

March 2024



on the Move

Local maritime news, events and history from the Chicago Maritime Museum

CMM Debuts Two Temporary Exhibits



The Chicago Maritime Museum was thrilled to welcome visitors into our gallery on Thursday, February 22nd for the opening of our two new temporary exhibitions: **The Trail That Leaves No Trace** featuring the museum's canoe collection and **The Philip R. May Collection** which celebrates CMM's recent acquisitions.

Visitors were able to explore the exhibition with curator Madeline Crispell who led the group on a tour and discussed the objects on view. In the library, visitors can watch a segment of Director James Forni's documentary **Mr. Canoe** and see a sixteen-foot Peterborough canoe that came to the museum from Ralph Frese's own collection hanging from the ceiling.

In the South Gallery, you can explore more than a dozen objects collected by Philip R. May and his family, including naval memorabilia, nautical tools and instruments, and works of art.

Hung alongside the five possible Needham paintings covered in last month's newsletter is an 1898 painting of Goose Island by the French impressionist artist Albert Fleury that was donated to CMM by the M. Christine Schwartz Collection last summer and which is on view at the museum for the first time. The **Philip R. May Collection** will be on view through April 19th and **The Trail That Leaves no Trace** will be on view through the end of this year.

If you're interested in scheduling a curator-led or docent-led tour of the museum and exhibitions, you can [reserve one here](#):

[Reserve Your Guided Tour Here](#)

In the meantime, to learn more about the exhibitions from home, you can explore local coverage of the shows:

CBS, Noel Brennan

Block Club Chicago, Aviva Bechky

Sun-Times, Dale Bowman's

Volunteer Appreciation Day Big Success By Ariana Rubin, Museum Manager and Volunteer Coordinator



On Monday, February 12th, the Chicago Maritime Museum hosted its first ever Volunteer Appreciation Event.

Led by Volunteer Director Trigg Waller and Volunteer Coordinator Ariana Rubin, the celebration was a heartfelt tribute to the dedicated individuals who contribute their time and passion to preserving the rich maritime heritage of the city.

Central to the afternoon's agenda was a docent training seminar, curated and led by Loyola Professor Ted Karamanski, a distinguished expert in maritime history. The seminar not only served as an educational opportunity, but also underscored the museum's commitment to fostering continuous learning and development with its volunteer base.

"What a fun and productive day at CMM!" said volunteer Communications Director Mary Ann O'Rourke. "Not only were we



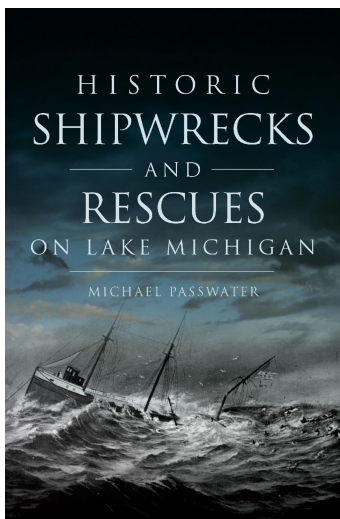
abundantly heralded for our volunteerism, but we also had the rare opportunity to learn docent skills from Chicago's top maritime historian, Ted Karamanski. I feel like I learned more about Chicago's maritime history in one day than I have in my ten years of volunteering for the museum. Thank you, Ariana, Madeline, Ted, Trigg, and Kath, for a special day!"

Throughout the event, volunteers engaged in lively discussions, sharing anecdotes, and forging deeper connections within the museum community. The volunteers were also recognized during an awards ceremony where Ariana distributed CMM's official volunteer badges, designed by graphic designer Sari Breslin.

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers, whose contributions are invaluable. Your unwavering commitment is the cornerstone of the museum's success, and your dedication serves as an inspiration to all. Here's to many more years of shared achievement at the Chicago Maritime Museum!

Learn More About Our Volunteer Program
Here

Join us for Third Friday on March 15 Historic Shipwrecks and Rescues on Lake Michigan



Come and learn about the brilliant and brave rescues of the crews of two shipwrecks outside the Chicago Harbor and how one of the biggest maritime tragedies, helped win the second World War. Hear how the **WWII F4F Wildcat** fighter, became a display piece at O'Hare Airport.

Michael Passwater, author of ***Historic Shipwrecks and Rescues on Lake Michigan*** will dive into stories from his first book and will offer a sneak peek on some of the stories on his second book.

In conjunction with the Bridgeport Art Center's Third Friday Open House, the Chicago Maritime Museum opens its doors for lively presentations on maritime history and current events each month. Come early and explore the Bridgeport Art Center's many art galleries. Join us on Friday, March 15 at 7:00 p.m. either in person or virtually.

The presentation is \$5.00 for members and \$10.00 for non-members. Join us at chicagomaritimemuseum.org or call us (773) 376-1982. We are located

on the lower level of the Bridgeport Art Center at 1200 W 35th Street. Parking is free in the north lot.

[Register For In Person Presentation Here](#)

[Register for Virtual Presentation Here](#)

Rest in Peace Rita Frese



CMM is forever indebted to Rita for the **Ralph and Rita Frese Canoe Connection** and her devoted support of the museum over the years.

"Rita always seemed to be the Mother of the Chicago Maritime Society and later, the Chicago Maritime Festival, and eventually, the Chicago Maritime Museum," says Tom Kastle, founding member of the CMS and CMF. "She wrote the CMS newsletter at a time of transition between paper and the internet and she looked over the membership list like a mother hen. The house in Niles and the apartments above **Chicagoland Canoe Base** became home for many of the singers that we brought in from all around the world to perform at the Chicago Maritime Festival. Always a light in our lives, we will miss her dearly."

Education Outreach

By Sari Breslin, CMM Education Facilitator



One of our main goals at the Chicago Maritime Museum is to share the history and importance of our waterways with students.

With STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) as our approach to education at the Chicago Maritime Museum, our initial outreach to schools was centered around a data base of 74 schools that fall within a two-mile radius of the museum. We reached out to these schools to offer the museum experience, which is free of charge to students and teachers, in the hopes to encourage more school groups to visit the museum.

We offer an engaging opportunity for teachers and students with a customized tour tailored to their current curriculum. We work to ensure there is an appropriate activity and an enlightening tour to enrich their learning and understanding of the history of Chicago, which revolves around the importance of our waterways.

CMM has hosted students from many different areas of study including scout troops to earn their badges, out-of-state youth sailors and homeschooled students.

Please share this with the teacher that you know! We have an educator's letter we will happily send to all interested.

Host Your Event at CMM!

Partner organizations are utilizing the lecture hall or library space at the museum for their meetings and celebrations this spring. Professional organizations linked to Chicago waterways are among those CMM is set to welcome.

Midwest Water Analysts



Association and the Industrial Water, Waste and Sewage Group are renting CMM space and services this spring. In February it was an honor to host the awards dinner / members and volunteers' celebration for **Friends of the Chicago River.**

Event planning and scheduling inquiries may be sent to Kath Thomas at events@chicagomaritimemuseum.org.

Maritime Event Calendar

Check out local maritime events at the Chicago Maritime Museum [website calendar page](#).

Submit maritime events in the Chicagoland area or story ideas to Mary Ann O'Rourke at communications@chicagomaritimemuseum.org.

Ready to join or renew your membership?

Information about our membership offers can be found [here](#). If you need further membership support please email us at cmm@chicagomaritimemuseum.org

We hope you've enjoyed our monthly e-newsletter, On the Move.

