



# THE OVERFALLS BEACON

The Newsletter of the Overfalls Foundation

Volume 8 Issue 4

Spring 2011

## Memorial Bricks To Honor Foundation Members

The Foundation will honor members who have passed away with memorial bricks on the grounds. These bricks will be placed in the walkway that leads aft from the gangway. In addition to honoring those individuals who have done so much to save and preserve the ship for future generations, the additional brick work will further improve our beautiful grounds. Starting the memorial walkway will be a precast concrete block inscribed:

**Bricks in this walkway honor members of the Overfalls Foundation who have crossed the bar. Through their efforts and contributions they have saved and preserved the Lightship Overfalls, as well as promoted other aspects of the Foundation's mission. While they have left us in body, their legacy remains to benefit generations to come.**

With the order for the inscribed bricks for our members who have crossed the bar, the Foundation will also order bricks to represent the portholes and rivets which have been sold since the grounds were completed. Anybody wishing to purchase a porthole or rivet should contact Bill Reader at 645-9290.



Area of Recognition

## OF To Create and Plant Wetlands Mitigation Area This Spring

The initial permit to construct the new slip required the Foundation to create about 6,000 square feet of wetlands on the starboard side of the ship where the compass rose and Hall of Fame monument are now (pictured below.) As wetlands were inconsistent with the Foundation's vision for the grounds, we asked Mayor Jim Ford if he would help present our case to DNREC. In a meeting in Dover, Mayor Ford offered to provide a parcel of equal size near the University to mitigate the wetlands that would be filled at the ship. DNREC officials accepted the Mayor's proposal and modified the Foundation's permit accordingly.

The Foundation has met at the University site with officials representing all interested parties to discuss the specific plans for creating the wetlands. There are still some details to work out but we expect this project to be completed in May or June. The Environmental Science class at Cape Henlopen High School and our local Boy Scout troop will participate in the project. To volunteer to help with the planting, contact Bob Humes at 645-4968. This project will work well for everyone concerned and the Foundation is grateful to Mayor Ford for making it happen.



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**Bill Ritchie**  
**1930-2010**

**Thank you from the Editor**

I would like to thank all of you who have made being Beacon editor a wonderful experience—the readers, the writers, the proof-readers, the photographers, the mailing helpers, and especially those whose efforts have provided the material for all the stories. Thank you! I am looking forward to visiting our web site often to stay up to date on where we are going, and to enjoy reflecting on where we have been. Join me there!

Mary

**VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE**

Tracy Mulveny, President



To paraphrase Charles Dickens, the Overfalls Lightship has seen “the best of times and the worst of times”. Most certainly the worst must have been when the rust bucket she had become was no longer wanted by the Lewes Historical Society and she was transferred to the small group which eventually became the Overfalls Foundation. The best of times surely was the September “Overfalls Fest” when she floated proudly in her new surroundings fully restored to like-new condition. The eleven years this process has taken was loaded with best and worst situations but the magic of the big red ship always prevailed.

As the 5<sup>th</sup> president of the Overfalls Foundation, I am inheriting the legacy of countless volunteer labors (over 40,000) hours. One aspect of the Overfalls Foundation mission is to preserve and teach the maritime history of Delaware and its navigable waterways. This will require new ideas, new skills and new members. Soon this mission will receive national recognition when our ship is designated a National Historic Landmark. See information on our website [WWW.OVERFALLS.ORG](http://WWW.OVERFALLS.ORG) regarding this long anticipated honor.

The “dirty hands gang” has done, and will continue to do, their work to preserve and maintain the ship, which embodies our mission. In addition to our existing work, new committees have been staffed for education, outreach, finance, and even gardening for our new landscape). This will require many work hours and dollars in the days ahead. I hope you will support our mission by becoming a member or renewing your membership today. Additionally, we need your talents and energy for all the projects to come. While there is work involved, there is also fun and satisfaction in working together toward a worthy goal. Look for more details on many of these events on our website [WWW.OVERFALLS.ORG](http://WWW.OVERFALLS.ORG).

My heartfelt thanks and admiration are offered to Dave Bernheisel, our out-going president, for his outstanding leadership and commitment. Many of our achievements, of which we are justly proud, would have been impossible without his leadership skills. I look forward to working for all of you as we haul anchor and set sail on the new course the future has ahead of us.

Tracy

## Hall of Fame Nominations

The 5th annual Delaware Maritime Hall of Fame awards ceremony will be held at the Lewes Yacht Club on October 8th. In each of the preceding years, five significant individuals have been honored for their contributions to Delaware's maritime heritage. As part of the slip constructions and landscaping, a monument was placed near the ship with the inductees names engraved on it. (See photo, page 1).

If you know of a person, living or deceased, who you feel should be included with the other inductees, please submit a nomination. Nomination forms and instructions are on our website, [WWW.OVERFALLS.ORG](http://WWW.OVERFALLS.ORG). The deadline for nominations for the 2011 inductees is May 31st. This is a memorable event for Delaware and it is done with all of the dignity that it warrants; mark your calendar and come.

## Overfalls Volunteer Opportunities

Overfalls volunteers make the organization run. When you volunteer you have an opportunity to contribute whatever talents you most enjoy using, or to develop new skills in any area that interests you. And it's a great way to make new friends. Schedules are flexible but sign up early to get the hours you want. A sampling of volunteer jobs follows.

**Ship's Store:** Evelyn Kyritsis is stocking the store with lots of exciting, new merchandise this summer and we expect booming sales. The shop will be open Thursday through Monday. To help in the store call 645-7168 or email [JOHNKYRITSIS@AOL.COM](mailto:JOHNKYRITSIS@AOL.COM).

(Continued on page 4)

## Lil Red Available For Purchase

**Lil Red**, the 12 foot skiff built by John Kyritsis and his committee is available for purchase. She rows beautifully, tracks nicely and goes like a rocket. If you would

## Web Site Revamped

Have you seen the new web site? If you haven't looked recently, check it out at [WWW.OVERFALLS.ORG](http://WWW.OVERFALLS.ORG).

Right from the start, the Foundation has had a good web site that served us well and received many compliments. Then, in 2006, the Foundation received a Delaware Tourism Grant to contract to upgrade the site with a professional web development firm.

More recently in 2010, Chuck Patalive joined the Foundation and brought years of professional web development experience with him. He has just completed a major redesign. If you haven't been on the site recently, check it out today.

***The web site will be the principal means of communication between the Foundation and our members going into the future.***

The web site will give us more timely information, more color pictures and greater detail about stories. For example see the web site for a map of the location where we will do the wetlands mitigation. You can also enjoy hundreds of pictures on the site recalling where we started and what we did along the way to the beautiful landscaped ship site we enjoy today. You can contact Chuck Patalive our webmaster at [CPATALIVE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CPATALIVE@GMAIL.COM). You can also find us on Facebook.



like to enjoy using her this summer contact: John Kyritsis at 645-7168 or email him at [JOHNKYRITSIS@AOL.COM](mailto:JOHNKYRITSIS@AOL.COM).

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This is the **last print issue** of the Beacon. Current news is always available on our web site, [WWW.OVERFALLS.ORG](http://WWW.OVERFALLS.ORG). If you received this by mail, and you have an e-mail address or access to one, please send that address to Cathy Heronemos at [CATHY58@AOL.COM](mailto:CATHY58@AOL.COM) today. If you do not have computer access, please call Mary at 302-645-7377, and we will be sure that we keep you informed. Thank you.

### Mark Your Calendar

April 9, 8:30 am, Breakfast Meeting at Cadbury. Lewes Mayor Ford will speak.

April 23, 2:00 pm. Photo-OP on ship grounds. Come be in photo for new brochure. Rain date 4/30.

May 27 Opening Party and Auction at the Virden Center. Doors open at 6 pm.

Membership Social hour/sunset watches with refreshments on the ship starting at 6 pm, followed by a Speaker at St. Peter's at 7:30.

June 10

July 8

August 12

September 9—Overfalls Fest! On the ship's grounds

October 14 Annual Meeting and Elections, St Peter's church

November 11, Membership Meeting, St. Peter's

December 9, Membership Holiday Party

*(Continued from page 3)*

**Restoration:** Maintenance work on the ship is an ongoing task. The Dirty Hands Gang meet on Tuesday mornings during the season. To join them, contact Bill Reader at 645-9290 or [REETSTU@YAHOO.COM](mailto:REETSTU@YAHOO.COM).

**Tour Guides:** Tour guides will show off the ship to visitors Thursdays through Mondays. Training sessions will be available and shifts are 3 hours in length. Contact George Elliott at 645-5071 or [G.ELLIOTT59@VERIZON.NET](mailto:G.ELLIOTT59@VERIZON.NET) or Dave Bernheisel at 645-7377 or [BERNHEISEL@JUNO.COM](mailto:BERNHEISEL@JUNO.COM) to join the tour guides. Spend some time this summer getting to know your ship better and exploring it top to bottom. Guides for kids age 5-10 are particularly needed.

**More:** These are just some of the ways that you can join in the fun and help out your organization. To discuss other needs and opportunities contact Tracy Mulveny at 645-4809 or email her at [TMULVENY@COMCAST.NET](mailto:TMULVENY@COMCAST.NET). Or go to [WWW.OVERFALLS.ORG/VOLUNTEERS\\_NEEDED.HTML](http://WWW.OVERFALLS.ORG/VOLUNTEERS_NEEDED.HTML).