Gills Rock is an unincorporated community located on Highway 42 in far northern Door County, within the town of Liberty Grove. As of the 2000 census, there were 1,858 people, 824 households and 589 families residing in the township. Gills Rock's history and its extensive fishing legacy have been closely interwoven since humans first discovered the area's abundant supply of fish.

The earliest fishing on the Upper Great Lakes was undertaken by Native Americans. Traveling by canoe, the Winnebago, Potawatomi, Huron, Ottawa, Nisissing, and Anidouck all settled on the shores of the peninsula from Jacksonport to Washington Island. Hundreds of years ago they took lake trout, whitefish and sturgeon from the waters of Lake Michigan. Tribal fishermen harvested the fish using large birch bark canoes, dip nets, and nets made from twisted and knotted strands of willow bark. They also speared through the ice and fished with hand carved decoys. The first accounts of their activity came from French explorers as early as the 1680s when they were invited to feast on whitefish served by the Potawatomi of the Door County region. A subsequent reference by a French official

In memory and honor of Jeffrey Weborg (Sept. 24, 1947-Dec. 19, 2014). He was co-owner, with his brother Mark, of J&M Fisheries, Gills Rock. They carried on the Weborg fishing dynasty in Gills Rock which began in the 1870s. Jeff served on the Board of Directors of the Door County Maritime Museum for over 30 years.

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Welcome Aboard!

VIEW FROM THE WHEELHOUSE
The Executive Director’s Report

I officially took the helm of the Door County Maritime Museum on November 10th from Bob Desh. Bob, the Board of Directors, the staff, and countless volunteers have been very welcoming in making the transition a smooth process.

"Thank you" is a simple phrase that we teach our children early on. At the Door County Maritime Museum, I have a chance every day to say thank you - to a volunteer, a member, or a visitor. As a non-profit, we don’t sell running shoes or microchips, but we thrive on the participation of countless individuals and groups who support us - and we thank you!

The energy and creativity of our staff and volunteers are remarkable - no task is too small or too big. Some tasks are thankless - it’s a challenge to keep the head fresh for the public - and other tasks are mundane as we schedule all the bus tours for the upcoming year. Thanks to all who do those chores! Thanks, too, for the ideas that abound - for new marketing programs, planning events that will bring in the public, and how to improve our connections to the community.

2014 was a year of many challenges and changes at the museum. Bob Desh retired after serving as Executive Director for 6 years. Bob will continue working with the museum by serving on the Board of Directors. Our Development Director, Trudy Herbst, retired after being with the museum for 13 years. Pam Zeller retired after 9 years as the museum’s bookkeeper. They will be missed by all.

Sadly, we recently lost a founding director and shipmate, Jeff Weborg. A commercial fisherman by trade, Jeff took the lead in the museum’s acquisition of the tug Hope and spearheaded the expansion of the Gills Rock museum to house it. Jeff’s thoughtful, meticulous approach to both organizational and maintenance issues at Gills Rock are an indelible tribute to one man’s ability to contribute personal gifts for the common good. For many of us at the museum, the absence of his ready smile and warm handshake will be missed just as much as the leadership he provided for more than three decades. Fair winds and following seas.

2015 brings many changes. The "Pirates-Ship to Shore" exhibit has ended and will be replaced by our newest exhibit "Sea Dogs". "Loyal companions, warriors, lifesavers, guardians... extraordinary stories of dogs and the sea." We will also open a new interactive wheelhouse in the "Elba" tugboat. The museum’s store has a complete new look and updated inventory. A new Point of Sale (POS) system is being introduced to unify the museum’s financial record keeping and reporting. We are making updates to our website and encourage you to join the DCMM Facebook pages at www.facebook.com/DoorCountyMaritimeMuseum and www.facebook.com/CanaIslandLighthouse. An online store will soon be up and running on our website. The Cana Island Restoration Project continues and

continued on page 3
in spring we will see the old paint removed from the lighthouse and a fresh coat put on. Restoration will also start on two of the outbuildings, the privy and oil house. Gills Rock will feature a new “Death’s Door” exhibit and a new interactive technology will be added to the museum called Augmented Reality which will enhance the visitor’s experience.

Thanks to dedicated staff and volunteers, the work of our small maritime museum moves ahead, sometimes at a dizzying pace. Thanks to donors, visitors and supporters at all levels. We are Sturgeon Bay’s landmark for the very important business of sharing the maritime heritage of this region.

Rick O’Farrell
Executive Director

View from the Wheelhouse, from page 2

Photos by Steve Reinke of the Buffalo and the Paul R. Tregurtha as they headed into Bay Shipbuilding for Winter Lay Up in January.

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CANA ISLAND REPORT

Keeper's Log Cana Island Light Station
January 2015 By Dwight Zeller

This is the first time that I've written to you about the conditions and events here at Cana. As I write this, winter is getting a good grip on the island. The temperature is spending a lot of time below freezing, the winds are becoming more northerly, fifteen knots or greater most days. The bays are showing skim ice and the shore and causeway have small ice mounds of about a foot or so.

The lake is the busiest that I've seen in a while as the freighters hustle to make their last pre-winter deliveries before heading for their winter lay-ups.

Cana is resting now, which is well-deserved, since this has been a very busy season. More than 39,000 people came to visit us this year and, as you may have heard, we have started the construction phase of a multi-year project to restore the entire light station. It is wonderful to see: all the studies have been done, the reports have been written and the plans have been drawn; now the physical work has started. We are in the process of restoring the entire exterior of the light tower and keeper's dwelling and I'd like to share with you what we have accomplished so far.

Starting at the top, the copper roof that sits on the very top of the tower was inspected and its seams resoldered. Right below that, all of the glass that makes up the lantern itself was removed, inspected and reset with new sealing, except for one that was cracked which we replaced. All of the stucco was removed so that the original brick could be inspected and repaired/replaced. Prep for lead paint removal was done (but not yet completed) and the tower's foundation facing stone was exposed for inspection and repair. The electrical service was upgraded and rerouted.

The keeper's house came in for its share of the work as well. Every brick was inspected and replaced as necessary with true cream city brick, as was originally used in 1869, using more than 1,000 bricks. When we inspected the chimney, it was found to be in much worse shape than we originally thought, and was taken apart and rebuilt. The most noticeable work, however, was the roof. Since red fiberglass shingles and aluminum gutters definitely didn't exist in the 19th century, all of that was removed and replaced, true to the original style, with natural wood cedar shake shingles and all copper guttering and down pipes. All of the lead paint was removed wherever it was found on the house.

The last few paragraphs that you have just read are a very small summary, yet they represent sixteen weeks worth of work in very unkind weather.

We have accomplished a lot, but there is still a lot yet to be done to complete the first phase of the construction portion of the restoration. First on tap, as soon as weather permits, is the complete removal of all lead paint on the tower down to bare metal and the complete corrosion proofing and repainting of the entire tower top to bottom. There is still quite a bit of masonry work to complete as well, the tower foundation facing stone still needs to be repaired/replaced and reset. The finish coats of stucco need to be applied to the tower brick and painted. Carpenter work to repair the door at the top of the tower also needs to be done.

The keeper's house has quite a bit of work to do yet. Our masonry projects include the setting of a new window sill and rebuilding the wall underneath it. We still have all of the carpentry to do as well. All of the window sashes need to be repaired and in two cases replaced, new period correct entry doors need to be fabricated and installed and all of the wood trim needs to be inspected and replaced or repaired. Finally all of that woodwork that I've been talking about needs to be painted.

All of this will complete the first phase, one of many parts, of the construction project, weather permitting by early summer.

Also this year, we plan to complete the restoration of two of the three outbuildings, specifically the oil house which will be developed into additional interpretative space and the privy which will be exhibited as an example of late 19th early 20th century life.

We have begun. There is still a barn to restore, the interior of the keeper's house to restore, new exhibits to create and a new interpretative center to build.

When the U.S. Lighthouse Service established light stations and assigned keepers, the men selected were charged “that at all times a good light shall be maintained”. Cana's beacon still provides that light physically to mariners today, but there is another light here also, the light of thought and remembrance that shines on the memory of the people and their stories that have gone before us, the light shown on the history of Cana. This is the illumination that the restoration of Cana Light Station provides. Please join me in the joy of sharing that good light.

A "Members Only" Preview of the Cana Island Restoration project will take place on Friday, April 24. Watch the event page of our website for further details.
STURGEON BAY REPORT

Sea Dogs
"Loyal companions, warriors, lifesavers, guardians... extraordinary stories of dogs and the sea."

Humans and dogs have enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship for tens of thousands of years. From the earliest days of humans going down to sea in ships, their canine companions have joined them in all manner of endeavors on and near the water. From shipboard mascots to working dogs trained specifically for maritime pursuits, "sea dogs" have loyally served, saved, and loved their sailor companions.

The Door County Maritime Museum's new "Sea Dogs" exhibit is a fun and educational experience for visitors of all ages. Employing everything from LEGO® blocks to historic film clips, the exhibit immerses the visitor in the amazing story of dogs at sea. If you are a lover of dogs, the sea, or both, this exhibit is a must see!

So what is a Sea Dog?
Sea Dogs have lived with us for thousands of years. They come in many shapes and sizes. Some swim naturally; some are taught to fish. Some patrol beaches. Others like a dry ship and cozy cabin, or a lighthouse environment.

What are some of the other highlights of the Sea Dogs exhibit?
"Coast Guard Patrol" LEGO display, Coast Guard "Working Dogs" Art Exhibit, Kid’s Corner, The First Sea Dogs, Sinbad Theater and Exhibit Area, Ship Mascots Beach Patrol, Lighthouse Dogs, Fishing Dogs, Life-Saving Dogs, Sea Dog Photo Album, and "All Paws on Deck!" play area.

This Spring also look for the new exciting changes we have made on the Historic Elba Pilothouse.
Explore the actual pilothouse of the early twentieth-century steamship Elba to reinforce life at sea for both sailor and dog. The chart table in the pilothouse will display navigational instruments, nautical charts, etc. A life-size statue of a German Shepherd dog will be on display alongside the actual ship's wheel, compass binnacle, engine order telegraphs, and other artifacts in the historic pilothouse. The working ship's horn will entertain visitors of all ages. The life-size dog statue placed among the actual pilothouse equipment will provide a feel for shipboard life of a mascot dog and afford a dramatic photo opportunity. Plans include making the historic wheelhouse a fully functional interactive video game, allowing visitors to virtually steer the Elba through the bridges of the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal.

A "Members Only" Exhibit Preview for "Sea Dogs" and the tugboat John Purves will take place on Tuesday, April 28. Watch the event page of our website for further details.

GILLS ROCK REPORT

Make the trek to the tip of the Door Peninsula and experience some of the exciting changes we are making this year in Gills Rock!

We are opening an exhibit on one of the most fascinating locations on the Great Lakes, "Death’s Door". Death’s Door is a passageway hugged by Washington Island to the north, and the Door Peninsula to the south connecting the Bay of Green Bay with Lake Michigan. Visitors to the Gills Rock museum will learn of the legends that the native Americans told to the area fishermen and French explorers. The exhibit will feature some of the shipwrecks that have made this such a famous location and include stories from those who have braved some of the most treacherous waters on the Great Lakes. Ever wonder why Death’s Door is also called "Port des Morts"?
Come in and explore the waterway’s great impact on history.

A second exciting addition to the Gills Rock museum this year will be a new interactive technology called Augmented Reality that will greatly enhance the visitor’s experience and bring items in the museum to life. Using a tablet provided by the museum or your own personal smart phone, visitors will experience maritime history in a whole new way.

Gills Rock Cleanup Day: We would be honored to have new and past volunteers to help us get the museum ready for the coming season. The Gills Rock work day is scheduled for May 5. If you would like to be a part of a great volunteer team in Gills Rock, please contact the museum for more information, (920) 743-5958.

A "Member's Only" Gills Rock Exhibit Preview will be held on Friday, May 15. Watch the event page of our website for further details.
Bus business has rebounded nicely. Thank You.

While the title Volunteer Coordinator has been affixed to my name here at the Maritime Museum, it's just a portion of my work responsibilities.

The other significant title is Group Tour Coordinator and while this column talks about volunteer opportunities, I thought it might be of interest to you to learn a bit more about an important aspect of the museum operation.

We put a significant amount of effort, time and even expense into attracting group tours to the museum. Of course, many of those tours are connected with tour companies and bus operators. In the six years I've handled this assignment it's been amazing to me the size and scope of this segment of America's tourism economy.

To help penetrate that market, the museum is a member of Circle Wisconsin – an organization dedicated to promoting Wisconsin and its many attractions to the bus tour industry.

Having attended a few of its seminars and promotional fairs, it becomes immediately apparent the complexity involved in an ever-evolving industry.

That became apparent over the past few years as Circle Wisconsin addressed a couple of significant issues related to bus tours. First was the lagging recession that prevented more than a few potential tourists from reaching into their pockets to travel.

The other was an age dynamic that had tour operators and organizations concerned as one generational class of customers passed to another. In short, would the baby boomers have an interest in investing money in structured bus tours? Nobody really seemed to have an answer as a lot of us waited to see if the younger retirees preferred backpack excursions into the Rockies or a bus tour to Napa.

It took a little time, but we got our first significant results this past season when a spike in numbers seem to indicate that one of those two factors, or both, were at play.

We saw more than 80 group tours come through the museum last year, amounting to about a 25% increase over the previous year. By the look of the tour groups who were coming into the museum, healthier bank accounts for the older traveler and what seemed to be an influx of some younger travelers played a significant role in the increase.

Of course, we also like to think that the museum has played a part in that and by museum I mean the growing interest in the tug John Purves by tour coordinators. Customer satisfaction remains high, as visitors, many from larger urban areas, remain impressed with the size and scope of a museum in such a small community. And that even goes for Gills Rock, where group numbers are smaller but retention remains high as groups repeatedly return to our facility at the tip of the peninsula.

This year's upturn did present a problem as more tours and generally larger tours proved taxing on our shrinking docent numbers. Thanks to a dedicated crew we were able to handle last year's tour schedule but, based on early inquiries, this year could be just as demanding.

So, as I often do this time of year, I'm putting out a call for anyone interested in becoming a volunteer tour guide for either the museum, the tug or both. Ask anyone who's presently doing it and they will tell you it's an extremely rewarding and uplifting experience. It's a great opportunity to share the county we love with eager visitors and explain the maritime history that helps make it so appealing.

Please contact me here at the museum at jgast@dcmm.org or call (920) 743-5958. You'll be glad you did.

Jon Gast
Volunteer & Group Tour Coordinator
Gary King

Gary is a sixth generation peninsula resident, his family first settled in the area in the 1850’s. “My grandfather Ed Wetak was a museum volunteer in the mid-1970’s,” remembers Gary. “I’d meet him at the museum when it was situated in the former Roen Steamship office at the foot of Florida Street to look at the pictures and exhibits.”

But Gary’s ties to maritime history go back even further as his great-great grandfather Thomas Greene was master of the Peshtigo Reef Lightship from 1917-1922.

Born in Sturgeon Bay and a graduate of Algoma High School, King attended Milwaukee School of Engineering and then began work at Peterson Builders, Inc. as an electrician.

“While working there part of my job responsibilities included travel to Little Creek Amphibious Base, Virginia; Ingleside, Texas and Pearl Harbor to work on various military vessels that were built at Peterson,” Gary recounts. “I also spent many weeks doing sea trials in Lake Michigan and Green Bay – a lot of miles going nowhere.”

When Peterson Builders closed in 1995, Gary started Bay Electric Systems which he currently operates with a business partner.

He and his wife Sandy live in Sturgeon Bay and are active members of the Door County Sail and Power Squadron as well as the Great Lakes Cruising Club.

“We try to take as much time as our business allows to cruise northern Lake Michigan and Lake Huron in the summer months,” he said. “While traveling we find ourselves in other harbor town museums looking at their history.”

Gary’s involvement with the maritime museum has been one of a natural progression.

“There’s nothing like seeing the exhibits and being able to see and take pictures of the displays.”

Gary’s involvement with the maritime museum has been one of a natural progression.

“With my family background on the marine side and working on ships, I have followed local maritime history as a hobby of sorts,” said Gary, who has been on the museum Board of Directors for four years and is currently chair of the Facilities Committee for the Sturgeon Bay museum.

“It takes him back to his youth. “My grandfather Ed Wetak made time and had the patience to teach me and my siblings about the simple things in life,” he points out. “As kids we spent many summers at his cottage in Little Harbor learning how to fish, letting us ‘help’ do repairs to the boat, dock and an endless rock wall shoreline.”

He now takes pride in the ten years his firm has been involved with the museum doing electrical work involved in various exhibits and other building projects.

“I just enjoy talking and explaining to people we meet, either new to this area or while traveling, about the uniqueness of the Door Peninsula.”
EVENT REVIEW

The third annual Merry-Time Festival of Trees was a great success. We had 42 beautifully decorated Christmas trees scattered throughout the museum’s galleries. Lovingly decorated by local businesses and organizations, each of these extraordinary trees was adorned with beautiful ornaments and special surprises. Best of all, every tree went home with a lucky winner in our Merry-Time Festival of Trees raffle!

Between silent auction donations, tree donations and event sponsors, we had more than 200 businesses involved in some way with this year’s event. A sincere thank you to each and everyone of you. We couldn’t have done it without you!

The Merry-Time Festival of Trees festival will be Nov. 14 - Dec. 8, 2015. If you would like to sponsor and decorate a tree in next year’s festival, please contact Amy Paul at apaul@dcmm.org.

Photos of:
- A “Writing Adventure” with Write On, Door County!
- “A Door County Night Before Christmas” book signing with author, Carol Davis, and illustrator, Jan Rasmussen.
- Santa on the tug John Purves and his helpers
- Pirate Day
- Jingle, Jingle, Mix & Mingle: Silent Auction and Tree Raffle
**UP COMING EVENTS**

Great Lakes/Great Books Club

The Door County Maritime Museum and Write On, Door County have partnered to present a monthly book club that features books with a Great Lakes focus. Books of fiction, nonfiction and poetry that have the Great Lakes as subject matter or as setting will be discussed with a facilitator from Write On.


March:  *Cold Comfort* by Barton Sutter, University of Minnesota Press, 2000, nonfiction (focus on Superior).


The group meets at 10:30 am on the first Thursday of each month at the Door County Maritime Museum in Sturgeon Bay. Meeting dates are February 5, March 5, April 2 and May 7. If you would like to participate in the Great Lakes/Great Books Club, call the museum at (920) 743-5958.

Maritime Speaker Series

The Door County Maritime Museum’s popular Maritime Speaker Series returns Thursday, February 5 at 7 pm in Sturgeon Bay and is free.

February 5, 2015 - Bob Desh

Former executive director Bob Desh will discuss the Coast Guard Lighthouse Property Divestiture Program, both in regards to his own dealings (assisting the museum in securing the Sherwood Point Fresnel lens) as well as local projects like Cana Island and the Pier Head Light at the Coast Guard Station in Sturgeon Bay.

March 5, 2015 - Palmer Johnson, Inc.

Personnel from Palmer Johnson, Inc. will be on hand for a presentation on the city’s internationally renowned yacht builder.

April 2, 2015 - Rick O’Farrell

The new Door County Maritime Museum Executive Director Rick O’Farrell will share some of his personal history. More specifically, he will talk about his diverse service in the U.S. Navy which spanned assignments on both an aircraft carrier and nuclear submarine.

22nd Annual Door County Lighthouse Festival

This much-anticipated festival gives visitors access to lighthouses that aren’t typically open to the public, including Chambers Island, Plum Island, Sherwood Point and the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Lighthouses. Get ready for this year’s festival on June 12-14, 2015.

March 16, 2015 to March 29, 2015

Lighthouse Festival Tickets Go on Sale to Museum Members Only

March 30, 2015 to June 11, 2015

Lighthouse Festival Tickets Go on Sale to General Public

View and print our full color 2015 Lighthouse Festival Map and schedule at www.dcmm.org/events-activities/special/annual-lighthouse-festival/.
CROSSING THE BAR

In Memory of Jeff Weborg

The entire community has lost a good friend and mentor. Jeffrey A. Weborg, 67, of Gills Rock passed suddenly on December 19, 2014.

Having served more than 30 years on the Board of Directors of the Door County Maritime Museum it’s difficult to overestimate the impact that Jeff Weborg had on the institution. Most of that time was served as Vice President, but the corporate title, while a significant stamp on Jeff’s dedication to the museum, is but a chapter in his love story for the museum.

Beyond his board involvement, Jeff was instrumental in numerous projects to enhance the museum experience and one, in particular, stands out. A commercial fisherman by trade, Jeff took the lead in the museum’s acquisition of the fish tug Hope and spearheaded the expansion of the Gills Rock Maritime Museum to house it. He was directly involved in the development of the exhibit, contributing fishing equipment. Of particular interest was Jeff’s piloting the tug for its final commercial pull and coordinating production of a video of the final harvest to be featured as part of the exhibit and for inclusion in the museum’s archives.

Jeff will be greatly missed as a volunteer, Board Member and a friend. Fair winds and following seas!

HONORARIUMS and MEMORIALS

Honorariums
Donations have been made in honor of:

~ Peter & Barbara Classen ~
   Jeff & Ann Berner

Memorials
Donations have been made in memory of:

~ QMCS Robert Jess ~
~ PSC Frank Topp ~
   USCG Chief Petty Officers Assoc.-GB

~ Jeffrey Weborg ~
   Dan & Jean Austad
   Dick & Sharon Haines
   Jay & Trudy Herbst
   Jon & Judy Hollingshead
   Pete & Jelaine Hollingshead
   Chuck & Judy Klima
   Carl & Lea Rasmussen
   Richard & Gail Roes
   Cap & Mary Wulf

We remember the Members who have crossed the bar and offer our condolences to the families and friends of:

Benjamin “Ben” A. Logerquist
Jeffrey A. Weborg

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STEAKS • SEAFOOD • PORK • POULTRY • SOUP • SALAD
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Best of Door County by Door County Magazine

It is the Door County Magazine’s annual tradition to honor the "Best of" Door County - the heart and soul of what makes Door County so unique. They asked their "in-the-know" Door County Magazine readers to pick their favorites. Read more at http://archive.greenbaypressgazette.com/ic/dcm/2014-bestof.shtml.

This year we are the proud winners of:

**Best Lighthouse**
First Place: Cana Island Lighthouse

**Best Museum**
First Place: Door County Maritime Museum

**Most Interesting Building or Landmark**
First Place: Cana Island Lighthouse

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**WOODEN BOATBUILDING CLASS**

**Stickleback Dory**

Each year the museum hosts a wooden boatbuilding class, keeping this maritime tradition alive. Aspiring boat builders have an opportunity to gain firsthand skills in the age-old craft of building wooden boats. The class is open to beginners as well as experienced woodworkers.

Wooden boatbuilding class instructors David Morgan, Bob Schottmuller and class are currently at work on this year’s class project, Ian Oughtred’s 15’8” Stickleback Dory. Stop by the museum and watch their progression throughout the spring. Raffle tickets to win the boat will be available in the spring and a winner is drawn on October 11 at the Pumpkin Patch Festival.

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In 1851, the Green Bay Advocate wrote that the increase in fishing along the Green Bay shores and Washington Island held great promise for the future. Among the half-dozen fishing stations along the route from Green Bay to Mackinac were Fish Creek, Washington Harbor and Rock Island. It noted that the fish commanded a ready sale and the “cozy and contented life” of the fishing establishments was “as near idyllic as the editors had ever seen.” Two years later, the paper described the booming fish trade “upon our Bay and among the islands.”

At one time, Green Bay supported the largest commercial fishery in Wisconsin. Initially, fishermen caught mostly whitefish, herring and trout. Later, chubs and other types of fish were sought. At first, fishing was done by hook and line. Later, pound nets were used and the gill nets became common. Because they were made of cotton, the latter had to be dried on specially designed net drying racks that resembled large wooden reels. Later, about 1945, nylon was used for making nets. These did not require drying and sometimes were simply left in the boats during the winter months.

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In the early days, the fish were salted in wood kegs holding about 125 pounds. They were then hauled across the ice to Menominee, Michigan for shipment to commercial destinations by rail. Later, before the lake froze up, the fish were packed in ice and shipped out in special fish boxes made of locally sawed aspen and birch. Farmers with saw rigs

continued on page 13
often made the boxes. The Anderson Shipping Company transported them to Chicago or Green Bay.

In the 1850s, fishermen were fishing waters in the vicinity of what would become Gills Rock. Gills Rock was originally known as "Hedgehog Harbor." Initially, Hedgehog Harbor included both the Garrett Bay and Gills Rock areas as noted on U.S. Government maps. Oliver P. Graham, who came to Door County in 1841, described the origin of Hedgehog Harbor in an 1880 letter published in C.I. Martin's History of Door County, Wisconsin: "A comical genius, by the name of Lovejoy, was an old bachelor that lived in the county for some time. He had been away from the society of women so long that the sight of one would make him jump as if struck by electricity, and he would run off into the woods. However, some time afterward he became more reconciled and finally got so close to a woman as to marry her. He was the first shipbuilder in these parts.

He built a small vessel at Big Sturgeon—sloop-rig, good model, and fine sailor. The craft was used for fishing and freighting about the islands. The first winter after she was launched, he laid her up in a little inlet about a mile or so from the Door bluffs. The water fell so much that he could not get the boat afloat the next spring. During the summer, the porcupines gnawed several holes in her, which gave rise to the place being called Hedgehog Harbor.”

The name Hedgehog Harbor was used until 1870 when it and the settlement at it were renamed Gills Rock in honor of Elias Gill who owned the warehouse, fishing boats and pier there, plus considerable acreage in the vicinity.

Nearby Garrett Bay took its name from Junius Garrett. An account in the Door County Advocate noted his activity there: "Junius Garrett has found it anything but pleasant to fulfill his contract for carrying mail to and from Washington Island. He alternatively uses a small boat, a horse and cutter, and snow skates to cross the Door and effect a landing at Hedgehog Harbor on the mainland."

Fish in the bay began to undergo change as early as 1850 when whitefish showed noticeable declines. Lake sturgeon abundance was reduced dramatically in the late 1800s by commercial over fishing and habitat degradation. Also, at that time, commercial fishermen perceived lake sturgeon as a nuisance fish because of fishing gear destruction. When found in their nets, fishermen pulled them into the boats with gaff-hooks and upon reaching shore, threw them on an offal heap. This led to their widespread slaughter. In Lake Michigan, their commercial harvest was closed in 1929 after the catch declined to only 2,000 pounds compared to 3.8 million pounds harvested in 1879. The lake herring catch peaked in 1905 and never regained its former abundance. Around 1912, the lake trout catch had also begun to slowly diminish. The decline of commercially valuable fish resulted from threats on three fronts: over-fishing, pollution and nonindigenous invasive species.

A lasting commercial fishing industry on the Door Peninsula had its beginnings in 1853 when Peder Wiborg and Evan Nelson emigrated from Norway and settled at what is now Weborg Point in Peninsula State Park. (The name “Wiborg” was late changed to “Weborg.”) Several years later two of Peder's brothers, Henry and Andrew arrived and the Wiborgs began to harvest the area's plentiful supply of fish. Peder also worked as a cooper, making barrels to hold and store the catch. Initially, they used a rowboat and speared fish. When the ice came, they chopped holes in it and used bait to bob for trout and lawyers. The catch, which was frozen or salted, enabled them to survive during the winter. Soon, continued on page 14
their wives made small nets from linen sewing thread. These were then strung out using stones to weigh down the bottom and wood sticks to float the top to catch greater quantities of fish.

In the 1870s, Andrew and his wife, the former Anna Simondson, moved to Gills Rock where he founded a commercial fishing enterprise assisted by his brothers Alfred and Willie. Andrew’s sons Alfred, Arthur and William continued this business. Other early fishermen included Frank Teske, brothers Jake and Andy Johnson, Stanley White and brothers Alek and Walter Johnson. The Weborg fishing dynasty continues to this day carried on by Alfred and Arthur’s descendants.

Unfortunately, the Federal Census which is taken every 10 years provides data only for townships including the Town of Liberty Grove. Thus, it does not have specific data for the inhabitants of Gills Rock proper. The 1860 federal census for Liberty Grove lists 29 household heads five of whom were fishermen, four being from Norway, and one from Denmark. At the same time, census records for that year list 104 fishermen in the Town of Washington—a far greater number. Of these, 25 were native-born Yankees, while 36 came from Ireland and 19 from Germany. The 1870 census for Liberty Grove lists only two fishermen, both from Norway. The 1880 census did not list any fishermen because the enumerator incorrectly listed them as farmers, including fisherman Andrew Wiborg.

By 1882, there were at least 60 shipping piers located around the Door Peninsula. On April 16, 1883, a post office was established for Hedge Hog in the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 31, Town 33 North, Range 29 East. Its name was changed to “Gillsruck” on February 11, 1902. Spelling the name as one word was required by a U.S. Post Office Department policy on new post office names in effect at the time. The office was discontinued on July 30, 1904, when mail service moved to Ellison Bay.

Early plat maps of Door County also reveal important information about Gills Rock. The 1899 plat book indicates three piers extending from it. It also shows eight dwellings. The 1914 plat book shows only two piers, but 11 houses were shown.

Many of the early fishermen built their own boats using locally cut white oak. This wood, when steamed and bent, retained its curved shape. At first, open “pond boats” were used which, after several years, were sometimes powered by 7.5 horsepower internal combustion motors. Later, larger 20-foot.-long boats were used. Some had small cabins and were powered by Model-A Ford engines. Local resident and former fisherman, Roger Johnson, indicated that his father and uncle had one of the first 36-foot-long “bigger boats.” It was built in 1920 by the Johnson and Gmach Boat Works of Sturgeon Bay. This firm later became the Palmer Johnson Boat Works noted for their large, custom-designed yachts.

Auto ferry service to Washington Island began in 1923 with a boat called the Wisconsin which held four cars. The ferries Welcome and North Shore were added and, in 1925, after a dock there had been built up, the run from Gills Rock was established from May 1 until October 15. Later the ferries landed at the dock at Northport. Before icebreaker ships were available, the ferries remained iced in when the lake froze over.

By 1940, because the dramatic increase of smelt in Green Bay fouled their nets, many fishermen moved to Lake Superior. Some also went to Kenosha, Racine and Milwaukee.

continued on page 15
A History of Gills Rock, from page 14

Then, the lamprey eel infested the lake virtually wiping out the whitefish and trout population. Later, methods were devised to control the lamprey and in the early 60s restocking programs brought a modest improvement for the fishing industry. However, today, the Great Lakes are plagued with problems resulting from invasive exotic marine creatures, aquatic plant species and an array of pollution problems. The days when every boat carried a dipper and fishermen drank water freely from the lake are now just distant memories.

The present-day commercial fishery is based on lake whitefish, smelt, bloater chubs, perch and on alewife for animal feed. Commercial fishing is limited by a federal prohibition on the sale of fish affected by toxic contaminants. The trend in the U.S. is to reduce the pressure on the fishery by restricting commercial fishing to trap nets that harvest species selectively, without killing species preferred by recreational anglers. Over the years, as Roger Johnson noted, “there were good years and there were bad years” for fishermen. Now there are fewer than 10 fisheries left in Door County. The largest of these is J&M Fisheries at Gills Rock, operated by Jeff Weborg and his brother Mark Weborg. However, the fishing industry, along with tourism, remains a mainstay of the community. The local maritime museum, with its insightful information, and commercial fishing and boating artifacts, chronicles the area’s rich historical relationship to the surrounding waters of Lake Michigan.

Cana Island Tower Restoration

*Photo 1:* The original stucco was removed showing the original cream city brick for the first time in 112 years.

*Photo 2:* Fresh stucco was added to better protect the brick for years to come.

Photos by Dwight Zeller

WISH LIST

- A Volunteer blogger
- Volunteer tug and museum Docents (tour guides)
- Volunteers for data entry and office assistance
- High quality color scanner
- Higher resolution digital camera (with zoom)
- Gently used artificial Christmas trees
- Full size refrigerator/freezer - Gently used
- New or gently used dog beds for our new "Sea Dogs" exhibit (the bigger the better but all are welcome)

SEA DOGS PHOTO ALBUM

Attention dog owners! We invite you to send a photograph of your favorite dog enjoying life in or on the water. Whether your dog is cruising on a motor yacht, riding the waves on a skiff, or just wading in the shallows, we want to see him/her. We’ll include them in a photo album which will be on display in our Sea Dogs exhibit that opens in May 2015.

Send us a photograph or a high resolution digital image with the dog’s name, when and where the photograph was taken and a brief description (600 words or less) of the dog and his/her nautical activities.

Mail photos to June Larson, DCMM, 120 N Madison Avenue, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235 or email her at jlarson@dcmm.org.
SOMETHING "FISHY" QUIZ

1. Gills Rock was originally known as
   a. Libertyville
   b. Hedgehog Harbor
   c. Big Lake
   d. Weborg’s Wharf

2. This is NOT a kind of fish net.
   a. gill
   b. pound
   c. lake
   d. trap

3. This is NOT a Great Lakes fish.
   a. trout
   b. herring
   c. chub
   d. tuna

4. Some fishermen were also coopers making
   a. coops
   b. boats
   c. barrels
   d. nets

5. Commercial fishermen considered these “nuisance” fish.
   a. sturgeon
   b. smelt
   c. lawyer
   d. alewife

6. The majority of fish tugs are powered by these engines.
   a. Mercury
   b. Johnson
   c. Kahlenberg
   d. Hercules

7. The preferred fish for Door County fish boils is
   a. salmon
   b. whitefish
   c. trout
   d. bass

8. This fish tug is on display in the Gills Rock Maritime Museum.
   a. Skipper
   b. Faith
   c. Joy
   d. Hope

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. b. Hedgehog Harbor
2. c. lake
3. d. tuna
4. c. barrels
5. a. sturgeon
6. c. Kahlenberg
7. b. whitefish
8. d. Hope

WALK OF FAME BRICKS

The Pirates of Grasse’s Grill
Karen Cowan
David Mann
Sister Bay, WI
Chris Craft
Chris Craft
Golden Gal 1&2
Golden Gal 3

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Alpine Resort & Golf Course
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Associated Bank
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Babler Bus Service, Inc.
Bank Mutual
Barn Door Quilt Shop
Bath Body & Soul
Bayside Bakery & Café
Beach People
Birch Creek Music Performance Center
Bliss
Bluefront Café
Cal Bonnivier
Boys & Girls Club of Door County
Bridgeport Waterfront Resort
Bridgeview Hair Design
Carol Cesar, Regina Edwards Designs
Chelsea Antiques/Blue Willow Shop
Frank Christensen
Cornucopia Kitchen Shop
Country Ovens, Ltd.
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Evenson Laundry & Dry Cleaners, Inc.
Audry Forslund, Pulp Faction
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Green Bay Packers
Harbor Fish Market & Grille
Heaven Scent Gardens
Giz Herbst, Yore Place

Merry-Time Festival of Trees Sponsors
Trudy & Jay Herbst
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Kevin's Automotive
Kitty O'Reilly's Irish Pub
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Jan LaSota
LfpDesign! LLC
The Lodge at Leatham Smith
The Lodge FM 106.9
Maas Floral & Greenhouse
Maxwell's House
Meissner Landscape Inc.
Mill Supper Club
Ministry Door County Medical Center
Newport Resort
Nor Door Sport & Cyclery
Northern Sky Theater
Northern Territory
Rick & Renee O'Farrell
Off Gallery & Framery
Off the Wheel Pottery
On Deck Clothing Co.
Orchard Country Winery & Market
Oscar's & Door County Rubber Stamp
Pack and Ship PLUS
Peninsula Players Theatre
Pirates in the Harbour Parrot Head Club
Plum Loco Animal Farm
Popelka Trenchard Glass
Beverly Purves
Red Oak Winery
Red Room
Steve Reinke
Renard's Cheese / Renard Cloverleaf Dairy
Jerry Richter
Roen Salvage Company
Scaturo's Baking Co. & Cafe
Sally Schopf
Seaquist Orchards
Sherry's Hallmark
Steep Creek Farm, LLC
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Sunnypoint Landscape, LLC
Synergy Geothermal Heating-Cooling
Tadych's Econo Foods
Target

Merry-Time Festival of Trees Sponsors
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Write on, Door County!
Wulf Brothers, Inc.
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Pam Zeller
Zoerb's

Donated for Museum Use
Sturgeon Bay Public Schools
Paul D. Stoltman

Donation of Services
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Off Center Harbor, LLC

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Add'l Boat Raffle Donations
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Uncle Tom's Newport School Candy
**MEMBERSHIP**

Your support is greatly appreciated!

Treat a relative, friend, or employee to a museum membership. Great benefits, including free admittance to the museum's three locations, three great issues of the *Mari-Times* newsletter, and 15% discount in the Museum Stores!

**Welcome New Members**  
(9/10/2014 – 12/31/2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Allen &amp; Alan Kassien</td>
<td>Sturgeon Bay, WI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marc &amp; Ellen Binard</td>
<td>Sturgeon Bay, WI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard W. Diemer</td>
<td>Ripon, WI</td>
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<td>Dennis Gammon</td>
<td>De Forest, WI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jimmy &amp; Jessica Grasse</td>
<td>Sister Bay, WI</td>
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<td>Julie Haen &amp; Chad Simon</td>
<td>Sturgeon Bay, WI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walt Hoon</td>
<td>Waunakee, WI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Karcher</td>
<td>Milwaukee, WI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom &amp; Kim Krueger</td>
<td>Sturgeon Bay, WI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rick &amp; Renee O'Farrell</td>
<td>Marinette, WI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff &amp; Barbara Ottum</td>
<td>Sturgeon Bay, WI</td>
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<tr>
<td>John &amp; Cathy Pabich</td>
<td>Algoma, WI</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Saksewski &amp; Margie Hagene</td>
<td>Sturgeon Bay, WI</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Schanock</td>
<td>Sturgeon Bay, WI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Turek</td>
<td>Kenosha, WI</td>
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<tr>
<td>John &amp; Judy Turner</td>
<td>Ephraim, WI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Josh &amp; Teri Van Lieshout</td>
<td>Sturgeon Bay, WI</td>
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<tr>
<td>David &amp; Diana Verhagen</td>
<td>Green Bay, WI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom &amp; Lori Vorpahl</td>
<td>Sturgeon Bay, WI</td>
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**Welcome Lifetime Members**  
(9/10/2014 – 9/9/2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Hamming &amp; Kate Roberts</td>
<td>Egg Harbor, WI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jay Nelson</td>
<td>Oak Creek, WI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kurt Nelson</td>
<td>Minneapolis, MN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Welcome New & Returning Business Partners**  
(9/10/2014 – 12/31/2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridgeport Waterfront Resort</td>
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<tr>
<td>Door County Eye Associates, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Nightingale Supper Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grasse’s Grill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roen Salvage Company</td>
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**Visit our 3 Store Locations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Icon</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sturgeon Bay</td>
<td>🌈</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cana Island</td>
<td>🌈</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gills Rock</td>
<td>🌈</td>
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</tbody>
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And use your **15% Membership Discount** on all store merchandise!

NOW is the time to check out our seasonal Clearance items on sale in Sturgeon Bay!
SPONSOR A DAY OF AMAZEMENT

For a $250 donation, you may personally Sponsor a Day at the Museum. Sponsor A Day is a wonderful way to honor a loved one, recognize a birthday, an anniversary or a memory! You will be recognized at all three Museum locations, on our website and in the Museum newsletter. You will also receive a support decal for your car or business window. To select your date, contact us at (920) 743-5958. Sponsor A Day Commitments:

September 8 was sponsored by Bay Shipbuilding Company: In Honor of All Our Employees
September 26 was sponsored by Bay Shipbuilding Company: In Honor of the Long Maritime History of Sturgeon Bay
October 3 was sponsored by Bay Shipbuilding Company: Hard Work and Lots of It!
October 16 was sponsored by LsDesign!: In Loving Memory of Marion Solway-Schuster on her Birthday
October 24 was sponsored by Bay Shipbuilding Company: In Honor of the Long Maritime History of Sturgeon Bay
October 25 was sponsored by Jonlee Peterson: In Memory of Jean Olander Nelson
October 31 was sponsored by Jonlee Peterson: In Memory of George Marvin Nelson
November 15 was sponsored by Karen Andrus: For Jackson Paul Andrus’ 1st Birthday
November 29 was sponsored by Gary & Sandy King: Yo Ho Grady Baumann and All the Little Pirates
December 6 was sponsored by Gary & Sandy King: Merry Christmas
December 27 was sponsored by Karen Andrus: In Remembrance of Paul W. Andrus on His Birthday

January 1 was sponsored by An Anonymous Friend of the Museum - and the Dairy Industry!
January 10 was sponsored by Roen Salvage Company: In Memory of Hilda Roen Asher - Past “Chairman of the Board” of Roen Salvage Company
January 19 is sponsored by Barb & Tim Graul: In Memory of Jeff Weborg
January 23 is sponsored by Pete & Jelaine Horton: In Memory of Jeff Weborg
January 30 is sponsored by Jonlee Peterson: In Memory of Robert Eric Peterson
February 12 is sponsored by John P. Baumgartner: In Loving Memory of R. J. Baumgartner – The “Skipper”
February 20 is sponsored by Tim & Barb Graul: Recognizing Eric’s & Tim’s Birthdays
February 28 is sponsored by Stone Harbor Resort: In Honor of Nancy & Steve Bertz
April 18 is sponsored by Jacqueline Szczepanski: Thrivent Financial - Connecting faith and finances for good.
May 22 is sponsored by Tom & Sue Kuffel: In memory of the fellow submariners lost aboard the USS Scorpion SSN589 on or about May 22, 1968.
June 2 is sponsored by Roen Salvage Company: In Memory of Charles W. Asher - Founder of Roen Salvage Company.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership: ☐ New ☐ Renewal ☐ Gift
Gift? ☐ Send to Me ☐ Send to recipient

LIFETIME Includes 5 Guest Passes/year; portion of payment supports the Endowment
☐ Individual ($750): One Adult ☐ Family ($1,000): Two Adults & children

TWO YEARS Good for 24 months
☐ Captain ($75): One Adult ☐ Mate ($115): Two Adults
☐ Crew ($135): Two Adults & children aged 5-18 in same household
☐ Sustaining ($495): Two Adults, includes $380 donation

ONE YEAR Good for 12 months
☐ Captain ($40): One Adult ☐ Mate ($60): Two Adults
☐ Crew ($70): Two Adults & children aged 5-18 in same household
☐ Sustaining ($250): Two Adults, includes $195 donation

Member Name(s) __________________________________________ Name of person giving membership, if Gift __________________________________
Address __________________________________________ City __________________________ State & Zip __________
Phone __________________________ E-mail __________________________ Phone __________________________

Guest Passes: Pack of 5 for $40
• Pass includes Cana Island Tower or Tug Tour
• Exclusive Discount Offered to Members Only!

Membership Dues: $ __________
Guest Pass: Pack @ $40/ea.: $ __________
Annual Fund Contribution: $ __________
Any amount beyond pass purchase is tax-deductible, you will receive a receipt–Thank you!

Total Payment: $ __________
☐ Check enclosed (payable to ‘DCMM’)
☐ MC/Visa# __________________________
Exp: __________ CVC#: __________

Mail Form and Payment to DCMM, 120 N. Madison Ave., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235 • Questions? Contact (920) 743-5958 or szeyher@dcmm.org
Calendar of Events

February 5, Thursday
Great Lakes/Great Books Club, 10:30 am, free

February 5, Thursday
Maritime Speaker Series – Bob Desh 7:00 pm, free

March 5, Thursday
Great Lakes/Great Books Club, 10:30 am, free

March 5, Thursday
Maritime Speaker Series – Palmer Johnson, Inc., 7:00 pm, free

March 16, Monday
Lighthouse Festival tickets go on sale for Maritime Museum Members Only

March 30, Monday
Lighthouse Festival tickets go on sale to the public

April 2, Thursday
Great Lakes/Great Books Club, 10:30 am, free

April 2, Thursday
Maritime Speaker Series – Rick O’Farrell, 7:00 pm, free

April 24, Friday
"Members Only" Preview of Cana Island Restoration project

May 5, Tuesday
Gills Rock Cleanup Day, 9 am - 3 pm

May 7, Thursday
Great Lakes/Great Books Club, 10:30 am, free

May 12, Tuesday
"Members Only" Exhibit Preview of "Sea Dogs" and the tugboat John Purves in Sturgeon Bay

May 15, Friday
"Members Only" Gills Rock Exhibit Preview

May 15, Friday
"Sea Dogs" New Exhibit opening in Sturgeon Bay

May 23, 24, 25, Sat - Mon
Gills Rock Maritime Museum is open 10 am-5 pm

May 30-31, Sat & Sun
Gills Rock Maritime Museum is open 10 am-5 pm

June 5, Friday - October 18, Sunday
Gills Rock Maritime Museum is open 10 am - 5 pm daily

June 12-14, Friday-Sunday
22nd Annual Door County Lighthouse Festival

August 1 - 9
Sturgeon Bay Maritime Week - "A Salute to the U.S. Coast Guard"

August 7 & 8, Fri & Sat
25th Annual Classic & Wooden Boat Festival

For additional information on museum Events & Activities, call us at (920) 743-5958 or visit www.DCMM.org.