After more than a decade of work and planning, efforts to protect the shoreline around the Tchefuncte River Light are moving forward thanks to $1.6 million in funding by St. Tammany Parish. Sponsored by Parish President Mike Cooper and Madisonville Mayor Jean Pelloat, the funding was approved at the November 2020 Parish Council Meeting.

Built in 1837, the Tchefuncte River Lighthouse has seen its way through the Civil War and countless storms over the past 183 years, but its survival has been severely threatened by a diminishing shoreline. Over 10 years ago, the Museum recognized the need to protect the shoreline around the Tchefuncte River Light Station and funded the engineering studies to determine requirements for the project.

This year has challenged us all due to the drastic impacts of COVID-19. Not only have small businesses and organizations been met with these challenges, but friends, family, and the residents of Louisiana as well.

In 2019, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum averaged almost 3,000 visitors compared to just 615 total visitors in 2020. The Museum also made the difficult decision to cancel two major fundraisers including the Wooden Boat Festival, responsible for the majority of the Museum’s annual income.

However, as vaccines for everyone are on the horizon, things are looking brighter for the Museum in 2021. The Museum plans to fully reopen on May 1st, and the Wooden Boat Festival has officially been rescheduled to September 25th and 26th. Children’s Summer Camp is also scheduled for this summer to help educate the youth about Louisiana’s Maritime history as well as learning other useful skills.

On March 1st, Instructor Ron Blue reprised his role as Instructor of the Museum’s Wooden Boat Building Classes. Each year, Ron educates and works with his students on the boat building process ensuring that each student has the opportunity to build the boat of their dreams. The next boat building class will begin on June 3rd, 2021.
The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum has designed new vanity plates as an incentive for members at the $100 annual membership level or more. Designed by our Assistant Marketing Coordinator, Mason McKey, the initial license plate encapsulates the Museum’s colors, logo, mission statement, and an image of the Lone Wolf from the 2019 Wooden Boat Festival poster. The Member plates will be awarded to those members who qualify, while the mission statement license plate will be sold in the Museum’s Gift Shop.
LIGHT KEEPER’S COTTAGE RENOVATION

Taking 8 weeks to complete with landscaping donated by Rain Dance Irrigation and Landscaping, our own Robert Fontaine and volunteer, Randy Wire, have worked hard to ensure that the Light Keeper’s Cottage would be renovated to perfection. The renovation, intended to enhance the experience of wedding parties opting for our maritime experience, will be completed by the end of April.

COTTAGE SHOWING

On May 20th, 2021, members of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum are invited to an exclusive showing of the Light Keeper’s Cottage with all of its renovations. Light refreshments will be served.

BOOKINGS

If you are interested in booking the Light House Keeper’s Cottage for a wedding or other special event, contact our Event Coordinator, Lora Haddox or visit our website for more information.

Email: events@lpbmm.org
Phone: 985-845-9200
SUMMER CAMP AT THE MARITIME MUSEUM

Summer Camp will be a new, exciting approach focusing on the rich, natural resources of Louisiana! In collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries and NASA/Astro Camp, campers ages 7-11 will explore a variety of STEAM activities.

Registration is limited, so be sure to contact Jeanne Brooks, Educator of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum.

AQUATIC VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTORS NEEDED

Through Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Aquatic Volunteer Instructor Program (Aquatic VIP), volunteers will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to teach today's youth about fishing and fisheries management subjects.

The workshop offered through this program is perfect for teachers, Scout leaders, homeschoolers, and anyone who enjoys fishing and the outdoors!

Attendees will receive the training necessary to become a volunteer instructor, assisting the museum in its efforts to increase wise utilization of natural resources across Louisiana.

Topics and activities include knot tying, casting skills, basic fishing techniques, fish identification, fisheries management, and more.

All attendees will be provided with lesson plans and activity guides for grades K-12, as well as additional educational materials.

The workshop is scheduled for April 10th from 8:30am-2:30pm

If you are interested in becoming an counselor or registering for camp, contact Jeanne Brooks by email or phone or visit our website for more information.

Email: educator@lpbmm.org
Phone: 985-845-9200
From August 28th-October 9th, 2021, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum will host the Smithsonian Institution’s *Water/Ways* exhibit.

The *Water/Ways* exhibition dives into water—an essential component of life on our planet, environmentally, culturally, and historically.

In societies across the globe, water serves as a source of peace and contemplation. Many faiths revere water as a sacred symbol. Authors and artists are inspired by the complex character of water—a substance that is seemingly soft and graceful that is yet a powerful and nearly unstoppable force.

Water also plays a practical role in American society. The availability of water affected settlement and migration patterns. Access to water and control of water resources have long been a central part of political and economic planning. Human creativity and resourcefulness provide new ways of protecting water resources and renewing respect for the natural environment.

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**31st Annual Wooden Boat Festival**

There’s no denying that a staple of the Louisiana Northshore is the picturesque Tchefuncte River. Join us from September 25th-26th, 2021 to celebrate 31 years of Madisonville’s Wooden Boat Festival right on the river! You’ll have tons of fun while supporting a good cause, as the festival is presented by the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum to benefit its educational programs and the Madisonville lighthouse restoration. There are multiple volunteer opportunities available for the festival itself as well as set up.

**6th Annual Anchor Classic Golf Tournament**

Join us at Carter Plantation in Springfield, La for the 6th Annual Anchor Classic Golf Tournament! A day of competition, food, and most importantly, fun! Visit our website to sign up your team or to support the Museum by volunteering at this fun-filled event.

*Image Source: museumonmainstreet.org, Image Source: louisianatravel.com*
Your donation to the Maritime Museum will help bring Louisiana’s unique maritime history and culture to the public. Your name will be recognized as a donor in the Museum’s quarterly e-newsletter, Shipways, unless otherwise requested by you. Your gift is tax deductible and your support is priceless, thank you.

Please mail your donation to LPBMM at 133 Mabel Drive, Madisonville, LA, 70447 by printing and completing a Donation form found on our website under the “Donations” tab.

Remember you can help the museum with each purchase through Amazon smile.

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum
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