# Ahoy!

The Mariners' Museum and Park SPRING/SUMMER 2022

#### Iconic. Legendary. Epic.

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The 160-Year Odyssey of USS *Monitor* Continues PAGE 9

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#### Message from the President

Dear Mariners' Family,

This issue of *Ahoy!* does an exceptional job of capturing the many dynamic ways our Mariners' team engages with people locally, nationally, and globally. From digital content production to Mariners' Park stewardship to increasingly impactful educational enrichment programs, and on and on – our service is "robust," and we take a lot of pride in that!



Over the last several years, we have shared more and more about our Collection-Based, Community-Focused strategy with you. Collection-Based means that all of our engagement with the communities we serve should start with "the real thing" – the art, artifacts, or archival material in our Collection – and the stories that live within them. Community-Focused means that we engage not to advance our selfinterest but to support and strengthen our community. Community-Focused also reminds us that everything we do is stronger and more impactful when we work with partners.

The striking image on the cover – *Monitor*'s turret emerging from the Atlantic Ocean – deserves special attention in the context of our Collection-Based, Community-Focused strategy. As you will read in Will Hoffman's excellent piece "Reflecting on the Legacy of USS *Monitor*," we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the recovery of the turret this summer. An occasion like this allows us to reflect on our good fortune.

The monumental effort to recover the turret from *Monitor* united US Navy divers, NOAA archaeologists, Mariners' Museum professionals, and many others around a shared vision of preservation that continues today. Our partnership with NOAA and the National Marine Sanctuary system – particularly Monitor National Marine Sanctuary – has never been stronger. Within that partnership, the entire Mariners' team takes tremendous pride in our role in conserving and interpreting the iconic turret and the entirety of the USS *Monitor* story. This theme of mutually-supportive partnerships resonates throughout this issue.

Finally, when we think in a Collection-Based, Community-Focused way, we force ourselves to think about the relevance of the stories in our Collection to the communities we serve. Think about the story the turret represents. People from all walks of life, including African Americans, immigrants, and other individuals from across the socioeconomic spectrum – all came together to fight as one on this ship that nobody had ever seen before – people united by a common purpose: the preservation of our nation. What a powerful metaphor even today.

Stay tuned for our plans to mark the anniversary of the turret recovery on August 6, and please consider this an invitation to join us. In the meantime, enjoy catching up on all that our Mariners' team does every day to support our important mission!

Howard H. Hoege III President and CEO

#### The Mariners' Museum and Park

Howard H. Hoege III President and CEO

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Lead Editor: Julie Murphy jmurphy@MarinersMuseum.org

Production Team: Luisa A. Vázquez-López Sara Weatherill

Contributing Editor: Kristie Le-Vest

Graphic Designer: Ann Marie S. Jenkins

Photographers: Amanda Shields Brock Switzer

On the Cover: What a sight to see! On August 5, 2002, USS *Monitor*'s turret is recovered from the Atlantic after 140 years.

PHOTO: NOAA, THE MONITOR COLLECTION

# Trilby Cooney

### Meet a Mariner

Have you ever met someone who can make you smile without even trying? Have you ever known someone who instantly connects with you, making you feel like you matter? If you're lucky, you know one of The Mariners' greatest assets — team member Trilby Cooney — a friend to all who has welcomed guests to The Mariners' Museum and Park for 36 years.

Trilby first came to the Museum as a Visitor Services associate in 1986. If you are a frequent visitor, chances are Trilby has processed your admission ticket or handed your children a scavenger hunt. There are generations of mariners who have come to know and love Trilby for her warm smile and uncanny ability to facilitate a great conversation. Before you know it, Trilby knows where you're from, if this is your first visit, and what you are most interested in seeing in the galleries. Mariners' Board of Trustees Member Conway Sheild has known Trilby since before she joined the Museum team. In Sheild's eyes, "Trilby's work isn't a job, it's a calling."

Tom Grund, Mariners' Member since 2014, recalls his family's visits to the Museum: "Trilby makes The Mariners' feel like a homey place. Every visit starts as a happy one." Trilby's favorite things about working at the Museum are meeting new people and seeing children like Grund's twin daughters grow up playing in the galleries.

Trilby has called Newport News home since 1943 when her father began working at Newport News Shipbuilding. As Trilby puts it, "I've been a mariner my whole life because the water is such a major link for our community." Her compassion and instinct to serve first have had an incalculable impact on building the Museum's community of champions.

When the price of Museum admission changed to \$1, Trilby felt that this decision aligned Museum policy with the values and culture that the staff and leadership worked hard to build. "The community feels looked after with \$1 Admission, and we have more repeat guests than ever before," she explained. There is no doubt Trilby is a manifestation of what being a mariner is all about – looking after one another and discovering shared connections through the water. The Mariners' thanks you, Trilby, for your years of loyal service and boundless friendship.



Trilby Cooney assists with The Mariners' Volunteer Awards Ceremony, about 1985.

Olivia Harding Stewardship Coordinator oharding@MarinersMuseum.org

Fostering the next generation of museum visitors

#### **Connecting Students** to the Collection

#### Welcoming Student Groups

A group of third graders steps off their school bus and into The Mariners' Museum, spilling down the concourse and into the Main Lobby. There, their mouths drop, and they exclaim, "I've been here before! I remember the big eagle! Is that real gold?!? Wow!!!" Every Mariners' team member wants every student who visits to experience that same sense of wonder and excitement and leave with a desire to return knowing this is *their* Museum. This sense of belonging helps instill a lifelong appreciation for learning. And how is this being accomplished? By helping students connect visually, physically, and emotionally to the amazing stories in the Museum's Collection in exciting and non-traditional ways.

Often, students and teachers walk through The Mariners' doors expecting the typical history museum tour and experience — one that features a docent talking *at* them, requiring students to stand in line, be quiet, and keep their hands off. But that experience is a relic. The Museum's Education team redefines the museum experience by focusing on object-based learning and encouraging interaction with the Collection.<sup>1</sup> This can be witnessed as "aha" moments where students connect what they see and do to what they learn in the classroom. Docents lead engaging tours, asking students what sound a toy in *Toys Ahoy!* might make or what an object would eat for lunch. Or having students take off like an airplane on a replica deck of an aircraft carrier in *Defending the Seas* or practicing short periods of independent exploration (Imagine that!). From the educational standpoint, the fun encouraged through these tactics is critical thinking skills and abstract thought in disguise. Additionally, this reimagined tour experience highlights gallery stops related to specific classroom content. For example, on the "Ring of Fire: Volcanoes, Earthquakes, and Tsunamis" tour, a cutlass that survived a tsunami is brought out from Collection Storage *just for them*. Docent training provides continuing education on collection objects, replete with interpretation and activity suggestions when working with students.

#### Applying Lessons Learned to Families

The Mariners' team works hard to provide engaging and challenging scavenger hunts where families can learn by doing. Channeling the approach to student groups, families are given opportunities to make and find real connections to the Museum's Collection. These scavenger hunts do not simply ask for items to be found but also include activities to complete the hunt — like asking families to perform a ceremonial dance when they find the Yami *Tatara* (the boat with feathers!) or to test their strength on the same kind of equipment used by America's Cup winners in the *Speed & Innovation* gallery. Team members are constantly striving to develop in-gallery activities around the Collection that are active and sometimes quirky rather than passive, making them something every family member can enjoy.

The goal at The Mariners' is to forge a lasting impact on students' lives, where they see the Museum as part of their community and develop a sense of belonging inside its doors.<sup>2</sup> The team wants them to feel that this Museum is *their* museum, a space where they can bring family and friends, have fun, be physical, make noise, and just be kids. It is easy to see the benefits of object-based learning: a student connecting to an object in the Museum Collection, *their collection*. The team believes strongly that they are empowering the future stewards of our cultural heritage. What an honor and privilege that is!

Jennifer Hackney Senior Material Culture Educator jhackney@MarinersMuseum.org

1. For more about the benefits of object-based learning, including implementation strategies, see Rachel M. Straughn-Navarro, PhD, "Thinking about Object-Based Teaching and Learning," Teaching with Primary Sources Collective, last modified March 27, 2020, <u>https://tpscollective.org/notes-from-the-field/thinking-about-object-based-teaching-and-learning/;</u> and Brian Sheehy, Michael Sandstrom, and John Heeg, "Coming Together Through Object Based Learning in a Pandemic," *The Councilor: A Journal of the Social Studies:* Vol. 82: No. 1 (2021): Article 4, <u>https://thekeep.eiu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1171&context=the councilor</u>.

2. For information on making students feel welcome inside museums, see Addie Lemma Kifle, "Understanding Feelings of Inclusion and Exclusion for Black and Brown Students in Museums" (Masters Thesis, University of Washington, 2020), 23-38.

Opposite: Students enjoy an engaging discussion on the American Civil War with docent Brian Nehrbass as part of the "Ironclad Marvels" educational enrichment program.

Top: Environmental Science Educator Shantelle Landry helps students build an aqueduct in the "Exploration in the Ancient World" program.

Center: Docent Dan Wood encourages students to perform their interpretation of a ceremonial dance at the Yami *Tatara*.

Bottom: Students make observations about a marine barometer brought out from storage for the "Eye of a Hurricane" program.







**Two Decades Later:** The Impact Continues



#### Peter Ifland's 'Formidable' Collection

In 1995, the senior curator of navigation at Amsterdam's National Maritime Museum of the Netherlands, Willem Mörzer Bruyns, introduced Dr. Paul W. "Peter" Ifland to The Mariners'. Ifland, who died in 2014, was a private collector who had amassed an extensive collection of navigational instruments that Mörzer Bruyns felt was "equal to the standard of any large maritime museum in the world."

Impressed with the collection of instruments he had acquired, the Museum began working with Ifland on his award-winning book *Taking the Stars, Celestial Navigation from the Argonauts to the Astronauts.* Following its publication in 1998, Ifland donated 169 instruments to The Mariners' Museum. Over the next 20 years, more donations and supported acquisitions followed, including Ifland's impressive library. A significant addition to the Museum's already strong collection of navigating and scientific instruments, the materials propelled a great collection into an extraordinary one.

The 275 instruments and objects in Ifland's collection range from circa 1650 to the 21st century. They include all the primary instruments for taking sights: quadrants, a backstaff, octants, sextants, quintants, reflecting circles, and artificial horizons. Along with the navigational instruments, there are devices for surveying, drawing, telling time, astronomy, and compasses and globes. The collection even includes a few artworks and other decorative items. The Ifland and Mariners' Collections create an assemblage of 1,240 instruments that respected dealer David Coffeen calls "formidable," and the best collection of navigating instruments in the United States.

A particular strength of Ifland's collection is instruments related to aviation – everything from balloons to jets – and one-of-akind instruments that featured design innovations intended to solve particular navigational problems but were not technical, operational, or financial successes.

Not only has the Ifland Collection proved useful to Mariners' exhibitions and programs, but it has also been a valuable resource for other institutions. Over the past 20 years, instruments from Ifland's collection have been loaned to



Left: Planispheric astrolabe made by Hâjjî 'Alî in Isfahan, Iran, 1790-1791, disassembled to show the individual parts.

Right: Brock Switzer photographs a sextant from the Ifland Collection.

such venerable institutions as the Library of Congress, the National Museum of Natural History, the National Clock and Watch Museum, the Folger Shakespeare Library, and Thomas Jefferson's Monticello.

Over the years, Ifland provided financial support that allowed the Museum to add additional one-of-a-kind instruments to the Ifland Collection. Developing an online database was funded, making the Ifland and Museum Collections publicly accessible. The support also helped establish an endowment to support the future Ifland Center for Exploration.

Thanks to generous funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, The Mariners' is able to photograph the Ifland Collection like never before. With a state-of-the-art 150-megapixel digital camera, team members are able to create a high-resolution digital catalog of this important collection. The goal is to thoroughly document each piece, providing access to researchers worldwide. Although the Ifland Collection is only part of the Museum's massive collection of scientific and navigational instruments, it's viewed as a jumping-off point for photographing the entire collection. If you're interested in seeing the impressive results of Ifland's support and his collection, visit catalogs.marinersmuseum.org/search.

#### Jeanne Willoz-Egnor

Curator of Maritime History and Culture, Director of the Ifland Center for Exploration jegnor@MarinersMuseum.org

Brock Switzer Chief Photographer bswitzer@MarinersMuseum.org



## CONNECTING THE WORLD

THE MARINERS' WORLD-CLASS COLLECTION

Think about the last time you visited The Mariners'. Did you immediately feel connected to an object, story, or image when walking through the galleries? Did you feel a little spark of curiosity or wonder? Did you leave *wanting to know more*?

One of The Mariners' roles as a museum is to provide its guests with multiple opportunities to say, "Wow, I would love to know more about this story!" Sometimes, a few sentences of label copy aren't enough to fully bring an object to life and make it relevant to Museum guests. We may need more context than just a few words on paper to dive deep into an object's history — why it's important, who used it, how they used it, and where they used it.

As stewards of these often incredible and remarkable stories, The Mariners' unique responsibility is to be the voice for these objects. They can't physically speak and share their experiences with us, so the Museum team is bestowed with the honor of connecting their history to our present. As The Mariners' team continues to expand its Collection-Based, Community-Focused strategy, digital storytelling has become a priority. The Museum's blogs, social media, and website provide avenues to amplify the stories held within its Collection — stories that help people identify as mariners personally and, hopefully, then view themselves as part of a shared maritime heritage that connects every culture.

Researching an object in the Museum Collection for digital storytelling often results in a richer, more meaningful story. And not only for the Museum's audiences but for The Mariners' team. New connections are being revealed, connections that were never known to exist. Recently, the Museum produced a video about its Ortelius Atlas, considered the world's first modern atlas and one of the earliest, dating to 1592. While researching the story, the team realized a fascinating connection. A former Mariners' team member developed and perfected the type of lamination preservation treatment used on

the Atlas, and current Research Scientist Molly McGath, PhD, is a leading expert on the impact of cellulose acetate lamination on collections. Connecting the past to the present continues Museum-wide as more stories are shared with the world!

As The Mariners' continues to develop its digital storytelling, it is exciting to report some impressive results. The Museum launched its new "Beyond the Frame" video series in April 2021. Since then, it has received more than 700,000 views across platforms. This series has reached more than 1.5 million people worldwide and boasts 10 times the average engagement rate.

The Mariners' digital efforts have been successful because they allow people to transcend the traditional Museum experience. This enables the Museum's team to connect just as authentically as in the galleries and provides a platform to tell a more meaningful story while connecting with mariners everywhere! Plus, audiences are showing up to contribute their own stories on a scale not physically possible within the Museum's walls and in ways that are helping to expand knowledge of the Collection.

The guiding star for creating digital content is diversifying the stories The Mariners' shares with inspiring, relevant content that engages with the audiences everywhere. And that includes you, the Museum's community of champions.

Jenna Dill Marketing and Digital Content Manager jdill@MarinersMuseum.org

> Above: Abrahami Patriarchae Peregrinatio et Vita [The Pilgrimage and Life of Abraham the Patriarch], from the Ortelius Atlas. The Mariners' Museum

Museum Digital Content Specialist Kyra Duffley captures footage of Marion Boyd Allen's *Portrait of Anna Vaughn Hyatt* for Episode 4 of "Beyond the Frame." "Their names are for history; and so long as we remain a people, so long will the work of the Monitor be remembered, and her story told to our children's children." – Surgeon Grenville Weeks, 1863

#### **Reflecting on the Legacy of USS Monitor:** People Coming Together for a Common Goal

At 5:47 p.m. on August 5, 2002, the gun turret from USS *Monitor* broke the surface of the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of North Carolina. After 140 years on the seafloor, the iconic object was heading back to Hampton Roads. Having spent the summer of 1862 on the James River just south of Richmond, *Monitor* was ordered to the Washington Navy Yard. As the vessel steamed down the river past the site that would become The Mariners' Museum and Park, it appeared the two would not meet again. However, on August 10, 2002, the turret made its way back up the James River and back to The Mariners', bringing stories of the ship and its crew, providing a window into the tumultuous time in which it had served.

As the 20th anniversary of the recovery of the turret and the beginning of its conservation approaches, it seems like the ideal time to reflect on the history of USS *Monitor* and its enduring legacy of bringing people together in support of a common goal.

From the onset of construction at the Continental Ironworks at Greenpoint, Brooklyn, the ironclad was already creating connections. Components and materials came from all over the Northeast to build the vessel on a 100-day timeline. This regional collaboration made it possible for the ship to be assembled and launched quickly with all recognizing the importance

of the endeavor and what this vessel represented. Although historical records have shown 28 contributing manufacturers to the construction of the ironclad, the conservation process has revealed more than 20 other companies based on maker's marks found on artifacts. This has expanded the knowledge of the people who constructed the vessel and adds depth to the stories the Museum can share.

As for the crew of *Monitor*, they came from multiple socioeconomic classes, different religions, ethnic backgrounds, and places of origin, both foreign and domestic — all coming together to serve on an untested vessel during a time of great uncertainty. Although they may not have known it at the time, their unity and shared sacrifice ensured the nation would be saved. Many personal artifacts from the crew were found and excavated from the turret. Conservation within the laboratory has allowed objects such as silverware and a one-of-a-kind pilot's coat to be preserved and displayed within the USS *Monitor* Center.



Even though several individuals had tried to find USS *Monitor*'s wreck site, it ultimately took a team to accomplish the task. On August 27, 1973, a joint expedition of researchers from Duke University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Delaware, National Geographic, and the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources discovered the ironclad's resting place.

The stewards of *Monitor*'s wreck site — the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Monitor National Marine Sanctuary — determined that a major recovery effort was needed. So, they pulled together a team including archaeologists, US Navy divers, industrial engineers, various resources from the maritime industry, and The Mariners' Museum and Park. The diverse group worked jointly to save *Monitor*'s artifacts so that the stories behind them could be told.

The scale and scope of the USS *Monitor* conservation effort, recognized as the largest marine metals conservation project undertaken worldwide, has required a diverse team of staff and outside experts to work in collaboration within the Batten Conservation Complex to conserve and preserve the ironclad's artifacts. The laboratory has formed partnerships with colleges and universities, local, state, and federal agencies, private industry, and other not-for-profit businesses and institutions nationally and internationally. All have recognized the importance of the story of USS *Monitor*, with many drawing personal connections to it. It has been noted that this conservation project is a physical manifestation of the institution's mission: *The Mariners' Museum and Park connects people to the world's waters, because through the waters — through our shared maritime heritage — we are connected to one another!* 

If one looks back at USS *Monitor*'s story and forward to the next chapter for its turret, the words of the ironclad's surgeon Grenville Weeks seem particularly relevant. Weeks described the vessel and crew's legacy: "Their names are for history; and so long as we remain a people, so long will the work of the *Monitor* be remembered, and her story told to our children's children."

#### Will Hoffman

Director of Conservation and Chief Conservator whoffman@MarinersMuseum.org

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J. D. Broadwater, USS Monitor: A Historic Ship Completes Its Final Voyage. College Station, Texas: Texas A&M University Press, 2012.

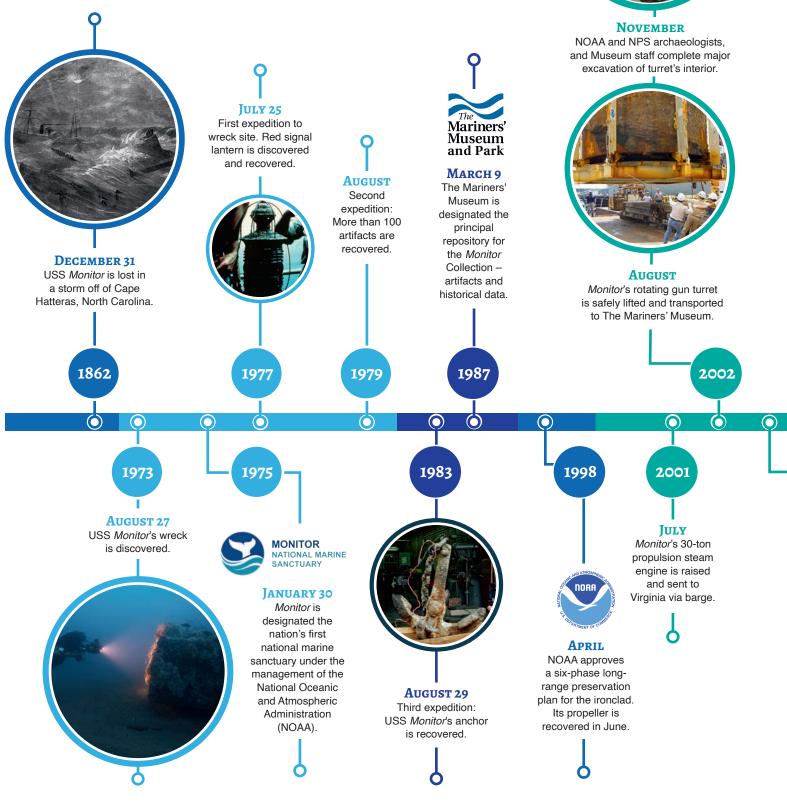
Grenville M. Weeks, "The Last Cruise of the Monitor," Atlantic Magazine, March 11, 1863: 366-372.

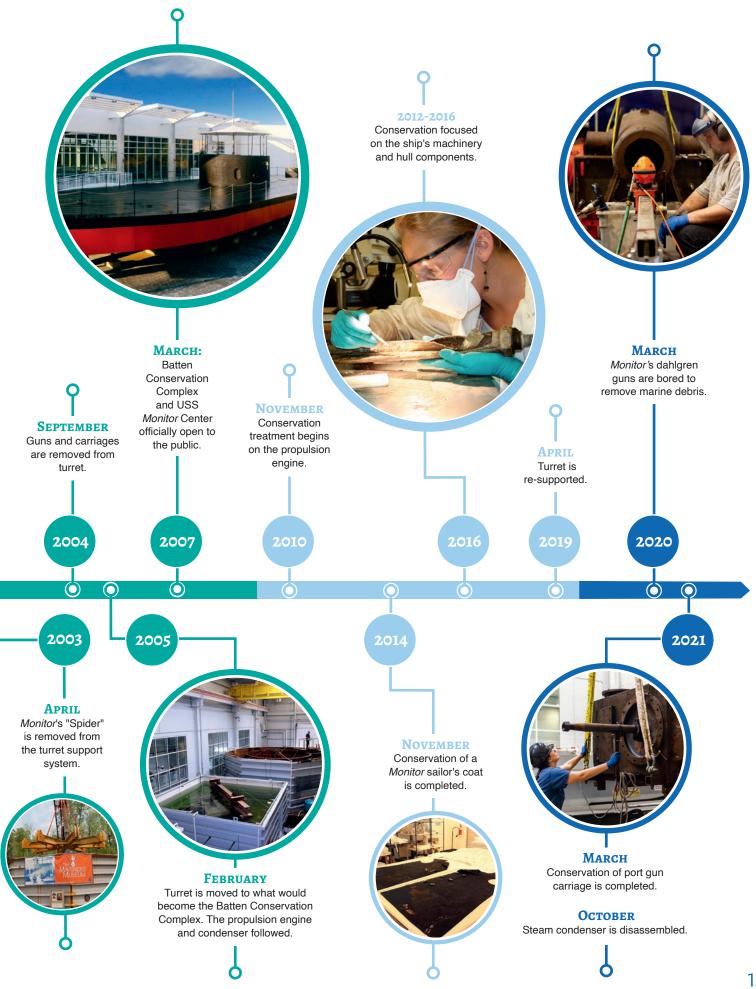


#### **USS MONITOR MILESTONES** Conservation Continues

**The year 2022** promises the completion of several significant *Monitor* projects and continued progress. The Mariners' will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the recovery of the ironclad's turret in August. Read the Conservation team's blogs and follow the Museum on social media for updates on the work being done in the Batten Conservation Complex.

PHOTOS: THE MARINERS' MUSEUM AND NOAA







#### Identification: Valuable Knowledge for Future Botanists



George Mason, Mariners' Museum forester, 1935.

In April 1933, George Mason, forester for The Mariners' Park, created the first and one of the Park's largest plant pressing collections. In doing so, Mason identified 285 individual plants. He donated that collection to the College of William & Mary 30 years before its Herbarium<sup>1</sup> was established. His early due diligence to identify everything in the Park before large-scale development took place is more valuable than he may have ever thought it could be.

In 2001, Dr. Harold Cones wrote a book about the early history of the Park, *The Mariners*'

Museum Park: The Making of an Urban Oasis. He included a list of Mason's pressing collection. This book inspired Dr. Janet Steven, associate professor and graduate program director at Christopher Newport University, to research Mason's early identifications. She saw the value in learning from those early pressings to document changes in plant habitats over time. Over the last seven years, Dr. Steven has worked with several students to identify the plant species now present in Mariners' Park. The well-documented history of the Park, its 92-year existence in the same location, and its accessibility to student research have contributed to the success of Steven's project.

Dr. Steven and her research team have identified about half of the plants in Mason's original collection. The list of missing plants includes species that are present for short windows of time and in communities that no longer exist due to land management changes. Perhaps her most fascinating finding is a Chinese fir, *Cunninghamia*, near Bridge 11 on the Noland Trail. Of the tree, Dr. Steven remarked, "It is very happy there, and while it is not native, it is a rare and unexpected find!" Her research includes identifying plants and retaining a pressing of them. Pressings allow future botanists to reclassify plants based on changes in identification, which are critical to her study of Mason's collection.

When asked if she thought Mason knew he was creating a valuable record for the future, she replied, "Absolutely! He approached the identification and pressings as a great botanist would. He knew he was preserving the Park as it was for long-term information. His care in labeling showed he was preserving something for the future." Dr. Steven plans to contribute her plant pressings to William & Mary's Herbarium. Adding to Mason's original collection will provide value to



botanists now and for years to come. Plant inventories are vital to increasing understanding and predicting community shifts due to changes in climate and the maintenance and management of land in urban areas. Dr. Steven hopes that replication of this project occurs every 10 to 15 years. The foundation laid by Mason and its continued legacy, along with Dr. Steven's work, is evidence of The Mariners' Museum and Park's approach toward stewarding its Living Collection, encompassing every plant and animal in its 550acre Park.

#### Erica Deale Park Department Manager edeale@MarinersMuseum.org

1. An herbarium is a repository of preserved plant specimens and associated data used for scientific study.

Opposite: Dr. Janet Steven showing a pressing created by one of her students of an eastern red cedar tree, a variety that grows in the Park.

Above: This blue violet is one of Mason's 1933 pressings. You can still see the color in the flower's petals 89 years later. Image courtesy of the Herbarium of the College of William & Mary.



#### PARK AND LAKE UPDATE

#### Students on the Water!

The Mariners' is thrilled to enter the first phase of its three-tiered approach for reopening Mariners' Lake as it welcomes more than 700 sixth-grade students from Newport News this spring. The Museum is partnering with the James River Association and Newport News Public Schools to serve local youth and offer them unique on-the-water enrichment activities.

These young mariners are learning environmental stewardship, seeing how area waterways support wildlife, and discovering new career opportunities. More plans are in the works that will offer Mariners' Lake and Park as resources to the community while serving a need within local schools.

As part of The Mariners' family, you will hear updates *first* when Members and Supporters will gain access to the Lake before it opens to the public.

Newport News Public Schools in conjunction with the James River Association take students kayaking on Mariners' Lake.





#### THE BRONZE DOOR SOCIETY

## Five Years of Investing in CONSERVATION

The Mariners' Museum has made significant strides to build a comprehensive and robust conservation program for the past six years. While the institution has had a world-class team of conservators focused on the *Monitor* conservation project since 2007, the internal capacity to care for the Museum's Collection was limited.

In 2016, The Mariners' team adopted a new mission, a mission rooted in the strength of the Museum's Collection to connect people to the world's waters and to one another. With that mission at heart and the conviction of serving its community with the Collection, the first Conservation Department was established in 2017. It was then that The Bronze Door Society turned its focus and investment into the conservation efforts of this new department.

#### A Look Back

Founded in 1997, The Bronze Door Society is the oldest member-managed affinity group of The Mariners' Museum and Park. This active group of 125 Museum patrons is not only passionate about the Museum's Collection, but they enjoy many social and educational activities that The Mariners' provides. Early on, the group funded the acquisition, conservation, and exhibition of artifacts, works of art, and archival materials, contributing \$714,040 in support. However, in 2017, Conservation became the Society's trademark.

#### **Building Capacity**

From supporting the renovation of the Batten Conservation Complex Clean Lab to purchasing equipment to increase the capacity of the Conservation team, The Bronze Door Society is the first group to commit 100 percent of its efforts to help preserve the Collection. They believe in their shared responsibility and embrace the Museum's Collection-Based, Community-Focused strategy. Clearly, without a healthy collection, The Mariners' team cannot serve the community and fulfill its mission.

Each Bronze Door membership (a \$1,000 minimum gift a year) is invested in various Conservation projects. The best part? Every October, The Bronze Door Society votes on which of the proposed projects it wants to invest in as a group. Since 2017, the Society has contributed \$376,562 toward 18 different Conservation projects. Add another \$135,515 that individual Society members chose to invest in five more projects. This group's five-year record for giving is a stunning \$512,077!

#### **Deepening Relationships**

Throughout the year, members of the Society participate in educational programs that allow them to become more knowledgeable about the strategies and goals of the entire Mariners' team. These experiences allow them to be better informed when selecting the projects they want the Society to invest in while developing deeper relationships with other Bronze Door Society members and The Mariners' team. This makes the impact of their support even more fulfilling!

Left: A panel from the bronze doors commissioned by Museum co-founder, Archer M. Huntington, and created in the early 1930s by renowned American sculptor, Herbert Adams.

#### **Growing Support**

Today, the Society is the largest it has ever been with its members united by their commitment to the Museum's mission. The goal is to grow its membership so that more investments may be made and more goals can be achieved.

Everyone at The Mariners' agrees the institution is stronger and more resilient when there is a community of champions rallying with the Museum team. The Bronze Door Society has paved the way for others to join them and continue building upon their remarkable successes. Their investment ensures the preservation of the Collection and shared maritime heritage for future generations.

Want to learn more about The Bronze Door Society? Call (757) 591-7705.

*Luisa A. Vázquez-López* Senior Director of Advancement <u>Ivazquez@MarinersMuseum.org</u>



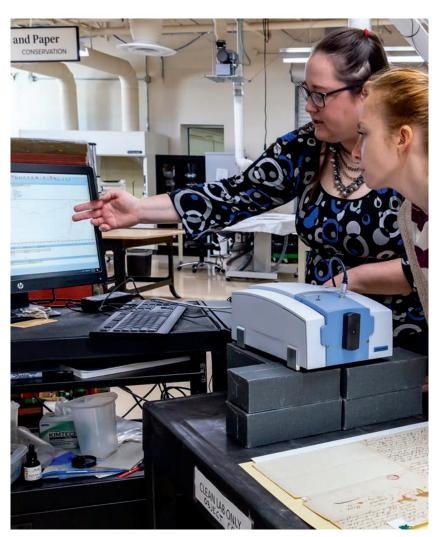
Bronze Door Society 2021 Annual Dinner project award recipients.

The Bronze Door Society saw the value in leveraging the strength we had in our Monitor project across the entirety of the Museum's Collection. These devoted mariners allow us to continue to grow our investment in our Conservation team and its capacity.

> – Howard H. Hoege III President and CEO

The Bronze Door Society is a unique organization. The group's generosity and interest in our work to support access to the Collection via conservation and science are humbling. Our analytical, treatment, and community-engagement-oriented capabilities have increased dramatically. The Bronze Door Society is at the heart of this growth.

> – Molly McGath, PhD Research Scientist



L to R: Molly McGath, PhD, and Emilie Duncan using the new Reflectance Module on the FTIR spectrometer to analyze the composition of a sealing wafer on an archival document.

Mariners Come Together

Among the most rewarding feedback The Mariners' receives from its Members, Supporters, and guests is how welcome they feel when they visit and how passionate every team member is about the Museum being a place for people — all people — to discover their maritime connections.

Making meaningful connections has been more challenging while living in the throes of a pandemic. Studies of the impact loneliness and isolation have on people and the alarming rise in depression and other mental health issues are of grave concern. And everyone is figuring out what post-pandemic norms mean and how we go about life.

The Mariners' Museum and Park and museums worldwide play a vital role in the healing of communities and the reintegration of social activities within daily life. An American Alliance of Museums publication identified museums as "restorative spaces and are places of community activities" and further highlighted the social impact on guests after visiting a museum. It references a study that shows visitors experienced increased feelings of more than 91% in four categories: the health and wellbeing of guests; feelings of increased intercultural competence, or greater empathy for others and a sense of connection to a community; continued education and engagement, or feelings of actively engaging in new ideas; and a sense of strengthening relationships.<sup>1</sup>

The Mariners' provides its Members and other mariners with uniquely curated social activities through Collection-based events, programs, and in-gallery experiences, all designed to explore maritime (and human) connections. The Museum believes that by piquing the interest of its Members and guests, relationships are strengthened and resiliency is fostered within the communities it serves.

When you attend an Evening Lecture or an event like the upcoming Sips & Trips or spend a day visiting the galleries, The Mariners' hopes that you walk away feeling restored and with a greater sense of selflessness and understanding toward others. To that end, you are encouraged to invite your neighbors and friends to join you. As Members of The Mariners' family, you play a part in the Museum mending the social and cultural fabric of its community of champions.

Sara Weatherill Director of Membership and Guest Relations sweatherill@MarinersMuseum.org

1. Michelle A. Mileham. *Measuring the Social Impact of Museums*, February 2, 2021. <u>https://www.aam-us.org/2021/02/02/measuring-the-social-impact-of-museums-call-for-study-sites/</u>. Accessed May 7, 2022.

#### **Evening Lecture Series**

In Person and Livestreamed

#### **Registration Coming Soon!**

#### **Eric Jay Dolin**

September 22 · 7 PM

#### Rebels at Sea: Privateering in the American Revolution

Best-selling author Eric Jay Dolin returns to The Mariners' to share tales from his latest book about the daring maneuvers of the ragtag fleet of freelance sailors who proved critical to the Revolution's outcome.



**Christopher Mims** October 6 • 7 PM

#### Arriving Today: From Factory to Front Door

Award-winning technology columnist for The Wall Street Journal, Christopher Mims will share his eye-opening investigation into the new rules of online commerce, transportation, and supply chain management. See how complex the promise "Arriving Today" is!



Evening Lecture Series sponsored by:



#### **MUSEUM CALENDAR**

Programs are offered in a variety of formats (in person, livestreaming, virtual), and subject to change. Times listed are Eastern.

#### MAY

Мау 15	Valor In The Atlantic Expedition (PART 1)
1 рм	Presenter: Howard Hoege, President & CEO
Мау 16	Valor In The Atlantic Expedition (PART 2)
1 рм	Presenter: Historian John V. Quarstein
May 20 12 рм	Civil War Lecture USS Camanche: The West Coast's Only Ironclad Presenters: John V. Quarstein & Robert Bailey
Мау 28	Rain Barrel Workshop
10 ам	Main Entrance

#### JUNE

June 3 12 PM	Civil War Lecture You Say Merrimac, I Say Virginia! Presenter: John V. Quarstein
June 12 9 AM	Friendly Hours Quieter, less crowded Museum experience
June 17 12 рм	Civil War Lecture   Juneteenth Pathways to Emancipation Presenter: John V. Quarstein
June 18 6:30 рм	The Mariners' Sips & Trips Presented by The Bronze Door Society Purchase tickets online. Museum closes at 3 PM
June 24 12 рм	<b>Civil War Lecture</b> Union Navy in 1862 Peninsula Campaign Presenter: John V. Quarstein

#### JULY

July 8 12 рм	Civil War & Hampton Roads History Lecture Zouaves on the Virginia Peninsula Presenter: John V. Quarstein
July 10 Э ам	Friendly Hours Quieter, less crowded Museum experience
July 14 10 ам	Red Cross Blood Drive Save a life. Give blood.
July 16 10 ам	Family Day at The Mariners' For Members and Supporters
July 22 12 рм	<b>Civil War Lecture</b> Summer on USS <i>Monitor</i> Presenter: John V. Quarstein
AUGU	ST
Aua 5	Civil War Lecture

чид 5	Battle of Mobile Bay
12 рм	Presenter: John V. Quarstein
Aug 6	20th Anniversary
10 ам	Recovery of <i>Monitor</i> 's turret
Aug 14	Friendly Hours
Э ам	Quieter, less crowded Museum experience
Aug 17	Red Cross Blood Drive
10 ам	Save a life. Give blood.
Aug 19 12 рм	Hampton Roads History Lecture Brig. Gen. Billy Mitchell, American Aviator Presenter: John V. Quarstein

For additional programs & events, visit MarinersMuseum.org.

#### MarinersMuseum.org

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

#### Contact us for more information:

<b>Guest Relations</b>
(757) 596-2222
Membership

(757) 591-7740

Advancement

(757) 591-7705

Education

(757) 591-7745

Volunteer Services (757) 591-7712

> Park (757) 591-7741

Library (757) 591-7782

Museum Shop (757) 591-7792

#### **MUSEUM ADMISSION IS \$1 PER PERSON.**



@MarinersMuseum • #iamaMariner



Museum 100 Museum Drive and Park Newport News, VA 23606

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\$60 Members | \$70 Guests | \$35 Nondrinker

**To become a sponsor or purchase tickets, visit <u>MarinersMuseum.org/Sips</u>** Presented by the Bronze Door Society, proceeds from this event support conservation efforts for the Mariners' Museum and Park.

