

MUSEUM INVENTORY—YOUR MUSEUM NEEDS YOU!



The Reedville Fishermen's Museum, like all other museums, collects objects that tell the story of a region, an industry, or a category of art, science, or industry. Museums exhibit these objects for others to enjoy, but may also study them, restore them, or share them. Museums are ethically and legally required to care for their collections to ensure that future generations have a chance to enjoy them and to benefit from them.

Cataloging museum collections is an important aspect of museum management. Should an object be lost, damaged, or destroyed, a catalog entry can be used as a permanent record of the object and information about the item. Inventorying museum artifacts generally consists of assigning a unique number to every artifact and providing a brief description, identifying the location, and documenting how it came into the museum's possession. Inventorying helps to organize the artifacts and enables the museum to better manage its collection.

Some of our collection has already been inventoried and catalogued, but some of it has not been formally captured in an inventory. While this seems to be a huge, almost overwhelming endeavor, it is really no more than a bunch of small efforts that can take place over the span of a couple of weeks. As we inventory, we will go one box or one shelf at a time until all objects in the boxes and on the shelves have been properly recorded. And that is where you come in.



It will take many hands to complete this critical effort. But if each member contributes just a few hours, the work will move forward quickly and efficiently. The work is not complicated, nor does it require any specific knowledge of museums or artifacts. Volunteers will check the existing inventory, find each item and record its location, take a photo of the item, and input the data into the Museum's software. Each volunteer will be trained on how to collect the data and forms will be provided to record all the necessary information. Lee, our Director, will oversee all the work and be available to answer any questions.

We need to complete the inventory while the Museum is closed for winter, so our goal is to finish the work by the end of March. Please **call the office right now** at **804 453 6529** with the dates and hours you are available to help. Please, please help—this is a critical undertaking for the Museum and we need everyone to participate.

BLESSING OF THE FLEET

St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Fletton is once again hosting the Blessing of the Fleet in early May (check the Museum website later for the exact date: www.rfmuseum.org). This year will celebrate the 50th occasion of the event. It will take place rain or shine. Bring a lawn chair.

All boaters are welcome to participate and are encouraged to decorate their boats in celebration of the event. The Parade of boats begins at 3:30 from Fletton Point and the ceremony will begin take place at 4pm at the Reedville Stack. Admission is free. To get to the stack, go through the gates at Omega Protein's facility off Menhaden Road.



Blessing of the Fleet