



SCUTTLEBUTT

Volume 18

Summer 2008

Issue 2

P. O. Box 25036, Alexandria, Virginia 22313

703.549.7078 Office

703.549.6715 Fax

www.alexandriaseaport.org

Executive Director's Report

Joe Youcha

We do interesting and effective work and the word has gotten out. We're getting more and more professional recognition from people in the fields we touch (education, job training and social work) and from funders. We're also getting asked more often, "How can I do this in my community?"

In the past two months, we've been visited by the National Council of Foundations and the National GED Testing Service. We've been on conference calls with the state's GED administrator telling them about our experiences. They'll be coming up for a visit soon.

To prepare for these presentations and to evaluate our own work, ASF staff has been working over the past nine months to document what we do and how we do it. The process started with making a list of all the techniques we use to teach academics, train for the workplace, and adjust social behavior. It then led to a matrix of hard and soft vocational, academic and social skills. We then outlined the principles that govern the program: things that are so fundamental to our work that not doing them would make the program ineffective. What we've ended up with is a document called the *Elements of Education*. It's just in draft form but it's the distillation of our 16 years' work.

It's going to be at the core of how we realize our goal, set back in the winter of 2006, which calls for expanding our programs through strategic partnerships. We're getting closer and closer to reaching that goal and developing the materials to make that possible.

On top of all this, we're building boat kits like crazy, graduating apprentices and starting the *Built Upon a Dream* renovations-our biggest project. It's been a busy spring. It will be a busier summer. But, as they say, it's all good.

Built Upon a Dream

In two weeks WJLA (our local ABC television affiliate) will begin transforming the Alexandria Seaport Foundation! To recap a letter you should have received, donated materials and services have brought us over halfway to our goal of \$400,000. The response thus far has been tremendous--thank you! However, we still need more help to complete the project.

Your *cash* donation will help ASF with some of the following purchases:

- New lighting
- Skylights
- Eye wash station
- Paint lockers
- Classroom furniture

Donors will be recognized on our Builders' Wall in the new space as contributors in the following categories:

- Master Builder (\$1,000 or more)
- Builder (\$300-999)
- Carpenter (\$100-299)
- Nuts and Bolts (\$25-99)

Please continue investing in us and our work by sending in a donation today. Let us know if you're contributing in honor or memory of someone special so that their name will appear on the Wall.

Paul Weeks II Memorial Golf Tournament



Co-Chair Willie Taylor and his crew- voted "Best Dressed"!
(See inside.)

Paul Weeks II Memorial Golf Tournament

Once again, we were lucky to enjoy wonderful weather this year for our second Paul Weeks II Memorial Golf Tournament. Approximately 100 golfers came out to play at the Pohick Bay Regional Golf Course on May 5. The tournament netted close to \$18,000! Many thanks to our co-chairs, Willie Taylor and Kent Barnekov, for their tireless efforts in organizing the event. Thanks also to all of our volunteers who came out to help with everything from photography, to registration, to selling raffle tickets.

Thanks to all our sponsors who helped make this tournament possible:

TITLE SPONSOR (\$5000)

Tech Painting Company

PLATINUM SPONSORS (\$3000)

Lindsay Chevrolet of Woodbridge

Fannon Fine Printing

SILVER SPONSORS (\$1000)

The Associated General Contractors of America

Bob Duncan Real Estate

Colonial Parking

Don Beyer Volvo

Land, Clark, Carroll, Mendelson & Blair, PC

Penske

Potomac Riverboat Company

Robinson Terminal Warehouse Corporation

Windsor Demaine

BRONZE SPONSORS (\$500)

Reed Smith, LLP

The Washington Post

Birchmere

International Development and Resources, Inc.

HOLE SPONSORS (\$250)

ATI Solutions, Inc.

Pam Weeks

Weeks Family

Owen Trucking

Rex and Susan Wagner

Chadwicks

Old Dominion Boat Club

Charlie Ballou

Susan and Tom Tuttle

Great Dane Trailers

Wilson Trucking Corporation

Redmond Fleet Services

Tower-Davis Electronic

Land Design

McCarthy Tire

New Harbor Yacht Club

Friends of Kevin

GIFT SPONSORS

Pohick Bay Regional Park Golf Course

Potomac Party Cruises



Barbara Weeks and Alyce Fernebock.



The Weeks Family (Pete and Alyce are missing).



ASF apprentice Andrew Price with Paul's picture.

Donations and Support

Kathy Seifer—Director of Development

Fundraising Events

The Alexandria Seaport Foundation hosted a fundraising event at Evermay Estate on April 17 for over 100 people. The goal of the event was to expose our apprentice program to residents of the DC/Georgetown area who are unfamiliar with our work. The evening was absolutely gorgeous with clear skies and perfect temperatures. Guests mingled in the gardens and were able to converse with several of the apprentices on hand. David Kiernan, newly elect Chairman of the Board of Directors, spoke as did Joe Youcha, Executive Director of ASF, followed by a graduate of the apprentice program. The event was a great success, not only in that it netted \$9000, but that it gave us the opportunity to gain new friends and members outside of the Alexandria community. Thanks to all who helped in this endeavor.



Evermay- In all her splendor

On May 19, Deena and Jerry Kaplan, Friends of the Foundation, hosted a dinner party in honor of the Alexandria Seaport Foundation in the Robinson Terminal Warehouse. The guests were picked up by bus in Bethesda, MD and driven to Alexandria for the event. Joe Youcha showed a video on the way to the event before giving a tour of the facility upon their arrival. Two apprentices were on hand to share their experiences with the guests and give them a better view of what the apprentice program provides. Guests enjoyed a southern barbeque dinner surrounded by many of the wooden boats built by our apprentices. If you are interested in hosting a dinner for potential donors, please contact Kathy Seifert at the Seaport Center.

New Membership Cycle

As mentioned in the last issue of the *Scuttlebutt*, ASF is on a new membership cycle that will place all renewals on a January 1 date. Those who would normally renew between the months of December and June should have received a letter asking for you to renew at that time. Those with a renewal date between June and December will be receiving a letter some time this summer. If you have any questions about your renewal, please contact the office at 703-549-7078.

Corporate Team Boat Building

Friday, September 26

We are expecting repeat appearances from Northrop Grumman and Shirley Contracting, as well as participation from Clark Construction. The team boat building event is designed for corporations as a training exercise in which small groups resolve unfamiliar problems.

Seaport Day

Saturday and Sunday, September 27 and 28

Seaport Day is the start of a family boat building weekend designed for families wishing to build their own wooden boat. Boat kits are organized for each family, and all necessary tools are provided. Volunteers are on hand to assist with the boat building process. By Sunday afternoon, the boats are completed and ready to be launched. It's a wonderful and very popular event. The cost is \$850 per family.

If are interested in participating in Seaport Day or Corporate Team Boat Building, please contact us at 703-549-7078.



Mattaponi Canoe Ceremony

(Note: The following piece is reprinted from Emmet Rosenfeld's blog. Emmet is the teacher from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology who led the project. Sadly, we got stuck behind a truck fire on 95 South and missed the ceremony.)

May 26, 2008--Memorable Day

This Memorial Day weekend, my family went to a Pow-wow hosted by the Upper Mattaponi tribe of King William, Virginia. There I gave away a boat and got a gift I will never forget.

Readers of this blog may recall that I met tribal leader Ben Adams at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival last summer when a dugout canoe my tenth graders made at Mount Vernon with the help of the Alexandria Seaport Foundation was on display near John Smith's shallop. Ben offered the canoe a permanent home at the Sharon Indian School, Virginia's oldest Native school and now an education center for his tribe. This Memorial Day weekend, we made it official.

Pow-wow's are big Indian parties. A sacred circle fifty yards or so in diameter is the center of the action. Drums and chants accompany ceremonial dancing, performed by members of local tribes in their finest regalia. The comfortable patter of an MC identifies dancers and welcomes visitors. Some folks set up lawn chairs around the circle; others stroll amidst a ring of tents looking at crafts.

This particular Pow-wow was the Upper Mattaponi's 21st annual. (With the Pamunkey, Monacan, and Chickahominy, they're among eight recognized Virginia tribes.) It was held on a patch of tribal land off a sleepy Virginia road twenty miles west of

Kings Dominion. Cars parked on the grass like at a fairgrounds; a game of wiffle ball was going near a flagpole.

As we entered, my three-year old son, who has worn grooves in his Davey Crockett DVD, was beside himself. "Are you a real Indian?" he asked the first man in regalia we met. Fortunately, it was our host. Ben wore a full feathered headdress, supple buckskin, and brandished a medicine stick tipped with a hawk's talon.

Other men sported Mohawks, face paint, or bright fabrics, depending on their tribe and personality. In the circle, their movements ranged from the traditional shuffle step to pantomime stalking to a wounded careening. Women wore fringed, beaded dresses and danced with fluid stillness, their eyes cast down demurely.



Scenes from the Mattaponi Pow Wow.



The log and kids that started it all.

Tlingit Canoe Launch

It was a beautiful day as the crew from the Seaport Foundation joined members of the Tlingit tribe in launching the “Raven Canoe,” an ocean-going dugout, at Thompson’s Boat House on Thursday, June 19. The launch was part of the celebratory blessing and spiritual practices surrounding the creation and donation of the canoe to the Smithsonian’s Museum of Natural History, where it will hang suspended from the ceiling in the new Ocean Hall. The canoe’s master carver, Douglas Chilton, came down from Juneau, Alaska for the occasion. It was a great experience for our apprentices and staff to meet Doug, his brother Brian and Brian’s wife Alycia, and participate in the launching ceremony of their canoe. As always, we appreciate our friends at the Smithsonian including us in their programming. *Photos by Ellen J. Tynan*



Doug Chilton- Carver.



Michael Wilson and Elijah Offutt.



Jose Sanchez- ASF apprentice.



What's Howell about to do with that Devil Stick?

Apprentice Program

Earlier this month, three more apprentices, Renee, Will and Jose, graduated. We placed Renee with Dave Redmond at Professional Electric. Renee is working alongside Julio Somoza, a former ASF apprentice, a licensed electrician, and an employess of "PROLEC" since his ASF graduation.

We've got nine current apprentices and will be starting another group of six after the Fourth. We've learned from past apprentices AJ Bawazir and Mike Offutt that they've both earned promotions and raises. Mike is now laying out buildings on his own (mostly) as a field engineer, and A.J is an assistant superintendant with Davis Construction.

We always say that the intended outcome for our boat building apprentices is that they will graduate the program and become apprentices with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, or be placed in a similar building trades job. During the program, if needed, they will also obtain their GED, driver's license, and become drug-free. We define ultimate success as the youths being either in school and/ or a career path job a year after they leave us.

Here's how we've done meeting those goals since 2005. The results are in italics.

- Give them a paying job - *100%. If they're in the program, they're paid.*
- Enable them to get their GED in our own shop-based GED program- *Only three graduates, out of 41, exited our program without their GED or High School diploma. All three individuals had severe learning disabilities. Two also were recent immigrants. Sixteen out of 41 graduates earned their GED while in our program. Thirteen others had earned their GED before entering the program, usually while they were in detention. Two apprentices had their U.S. high school diplomas when they entered the program. Six refugees had high school diplomas from their country of origin.*
- Enable them to get their driver's license and a car – *Only 1 graduate did not get their driver's license and help with a car. This was because of a combination of his age, and his inability to take a driver's education class.*
- Prepare them for a job with the Carpenter's Union, or similar building trade's job. – *All our graduates are prepared with life and job skills.*
- Place them in that job, where they will earn a de-

cent living and receive four years additional training. *We've been able to place all our graduates into their initial job. All except one are currently employed. The exception is locked up. Nine of the remaining 40 graduates are not working in the building trades. One is in college, two are chefs, one is an auto mechanic, one is a warehouseman for the Washington Post, two are delivery drivers (one for Fed Ex) and one is in retail and community college. The 31 others are in the building trades as carpenters, iron workers, assistant superintendents, heating and air conditioning technicians, a plumber, and a painter. Twelve of these are participating in post secondary training- either registered apprenticeships or community college, or both. We also keep in touch with several apprentices who were fired before they graduated. Four of them are doing well- two with jobs as masons, one as a pest control technician and the last as a butcher. In part, they credit they're firing from our program as the motivation that got them on track.*



Jose, Will and Renee at their graduation



Bitanya and Aklilu taking a holiday from their jobs at the House of Doors for the Ethiopian Soccer Tournament at RFK Stadium. Howell, Jay, and Kevin were there building a Challenge Wherry with passersby as part of the festivities.

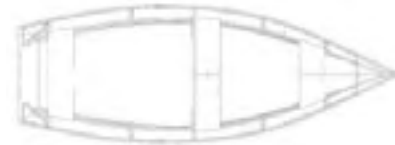
Community Boat Building

This spring we've made more kits than in recent memory. The Challenge Wherry has really been a hit. Boats have been built by Oak Hill (D.C.'s Juvenile detention facility), the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation, Youth Leaders International (YLI), at the WoodenBoat Show in Mystic, Connecticut, and at the Ethiopian Soccer Tournament at RFK Stadium.



Jose making kits, kits and more kits.

We're also sending out Bevin Skiffs to New York, New Hampshire, Vermont, California and Rhode Island.



Adult Classes

Lofting

Eight students lofted two boats. We had to use all of the Seaport Center. The downstairs crew drew the 14 ft. double-ended, lapstrake canoe "Our Cruiser." The boat was originally built in 1887 by the R.J. Douglas Company of Waukegan, Illinois. Its design is documented in John Gardner's *Traditional Small Craft*, Vol.2. The upstairs crew drew a 14 ft. row and sail boat documented in W.P. Stephens *Amateur Boat and Canoe Building*. The lines for this boat are pretty skimpy; our students deserve credit for developing a fair shape from the information provided.



Hot Metal- Pouring at the Bronze Casting Class.

Bronze Casting

On May 17th and 18th, Glenn McIntyre taught bronze casting. This is Glenn's fifth or sixth class for ASF, and it provided the usual high quality instruction. Projects included a plane hammer, a paper weight, candle holders, a cleat, and copies of the pintles and gudgeons for an 1898 Whithall rowing boat recently donated to ASF by John Blair.

Open Shop

We're building "Our Cruiser" on Tuesday nights. So far, the boat is lofted, the molds are made and are being set up. We should be planking soon! When the *Built Upon a Dream* renovation is complete, we should be working on this boat every day.

Upcoming Workshops: *Preserving a Boat*

Taking Off Lines (Date TBD)-

Over the course of a weekend, we'll take the lines of the 1898 Whitehall rowboat. This is the best way to truly preserve a design. We'll document the boat's shape and how she is made. The original was built for robber baron Jay Gould's son.

Lofting (Date TBD)-

On a following weekend, we'll take all our data, and draw the boat full size. Then we, or anybody else, can build a true replica of this lovely design.

Seaport Center Open on Saturdays!

The Seaport Center is open to the public on Sundays. The purpose of opening the shop is to capitalize on the traffic coming in from National Harbor and docking at our pier. It is our hope that by keeping the Center open we will gain more recognition of our apprentice program and the fundamental mission of ASF.

Stan Deardorff, an active volunteer, will be managing the endeavor. If you'd like to help out, please call the office at 703 549 7078.

Boats for Sale!

Interested? Call the office at 703-549-7078.

12 ft. Bevin Skiffs

As is: \$500

17 ft. Challenge Wherry

As is: \$750

18 ft. Handy Billy

Lovely Powered Launch

\$16,500

17 ft. Staten Island Skiff

\$4,000

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

