804-453-6529

Visit www.rfmuseum.org



"Join us for a Halloween treat at the Butler's House"

The Foggy River Lawn exhibit will be lite with lights and music

Come dressed in your best costume to share in the fun.

Come for Treats, Come for Shrieks, Come for Howls, Come for Screams,

Come to the Reedville Fishermen's Museum for

Halloween

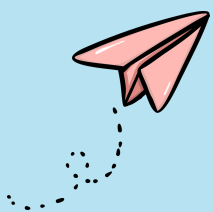
Halloween Day, October 31st
From 4:00pm to 8:00pm



***Looking for Spooky Fishermen volunteers and Candy treats. If you need more info. you contact Vernell at 410-599-2731 or vluca0962@yahoo.com

**Please drop off Donated Candy to the office by October 26th.
Candy can also be brought to Cocktails On the Creek.**





ALL HANDS ON DECK!



JOIN OUR EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Ahoy, history lovers! We're looking for a few good hands to join our Education Committee and help support educational programming for students and visitors.

- ★ Help support school field trips
- ★ Assist with educational programs and activities
- ★ Help bring our maritime history to life
- ★ Share your knowledge and enthusiasm with the next generation

YOUR HELP CAN KEEP OUR HISTORY AFLOAT!

Whether you can lend a hand occasionally or regularly, we'd love to have you aboard.



SIGN UP TODAY!

CONTACT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LARRY FOULK
804-453-6529 ext. 2001
director@rfmuseum.org



Join the Crew • Share the History • Make a Difference



More Ways to Get Involved



Our committees play an important role in supporting the Museum and helping carry out its work throughout the year and many of them could use a few more helping hands.

Explore our committees below and find the one that feels like the right fit.

Curation

Helps support the care, organization, research, and presentation of the Museum's collections and exhibits.

Docent

Helps welcome visitors and share information about the Museum, its exhibits, and Reedville's maritime history.

Gift Shop

Helps support the operation of the Museum Gift Shop and creates a welcoming experience for shoppers and visitors.

Lecture Series

Helps plan and support lectures and presentations that explore topics connected to the Museum and the region.

Marketing

Helps promote the Museum, its programs, events, exhibits, and activities to the community and beyond



Whether you enjoy planning events, working behind the scenes, welcoming visitors, helping with collections, or simply lending your time where it's needed, there's a place for you.

*Interested in
joining?*

Contact Executive Director Larry Foulk
director@rfmuseum.org
804-453-6529 ext. 2001

FESTIVAL HALL

Designed for every occasion



- Weddings
- Receptions
- Banquets
- Birthdays
- Meetings
- Fundraisers
- Concerts
- Community Events



BOOK YOUR NEXT EVENT

em@rfmuseum.org

804-453-6529

Coming
Soon...

Caterer's Kitchen

A dedicated caterer's kitchen is currently under construction as part of the continued enhancement of Festival Hall. Designed with event service in mind, the space will provide a convenient area for staging, warming, and service.





Reedville Festival Chorale

Welcomes you to join us!

REHEARSAL DATES:

- Friday Oct. 2nd - 3:00pm
- Saturday Oct. 3rd - 10:00am
- Friday Oct. 9th - 3:00pm
- Saturday Oct. 24th - 2:00pm
- Friday Oct. 30th - 3:00pm
- Friday Nov. 13th - 3:00pm
- Friday Nov. 20th - 3:00pm
- Saturday Nov. 21st - 2:00pm

**Did you know that singing
and playing a musical
instrument are great ways
to stimulate your mind, lift
your spirits and make new
friends?**

**Contact Jeanne Hickey
to join!**

804-580-1951

All rehearsals will be held at Bethany UMC unless otherwise noted

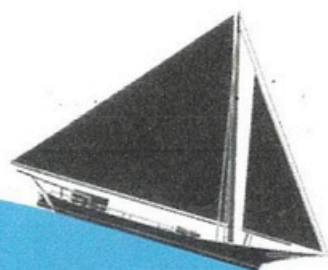
DRESS REHEARSAL:

**Friday Dec. 11th OR Saturday Dec. 12th - 2:00pm
at Festival Halle**

CHRISTMAS CONCERT:

Sunday Dec. 13th - 3:00pm at Festival Halle





CREW WANTED

The historic skipjack *Claud W. Somers* is sailed and maintained entirely by volunteers. If you have an interest in sailing, there is a place for you on the crew. No experience is required, we will train you!

During the summer and early fall, the crew sails the vessel on weekends for afternoon cruises and charters. The off-season is spent maintaining the vessel and training the crew.



Reedville Fishermen's Museum

504 Main Street

Reedville, VA 22539

(804) 453-6529

office@rfmuseum.org



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!"

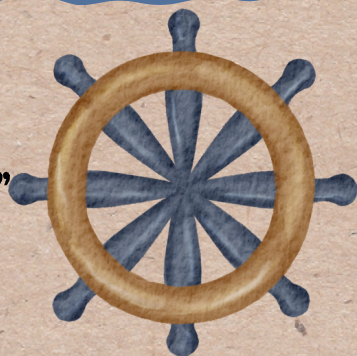
SMALLER CATCHES

SAVE THE DATES

- October 3rd Cornhole and Chili Cookoff
- October 9th Cocktails on the Creek
- October 23rd Cocktails on the Creek
- October 24th Fall Clean Up
- October 31st Halloween in Reedville
- November 14th OYSTER ROAST
- November 20th Cocktails on the Creek "Thank You"

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

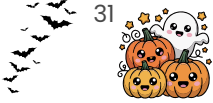
CURRENT INVENTORY
WWW.RFMUSEUM.ORG

October

Yoga: Every Tuesday/Thursday (\$10)
Museum Hours: Thurs - Saturday 11-4
Cocktails on the Creek - BYOB and a dish to share

Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 8a-4p
Wed: By Appointment Only
Closed on National Holidays

2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3 CHILI COOK-OFF 	4
5	6	7	8 NO YOGA TODAY	9 	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 	24 FALL CLEAN UP 	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 	

November

Yoga: Every Tuesday/Thursday (\$10)
Museum Hours: Thurs - Saturday 11-4
Cocktails on the Creek - BYOB and a dish to share

Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 8a-4p
Wed: By Appointment Only
Closed on National Holidays

2026

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Oyster Roast 
15	16	17	18	19	20 	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Christmas in Reedville

Christmas in Reedville festivities will take place on December 5. The event is co-sponsored by the Reedville Fishermen's Museum (RFM) (504 Main Street) and Bethany United Methodist Church (UMC) (454 Main Street).

Event Schedule (December 5)

9:00 AM: Santa arrives at the museum dock aboard the classic Elva C.

9:15 AM: Guests visit the RFM model train shop alongside the conductor from the Polar Express.

9:30 AM: Breakfast with Santa is served next door at Bethany UMC, featuring photo opportunities with both Santa and the conductor.

5:00 PM: The community crab basket tree lighting takes place at RFM's Watermen's Park (177 Main Street).

Decorate a Crab Basket

Community members are invited to decorate a basket for the tree:

Pick up a basket at the museum for \$15.

Paint your design at home using acrylic paint.

Return the finished basket by November 12.

Holiday Hours & Model Train Shop Schedule

Reedville Fishermen's Museum (RFM):

Open Thursdays through Saturdays, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM
(Closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day).

RFM Model Train Shop:

Thursdays: Open 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
(Closed Nov 26 and Dec 25).

Special Holiday Hours (11:00 AM – 4:00 PM): Nov 27–28, Dec 5, Dec 12, Dec 19, and Dec 26.

RFM will close for the season on December 26

RFM'S NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Cathy & Dan Althouse
Ben Ames
Jim Ash
Lisa & Karl Barron
Lisa Baskin
Pam & Craig Bosmans
Nancy Bowe
Jean & Lloyd Bruggeman
Linda & George Bullen
Linwood Carneal
Dennis Cohen
Joseph Crockett
Alison & Doug Crooks
Leslie & Rob Davis
Bruce Davis
Jill Day
Lathy DiLisio
William Disney
George Edwards
Sarah & Chris Evans
Priscilla & Tom Fink
Michael Fisher
Rena & Stephen Friske
Shirley & George Galo
Nancy & Will Garvey
Kathy & Joe Gibbons
Ben Gibson
Linda & Allan Goldstein
Lucy Headley
Scott Heishman
Jeanne & Dan Hickey
Carol & John Higbee
Joanne & Joe Hunt
Yvonne & Al Hurt
Laura & Tupper Hyde

Mickey & David Jennings
Mandy & Brad Jordan
Susan & Pete Kane
Cheryl & Mark Katz
Mike Kearns
Theresa & John Keefe
Arlene & Les Kilduff
Margaret & John Krebs
Thomas Lang
Andrea Levine
Cathi & John Lynch
Diane & Barry Maddox
Janet Mann
Marianne & Steve Marino
Susan & Scot Marsh
Bob Matthews
Michael McAndrew
Stacy & Mitch McCallister
Jackie & Joe McCool
Lucy & Cathy Memmo
Linda Anne & Allison Messick
Susan & Charles Miller
Angelique Moore
Virginia & George Moss
Janet Olsen
Alex Paradise
Melinda Parker
Kim Parker
Sharla Pence

Marsha & Chip Phillips
Deena Pittman
Kim Powell
Judith & Bob Qualls
Christy & George Raleigh
Kitty & Vic Ramoneda
Alice & Warner Rice
Lori & Slater Rice
Karen & Mike Rosser
Ellen & Bob Sagan
Debi & Bruce Sarandrea
Tara Scanlon
Carol Shackelford
Susan & Mo Shumate
Cathy Simmons
Whitfield Smith
Colleen Somerville
Caitie Somerville
Elizabeth & Domenic Spano
Jessie & Meredith Sterrett
Jan Stewart
Elizabeth & Kevin Stoll
Beth Stratton
Anne & Dave Thomas
Daniel Thorp
Jane & William Torney
Thomas Vosloh
Stacy Wildman
Lucielle & Steve Wilkinson

Thank you for your memberships!

****New Lifetime Member!**

FOLLOW US!

Facebook: facebook.com/ReedvilleFishermensMuseum

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

www.rfmuseum.org



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
and BLUE STAR FAMILIES present
arts.gov/bluestarmuseums
BLUE STAR MUSEUMS

CAMM