



THE KATAHDIN SEXTANT

Volume I, Issue 17

November 2023

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

As the cold settles on East Cove, the Katahdin is once again shrouded in shrink-wrap. This year, her port side deck will be replaced, completing Phase II of our capital project. We have been so fortunate to have the support of numerous individual, business and foundation donors. Their gifts have enabled us to proceed with the project uninterrupted. I must admit that it's odd to stand in the galley with no ceiling!

The capital project wraps up a record-breaking year for Katahdin Cruises & Moosehead Marine Museum. This year almost 9,000 people cruised with us—a 20% increase over our highest pre-Covid ridership! The introduction of our family friendly 2 hour Moose Island cruise on Saturdays was a great success. In fact, the boat sold out on five different occasions this season. That's a feat that was practically unheard-of in previous years.

Staffing has been a challenge in recent years so we were thrilled that a young man from Turkey sought us

out for a position in the galley. You can read more about Erdem Ozkaya on page 5.

The Keep Kate Cruising campaign continued in full swing this year with a number of promising developments (see page 2).

As Phase II of the capital project got underway this fall, we got a wake-up call about the deteriorating condition of the green rail. During demolition of the port deck the Shipyard at Boothbay Harbor is replacing some upright beams (stanchions). Work on the beams in the galley caused a two-foot section of the green rail to fall away. This reinforces our concern about water damage and may lead us to address that phase of the project sooner than originally planned.

Part of my job as Executive Director is networking with other historical organizations and preservation centered nonprofits. I was thrilled this year that we were able to host a residency by Maine Preservation. See page 8 for more information and photos.



Our fundraising efforts continue with the goal of ensuring that the Kate can cruise for the next quarter-century with no major repairs. It's a daunting task and one you can help us with. Including the Moosehead Marine Museum in your will - or designating the Museum as a beneficiary of life insurance - can have a lasting impact on the organization and this region.

As the end of the year approaches, please consider naming the Moosehead Marine Museum in your estate plans and/or naming the Museum as a beneficiary of your life insurance. We would love to have you share your plans with us so we can recognize you now.

Liz McKeil, Executive Director

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Moosehead Marine Museum

Milestones in the Keep Kate Cruising Campaign

KEEP KATE CRUISING CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

LIZ MCKEIL, EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

JENNIFER AUCOIN

BETHANY BEVERLY

KEYTH CARTER

SALLY FARRAND

BOB FREDERICK

JENNIFER GOODRICH

JOAN HAWKES

KAY JOHNSON

JOHN MORRELL

BETSY ROCKWELL

ALICIA STONE

LEA WATT

PETE WHITIN

ROGERS WOOLSTON

LISA WAHLSTROM,
CAMPAIGN CONSULTANT

The capital campaign for preservation of the Kate reached significant milestones this summer and fall and is now poised to successfully reach the \$2 million fundraising goal in 2024. Significant progress in the campaign and recent events on the Kate includes:

- Raising more than \$1 million in gifts and pledges from diverse sources of funding including individual donors, businesses and foundations
- More than 250 donors have contributed to the *Keep Kate Cruising Campaign*
- Senate approval of \$500,000 in Congressionally Directed Spending for the campaign, which is anticipated to be finalized in early 2024
- Phase I of restoration of the Kate – replacement of the upper fantail deck by The Shipyard of Boothbay Harbor – was completed in June
- Phase II of the restoration – replacement of the port side deck – is underway
- 150 students from Piscataquis County schools studied marine ecosystems on the Kate in September in collaboration with the Appalachian

Mountain Club, Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District, Maine Lake Stewards and Boothbay Sea & Science Center

- A record number of passengers – almost 9,000 – cruised on the Kate this summer

“We are humbled and incredibly grateful for all who have supported the campaign and the restoration,” stated Liz McKeil, MMM Executive Director. “When we launched this campaign, I think we were all a little nervous about the ambitious goals – both in fundraising and in capital restoration,” she said. “Now we can see the finish line and it is so exciting!” The goal of the campaign is to keep the Kate operating without the need for major repairs for at least the next 25 years.

The Kate is a major economic engine for the Moosehead Lake Region, Piscataquis County and the State of Maine attracting approximately 9,000 visitors in 2023 and contributing an estimated \$2 million to the local economy. She is a cultural icon in Greenville. Cruising on the Kate is an experience like no other.

Donations can be made in memory of or in honor of a

loved one or in recognition of a special event. Gifts from a family group are welcome. You may choose to make a pledge to be paid over two or three years in order to maximize your donation. A donor recognition wall, designed and crafted by local artists, will be prominently displayed aboard the Katahdin upon successful completion of the campaign.

Anyone who would like to join with others and donate to the *Keep Kate Cruising Campaign* can do so at any time by:

- going to katahdincruises.com/preserve-the-kate and clicking on the “Donate Now” button
- mailing a donation to the Moosehead Marine Museum, PO Box 1151, Greenville, ME 04441 (please note “KKC campaign” on your check)
- calling Liz McKeil at 207-695-2716 or emailing lmckeil@mmm8.org
- Scanning the QR code below:



From Sea-Going Tug to Moosehead's Cinderella; Preserving a Regional Institution

Not many folks know that the Katahdin was originally designed as a sea-going tugboat. In fact, that was the intent when Bath Iron Works built her in 1914. Interestingly, the Kate was launched in West Cove and is the only ship built by BIW that was not launched in Bath.

Tugs derive their name from their smaller size and powerful capabilities. According to *Marine Insights*:

"A tug is a special class of boat without which mega-ships cannot get into a port. Along with the primary purpose of towing the vessel towards the harbor, tugboats can be engaged to provide essentials, such as water, air, etc., to the vessel."

There are two major types of tugboats: escort tugs and

support tugs. Support tugs "provide services for off-shore and towing operations." Within each of these major types there are many subtypes and these are further categorized by their propellor type and the immediate marine need they serve. We classify the Kate as a support tugboat.

The Katahdin measures 115' long and 28' wide, weighs 220 tons, and draws 7 ½ feet of water. She was originally steam powered but converted to diesel in 1922. For many of her hardworking lumbering years, she was powered by two 300 hp Detroit Diesel engines, each weighing 2 tons! Today, she operates with a single CAT C18 480 hp engine that weighs just under 2 tons. She sports a "single screw" or propellor that measures 72 inches in diameter with a 48 inch "pitch."

The Kate spent decades as a tugboat hauling enormous log booms down the lake to the Kennebec River. She could haul up to 6,000 cords of wood in one trip! (A single cord of wood might weigh as much as 3,100 lbs.)

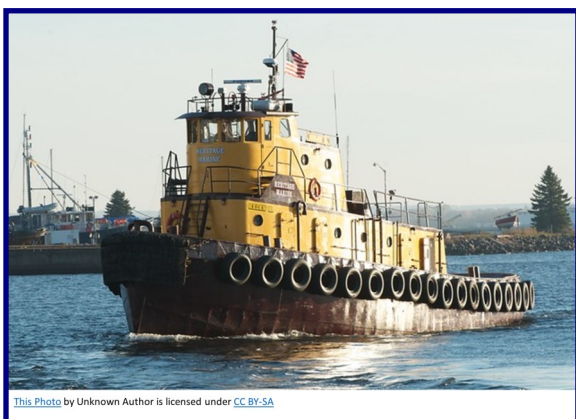
While she is still essentially a sea-going vessel as she plies a 40-mile-long lake, the Kate has given up her tugboat drudgery. She now provides fun, scenic tours showcasing the spectacular beauty of Maine's largest glacial lake, ringed by majestic mountains, surrounded by the vast North Maine Woods. Her suite of cruise options includes multi-hour daily cruises from June to October. She is currently approved to carry a maximum of 225 passengers.

Sadly, after all these

decades, the gown and slippers of this princess have degraded as a result of the harsh, 4-season conditions on Moosehead Lake.

Our Keep Kate Cruising capital campaign aims to restore the luster of her gown, polish her slippers and ensure that this magnificent vessel can continue her magical role for another 25 years or more. The 5-year campaign will replace worn structures, rebuilding areas that have deteriorated due to the decades of exposure to water and the unforgiving conditions of Maine winters (the boat stays in the water all year).

While the 2023 cruising season has ended, the work continues in earnest to replace the upper port deck by spring.



A modern ocean-going tugboat.



The Katahdin in her lumbering days. The rear fantail was removed to avoid interfering with log booms.

Moosehead Marine Museum

Passengers Appreciate the Katahdin Experience

KATAHDIN STAFF & CREW 2023

ROCKY ROCKWELL

BEN BEVERLY

RANDY GARTLEY

MATT KANE

TOM THERIAULT

RAY GIROUX

JOHN TURCOTTE

BILL NYE

BELINDA HAGGETT

SHARI OSMAN

ASHLEY BUSSELL

ERDEM OZKAYA

ANDREA WORSTER

ESTHER IRELAND

BETHANY BEVERLY

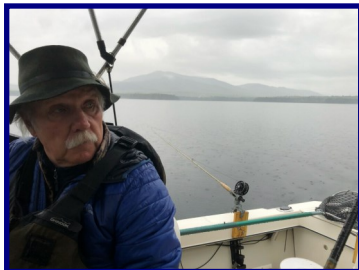
RUTH REAMER

MAUREEN ST. JOHN

JENNIFER AUCOIN

"People visit Acadia and think they have seen Maine. The Moosehead Lake region is the real Maine. A foliage tour on the Katahdin is an experience not to be missed. The captain is very knowledgeable and his history and stories add a lot to this cruise. I've lived in Maine almost all my life, hiked many of its mountains and explored much of this beautiful state. A ride on the Katahdin is a highlight not to be missed. Highly, highly recommend!"

Deborah T TripAdvisor



Captain Rocky Rockwell enjoys some leisure time—on the lake, natch!

"Enjoyed our 'late in the season' excursion. So much info was given during the trip! My husband especially like the tour of the engine room as he's an engineer he was fascinated and thrilled to be able to see it and said the fellow who took them down was so informative! "

Carol Schafer Google Reviews



Crew members Tom , Christal, John and Gabe set up the tiller during the loss of steering drill.

"This is an amazing trip! I can't say enough positive things about it. Moosehead Lake is the largest lake in ME, 40 miles long and 18 miles at its widest point. The trip around Mount Kineo was stunning as was the fall foliage! The narration was very interesting and clearly heard and understood. So many of these types of 'cruise' narrations are garbled, static-y and just plain annoying. Included in the ticket price was brunch, drinks throughout the entire trip, i.e. soda, iced tea, water, coffee, hot chocolate, tea, a small brunch and then a full turkey dinner topped off with pie ala mode! Lap blankets were provided, tours of the engine room and a chance to drive the boat.

The modest price for this 8 hour foliage excursion was only \$80! Magnificent trip! TY to the wonderful, friendly and accommodating crew of the Katahdin!"

Jane D TripAdvisor



Staff members Ashley, Ruth and Bethany with volunteer Joan Hawkes (second from right)

The Amazing Staff & Crew of Katahdin Cruises & Moosehead Marine Museum



Engineer Tom Theriault rescues "Oscar" during our person overboard drill on the Shakedown Cruise.

"Our cruise on Moosehead Lake aboard the KATAHDIN was very pleasant. Although the day had been hot and humidity, the cool breezes from the lake made this a very welcome trip.

The staff were very approachable and friendly. The narrator for the first part of the trip was native to the area and a history teacher in the local school system who circulated among the passengers to answer questions. The lunch food was delicious! There were several options and each sandwich was enough for two people.

The ship itself is historical but very comfortable and seaworthy. It is a trip well worth the price of \$40.00/ per person plus tax.

The scenery was beautiful, reminding us of previous cruise along the Alaskan coast. Many opportunities for picture taking and video-making.

I hope we have the opportunity to travel with you again in the future!"

Sennett Kenneth TripAdvisor
Sennett Kenneth TripAdvisor



Community Relations Manager Bethany Beverly helped out in the galley this year.

"This is my birthday trip every year and rain or shine, it is always wonderful!!!"

Jennifer W TripAdvisor

"What a wonderful bunch of people. From the staff at the museum to the deck hands. The added bonus was that we had an actual History teacher to narrate and explain all the highlights of the area... The ride was relaxing and refreshing. A great way to spend an afternoon..."

Kenneth Garzzillo Google Reviews



A group picture of the crew on Ashley's last day for the season.

"Wonderful narrated trip full of beautiful sites along Maine's largest lake! My family and I had a great time. The crew was professional, friendly, accommodating, and very knowledgeable. The ride was beautiful and I learned a lot about Moosehead Lake. If we had any additional questions, they were answered by one of the crew members and I would highly recommend a tour on the Katahdin! Boarding was easy, buying tickets was a breeze online and the food on board was actually good! All around great trip with great people and guests!"

Carrie Lopez Google Reviews

Moosehead Marine Museum

Piscataquis County Students Enjoy Educational Cruises

ANNUAL SUPPORT IS CRITICAL TO MMM

THE MOOSEHEAD MARINE MUSEUM IS SO FORTUNATE TO HAVE MANY DONORS WHO SUPPORT THE ORGANIZATION ANNUALLY. GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM SUSTAIN ITS OPERATIONS INCLUDING KEEPING THE BUILDING OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY AND SEASONAL RESIDENTS AND VISITORS; MAINTAINING EXHIBITS; **OFFERING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING**; AND HELPING PROVIDE FOR YEAR 'ROUND AND SEASONAL STAFF. DONATIONS TO THE ANNUAL FUND ARE CRITICALLY IMPORTANT, PROVIDING 10% OF THE MUSEUM'S ANNUAL BUDGET. WHILE THE *KEEP KATE CRUISING* CAMPAIGN IS A UNIQUE, ONCE-IN-A-QUARTER-CENTURY EFFORT, THE ANNUAL FUND IS KEY TO THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS OF THE MUSEUM. DONATIONS CAN BE MADE SECURELY ONLINE BY CLICKING ON THE "DONATE NOW" TAB ON THE HOME PAGE AT KATAHDINCRUISES.COM OR BY USING THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!



Sixth Graders from Greenville Consolidated School pose in front of the wheelhouse.



Students participate in an exercise with AMC, learning about marine ecosystems.



Learning to identify invasive aquatic species.



Working with the Boothbay Sea & Science Center

Middle and high school students, 150 strong, from Greenville, Guilford and SeDoMoCha heard the Kate's Captain call---ALL ABOARD! ALL ABOARD!--as the Katahdin left the dock.

On 3 Mondays this fall they came aboard to cruise and learn about Native and Invasive Aquatic Plants, Watersheds, Katahdin History, and Marine Ecosystems. Instructors from The Appalachian Mountain Club, Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District,

Maine Lake Stewards, and Boothbay Sea & Science Center taught about the importance of being aware of the environment surrounding us and how to maintain its pristine character. Liz McKeil, Executive Director of the Moosehead Marine Museum, provided a history of The Katahdin.

While on board, students had the opportunity to visit the wheelhouse and try their hand at steering. In fact, Jobs for Maine's Graduates students from Guilford were told they would earn extra

credit if they brought back a photo with Captain Rocky Rockwell!

Also very popular with the students was the tour of the engine room led by our able crew members.

This programming was started in 2019 with a grant from the Maine Community Foundation. We are grateful for the support of our donors, which has enabled us to continue operating the Kate as a floating classroom for Piscataquis County students.

Erdem Ozkaya—One of the Crew

If you cruised on the Katahdin this past summer and ordered a sandwich or soda from the galley, chances are that you ran into the smiling face of MMM's newest employee, Erdem Ozkaya. Originally from southern Turkey, Erdem made his way to Maine this summer as an employee in one of Greenville's inns.

While in Greenville, Erdem would ride his bike back and forth to work, when he began to notice a big white boat cruising up and down the lake on most days of the week. He was intrigued and began asking his friends in Greenville, "What is that boat? Can I work there?" It was then that Erdem learned about the Katahdin and its daily cruises on Moosehead Lake. He approached Executive Director Liz McKeil to inquire about open positions on the Kate. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Erdem, a University student in Ankara, Turkey, came to Maine through Work & Travel, a program for University students from all

around the world. Aspiring to become an international businessman, Erdem participated in the program with the goal of learning the English language and experiencing American culture. "I was curious about Americans and the people and the culture," Erdem said.

So Erdem landed in Greenville, choosing to work as a server in one of Greenville's inns. What better way to experience language and culture than to interact with visitors all throughout the day, every day. The icing on the cake was Greenville's beauty and serenity. "I've always liked nature and quiet places," he said.

But Erdem wanted to improve his English even more, so he began looking for a second job in Greenville. That is when he came across the Steamboat Katahdin, and pretty quickly, it seemed like a match made in heaven. MMM had been in need of a galley attendant, and Erdem could improve his English through communicating daily with

the many passengers who came aboard the Kate.

It was not long before Erdem became one of the family, or one of the "crew." MMM came to rely upon Erdem's ready smile, friendliness, dependability, and lighthearted sense of humor. And for Erdem, working aboard the Katahdin was the "best thing... the Katahdin crew is the best team in town."

In early October, Erdem was due to return to his University in Turkey, so during his last week on the Kate, the crew held a little going-away gathering in his honor. "Liz [McKeil] made a special dessert for me and I wasn't expecting [that]... The crew came together to say good-bye... I understand that people here, including managers, care about their workers... I feel like a special person."

Next summer, Erdem hopes to continue his education and take on an internship in international business, but he knows that here

in Greenville, the door of the Katahdin will always be open for him.



Crew member Erdem Ozkaya



Erdem and the crew at the beginning of his final cruise

Moosehead Marine Museum

Keep Kate Cruising Phase II



Beams have been shimmed to eliminate sagging. This technique gained approximately 3/4" of height.



Plates are added to reinforce the joint where the replacement beam joins the old beam. These will be painted white.



The galley looking aft. Cross beams will be replaced this fall. Planking and fiberglass will be added in the spring.



Supports line the port side of the cabin to raise sagging beams (see photo, upper left corner of page).



A carpenter from The Shipyard in Boothbay Harbor saws lumber in preparation for "laminating" beams. In this process, several layers of lumber are stacked and glued together, increasing the strength of the beam.



A scaffold was built in preparation for repairs. An outer covering of shrink-wrap was added to protect the work site. The Shipyard crew brought in propane heaters so they can work through inclement weather.

Port Side Deck Replacement



A short-cut to the work site makes it easier to load lumber and unload debris.



A section of the "green rail" fell off during the project, confirming our concerns about unseen water damage.

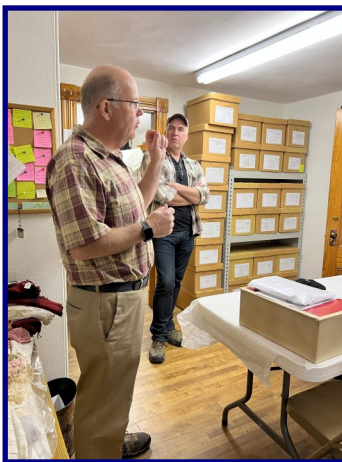


A second carpenter from the Shipyard laminates a beam. Once the layers are glued together, they are clamped tightly and left until the epoxy cures (dries). Sam is planning the end of the new beam to even out the ends of the layers.

MMM Hosts Maine Preservation Residency



Brad tries out the wheel.



MHS Director Luke Muzzy shows Maine Preservation visitors around the Historical Society's archives.



Jane Hall gives the group a tour of the Railroad Depot.

Maine Preservation, founded in 1972, is a statewide non-profit historic preservation organization whose mission is to promote and preserve historic places, buildings, downtowns and neighborhoods, strengthening the cultural and economic vitality of Maine communities.

Maine Preservation's activities include annual "Jane's Walks" (see our spring 2023 issue), an annual "Maine's Most Endangered Historic Places List" and grants for historic preservation projects.

From October 2—4, Executive Director Tara Kelly, Preservation Manager Brad Miller and Field Services Manager Jonathan Hall visited the Moosehead Lake Region to learn about our local historic sites and to offer advice and assistance.

Maine Preservation engages in two or three of these "residencies" each year.

The group started their stay on Monday morning with an educational cruise aboard the Kate. In the afternoon they visited the Moosehead Historic Society. On Tuesday, they returned to the Marine Museum for a discussion with Executive Director Liz McKeil. An afternoon trip to the Depot was followed by a meet & greet at MMM with various stakeholders and representatives from area historical organizations.

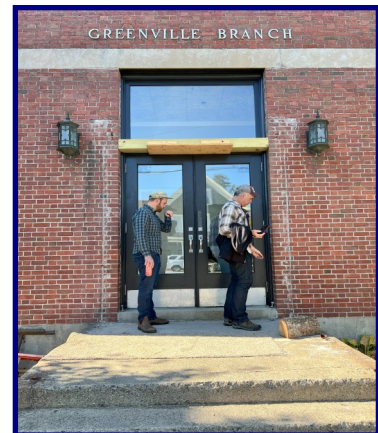
The visit wrapped up on Wednesday morning with an informative tour of the Shaw House (now known as the Greenville Inn). After leaving Greenville, Tara, Brad and Jonathan took an unplanned side trip to Rockwood to view Mount Kineo.

Upon return, Jonathan followed up with a gracious thank you note: "We had such a wonderful visit and learned much about the area and its unique history, and . . . a very successful and enjoyable schedule. We truly appreciate your efforts and look forward to our next trip to Greenville."

In the meantime, we'll be reaching out to the many groups and organizations in the area you introduced us to, to learn more about how we can help with their preservation concerns and needs. Please also extend our thanks to . . . all the crew of The Katahdin. We had a great cruise and for me at least, it was hanging out with the crew in the wheelhouse that made all the difference!



Brad Miller admires a stained glass pine tree window in the Shaw House.



Jonathan and Brad clowning around the old Guilford Trust Building.

Steamboats in the News of Yesteryear

We were grateful to receive a folder of Piscataquis Observer news clippings from Estella Bennett of the Monson Historical Society. Here are some snippets:

"The water in Moosehead Lake has been so low during the past two weeks, that the steamer Priscilla in going to Lily Bay has been obliged to make a detour around the head of Sugar Island, the thoroughfare passage having become dangerous.

The new time-table of the Coburn Steamboat Co. went into effect Oct. 12. Steamboat leaves Greenville Junction, Deer Island flag landing, Kineo, North East Carry and North West Carry at 7:00 a.m., arriving at Greenville on return at 5:30 p.m. Boat arrives

at Greenville Junction for North East Carry and way landings at 3:20 p.m. Boat leaves Greenville Junction for North East Carry and way landings at 11:30 a.m."

October 22, 1903

"The water in Moosehead Lake is lower than the oldest inhabitant has any knowledge of. One of the Coburn Steamboat Co.'s fleet struck an unknown rock in a main channel last week, damaging the boat nearly \$150."

November 19, 1903

"Hason Meserve of Greenville was before Judge Smith of the Municipal Court Thursday of last week charged with malicious mischief.

The night before the Fourth

he celebrated by cutting the rope which held the steamer Nettie F. to the wharf, setting the boat adrift. He was found guilty and demurrer was filed by his attorney, C. W. Hayes, Esq. which the Judge overruled. An appeal was taken to a higher court.

Herbert Mansell of Greenville was also tried for an assault upon Capt. Franklin A. Sawyer. This, too, occurred "the night before" and a Roman candle was the implement of warfare, which landed on Capt. Sawyer's neck, wounding him quite severely. The man was fined \$10 and costs, the whole amounting to \$27.32 which was paid."

July 13, 1905

DID YOU KNOW?

IF YOU ARE 70-1/2 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER AND HAVE AN INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNT (IRA), YOU CAN MAKE A GIFT TO THE MOOSEHEAD MARINE MUSEUM AND THE KEEP KATE CRUISING CAMPAIGN THROUGH YOUR IRA. YOU CAN DIRECT YOUR IRA ADMINISTRATOR TO MAKE A QUALIFIED CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION FROM YOUR IRA DIRECTLY TO THE MOOSEHEAD MARINE MUSEUM. THIS MAY HELP YOU WITH YOUR TAXES AND SIMPLIFY YOUR CHARITABLE GIVING. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS, CONTACT THE MUSEUM AT 207-695-2716 OR CONTACT LIZ AT LMCKEIL@MMM8.ORG



A steamer, believed to be Priscilla, docking at Lily Bay.



Steamboats at the dock in Greenville.

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Targeted Giving “Wish List”

Katahdin Decking Project

Port/Starboard Decks—\$335,300 each
Green Rail—Revised estimate in progress
Haul Out/Hull Painting—\$500,000
Replacement Canvas for Katahdin's stern—\$3,500
Foul weather Gear for our Crew—\$2,500
UV Filtering Museum Shade—\$1,500
Mini Freezer for Galley—\$500

For more information and specific item costs, please contact Liz McKeil at 207-695-2716 or lmckeil@mmmk8.org.

