

# *The Ship's Lamp*

A MICHIGAN MARITIME MUSEUM PUBLICATION

FALL 2018  
VOLUME XXXV No. II



MICHIGAN MARITIME MUSEUM  
260 DYCKMAN AVENUE  
SOUTH HAVEN, MICHIGAN 49090  
A NON-PROFIT 501(C)(3)







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### Mission Statement

Volunteers and staff welcome members and the public to experience and appreciate Great Lakes maritime history in a unique, exciting and thought provoking manner.

### Vision Statement

The Michigan Maritime Museum, as a premier destination, will preserve and interpret the rich heritage of the Great Lakes while enhancing the South Haven Maritime District.

MICHIGAN MARITIME MUSEUM  
260 Dyckman Avenue  
Maritime District South Haven, MI 49090  
(269) 637-8078  
[www.michiganmaritimemuseum.org](http://www.michiganmaritimemuseum.org)  
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## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*Executive Director*  
*Patti Montgomery Reinert*

The Michigan Maritime Museum is embarking on an opportunity that will forever change the campus as we see it today. The acquisition of the historic Jensen property has presented the MMM with truly transformational opportunities for growth in every aspect of our mission. Our Board of Trustees, along with staff, have been exploring how best to take advantage of the incredible possibilities for some time now. Some of the initial dreams and visions being considered are extremely exciting, offering concepts for all sorts of new and creative educational and experience-based exhibits - bringing history to life. The plans emerging will transform the MMM, doubling the size of our campus, ensuring its future for generations to come, all while protecting and preserving this wonderfully authentic part of our harbor. Transfer of ownership will take place Fall of 2020.

This next year will be a very important time for the Museum. The opportunities we celebrate today are the result of steady and strategic growth, coupled with a strong commitment to the stewardship over our financial resources. Of course, this would not be possible were it not for the support and generosity of so many who believe in what we do, how we do it, and who we serve!

As we optimistically look at what lies ahead in the coming months, your support this year has never been more important. Your ongoing commitment has positioned us to where we are today and has laid the foundation upon which incredible things are being planned... however, the work of today continues.

In the months ahead, our plans will be complete. Although a master site plan has been approved, designs are still being considered, opportunities being explored, and creative ideas are being developed. While we are not exactly sure what the finished product will be, we know it will be true to our mission.

It is likely a Capital Campaign will be launched in the spring of 2019, right around the corner! At that time, the plans for the new Michigan Maritime Museum will be unveiled. In the meantime, our work continues, and your support plays an important role in providing the resources required to keep the MMM the jewel that it is and what it is destined to become.

I hope you will take the time to really look at our Museum and think about how important our role is during this unique place in time. As we admire this beautiful photo we have selected for our cover, we see the splendor of the heart of the Maritime District and our expanding horizons. Let us always protect and preserve our past, take pride in our accomplishments of today, and dream about our future!

Hope to see you on our ever-changing campus!

*Patti*

# Our Amazing Volunteers

Our volunteers are the heart of the Museum and we appreciate everything they do to make this place one of a kind. We have volunteers that are ambassadors, educators, interpreters, sailors, archivists, craftsmen, and so much more. With nearly 6000 hours logged on campus this year to date, it's not hard to see the impact they make for us. Thank you for all you do!



*Some of the many 2018 volunteers who dedicate their time to our vessels, events, education, preservation, and so much more!*

## 2018 Volunteer Awards

**Honorable Service Award-** Dave Bugge

**Helping Hand Award-** Sue & Roger Olson

**Friendly Business Award-** DeBest, Inc.

**New Ship's Company Award-** Charlie Livingston

**Just Call My Name Award-** Tom Jett

**Eric Standen Award-** Eric Standen

**Making Waves Award-** Sue Furlan

**Volunteers with 100+ Hours-** Bill Doll, Sue Furlan, Tracy Groot, Terry Hogan, Jim Jackson, Alan Koning, Marissa Kuick, Charlie Livingston, Bob Muir, Dave Murphy, Sue Olson, Marilyn Powell, Tara Severino, Tom Smith

**Volunteers with 200+ Hours-** Tom Askew (224), Leo Krusack (226), Mary Dezelsky (282), Tom Jett (466), Eric Standen (809)



## The Edmund Fitzgerald Model Goes to North Shore Elementary

The Museum's large ship model of the *Edmund Fitzgerald* that has spent the last three years in the South Haven Public Library, has found a new port at North Shore Elementary. We're pleased to partner with North Shore to provide a home for the model and share the story of the *Edmund Fitzgerald* with future generations, assuring it will never be forgotten. Thank you to North Shore Elementary for bringing this opportunity to students to learn about our Great Lakes Maritime Heritage!



## THE LEGEND LIVES ON

When the freighter *SS Edmund Fitzgerald* was launched on June 7, 1958, she was the largest ship on North America's Great Lakes. For many years, the *Fitzgerald* carried taconite iron ore from the mines near Duluth, Minnesota, to iron works in Detroit, Toledo, and other Great Lakes ports. *Edmund Fitzgerald* was a true workhorse. She set seasonal haul records six times...often breaking her own previous record.

On November 9, 1975, the *Edmund Fitzgerald* pushed across the waters of Lake Superior with a cargo of iron ore. A storm came up in the afternoon and pounded the ship through the night with gale force winds up to 75 mph, blinding snow, and waves reaching 25 feet. That evening, the ship radioed the vessel *Avafors*, with a warning:

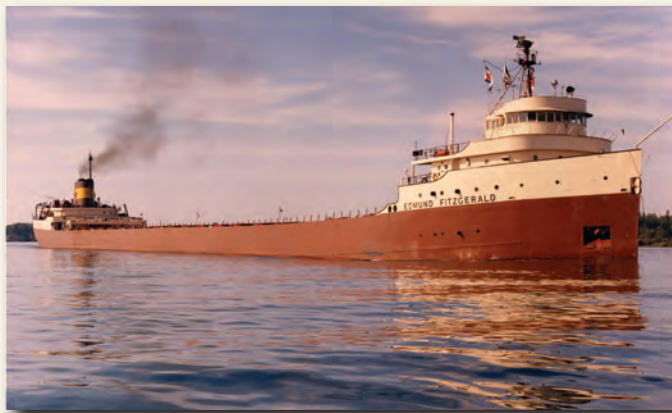
*Fitzgerald*: (shouting) "DON'T LET NOBODY ON DECK!"

*Avafors*: "What's that, Fitzgerald? Unclear. Over."

*Fitzgerald*: "I have a bad list, lost both radars. And am taking heavy seas over the deck. One of the worst seas I've been in."

At 7 p.m., the *Fitzgerald* radioed another nearby ship the *Anderson*, "We are holding our own."

Less than two hours later, the *Edmund Fitzgerald* had disappeared from radar. No distress calls were ever received. Rescuers found



a few empty lifeboats, buoys, and other bits of debris on the lake. Several days later, the remains of the ship were discovered in two pieces on the bottom of Lake Superior, only 17 miles from the safety of Whitefish Bay. All 29 crew members were lost. It was Captain Ernest McSorley's final voyage before his retirement. To this day, the *Edmund Fitzgerald* remains the largest ship to sink in the Great Lakes.

The loss of the *Edmund Fitzgerald* has been memorialized in countless books, several theatrical productions, and perhaps most famously the ballad by Gordon Lightfoot. Several events across Michigan continue to honor the memory of those lost to the gales of November.

The Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum at Whitefish Point has the ship's bell from the *Edmund Fitzgerald* on exhibit. They host an Annual *Edmund*



*Fitzgerald* Memorial Ceremony, which is always held on November 10th at 7:00 pm; the moment this most famous of Great Lakes shipwrecks was lost in the terrible storm on Lake Superior. Part of this year's ceremony is dedicated to the late Cheryl Rozman, who was instrumental in the recovery of the ship's bell in 1995.

On November 10th, the MMM will be hosting a memorial event with a bell ringing ceremony for all sailors who have lost their lives in service on the Great Lakes.

Our annual lecture series begins November 15th with speaker Valerie van Heest, Director of the Michigan Shipwreck Research Association. Valerie will be discussing numerous shipwrecks that succumbed to the Gales of November and the great storms that have swept across the treacherous waters of Lake Michigan. Sharing and discussing these tragic events is the best way to keep the memory of the lost vessels and sailors alive. Lectures are the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm. Lectures are \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors, and free to Museum Members.



## Steaming Forward in Maritime Education

What a great year for K-12 education at the MMM! We had almost every available education day aboard FGW booked for student groups as well as many other maritime education programs throughout the year. Certainly, the busiest September in over five years! Our education team worked with nearly 1000 students through targeted programming both on campus and during off-site programs. We are ever-growing our programs and offerings to better meet school needs and make sure maritime heritage is preserved through understanding our past.

The Museum awarded two schools this year with the MAKE Education Happen Grant which, with a 50% matching sponsor, covers the entire cost of their field trip to the Museum. We were also honored this year to be a recipient of a \$10,000 award from South Haven's Women Who Care organization. This award will act as the sponsor match for the MAKE Grant program. Together with the Women Who Care, we have the potential to take over 1000 students out on Lake Michigan; an incredible opportunity!



*Above: MMM receives nearly \$10,000 from the South Haven Women Who Care organization as a matching sponsor for our MAKE Education Happen Grant*

*Right: 2018 MAKE Education Happen Grant Awardees Covert Elementary 4th Grade.*



*Right: Students from Gull Lake Homeschool learning about historic Great Lakes commercial fishing and invasive species as part of our new commercial fishing unite. The students also went for an education cruise aboard Lindy Lou.*



*Above: Discovery Elementary 4th graders learn about steering FGW from Capt. Harnish.*



*Below: 2018 STEM Camp students enjoy a ride on Lindy Lou at the end of the week-long maritime educational camp.*



*Above: St. Basil's 4th, 5th, and 6th grader visit and sail aboard FGW in honor of the late Betty Davis.*



*Above: FGW volunteers Tom Jett and Marissa Kuick teach K-4th grade students from Kalamazoo Junior Academy about ship terminology and the history of Friends Good Will.*



*Left: North Shore Elementary brought over 100 5th graders over two days on their annual FGW sail and early Michigan history program this September.*



# MMM'S KEEPERS OF T

Every once in a while, something spectacular just happens. Then WOW!

That is what happened at the MMM's Maryalice Canonic Great Lakes Research Library, lovingly referred to as the Keeper's House.

Thank you to Sue and Roger Olson who started the ball rolling offering a donation and their own time to re-do some much-needed landscaping. They, in turn, went to Brian deBest to seek his professional assistance on plant choices and before we knew it, the entire grounds were revamped and cleaned up! All of this done as a complete donation, not costing the Museum a penny!

We would like to thank all of you who committed to this project. What an amazing view we had forgotten we had! Great things happen when Museum members come together as a team. Captain Donahue would be proud!

*Right: DeBest Inc. services were donated by company owner and Museum Board Member Brian DeBest. He and his crews worked many hours in the summer heat to revitalize the grounds of this historic South Haven icon.*



*Left: Brian DeBest and crew visit the Keeper's House to start work on the major landscaping project.*



*Above: Sue and Roger Olson kickstarted the project with their enthusiasm for the Keeper's House and grounds. Here they are enjoying one of the new benches they donated to the project.*



*Pictured: DeBest Inc worked hard to clear the overgrowth on the hill overlooking the Black River channel and South Haven pier lights. Trees were trimmed and brush cut back to allow for better views. Cottage Home crews removed the enclosed deck rails and added a step to open up the back porch and increase visibility of the historic home.*





# THE KEEPER'S HOUSE



*Above: A historic photo circa 1903-1915 of the Keeper's House next to a current photo of the house just after the landscaping project.*



*Left: Pictured here is the new view from the backyard of the house. The grass was reseeded, pavers and gravel were installed for vista points, and new outdoor furniture, donated by the Olsons, was placed on the grounds to best take in the extraordinary view. If you look closely, you can make out our own Friends Good Will by the South Haven light. What a view!*

*Right: This project could not have been done without the amazing efforts of our volunteers and sponsors who did everything from the heavy lifting to powerwashing and watering. Thank you to Brian DeBest and his crew (pictured far right), Sue and Roger Olson, Cottage Home, the City of South Haven, Dede Ford Buscher, Lisa McCormack, Guy Calhoun, Kevin Olson, and Ellen Leins.*





# Celebrating 2018

*Below: At this year's Blessing of the Fleet and Season Kick Off, we were lucky enough to have two pastors to bless our entire on-water fleet, several other South Haven boats, captains, and crews for a safe and successful 2018 season.*



*Above: We had one of our largest Coast Guard Clean-Up days yet this April. Helping to polish the brass, clean the boats and exhibits, and honor the Coast Guard, we had hands from three different Auxiliary units, St. Joseph Station, and Sea Cadets. The tradition lives on!*

*Right: We had our first ever Maritime Music Concert Series once a month this summer. The musicians were excellent! We hope to grow this event next summer.*



*Left: 37th Annual Antique & Classic Boat Show award winners Jud McKinley (People's Choice) and Dave Campbell (Best in Show). It was one of our best shows for boats, but worst for rain. Here's to a sunny 2019 show!*



*Above: David and Gail Meilahn aboard their yacht Friends. The Meilahns were one of eight participants who opened up their private boats for the MMM's Boat Walk Fundraiser.*



*Above: Crowds of nearly 400 people enjoying our annual Fish Boil on the MMM campus. This event raises between \$3000-\$5000 for the Museum each year.*



# Special Highlights



*Tulip Time may have been rainy but was a huge success. Thank you to Cottage Home for sponsoring our time in Holland. Lindy Lou was in three parades and we saw thousands of people for deck tours aboard FGW. We'll be back next year!*



*Below: The MMM hosted a visit from 36' Coast Guard Motor Lifeboat 36391 as part of its Great Lakes tour. With only three functioning 36 footers in the country, it was an honor to have it alongside our 36460.*



*Left: We launched our 1929 Chris Craft Cadet Merry Time this season for public excursions. She is certainly pure luxury on the water! We are already looking forward to seeing her mahogany beauty on the water next season.*



*Above: We held our first Black River Open Paddle event in September. This event was for the pure enjoyment of paddling South Haven's historic Black River. A great time was had by all and the weather was spectacular!*



## Sailing Proudly into the Future

How exciting! The Michigan Maritime Museum is once again looking forward into the future. As continuous planning proceeds to ensure Michigan's maritime heritage is preserved for future generations, a fulltime, year-round captain has been appointed to serve as commander of the growing fleet of on-water exhibits. We are thrilled to have Capt. Bob Harnish on our staff!

His position will be essential to coordinate the many aspects of the on-water experiences that guests have come to the Museum to enjoy. Be it a lazy ride up the Black River on *Lindy Lou*, a romp in the waves aboard the USCG Motor Lifeboat 36460, a sail on classic 1921 sloop *Bernida*, a cruise up the lake shore on the 1929 Chris Craft Cadet *Merry Time*, or a traditional sail aboard the tall ship *Friends Good Will*, the commander will ensure the fleet continues to operate to the highest of standards.

Safety, historical representation, communication along with camaraderie, and the pooling of years of maritime experience from captains and volunteers will ensure the



Museum's fleet sails proudly into the future.

Continuing to focus on and enhance implementation of safety measures and standards, training programs and maintenance programs will allow the fleet to proceed in a safe, confident and competent fashion as it provides guests with the most unique and exciting fleet of watercraft on the Great Lakes.

As commander of the fleet, Bob will not only collaborate closely with captains and volunteers but will also be involved in community outreach within our region. As the Museum grows, so does the need to step beyond its current boundaries and strive to bring Michigan's maritime heritage to all communities, organizations and schools that are within our geographical reach. There is an obligation to bring forth and introduce the outstanding exhibits, educational opportunities, events and on-water experiences the Museum offers.

A commander of the fleet believes the future success of the Michigan Maritime Museum rests within the pride and integrity of its membership, volunteers, committees, board of directors and staff. The sincere belief that bringing to life Michigan's maritime history can only be achieved through respect and admiration for one another, those that strive to keep maritime tradition fascinating and exciting which is proven through their devotion, and commitment to provide the most dynamic and historically accurate exhibits and experiences that can be achieved.

Satisfaction and guarantee of achievement are validated in the smiles and excitement seen on the faces of guests, volunteers, and the membership. We are rewarded each time we step on campus, breathe the maritime air, and exhale with the excitement of maritime heritage and history. Today's experience is tomorrow's legacy.

## Keeping the MMM Ship Shape

You need only stop into the Padnos Boatshed to understand the role it has to play in the future of the Museum. Be it students from local schools learning about the valuable maritime history, or the many wonderful volunteers helping to keep our on-water craft in tip-top shape, there is always something that needs doing. It is as much a space for education as it is maintaining the Museum facilities.

At the beginning of the summer, we welcomed our new shipwright, Francis Peet. He represents a key part of the Museum's future as far as care for our boats and campus goes. With his support, the Padnos is being transformed into a safer and more organized space. We want our shop and our shipwright to enable our volunteers for all our future projects.

As the Museum looks towards the future, we intend to utilize the Padnos in a way that instructs in both the historical and more recent boat building processes. We will bring back traditions such as family boat building as well as add more

educational opportunities for student age groups. We plan to have more live exhibits; exhibits that show traditional building and rigging techniques. We want to engage the Museum-going community in a broader way, to pull them into an experience that shows all of the grand tradition of South Haven and Michigan's maritime heritage.





# A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

Your donation towards our Annual Appeal supports so many areas of the Museum, including our number one mission, education. With your help, we can continue to provide place-based education programs that give visitors and students multi-sensory, immersive experiences with memories that last a lifetime. When you donate to the Michigan Maritime Museum, **you** make history come alive!



*Donate Today!*

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT!

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260 Dyckman Ave.  
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Donations may be made online at: [www.michiganmaritimemuseum.org](http://www.michiganmaritimemuseum.org)

☐ Yes, I/We have named the Museum as a beneficiary of my/our will, trust, IRA, 401K, annuity, or life insurance

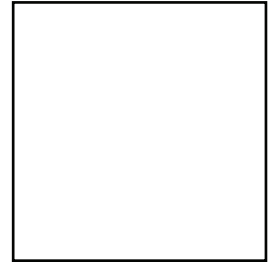




MARITIME DISTRICT  
SOUTH HAVEN

260 Dyckman Avenue

South Haven, MI 49090



Current Resident Or:

## Upcoming Events

**Nov. 14** Lecture Series- *Caught in the Vortex: The Armistice Day Storm of 1940*- Valerie van Heest, Michigan Shipwreck Research Association

**Dec. 15** Christmas at the Keeper's House

**Jan. 16** Lecture Series- *The History of Truscott Boat Works*- Jennifer Richmond, The Heritage Museum & Cultural Center

**Feb. 13** Lecture Series- *Windmills and Sails*- Alisa Crawford, Windmill Island Miller

**Mar. 13** Lecture Series- *SS Milwaukee Clipper*- Ray Hilt, Curator

**Apr. 17-** Lecture Series- *Huron Jewel: The Dummond Island Tall Ship Project*- Hugh and Julie Covert, Owners

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2018/2019 Annual Appeal

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