

2019
Annual Report
Steamboat Era Museum

POTOMAC PILOTHOUSE
COMES HOME
MAY 29





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We Piloted the Potomac Home!

At long last, our vision has been realized: The Potomac Pilothouse has been restored to its former glory and has taken its place as the centerpiece of our museum.

It only took 18 years.

Looking back, it was a bold dream for a small museum. In 2001, we knew this rare artifact was a plum acquisition and were prepared for a long process. What we could not anticipate was how many others would embrace our dream. Over the years, in addition to strong museum leadership and our steadfast Board, the outpouring of community support has been extraordinary.

Along the way, we discovered how interwoven the Pilothouse saga was with area family histories. There's Bill Colonna of Colonna Shipyard who remembers how his father and uncle saved the Pilothouse when the Potomac was converted to a barge. Anne McClintock who recalled riding on the Potomac with her grandfather, Archie Long, the longest serving captain of the steamer. Captain Meredith Robbins who carefully stored the Potomac spotlight and trail boards in his basement and kept an eye on the pilothouse when it was abandoned on Taft Beach. Dr. Lee Williams who at 95 vividly shared his memories of visiting the wheel-house when he was five years old. For them, the Pilothouse is more than a museum relic. It is a link to a treasured past.

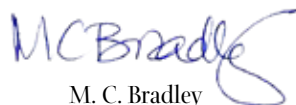
The Pilothouse Project touched some lives more deeply than others. John Morganthaler, who lovingly restored the Pilothouse, spent four years deconstructing and reconstructing the artifact. It was his knowledge of materials and attention to detail that gave us the exquisite example of restoration on display.

Now we hope visitors will create their own memories of experiencing the Pilothouse. To enhance that experience, we have transformed the footprint of the museum with new exhibits that surround the Potomac Pilothouse. These stories lend texture and context to the legacy of the steamboat Potomac.

To illustrate our journey, our annual report takes the form of a visual timeline. Beginning with a look back at the groundwork we laid in 2018, you can follow the reconstruction of our exhibit space and the installation of the Pilothouse. You'll see how the museum continued to welcome visitors, offer children's programs and host events amidst all the construction this past year.

None of this would have been possible without the continued support of our members and the hard work of our dedicated volunteers. And where would we be without our stellar Board of Directors? They have guided us wisely through both challenges and opportunities. It is with great gratitude that we offer our 2019 Annual Report.

Best,



M. C. Bradley
President



Barbara D. Brecher
Executive Director

A Look Back: 2018

The Pilothouse was in the workshop and we were laying the groundwork to pilot her home.



January 1
Last look at exhibits



February 9
Ready to
remove walls



January 30
Exhibits are disassembled



**POTOMAC PILOTHOUSE
JANUARY 7**



February 3
More deconstruction



February 13
Goodbye walls!



**POTOMAC PILOTHOUSE
FEBRUARY 25**





March 15
New exhibit construction begins

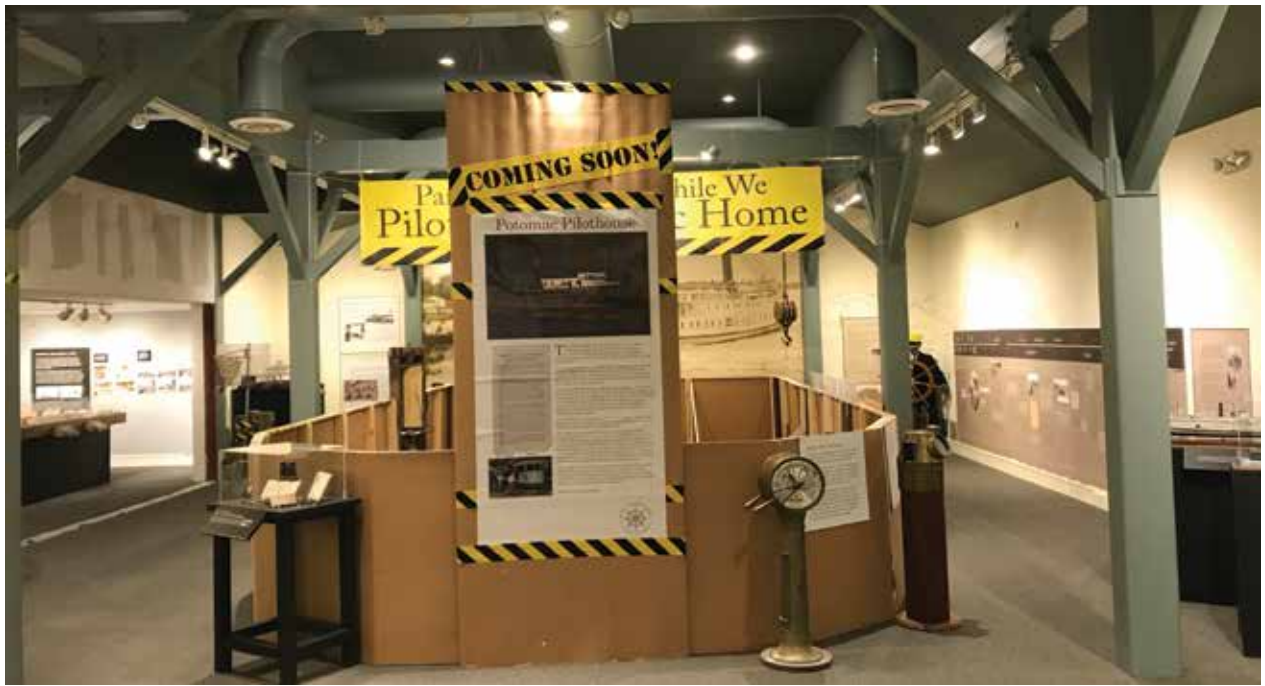


March 30
More hammering, more dust



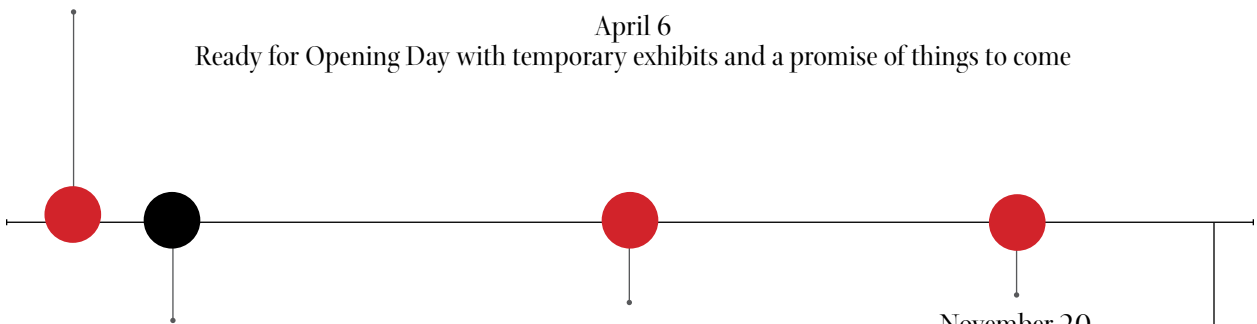
March 25
The perfect slogan for our 2018 Season





April 6

Ready for Opening Day with temporary exhibits and a promise of things to come



**POTOMAC PILOTHOUSE
APRIL 19**



November 11
Removing the "Coming Soon"
structure to make way for the
Holiday Marketplace



November 20
Holiday Marketplace

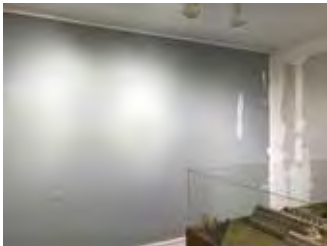
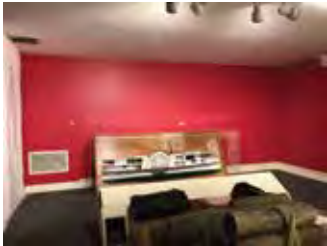


**POTOMAC PILOTHOUSE
DECEMBER 11**



2019: THE BIG PUSH

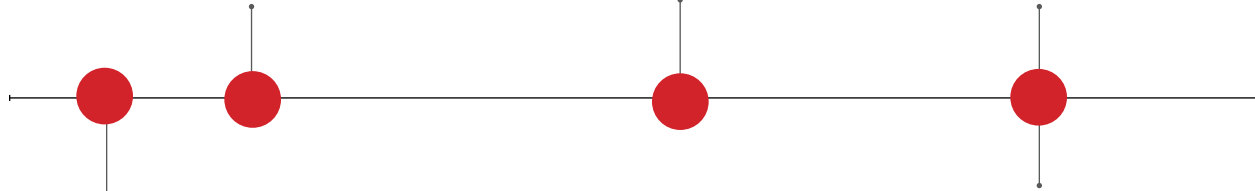
Exhibit space was reconfigured to welcome the Potomac Pilothouse as the museum’s centerpiece.



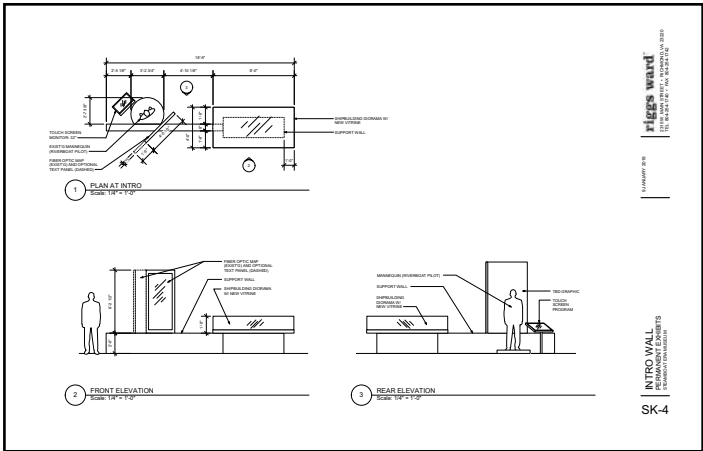
January 17
Temporary exhibits are dismantled

January 30
Tear-down continues

February 17
Exhibit design begins



January 14
Design drawings are approved





**POTOMAC PILOTHOUSE
FEBRUARY 24**



March 3
Exhibit naming opportunities raised \$9,000
during a three-hour open house





**POTOMAC PILOTHOUSE
MARCH 10**



March 23
Final clean-out of exhibit
space



**POTOMAC PILOTHOUSE
MAY 17**



MAY 21

Hanging the Potomac's last flag



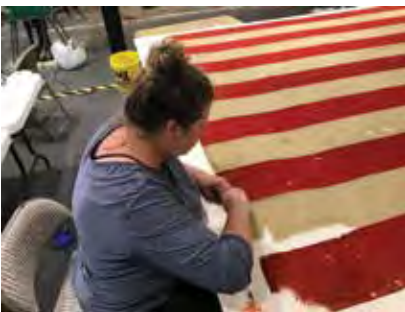
9:30 AM



1:57 PM



3:57 PM



4:13 PM



4:44 PM



5:38 PM



5:44 PM



May 23
Museum's rear wall is removed

May 24
Ready for delivery of the Pilothouse





May 28
Winch is installed to pull
the Pilothouse into the space



**PILOTHOUSE LEAVES THE WORKSHOP
MAY 28**



MAY 29

Moving day for the Pilothouse! And it all went like clockwork ...



8:30 AM



8:51 AM



11:19 AM



11:20 AM



11:24 AM



11:24 AM



11:44 AM



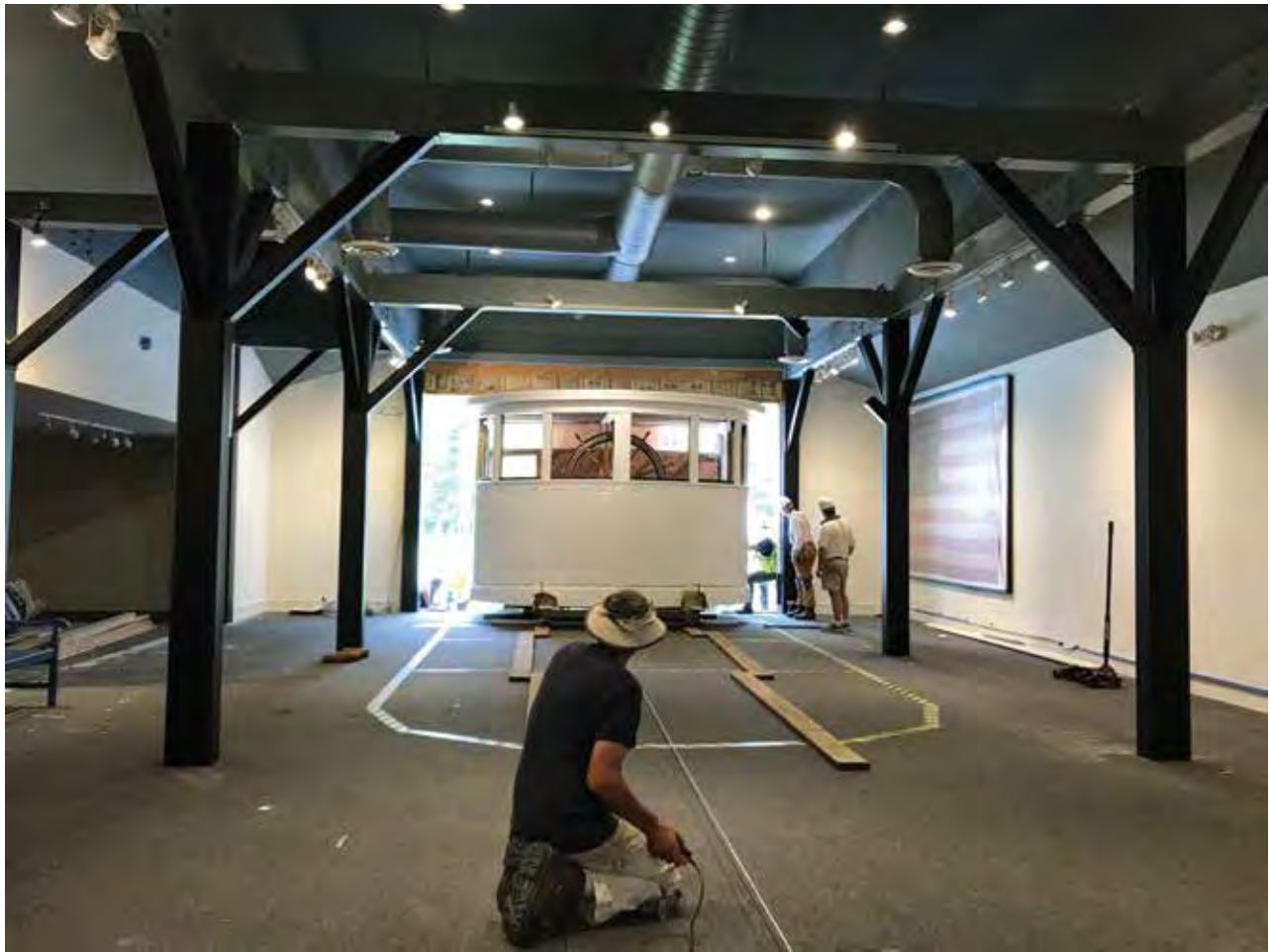
11:46 AM



11:47 AM



11:54 AM



12:01 PM



12:09 PM



12:21 PM

AND THEN WE CELEBRATED!

4:00-6:00 PM



Many people worked hard to make this day possible but no one was more pleased than Anne McClintock. Anne was the granddaughter of Potomac Captain Archie Long and seeing his legacy honored was a life-long dream. Anne passed away shortly after our celebration. She will be fondly remembered for her ardent support of the Pilothouse project.



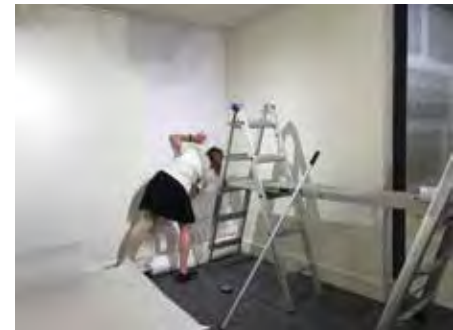
June 3
Leveling the Pilothouse

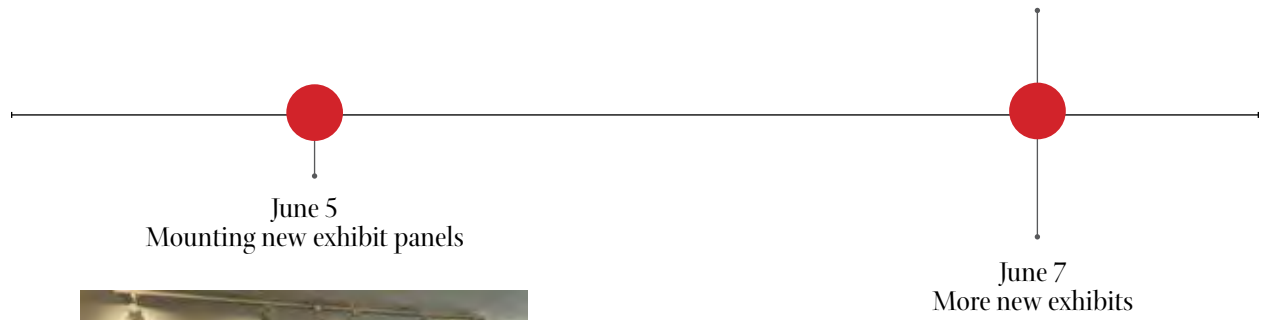


June 4
Installing new exhibits



June 3
Laying new carpet



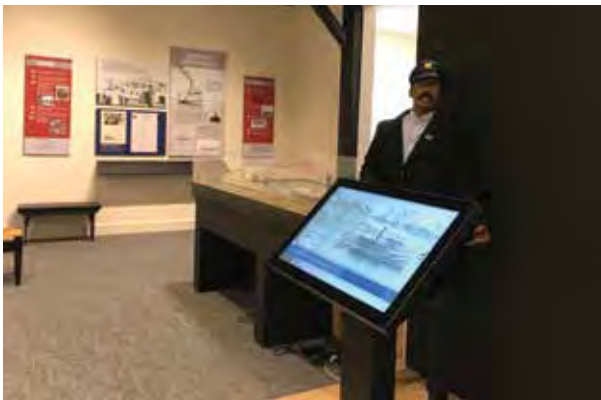




**CREW QUARTER GETS
A CANVAS FLOOR
JUNE 10**



**June 11
Opening Day**

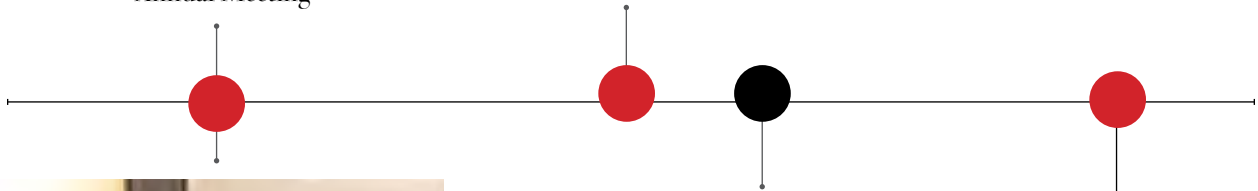




June 22
Annual Meeting



June 29
First day of children's activities



**SEARCHLIGHT INSTALLED
JULY 9**



July 10
Pilothouse removed
from list of *Ten
Most Endangered
Artifacts in Virginia*
by the Virginia
Association of Museums





July 17
Lancaster Chamber of Commerce event



**WHEELHOUSE CEILING PAINTED
AUGUST 9**



AUGUST 10

Another successful Irvington Crab Festival





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The Wild Bunch, The Dandelion**

**A Special Thank You to
Crabs Express, Rappahannock Rentals and
David Jones of Connemara Corporation**

**A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR
AMAZING VOLUNTEERS**

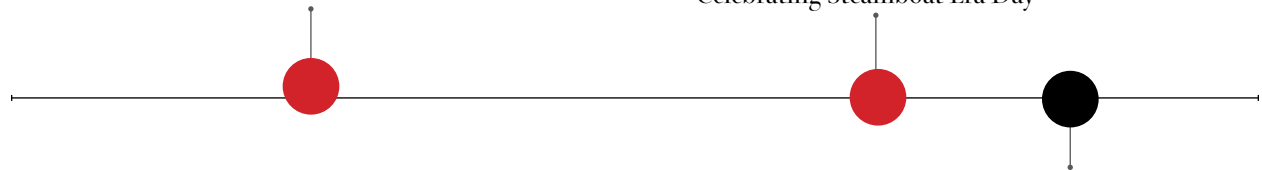
All Proceeds Support the Steamboat Era Museum.



August 23
Dr. Lee Williams at the Potomac's wheel
90 years after his first visit at age five



September 14
Celebrating Steamboat Era Day



**TRAIL BOARDS ARE ADDED
IDENTIFYING THE POTOMAC
OCTOBER 22**





October 24
LEED Academy class tours museum



October 26
Thank-you reception for Pilothouse donors





October 27
Bill Colonna and his sister Caroline visit the
Pilothouse which their father and uncle had saved



November 15
57 Lancaster County preschoolers visit
the museum



John Morganthaler shows Bill and his
wife Evelyn the wheelhouse



Last acrylic case is installed

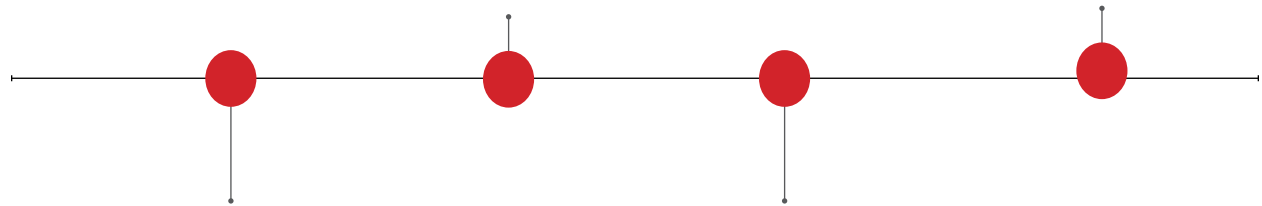




November 29, 30
December 7, 14, 21
Holiday Marketplace



December 11
Volunteer Appreciation Coffee



November 25
*Steam-Driven: How Steamboats Shaped
Virginia's Northern Neck* is published



December 7
Members Holiday Reception



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019



Open House Offers Naming Opportunities

An Open House on Sunday, March 3 saw a steady stream of visitors through our museum, eager to see the renovations in-progress and hear about the ongoing restoration of the



Potomac Pilothouse. The three-hour event featured naming opportunities for our new exhibits. We raised over \$9,000 from attendees who memorialized family or friends with their donations.



The Potomac Pilothouse Comes Home

On May 29 the restored pilothouse was loaded on a trailer and made its final journey from John Morganthaler's workshop in Heathsville to the Steamboat Era Museum. A crowd of more than 100 watched as the 10,000-pound artifact was lifted by a crane and hoisted over the building. Positioned just inside an opening in the back wall of the museum, the pilothouse was then rolled on steel pipes into its final position under Morganthaler's watchful eye. You can see photos of the process as part of the 2019 timeline on pages 14-17.



Outgoing and Incoming at the Annual Meeting

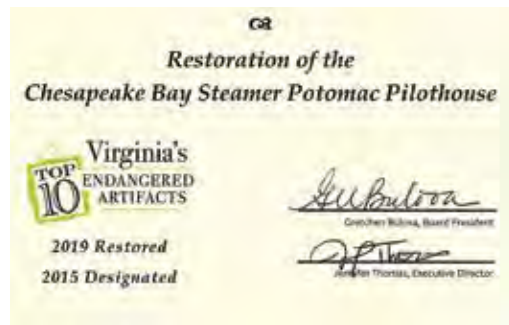
At the 2019 Annual Meeting, our Board of Directors bid farewell to outgoing president Nancy Travers and board members Vicky Oliver and Randall Kipp. New board members were nominated and confirmed: longtime museum supporter Marshall Orr as well as Mary Ann McKay, who leads children's activities at the museum, and Margery Nea, granddaughter of Oscar Dameron. The new officers elected were M. C. Bradley (President), Frederick Pevahouse (Vice President), Jim Ward (Treasurer) and Carter Bonner, (Secretary).



Special Focus on Children

Engaging and educating kids continues to be an important goal for the museum. Our successful Friday morning kids program, began on June 29. Making a steamboat and testing it in the water was a hit with children of all ages. We also targeted elementary and middle school students with our History-on-the-Go program. Last year we reached 450+ children





Pilothouse Removed from Endangered List

In 2015, the Potomac Pilothouse was designated by the Virginia Association of Museums (VAM) as one of its Ten Most Endangered Artifacts. On July 10, the VAM Board of Directors officially removed the Pilothouse from this list during a reception at the museum. Our museum was recognized with a Certificate of Excellence in Conservation. Following the presentation, attendees raised their glasses and gave a big “huzzah” for a job well done.



Another Sold-out Crab Festival

The eighth Annual Irvington Crab Festival was held on August 10th. Over 500 hungry people crowded the big top on Irvington Commons to make our biggest fundraiser a huge success. Photographs of the event as well as a shout-out to our wonderful volunteers and sponsors appear on pages 24-25.



Fulfilling a Birthday Wish

Upon turning 95, Dr. Lee Williams wanted to visit the Potomac Pilothouse where, as a five-year-old passenger in 1929, he had touched the huge wheel. On August 23, that wish was granted. With a little help from family and friends, Williams made his way onto the newly exhibited Potomac Pilothouse and into the wheelhouse. Touching the restored wheel, nine decades later, he could swear he was five years old again.



Sixth Annual Holiday Marketplace...

It's no mystery why our Holiday Marketplace is fast becoming a post-Thanksgiving tradition for many attendees. We make sure the event is well-stocked with an array of hand-made goods, holiday decorations and unique gift items. To mark the installation of restored Potomac Pilothouse, we featured (what else?) a Christmas ornament of the steamer Potomac. More than 600 shoppers visited the museum on November 29 and 30 and December 7, 14 and 21.



and Museum Publishes a New Book

To dovetail with the installation of the Potomac Pilothouse, our museum has published *Steam-Driven: How Steamboats Shaped the Future of Virginia's Northern Neck*. The 88-page history is heavily illustrated with images and newspaper articles spotlighting the mariners, watermen and regular folks whose lives and livelihoods were forever changed with the advent of steam-driven vessels. Highlighted are stories of the steamer Potomac and the restoration of her pilothouse. The book was underwritten by grants from the River Counties Community Foundation and Chesapeake Bank.

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 Brandon Louisell
 Daria Lowe
 Mary Ann McKay
 Kathy Meyer
 Jeannie Monroe
 Fran Nunnally
 Fred Pevahouse
 Cathy Polhamus
 Bonnie Robertson
 Lin Ross
 Kay Somers
 Nancy Sullivan
 Nina Thompson
 Jim Ward
 Dick and Marti Wilson
 Larry Worth

CRAB FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

Jay Alga
 Judy Baensch,
 Barbara Baxter
 Patty Bayne
 Becky Cross
 Carter Bonner
 Cay Bradley
 Kylie Bransford
 Craig, Virginia
 Sallie Dashiell
 Nancy Espy
 Virginia Fleet
 Michael Geissenger
 Randy & Carolyn Graham
 Fran Green,
 Rita Grinsburg
 Del Hinman
 Sally Johnson
 Mary Ann & Bob McKay
 Robin Meigel,
 Margery Nea
 Eric Nost
 Marshall Orr
 Fred and Candee Pevahouse,
 Stu & Cathy Polhamus
 Albert Pollard, Jr.
 Beverly Randolph
 Bonnie Robertson
 Kay Somers
 Nancy Sullivan
 Nina Thompson
 Jim Ward

Boys & Girls Club Crab Festival Volunteers

Students
 Kenayah Smith
 Ja'Keem Redmond
 Semaj Coleman
 Ta'Layia Elmore
 Kujah Smith
 Sammy Waller
 hyniece Sutton
 Ainsley Mumford
 Alexis Franklin

Adults
 Mr. and Mrs. Steve. Waller

HOLIDAY MARKET VOLUNTEERS

Barbara Baxter
 Brandon Louisell
 Patty Bayne
 Mary Ann McKay
 Carter Bonner
 Kathy Meyer
 Cay Bradley
 Jeannie Monroe
 Virginia Lee Brown
 Fred Pevahouse
 Bonita Bruce
 Bonnie Robertson
 Virginia Craig
 Lin Ross
 Becky Cross
 Kay Somers
 Nancy Espy
 Nancy Sullivan
 Virginia Fleet
 Jim Ward
 Beth Koeberle

HOLIDAY MARKET VENDORS

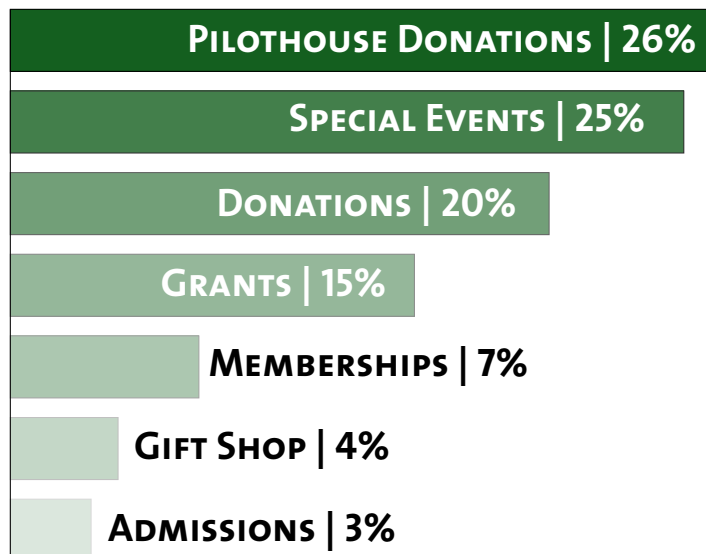
David Aiken
 Will Bonner
 Barbara Brecher
 Allison Childress
 Ron Courtney
 Barbara Dietz
 Sarah Egger
 Glo & Mike Engle
 Victoria Gardiner
 Terry Green
 Rita Grinsberg
 David Harris
 Cyndi Herges
 Elisa Holland
 Teresa Howard
 Nicole Huong
 William Keaton
 Victoria Minor
 Rick Nesossis
 Sue Ramsey
 Patricia Rose
 RSR Apparel
 Andrea Swinney
 Martha Tingle
 Marion Tuckwiller
 YanDong Wang
 Heather Z. Young

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

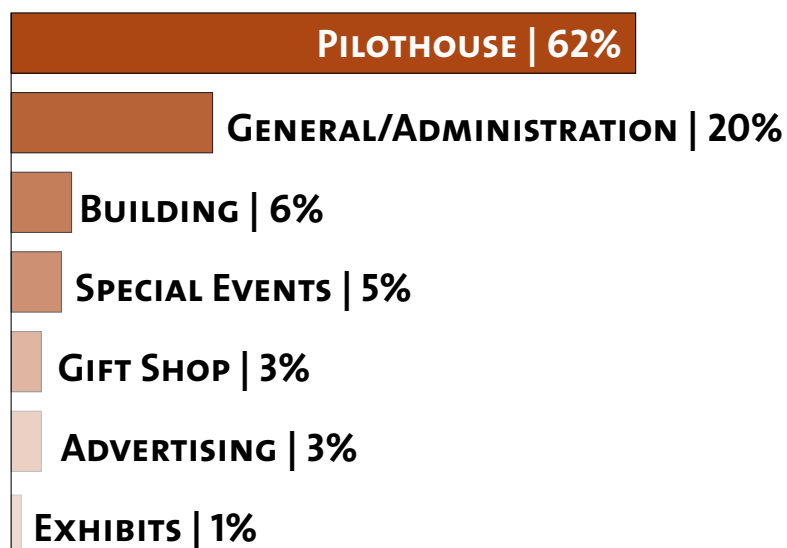
Barbara Baxter
 Volunteer Coordinator
 Mary Ann McKay
 Education Chair
 Lin Ross
 Membership Chair
 Del Hinman
 Gift Shop Chair
 Robert McKay
 Building the steamboats used
 in our children's activities!

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

2019 INCOME



2019 EXPENSES



2019 ATTENDANCE

MUSEUM VISITORS

2,247+
(1,130+ over 2018)

MARKETPLACE

600+

CRAB FESTIVAL

500+

KIDS ACTIVITIES

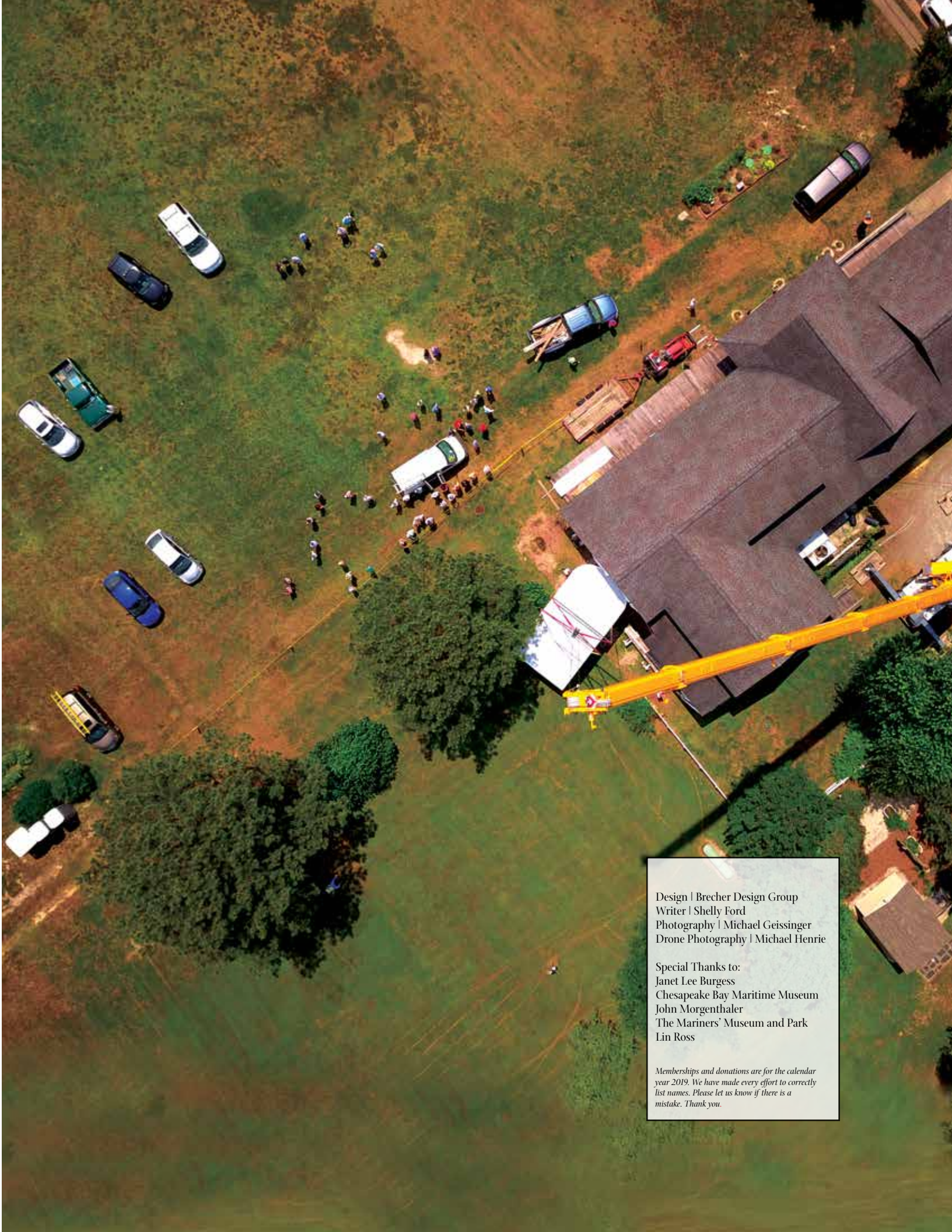
450+



2019 BEST OF VIRGINIA

2019 MUSEUM SUPPORT OF NORTHERN NECK NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Lancaster Public Library
Field of Dreams
Irvington Village
Improvement Association
Lancaster Players
Northern Neck Orchestra
Westmoreland Players
Rappahannock Concert
Association
Boys & Girls Club
of the Northern Neck
Northern Neck Family YMCA



Design | Brecher Design Group
Writer | Shelly Ford
Photography | Michael Geissinger
Drone Photography | Michael Henrie

Special Thanks to:
Janet Lee Burgess
Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum
John Morgenthaler
The Mariners' Museum and Park
Lin Ross

Memberships and donations are for the calendar year 2019. We have made every effort to correctly list names. Please let us know if there is a mistake. Thank you.



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