



# Fo'c'sle News

Newsletter of the Hudson River Maritime Museum  
50 Rondout Landing, Kingston, NY 12401 | [www.hrmm.org](http://www.hrmm.org) | 845-338-0071

## Hudson River Day Recap!

Many thanks to everyone who helped make Hudson River Day 2017 such a success! This year we featured the First Annual Hudson River Boatbuilding Challenge, where twelve teams of two people competed to build a boat from scratch in four hours, and then relay race it on Rondout Creek.

"Carolina Flare," the experienced team from North Carolina won the day - and the \$500 cash prize - with two local teams - "Rifton Rascals" and "Cadeucus" taking second and third place respectively! The Challenge was indeed challenging, and a number of teams who excelled at the building portion were

tripped up by the rowing relay as oar locks came loose, oars went in the water, and boats got off course!

Other activities for the day included children's tugboat building, face painting, steamboat rides, lighthouse tours, live music, local food, and demonstration booths from Hudson River-related organizations like Riverkeeper, Hudson Valley Greenway, and more. Thanks to Gary Miller for photographing the event!

Did you miss the fun this year? Mark your calendars for next year! **Saturday, June 23, 2018!**



Team Keegan Ales studies the plans



Jim Sperry and Dan Proctor man the check-in table



Announcer Rob Dweley talks to Dan Proctor with Jim Kricker and Jack Weeks in background



Team Solar Sal consults with Tom Russell



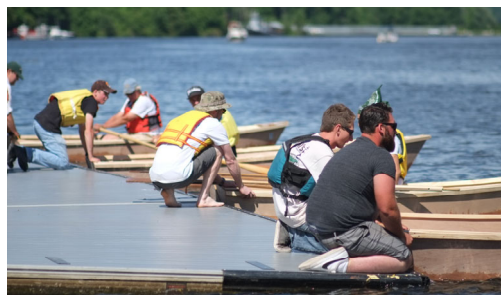
Team Rifton Rascals hard at work!



Team Carolina Flare ahead of the pack



Local band Payne's Grey Sky performing



Lined up for the first heat!



There goes an oar lock!



# Rondout Lighthouse Tours Return!

For the first time in many years, HRMM is again able to offer regular tours of the Rondout Lighthouse this summer. Every Saturday & Sunday starting at noon, guided tours will be available on the hour. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$12 for children (5-12). Children 4 and under are free, but must be accompanied by an adult - one for each child under 5.

HRMM members, however, get a special discount! Just show your membership card in



the museum store and you'll get tickets for \$17 for adults and \$11 for kids. Tickets are available in the museum store and may be purchased same-day only. Each tour can accommodate up to 6 people. Unfortunately, the lighthouse is not handicap accessible.

The tour includes a boat ride out to the lighthouse and a tour of the interior, including all the way up to the top of the tower! The view from the top is worth the climb.

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## *El Galeón* is Coming! August 5-8, 2017

The Hudson River Maritime Museum is pleased to announce that we will be hosting the replica Spanish galleon, *El Galeón Andalucía* this August! She'll be at our docks from Saturday, August 5 through Tuesday, August 8, with deck tours available from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM daily. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children (5-11) and children under 5 are free. A portion of the proceeds will go to support the Hudson River Maritime Museum.

*El Galeón*, a 500 ton Spanish galleon measuring over 164 feet in length, also creatively blends history and modern technology. She is basically a floating museum with the ability to convert and adapt her unique spaces for events, presentations, exhibitions and the like. The ship has six decks: Poop deck; Quarter deck; Forecastle deck; Main deck; Gun deck; and Hold. Built over 17 months after three years of historical and archaeological research, *El Galeón* represents the type of Spanish galleon that plied the seven seas from the Atlantic Coast to China in the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries.

Kingston is one of *El Galeón's* last stops in the United States before heading back to Spain for the foreseeable future, so don't miss this chance to see her in person!

For those interested in a little more in-depth experience, *El Galeón* is available to stage special dinner events or corporate presentations which can be coordinated through the Hudson River Maritime Museum. It is estimated that the vessel can accommodate 150 people per private event with slight adjustments when at port, and approximately 5,000 visitors per



day. For more information, contact the museum at 845-338-0071 ext. 13 or email [events@hrmm.org](mailto:events@hrmm.org).

Reflecting on the success of the Viking ship *Draken Harald Hårfagre* when it was docked at the Museum last summer, Executive Director Lisa Cline feels that this vessel will be just as popular. "We're basically six weeks out before she arrives so our educational programming and logistical planning are already underway. The Museum is very pleased that this important visiting vessel is docking with us. *El Galeón* will definitely be impressive."

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## Lighthouse Volunteers Needed!

HRMM is seeking volunteers to assist with lighthouse tours this summer. Spend a weekend afternoon (12:00 PM to 4:00 PM) out at the gorgeous Rondout Lighthouse, teaching members of the public about the history of the lighthouse and its keepers.

Tours are small - only six people per group - and happen on the hour. The lighthouse is only accessible by boat and transportation is provided by the Kingston-Rhinecliff Ferry.

Those interested can apply online at [www.hrmm.org/](http://www.hrmm.org/) volunteer, stop in and fill out a volunteer form, or call 845-338-007 ext. 16 or email [volunteer@hrmm.org](mailto:volunteer@hrmm.org). Volunteers must be able to board and debark the ferry and climb the lighthouse stairs as well as read and retain historical information and be comfortable speaking to the general public. Those interested in other tour guide opportunities are also welcome to apply.

# Development Dispatch

## Shipwreck Symposium Recap

On Saturday, May 20, 2017, the Hudson River Maritime Museum hosted divers, archaeologists, cultural resources managers, academicians and the public for a day of presentations and discussions about New York's shipwrecks. The first annual Shipwreck Symposium represented the culmination of the Museum's multi-year initiative, funded by the Hudson River Valley Greenway, to focus attention on submerged cultural resources in the Hudson River and to position itself as an institutional leader in encouraging the preservation and interpretation of shipwrecks.

Art Cohn, co-founder of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum in Vermont, led off with a review of his institution's work in documenting and managing shipwrecks in Lake Champlain. Describing shipwrecks as "sacred," Cohn discussed his experiences diving and documenting significant shipwrecks in the Hudson River.

Ellie Burhans, HRMM Development and Membership Associate, described her work in preparing the grant-supported White Paper on Hudson River shipwrecks. The White Paper is a compendium of laws, regulations, policies and philosophical issues and opportunities surrounding the complex world of shipwreck preservation in New York State and the Hudson River.

David Allen, a maritime history professor at SUNY Maritime gave an entertaining presentation on student research projects resulting in finding boats and artifacts associated with significant historical events.

Elena Perez-Alvaro teleconferenced a presentation on sea level rise and its impacts upon cultural resources from the United Kingdom.

John Wimbush, Coastal Resources Specialist from the NYS Department of State reviewed state efforts to establish the

Blueway Trail as a means of creating submerged heritage preserves for divers in partnership with communities and dive organizations.

And State Police Trooper and Senior Diver

Kevin Gardner gave a presentation on the dynamic nature of the Hudson River and the particular diving hazards posed by tidal currents, poor visibility, chemical and biological contaminants and entanglement hazards. His presentation amplified points made by Art Cohn that diving in the Hudson River requires extensive training and preparation and that it is a dangerous environment for recreational divers.

Many interesting exchanges occurred informally during lunch and breaks. Several participants were able to tour the Museum and join HRMM Director of Education Sarah Wassberg on a walking tour of Sleightsburgh Spit where further discussions continued. Our out-of-town guests told us that they were impressed with the scope of the Maritime Museum's facilities and programs and were enthusiastic about returning next year.



Director of Education Sarah Wassberg (left) explains the barge graveyard on Sleightsburgh Spit to the crowd.

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## Museum Receives BlueFuture and Community Foundations Grants

The Hudson River Maritime Museum has been awarded the WestMarine BlueFuture grant! West Marine understands the importance of getting outside, being physically active, embracing teamwork and connecting with nature and each other. We all live and breathe the water; it unites us, and we deeply appreciate the lasting effect it has on us all.

The BlueFuture Fund was created in May 2015 to provide ongoing grant support to nonprofit, community-based organizations that promote water-life adventure, education, and

recreation among young people. We are using this award to fund the launch of our new Riverport Sailing School.

The Hudson River Maritime Museum received a generous donation through a donor-advised grant from the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley.



# Education Update

## Year 3 of Hudson River Stewards a Success!

Now in its third year, Hudson River Stewards was first piloted in 2015. This unique and important program brings in fourth grade students from all over the area to learn about the history, environmental science, and culture of the Hudson River.

In 2017, HRMM was proud to host over 800 students from Kingston, Saugerties, Hyde Park, and Woodstock. Museum educators went into more than 25 classrooms to lead document analysis workshops in March and April. Then, in May, students came to HRMM for a day of activities, including live music with



Maija Neimisto of Clearwater leads the students in a chant about the Hudson River estuary.

musician and educator Linda Richards, environmental science workshops with Clearwater, and a visit onboard the replica Dutch yacht *Onrust*, in addition to museum programs.



Peter of the Onrust Project gives an introduction to a small group before they board the *Onrust*.

This year, HRMM received support from Key Bank to offset some of the program costs for area schools. If you, your organization, or business would like to contribute to a scholarship fund for the Hudson River Stewards program, please contact us at [donate@hrmm.org](mailto:donate@hrmm.org), or call 845-338-007 ext. 19.

## Youthboat Recap

On May 25, the YouthBoat program at the Riverport Wooden Boat School celebrated the end of a first successful year. YouthBoat is a free program designed to build leadership, teamwork, and communication skills through the traditional craft of wooden boatbuilding and on-the-water activities. Beginning in October, a class of nine students enrolled in a Transitional Occupation Program with Ulster BOCES practiced woodworking in the RWBS three mornings a week. The YouthBoat after school program began in February, and was open to any interested area high school student who went through an application and interview process. Students in both the morning and after school YouthBoat programs learned to make oars and worked on the construction of a 13 foot lapstrake rowing wherry. Students also received rowing instruction and rowed a Whitehall gig on

Rondout Creek. Participants learned shop, tool, and water safety, and gained hands on experience with hand and power tools.



Shipwright Wayne Ford was the lead instructor for both programs, but he was assisted by numerous volunteer assistant instructors who generously gave their time to make YouthBoat a success. The program is free to students, and supported by private donations. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor of YouthBoat, please contact [donate@hrmm.org](mailto:donate@hrmm.org).

## Riverport Sailing School Open - Lessons Available

The Riverport Sailing School is a new joint venture between the Museum and the Kingston Sailing Club. The School will offer introductory sailing lessons for youth and teens in August.

A week-long sailing workshop for youth ages 10 - 13 will be held from Monday, August 7 through Friday, August 11, and a workshop for teens ages 14 - 18 will be held Monday, August 14 through Friday, August 18. The costs for each workshop is \$395 for HRMM members and \$440 for non-members. Both workshops will meet from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, will be taught by US Sailing certified instructors, and will follow US Sailing curriculum.

For adults. Lessons for individuals and couples last three hours. Each lesson costs \$195 for HRMM members, \$215 for non-members. Pricing for couples or two students (3 hours) is \$295 for HRMM members, \$325 for non-members.

All lessons will be conducted on the museum's small fleet of 19' Lightning class sailboats. Adult private lessons may also be conducted on students' sailboats, pending a safety inspection.

For more information about youth workshops and adult lessons and to register, please visit [www.riverportwoodenboat.school.org/sailing-school.html](http://www.riverportwoodenboat.school.org/sailing-school.html).

The Riverport Sailing School also offers private sailing lessons



# Curatorial Corner

## Tugboats Join HRMM Digital Archive at HRVH.org

The Hudson River Maritime Museum page of the Hudson River Valley Heritage website now includes a section on tugboats: Tugboats- The Workhorses of the Hudson. The Hudson River was the great natural highway into the interior of New York State for centuries. Transportation for people and goods was by boat for over two hundred years after the arrival of European, mostly Dutch, settlers in the early 17th century.

Because of the growth of New York City into a major port and population center as immigrants poured into the city in the 19th century, the need there for food and building materials soared. The Hudson Valley produced many of the products needed, and shipped them by sailing vessels called sloops and schooners for at least two hundred years from the beginning of settlement in the 1600s. Steamboats came on the scene gradually after 1807 carrying mostly passengers for many decades. Eventually steam towboats pulling multiple barges and canal boats took over the freight traffic on the Hudson. Though not speedy, these long tows were the cheapest way to ship bulk cargoes. Older passenger steamboats such as the *Norwich* were used at first as towboats. Sidewheel steamboats such as the *Oswego* were built as towboats starting around 1850. Propeller driven tugboats in the familiar shape that we know today began to be seen in the 1860s.

Rondout, the port of Kingston, was a major shipping point, and the busiest port on the Hudson for most of the 19th century (1800s). The major product shipped from Rondout was coal brought here from eastern Pennsylvania over the Delaware & Hudson Canal from 1828 to 1898. Coal was the main fuel of the steam age of the 19th century, so Rondout boomed from coal transport. Local products also shipped from Rondout during the same time were Ulster County bluestone shipped widely for use as sidewalks; Rosendale cement, a sturdy natural cement used in building New York City; and bricks from local brickyards also used to build New York City. Ice cut from the Hudson River was shipped to New York City on barges to be used for food preservation. Food products were also shipped, including grain from the Midwest brought to the Hudson over the Erie Canal,



Photo of the Cornell tug *John H. Cordts* at Cornell Steamboat Company docks with crew members and Cornell shop workers. Hudson River Maritime Museum collection.

and hay for the many horses in the City.

The Cornell Steamboat Company of Rondout became the largest towing company on the Hudson by the 1880s because of the enormous amount of freight to be transported to New York City from the Hudson Valley, especially from Rondout. Towboats and tugs pulling long strings of barges could be seen day and night on the Hudson from the 1850s through the 1930s. The Cornell Steamboat Company had a virtual monopoly on towing on the river from the 1880s through the 1930s. The company had a fleet of up to sixty tugboats of all sizes at one time. There is much less tug and barge activity on the Hudson today than there was even in the 1950s as freight was being shipped by rail and later truck, and the old cargoes like bluestone, ice, and cement had mostly disappeared from the scene. Today the main cargoes shipped by tug and barge are oil, crushed rock, and some cement.

Visit the website regularly to see new additions from the HRMM collection: [www.hrmm.org/hrmmkingston](http://www.hrmm.org/hrmmkingston)

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## Riverport Wooden Boat School Library Now Open

The Riverport Wooden Boat School Lending Library is now available for use by Hudson River Maritime Museum members. The library is located in the RWBS classroom and divided into two areas. The lending library area has over 125 volumes covering RWBS related topics including: Boatbuilding/Maintenance, Cruising, Engines and Electrical, Local History, Maritime Fiction, Maritime Non Fiction, Metalwork, Navigation,

Safety and First Aid, Sailing Skills, Vessel Types, Wood, Woodworking Skills and Techniques, Yacht Design and Yachting.

The magazine area includes a range of issues of "Wooden Boat" and other related magazines. The magazines are not loaned out and can be enjoyed while in the RWBS classroom. Thank you to the generous folks whose book and magazine donations make the RWBS library possible.

JOIN US ON THE NIGHT LINE



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2017

The Board of Trustees and Staff  
of the Hudson River Maritime Museum  
request the pleasure of your company at the annual

## PILOT CLUB GALA

honoring

Allan Bowdery

**Saturday, September 23, 2017**

5:00 pm - 10:00 pm

*Save the date! | Invitation forthcoming*



# Volunteer Spotlight



**RON SEARL** has been volunteering at the Hudson River Maritime Museum since 2006. An exhibit carpenter at the American Museum of Natural History for 26 years, Ron felt the need to stay active upon retirement. When visiting the museum one summer, he struck up a conversation with then-director Russell Lange, and offered his services to assist with general carpentry and grounds work. Once Russ learned of Ron's

exhibit carpentry prowess, he put him to work helping design and execute exhibits at HRMM.

Each year since then, Ron has spent hundreds of hours on exhibits, from designing complex, hands-on objects like the interactive tugboat pilot house for the "Tugboats: Workhorses of the Hudson" exhibit, to making model cases, to hanging shelving and track lighting. His skill and expertise have brought an additional professional touch to the museum's exhibits, which are designed and installed almost exclusively by volunteers.

In addition to his work on exhibits, Ron also assists with the docks, logistics for public events, general maintenance around the museum, and all the little things that make this museum run more smoothly.

Ron's most passionate role at HRMM, however, is as super-fan for the Kingston High School Crew team. He built their oar racks and trophy case, helps with practice, and he attends nearly every regatta and championship race, taking photos and cheering on crew team members.

The museum would be a very different place without Ron, so if you see him around, say "thank you!"

**MEG CLARK** has made an invaluable contribution to the YouthBoat program, using her expertise as an educator to coordinate with Ulster BOCES and the Kingston City School District in developing both the morning BOCES program and the

after-school high school program.

A longtime Clearwater supporter and volunteer, Meg became involved with HRMM through the creation of the Riverport Wooden Boat School, starting in 2015. Her daughter Biz Goldhammer has worked with RWBS on boat restoration projects such as the *Clearwater* and *Woody Guthrie*. Biz also participated in this year's Hudson River Boatbuilding Challenge, to her mother's delight.

Meg's tireless enthusiasm for boatbuilding and maritime-related education as well as her attention to detail and promotion has been a boon to the Education Department at HRMM.



**JIM SPERRY** is a new volunteer, but he sure is a dedicated one! He has spent the last several months assisting Boat School Coordinator Carter Blease on the docks and with everyday tasks, as well as with volunteer projects for the boat school and the museum. His biggest role to date, however, was assisting Carter with the Boatbuilding Challenge! Jim helped organize materials for the competing teams, manned the registration booth, and otherwise made himself useful (as

he often does), always with a cheerful outlook and a smile on his face.

**MARK HELLER** is a longtime lighthouse docent, but until recently his volunteer efforts had been relegated to media distribution and helping with dock security during visiting vessel events such as the *Draken* last fall. But this year with lighthouse tours in full swing again, Mark has been an enthusiastic and tireless tour guide, entertaining all ages nearly every weekend. He's also helping HRMM staff plan for the arrival of *El Galeón*.

*A big THANK YOU to all our volunteers and stay tuned to learn more about our dedicated volunteers in the next issue!*



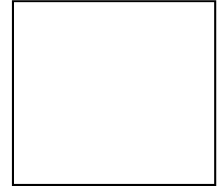
Ralph (right) and his wife Verna (left) at the Opening Gala, 2017.

## In Memoriam - Ralph Allen

With heavy hearts the board and staff of the Hudson River Maritime Museum acknowledge the passing of longtime volunteer Ralph Allen on July 13, 2017. A Kingston native and retired farmer, Ralph began volunteering at the Hudson River Maritime Museum in 1996, offering his construction and repair expertise to help build docks, exhibits, additions to buildings, and make all the repairs that an older building needs to keep it running smoothly. Although he hated being the center of attention, he deserved every accolade he received, including winning the 2017 President's Cup (at left), which is awarded each year by the museum's Board of Trustees to volunteers who go above and beyond. Ralph, you will be dearly missed.



Hudson River Maritime Museum  
50 Rondout Landing  
Kingston, NY 12401



## 2017 Fall RWBS Classes Now Available

**CANOE PADDLE CARVING:** Try your hand at carving with this fun course! Have you ever canoed using a paddle custom-built to your height and preferences? The difference will amaze you. Choose either Otter Tail or Beaver Tail shaped blade for your paddle. Students leave with a completed paddle. Beginners welcome. **PRICE:** \$200 for HRMM members, \$245 for non-members. **DATES:** Saturday & Sunday, September 16 & 17, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM both days.

**GROUP BOATBUILD: NORDIC SKERRY:** Learn traditional boatbuilding techniques in this scratch boatbuilding class with RWBS Senior Instructor Michael Puryear. The group will build a "Skerry," a Norse inspired 15' lapstrake double ender sailboat with a sprit or Gunter sloop rig, which may also be rowed. At the end of the class, each student may participate in a lottery for the finished craft. **PRICE:** \$495 for HRMM members, \$540 for non-members. **DATES:** Seven weeks, 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM, Thursdays & Fridays, September 21 & 22 through November 2 & 3. Last class is Saturday, November 4 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

**HAND CARVING: DECORATIVE AND UTILITARIAN DESIGNS:** Join RWBS Senior Instructor Andrew Willner and

European-trained Master carver Georgette Kadgen in this unique course. Learn about the distinct styles of carving and choose your own path as Willner and Kadgen guide you in a custom carving project designed by you. Options include decorative pieces, marine signboards, or utilitarian objects such as bowls or spoons. **PRICE:** \$345 for HRMM members, \$390 for non-members. **DATES:** Four Saturdays, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, September 23, 30, October 7, 14, 2017.

**WOODWORKING BENCH BUILD:** Join us for this hands-on experience building woodworking benches for the Riverport Wooden Boat School. We will build 3 benches for the boat school shop. This is an opportunity to learn the principles of design and the joinery techniques for a functional woodworking bench. **PRICE:** \$395 for HRMM members, \$440 for non-members. **DATES:** Two weekends, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Saturdays & Sundays, November 11-12, 18-19, 2017.

**To register: [www.hrmm.org/classes--workshops.html](http://www.hrmm.org/classes--workshops.html)  
or call 845-338-0071 ext. 16**