

Ahoy!

The Mariners' Museum and Park
SPRING/SUMMER 2021



*One Year Later,
The Mariners' Reimagined:
Strong, Connected, Resilient – Thanks to Our World of Champions*

Message from the President

Dear Mariners' Family,

Our entire Mariners' team is thrilled to present you with this issue of the *Ahoy!* We are thrilled because these pages show that 2020 was not a year defined by the things we could not do but a year defined by all that we did to advance our important mission.

I am proud to share that in 2020, we tripled the number of page views of our very well-received Mariners' blog posts. Additionally, the number of active monthly users of the blogs - our "repeat customers" - grew from just under 2.8K in 2019 to more than 7.3K in 2020. And in 2020, more than 698K unique users from all 50 states and countries worldwide visited our Age of Exploration website - and explored! The site received a staggering 2.5M page views!

This issue of the *Ahoy!* details our team's 2020 pivot to the design and delivery of virtual programming, to investment in the Mariners' Park, and to a host of other initiatives meant to ensure that while we kept our galleries closed, our mission marched on. Counterintuitively, even our closed galleries signaled growth in our capacity to serve:

- As many of you know, we used 2020 and early this year to complete the Clean Lab's renovation within the Batten Conservation Complex, including a brand new guest engagement space next to the lab.
- Our Digital Services team upgraded the lighting control system for the entire USS *Monitor* gallery complex.
- Our Information Technology team expanded guest wireless access throughout our galleries.
- Our Facilities and Exhibit Design teams removed the glass wall and doors that separated the concourse from the main lobby, creating a stunning line of sight from the Museum's main entrance all the way through to the iconic golden Lancaster Eagle.
- Our Curatorial team and Exhibit Design team made several gallery upgrades throughout the Museum.
- Our Facilities team and our Warwick Mechanical partners replaced an aging air handling unit in one of our galleries.

Believe it or not, this list is not exhaustive. The results that I am sharing here and the remarkable amount of activity you will read about in the pages that follow make it impossible for me to feel anything other than tremendous gratitude to serve as part of this Mariners' team.

I and the entire Mariners' team are grateful for you, our World of Champions. I hope you feel a tremendous amount of pride in the role you played in supporting, participating in, and contributing to the work and the impact celebrated in this issue of the *Ahoy!* THANK YOU!



Howard H. Hoega III
President and CEO, The Mariners' Museum and Park



The Mariners' Museum and Park

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On the Cover:

Objects Conservator Paige Schmidt takes a paint sample from *La Isabel* during a conservation survey of the small craft collection.
Photo: Brock Switzer



Meet a Mariner

George Eason

George Eason, a thoughtful six-year-old from Suffolk, captures the essence of The Mariners' Museum and Park as only a child can — with irrepressible energy. And while he had only visited the Museum once in early 2020, George was instantly fascinated with all the ships. So, he was very disappointed when his mom Nicole explained they couldn't return for a while because the Museum's galleries were temporarily closed. By summertime, it seems George was desperate to experience the Museum, and Nicole reached out to the team for ideas. Maritime-related coloring pages were mailed to George, who quickly became immersed in this artistic expression, even transforming the walls of his home into a gallery!

George comes by his love of the Museum honestly. Nicole says that she, having spent her high school years in nearby Smithfield, toured the USS *Monitor* Center when it opened. When her museum-loving family moved back to Hampton Roads in 2019, she knew they had to visit.

George says that his favorite ship represented in the galleries is the ironclad *Monitor*. He has a particular affinity for the “as found turret,” though he loves everything about the iconic warship.

Red is George's favorite color, but not just any red — “fire engine red.” His dream job is to be a zookeeper or work at an aquarium because he loves animals. When asked what makes him a Mariner, George says, “I love to swim — in the ocean, the lake, or the river near our house.”

He is concerned that people don't care for the environment like they should and says, “I like to pick up trash from the water



George in his home maritime art gallery.
Photos courtesy of Nicole Eason.

because I don't like when people hurt the water. It makes animals sick.” It shouldn't be too surprising that if George designed a boat, it would be red and gray, constructed from recycled materials. It would travel to islands in the ocean “exploring and cleaning them.”

George created a joyful connection to something missing in his life by combining his passion for the Museum with his love of the water. When there is so much that can drag one down, the entire Mariners' team is inspired by George, committed to reaching out to Mariners everywhere in new and meaningful ways. Thank you, George, for bridging the gap between in-person and virtual Museum experiences and reminding everyone that people like you are the future and why it is vital to steward stories of our shared maritime heritage.

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Zooming into Virtual Programming

Over the past year, The Mariners' Museum and Park team faced a challenge that became an unexpected opportunity: How does one help Mariners of all ages find a connection to our shared maritime heritage in a time when guests cannot physically visit the Museum? Before the pandemic hit, the Museum team prided itself in providing authentic, in-person experiences in the Museum's galleries. With the Museum closed to the public, the team had to completely rethink its traditional approach to engaging various audiences and lean into the only format of engagement available: virtual programming.

Engagement starts with empathy. Museum team members questioned how they could best serve the entire Mariners' family in a time when people are feeling so isolated. If the community was feeling disconnected, the Museum needed to provide a way for people to connect virtually.

The team started by experimenting with different webinars and virtual presentations and found an immediate benefit to this mode of programming: real-time feedback from its audiences. The Chat and Q&A features in Zoom allow for a direct line of communication between program participants and presenters.



*Top: Manager of Visitor Engagement Lauren T. Furey reads *The Legend of the Golden Snail* during "Maritime Mondays."*

Above: Evan and Carolyn Williams complete a hands-on activity during a virtual student program.

Whether it was a request for help with a technical issue, reactions to a question from the presenter, or suggestions for future program topics, the audience was talking to the team, and the team was listening.

Using audience feedback and two newly renovated distance learning studios, the Museum improved and expanded virtual programs in ways not thought possible a year ago. First, the

'Challenging times call for creativity and innovation ...'

reach of the virtual programs has surprised even the team. "Maritime Mondays," a story hour that's a favorite of young Mariners, is being used by a teacher in Russia as a tool to help teach students English. The Museum now offers two sessions of this program every Monday to accommodate the time differences between the Museum and its audiences worldwide.

Second, the team used virtual programs as an opportunity to test out new program topics. From the Spanish Flu and its impact on the Hampton Roads area to the links between maritime and space navigation, the team is providing students, families, and adults with a wide range of subjects to explore. In February, the team also took a new approach to celebrating Black History Month by focusing on African waterways, kingdoms, and maritime connections.

Third, rather than replicating the Museum experience in a virtual setting, the team developed programs specifically designed for online consumption. Bold images, dynamic presenters, and captivating activities help keep audiences engaged, particularly students. Draw a mental map, make up a hurricane dance, look around one's home for examples of changing technologies — these are all examples of ways to encourage active participation and keep students' minds engaged.



Manager of Interpretation and Community Outreach
Wisteria Perry presenting a Speakers' Bureau program.

Challenging times call for creativity and innovation, and the Museum team has proven its ability to adapt and serve under any condition. While the team looks forward to the day when the galleries reopen, its members are also determined to build upon the progress from last year and continue to deliver engaging and meaningful virtual programming.

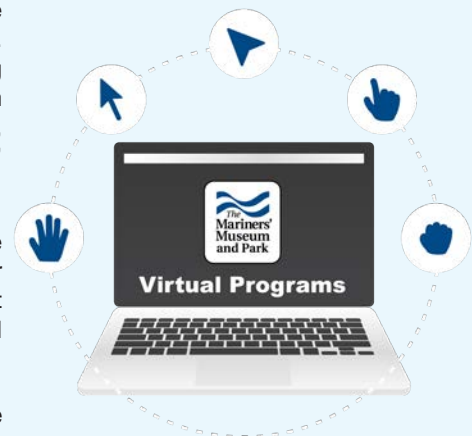
Harriet Smith
Director of Education
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Fostering Our Shared Maritime Heritage Online

In 2020, as the world adapted rapidly to consuming information digitally, the Museum team quickly transformed its programs, making them accessible online. And even when the galleries reopen, the Museum is committed to continuing to offer meaningful online experiences. No matter where you are, the Museum team has created opportunities for you to discover your maritime connections, learn stories about mariners throughout history, and connect with the Mariners' and others — in your community and around the world — virtually.

Visit MarinersMuseum.org/virtual for details about programs like "Maritime Mondays" for children and Evening Lectures for adults. Missed a program or want to see it again? Go to YouTube.com/TheMarinersMuseum, where most programs are uploaded soon after they take place. Pre-registration for all virtual programs is required.

If you have any questions or need assistance, the Guest Relations team is here to help. Contact customerservice@MarinersMuseum.org.



Chris-Craft® Carries On

Even while the galleries were quiet, the Museum's Chris-Craft archives team remained as busy as ever, fulfilling nearly 300 research requests from around the country since March 2020. Select team members following strict COVID protocols returned to the Museum to manage these requests, including drawings, photographs, hull cards, and the very popular Research Packet. One inquiry even allowed time to delve into the numerous boxes of material from World War II, including contracts, photographs, and production notes for the boats Chris-Craft provided for the war effort.

Digitization of the archives is also a primary focus as it allows the Museum team to share this treasure trove of information with others and preserve items that may be fragile. The digitization effort has brought to light facts that are real gems and sometimes just provide a chuckle. The photographs of the boats' production, boat shows throughout the years, and images of the factories and the workers employed in them give an inside look at this legendary American company. Its sales literature is another area being digitized. The sales catalogs provide valued information on the boats, and many contain beautiful illustrations.

The Mariners' Museum and Park acquired the Chris-Craft archives in 1986, and it is considered among the most complete histories of any boatbuilding company. Comprising more than 350 linear feet of records, all archived materials, including hull cards and photographs, are available for reproduction in a Research Packet. For more information and Member discounts on these packages, visit MarinersMuseum.org/library or email chriscraft@MarinersMuseum.org.

Rachel Conley
Information Specialist
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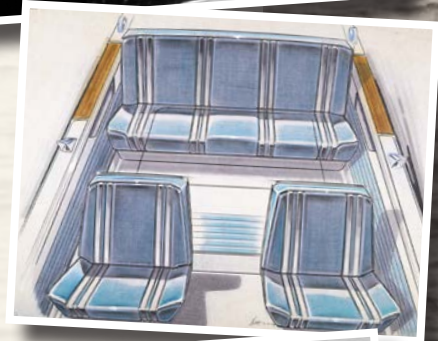




Illustration from Chris-Craft's 1931 Sales Catalog.

Like What You See?

Since 1933, The Mariners' Museum and Park has collected paintings, engravings, and photographs related to the water. The Museum can provide high-quality reproductions of these images for your home or workplace. Prices start at \$20 for an 8x10 inch print, and Members receive a 10% discount on all reproductions.

Start your search in the online catalog, catalogs.MarinersMuseum.org/search. If you can't find the exact image you are looking for, contact Digital Services Coordinator Lisa M. Williams at lwilliams@MarinersMuseum.org. She will work with you to locate the perfect work of maritime art for your wall.

Note: Collection items available for this service must be in the public domain and not subject to copyright restrictions.

Images at left:

Feature: 1932 15.5ft Runabout pulling water skiers in a pillow fight. Detail P18172.

Top to bottom:

- 1941 19ft Custom Runabout. IPI2001.
- 1964 18ft Super Sport seat detail, One of the few drawings rendered in color. BMS50392.
- 1932 Runabout Fleet. PI5080.



TWO NEW EFFORTS

Helping Define the Museum's Future

During the pandemic last year, the Museum team continued to work hard, planning not only for a public reopening but also a long-range vision for the Museum's second century. One project recently completed is a new public observation space in the Batten Conservation Complex.

New Public Observation Space Opens

What was formerly conservators' office spaces and a small library is now a space that allows guests to experience the Museum's conservation process like never before. This area now provides a window into what our conservators do on a daily basis to protect and preserve our renowned Collections. Guests are encouraged to venture upstairs in the Batten Conservation Complex for a behind-the-scenes experience, to see books and photographs, ship models, figureheads, and uniforms. There's no telling what will be in process during visits to the Clean Lab.

There will be docent- and staff-led tours and programs for students and guests alike in the space.

This new space will not only provide guests with a different type of experience, but it also helps the Museum communicate how vital stewardship of its remarkable Collections is to ensure that they are available for future generations.



Emilie Duncan, paper conservator, examines details of a fish illustration.

Moving Boldly Towards Its Second Century

As the Museum turned 90 years old last June, the realization began to set in that there is only a decade left until the Mariners' enters its second century. While that may seem like a long time, the team is actually on a fairly aggressive track to enhance and transform all the galleries. In order to realize its mission to *connect people to the world's waters — because through the waters, through our shared maritime heritage — we are connected to one another*, the Museum's galleries, interpretation, and programs need to be more reflective of this mission.

Over the past few years, the Museum team has studied the Collections to assess what comprehensive storylines they best support. The Collections encompass six broad thematic areas: Exploration, Commerce, Conflict, Technology, Recreation, and Inspiration.



Paige Schmidt, objects conservator, assesses a wooden box's condition.



Molly McGath, PhD, associate research scientist, identifying the blue dye in a sailor's shirt.

The first three themes capture the major collective maritime activities in which nations are engaged. National efforts to explore and learn more about the world lead to commercial ventures; trade routes, colonies, and products moved by the waterways. Those exploration and commercial endeavors often put nations at odds with one another and lead to conflict.

The second three themes tend to be more individual expressions. Technology represents individual innovations that facilitate new methods of exploring, managing commerce, or fighting at sea. Recreation covers an immense range of activities around the waters. And inspiration is a thread that runs throughout all of the other five themes.

'The Collections encompass six broad thematic areas: Exploration, Commerce, Conflict, Technology, Recreation, and Inspiration.'

In fact, the connections and intersections of storylines across all six themes are innumerable and waiting to be discovered.

As the Museum builds toward its 100th anniversary, the team will be re-imagining the vision for the galleries to reflect these major thematic areas so that guests, researchers, and students can discover their connections to the world's waterways and their maritime heritage.

Lyles Forbes
Vice President of Collections
and Chief Curator
lforbes@MarinersMuseum.org

Photos: Brock Switzer

La Isabel

Spanish Culture and History Rediscovered

La Isabel, an early 20th-century Spanish trawler, holds connections that span the Museum's foundation, future, and even the global stage. The Bronze Door Society, a member-managed affinity group focused on supporting the Museum's conservation efforts, funded an internship centered around the vessel in 2018. The goal was to provide an emerging conservation professional the opportunity to work side by side with the Museum's Conservation team to investigate *La Isabel's* past, structure, and current conservation needs. "The Bronze Door Society Internship," the group's first funded conservation internship, served as the starting point for "The Conservation of *La Isabel*," a multi-year project to preserve the vessel for years to come.

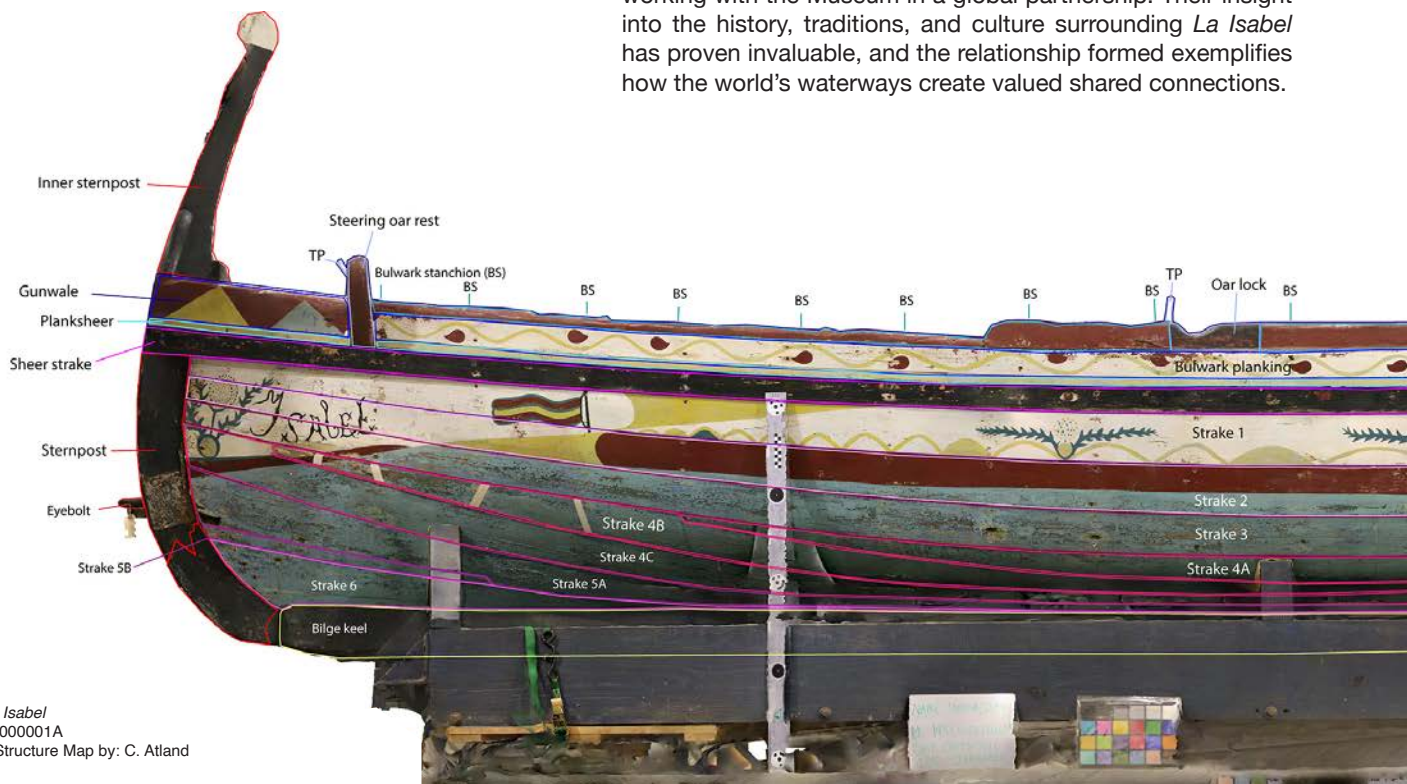
As one of the Museum's initial small craft accessions, *La Isabel* played an important role in the Collections' beginnings. The vessel was bought by Archer Huntington in the early 1930s, shortly after its construction in 1925. It was displayed in the Museum's first exhibit hall, laying the groundwork for the Mariners' internationally-focused small craft collection.



La Isabel on exhibition at the Museum in 1934-1935.

However, *La Isabel's* global impact expands well beyond the Museum's history. The vessel remains one of the oldest surviving examples of a *jábega*: a craft that utilized a traditional trawling fishing technique. *Jábegas* have a rich history along the Andalusian coast, where they were used for centuries for anchovy and sardine fishing until the practice was outlawed in the 1970s. Since then, the boat design has adapted to sport, and many of the traditional vessels have been lost over time. This fishing technique's culture is rich with traditions, songs, and even lexicon, making *La Isabel* a crucial representation of Spanish culture and history.

La Isabel's importance as a *jábega* has been further solidified by Pablo Portillo Stempel, a historian, and Irene Muñoz González, a maritime archaeologist. Both based in Spain, they have been working with the Museum in a global partnership. Their insight into the history, traditions, and culture surrounding *La Isabel* has proven invaluable, and the relationship formed exemplifies how the world's waterways create valued shared connections.



Jábega, La Isabel
1933.0002.000001A
Starboard Structure Map by: C. Atland

This project has reached an international scale by way of virtual outreach as well. Blog posts throughout this project provide readers around the world the ability to follow progress in real time. From historical research to three-dimensional modeling to microscopic wood identification, readers receive a behind-the-scenes look at the conservation process.

During this internship, Christina Altland worked with the Museum's team for 10 weeks, developing valuable skills. She interacted directly with the vessel and utilized the Museum's newly renovated Clean Lab and a new Bronze Door Society-funded microscope. The work accomplished provided the Conservation team with a critical understanding of the boat's structure and condition that will assist in ongoing work with the vessel. Next, Objects Conservator Paige Schmidt will integrate her analysis of the boat's painted surfaces with the structural mapping into a comprehensive condition report that will then inform a plan for *La Isabel*'s treatment and long-term preservation.

La Isabel is but one example of many stories in the International Small Craft Center Collection waiting further exploration. This project is part of a larger Museum effort to re-engage with this Collection, developing a broader understanding of the vessels and their treatment needs. Deepening knowledge of these histories, forging new connections (here and abroad) and preserving these artifacts for generations to come promise the future is bright for the Mariners' conservation efforts.

Christina Altland
 Bronze Door Society Conservation Intern
catland@MarinersMuseum.org

Image top: Christina Altland sampling wood for microscopic analysis.

Image right: Paige Schmidt's work on *La Isabel* which was funded in part by the T. Parker Host Jr. Endowment for Small Craft Conservation.

Photos: Brock Switzer







WHAT IS HIDDEN HISTORIES?

The mission of The Mariners' Museum and Park is to connect people to the world's waters — because through the waters, through our shared maritime heritage — we are connected to one another. This is precisely what "Hidden Histories" is all about.

"Hidden Histories," a new, unparalleled Museum initiative, is designed to give names, agency, and interpretation of the unidentified Black people depicted in the Museum's Collections. The purpose is to tell a more complete history of our shared maritime heritage while expanding our understanding of the richness of local, national, and global communities. The best part? The Mariners' team will seek opportunities to engage with the community for help gathering these names and personal stories.

Last summer, when Museum team members realized they would not be back in the office any time soon because of the pandemic, it was decided to use that time to reevaluate the Collections. Team members discovered photos in the institutional archives, which were then shared with the Department of Interpretation. You might be wondering how did this come to be?

Bill Barker, archivist for the Museum, commented on this find and explained the difference between the Museum's two archives: "The institutional archives is comprised of documents that the Museum has generated during its 90-year existence. It contains things like presidential correspondence, board minutes and reports, financial statements, and the like. The early personnel records in the institutional archives included images of early African American workers at the Museum."

Barker continued, "The primary collection, also called the archival collection, consists of letters, photos, diaries, ephemera, and maps that the Museum maintains and uses to tell our maritime history. These originate from outside the institution and have been intentionally collected by the Museum."

Taking part in the "Hidden Histories" investigation are team members from the Departments of Interpretation, Collections, Digital Services, Library and Archives, Conservation, and Park and Lake. While the team expects this to be an ongoing process and a constant reinvestigation of the Museum's practices, they started with a portion that is incredibly close to home. The first goal is to identify the Black Americans who built the Museum that one can see in photos and historical documentation. The Museum wants to honor these currently unidentified community members and give them the credit they deserve for their efforts and talent in building this institution. As the Mariners' tells its own story more fully, it will also turn to other Black Americans' stories within the Collections.

Lauren T. Furey
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Image left: "East End of Model Shop Construction, Sept. 1934." *L-R:* James Scott and McKinley Banks.

Image top: "Mariners' Museum Employees (Colored), October 1935." *L-R:* T. Cary, A. Cary, Johnson, Wooten, Redcross, Hanson Tyler, Chandler, Haywood Roy, McKinley Banks, Holland, Brown, Wilson, James Scott, Robert Russell East, Hudgins, P. Moore, Willie Griffin, Elmo Jordon, Spratley, D. Banks, and Diggs.

Stewarding the Mariners' Living Collection



Restoration Planting of Southern Yellow Pines

In 2020, the Virginia Department of Forestry conducted a comprehensive study of more than 300 acres of forest in The Mariners' Park. The results provided a personalized Community Forest Plan to aid the Park team as it strives to build and maintain a healthy, vigorous, and sustainable forest canopy in the heart of Newport News. Forest stands with dense growth of invasive species have been prioritized to be removed and replaced with native species. Based on plan recommendations, the Park team and many volunteers have removed invasive species and thinned fast-growing hardwoods.

By March, stewards of the Park planted 700 seedlings of shortleaf pine and 50 longleaf pine over 2.5 acres. These long-lived, fire-adapted species once dominated forests across the southeastern United States. Today, it is estimated that less than 10 percent of their original stands remain due to various factors such as over-harvesting and improper land management.

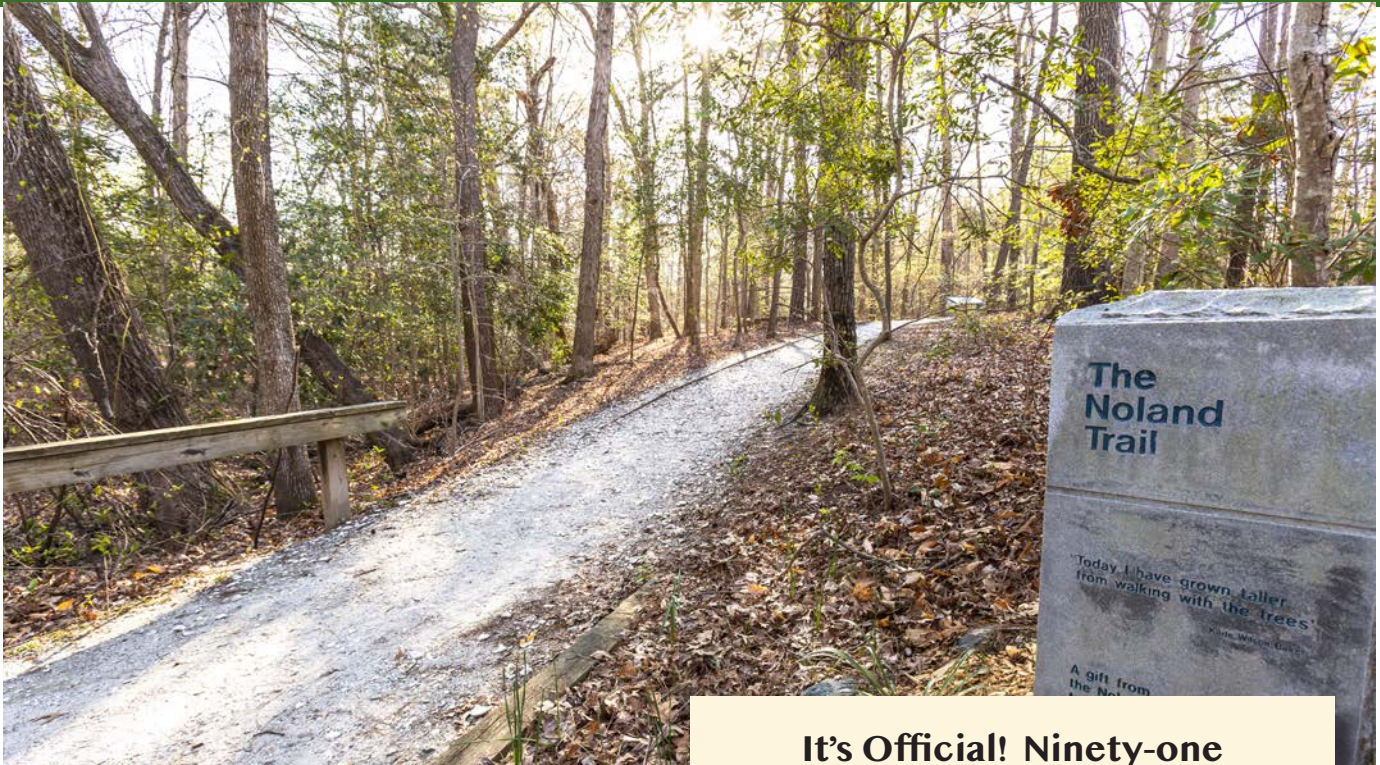
Throughout our nation's history, shortleaf pine has been heavily used in boat and shipbuilding right here in Newport News. Pine ranks second in board feet used in Virginia shipbuilding construction in the early 20th century and was used to construct partitions, decking, ceilings, shipways, joiner work, and staging.¹ Planting and maintaining these underrepresented and historically significant species will help give them a fighting chance and provide ecosystem services that make The Mariners' Park more sustainable and resilient.

This project is possible thanks to the extensive efforts of numerous volunteers and partners of The Mariners' Museum and Park and can be seen from the Noland Trail near Bridge 9. Learn more about the nationwide call-to-action to restore shortleaf pines at shortleafpineinitiative.net.

Graham King
Park, Trail, and Grounds Technician
gking@MarinersMuseum.org

Source: ¹ "Bulletin of the Engineering Extension of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute," pp. 94-97. Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Engineering extension division, 1939.

The Mariners' Park and Noland Trail



Resurfacing the Noland Trail

It is hard to believe that the Noland Trail turns 30 this year. A generous gift from the Noland Family, the Trail has long served the community as the perfect urban oasis for running, walking, and observing flora and fauna out in nature. Over the past year, Trail usage has increased dramatically. Without a doubt, it has served as a source of recreation and solace during these troubling times.

To help keep the Trail in tip-top shape, the City of Newport News awarded The Mariners' Park a CARES grant to support the Noland Trail's resurfacing. This funding provided seed money to purchase the clay, sand, and stone dust needed to launch this project. Resurfacing the five-mile Trail is now on a permanent preventive maintenance cycle – a mile a year from now on.

During the Trail's resurfacing, exposed roots will be covered to reduce tripping hazards and help build up low areas caused by soil erosion from rain. A combination of sand and clay will be applied to the Trail and mechanically compacted, providing a durable surface. The final step will be applying stone dust to give a nice finish to this amazing place. And fear not, the Trail will remain open throughout this project.

Josh Bailey
Park, Trail, and Grounds Sr. Technician
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It's Official! Ninety-one Years in the Making



In the fall of 2020, The Mariners' Museum created its first-ever Park Department. Erica Deale, Dave Kennedy, Josh Bailey, and Graham King are now a collective team. The department's goal is to serve along with others to protect, conserve, and enhance the land, water, wildlife, and amenities of the Park to benefit the community – connecting people to the great outdoors. Since its establishment in October, the team has hit the Noland Trail running with several new projects and initiatives. When you see any of the team out in the Park, be sure to stop and say hi. They love talking about what they're doing out there.



Building the Foundation for Long-Term Sustainability

The Museum's Approach to Philanthropy

The Batten Foundation permanently endowed the Mariners' \$1 Admission policy in 2019 with the most significant single gift — \$10 million — since the Huntington gifts that founded the Museum. The Foundation's first \$5 million was an outright gift to the Museum, while the second \$5 million is conditioned on the Museum raising \$5 million in new endowment or capital funds for any purpose. Last year, the Museum raised more than \$1.1 million toward that match.

This progress begs the question: Why raise endowment? The answer is simple:

Endowment allows:

- The Museum team to be far more strategic in its activity, and
- Museum Members and Supporters to directly impact that activity.

A growing endowment for Educational Enrichment programs eases the concern about funding any given year's school programs and allows the Museum to fully pursue its strategic partnership with Newport News Public Schools and Old Dominion University as well as others like it. A growing endowment for the personnel costs of educators, library staff, conservators, and curators ensures that even a \$40 Membership or contribution won't be gobbled up by overhead but will have a material impact on Museum operations, as described on page 17.

Partnerships Show Big Potential for Impact

Many are familiar with the Museum's \$1 Admission story and the mission that drove that effort. What may be less familiar is how servant leadership and building social capital became a cornerstone of the Advancement Department's approach. The team began by refocusing conversations with donors away from being transactional to being about relationships and building alignment between the donors' objectives and the Museum's mission. The conversations shifted to how best to serve the broader community, and they were no longer, "If you give us this, we will give you that." This approach allowed the Museum team to connect donors with their passion or introduce them to a new interest, versus pushing a single agenda for fundraising. In turn, there developed, almost unintentionally, a world of champions — people who became advocates in places and communities previously unreached by the Museum.

Leveraging the Museum team's new partnerships has driven new grant opportunities. For example, almost three years ago, the Museum began offering free Educational Enrichment programs to Newport News students — there was no agenda, just caring for the local community. This led to a strengthened relationship with Newport News Public Schools curriculum leaders, who shared their challenges and identified areas where they could use Museum resources most. In the process, the Museum team began networking with The Center for Educational Partnerships at ODU, which shared its ability in



developing and evaluating *how* and *what* young people learn in informal settings, such as museums.

Those conversations over several years positioned The Mariners' Museum to submit its largest-ever collaboration grant request to the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Decisions on what organizations will receive this funding will be announced this summer. Even if the Mariners' is not awarded during this round, the application process has laid a solid road map to reapply in November. This IMLS collaboration grant is but one example that speaks to the tremendous shift that has been made over the last five years in the Museum's approach to philanthropy. Examples like this are why the Mariners' team is so confident in a brighter future for the Museum and the communities it serves.

To learn more about how individuals and organizations are helping the Museum, contact:

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Sabrina Jones
Director of Strategic Partnerships
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Programs • Exhibitions • Research • Conservation

What Does Your Annual Membership Support?

Over the past four years, The Mariners' Museum and Park has adopted a Collections-Based, Community-Focused strategy to accomplish its mission. This strategy focuses the Museum's team on providing care and access to its world-class Collections while staying true to a servant leadership philosophy. But where does *your* Membership support fit into this strategy?

It is often said that Members help provide the financial foundation for the Museum's four core functions: Programs, Exhibitions, Research, and Conservation. These core functions give structure to the Museum's budgeting process allowing the team to realize its Collections-Based, Community-Focused strategy. So, when you renew your Membership or invite others to join, what you're really doing is providing vital equipment for the conservators to care for an at-risk object or purchasing school supplies for an Educational Enrichment program. For example, a single \$40 Membership can cover the cost of program supplies for 133 students in a school year.

The Museum identifies funding priorities within each of its four core functions. You can be confident that when a need arises, your Membership support is directed toward the most urgent, on-the-ground efforts to help the Museum accomplish its mission.

To gain an even deeper understanding of the Museum's approach toward philanthropy, see *Setting the Foundation for Long-Term Sustainability* (pages 15-16). Reach out to Sara Weatherill, director of membership and guest relations, at sweatherill@MarinersMuseum.org to learn more about how your support as a Member is making a difference at the Museum and within the communities it serves.



Let the Museum Take You...



Beyond the FRAME

Earlier this spring, the Museum launched a new video series that takes you into the galleries and behind the scenes to explore its vast art collection. It's easy to walk past a painting in a gallery, but if you stop and listen, even just for a moment, you might hear the piece calling to you, wanting to tell its story. Looking at art can be an intimidating experience, but it doesn't need to be that way. You don't have to know the context of every piece to appreciate or understand it. You just need time, a little curiosity, and an open mind.

Join Kyra Duffley, digital content assistant, in discovering stories that lie "Beyond the Frame." Episodes are published on the first Friday of every month on Instagram (@MarinersMuseum) and are paired with accompanying blogs (blogs.MarinersMuseum.org).

If you don't have access to Instagram, don't worry! The videos are also available on Facebook and the Museum's YouTube Channel.

Above: "Gloucester Inner Harbor." Fitz H. Lane, 1850, Oil on canvas. 1946.0830.000001 • Photo: Brock Switzer

MUSEUM CALENDAR

All programs are virtual with the exception of Park Tours and Friendly Hours, and are subject to change. Times are ET.

MAY

- May 9 AM **History of the Park and Trees Guided Tour**
Dates: May 1, 12 & 15
- May 11 AM & 1 PM **Virtual Maritime Mondays:** Story time
Dates: May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31
- May 7 12 PM **Civil War Lecture:** Battle of Memphis
Presenter: John V. Quarstein
- May 12 1 PM **Speakers' Bureau:** A Parson's Son Goes To Sea
Presenter: Ron Lewis
- May 14 12 PM **Hampton Roads History Lecture:**
The Birthplace of American Aircraft Carriers
Presenters: John V. Quarstein & Thomas Heinrich
- May 19 1 PM **Speakers' Bureau:** John Paul Jones, Father of the US Navy • Presenter: Ed Moore
- May 20 7 PM **Evening Lecture:**
Museums: Behind the Scenes with Leslie Mueller
- May 21 12 PM **Civil War Lecture:** Ben Butler & the Contrabands
Presenter: John V. Quarstein

Galleries Reopening for Members and Supporters
May 21-27 • 9 AM - 5 PM

- May 26 1 PM **Speakers' Bureau:** Exxon Valdez vs. Bligh Reef
Presenter: Dan Wood
- May 28 9 AM **Mariners' Galleries Reopening**
General Public
- May 28 12 PM **Civil War Lecture:** Origins and Meanings of Decoration Day • Presenter: John V. Quarstein

JUNE

- June 9 AM **History of the Park and Trees Guided Tour**
Dates: June 2, 5, 16 & 30
- June 4 12 PM **Hampton Roads History Lecture:**
D Day Ships Built at Norfolk Naval Shipyard
Presenter: Marcus W. Robbins
- June 11 AM & 1 PM **Virtual Maritime Mondays:** Story time
Dates: June 7, 14, 21 & 28
- June 9 1 PM **Speakers' Bureau:** Are We the Vikings?
Presenter: Ron Lewis
- June 11 12 PM **Civil War Lecture:** CSS *Stonewall*: A Ship Under Four Flags • Presenter: John V. Quarstein
- June 13 9 AM **Friendly Hours**
FREE with \$1 admission
- June 18 12 PM **Civil War Lecture:** Battle of Wassau Sound, GA
Presenter: John V. Quarstein

JULY

- July 11 AM & 1 PM **Virtual Maritime Mondays:** Story time
Dates: 5, 12, 19 & 26
- July 9 12 PM **Hampton Roads History Lecture:**
Legendary 19th-century Resorts
Presenter: John V. Quarstein
- July 11 9 AM **Friendly Hours**
FREE with \$1 admission
- July 14 9 AM **History of the Park and Trees Guided Tour**
Additional Dates: July 17, 28, & 31
- July 23 12 PM **Civil War Lecture:** CSS *Arkansas*
Presenter: John V. Quarstein

For additional programs & events, visit MarinersMuseum.org.



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**At Last! Museum Galleries
Reopen to the Public May 28!**

MarinersMuseum.org

Explore new ways to engage with the Museum, in person and virtually. Learn more about the Museum's Collections and how we can help you discover your own maritime connections!

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MUSEUM ADMISSION IS \$1 PER PERSON.



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