What’s new for Winter 2020?

We have come to know Matthew Male as the unflappable leader of NLMS’s annual volunteer trips to count tern nests & eggs out at Great Gull Island -- a hair-raising experience quite unlike anything else!

In 1973 at age 13, Matthew first visited nearby Great Gull, NY, a Research Station owned by The American Museum of Natural History. He has returned almost every year since. School vacations were spent working with the seabirds -- Common and Roseate Terns -- that nest on the 17-acre island. Matt continues to build and maintain a series of blinds that island researchers use to observe birds and wildlife. He monitors habitat manipulation and vegetation control on the island. Matthew is a consumate birder -- living for months during spring and fall migrations out on the island, alternately running bird walks and counts on the mainland, all the while photographing everything he sees. He posts his images to facebook, where we all can see the wildlife off just our shore and be amazed.

This winter, we invited Matthew to have a special exhibition of his photographs at the Custom House. The show opens on January 25. Matthew speaks about his work on Sunday, February 16, and we have a related talk about Monarch butterfly migration with Ron Gagliardi on Sunday, March 22.

In 2020, the Maritime Society is shifting its gaze to take in a wider view of our local environment: habitats, wildlife, fly ways, area fortifications (coming in April). Stay tuned for new programming posted at nlmaritimesociety.org.

~ Saturday, January 25, 5-8 PM. Opening: MATTHEW MALE - My View from Great Gull Island - Photos from the edge of The Sound at the Custom House.

~ Sunday, February 16, at 2 PM. Matthew Male will speak about his photographs and experiences on Great Gull Island in a talk at the Custom House.

~ Sunday, March 22, 2 PM. Monarch butterfly migration with Ron Gagliardi

Matthew’s photos will be on view at the Custom House through March.
Twenty-One Years and Counting
A Brief History of the Frank L. McGuire Maritime Library and a Word About the Collections
by Brian Rogers, Librarian

From the very beginning of the Maritime Society in the 1980s, Lucille Showalter and the other founders wanted a library in the future Museum. As the Custom House underwent renovation a library committee chaired by Pamela McNulty made plans, and a Bodenwein grant allowed Board Chairman Ben Martin to design and install the bookcases that have housed the library since its 1998 dedication. The collection grew under Museum Director Melodie Foster and groundwork was laid for a future online catalog. After her arrival as Director in 2008 one of Susan Tamulevich’s goals was to revive the then inactive library, and in 2009 this writer accepted an invitation to take it on. Associate Librarian Laurie Deredita came aboard the next year and since then have we been developing the collection, maintaining the new online catalog, and responding to requests that arrive from many parts of the country and overseas. We are grateful that Laurie has agreed to assume the responsibilities of librarian at the end of 2019, after which I will focus on outreach by preparing new online exhibits, adding to the eight published since 2016, which may be reached through the Maritime Society website.

At the annual meeting in November, 2019, a list of our archival “non-book” collections was distributed, and a version follows below. All but a few have been given since 2008 by donors wanting us to preserve historically valuable material. And while our traditional books, numbering upwards of 3,000 volumes, comprise a rich resource for local and regional maritime history, the non-book collections under our care add immeasurably to the usefulness of this library honoring the memory and manifold contributions of the late Frank Lewis McGuire.

December 2019

New in the Frank L. McGuire Library and in the MUSEUM SHOP
Two Revolutionary War Privateers, William and Virginia Packwood

William and Joseph Packwood of New London were Connecticut sea captains and privateers actively involved in the American Revolutionary War. They ran the trade route from the Thirteen Colonies to the Caribbean islands, secured large quantities of gunpowder and arms for use in the rebellion, and outfitted privateers to prey on and capture British ships. George Washington personally requested gunpowder from them for use by the Colonies; Benjamin Franklin sought France’s release of one of their ships; and Alexander Hamilton ultimately denied reimbursement for the extensive losses they suffered in the War. Told in the Packwood captains’ own words, this book offers a vivid picture of the American War for Independence from a maritime perspective.

Some time ago, co-author William Packwood discovered he was the direct descendant and namesake of William Packwood. The original William and his brother, Joseph, worked for Nathaniel Shaw, Naval Agent of the Colony of Connecticut in New London, (and who also built the Shaw Mansion).

Bill and Gini discovered a treasure trove of historical records related to the Packwoods. This book contains many of the Packwood documents from the Yale index, the Shaw Mansion, and the Custom House Maritime Museum Library.

Save the date: Unable to travel at this time, the Packwoods will join us for a live Face-time conversation at the Custom House on Sunday, March 1, at 2 PM. Seating will be extremely limited for this special event. Please register by calling 860-447-2501.
Dear Friends,

We hope you’ll consider supporting the New London Maritime Society, a good neighbor in downtown New London for three+ decades. We’ve made it a priority to provide programs that serve the entire community, often with no fee. Here are some highlights from the past year:

- the Frank L. McGuire Maritime Research Library has collected resources and answered the public’s local history questions for 21 years. FREE
- JIBBOOM CLUB #1 has held monthly gatherings for seniors for more than 12 years. FREE
- We’ve partnered with NL Public Schools for 12 years, with Lighthouse Kids & now with our Local History & Landmarks program. FREE
- the Custom House has been registered on both the CT Freedom Trail & NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom for the last decade.

Today we preserve and provide public access to four significant historic sites:

- New London Harbor Lighthouse, (est.1760) 1801
- New London’s US Custom House, 1833
- Race Rock Lighthouse, 1878
- New London Ledge Lighthouse, 1909

Like you, we’re endlessly curious about New London’s maritime past.

This year, for the first time, your donations enabled us to offer public tours to visit inside all three of our Lighthouses.

Your gifts allowed our programs for students and seniors to blossom. Meanwhile, we grew our collections, had a major reorganization of our collections facilities, created a garden alongside the museum, and coped with new leaks to the custom house roof.

Help us create an adventurous new year of programming at the Custom House.

Your generosity is what keeps us afloat. Annual Fund contributions make up 20% of the New London Maritime Society operating budget.

Please make a donation today. Heartfelt thanks for your support,

Ed Cubansk, Susan Tamulevich, & the NLMS Board of Trustees

$1,000 Whale  $750 Harbor Seal  $500 Oystercatcher  $250 Gull  $100 Scallop  $50 Quahog

My contribution is $____________

Name ____________________________ Date ____________ Business (if applicable)__________________

Address __________________________ City __________________ State _______ Zip ______________

Email ____________________________ Phone __________________ Does your employer match this gift? Employer __________________________

Check (by mail) ______ Make out check to New London Maritime Society or NLMS Credit card (circle one): Visa / Master Card / American Express / Discover

Credit card # __________________________ Exp. ___________ Code __________

Please make a donation today. Heartfelt thanks for your support,

Ed Cubansk, Susan Tamulevich, & the NLMS Board of Trustees

$1,000 Whale  $750 Harbor Seal  $500 Oystercatcher  $250 Gull  $100 Scallop  $50 Quahog

My contribution is $____________

Name ____________________________ Date ____________ Business (if applicable)__________________

Address __________________________ City __________________ State _______ Zip ______________

Email ____________________________ Phone __________________ Does your employer match this gift? Employer __________________________

Check (by mail) ______ Make out check to New London Maritime Society or NLMS Credit card (circle one): Visa / Master Card / American Express / Discover

Credit card # __________________________ Exp. ___________ Code __________

Please make a donation today. Heartfelt thanks for your support,

Ed Cubansk, Susan Tamulevich, & the NLMS Board of Trustees

$1,000 Whale  $750 Harbor Seal  $500 Oystercatcher  $250 Gull  $100 Scallop  $50 Quahog

My contribution is $____________

Name ____________________________ Date ____________ Business (if applicable)__________________

Address __________________________ City __________________ State _______ Zip ______________

Email ____________________________ Phone __________________ Does your employer match this gift? Employer __________________________

Check (by mail) ______ Make out check to New London Maritime Society or NLMS Credit card (circle one): Visa / Master Card / American Express / Discover

Credit card # __________________________ Exp. ___________ Code __________

Please make a donation today. Heartfelt thanks for your support,

Ed Cubansk, Susan Tamulevich, & the NLMS Board of Trustees

$1,000 Whale  $750 Harbor Seal  $500 Oystercatcher  $250 Gull  $100 Scallop  $50 Quahog

My contribution is $____________

Name ____________________________ Date ____________ Business (if applicable)__________________

Address __________________________ City __________________ State _______ Zip ______________

Email ____________________________ Phone __________________ Does your employer match this gift? Employer __________________________

Check (by mail) ______ Make out check to New London Maritime Society or NLMS Credit card (circle one): Visa / Master Card / American Express / Discover

Credit card # __________________________ Exp. ___________ Code __________

Please make a donation today. Heartfelt thanks for your support,

Ed Cubansk, Susan Tamulevich, & the NLMS Board of Trustees

$1,000 Whale  $750 Harbor Seal  $500 Oystercatcher  $250 Gull  $100 Scallop  $50 Quahog

My contribution is $____________

Name ____________________________ Date ____________ Business (if applicable)__________________

Address __________________________ City __________________ State _______ Zip ______________

Email ____________________________ Phone __________________ Does your employer match this gift? Employer __________________________

Check (by mail) ______ Make out check to New London Maritime Society or NLMS Credit card (circle one): Visa / Master Card / American Express / Discover

Credit card # __________________________ Exp. ___________ Code __________

Please make a donation today. Heartfelt thanks for your support,

Ed Cubansk, Susan Tamulevich, & the NLMS Board of Trustees

$1,000 Whale  $750 Harbor Seal  $500 Oystercatcher  $250 Gull  $100 Scallop  $50 Quahog

My contribution is $____________

Name ____________________________ Date ____________ Business (if applicable)__________________

Address __________________________ City __________________ State _______ Zip ______________

Email ____________________________ Phone __________________ Does your employer match this gift? Employer __________________________

Check (by mail) ______ Make out check to New London Maritime Society or NLMS Credit card (circle one): Visa / Master Card / American Express / Discover

Credit card # __________________________ Exp. ___________ Code __________

Please make a donation today. Heartfelt thanks for your support,

Ed Cubansk, Susan Tamulevich, & the NLMS Board of Trustees

$1,000 Whale  $750 Harbor Seal  $500 Oystercatcher  $250 Gull  $100 Scallop  $50 Quahog

My contribution is $____________

Name ____________________________ Date ____________ Business (if applicable)__________________

Address __________________________ City __________________ State _______ Zip ______________

Email ____________________________ Phone __________________ Does your employer match this gift? Employer __________________________

Check (by mail) ______ Make out check to New London Maritime Society or NLMS Credit card (circle one): Visa / Master Card / American Express / Discover

Credit card # __________________________ Exp. ___________ Code __________

Please make a donation today. Heartfelt thanks for your support,

Ed Cubansk, Susan Tamulevich, & the NLMS Board of Trustees

$1,000 Whale  $750 Harbor Seal  $500 Oystercatcher  $250 Gull  $100 Scallop  $50 Quahog

My contribution is $____________

Name ____________________________ Date ____________ Business (if applicable)__________________

Address __________________________ City __________________ State _______ Zip ______________

Email ____________________________ Phone __________________ Does your employer match this gift? Employer __________________________

Check (by mail) ______ Make out check to New London Maritime Society or NLMS Credit card (circle one): Visa / Master Card / American Express / Discover

Credit card # __________________________ Exp. ___________ Code __________

Please make a donation today. Heartfelt thanks for your support,

Ed Cubansk, Susan Tamulevich, & the NLMS Board of Trustees

$1,000 Whale  $750 Harbor Seal  $500 Oystercatcher  $250 Gull  $100 Scallop  $50 Quahog

My contribution is $____________

Name ____________________________ Date ____________ Business (if applicable)__________________

Address __________________________ City __________________ State _______ Zip ______________

Email ____________________________ Phone __________________ Does your employer match this gift? Employer __________________________

Check (by mail) ______ Make out check to New London Maritime Society or NLMS Credit card (circle one): Visa / Master Card / American Express / Discover

Credit card # __________________________ Exp. ___________ Code __________

Please make a donation today. Heartfelt thanks for your support,

Ed Cubansk, Susan Tamulevich, & the NLMS Board of Trustees

$1,000 Whale  $750 Harbor Seal  $500 Oystercatcher  $250 Gull  $100 Scallop  $50 Quahog

My contribution is $____________

Name ____________________________ Date ____________ Business (if applicable)__________________

Address __________________________ City __________________ State _______ Zip ______________

Email ____________________________ Phone __________________ Does your employer match this gift? Employer __________________________

Check (by mail) ______ Make out check to New London Maritime Society or NLMS Credit card (circle one): Visa / Master Card / American Express / Discover

Credit card # __________________________ Exp. ___________ Code __________

Please make a donation today. Heartfelt thanks for your support,

Ed Cubansk, Susan Tamulevich, & the NLMS Board of Trustees

$1,000 Whale  $750 Harbor Seal  $500 Oystercatcher  $250 Gull  $100 Scallop  $50 Quahog

My contribution is $____________

Name ____________________________ Date ____________ Business (if applicable)__________________

Address __________________________ City __________________ State _______ Zip ______________

Email ____________________________ Phone __________________ Does your employer match this gift? Employer __________________________

Check (by mail) ______ Make out check to New London Maritime Society or NLMS Credit card (circle one): Visa / Master Card / American Express / Discover

Credit card # __________________________ Exp. ___________ Code __________
New to the collection

We thank our long-time friend Marian Krepcio for donating some additional wonderful items relating to fisherman/author/artist Ellery Thompson (1899-1987) to the Custom House in January. Above, among these items are the plan for Ellery’s dragger boat, Eleanor. He named the boat for his sister.

local-friendly-authentic


We are teachers, sailors, historians, librarians, conservationists, & maritime aficionados.

NLMS is independant. We chart our own course defending your access to historic sites and preserving our shared maritime history. Please join / donate / shop at the Custom House MUSEUM SHOP today. Thank you!

nlmaritimesociety.org

Want to know who’s in the Harbor?
Come into the Custom House, click on the PortVision ship icon, and see!

Below: In November, Jody Barthel, NLMS educator and director of our third-grade Local History & Landmarks program, took all 300+ New London public school children -- two classes at a time -- to visit the Lyman Allyn Art Museum. This is the first time we partnered with the Lyman Allyn, and the children loved it! In February, they’ll come to the Custom House!