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Set Sail with the Latest from the Friends of the Maritime Museum

1 message

Friends of the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport

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Fri, Oct 24, 2025 at

11:35 AM

Reply-To: Friends of the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport <southportfom@gmail.com>

To: southportfom@gmail.com



**Thank you Members and Friends of the
NC Maritime Museum at Southport**

Friends and Supporters of the NC Maritime Museum at Southport

I'm writing these notes after the horrific and senseless shooting that occurred in our beautiful city on September 27th. I am at a loss for words but will try. First and foremost, our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of the individuals that were killed; hopefully they will be able to find peace as they move forward. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those that were injured, as well as their families; we pray that they recover and heal. Finally, for all patrons that were in the area that experienced the terrible events; prayers for healing.

Thank you to the Coast Guard, our law enforcement, and our local EMS personnel for their brave and quick response and actions to deal with the situation; we are so blessed that these individuals work here and live among us.

Remember that we are blessed to live in a beautiful area of North Carolina amongst wonderful neighbors and friends. Let's remember that and take care of each other.

Stay strong,

**Tom Hale and the Board of Directors of the Friends of the NC Maritime
Museum at Southport**



**Join our very own
Friends Board
Member,
Randy Jones for a
sunset cruise.**



Come learn about our lighthouses at our next **members only** event. On **Monday, October 13th at 5:00pm** we will host a sunset cruise with the Southport Boat Tour company. Randy Jones will be on board sharing stories about our lighthouse history and why they're so important to the area. It's going to be a great evening and we'd love for you to join us.

Tickets are \$10 and seating is limited. Members will receive a special email invite to reserve their spot.

If you're not already a member, click [here](#) to join.

It will surely be a

From the Chairman

We're still in hurricane season so please be prepared and stay prepared! As of my writing of these notes, Imelda was about to be named; hopefully the storm will not affect us too much.

On September 25, we celebrated World Maritime Day 2025 (this year the World Maritime Day theme was "Our Ocean, Our Obligation, Our Opportunity") with a wonderful presentation by two representatives from the Wilmington office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. What is World Maritime Day? This year's theme reflects the ocean's vital role in the world economy, with more than 80% of global trade transported by sea. The ocean is a source of jobs and food for millions of people, a home for countless marine species, and a regulator of the planet's climate, mitigating the impacts of climate change. (See more on the event and my comments on the history of the Corps of Engineers below.)

We are looking to create (and expand?!) events for our members and the public so please be on the lookout for other events! Members – we are hoping to have a boat ride in mid-October where our own Randy Jones will share thoughts on our local lighthouses! If you have any ideas for new events, please do not hesitate to share with Cathy Dudley or one of the Board of Directors (BoD).

Fellow members and supporters, we need your help. Our Volunteers are an integral part of our daily operations. They are our face to the public welcoming new visitors and serving customers in the gift shop (the Ship's Chandlery). Many others help build new exhibits or help in our library. All share a love of our Museum, Southport, and maritime history. Please submit the form at our website (www.friendsncmmsouthport.com/volunteer) and join the many other volunteers with a love of maritime history. Of course, if you've a friend who loves Southport and maritime history, ask them to consider joining the Friends!

Speaking of the Ship's Chandlery, remember to visit it as there are some fantastic items available! It is a significant fundraiser for the Friends.

Good Evening!

Happy 250th Birthday to the U.S. Navy on October 13th!
Thank you for your continued interest in preserving and sharing our maritime history, especially at our Museum! If, at any time, you have any questions, issues, or ideas, please do not hesitate to discuss them with any of the Directors, Cathy, or me.

Smooth Seas,

Tom

The Friends extend a warm
congratulations to **Shannon Walker** as
our new **Museum Site Manager!**



www.greetpool.com

In this newly created position, Shannon will have a variety of administrative duties related to museum operations. She will also lead the team of professionals working here, including John Moseley, curator of education and outreach who will continue to lead interpretation/storytelling through programs and public events, creation of lesson plans for schools, social media, and work to expand research and interpretation at the museum; Toni Foster, volunteer and visitor services coordinator, who has oversight of volunteers and internship training, and pre-K and kindergarten education; and soon to be filled, a fourth position!

Shannon is a native of southeastern NC, hailing from Columbus County (with family roots in the turpentine and farming industries dating back to the 18th century). She received her dual undergraduate degrees in history and studio art at Meredith College and went through graduate studies in public history at University of North Carolina Wilmington. She began her career with the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in January 2010 and spent over a decade with North Carolina Historic Sites at Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site. In 2015, she was promoted to assistant site manager and programs coordinator, handling a variety of school and public programming.

Shannon transferred to the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport in late December of 2022 where she served as the curator of programming and education. She was heavily involved in coordinating "In the Glorious Cause of Liberty: The 250th Anniversary of the Burning of Fort Johnston," the kick-off event commemorating the American Revolution in the Lower Cape Fear.

Shannon has a lifelong fascination with both history and science, and two of her major focuses in research and interpretation are medical and environmental history. In her free time, Shannon volunteers with Venus Flytrap Champions and the North American Sarracenia Conservancy where she assists with Venus flytrap rescue and relocation in areas with impending development.

Volunteer Spotlight - Tony Boccio



If you visit the NC Maritime Museum Southport on a Friday morning , you will be greeted by Mr. Anthony "Tony" Boccio.

How long have you been with us and where did you originate from?

I started in 2023 so I ave been here for seven years, originated from NY State

What is the single greatest contribution this museum brings to the community?

I believe the museum brings an understanding of the history of this local area

What does the staff here excel at? The staff here excel at their local knowledge, very personable, and just good folk.

Why do you think learning about Maritime history is important? Because history is not taught enough anymore and that is a shame.

What are your hobbies? My hobbies are golf and reading

List three adjectives to describe yourself Concerned Citizen, appreciation of where I live, and an admiration of the people here

What are you currently reading? A Kit Carson western book and the Chronicles of the Cape Fear [*Read what Tony is reading: **Chronicles of the Cape Fear** by James Sprunt is available in the Museum gift shop*]

What is an accomplishment you are really proud of? A successful family life where we all get along famously

What is your dream job? My job in the Financial world was very satisfying but I would say my dream job may have been something like owning a Flower Shop or being a Landscaper.

How did you find out about volunteering at the museum? I was visiting with the grandchildren at the museum and Toni on the staff recognized my love of history and asked me if I was interested in becoming a volunteer.

Most interesting thing you have incurred at the museum? A fellow came in of the age of 107! He was once from Southport and was sharing his local history and of being here during Hurricane Hazel in 1954.

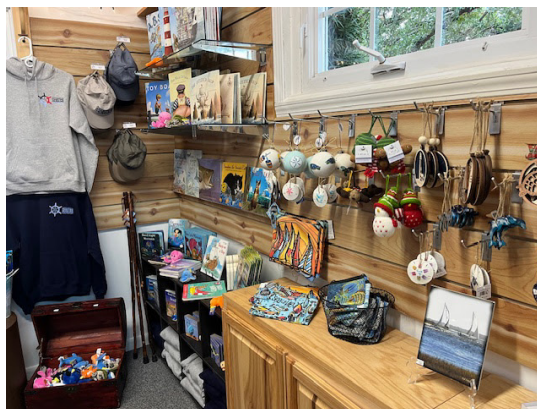
What qualities does a good museum volunteer possess? I think having a knowledge of the area and having empathy with the visitor is important. The Cape Fear area is loaded with history, if we could add something additional to the Maritime museum to focus on as an exhibit what would you choose? I would like to see more added for the antebellum period, prior to the Civil War.

What museum attraction is most favored by the children? By the adults? By you? Children love the Scavenger hunts of course, and adults love the books especially those on Pirates and Civil War history.

Volunteering at the Maritime Museum is a great way to meet new people, learn new skills, and make a difference in your community. Volunteering doesn't have to involve a long-term commitment or take a huge amount of time out of your busy day. Our volunteers commit to a few hours each week, bringing their talents and time to share our maritime history.

I'm Interested in Volunteering!

New Items in Gift Shop





As we gear up for the Fall and Christmas seasons we have many new exciting items in the gift shop from new long and short-sleeved t-shirts to seasonal note cards, ornaments, and fun toys for kids. Come check it out and remember that **Members receive a 10% discount** on your purchases.

Special Event with the Army Corps of Engineers on International Maritime Day



Bob Keistler - Project Manager, Army Corps of Engineers

To celebrate International Maritime Day on September 25th, The Friends hosted a talk highlighting the critical work of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in supporting the maritime economy along the Cape Fear River, as well as fishing and recreational boating in the area. They address "speed bumps in the channel," managing 1,500 miles of waterways. Our district field office ranks 5th nationally, with 8 branches, 5 field offices, and 58 members. Their contributions are vital to our region, state, and country.

Special thanks go to Project Manager, Bob Keistler and Chief of Public Affairs, Dave Connolly of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wilmington District for sharing updates on navigation projects and future plans, which depend on available federal funding.

Dredging and sand renourishment efforts are uniquely coordinated through a partnership between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Audubon Society. They collaborate with conservation agencies to repurpose dredged materials for wildlife, while minimizing impacts on the delicate marine ecosystem and as well as avoiding disturbances during the protected sea turtle nesting season. Another example of the Corps commitment to engineering solutions to meet the varied challenges of our beloved Cape Fear River.



What is/who are the U.S, Army Corps of Engineers?

The forming of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began on June 14, 1775, more than a year before the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The Second Continental Congress established a regular army, naming George Washington the Commander-in-Chief. One of Washington's first acts was to ask Congress to authorize a Chief Engineer and two assistants for the new Continental Army. Its first project was building a well designed earthwork fortification to protect American Minutemen in the historic Battle of Bunker Hill.

During the early 19th century, Congress and presidents assigned military engineers to such duties as surveying, mapping, locating routes for superintending the construction of roads, canals, and coastal defensive works. Thus it was early in the history of the Corps that the dual role of military and civil works was established. This dual role – which the Corps maintains today – is totally unique to this organization.

In 1884, the Wilmington District was formed. The Wilmington District was initially charged with navigation channel improvements to rivers and harbors and fortifications (Fort Caswell). Currently, with more than 400 employees in North Carolina and Virginia, the Wilmington District team provides expertise across a wide range of disciplines -from engineering, architecture, design, construction, hydropower, recreation management, hydrology and environmental stewardship (like dredging channels and beach replenishment!). The Wilmington District supports and serves the federal interests of our nation by developing and facilitating innovative and effective solutions that meet engineering, environmental and emergency management needs for North Carolina, the U.S.Army, and the Nation.



Join museum staff for these free upcoming programs:

Skippers Crew: Bewitching Broomsticks - October 4th from 10AM to 3PM

Craft a witch's broomstick using handprints during this special program on Oct. 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the museum. This event is part of the museum's Skipper's Crew series. Designed for all ages, but specifically geared toward younger patrons, Skipper's Crew features hands-on activities and take-home crafts focusing on combining art, history, and science. During the first two hours lights will be dimmed and interactives muted to provide a calmer environment for patrons with sensitivities. The program is free, but donations are accepted and appreciated.

For more information on museum programs, visit ncmaritimemuseumsouthport.com or call 910-477-5151.



TOGETHER WE CAN!!

Shout Out Loud on Social Media about our Maritime Museum. All you have to do is access below links to write a review of our Southport treasure!! Share your review afterwards on your Facebook page. Let's all set off a maritime fire of Likes!!!

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