



on the Move

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

Voyage Through History Benefit Gala Postponed



Dear Members and Patrons:

*The Chicago Maritime Museum has decided to postpone our gala benefit, "**Voyage Through History**", set for April 30th aboard Columbia Yacht Club's **Abby**, due to health concerns over COVID-19.*

Please know that our gala plans remain intact for a future date this year:

- Despite the scheduled change, our guest speaker Chicago-born around-the-world sailor, Bill Pinkney, has graciously committed to our yet unknown rescheduled date.*
- As part of the evening, you'll be invited to explore the 372-foot former ice-breaking car ferry, Abby, which has been a part of Chicago's history, lakefront and skyline since 1983.*
- Unique sponsorship opportunities for "Voyage Through History" are available online on the Gala Page at chicagomaritimemuseum.org.*

Thank you for your understanding. We will reschedule the gala benefit once the situation has clarified and look forward to seeing you there. Until then, stay safe and healthy.

Chicago Maritime Museum Board of Directors

Volunteer of the Month

CMM Volunteer Kath Thomas Works Land and Sea

When she's not serving up heaps of gourmet home cooking for family and friends (including at Chicago Maritime Museum events), you might find Kath Thomas in her natural habitat – outside, working to restore Illinois prairie land to its original state. A life-long environmental advocate, Kath recently completed an internship at the **Morton Arboretum** in Lisle, where she collected biomass for 1800 plants planted in 2016 on a research acre to advance knowledge of prairie restoration.

Even at home, Kath practices what she preaches. You won't find a lawnmower at the Thomas' Hinsdale home. Instead of grass, hundreds of native plants grow side-by-side in both the front and back yards.

"Why plant grass seed when you can grow beautiful, bio-diverse plants that attract and support multiple species in our local ecosystem," says Kath, who shows remarkable fluency in Latin plant names. Words like *Silphium integrifolium* (compass plant) and *Carex annectens* (yellow fox sedge) roll confidently off her tongue.

Kath has supported the Chicago Maritime Society and now the Chicago Maritime Museum since the organization's early days in the mid-1980s in a variety of roles, including board member, newsletter editor and events coordinator including the CMM's multi-faceted exhibit at the 2010 **Tall Ships Chicago** on Navy Pier. She recalls introducing her husband, Dr. Gerald Thomas, to the museum, where he would become the organization's president (president emeritus and active board member now.)

A long-time active member of the Columbia Yacht Club, Kath has sailed 18 **Mackinac Races**, mostly Chicago Macs but also a Bayview and a Super Mac (Chicago to Port Huron), primarily on a Tartan Ten.

"It was a six-person crew and I was always responsible for the chow," recalls Kath. "The real marathon was getting ready for the race, scheduling, cooking and pre-packing all the meals. But I loved the challenge of the prep work as much as I love sailing."



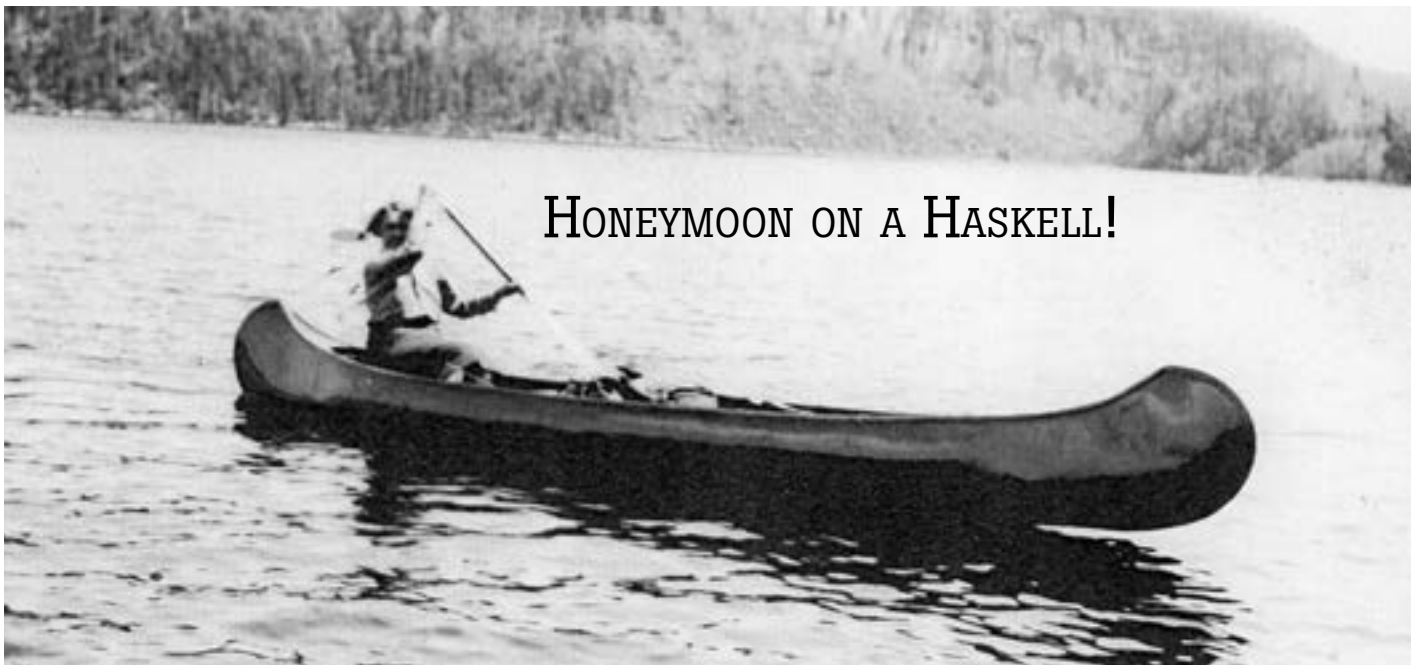
In addition to CMM, Kath serves on boards and volunteers with numerous Chicago boating organizations including **Columbia Yacht Club, Judd Goldman Adaptive Sailing and the Chicago Yachting Association**. She was instrumental in the delivery and restoration of the 372-foot Q.S.M.V Abegweit, a former Canadian ice-breaker/car ferry that is now home

to Columbia Yacht Club (and the locale for CMM's first benefit gala on April 30).

Having borne witness and supported the CMM's many evolutionary phases over the years, Kath is optimistic about the museum's future.

"It took some time, but I'm confident CMM is now positioned to enter the museum big leagues," she says. "With our Bridgeport facility, we've presented a clear message about the importance of Chicago's maritime history in fueling the growth of our city. I'm pumped about the museum's future, as we look down the road toward outreach and expansion."

If you love Chicago's maritime history, please help us tell our story. We need docents, data experts, event hosts and so much more. Please call us at 773-376-1982 if you would like to volunteer.



HONEYMOON ON A HASKELL!

On Friday, July 13, 1934 Arnold Bils and Myrtle Ebert were married in Waukegan, Illinois. With limited employment opportunities during the Depression, the couple took a canoe trip from Waukegan to New Orleans in their Haskell canoe for their honeymoon. They paddled down the shoreline of Lake Michigan to the Chicago River, then headed west to the Illinois River and eventually the mighty Mississippi. After three months on the river, they finally arrived at New Orleans, upon where they spent their remaining money on two train tickets to Chicago and shipment of their canoe. They

returned home with 34 cents between them and memories of a honeymoon adventure that led to 57 years of marriage.

The Bils's 17' Haskell canoe, built in 1934, was donated to the Chicago Maritime Museum in 1998 by Jack Bils, son of Arnold and Myrtle. In 1917, **H.L. Haskell**, of Ludington, Michigan began building canoes from three-ply veneer using a new waterproof glue and hydraulic pressure to press them into place. The Haskell canoe was light and strong, with beautiful lines.

Philanthropy News

A Master Fundraiser Reveals How to Get Seemingly Impossible Results

Read about how Boston University's first-ever fundraising campaign raised the astonishing sum of nearly \$2 billion.

<https://www.insidephilanthropy.com/home/2020/2/14/when-pigs-fly-a-master-fundraiser-reveals-how-to-get-seemingly-impossible-results>

Could the Calumet Park Beach House Crumble into Lake Michigan?



City and state officials want Federal Emergency Management Agency to declare Chicago's lakefront a disaster zone and fund erosion protection. Read more here:

<https://patch.com/illinois/chicago/could-calumet-park-beach-house-crumble-lake-michigan?fbclid=IwAR2Lteysk5y3yi62zNJ9t6HspJEEZU2jJSW1GKKS4hFig9IfcAZsSmKna5c>

Federal Funds to Protect the Great Lakes have been Withheld for Two Years



"We need to make investments that address climate change through both mitigation and resiliency," said Sen. Dick Durbin. Read more here:

<https://news.wttw.com/2020/02/07/federal-funds-protect-great-lakes-have-been-withheld-2-years-unacceptable-says-durbin?fbclid=IwAR2o6fLx-yRRzRQe4FFBqChfxzlmQnje2pfN-qzQbVmzGWEODyQYjl4GDrI>

Indiana Beach Closes after Nearly a Century of Operation



There may be “more than corn in Indiana,” but there is one fewer amusement park.
Read more here:

https://fox59.com/news/indiana-beach-closes-after-nearly-a-century-of-operation/?fbclid=IwAR1Ok3TdLnZXiWaCS7NQ6qNkq0dUIW03E5c_yONsm54u3ZOLAYtXetMRvQ



*Making your way to the
Chicago Maritime Museum!*

MARITIME EVENT CALENDAR

Check out local maritime events at the Chicago Maritime Museum website calendar page:

<http://www.chicagomaritimemuseum.org/events/month/>

Submit maritime events in the Chicagoland area to Mary Ann O'Rourke at
maorourke@ameritech.net.

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

*If you have a Chicago maritime story idea please
forward it to maorourke@ameritech.net.*

