



THE KATAHDIN SEXTANT

Volume I, Issue 13

October 2021

Our mission: To preserve and operate the Katahdin as a “living museum” for the benefit of our community, region, and future generations.

Letter from the Executive Director

Autumn is a bittersweet time of year for MMM. The beauty of the foliage brings visitors and cooler temperatures can be a welcome relief from the dog days of summer. This year’s unusually good weather and spectacular colors ensured a strong finish to our season with a record-breaking total of 8,500 passengers for the season. At the same time we’re always a little sad to put the boat to bed for the winter.

Ridership remained steady at an average 84 passengers per cruise. Like many other businesses we had staffing challenges so our crew was stretched to their limit. Fortunately, we have an amazing staff, who cheerfully took on additional responsibilities and stepped in to positions they hadn’t signed on for. Among those staff members were a married couple from the south who traveled in their RV to work for us for the season

and enjoy the region. You can read more about them on page 2.

In August Bristol Marine at Boothbay Harbor returned and installed our heaters on the Kate’s upper deck. They also installed a sensor in the bilges that warns us if they become too full. All of these items were generously supported by donors.

This summer we were able to resume evening cruises, including dance cruises and charters. Unfortunately we had to cancel some brunch cruises as the Kelly’s Landing restaurant also had staffing shortages. We hope to resume brunch cruises next summer.

MMM implemented a new website and online ticketing system this year. A review of the season’s data from this system revealed an increase in online ticket purchases. In 2019 roughly 20% of tickets were bought online. This year 74% of tickets were

online purchases. This increase is almost certainly due to behavior changes in

response to the coronavirus pandemic. Increased online ticketing benefits MMM by reducing pressure on our ticket office and we hope the trend continues.

This summer we wrapped the Sunken Steamboats film after five years of work. You can read more about the premiere on page 3.

As we settle in for the winter we have plenty on our plate. We will be planning a capital campaign (see page 5), setting next season’s schedule and working with our accounting firm on our audit. It gets a little lonely so please stop by if you are in the neighborhood!

Liz McKeil, Executive Director



Katahdin’s Fireworks Cruise—photo courtesy of Isaac Crabtree

Inside this issue:

MEET CREW MEMBERS JEFF & GENEVA JONES	2
PREMIERE OF SUNKEN STEAMBOATS DOCUMENTARY	3
THE NAIL NEWSLETTER	4
KATE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	5
MMM WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS	5
CRUISING SEASON PHOTOS	6-7



Moosehead Marine Museum

They say that an organization is only as extraordinary as its people. Here at MMM, we know that to be true. For the past several years, we have been featuring some of our team members in our yearly fall newsletter. This time, we would like to introduce you to crew members Jeff & Geneva Jones.

TRIPADVISOR REVIEW

“WHAT A GREAT DAY! STEP BACK IN TIME IN A PLACE THAT IS STILL TIMELESS. THE BOAT IS A WORK OF ART AND A VERY COMFORTABLE RIDE. WE WERE GIVEN A TOUR OF THE ENGINE ROOM AND THE BRIDGE, FOUR PEOPLE AT A TIME. THE CREW WERE VERY FRIENDLY AND RELAXED, EVEN ALLOWING THOSE WHO WANTED TO TAKE THE GIANT WOODEN BOAT’S WHEEL AND STEER THE BOAT. THE SCENERY WAS SPECTACULAR. LUSH GREEN MOUNTAINS SURROUND THE LAKE IN EVERY DIRECTION. WE LOVED IT AND ARE PLANNING ANOTHER TRIP. NEXT TIME WE’LL GO FOR THE FIREWORKS CRUISE.”

- KEVIN, MID-COAST
MAINE
JULY 2021

Meet Kate Crew Members Jeff & Geneva Jones

Last year, MMM was excited to try something new. Operations Manager Jennifer Aucoin began advertising for open crew positions with an organization called Workamper News. According to their website, “workampers are adventuresome individuals, couples, and families who have chosen a lifestyle that combines any kind of part-time or full-time work with RV camping.”

So, this past May, Jeff and Geneva Jones arrived in their RV to Moosehead Lake—Jeff to work as a summer deck hand aboard the Katahdin and Geneva as a gift shop associate in the museum. Jeff and Geneva have been “full-time RV-ers” for the past 18 years, working 29 different jobs in 49 different states and 6 Canadian provinces.

What brought them to Moosehead? Well, Jeff loves working on boats and Geneva enjoys gift shops and museums, so the Moosehead Marine Museum & Katahdin Cruises seemed like the perfect fit! Also, this was Jeff & Geneva’s first posting in the State of Maine.

Previously, they had served

in other locations including the Albuquerque Hot Air Balloon Festival in New Mexico; US Navy Blue Angels Air Show in Missouri; and California Redwoods State Park.

So what did they think of their experience at Moosehead Lake and the Katahdin? “It’s right up there,” Jeff said. Geneva added, “It’s the most welcoming place that I’ve experienced anywhere.” Jeff appreciated the variety of experiences he had as a deck hand aboard the Kate and he enjoyed learning from the unique skill sets that each of the crew brought to their jobs. Geneva right away embraced being “part of a family of co-workers” and quickly developed lifelong friendships.

Originally from Georgia and Florida, Geneva and Jeff call Carabelle Beach, FL and Gillsville, GA their “home,” although they can usually be found trekking around in their RV. Their next “stop” is Hil-

ton Head, SC where they will spend the winter working at a motor coach RV resort. Summer 2022 will take them to Grays Harbor Lighthouse Station in Washington State, where Jeff will offer lighthouse tours and Geneva will staff the museum and gift shop.

And what about the summer of 2023? “We hope to come back to the Katahdin,” they shared. After all, they are part of the family. And we here at MMM look forward to their return.



Jeff & Geneva Jones

Sunken Steamboats Documentary Premieres

In 2017 MMM received a grant to fund the first phase of the Sunken Steamboats of Moosehead Lake project—a collaboration between MMM and Director Ryan Robbins to tell the stories of Moosehead Lake's Steamboats. Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund was the first grantor, awarding \$5,000.

At the time Robbins said, "The grant gets the project off the ground so we can begin capturing the oral history interviews needed for the film. There are a lot of people whose lives were intertwined with Moosehead steamboats. We want to feature their experiences and let their voices tell the history first-hand. The Sunken Steamboats of Moosehead Lake isn't just a film about steamboats. It's an oral history project involving real people sharing their own Maine history."

During production Robbins filmed interviews with half a dozen local residents about their involvement with and recollection of the steamboats. Parts of those oral history interviews serve as the film's narration. In addition the full interviews have been transcribed, catalogued, and added to the museum collection.

Members of Moosehead Lake Divers assisted Robbins in filming the remains of several of the steamboats. These "wrecks" sit on the bottom of the lake and filming can be challenging depending on weather conditions and visibility. Filming required specialized cameras and lights that could be submerged to depths of between 10 and 50 feet. Divers Matt Kane, Garrett Kane and Nick Fusco handled the lighting while Robbins operated the camera.

Four years later, with the added support of the Libra Foundation, Fisher Charitable Foundation, Bangor Savings Bank Foundation and the Davis Family Foundation, we wrapped the film. Then, on the Katahdin's 107th birthday, MMM was pleased to host a crowd of about 75 on the waterfront for the premiere viewing.

Director Ryan Robbins will continue editing the documentary in hope of reducing the run time to around 80 or 90 minutes, which is the ideal length for entries into various film festivals. MMM has reached out to several other museums such as the Penobscot Marine Museum and the Owls Head Transportation Museum with the goal of taking the film "on the road" during 2022.



The *Twilight* still sits near Shipyard Point



The Starboard side of the *Twilight*



Liz McKeil welcomes the crowd.



Guests enjoyed our own Rocky Rockwell's description of working the log drives aboard the *Katahdin*.



Diver and Katahdin crew member Matt Kane secured an inflatable screen so we could show the movie with the *Kate* as a backdrop.

Moosehead Marine Museum

Before It Was the *Sextant*, It Was the *Nail*

Here at MMM, we stumbled upon what we believe is the very first newsletter produced by the Moosehead Marine Museum—the “Nail” from 1979. Included below are some excerpts.

THE FIRST
COMMERCIALY
SUCCESSFUL
STEAMBOAT WAS
CALLED THE NORTH
RIVER STEAMBOAT. IT
WAS INVENTED BY
AMERICAN ENGINEER
AND INVENTOR ROBERT
FULTON IN 1807. THE
NORTH RIVER
STEAMBOAT COULD
TRAVEL BETWEEN NEW
YORK CITY AND
ALBANY, NY IN ABOUT
32 HOURS.

“This is the first edition of a newsletter for the Plank Owners and friends of the Katahdin, which we will presently call, for want of a better name, the ‘Nail.’ Publication will be sporadic; when we have enough to report, we will get one out. It seems very possible that 1979 will be our first year as a public operating museum, so it is appropriate that the first newsletter starts off with a summary of the history of the project up to this time.

“The Moosehead Marine Museum was announced to the public at the Bicentennial Ceremony in Greenville on July 4, 1976. Our stated goals were the preservation of the lake steamer Katahdin and a facility for the collection and maintenance of historical records and memorabilia relating to the marine history of the Moosehead region.

“The Katahdin entered retire-

ment, making her last trip on the lake for Scott Paper under the command of Walt Gary going to Kineo and back for the annual Scott employees party.

“In August, 1978, Maynard Bray, of Brookline, Maine, inspected the Kate. Mr. Bray is a foremost consultant of the subject of old vessels, and he was very enthusiastic in his report of his inspection. He considered her basic condition to be excellent, and the bulk of his report will be our guide for much of the work to be done.

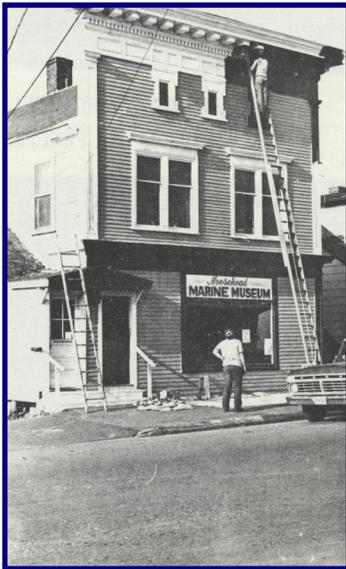
“The Katahdin had been nominated for election as a Historic Site by the Maine Preservation Commission in January, and she was entered on the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, Washington, DC, on September 13. This opens many possibilities for aid in restoration, and places the Kate in some ex-

clusive company.

“The Katahdin was officially given to the Museum by Scott Paper Company on November 22, 1978. In December, we acquired the old Post Office building with a very generous donation of over half of the price of the property by the owners, the J. M. Huber Corp., of Portland, ME.

“It is hoped that clearance will be gotten from the environmental authorities to create a slip where the Kate can be moored, stern to Pritham Avenue. We plan to occupy the ground floor of the Post Office building in June. With this space available we plan to start collecting the items of historical interest that will form the bulk of our material.

“Work on the restoration of the Kate will be ongoing for a long time. We hope to have the Katahdin open to the public to see our efforts and our collection in the Summer of 1979.”



The old post office building which was the first home of MMM.



MMM Begins Capital Campaign

Board President John Morrell likes to say, “A boat is a hole in the water, surrounded by wood, into which one pours money”.

In 2017 we undertook a project to replace the upper deck of the Katahdin. The project was interrupted when the Kate’s engines failed in 2018.

Fortunately, our Board’s careful stewardship of resources enabled MMM to absorb the cost of this unexpected engine repair and electrical overhaul. However the deck replacement has become a more urgent priority, as is the looming deadline to pull the boat out of the water for hull repainting.

In late 2019 the Board decided to explore a capital campaign to address these pressing needs. Members selected Lisa Wahlstrom of Ovation Fundraising Counsel, LLC. A graduate of Bates College, Lisa is a Certified Fundraising Executive with 30 years of experience in fund development.

Lisa worked with the Board and Executive Director Liz McKeil to develop a “case statement” outlining the need for a major fundraising effort. This document was shared with a number of donors and potential donors. Lisa then conducted a series of interviews designed to assess whether our case statement justifies a capi-

tal campaign. In addition, Lisa uses the data she gathers to test whether our campaign goal of \$2.25 million is achievable. Many thanks to those who participated in this process. Your feedback is critical to our efforts.

Lisa has conducted 36 interviews with 51 people. She will report to the board on November 17 and we expect a recommendation on the best strategy to move forward with the capital campaign in 2022.

Fundraising activities will be targeted at a variety of sources including individuals, foundations and grants. The Board anticipates a 3—5 year effort to reach our goal.

MMM Welcomes New Board Members

According to *Leading with Intent*, the most successful boards are thoughtfully composed as it relates to skill sets, leadership styles, and diversity of thought and background. They understand the leadership needs of their organizations and seek out board leaders who can bring the expertise, passion, and external leadership that they need both now and into the future.¹

MMM’s board limits member terms to avoid burnout and continually bring in fresh energy and ideas. Early in the year the board undertook to

fill vacancies left when members’ terms expired. In July three new board members were added.

A native of Kennebunk, Pete Whitin has been coming to Moosehead since 1954. He lives part-time at Baker Brook with his wife Jean. A graduate of Maine Maritime Academy, Pete worked as a harbor pilot for Mobil on the Chesapeake Bay. He has been involved with MMM for twenty years and is a member of the Moosehead Lake Yacht Club. Pete says he is glad to be on board and to help “keep this

lady sailing”.

Laura Pollis is a Greenville native who returns to MMM, where she worked on the original catalog database. She lives here year-round with her husband Steve and their son.

Greenville resident John Watt is a senior at Maine Maritime Academy. John carries on a strong family tradition of community engagement and will represent a younger demographic.

Please join us in welcoming these new board members!

DID YOU KNOW?

SUGAR ISLAND IS THE LARGEST ISLAND ON MOOSEHEAD LAKE. IT IS 6 1/2 MILES LONG BY 3 MILES WIDE AND COVERS ABOUT 5000 ACRES.

SUGAR ISLAND WAS ORIGINALLY PURCHASED IN THE 1840S FROM THE STATE OF MAINE BY M. G. SHAW FOR ITS LUMBER POSSIBILITIES. AT THAT TIME, LAND WAS BOUGHT AT THE RATE OF 25 CENTS AN ACRE.

¹BoardComposition and Recruitment. BoardSource, 2021, Washington, D.C., www.boardsource.org

Moosehead Marine Museum

2021—The Season in Review



Donors, crew and board members board the Kate for the Shakedown cruise—the first cruise of the 2021 season.



Crew member Jeff Jones waits for the Kate as she returns from a Sunset Dance Cruise.



Captain Rocky Rockwell pilots the Katahdin.



Cocktails at sunset aboard the Katahdin before the showing of the Sunken Steamboats documentary. Photo courtesy of Nick Fusco.



The Kate is all decked out for her return from a Sunset Dance cruise.



A young passenger gets ready to board the Katahdin for a Sugar Island Cruise.



The old Detroit Diesel engine which had been installed in the Kate in 1956 is our latest museum piece, after the engine replacement in 2020. It is enjoyed by young and old alike.



Sunken Steamboats Director Ryan Robbins introduces the documentary at the premiere in August.

12 Lily Bay Road
P.O. Box 1151
Greenville, ME 04441

Phone: 207-695-2716
Email: info@katahdincruises.com
www.katahdincruises.com



Targeted Giving “Wish List”

Katahdin Decking Project—\$1,200,000

Katahdin Haul-out—\$500,000

Katahdin Fuel Day-Tank—\$10,000

First Mate’s Club Educational Programming—\$3,500

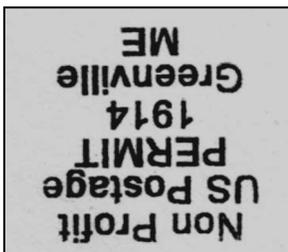
Museum Researcher—\$2,890

Oil Pump for CAT Engine—\$700

Deck Chairs—\$37 each, 50 needed

Life Vests—\$15 each, 50 needed

For more information and specific item costs, please contact Liz McKeil at 207-695-2716 or lmckeil@mmm8.org



Moosehead Marine Museum
P.O. Box 1151
Greenville, ME 04441