



SCUTTLEBUTT

Volume 17

Fall 2007

Issue 3

P. O. Box 25036, Alexandria, Virginia 22313

703.549.7078 Office

703.549.6715 Fax

www.alexandriaseaport.org

Executive Director's Report

Joe Youcha

A recent cover story of the Alexandria Seaport Foundation (ASF) in my college alumni magazine, *Columbia*, has elicited a very interesting response. (I know that people's first impression of me probably isn't that I've had the privilege and advantage of an Ivy League education- but it's true.) All these Ivy League graduates are fascinated by the "innovative" idea of hands-on learning. As a former history major, hands-on learning represents to me the most basic, effective type of learning. Up until 150 years ago, you didn't learn many skills in a classroom- certainly not if you were 12, or older. Traditionally, you'd learn something in order to have the ability to use it. That's the motivation, and motivation is the key to effective learning. Motivation can take a traditionally poor classroom student and get them to learn. For many of these kids, introducing the concepts through hands on, applicable methods also makes the process easier. It's nothing new. Yet as a community, we seem to be getting away from that idea.

For me, it's been wonderful seeing how our graduates have changed their attitudes towards education. In the past two years, we graduated two young men without their G.E.D.s. They made tremendous progress, and were very good workers, but were too far behind academically to pass the test. One has since passed the test. The other has stayed enrolled in a G.E.D. program. Both are working at good jobs. It's impressive to watch.

Also impressive is this issue's "apprentice highlight," A.J. Bawazir. A.J. graduated less than two years ago. This winter he'll be finishing his Union apprenticeship early and earning an Associate's Degree in Construction Management along with his journeyman's card.

Motivated, hands on learning works. We're pretty good at it; and we're always trying to improve the "tools" we've developed. Over the next year, part of my job is to reach more people by forming strategic partnerships with groups who can use our "tools." I'll keep you apprised of our progress.

Our Man in Iraq--Kenneath Mobley



Former apprentice and present U.S. Marine, Kenneath Mobley, stopped by the Seaport Center on leave this summer. Naturally, we put him to work at his old job. He helped crew the dory boat, *Potomac*, for an Alexandria Youth Mentoring project. Kenneath looks well. He just e-mailed from Iraq saying, "I'm good out here...there is much going on out here, at least with my unit.... Tell everyone I said 'Hi.'"

Upcoming Events

Graduations: September 27, 7:00 p.m.
December 7, 7:00 p.m.

Corporate Team Boat Building:
September 28, all day

Seaport Day: September 29-30, all day

Information Breakfasts: October 17, 8:00 a.m.
December 19

Holiday Party: December 16, 1:00 -4:00 p.m.

Paul Weeks II Golf Tournament: May 5, 2008

Partnerships and Support

Kathy Seifert, Director of Development

--Upcoming Events

Corporate Team Boat Building Challenge--

This year, Seaport Day will be preceded by the Corporate Team Boat Building Challenge, on Friday, September 28. This event is designed to promote the team skills needed for organizations and corporations to fully maximize their productivity. Each team will consist of six individuals who will build a wooden boat together. At the end of the day the teams will race the boats against one another. Breakfast and lunch will be served, and prizes will be awarded in various categories. The Team Boat Building Challenge offers a flexible platform from which many group dynamics can be experienced, reinforced, and demonstrated. This event will be dedicated to the memory of Jim McIlhenny, long-time ASF Board member and Board Chairman.

Seaport Day--

Seaport Day*, Saturday and Sunday, September 29-30, celebrates the maritime heritage of Alexandria and offers the opportunity for families and groups of friends to build their own Bevin's Skiff. The Bevin's Skiff is a simple boat, just under 12 feet in length and a little more than 4 feet wide, suitable for rowing or sailing on the Potomac River, lakes, ponds, or any other small bodies of water. The boats are built from kits prepared by the Alexandria Seaport Foundation's Apprentice Program and are constructed by groups of 4-6 people, working under the guidance of ASF staff, volunteers and the apprentices who build the kits. On Sunday, all of the boats will be ready to launch and can be taken home (they weigh about 90 lbs. and easily fit on car racks).

* If you have a wooden boat (particularly if you have built it), please consider bringing it for static display on Seaport Day. Contact Jack_crawford@cox.net

Information Breakfast, October 17, 8:00 a.m.--

An Information Breakfast will be held at the Seaport Center on the lower level on Wednesday morning, October 17. Take the opportunity to see our apprentices at work. Coffee, juice and pastries will be served. Please come and bring your friends! This program will be repeated Wednesday morning, December 19.

Holiday Party, December 16, 1:00- 4:00 p.m.

Pot luck at Joe and Jessica's, 2641 N. Richmond St., Arlington, VA. 22207.

2nd Annual Paul Weeks II Golf Tournament--

The Second Annual Paul Weeks II Memorial Golf Tournament is scheduled for May 5, 2008, at the Pohick Bay Golf Course. As many of you know, last year's event was wonderful. Everybody had a good time; and over \$10,500 was raised to support the Seaport Foundation and Paul's fund. Tremendous thanks goes to everyone who participated in, and sponsored, the event. Tremendous credit goes to the organizing committee, particularly Kent Barnekov and Willie Taylor, for putting it all together. The organizing committee will be having their first meeting in early October. If you are interested in helping out, please e-mail Kent at k.barnekov@robinsonterminal.com

--Corporate and Foundation Contributions

Ohrstrom Foundation Matching Grant--

We have recently received a matching grant of \$30,000 from the Ohrstrom Foundation which challenges us to reach out to our Friends and corporate donors to meet this goal by the end of the year. If you know of an individual, or corporation, who may be interested in supporting ASF, please contact me at the Seaport Center, 703-549-7078.

Recent Corporate Contributions--

Below are some of the corporations and foundations who have recently made significant contributions to Alexandria Seaport Foundation.

- Swap Drive, *David Steinberg, CEO*
- Collis Warner Foundation
- Bryant Foundation, (*courtesy of KC & Ben Graham*)
- Peter R. Cynthia K. Kellogg Foundation

--Individual Contributions

United Way and CFC--

The CFC has given ASF a new number: **61282**, but our **United Way** number continues as **8101**. The United Way (and ASF) apologizes for the confusion.

--In the News

In addition to the Columbia University Alumni Magazine cover story, the Alexandria Seaport Foundation was featured on Channel 5 Fox Morning News in August. Michael Wilson, one of our prized instructors, was interviewed at the waterfront. Some of our apprentices were also there, appearing with a wooden boat they had been building.

Apprentice Program

Graduation--

Cesar Santos, Marvin Molina and Kevin Epps graduated from the program on July 19th. It was the usual lovely evening. Yessi Burouk from Waterfront Catering provided the food-- enough to feed half the town-- as usual. Karen Wilson baked a delicious cake. All three graduates started work renovating a Kohl's store in Fredericksburg the following week.



Apprentice Highlight: A.J. Bawazir--

A.J. Bawazir graduated the apprentice program in January 2006. He advanced quickly through his union apprenticeship. He's set to finish this coming January, two years ahead of schedule. At the same time, A.J.'s been going to night school at the local community college. The result is that this January, A.J. will earn both his journeyman's card and his associate degree in civil engineering. Half of the credits for his degree are the result of his finishing his apprenticeship.



A.J. deserves a tremendous amount of credit for picking a goal, sticking with it, and working very hard-- and well. His next goal is to transfer to George Mason University and earn a four year degree in civil engineering- while continuing his work as a union carpenter.

Tiger Progress--



She's turned over and framed and looks beautiful. The next steps are deck beams, coamings and decks.

Demetrius Winbush's Clamping Jig Featured in *WoodenBoat Magazine*.

As Michael Wilson wrote in the magazine:

The old remark about one's grasp of the obvious being phenomenal is almost always made facetiously. Sometimes, however, it is nothing more than the plain statement of the truth. This became abundantly clear recently at the Alexandria Seaport Foundation boat shop when a novice apprentice saw and implemented a technique for temporarily securing planks at the bow of a boat under construction that had eluded staff and volunteers with thousands of combined hours of boat building experience among them.

One day, after struggling with various clamping techniques after steaming to secure the narrow planks at the bow of the 16 1/2 ft. Tiger launch until they could set prior to 'Sikaflexing' and screwed, I returned to the boat to discover that someone had come up with a great idea that made the whole process easy. It had to have been one or more of our apprentices, as there were no staff or volunteers involved in working on the launch that morning. Someone had taken a piece of scrap 3/4" by 1 1/2" wood approximately 12 inches long, run it through the other end of the parallel jaw

Apprentice Program Cont...

wooden clamp used to hold and twist the end of the plank, and wedged the end on the side of the boat (see photo) before going on morning break. After muttering something to the effect of "I'll be damned! Why didn't I think of this?", I called some of the highly experienced volunteers who devote thousands of hours annually to training our young apprentices and asked if any of them had ever seen the technique. None was familiar with the technique, and all expressed comments similar to my "Why didn't I think of this?" reaction.



I gathered the apprentices at the bow of the boat when they returned. Enquiry soon revealed that the idea was the brainchild of Demetrious Winbush (19), one of our newer apprentices. Although he was a bit apprehensive about admitting to his action at first, feeling that his action might somehow have been inappropriate, the raise that I gave him on the spot for problem analysis and initiative soon dispelled his concern.

Demetrious and his colleagues in the ASF apprenticeship program are able to complete their G.E.D. requirements, obtain drivers licenses and automobiles, and acquire the basic woodworking skills and tools needed to qualify for formal four-year apprenticeships in one of the skilled trade unions (normally the United Brotherhood of Carpenters) during their four-month stint with the Foundation's highly-successful program. Although the ASF apprentices come from various backgrounds, many are classed as "at risk" youth who have lost the opportunity to complete their high school diploma

requirements within the public school system. Some have had problems with the law. For most, this program is their last chance to move into a successful career within the system. The success of the ASF program is based on dealing with each individual's requirements, and tailoring his education and practical training to his needs rather than attempting to jam him into a 'one size fits all' program. This success is also due in large part to the volunteers who work in the shop, classroom and administrative sections.

While I have no doubt that many others have come up with this technique somewhere, I was particularly impressed by the fact that a young man with no background in the trades had the acuity and initiative to notice and implement a technique that no one else in our organization had twigged onto. The Demetrious Winbush Technique will not only make our work easier, but will serve as an example to present and future apprentices of what attention to one's job and initiative can produce.

Make A Difference- -

Darius Ligon, Academic Instructor

ASF's Apprentice Program provides both staff and volunteers with an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of many who live in our area.

I am reminded of the story when a little boy is told by a "wise man" that he can't save all the starfish on the beach; that he won't make a difference by saving a few. The little boy bends down, picks up yet another starfish and throws it lovingly back into the ocean. "It made a difference for that one," he replies.

The Seaport Foundation does make a difference in the life of a youth every day. Volunteers share a large part in the success of the program. There are many other places that you could be, but we are ever grateful that you spend your time with us.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers who have dedicated their time to tutoring: Bob Squire, Fred Freer, Rich Ackerman, Marshall Katz, Barbara, Jay Creech, John Sanders, and Jim Bach. I would like to also thank the volunteers who have helped with DMV and court issues: Kevin Holland, John Harper, and Jim Bach. You have all made a difference (and continue to do so) to the many different apprentices past, present and future. I salute and thank you for your time and effort to make a difference in these lives.

To be a volunteer tutor, contact Darius Ligon at ligon@alexandriaseaport.org or 703-399-1899.

Community Boat Building

Mystic WoodenBoat Show Challenge Wherry Design Premiere--

The national WoodenBoat Show was held at Mystic Seaport, Connecticut, the weekend before July 4th. ASF was responsible for running the "Boat Building on the Green." We built five boats to our new design, the Challenge Wherry. Jay Creech, Kevin and Penny Holland and Joe Youcha helped with the building. David Wolff showed up for moral support. Our part of the event was sponsored by MAS Epoxies and WoodenBoat Magazine. We put the boats together using MAS's new products Gluezilla (A foaming polyurethane glue) and Forcebond (a polyurethane adhesive sealant that comes out of a caulking tube.) Both worked very well.



Five building groups---four boy and sea scout troops from the Mystic area and one family---started on Friday and launched about 1 p.m. on Saturday.

It was great watching Jay, who put the design together, leading the building process. Jay should be very proud of the response the boat elicited from many top designers and builders. Jay should be very happy with his work. Designers from Sam Devlin to Phil Bolger and wooden boat experts such as Ben Fuller all liked his design-- how she looked, how she performed and how she went together. We'll be building more of these boats, starting with the Corporate Challenge on September 28.

The whole event was a great time. The theme of the show was a tribute to Phil Bolger, the innovative designer who is probably responsible for more home built boats than anyone else. It was great seeing all the different shapes and sizes of craft that have come off his board. It was even more fun watching the builders showing off their craft.

Youth Leaders International (Y.L.I.)--

On July 16th and 17th, about 90 builders from dozens of countries came to our Duke Street shop and built nine Bevin's skiffs. It was a blast. Each year, it becomes more obvious that these kids are going to be a major part of future international relations, and that's wonderful. This was the 4th year Y.L.I. has built boats with us. That means that over 350 kids from all over the world have learned about teamwork in America in our shop.



Launchings!

Y.L.I. above.

The WoodenBoat Show at Mystic, below.



Boats for Sale

Hip Hip

The lovely 18' Handy Billy power launch, built by ASF's Paul Weeks, is for sale. The boat is impeccably built, fully equipped, including a 15HP Honda fourstroke engine and trailer. She's stored indoors and has a fresh paint job. Contact Joe at the office for more information. Asking price: \$16,500.

Noank Sloop

Originally built at Mystic Seaport by Barry Thomas, this is a great 14' sailboat designed by Frederick Goeller in the early 1900's. We restored the boat a few years ago. She's a wonderful sailer. For more information, contact Tom Tuttle at t.tuttle@mac.com.

Pisquataqua Wherry

Built out of traditional materials last year by our apprentices, this is a terrific 17' rowboat. She's closely related to a Swampscott Dory, with lapstake sides, but she has finer lines and rows quicker. All in all, a great boat in great shape. Contact Joe at the office for more information. Asking price: \$3,000.

Bevin's Skiffs

We have a few used Bevin's Skiffs for sale. These are good, solid, 12' flat-bottomed skiffs. Each year a few end up sticking to the shop. Now's the time for a deal. Contact Joe at 703-549-7078 for more information.

The Alexandria Seaport Foundation
 P. O. Box 25036,
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313
 Office 703.549.7078
 Fax 703.549.6715
www.alexandriaseaport.org

