

THE MARITIMES



THE MAGAZINE OF THE NORTH CAROLINA MARITIME MUSEUMS

BEAUFORT • HATTERAS • SOUTHPORT

WINTER 2020/SPRING 2021



Launch of the liberty ship *USS Zebulon B. Vance*.

www.ncmaritimemuseums.com

NORTH CAROLINA
**MARITIME
MUSEUMS**
BEAUFORT HATTERAS SOUTHPORT

Attention:



NORTH CAROLINA
**MARITIME
MUSEUMS**
BEAUFORT HATTERAS SOUTHPORT

Due to the fluid nature of Covid 19 protocols, changes in programming are possible at all three sites in the N.C. Maritime Museum system. Listed events, locations and times are subject to change. Please check with the respective site before making plans to attend.

Please see contact information for each site on last page or go to
ncmaritimemuseums.com

THE MARITIMES

Vol.10/Issue 2

Editor:
John Hairr
Associate Editor:
Ben Wunderly
Design:
Stephanie Davis



NORTH CAROLINA
**MARITIME
MUSEUMS**
BEAUFORT HATTERAS SOUTHPORT

Museums Director:
Joseph K. Schwarzer, II
Public Relations Coordinator:
Cyndi Brown
cyndi.brown@ncdcr.gov

HATTERAS

(252) 986-0720

Administrative Assistant:
Josh Nonnenmocher
Friends President:
Danny Couch

BEAUFORT

(252) 504-7740

Site Manager:
Randy Mann
Friends President:
Walt Wood

SOUTHPORT

(910) 477-5150

Museum Manager:
Lori Sanderlin
Friends Chairman:
Tom Hale

*One historic coast.
Three unique museums.*



© 2020-2021 North Carolina Maritime Museums

Maritime Museums Open to the Public

By Cyndi Brown

After nearly six months with only staff on-site, North Carolina Maritime Museums welcomed the public back to each of the three locations by mid-September. The North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort, along with its Harvey W. Smith Watercraft Center, and the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport successfully opened their respective doors on Sept. 10. The Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum in Hatteras followed shortly after, with ongoing construction moving the opening to Sept. 14.

Joseph Schwarzer, the director of the N.C. Maritime Museum System, said he, along with the rest of the staff, were excited to resume most regular operations. "Things may be a little different than in the past, but the changes we've put in place are to prioritize the health and safety of our staff and visitors," Schwarzer said.

These changes include:

- Reducing operating hours.
- Limiting the number of visitors allowed in at a time.
- Closing some interactive exhibits and high-touch areas.
- Canceling in-person programs and group tours.
- Installing hand sanitizer stations and increasing the frequency of cleaning of high-touch public areas and restrooms.
- Installing protective barriers at the information desk.
- Requiring staff and visitors to wear cloth face masks as outlined in Executive Order 163.
- Limiting shifts to paid staff for the time being.

Operating hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Beaufort and Hatteras and Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Southport. The Museum Store at the Beaufort site is open Tuesdays through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Visitors are encouraged to follow the "Three Ws" as outlined by the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services: WEAR a cloth face mask; WAIT in line at least six feet away from others; and WASH hands frequently or use hand sanitizer. Those experiencing symptoms of illness are asked to postpone their visit — but even then there are still plenty of ways to enjoy a virtual museum experience.

The North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort (ncmaritimemuseumbeaufort.com) has recordings of the Brown Bag Gam educational presentations; online crafts; downloadable children's activities; branded maritime-themed backgrounds that are compatible with widely-used video conferencing software; exhibit tours and artifact insights; and educational resources.

The N.C. Maritime Museum at Southport (ncmaritimemuseumssouthport.com) offers educational bundles on Pirates, Hurricanes, Working on the Water, U.S. Coast Guard, Native Americans, the Civil War, Colonial North Carolina, Women's History and ECO Warriors. Each bundle, which is sent via mail, is \$15 and includes worksheets, an activity, and a surprise gift designed for one of four different age groups: 4 to 6; 7 to 12; 13 to 17; and 18 and up. The museum also offers regular weekly programming on its social media channels, including craft and story times.

The Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum in Hatteras (graveyardoftheatlantic.com) offers homeschool lessons designed for fourth- and eighth-graders on Civil War, Piracy, Shipwrecks and World War II. The plans can be adapted for other age groups as well. There are also videos that share a bit about the region's history. ■ ■ ■

From The Friends

BEAUFORT:

Having a Summer Like No Other

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, summer 2020 was a busy time for the Friends of the Maritime Museum in Beaufort. Initially, the popular Junior Sailing Program (JSP) was canceled. However, Director of Operations Brent Creelman modified the program, allowing families to participate in a version of our private sailing lessons, with over 150 participants!

We started a fundraiser directly targeting the financial struggles the Friends are facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our "Friends In Need" campaign has been a huge success and we appreciate all who donated!

The new pier and docks at Gallants Channel are finally completed! Despite the summer slowdown in construction due to the pandemic, the last of the floating docks were installed in September. A few tweaks are still being made; but the new docks are fully functional, as demonstrated recently by the popular Beaufort Oars. Thanks to the Maritime Heritage Foundation, Grady White Boats and the Duke Energy Clean Water Trust Fund for making this dream a reality.

Literally towering above all other projects is the new "Beaufort Drive-In" at Gallants Channel. A partnership between the Friends, Beaufort Picture Show and the Beaufort Middle School Parent Support Committee has erected a 32-foot by 18-foot screen attached to 3 shipping containers. Up to 80 carloads of movie goers will be enjoying films of all genres throughout the remainder of the year! Go to www.beaufortpictureshow.org for more information.

As you can see, even though such popular events such as the Wooden Boat Show were canceled, the Friends of the N.C. Maritime Museum in Beaufort stayed busy. We thank all our members, sponsors and partners for their ongoing support!

David Daly, Director of Development

Friends of the N.C. Maritime Museum in Beaufort ■

HATTERAS:

Being Flexible Remains Key

Our museum closed to the public March 17 as we were preparing for an exciting season of spring and summer visitors. The pandemic kept us shuttered until September 14. Our visitors have returned enthusiastically, donning masks and getting used to speaking through plexiglass shields. We thank you for your response. While closed to the public, we completed construction of new touch-free doors, installed a new humidifying system, and added special shelving in our climate controlled collection storage area. By purchasing a drone camera, we can now show angles on Hatteras only viewed by the seagulls. We learned new ways to stream lectures and videos and have ever-evolving lesson plans for 4th and 8th grade students. Our Pirate Exhibit has returned, and a new underwater photography presentation by Marc Corbett is on display.

We are unable to have our usual talks and special events for the remainder of this year, including Holiday at the Museum. We do not know when we will be able to get back to "hands-

on activities." Our estimates have us losing \$93,000. We understand many of you are suffering financially, and we will continue to be open to the public free of charge. However, if you would like to send support our way, it would be gratefully appreciated. Checks can be mailed to: Friends of the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum, PO Box 284, Hatteras, NC 27943 or you can go online to <https://graveyardoftheatlantic.com/become-a-member/>.

Daniel C. Couch, President

Friends of the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum ■

SOUTHPORT:

Greetings from the Mouth of the Cape Fear River!

The year 2020 has been challenging: first Covid-19 pandemic then Hurricane Isaias. I hope you and your families continue to be well and that any damage was minimal. While Southport suffered damage, the N.C. Maritime Museum in Southport came through the storm unscathed. Despite the challenge, our museum has not foundered. The crew and special shipmates have accomplished remarkable work!

We've always prided ourselves on our education programs — for all ages. Historically, these have included day camps, homeschool classes, public programs, Sensory Saturdays, 3rd Tuesday programs, Salty Dog Saturday sessions, and day trips — something of interest for everyone! The crew continued these educational opportunities virtually. Social media platforms have been an excellent avenue for continuing some of our programs and keeping people connected. Additionally, education bundles were mailed out to families to supplement schoolwork or to learn a new topic at home. In light of the efforts in education (and other areas), I must brag and offer hearty congratulations to the crew (Lori, Katy, and Kristan) for their receipt of the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce's Golden Pineapple Award. We have also been able to address some infrastructure issues. The artifact collections have a new home on the 2nd Deck. The crew's head now has a shower (to wash off after being in the field — because who wants a stinky crew member!?). Many thanks to our silent shipmates for their continued support!

If you haven't checked out our NEW Friends website, please go to <https://www.friendsncmmsouthport.com/>. You can join or renew your membership, learn about the board of directors, and visit our ship's chandlery. As we move into 2021, we will be adding more merchandise to the online store, so make a point to click on our new site.

Tom Hale, Chairman

Friends of the N.C. Maritime Museum at Southport ■

Cover Story: Launching of the Liberty Ship USS Zebulon B. Vance on Dec. 6, 1941. Courtesy of New Hanover County Public Library, North Carolina Room. See story on pages 14-15.

Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum in Hatteras

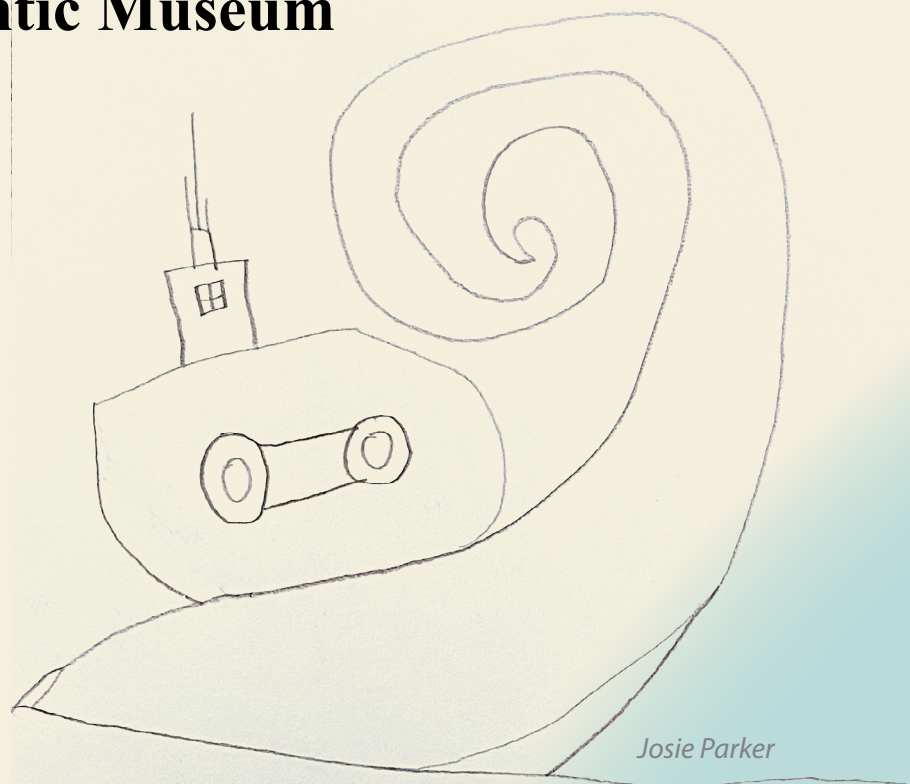
Art and Maritime Culture Yield Authenticity at the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum

By Mary Ellen Riddle

The children were envisioning their coastal environment. As they rolled paint onto a large canvas cloth, they talked about the colors of the sea and how sand looks when covered by water. These elementary school students were members of the Shoal Survivors Club at the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum. They were creating a mural for the museum, where educators use creativity and the arts to teach the maritime history and culture of the North Carolina Outer Banks.

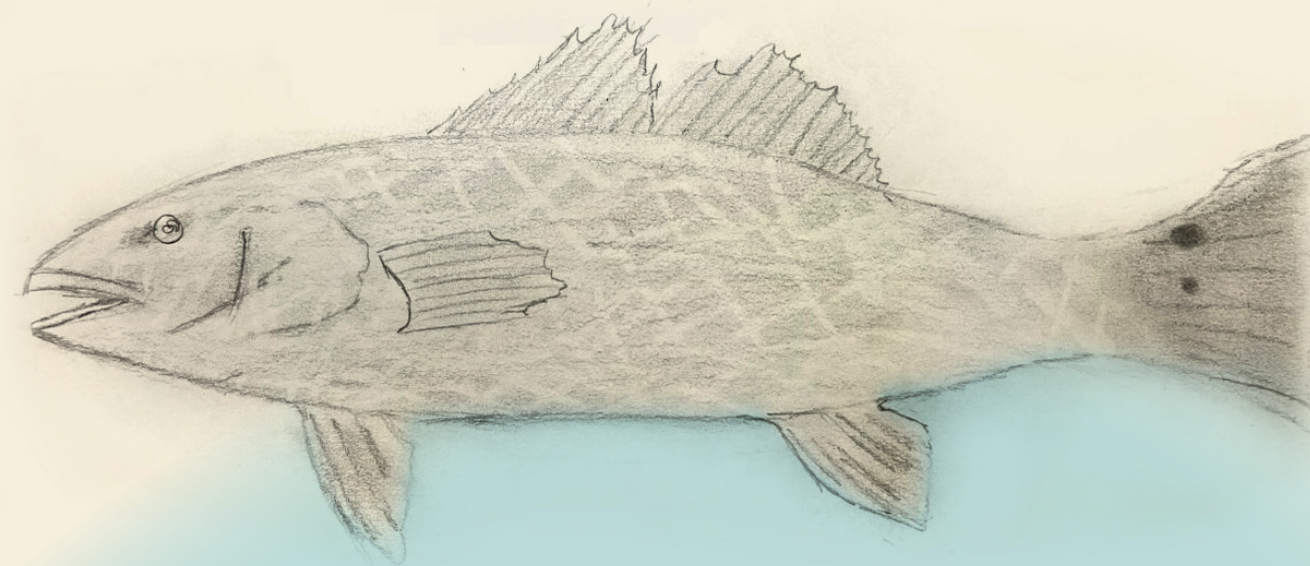
Art is an excellent teaching tool, whether the students see themselves as artists or even have a natural talent for it. It helps release a person's creativity. Getting in touch with creativity puts a student in touch with the true self, their individuality, and natural gifts. As a result, a student can bring their unique self to the project at hand, which, in turn, builds self-esteem and personalizes the learning experience.

Students at the museum study a wide range of topics using art as the vehicle. For example, our club members not only worked on their mural, they also explored the topic of shipwrecks. People from the past collected ship timbers to build houses.



Like islanders of old, the students used found objects to create something new. They decided to build found object sculptures. It is important to know when employing art to teach that results do not have to be museum quality art to reap benefits. The goal is opening the students up to being comfortable with themselves while enjoying a maritime lesson.

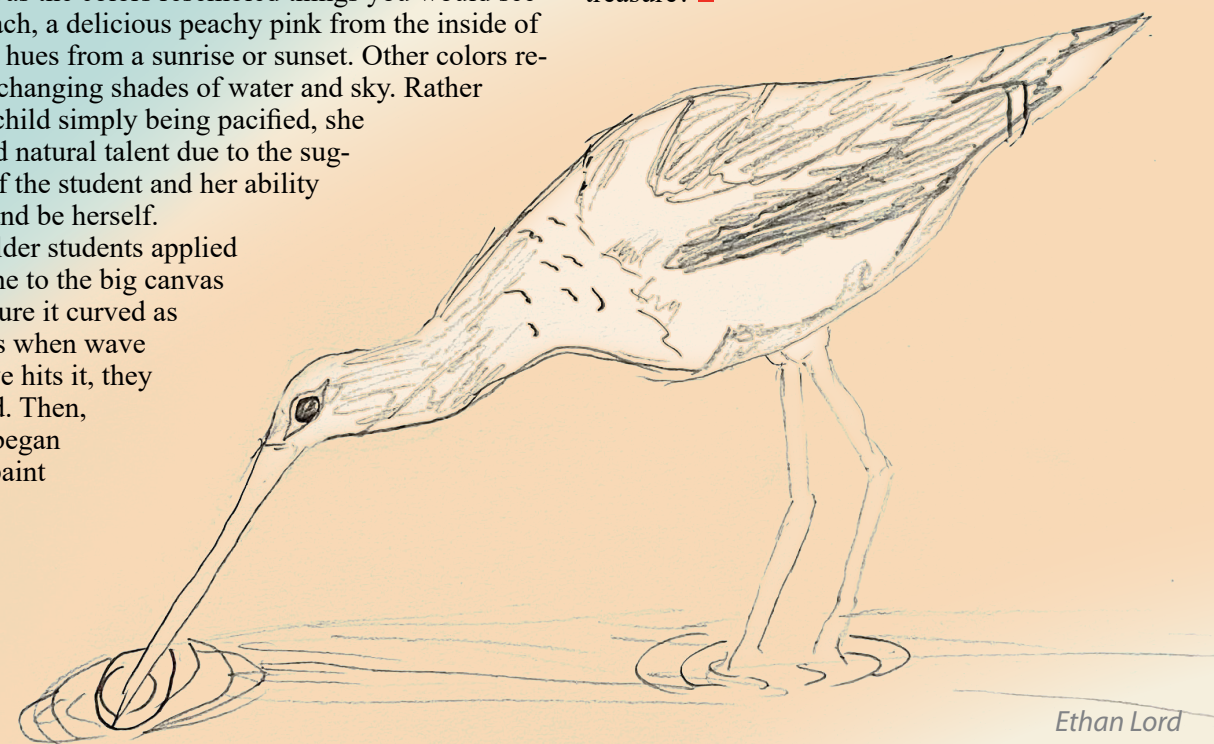
As the students worked on the above-mentioned mural, they drew on their experiences as islanders. Together, they thought about what theme would work well in a maritime museum setting and decided upon an ocean scene with underwater shipwrecks. Each child had books to browse for imagery that caught their eye, and they made preliminary sketches. Some copied seabirds; others pored through pirate books for pictures of ships. One kindergartener drew a crashing wave with a boat in its barrel. The children came up with individual images to combine into a cohesive, communal scene.



The time came to create a painted backdrop for the mural featuring sky, sea, and sand. There was a small group this day with a wide gap in ages. The older children quickly adapted to the tools present and began to make individual and collective choices that went beyond the first suggestions of the instructor. The youngest child was briefly thwarted by this surge of creativity, but one of the older students, free to exhibit her gift of leadership, suggested she start mixing colors to come up with ones that could be used to create objects such as shells. The youngster went to town mixing beautiful hues. It was interesting to note that the colors were not muddy, as so often is the case when an excited novice adds too many colors into the mix. What also was notable was the colors resembled things you would see at the beach, a delicious peachy pink from the inside of a shell or hues from a sunrise or sunset. Other colors resembled changing shades of water and sky. Rather than the child simply being pacified, she unleashed natural talent due to the suggestion of the student and her ability to relax and be herself.

The older students applied a shoreline to the big canvas making sure it curved as sand does when wave after wave hits it, they explained. Then, the kids began to layer paint

so that they could create the effect of sand showing through a transparent, greenish-blue water. They talked about how the water would get darker as it stretched farther into the picture plane. These children, though only in elementary school, knew their home, their maritime landscape. They were comfortable to freely use their gifts of decision making, leadership, artistic ability, and visual memory. As they worked from the true self, they communicated what they saw in their coastal world and translated it into an art form. The results of this maritime project: authenticity, beauty, confidence, creativity, and a coastal mural that will be on display at the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum. Who knew that a children's mural of shipwrecks could reap such treasure? ■



A Glimpse into the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum Collections

By Mary Ellen Riddle

The Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum oversees a collection of artifacts that speaks to the maritime history and culture of the North Carolina Outer Banks. It includes intimate items such as shoes from shipwrecked sailors and cutlery and tableware used onboard to mechanical ship parts, timbers, ship bells, and weapons. Every artifact tells a story about a person, place, or era in history. They are teaching tools that help visitors relate to history and times sometimes different than our own and sometimes, in the case of a shoe or a spoon, common to our lives.

The 1st order Fresnel Lens in the collection speaks to innovation and cutting-edge technology of the time, and of lifesaving, and shipwrecks.

The four-rotor Enigma Machine gives visitors an up-close view of a rare coding machine that at first thwarted Allies during World War II.

A giant capstan from the schooner *Carroll A. Deering* offers viewers a sense of scale and weight of important ship machinery that otherwise might only be seen in a book. Gold lifesaving medals speak to heroism as does a handsome Monomoy lifeboat. One can't help but wonder when viewing artifacts who used them, who invented them, what ship were they on, what brought that ship to the area, how did the ship sink, were there survivors, from where did it come and what was life like during its era? Many of the artifacts in the collection are on display throughout the museum. And, monthly, an artifact not normally on display is taken from the collections room and put on display as the Artifact of the Month. Here are two artifacts for your viewing with background information to bring these items to life.

On November 2, 1969, the Motor Towing Vessel (M/T/V) *Marjorie McAllister* disappeared 17 miles south of Cape Lookout. She was traveling alone in stormy seas from New York to Jacksonville, Florida. Her demise was attributed, in part, to foundering due to weather, engine room flooding, and the vessel suddenly capsizing. Also cited were ship design flaws. *Marjorie McAllister's*



Perko Stern Light from *Marjorie McAllister*

captain was faulted for going ahead into the storm instead of seeking refuge in the Chesapeake Bay area. Multiple search and rescue attempts were made. Searchers found debris and equipment from the vessel; however, the six crew members were considered dead. The vessel was located in 1972 and salvaged. She was sold and renamed twice before being bought in 1999 by McAllister Towing and Transportation of New York and renamed *Mary L. McAllister*.

Marjorie McAllister was built in 1968 by St. Louis Ship Division of Pott Industries, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri for the McAllister Brothers Towing Company of New York, New York. She had a welded steel hull, was 111.5 feet long, had a beam of 30 feet, a draft of 10.5 feet, and was 198.3 gross tons. She was propelled by a single screw, 3600 hp diesel engine.

MV *Australia* left New Haven, Connecticut on March 15, 1942 with a crew of 40 men. Upon nearing the Outer Banks, she picked up distress signals from SS *Ario* and SS *Olean* that had been struck by torpedoes. *Ario* sank. The heavily damaged *Olean* was towed to a shipyard. Carrying a cargo of 110,000 barrels of heavy fuel oil, *Australia's* captain Ader found his vessel in heavy fog outside Beaufort Inlet. He turned south and remained near Lookout Bight for a few hours before moving north to Cape Lookout. In the morning of March 16, the vessel moved north near Ocracoke Inlet. And, as vessels did during wartime, began a zigzag course. She headed east to round Diamond Shoals. Weather worsened as Ader neared Cape Hatteras. Visibility was hazy. The ship came upon U-332, and a torpedo hit *Australia* on the starboard side of the engine room. Eight men were killed. The survivors abandoned ship and took to lifeboats. In time, they were rescued by SS *William J. Salmon*. The wreck was dragged for safety purposes. Her remains are scattered off Diamond Shoals. ■



China Cream Pitcher from MV *Australia*.
Courtesy of Jody Stowe.

Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum Online Maritime Opportunities for Adults and Children

By Mary Ellen Riddle

Special times call for special programming. With distancing a must, online learning becomes the thrust. At the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum, we took on the challenge and created a variety of educational and entertaining programming for adults and children that is featured on our website, www.graveyardoftheatlantic.com. Here is a synopsis of what you can currently find online. Keep checking our website for there always are new projects in the hopper.

Videos

Richard Etheridge: A Call for Courage



Become acquainted with a remarkable man of courage, Richard Etheridge, who fought for the rights of his people in the Roanoke Island Freedman's Colony, fought proudly as a soldier during the Civil War, and became the first African American Life-Saving Station Keeper.

A Hard Road to Freedom: The Black Experience During the Civil War and Early Reconstruction

View vintage photography and illustrations while discovering the history of Hotel De' Afrique, the first safe haven in North Carolina for people fleeing slavery (It is on the Network to Freedom Trail) and the history of the Roanoke Island Freedman's Colony and life during early reconstruction in coastal North Carolina.



Messages from the Sea

In this children's story, viewers are introduced to the mailboat *Aleta* that delivered mail to Ocracoke Island. They get a glimpse into what island life was like in the early 1900s.



Outer Banks Shipwrecks

Enjoy an overview of the Graveyard of the Atlantic, what ships are found in the waters off the Outer Banks, and why so many shipwrecks occur here.



Mini Golf on the Hill

Children and adults will enjoy this delightful video that uncovers some of the mystery that lies buried beneath Jockey's Ridge in Nags Head, N.C. It also offers a bit of natural history about the ridge.



Educational Programming

Students in grades 4 and 8 are offered educational opportunities that revolve around the maritime history and culture of the North Carolina Outer Banks. These lessons include essays with questions and hands-on opportunities that relate to the Civil War, shipwrecks, piracy, and World War II. The lessons, which can be adapted to other grade levels, are in line with the Essential Standards for Learning for public education. ■

North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort

An Overview of the History of The Hammocks and Bear Island

By Benjamin Wunderly

Today, the lands of the Hammocks and Bear Island are the main components of Hammocks Beach State Park, North Carolina's first oceanfront state park established for African Americans. Situated in the far eastern part of Onslow County near the mouth of the White Oak River and Bogue Inlet, the park contains unique coastal habitats that include tidal flats, salt marshes, ocean beaches, dune fields and maritime forests. Its diverse history encompasses American Indians, early Colonial officials, and hardy fishermen. But perhaps the most intriguing story behind the park is how it became one in the first place.

Valued for its natural resources and proximity to Bogue and Bear Inlets, the Hammocks portion of the park was useful for hunting, timber harvesting, and farming. An article in *The North Carolina Standard* from December 16, 1854, described portions of the Hammocks that were up for sale at the time:

"The valuable plantation known as Hammock Point is offered for sale. Any person desirous of, at once, making a profitable investment, and living at one of the pleasantest places in Eastern Carolina is offered an opportunity of so doing."

The article listed the resources available on and around the property: farmland, timber, turpentine, composted mud, fresh seaweed, clear freshwater springs, land for livestock grazing, and valuable fisheries in the surrounding waters.



An aerial view of Bear Island reveals the diverse coastal habitats of a typical Atlantic coast barrier island. From left to right in this image are ocean beaches, sand dunes, maritime forest and salt marshes. *North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation collection, State Archives.*

The advertisement also described the enticing scenery and abundant supplies of seafood and wild game; it read much like a modern tourism brochure:

"A mile and a half to the north-east may be seen the picturesque and thriving village of Swansboro"; ... Glancing beyond the town the eye wearies with travelling up the river, and rests with pleasure on the neat white residences which dot the line of woods. ... Yet more southwardly its vision is arrested by the breakers two miles off framing the inlet. Beyond is the vast expanse of the ocean, ... A long line of banks terminates in another view of the ocean, Bear Inlet. But if the eye is daily permitted to enjoy this scenic repast, there are as many luxuries equally rare for the enjoyment of the palate, ... fine oysters, fish, clams in abundance, ... shores are infested with ducks ... Every thing pertaining to a rich and happy residence is ready to hand, ..."

Bear Island (known by other spellings and names: Bare Island, Bar Island, Bear Banks, and Bear Beach) is an Atlantic coast barrier island of sand roughly 890 acres in size. The upland dunes of the island are not considered arable but are surrounded by waters teeming with fish. American Indians were the first to enjoy the fruits of such unspoiled resources. Seasonal visits to the island rewarded them with bountiful harvests of fish, shellfish, and sea turtles. In 1713, the Hammocks and Bear Island were acquired by the wealthy government official Tobias Knight, secretary general to Colonial Governor Charles Eden. Though Knight probably never witnessed the splendor of the forest at the Hammocks or set foot on the nearby island, the land was his nonetheless.

The next person to lay claim to this portion of paradise was John Starkey of Monmouth, New Jersey. In 1730, he received a land grant encompassing large swaths of territory around what would become the Town of Swansboro. Starkey became a representative for the Onslow Precinct in 1734, and from 1739 to 1764 he was in the General Assembly. He also served as a colonel in the local militia, and in 1748 oversaw the construction of a fortification on Bear Island. John Starkey died in the Spring of 1765 and was buried near his plantation just north of Swansboro. Hammock Point and Bear Island were left to his nephew Edward Starkey, who like his uncle became a prominent political official. The property may have gone unclaimed after Edward passed in 1789, as unpaid taxes resulted in a notice of sale by the county that appeared in several newspapers.

By the late 1830s, Captain Daniel Heady, from Portsmouth, Carteret County, ended up owning part of Bear Island. Four generations of Headys used the island for a



This 1965 photograph is of an earlier passenger ferry approaching the dock on Bear Island. The vessel carried people from the mainland portion of the park known as The Hammocks to the remote island. *North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation collection, State Archives.*

dolphin fishery and processing station. Early 1870s records reveal that they ran the schooner *Etta* as a merchant ship between Swansboro and Wilmington. By the 1880s, they were also in the business of selling diamondback terrapin turtles. Ownership of Heady's Beach, as it came to be known, was eventually split between family members and their descendants.

The Hammocks property on the nearby mainland was eventually owned by George Smith. His heirs divided the land amongst each other. Though separated and fragmented according to deeds, the land of Bear Island and the Hammocks would be reunited again by Dr. William James Clyde Sharpe, a Harvard educated, world renowned neurosurgeon from New York who was acquainted with world leaders and was friends with such people as Franklin D. Roosevelt. Dr. Sharpe came from humble beginnings as the son of a clergyman who attended to the less fortunate in the cities of Chicago, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia. He held no tolerance for social inequalities and flagrantly ignored the racial segregation policies of the Jim Crow era. His friendship with a field guide by the name of John Lewis Hurst would lead to the protection of Bear Island and the Hammocks forever.

The first meeting between the wealthy White doctor from New York and the son of a formerly enslaved man from Duck Creek in Onslow County occurred in the fall of 1914 at the Ireland Lodge of the Onslow Rod and Gun Club on the New River. Dr. Sharpe was invited by fellow physicians to attend a hunting trip along the North Carolina coast and was assigned John as a guide. The doctor's excursion to the duck blind proved very successful — only after receiving some very helpful

advice from his knowledgeable guide. Dr. Sharpe would request John as his guide for the rest of the week and for all his future visits to the club. The outdoor opportunities and natural beauty of the area prompted the doctor to find an oasis of his own. He employed John Hurst to find land in the region for a personal retreat, and in 1923 settled on acreage that encompassed the Hammocks. By 1931, several thousand acres of marsh land and Bear Island would be included in the private getaway.

John Hurst was employed as caretaker of the property, which included two homes, a farm, and a cabin on the island. He would also work as Dr. Sharpe's guide for hunting and fishing trips. John's wife Gertrude, also a child of the formerly enslaved, made more money working as cook and caretaker for Dr. Sharpe than she did teaching in the segregated school for black children. Though some people from the nearby community threatened damage to the property unless a white man was put in charge, Dr. Sharpe remained unnerved and was comfortable with his choice of manager. The doctor treated John and Gertrude more as family than employees, so much so that he planned to leave Bear Island and the Hammocks to them as a thank you for their work. In his autobiography Dr. Sharpe compliments the Hursts often, speaking of John, "from whom I have learned a rational philosophy of life itself and to whom I am deeply indebted in so many ways."

Gertrude Hurst had the foresight to suggest most of the land be deeded to the North Carolina Teachers Association, formerly the State Colored Education Convention. She realized it would be difficult for her and John to financially support such an estate. The organization could raise the necessary

continued...

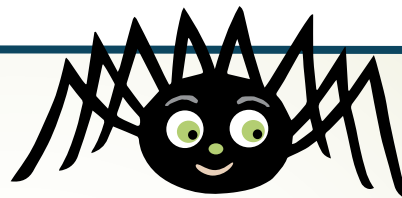
An Overview of the History of The Hammocks and Bear Island

...continued

funds to manage the property and establish a center for education, recreation, and retreat. The Hammocks Beach Corporation was established to handle the affairs of the center, and the property was formally awarded in September of 1950. Through an agreement with the State of North Carolina, a passenger ferry would eventually operate to carry members to Bear Island. To establish a more suitable situation for management and access, an agreement was reached where the island and a few acres of the Hammocks would be turned over to the state to become a park for African American citizens. Out of fourteen state parks across North Carolina in 1960, two were for Black citizens. Both state parks that existed along the coast were not available to minorities at all. Hammocks Beach became a prime destination for African Americans, allowing them access to the same ocean as White citizens of the state. Today the park is enjoyed by everyone and prized as one of the most pristine coastal beaches in North Carolina. It is not certain what Dr. Sharpe and John Hurst would think of the Hammocks Beach State Park that exists today, but it is certain that we are grateful for their efforts to protect such a beautiful place. ■



Park visitors enjoy the sea breeze while relaxing at the pavilion on the beach side of Bear Island. The structure in this 1968 photograph experienced damage from hurricanes Bertha and Fran in 1996. In 1999 hurricane Floyd dealt the final blow to the building, prompting park officials to replace it completely. *North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation collection, State Archives.*



BEAUFORT VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

By Cyndi Brown

Museum Educator Christine Brin had murder on her mind!

When the annual fundraising Murder Mystery Dinner that she spearheaded was canceled along with the rest of the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort's in-person programming, Christine Brin started brainstorming ways she could still deliver the thrills — only this time virtually.

Her solution: a Halloween decorating contest.

It met all her goals: safely engage the community, raise funds to help support museum operations, and provide a seasonal thrill.

"My favorite part of Halloween is decorating," Brin said. "Unfortunately, trick-or-treaters never come down my street for me to show off my decorations. So, I am excited about this chance to show off and to see everyone else's designs."

Photo submissions of entries will be accepted online at ncmaritimemuseumbeaufort.com for public voting, which starts Oct. 18. The winner will be announced Oct. 30. The only limit, Brin said, is your imagination.

"Decorate your dog, your boat, your house, or whatever is convenient," she said. "Not into the spooky? Go for a fall/harvest style of decoration."

The new contest is just one of the virtual programs staff at the museum has been working on since public programs have been suspended at the site.

Education staff have recorded their Brown Bag Gam educational presentations, which are on the website and the museum's YouTube channel. Available topics include Beaufort's dolphins, the historic whale fishery that took place off our coast, the naval role in the Battle of Plymouth, North Carolina whales and more. Three of the field expeditions have also been turned into virtual excursions. Join Associate Curator Benjamin Wunderly to explore a salt marsh, tidal flats, and Shackleford Banks. There are also "tours" that focus on specific exhibits and artifacts in our collection, and branded maritime-themed backgrounds that are compatible with widely used video conferencing software are available for download.

Family activities include a video demonstration of a "cookie archaeology," a craft where children learn about being a conservator; an underwater archaeology activity, where participants have to map a "dive site" while blindfolded; downloadable, maritime-themed games, puzzles, and coloring pages; and lesson plans on an array of topics related to the state's coastal history and heritage.

These virtual programs are available on a regular

46th Annual WOODEN BOAT SHOW

Saturday, May 1

The 46th Annual Wooden Boat Show takes place on Saturday, May 1, in downtown Beaufort. Enjoy activities and exhibits on display at the museum and the Harvey W. Smith Watercraft Center. Admission is free and open to the public. A variety of wooden boats will be on display on Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Enjoy traditional skills demonstrations and displays, educational activities, historic vessels, boat models, sailboat races at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., and sailboat rides from 1-3 p.m.

Free boat rides will also be offered on Thursday, April 29, and Friday, April 30, from 1-4 p.m. at the Watercraft Center docks (a \$5 per person donation is suggested, which will go to the sailing program.) The Wooden Boat Show weekend opening event on Friday, April 30, includes a reception and live music from 5:30-7 p.m. For tickets to the Friday opening reception or Saturday awards reception, contact the museum, (252) 504-7740.

Boat show participants and vendors please call (252) 504-7758 for registration and information.

www.beaufortwoodenboatshow.com

basis through the museums' websites and social media channels, both at scheduled times or on an on-demand basis.

Members of the education staff are also available for virtual outreach programs for educators.

"As educators, parents, students and the whole state have returned to school in some form, I want to remind everyone that we are here to help," Brin said. "Our resources are available to all types of educators including formal ones in classrooms, informal ones at home and everyone in between and beyond."

Those resources, she explained, include setting up virtual interviews with museum staffers such as the conservator, educators, maritime historian, marine biologist and/or boat builder; outreach presentations on pirates, maritime myths and legends, whales and whaling, movie pirates and pirate life; and research assistance for educators and students on topics related to maritime history, culture and environment.

To access the virtual programs online, visit ncmaritimemuseumbeaufort.com and select "Museum at Home" from the navigation bar. To schedule an outreach program or for information on the Halloween contest, contact Brin at (252) 504-7743. ■

Registration! Summer Science School & Junior Sailing Program

November 16, 2020, is the first day of registration for our Summer Science School classes, and **February 15, 2021**, is the first day of registration for the Junior Sailing Program.

Summer Science School offers courses for children entering preschool through tenth grade. Each class provides an opportunity to learn about the maritime history, culture and environment of coastal North Carolina through classroom and field trip experiences. The most popular class topics include seashore life, pirates and fishing.

The Junior Sailing Program offers basic through advanced sailing instruction to youth ages 8 and older. This exciting program teaches the arts of rigging, sailing and seamanship, and introduces students to maritime traditions and history. The program is designed to teach the basic skills of sailing to beginners and to hone the skills of more advanced students, using a combination of time in the classroom and on the water. Early Junior Sailing registration for Friends members at the Benefactor Level and up is February 1-7. For more information on early registration, contact the Friends office at (252) 728-1638.

For more information on these summer camp opportunities, visit www.ncmaritimemuseums.com. Information about the 2021 camps will be posted on the museum's website a month prior to the beginning of registration.



Mark Your Calendar!

2020

Dec. 5 Crystal Coast Christmas Flotilla
Dec. 6 Annual Membership Meeting & Holiday Open House

2021

Jan. 22 8th Annual Clam Chowder Cook-Off
May 1 46th Annual Wooden Boat Show
June 11 June Summer Party Fundraiser
June 5 Maritime Day
July 10 Great 4th Race
July 23 14th Annual Crab Cake Cook-off
Aug. 7 Traditional Skiff Rally
Sept. 3 Murder Mystery Dinner
Oct. 16 Fall In-The-Water Meet
Nov. 6 Friends of the NC Maritime Museum Boatshop Bash

Dec. 4 Crystal Coast Christmas Flotilla
Dec. 5 Annual Membership Meeting & Holiday Open House

For details call (252) 728-1638 or visit www.maritimefriends.org

North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport

Coping With Covid-19: An Interpretation for the Humanities

By Lori Sanderlin

The Quarantine Station exhibit at the museum in Southport has been rediscovered as a focal point of study. Some refer to it as “a city on pilings,” complete with hospital, docks for vessel inspection, and administrative buildings. As you walk around the diorama, interpretive panels describe diseases brought into port by vessel and how these unwanted pestilences were dealt with the only way they knew how. Since time immemorial, humans have suffered through plagues, pandemics, and debilitating illnesses.



Quarantine Station model.

The yellow fever epidemic in the Lower Cape Fear during the American Civil War was a contagion growing out of control simply from the lack of knowledge. People living in the bustling port city did not understand that the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito carried the plague and often blamed those in the Blockade Running trade for bringing it into port. Cases spread as far north as New York. Fear stalked Wilmingtonians as food supplies dwindled. With winter’s arrival, the disease subsided, but not without the loss of hundreds of lives. We know how the disease transmits because of Dr. Walter Reed’s work in 1901. Historians today share that the same mosquito in Barbados and Bermuda lives in the United States and how easily this illness transmits from one person to another. Due to advances in medicine, people in the United States rarely hear of yellow fever.

In 1918, The Spanish Flu struck the world full force, including the port of Wilmington, North Carolina. Fearful that death had arrived by ship, a Wilmington newspaper from October of that year tried to comfort the populace. “We are spraying our workmen every day with solutions which will aid in preventing influenza, we are furnishing our workmen with medical attention and medicines without charge...[when symptoms arise] we immediately carry him to the emergency hospital...on Third and Walnut street.”

Now, we are facing a new pandemic. In an age where travel is not confined to just ships, but includes cars, airplanes, subways, and buses. Not only travel overseas but visits to family and friends also pose a significant risk. The museum closed in March. We tried desperately to keep a brave face. We fought to keep focused on our mission, push ourselves to create new content on maritime history, and reach out to keep you connected virtually and feel like an integral part of our experiences.

Juan Villoro, a contributor to *And We Came Outside and Saw the Stars Again*, best expressed a feeling many of us share. He wrote, “What is the point of emerging from lockdown into countries with no

theaters, bookstores, or concert venues? Artists do not seem to be a priority in times of emergency. Support is taken away from them, overlooking the fact that people need aesthetic gratification...And yet, imagination is what is getting us through the crisis.”

Imagination, maritime history, and a drive to help others feel connected; these thoughts and words were a mantra as we dipped pots into the water to comically teach people about crabbing, cooked shrimp in our homes, read nautical children’s stories, and mailed education bundles to families. Villoro’s words ring true, “imagination is what is getting us through the crisis.” We were very fortunate that the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources stood by museums, zoos, aquariums, historic sites, parks, and the symphony to remind us that our content did matter. Supplemental classes for children at home, lesson plans for parents who needed extra support, and all of our Tuesday evening programs that members and maritime enthusiasts could enjoy from the comfort of their home, I feel, made a real difference.

Whether you were tuning in for maritime yoga on Instagram or watching a Captain Meanie’s Maritime Curiosities on YouTube or reading our monthly newsletter – we hope you feel connected to the maritime past, and it gives you a respite for a moment. At least for us, it gave a strong sense of purpose.



Crabbing for Captain Meanie’s Maritime Curiosities.

Currently, the museum doors are open; and the quarantine station greets visitors to interpret our past. More patrons are now interested in yellow fever, influenza, and other diseases contracted by human interaction. To call COVID-19 horrible is an understatement. To date, over 210,000 people in America have died; and countless are ill. Historians are not waiting for this pandemic to pass to interpret its effect on society. Authors, poets, artists, and musicians are here to create. And most of all, through history, the arts, music, and many forms of creativity, we have outlets to share with others to help them traverse these new waters.

We are not waiting. We are #northcarolinastrong. ■

FACTS ABOUT PLAGUE NOW AMONG PEOPLE

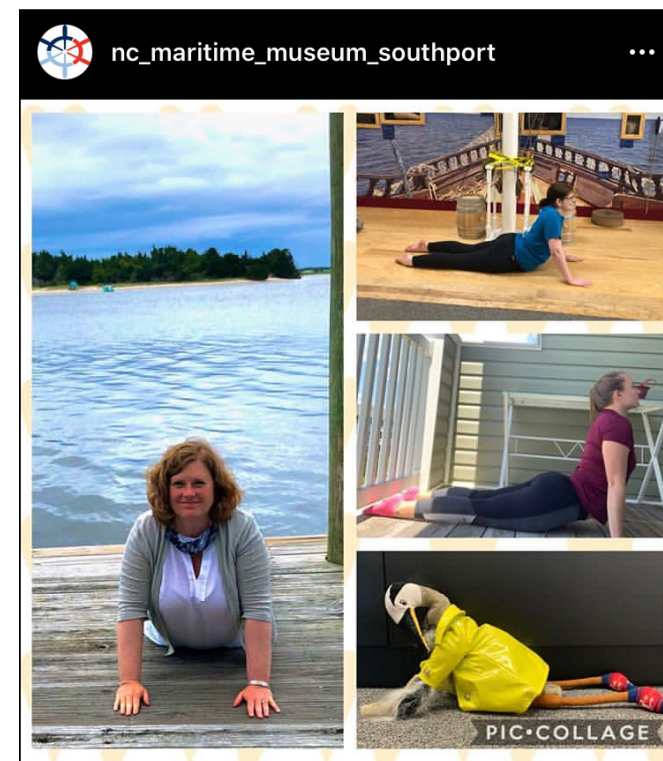
How It Spreads and What To Do For Protection.

“Spit Swapping” Is Filthy Channel
Through Which Disease Germs
Pass From Person to Person
in Countless Ways.

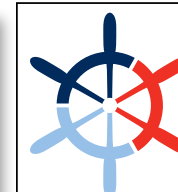
(Special Star Telegram.)

Raleigh, October 1.—In connection with the epidemic the state board of health today issued the following statement to the people of the state: “The state of North Carolina is in the grip of an epidemic of grippe. The disease is invading the state from many quarters, as it prevails throughout the United States, but the principal lines of invasion seem to be from the seaports of Wilmington and Norfolk. Already the disease has appeared over the entire state, being very prevalent in the east and having established itself in a number of centers in the west. The indications are that within another week it will be generally prevalent throughout the state.

The Wilmington Morning Star, Wed, Oct. 2, 1918.



Instagram Maritime Yoga.



NORTH CAROLINA
MARITIME
MUSEUMS
SOUTHPORT

Learn with us!

**MARITIME
AT HOME**

Click on links below



VIDEOS FOR KIDS

VIDEOS FOR ADULTS

CRAFTS AND ACTIVITIES

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Strict Traditions Drive Vessel Christening

By Katy Menne

Mariners are widely known as a superstitious bunch: Always step aboard right foot first. Never bring bananas on board. Don't change a boat's name. Mariners abide by these strict traditions — which trace back to the ancient civilizations of Egypt, Greece, and Rome — to assure safety on the waters.

These traditions also extend to the christening, which in the maritime sense, is a ceremony that dedicates and names a boat or ship.

The North Carolina Shipbuilding Company, which operated in Wilmington, N.C., saw the launching and christening of 243 ships during World War II. Many newspaper articles during the world wars detail the first handful of Liberty Ships and big landmark numbers, such as the 200th vessel; however, most other ships' ceremonies received barely a mention in the papers. The ceremonies themselves were eventually pared down due to travel restrictions, cost, and ongoing war. However, the same core components remained: Spill liquid across the bow, make an offering to a religious deity, and employ lots of pomp and circumstance.

Christening and launching — when the vessel's hull

first touches the water and is formally recognized under the official name — typically occur simultaneously. In ancient Greece and Rome, and often still today, mythological gods, such as Poseidon and Neptune, are called upon in ceremony. Those in attendance wore olive branches, drank wine, and poured water on a new vessel as a symbol of blessing. They often saw shrines carried aboard and placed on the quarter-deck, creating a sacred space on the vessel. The quarterdeck remains a location of special significance still today.

Other religions and cultures held a few variations to their respective christening ceremonies. Jews and Christians used wine and water while calling upon their God to safeguard them at sea. The Ottoman Empire (present-day Southeastern Europe, Black Sea region, Turkey, North-eastern Africa) prayed to Allah, sacrificed sheep, and of course, feasted. According to research, the Vikings offered human sacrifice to appease the angry gods of the northern seas. French launchings and christenings closely mirrored baptisms with a godfather and godmother and blessing the vessel with holy water (and no bottle breaking).

Initially, ships were christened with a “standing cup” (a large precious metal cup) that was thrown overboard once the ceremony was completed. With the number of vessels being christened and in an effort to save money, the cups started being reused, then replaced with a bottle being broken across the bow in the late seventeenth century.

The ceremonial practices seen in the United States have their roots in Europe, specifically the English Royal Navy. English vessels did not have female christening sponsors originally. They typically were members of the royal family, senior naval officers, Admiralty officials, and some civilians. It was not until the nineteenth century that women became sponsors for the first time. In the United States, the first documented vessel christening was *Constitution* in 1797. Other vessels of this era do not have documentation of launching and christening ceremonies. The first time a woman is noted as being a sponsor to a United States vessel was not until 1827 when the sloop-of-war *Concord* was christened at the Portsmouth Naval Yard. The woman's name was not recorded. Lavinia Fanning Watson, the first woman sponsor whose name was recorded, christened the sloop-of-war *Germantown* at the Philadelphia Navy Yard in 1846. Today, sponsors are selected by a committee of the leadership of the new vessel, the family of the namesake, and the shipyard. Some families choose a family member to be the sponsor while some are many generations removed from the namesake and decide to allow someone else to be selected while they participate as spectators.

Over the years, many different fluids were used as the “christening fluid.” Vikings used human blood, Ottomans used sheep's blood, and other religions used holy water and wine. Today, Champagne is the “christening fluid” of choice in a specially prepared bottle



Launch of the liberty ship the USS Zebulon B. Vance on December 6, 1941, by the North Carolina Shipbuilding Company in Wilmington, NC. Library of Congress

within a netting bag to catch the glass pieces. In the inter-war period, prohibition caused the christening liquid to change, such as to cider.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic created some adjustments, as well. The U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard do not stop because of the current climate. Ship christenings are still occurring, just in a virtual format. ■



The christening ceremony of submarine *Montana* took place at Newport News Shipbuilding division's Modular Outfitting Facility in front of a virtual audience on September 12, 2020. Photo by Ariel Florendo/HII



We Launch our 200th Ship, The North Carolina Shipbuilder, March 1, 1945 (Wilmington, NC)

Friends of the Museum
North Carolina Maritime Museum, Inc.
315 Front Street
Beaufort, NC 28516



NC DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

The North Carolina Maritime Museums in Hatteras, Beaufort and Southport are part of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Susi H. Hamilton, Secretary.



The North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

The MarITimes is printed using private funds donated to each Friends of the Museum organization.

Follow Us!



**North Carolina Maritime Museum
in Beaufort**
315 Front Street
Beaufort, NC 28516
(252) 504-7740
www.ncmaritimemuseumbeaufort.com
Hours:
Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–4 p.m.



**Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum
in Hatteras**
59200 Museum Drive
Hatteras, NC 27943
(252) 986-0720
www.graveyardoftheatlantic.com
Hours:
Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–4 p.m.



**North Carolina Maritime Museum
at Southport**
204 E. Moore Street
Southport, NC 28461
(910) 477-5150
www.ncmaritimemuseumssouthport.com
Hours:
Tues.–Sat. 10 a.m.–4 p.m.