



The Rootbumper

A newsletter of the Florida Institute for Saltwater Heritage

SUMMER 2010

V- SMALL CRAFT FESTIVAL

The Vth Annual Great Florida Gulf Coast Craft Festival will be held April 16th, 17th and 18th. The Festival is hosted by Florida Gulf Coast Traditional Small Craft Association, the Bayside Banquet Hall, the N E Taylor Boatworks, and the Florida Maritime Museum at Cortez. The week-end goal is to get people out rowing, sailing and paddling in traditional types of small sailboats, rowboats, canoes and kayaks. Over 65 boats from all over the country came last year and we hope more will come this year. The featured speaker this year is the venerable and most ancient Peter Vermilya, former Small Craft Specialist/ Watercraft Curator at Mystic Seaport Maritime Museum. His presentation will be about the development of traditional watercraft with particular emphasis on the catboat and the Sharpie. The Maritime Museum will be open for tours and will be conducting a sale of duplicate maritime books and small craft magazines. The public is invited and please come to show our support for the folks that have come so many miles to take part.



Works in Progress:

The Cortez Church of God acquisition has been completed thanks in part to 1st American Bank that worked with the FISH Board to provide financing for the project. The loan includes funds for repairs and improvements that qualify the property for a standard business mortgage. That work, including a new roof on the Sunday School building and minor repairs to windows in the Church itself, is almost complete. Cleaning up and painting for all three buildings is the next phase in the effort. Once complete the Church will be made available for rentals and for exhibits, the Parsonage will continue as a rental unit to help pay the mortgage and the Sunday School will be a multi use facility for storage and classroom space.

Greetings:

I'd like to touch on a few items concerning the Florida Institute for Saltwater Heritage, FISH. Inc. First, we are a dedicated group of volunteers who are committed to preserving the heritage of our fishing and maritime community. Cortez is a great place. I know. I've traveled 'round the world and seen a lot of marvelous places. I returned to my birthplace thirty plus years ago with memories of some great places. Cortez equals any of them. Cortez was established by and for fishermen and has thrived as just that for more than a century. If we don't protect what our ancestors brought us, who will?

There are rumors that FISH is building condos or a store in the village. That is completely false. We have recently purchased the defunct Church of God properties and are in the process of restoring the Parsonage and the adjacent classroom/office building. We intend to rent the Parsonage and use the Church of God building for special events. The former classrooms will be utilized as office space. We also have the old Firehouse. It was, is, and will remain part of our Community. We have partnered with the Historical Division of Manatee County to establish a Maritime Museum in Cortez. We urge everyone to visit it, especially at our Folk Arts Festival in November. Or, if you prefer, during our Commercial Fishing Festival in February. Of course you're welcome anytime of the year. Secondly, speaking of the Commercial Fishing Festival: This is our tribute to all our Commercial Fishermen. We bring educational tools to the general public that provides them a better understanding of what we do here. We pass on to the public the positive aspects of the fishing industry, and show them the impact of heavy regulation. We want the public on the side of commercial fishermen. We have a Memorial in front of Star Fish Co., established by the Florida Waterfronts Committee. FISH is managing it and the Miller Dock, also a product from Waterfronts. Thirdly, we have purchased most of the 95 acres east of Cortez. Some will remember it as the Crampton Subdivision. It is now named the FISH Preserve, and is undergoing changes due to years of neglect, illegal dumping, and invasive species, such as pepper trees. The preserve provides habitat for sea birds, small fish, shrimp, scallops, and other land and sea creatures. The water there was aptly named "the Kitchen" because it provides us seafood. It also provides sea creatures that we proudly display in our

"touch tank" aquarium during the annual Commercial Fishing Festival. Some of our fishermen take the time to interact with the public at the touch tank. Fourth: The old waterfront store established by the Brattons and known as the Burton Store was saved by Cortez Village Historical Society. It now rests on the grounds of the Museum. The building is significant to Cortez in that it was one of very few waterfront buildings to survive the 1921 hurricane that destroyed the Cortez waterfront. It is to be the gateway to

The FISH Preserve. Our Commercial Fishing Festival is the main source of annual income to purchase and protect these assets. So you can see, all funds acquired are funneled into our community. All grants and donations are spent on projects accordingly.

All members of FISH are volunteers for this 501c3 not-for-profit organization. I salute each and every one of them. Join us, and help us Preserve your community.

Richard Culbreath
President



Work continues on the F.I.S.H. Preserve. Watch for a full update in our next Newsletter

WE SALUTE YOU! In each newsletter we try to give a big thanks to the people who have done a great volunteer job for us.

JOE HENKEN: Won Volunteer of the year at the recent Seafood Festival. Joe works two mornings a week at The Maritime Museum.

Jerry Bein: Does more jobs than you can count at the Boatshop and is there when you need him. He's part of a dynamic Volunteer team that includes wife, Judy

BOAT SHOP UPDATE: The restoration of the **Smiley** continues. Final touches on the DeSoto Longboat are being completed for the April 24th launching. The newly launched boat will compete for "Best in Show" at the Mid Atlantic Small Craft Festival, St. Michaels, Maryland in October. Bob Pitt and boatshop crewmembers attended the Gulf Coast Heritage Festival at Tarpon Springs taking various examples of the shops fine work. A new center board trunk was installed in the **Sallie Adams** to get her ready for travel to Maine in July and TSCA Pres. Dave Lucas is leading a volunteer crew to complete the Red Cross Surfboat for Jacksonville Beach for its April launch. Bob Pitt is always looking for more volunteers to help with the many projects going on at the Boatworks, Wednesday through Saturday.



Recreation of the Hernan DeSoto Longboat for the DeSoto Memorial Federal Park.

Rancho Regatta 2010: A series of public archaeology events created to explore the historic and archaeology remains of the Fishing Rancho Period of Florida's Past. The Florida Public Archaeology Network, in partnership with the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of the Traditional Small Craft Association, invites you to messabout in boats and learn about the diverse fisherfolk from long ago for one day each month in April, May and June. Contact Jeff Moates FPAN at 813-396-2325 or jmoates@cas.usf.edu, or Dave Lucas, President of the Traditional Small Craft Association at 704 6736.

Dates to remember 2010

1st Tuesday of the Month: F.I.S.H. Board Meeting 7:00PM Community Center.

April 10th Opening of Rancho Regatta 5 to 7Pm at the Museum.

April 18th Rancho Regatta Public Archaeology Day and Messabout at DeSoto National Memorial.

April 17-17-18 Florida Gulf Coast Small Craft Festival at the Maritime Museum.

April 24th Cortez Picnic.

New Museum Coloring Book

Judy Strom a local artist has made a new Cortez Coloring book that comes with crayons and is a great gift for children and grandchildren.

The Com-Pac sail boat that was raffled off by the Museum at the Seafood Festival was won by: Rex Moon of Sarasota.



Florida Institute for Saltwater Heritage (F.I.S.H.)

the F.I.S.H. 2010 Annual Meeting

Please mark your calendar for this special *event*

To be held Tuesday May 4th 2010 at 6:30 PM

at our **Florida Maritime Museum!!!!**

4415 119th St. West Cortez, FL 34215

For information contact Ted Adams at 941 708 6120

Or by e-mail at Ted.Adams@Manateeclerk.com

Please fill out the membership blank below and send off a check with it.
Renew your membership, (or ignore this if you've just renewed), but remember

YOUR membership must be up to date to vote



P.O. Box 606

Cortez, FL 34215